Bluetrail Initiative
B.T.I.
Rancocas State Park
National Water Trail System

The National Water Trails System is a distinctive national network of exemplary water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained.

Water trails are recreational routes on waterways with a network of public access points supported by broad-based community partnerships. Water trails provide both conservation and recreational opportunities.

7 Key Areas for Evaluation
1. Public Information
2. Planning
3. Recreation
4. Community Support
5. Maintenance
6. Education
7. Conservation

Citizen Driven Initiative
Let us begin this descriptive tour of the Rancocas Creek as both Shores will be under our eyes at once. 1893
Rancocas Creek is a Bridge, Not a Border.

Community

Landscape

Destinations

BMP (best management practices)
MCL – signifies human utilization (economy) of maritime space by boat: settlement, fishing, hunting, shipping and attendant subcultures – pilotage/lighthouse/seamark maintenance, total topography. (Westerdahl 1992)
BMP Activity:

Characteristics from the source to the mouth.

Features:

1. Source/Headwaters
2. Fine and rounded sandy bottom
3. Low volume, High Volume, Tidal (Low and High Tide)
4. Large tidal estuary
5. Low gradients
7. Clear limits to flood plain w/ incisional creek Rancocas Valley.
8. Creek channel on wide open marshes and plain
9. Depositions dominant and visible
10. Rancocas Valley
11. Channel shape irregular
12. Channel smooth and efficient
13. Estuary
14. Heritage
Mt. Holly
Flood Bypass
Cannel

Mt. Holly
Oxbow
Cannel

King St N Branch

Gap between 2 arms of the Creek narrowed through erosion

Gap between 2 arms of the Creek narrowed through erosion

Gaskills Neck
Mt. Holly
1770

Natural Rancocas Creek Progression
"Attenuated" by ACOE in 1941

Mt. Holly
1941

Sediments deposited on inside of bend
Current strongest on outside of bend
Rapid erosion of banks on outside of bends

Creek River still flows around meander
Creek River breaks through narrow gap when in flood

Mt. Holly 2016

N Branch Rancocas Creek meanders through Mt. Holly
Tidal flows naturally exacerbated progression of the N Branch

Mill Dam
N Branch

Oxbow

Mill Race

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The Development of the
N Branch Rancocas Creek
Mt. Holly Oxbow Channel

Rancocas State Park Bluetrail
www.rcnwt.com
Support Local Mt. Holly Business: Before/During/After Paddling

Mill Race Village - Shops, Eateries, Brew Pubs, Entrepreneurs, Artisans, Local Theater and Professional Offices
RSP Bluetrail is tidal. The “Blue” connects to Mt. Holly, Hainesport, Westampton, Lumberton, Willingboro, the Burlington County Canoe Trail and other areas. Paddle the creek on a Spring flood tide or a full moon and you will connect to the Rancocas in surprising ways. Under the full moon listen to the reflection, feel heritage as you paddle by Horsehead Point and Timber Point. Dress for conditions. 

Gated Access to Melpine Landing started on 1 July. By 01 October over 350 visitors were recorded being at Melpine. 1-2 hour one way paddle to Mt. Holly. Ride the Tide. 

Let them pass. 

Commercial navigation on the Rancocas Creek Tidewaters started around 1680 and ran up until 1910. When paddling keep a sharp eye open for remains of the Rancocas Creek’s maritime heritage landscape.

Ride the Tide, Share the Ride, Tidal Waters Multi-Use. Kayakers stay alert for jet-skis and other motorized vessels. You can see them, but they may not see you. Let them pass.

Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center 
Young Stewards Summer Camp Came a Paddling the N Branch. Down at Melpine besides having fun and enjoyment kids discovered leaches, egrets, cleaning up the landing and other activities.

Support Local Business.

