

What are the Benefits to Ohio boaters?

- Transfer of the program gives the Division of Watercraft the opportunity to serve a growing number of boaters. Enhancing the Scenic Rivers Program, to include non-powered boating recreation and water trails, will play an important role in generating new interest and growth in boating. It also will encourage today's youth to lead a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in canoeing and kayaking, while protecting Ohio's vital river resources.
- Water trails provide safe, user friendly, healthy, "green" and environmentally friendly recreation while providing communities an opportunity for economic growth through eco-tourism.
- The Scenic Rivers Program has a long history of river protection and preservation through local input and community involvement. It is understood that retaining established forested corridors along waterways reduces erosion, runoff and sedimentation.
- The Division of Watercraft believes that the transfer of the program will improve waterway access for Ohio's paddlers.



Wild, Scenic & Recreational Rivers



- Ashtabula River
- Big & Little Darby Scenic River
- Chagrin State Scenic River
- Conneaut Creek Wild & Scenic River
- Grand Wild & Scenic River
- Kokosing Scenic River
- Little Beaver Creek Wild & Scenic River
- Little Miami Scenic River
- Maumee Scenic & Recreational River
- Mohican Scenic River
- Olentangy Scenic River
- Sandusky Scenic River
- Stillwater/Greenville Creek Scenic & Recreational River
- Upper Cuyahoga Scenic River

License plates help protect Scenic Rivers

Did you know that Ohio has 14 scenic rivers? Protecting them is an ongoing challenge for ODNR, but if you choose a Scenic Rivers license plate for your car, \$15 of your purchase goes toward river protection and helping support the development of river access for paddlers. The next time your car license plate renewal rolls around, please consider supporting Ohio's Scenic Rivers. www.oplates.com



Preserving Ohio's Wild, Scenic & Recreational Rivers Program



For more than 40 years



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Watercraft



What is the Scenic Rivers Program?

For more than 40 years, Ohioans have enjoyed a Scenic Rivers Program that seeks to protect the state's remaining high quality streams for future generations. Ohio's program features a volunteer-based stream quality monitoring project created in 1983 that serves as an environmental education program to provide hands-on learning about the value of rivers in our lives. A total of 800 river miles on 24 individual stream segments within 14 separate river systems enjoy the state scenic river designation. The program goals are to:

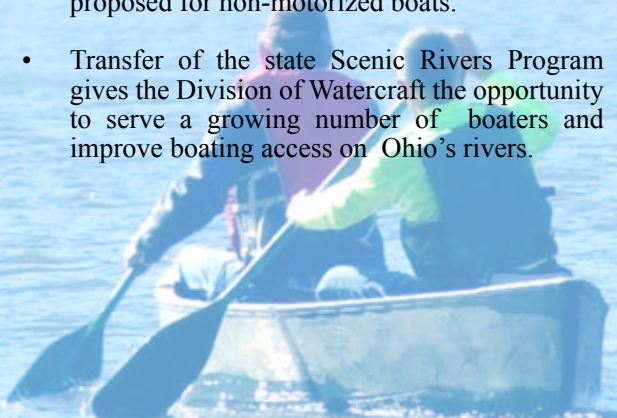
- Identify rivers which possess outstanding natural character and resources.
- Provide technical assistance on erosion control, riverbank stabilization, water quality, public access, land conservation and wildlife.
- Prevent unwise development of the 100-year floodplain and encourage a natural forested corridor along both river banks.
- Cooperate with local entities to facilitate protection by conducting river cleanups, tree plantings, stream bank stabilization projects, and stream quality monitoring.



Plan for Future Management

Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program faces significantly reduced funding resulting in an uncertain future. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is looking forward to a smooth transition of management of the Scenic Rivers Program from the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves to the Division of Watercraft. Future funding of the program will come from the Waterways Safety Fund:

- The Waterways Safety Fund is based upon a user pays/user benefits model that is funded entirely by recreational boaters. No general revenue funds are used.
- Sales of the Scenic Rivers license plate annually will continue to provide \$70,000 to \$100,000 in support of the Scenic Rivers Program.
- The number of registered canoes/kayaks in Ohio increased from 60,065 in 2003 to 80,640 in 2008, or 34 percent. The Division of Watercraft also will finance the program using canoe/kayak registration fees paid into the Waterway Safety Fund.
- A waterways conservation assessment fee is proposed for non-motorized boats.
- Transfer of the state Scenic Rivers Program gives the Division of Watercraft the opportunity to serve a growing number of boaters and improve boating access on Ohio's rivers.



"Win-Win" Plan

Transfer of the Scenic Rivers Program within ODNR will allow the Division of Watercraft to address increased levels of interest in river use by the paddling community:

- Management of the Scenic Rivers Program remains within ODNR, and with oversight from the ODNR Director and State Waterways Safety Council.
- The Division of Watercraft will successfully administer the state Scenic Rivers Program in the same tradition as it has managed Ohio's other boating programs.
- Transfer of the state Scenic Rivers Program will help grow the Ohio Water Trails program.
- Transfer of the state Scenic Rivers Program to the ODNR Division of Watercraft will enhance recreational boating opportunities by safeguarding access to 14 of Ohio's most pristine river systems.