

Statistics - Allegheny River Size of all Locks - 360 feet long by 56 feet wide

Location	Lock 2	C.W. Bill Young	Lock 4	Lock 5	Lock 6	Lock 7	Lock 8	Lock 9
	Pittsburgh	Harmarville	Natrona	Freeport	Clinton	Kittanning	Templeton	Rimer
Placed in Operation	1934	1934	1927	1927	1928	1930	1931	1938
Dam Length	1,993'	1,435.75'	876'	780'	1,140'	916'	984'	950'
Commercial Hydropower				X	X		X	X

Welcome

The US Army Corps of Engineers welcomes you to the locks of the Allegheny River. Visitors can view locking operations from the parking areas or while touring the facilities. Groups need to make advance arrangements for tours by calling 412-395-7650.

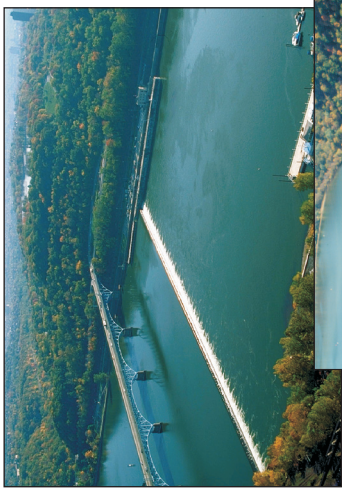
Projects

All navigation locks on the Allegheny consist of single lock chambers and a "fixed crest" dam. This type of dam is basically a concrete weir or wall across the river which keeps the river channel upstream of the project deep enough for navigation - about 9 feet or more.

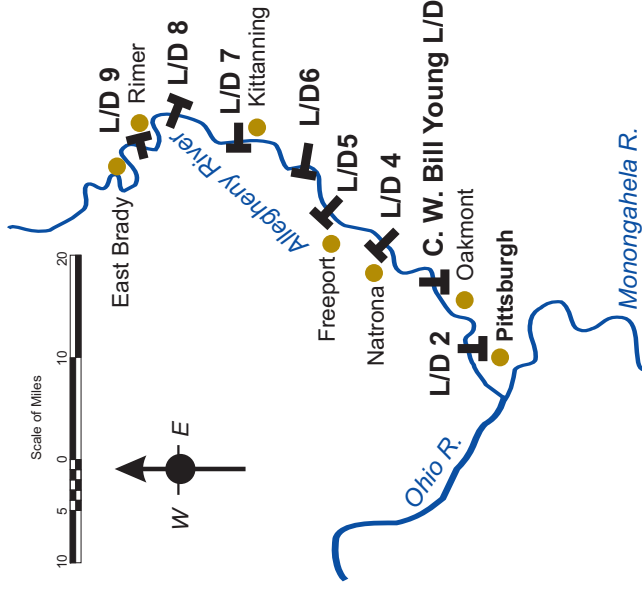
Water which flows over this type of dam cannot be controlled locally, and, consequently, cannot provide any control over flood waters. An incidental benefit derived from the pool formed by the dam is the availability of a source of municipal and industrial water and hydropower.

The Allegheny River

Lock 2

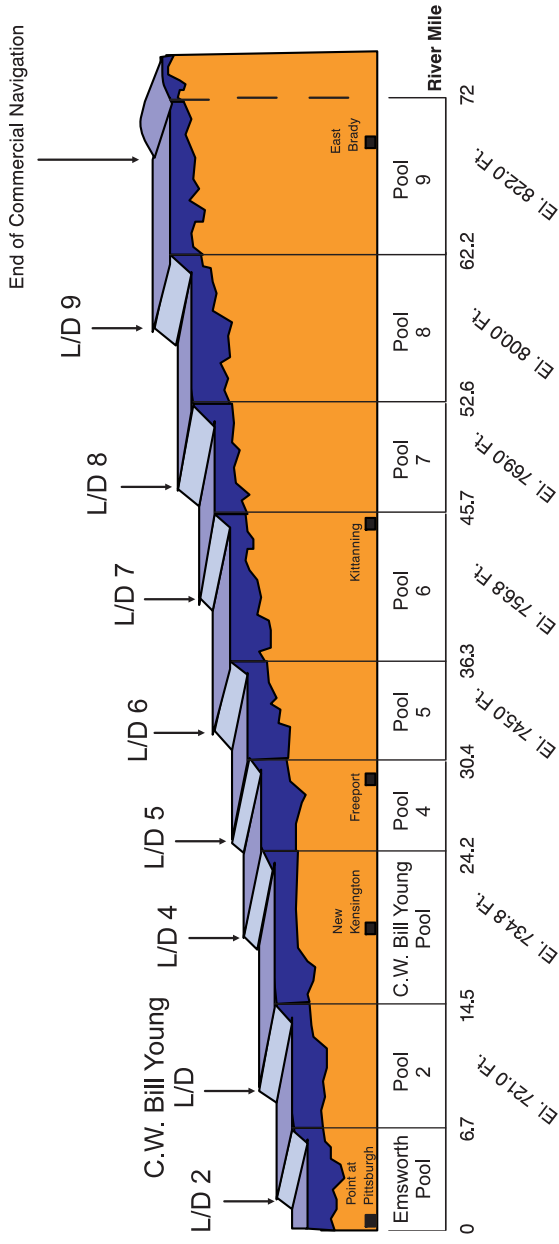


Lock 8



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

Allegheny River Existing River Profile



The Allegheny River History

The Allegheny River begins as a spring in a farmer's field off of State Route 49, a couple of miles east of the little town of Colesburg,

Pennsylvania, and nine miles from Coudersport, Pennsylvania, in the upper Appalachian Mountains of northern Pennsylvania. A roadside marker erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marks the spot.

