

BRIDGETON



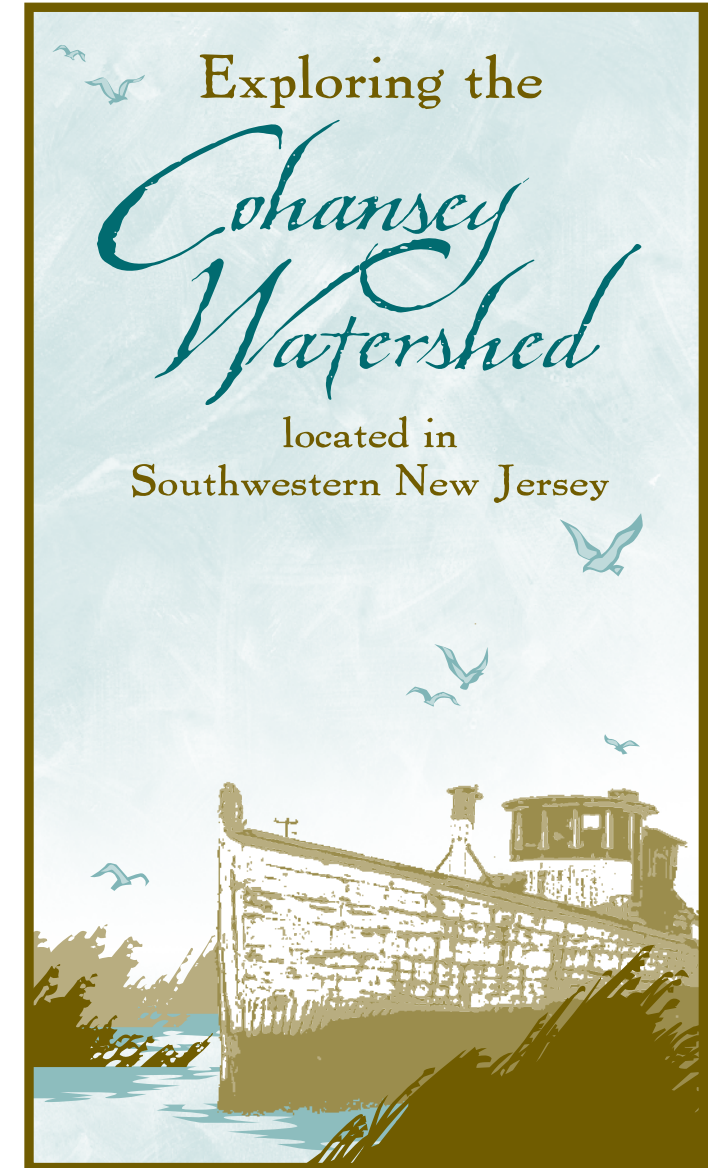
The mission of the **Partnership for the Delaware Estuary** is to lead collaborative and creative efforts to protect and enhance the Delaware Estuary and its tributaries for current and future generations.
800-445-4935
www.DelawareEstuary.org



The mission of the **American Littoral Society** is to promote the study and conservation of marine life and habitat, defend the coast from harm, and empower others to do the same through advocacy, education, and conservation.
856-825-2174
www.LittoralSociety.org

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“They say the field stretches to the sea and almost touches the waves.”

Pablo Medina



The **Cohansey Watershed** is an area full of history, wildlife, and natural beauty just waiting for your exploration. The Cohansey Watershed includes not only the river itself, but also the land it drains. From its headwaters in Salem County through the picturesque countryside of Cumberland County, visitors to this secluded region of South Jersey are provided with a wealth of opportunities. Birding, boating, fishing, and agritourism are really just the beginning.

The Cohansey River is the second-largest river in Cumberland County, as well as one of the most scenic and pristine of all the rivers in the Delaware Estuary. The Delaware Estuary extends from the falls at Trenton, New Jersey to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. It is the tidal portion of the Delaware River, where fresh water mixes with salt water from the Atlantic Ocean. It provides food, as well as resting and nesting areas for a wide variety of fish, birds, and other wildlife. For example, the Cohansey River is home to the largest nesting population of bald eagles in New Jersey.

In 1982, 17 miles of the Lower Cohansey, from the Delaware Bay to Bridgeton's city limits, was listed by the National Parks Service as eligible for designation as a "National Wild and Scenic River" due to its "Outstandingly Remarkable Values." Almost 30 years later, the Cohansey still waits to be recognized, but it is no less deserving.

Identified in this brochure are not only natural areas, but also locally owned and operated accommodations and eateries. We have made an effort to include businesses that provide visitors with unique insight into the culture of the Cohansey Watershed. Your support will help to sustain the local economy and, in doing so, may also help to protect the natural wonders in this unique corner of New Jersey.

We hope you find this guide helpful, and we hope you enjoy your visit to the Cohansey Watershed.

In Town...

Bridgeton

We suggest using **Bridgeton** as your base for discovery. Bridgeton is a 300-year-old city, the largest town in the Cohansey Watershed, and home to New Jersey's largest historic district. The Cohansey River runs directly through this town, and has played an important role in the area's history and revitalization.

