

= Harveys Creek =

Harveys Creek ( also known as Harvey Creek or Harvey 's Creek ) is a tributary of the Susquehanna River in Luzerne County , Pennsylvania , in the United States . It is approximately 14 @. @ 5 miles ( 23 @. @ 3 km ) long and flows through Harveys Lake , Lake Township , Lehman Township , Jackson Township , and Plymouth Township . The creek 's watershed has an area of 46 @. @ 3 square miles ( 120 km<sup>2</sup> ) . The creek has four named tributaries , which are known as Bear Hollow Creek , Paint Spring Run , Pikes Creek , and East Fork Harveys Creek . The watershed is designated as a High @- @ Quality Coldwater Fishery and a Migratory Fishery above Pikes Creek and as a Coldwater Fishery and a Migratory Fishery below it . The creek 's source is Harveys Lake , the largest natural lake in Pennsylvania .

Harveys Creek was used as a water supply as early as the beginning of the 1900s . A number of bridges have been constructed over the creek since the 1920s , and it has been dammed by the Bryant Pond Dam . It is possible to canoe on part of the creek . Rock formations consisting of sandstone and shale occur in the watershed .

= = Course = =

Harveys Creek begins in Harveys Lake in the community of Harveys Lake . The creek flows southwest and soon enters Lake Township . A short distance downstream , it picks up the tributary Bear Hollow Creek and turns south for several miles . The creek receives the tributary Paint Spring Run during this stretch . It eventually enters Lehman Township and turns southeast , crossing Pennsylvania Route 118 . Slightly more than a mile ( two kilometers ) downstream , the creek turns south again . It eventually enters Jackson Township , where it crosses Pennsylvania Route 29 and picks up the tributary Pikes Creek . It then turns southeast and enters a valley , where it flows roughly parallel to Pennsylvania Route 29 for a number of miles . The creek enters Plymouth Township and soon afterwards turns abruptly southwest . Several miles downstream it enters the community of West Nanticoke . Here , it crosses U.S. Route 11 and reaches its confluence with the Susquehanna River .

Harveys Creek joins the Susquehanna River 181 @. @ 02 miles ( 291 @. @ 32 km ) upstream of its mouth .

= = = Tributaries = = =

Harveys Creek has four named tributaries : Bear Hollow Creek , Paint Spring Run , Pikes Creek , and East Fork Harveys Creek . Bear Hollow Creek joins Harveys Creek in the latter creek 's upper reaches . Paint Spring Run joins Harveys Creek 11 @. @ 42 miles ( 18 @. @ 38 km ) upstream of its mouth . Its watershed has an area of 2 @. @ 35 square miles ( 6 @. @ 1 km<sup>2</sup> ) . Pikes Creek joins Harveys Creek 5 @. @ 60 miles ( 9 @. @ 01 km ) upstream of its mouth . Its watershed has an area of 11 @. @ 6 square miles ( 30 km<sup>2</sup> ) . East Fork Harveys Creek joins Harveys Creek 3 @. @ 12 miles ( 5 @. @ 02 km ) upstream of its mouth . Its watershed has an area of 7 @. @ 31 square miles ( 18 @. @ 9 km<sup>2</sup> ) .

= = Hydrology and climate = =

High levels of nutrients have been observed in the waters of Harveys Creek and the tributary East Fork Harveys Creek . Harveys Creek has been described as having " degraded conditions " . However , it is not considered to be impaired , although its tributary East Fork Harveys Creek is .

In the mid @- @ 1970s , the specific conductance of Harveys Creek at West Nanticoke ranged from 70 to 90 micro @- @ siemens . The pH of the creek ranged from 6 @. @ 5 to 7 @. @ 8 and the concentration of dissolved oxygen ranged between 9 @. @ 7 and 12 @. @ 0 milligrams per liter . The concentration of water hardness ranged from 27 to 37 milligrams per liter .

During this time period , the concentration of carbon dioxide in the waters of Harveys Creek at West

Nanticoke ranged from 0 @. @ 3 to 8 @. @ 7 milligrams per liter . The concentration of ammonia ranged from 0 @. @ 026 to 0 @. @ 077 milligrams per liter , the concentration of nitrogen in the form of nitrates ranged from 0 @. @ 90 to 1 @. @ 82 milligrams per liter , and the concentration of nitrogen in the form of nitrites ranged between 0 @. @ 026 and 0 @. @ 048 milligrams per liter . The concentration of phosphorus ranged from 0 @. @ 040 to 0 @. @ 160 milligrams per liter and the sulfate concentration ranged from 8 @. @ 0 to 12 @. @ 0 milligrams per liter . The chloride concentration ranged from 5 @. @ 0 to 90 @. @ 0 milligrams per liter . The concentration of magnesium in the waters of Harveys Creek at West Nanticoke ranged from 2 @. @ 00 to 4 @. @ 75 milligrams per liter . The concentration of calcium ranged between 6 @. @ 40 and 8 @. @ 80 milligrams per liter . The concentration of iron ranged from 120 to 740 micrograms per liter .

