

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Why "The"?

Re: Why "The"?

Author: : troutbert

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URL:

"The" is used for rivers. But not lakes, creeks, runs, brooks etc.

You fish Lake Erie. And you fish THE Susquehanna River.

"The" is used for highways and turnpikes. We drove down THE PA Turnpike.

But not for streets. We drove down Walnut Street.

Why? As with many "rules" and their exceptions in English, the answer is: Just because, that's why.

Fishermen calling Perkiomen Creek "the Perkiomen" is an informal fishermen's usage. Not that there is anything wrong with that. The word "creek" is dropped from the end, and the word "the" is added at the beginning.

But probably no one other than fishermen, or kayakers or other people who have some familiarity and affection for the creek use that informal name. The great majority of regular people would just say "Perkiomen Creek," not "the Perkiomen."