Paddle down and check out a summer evening of paddling the Mt. Holly Oxbow. Chill and catch creek side live music down the Robin’s Nest.
Rancocas State Park Bluetrail
Tidewater Paddle Map
8 Miles to Paddle Mt. Holly to Hainesport

Stay Alert when paddling the confluence where the N and the S Branch meet. Combined currents, tides, wind, boat wake, wash can make for hazardous paddling conditions. Stay alert for birds and other multi-use watercraft.

Rancocas State Park Bluetrail Description
(Leisure Paddle time 3 to 4 Hours) Connect to Rancocas State Park Bluetrail by Launching from Mt. Holly, at Melpina Launch Lumberton or the Hainesport Public Landings. Tidal marshes, Pine Barrens cedar water, sandbars, backwaters, expansive vistas, State of NJ Natural Area, wildlife, eagles, hawks, herons, backwater paddling, paddle up to Timbuctoo, around the Confluence, Paddling the Bluetrail is to visit the semi-wild tidal areas of the Rancocas Creek.

Map Produced by RancocasPathways.com
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www.rnmnt.com
The Rancocas Creek from Mt. Holly and Lumberton is tidal. Water and weather conditions change. Multi-User sand bars, winds, currents and tidal issues can make for challenging paddles. Follow the tide so as to ride the tide. “Share the Ride, Ride the Tide” is the focus of the Rancocas Creek paddle safe program. Awareness of other activities along the multi-user Blue Trail helps reduce injuries and mitigate issues. Always wear your life jacket. Always leave a paddle plan. Never paddle alone. Respect multi-use along the Rancocas State Park Blue Trail.

Rancocas Pathways, a 501c3 organization, mission cultivates broad-based alliances that harness public advocacy and partnerships to enhance and promote the STEM-oriented programs multi-use public access to the Rancocas Creek Blauway. To learn more about Rancocas Pathways visit www.rcnpucn.com or call/text: 609-376-3036

Map produced by Rancocas Pathways, Inc.
www.rcnpucn.com
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Places to Eat and Shop in Mt. Holly, Quench a thirst paddle round the Mt. Holly Oxbow

Mill Race Village in Mt. Holly is part of a large historic neighborhood restoration. Here one finds shops, eateries, brew pubs, entrepreneurs, artisans, a theater and professionals. Mill Race Village is part of the 3,500 project saving the bricks and mortar of our local economy.

Check out the Burlington County Parks Commission’s Year Round Public Programs and County Canoe Trail.

Mill Race Village
The Daily Grind
Spellbound Brewing
Hipsters Breakfast
Village Idiot Brewing
Vincent's Homemade Ice Cream (seasonal)
Rancocas Creek Mt. Holly Flood and Oxbow Channel Natural History

Local-Regional-State Wide

Rancocas Creek Water Trail - 2016

Produced and Published by Rancocas Pathways, a 501c3 organization whose mission is to enhance and promote public access to the Rancocas Creek.
Benefits of the Rancocas State Park Bluetrail and Rancocas Creek Blueway

Water trails provide, free, safe multi-use, public access points.

Water trails diversify local economies.

Creates new sustainable markets.

Enhances Public Access.

Promotes Healthy Activities and Healthy Lifestyle.

- Real Property Values
- Expenditures by Residents
- Commercial Uses
- Tourism
- Overall Appeal of a Community
- Increase in Consumer Spending
- Agency Expenditures
- Corporate Relocation and Retention
- Quality of life of a Community
- Public Cost Reduction
- Benefit Estimation
- Healthy Activities
Healthy Activities, a Common Resource
Value of the Rancocas State Park Bluetrail and Rancocas Creek Blueway

Public programming supports multi-use public access; Integrates historic county-seat of Mt. Holly and the Rancocas Creek Blueway to Americas maritime cultural landscape.

Financial Investment 4 Recreational Water Trails

Visitors

Public Dollars

Healthy Lifestyle
Later.

From the “Blue”

“Tip of the Hat” to AW, Gramps, L. Tigar, Randi R., PW Schopp, Abe, Ray, Mr. D, Mr. H, AW, LBJ, KL., AO and others