At the boundary between Lake Township and Lehman Township , the peak annual discharge of Harveys Creek has a 10 percent chance of reaching 1133 cubic feet per second . It has a 2 percent chance of reaching 2017 cubic feet per second , a 1 percent chance of reaching 2494 cubic feet per second , and a 0 @. @ 2 percent chance of reaching 3909 cubic feet per second .

Upstream of the tributary Paint Spring Run , the peak annual discharge of Harveys Creek has a 10 percent chance of reaching 710 cubic feet per second . It has a 2 percent chance of reaching 1291 cubic feet per second and a 1 percent chance of reaching 1607 cubic feet per second . The peak annual discharge has a 0 @. @ 2 percent chance of reaching 2553 cubic feet per second .

The average annual rate of precipitation in the watershed of Harveys Creek ranges from 35 to 45 inches ( 89 to 114 cm ) . The creek 's water temperature is typically low , even in the summer . During the 1970s , the water temperature of the creek was as low as 3 @. @ 0 to 3 @. @ 5 ° C ( 37 @. @ 4 to 38 @. @ 3 ° F ) in the winter and as high as 15 @. @ 0 to 26 @. @ 0 ° C ( 59 @. @ 0 to 78 @. @ 8 ° F ) in the spring and summer .

= = Geography = =

The elevation near the mouth of Harveys Creek is 518 feet ( 158 m ) above sea level . The elevation of the creek 's source is 1 @, @ 226 feet ( 374 m ) above sea level . Its elevation around river mile 4 ( river kilometer 7 ) is 900 feet ( 270 m ) above sea level . Upstream of this point , the creek 's elevation decreases at a rate of 34 @. @ 3 feet ( 10 @. @ 5 m ) per mile . Downstream of that point , its elevation decreases at a rate of 97 @. @ 2 feet ( 29 @. @ 6 m ) per mile . Harveys Creek is in the Wyoming Valley .

Much of Harveys Creek is in a forested gorge , which is situated in its lower reaches . The upper reaches of its watershed contain swamps and glacial lakes . The cliffs of Tilbury Knob are also situated near the mouth of the creek . The creek 's source is in Harveys Lake , which is the largest natural lake in Pennsylvania . It flows in a generally southward direction .

The topography of the watershed of Harveys Creek is described as " rough and hilly " in a 1921 book . The creek 's channel is sinuous and flows through rock formations consisting of sandstone and shale . The creek was described as having " rushing waters " in a 2001 article in The Times Leader .

= = Watershed = =

The watershed of Harveys Creek has an area of 46 @. @ 3 square miles ( 120 km<sup>2</sup> ) . The creek is in the Lower North Branch Susquehanna drainage basin . Its watershed is situated in the northwestern part of Luzerne County . Upstream of the boundary between Lake Township and Lehman Township , the watershed has an area of 14 @. @ 24 square miles ( 36 @. @ 9 km<sup>2</sup> ) . Upstream of the tributary Paint Spring Run , its watershed has an area of only 10 @. @ 72 square miles ( 27 @. @ 8 km<sup>2</sup> ) . The creek 's mouth is in the United States Geological Survey quadrangle of Nanticoke . However , its source is in the quadrangle of Harveys Lake . Additionally , it flows through the quadrangles of Wilkes @-@ Barre West and Kingston .

Harveys Creek is one of four major sources of flooding in Lake Township . The other three are Pikes Creek , Fades Creek , and Beaver Run . However , the floods of these creeks have not

caused much damage since Lake Township is relatively undeveloped .

Lakes in the watershed of Harveys Creek include a natural lake known as Harveys Lake , which has a surface area of 658 @. @ 6 acres . Pennsylvania Route 29 follows Harveys Creek for several miles .

Harveys Creek is dammed by a rockfill and earthfill dam known as Bryants Pond Dam . The dam is 425 feet ( 130 m ) long , with a height of 19 feet ( 5 @. @ 8 m ) .

Harveys Creek and its tributary Pikes Creek are used by the Pennsylvania American Water Company Ceasetown as a water supply for part or all of 15 municipalities and communities , including Wilkes @- @ Barre , Nanticoke , Shickshinny , and others . As of 2002 , the creeks supply 67 @, @ 500 people with water . Pennsylvania American Water Company Ceasetown is permitted to take 16 million gallons of water per day from them .

