

# Chemung Basin River Trail

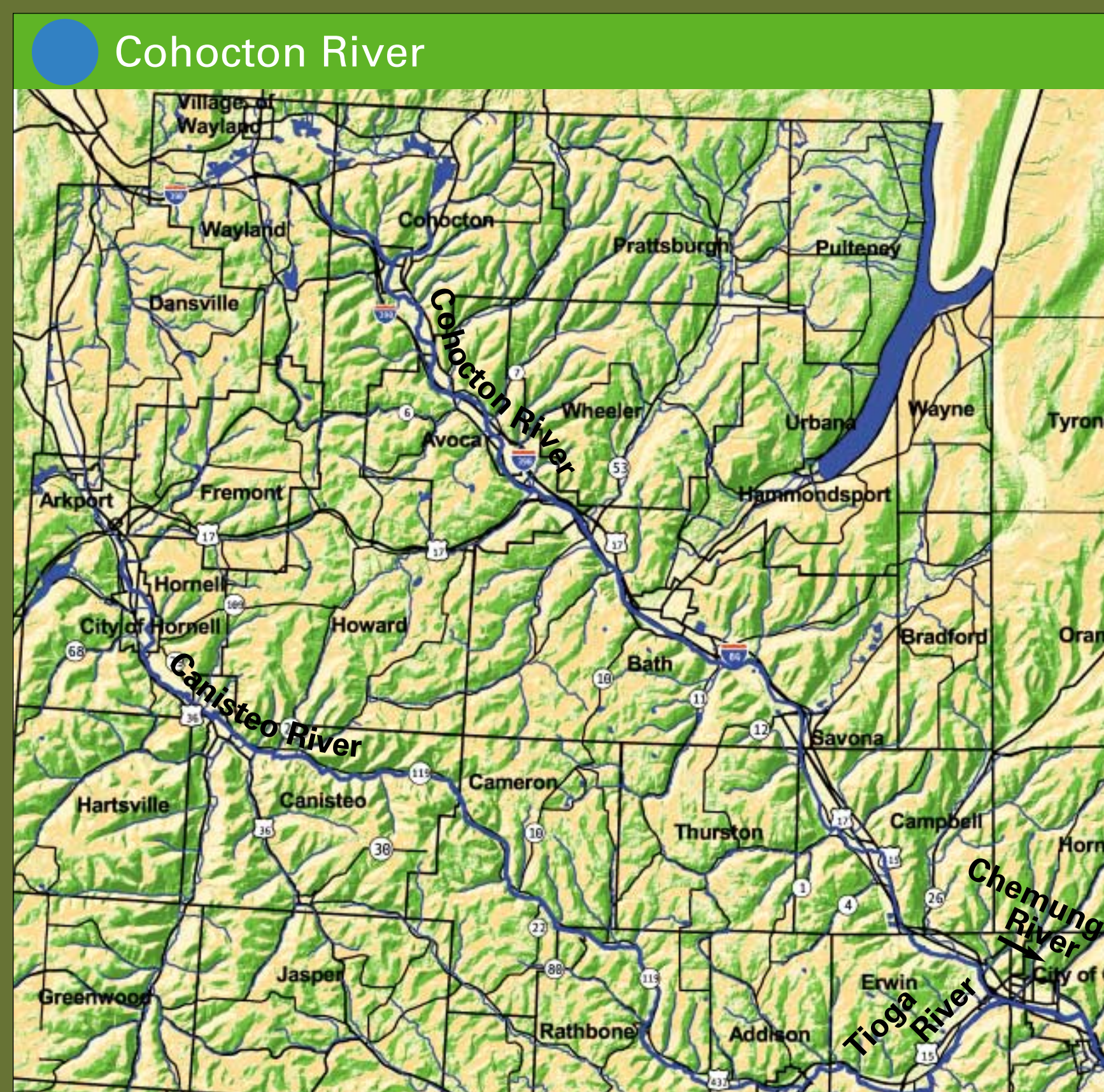


The Chemung Basin River Trail encompasses the Chemung, Tioga, Cohocton and Canisteo rivers. It provides a gateway to the Chesapeake Bay.

That means you can paddle all the way to the Atlantic Ocean from here! If you did, you'd be exploring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, a 64,000-square-mile

ecosystem that's home to more than 15 million people, and has supported human life for 13,000 years.

## Cohocton River Access Site



### Arks Pivotal to Early Commerce

Two centuries ago, the melting snows of early spring gave birth to a lucrative enterprise: ark navigation. Several Steuben County entrepreneurs first constructed the mighty arks, measuring 75 feet long by 16 feet wide, in 1800.

Soon the idea caught on with others. People living along the rivers, as well as those from more distant lands, used pack animals and sleighs to bring products of the farms and forests to these great arks, which then transported the goods to markets in Baltimore.

Each year, up to 60 arks made the trek carrying wheat, pork, venison, flour, maple sugar, black salts, and pot and pearl ash. The trip from Bath to Baltimore took eight days. Upon arrival, the wares



*Arks measuring 75 feet by 16 feet transported goods along the rivers all the way to Baltimore. Courtesy of the Steuben County Historical Society.*

were unloaded, the ark dismantled, and the lumber sold. The crew walked back home.

Present day Arkport, on the Canisteo River, was the hub of ark transportation for nearly 40 years. For more information, visit the Steuben County Historical Society in Bath.

### Boating Regulations

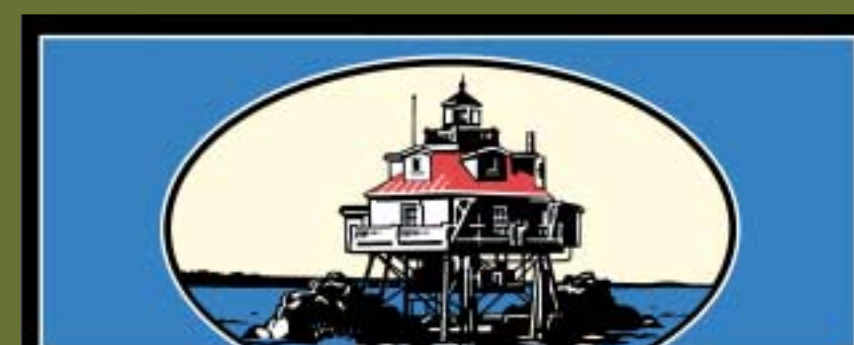
- One Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) required per person.
- A device capable of making a sound that's audible for a half-mile (such as an athletic whistle) required per boat.
- Operating watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal.

### Enjoy the River, Leave No Trace

- Use only official river access sites to enter the river.
- Few river access sites have restrooms; plan ahead to use nearby facilities. Do not dispose of human waste on site.
- Leave rocks, plants, trees and artifacts as you find them.
- Be courteous and respect the privacy of others.



Help keep our river clean. Use the bags located on this kiosk to carry out all of your waste.



CHESAPEAKE BAY  
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