The river starts its long journey flowing from Colesburg, then west to Coudersport, before turning north, making a large U-shape loop and entering the state of New York. It flows past the city of Olean, New York, the town of Allegany, New York and continues west to Salamanca, New York. Just west of Salamanca, the river again makes a loop, and eventually flows into the Allegheny Reservoir formed by Kinzua Dam near Warren, Pennsylvania.

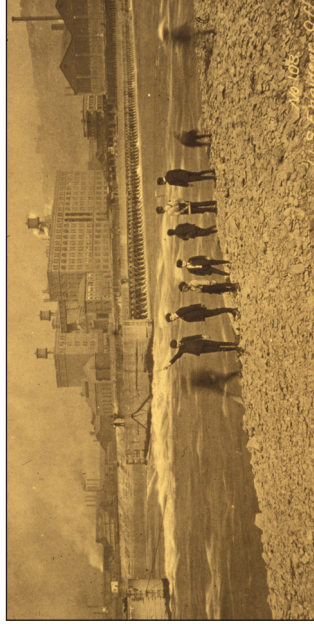
From there it turns southward through second-growth forests. On its way south the river drains most of the highland streams north and east of Pittsburgh. It runs through scenic open country and woods with few towns, down to its urbanized last 20 miles. The river joins the Monongahela at Pittsburgh's Point State Park to form the 981-mile Ohio River. At Cairo, Illinois it flows into the mighty Mississippi River.

Many explorers and settlers traveled the Allegheny during the colonial period. The French named the Allegheny and Ohio rivers, which they considered as one river, La Belle Riviere - The Beautiful River.

Following the American Revolution, the Allegheny carried an extensive downriver trade, especially timber from the northern forests. After Edwin Drake's first well near Titusville on Oil Creek began the oil boom in 1859, most of

the nation's petroleum came downriver until that industry's decline in the 1880s.

During all this time, travelers and shippers had used the stream as nature had made it: shallow, and subject to drought, floods and ice jams. During some spring thaws, the massive ice jams pushed so far down the Ohio that noticeable chunks reached the Mississippi River.



Lock and Dam 1, Herr's Island

The government originally built two locks and dams near the mouth of the river from 1898-1908. However, lengthy quarrels about who should pay to raise the bridges, which were obstructing traffic on the Allegheny, delayed completion of the work until after the passage of legislation in 1917.

The Corps constructed eight locks and dams on the Allegheny in the 1920s and 1930s. They guarantee a minimum 9-foot navigation channel for 72 miles from Pittsburgh to East Brady, Pennsylvania, and cost about \$5 million annually to operate and maintain.

Several flood control projects lie farther upstream on the river and its tributaries. One of these flood control projects is the Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir near Warren, Pennsylvania. Another is Conemaugh River Lake located below Johnstown,



Log rafts on the Upper Allegheny River, late 1800s

Pennsylvania, on the Conemaugh River, a tributary of the Allegheny.

The valley, for the most part, supports only limited industry. The river has become cleaner in recent years due to environmental control monitored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and supporting efforts by other federal and state agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



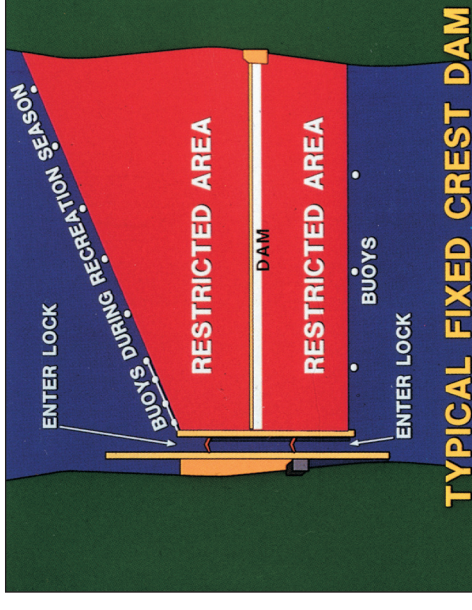
Lock 3 was renamed to C.W. Bill Young Lock and Dam in May 2004

During good weather, more pleasure boats use the Allegheny River compared to its neighboring industrial rivers - the Monongahela and Ohio - since it flows through open country with postcard scenery and good fishing.

Danger Dam!

A fixed crest dam is difficult to see from low riding small boats moving downriver, since the crest (top of the concrete) is normally covered with flowing water. Boats should be careful not to approach near the dam since they may become caught in the strong current and drawn over the dam.

Likewise, boats should never approach near the downstream side of the dam as they may be pulled into the face of the dam by strong reverse currents which roll back toward the dam. The area immediately upstream and downstream of the dam is designated a "Restricted Area" and so marked with buoys between the normal pleasure boating season from May through October each year.



River Life

Many different commodities such as coal, sand and gravel are moved in both directions on the river. Industries along the banks maintain several shipping docks for commercial needs. Water intakes provide supplies to numerous communities and for industrial needs. The river is heavily used during the summer recreational boating season supporting both public and private launching areas along the river. In the last few years, bald eagles have returned to the river providing spectacular sights for river users.