= = History = =

The United States Board on Geographic Names made an official decision pertaining to Harveys Creek in 1950 . Harveys Creek was entered into the Geographic Names Information System on August 2 , 1979 . Its identifier in the Geographic Names Information System is 1217352 .

Historically , the Great Warrior Path of the Native Americans crossed Harveys Creek near its mouth . The path ran from Sunbury to Athens . In December 1775 , a battle known as Plunkett 's Battle was fought along the Susquehanna River very close to the creek . This battle was one of the major battles in the Yankee @- @ Pennamite Wars .

The first schoolhouse in the lower part of Plymouth Township was built by Jameson Harvey near the mouth of Harveys Creek in 1834 . The first mill in Lehman Township was built on the creek in 1837 . In 1849 , Johnathan Williams constructed a small mill on the creek . In 1869 , a mining disaster occurred at the Avondale Mine just east of Harveys Creek . This event killed 108 people .

In the early 1900s , communities in the watershed of Harveys Creek included Alderson , West Nanticoke , Shawanese , Pikes Creek , Laketon , and Ceases Mills . Their populations in 1921 were 386 , 300 , 150 , 76 , 73 , and 55 , respectively . The main industries in the watershed at that time were agriculture and summer resorts . As early as the 1890s , the Nanticoke Water Company ( which was formed in 1885 ) pumped water from the creek via gravity lines . In the early 1900s , Harveys Creek and its tributary Pikes Creek were used as a water supply by the Spring Brook Water Supply Company . The creeks supplied Nanticoke , West Nanticoke , Plymouth , and Glen Lyon .

In 2001 , the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission banned alcoholic beverages within 25 feet ( 7 @. @ 6 m ) of an 8 @. @ 5 @- @ mile @- @ stretch of Harveys Creek .

= = = Bridges = = =

A steel girder and floorbeam system bridge carrying T @- @ 486 / East Poplar Street was constructed over Harveys Creek in 1924 . It is 53 @. @ 2 feet ( 16 @. @ 2 m ) long . A two @- @ span concrete tee beam bridge carrying Pennsylvania Route 29 over the creek was built in 1927 and repaired in 1980 . It is situated in Jackson Township and is 78 @. @ 1 feet ( 23 @. @ 8 m ) long . In 1935 , another two @- @ span concrete tee beam bridge , this one carrying Pennsylvania Route 118 , was constructed over the creek . It is 56 @. @ 1 feet ( 17 @. @ 1 m ) long and is situated in Lehman Township . Another two @- @ span bridge , this one a steel stringer bridge , was constructed over the creek in Lehman Township in 1952 . It is 69 @. @ 9 feet ( 21 @. @ 3 m ) long and carries State Route 1016 .

A four @- @ span steel culvert bridge carrying State Route 1048 / Meeker Road over Harveys Creek was built in 1977 . It is 29 @. @ 9 feet ( 9 @. @ 1 m ) long and is in Lehman Township . In 1992 , a prestressed box beam bridge was built over the creek . It is 39 @. @ 0 feet ( 11 @. @ 9 m ) long and carries T @- @ 497 / Pavlick Road . A bridge of the same type and length , but carrying T @- @ 499 / Zbick Road was built over the creek in 1993 . One more bridge of the same type was built over the creek in Lehman Township in 1997 . It is 40 @. @ 0 feet ( 12 @. @ 2 m ) long and carries State Route 1059 / Fedor Road .

A bridge carrying Pennsylvania Route 29 over Harveys Creek in Plymouth Township was built in 2005 . It is a two @-@ span prestressed box beam bridge with a length of 84 @.@ 0 feet ( 25 @.@ 6 m ) .

= = Biology = =

Upstream of the tributary Pikes Creek , Harveys Creek and its drainage basin are designated as a High @-@ Quality Coldwater Fishery and a Migratory Fishery . Downstream of Pikes Creek , Harveys Creek and its drainage basin are designated as a Coldwater Fishery and a Migratory Fishery . Wild trout naturally reproduce in a stretch of the creek from Meeker Outlet Road / T810 , downstream to its mouth . This stretch is 10 @.@ 86 miles ( 17 @.@ 48 km ) long .

Harveys Creek is inhabited by brown trout and native brook trout . It is stocked with fish .

= = Recreation = =

It is possible to canoe on 5 @.@ 4 miles ( 8 @.@ 7 km ) of Harveys Creek during a fast snowmelt or within two days of heavy rain . Its difficulty rating ranges between 2 and 4 and Edward Gertler describes the scenery along the creek as " good to very good " in his book Keystone Canoeing . Gertler also describes it as an " obscure torrent " . The creek is considered to be suitable for advanced paddlers .

In the late 1980s , Harveys Creek was the most popular trout stream in Luzerne County . A 1991 book stated that the creek was the most extensively stocked and fished stream in the county .