The self-guided Historic Bridgeton Walking Tour will introduce you to Colonial, Federalist, and Victorian structures. A complimentary walking-tour map is available at the **1 Bridgeton Tourist Information Center**. And a similar guide is available online at www.co.cumberland.nj.us, keyword "walking tour."

The town is committed to preserving its heritage and revitalizing its downtown. Bridgeton's diverse population is reflected in its choice of eateries. From pub grub to Latino groceries, the palate of any visitor is sure to be satisfied.

Take some time to visit the 1,100-acre **2 Bridgeton City Park**, which provides opportunities for boating, freshwater fishing, and hiking along the Albert J. Kolonich, Jr. Nature Trail. Bridgeton City Park also offers the Cohanzyck Zoo and good birding any time of the year.

Greenwich

Visitors to the Cohansey could easily speed past the village of **Greenwich** in seconds, but it deserves a visit, if not to stroll through the **3 Cumberland County Prehistorical Museum**, then for a bite at the Greenwich Country Store. Greenwich, founded in 1675, is a charming community of stately homes. It is probably best known, however, for a rather rowdy episode. It was in 1774 that a coalition of local men, dressed as American Indians, rode into town on horseback to loot and set fire to a shipment of heavily taxed English tea. The men were hailed as local heroes, and in 1908, a monument was erected in their honor. One of the tea burners, Richard Howell, later became governor of New Jersey.

The **4 John DuBois Maritime Museum**, located at 949 Ye Greate St. (856-455-1774), houses southern New Jersey's largest exhibit of maritime-related items, including a collection of ship builders' models, caulking tools, and rigging. The museum is open on Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., April through November.

On the Road...

An excellent map of the watershed's towns and byways is available at the **5 Cumberland County Administration Building**, located at 790 E. Commerce Street in Bridgeton.

While there are few designated cycling trails in the region, the roads in the Cohansey Watershed are quiet and less traveled. The American Littoral Society has identified a cycling route showcasing many of the best sites to see bald eagles and beautiful landscapes along the Cohansey River and Delaware Bay (see map). Remember to always wear a helmet and take the necessary precautions when riding on public roadways.

Enjoying nature...

Public access for water-based recreation and fishing is available at both of **6 7 PSEG's Estuary Enhancement Sites** in the Cohansey Watershed. The mission of PSEG's Estuary Enhancement Program is to provide food sources for fish and other aquatic species by restoring and preserving the aquatic habitats of the Delaware Estuary. For additional information about PSEG's Estuary Enhancement Sites call 1-888-MARSHES, or visit www.pseg.com/environment/estuary.

The **8 Bayside Tract Natural Viewing Area** is a 4,500-acre site open to the public for photography, fishing, crabbing and exploring. A brochure and map for the Bayside Tract is available by calling 1-888-MARSHES, or visiting www.pseg.com/environment/estuary. The Bayside Tract is rich in both history and wildlife. At the turn of the 20th Century, it was the site of a thriving sturgeon-fishing port known as Caviar. It is now home to warblers and swallows, otters, killifish, and bay anchovy. The only sign of human influence are the aged pilings from the former fishing port. The Bayside Tract, a spring resting area for migratory shorebirds, also supports several protected bird species including the northern harrier, black rail, and bald eagle. So bring your fishing pole or your birding binoculars and enjoy the solitude of a day on the bayshore. *From Greenwich take Bacon's Neck Road for a little over a mile. At the "T" intersection make a right onto Strathem's Neck Road and follow the signs for Bayside.*

The **9 Green Swamp Nature Trail at the Cohansey Watershed Wetland Restoration Site** has more than 1,000 acres of naturally preserved land. Hike through the property along designated nature trails. The boat launch on the Cohansey River is open to the public. Fishing and crabbing are also permitted. *From Fairton, take Back Neck Road (Route 601) for 4.2 miles. Look to the right for a green mailbox #666. Turn and park in the gravel lot. A gravel road will lead you to the boat launch.*

For freshwater fishing, the Cohansey Watershed is dotted with lakes. **10 Sunset Lake** and **11 Mary Elmer Lake** will provide anglers with some excellent fishing opportunities. *Public access to both lakes is found off of County Road 607 in Bridgeton City Park.*

12 Dix Wildlife Management Area contains 3,400 acres of woods, fields, and salt marshes. This expansive, yet little-known coastal oasis straddles both the lower Cohansey River and Delaware Bay. There are several marked parking areas and trails you can use to access former salt-hay dikes, overgrown fields, and wooded areas, which provide access to stunning views of the river, bay, and a wide assortment of wildlife. *From Fairton, travel west for approximately four miles on Back Neck Road (Route 601). Veer left onto Seabreeze Road, which will lead you directly into the Management Area.*

Bald eagles, raptors, and grassland songbirds are common sights inside **13 Cohansey Wildlife Management Area**. This 1,300-acre preserve is highly accessible thanks to three short, but highly scenic roads: Cemetery, Mosley, and Perry. Each route offers incredible views of historic farms, fallow fields, woodlands, and even a Revolutionary War graveyard. Walk down Old Meeting House Road to access Elk Lake. *Use the designated public-parking area at the intersection of Cemetery and Mosley Roads just off County Road 607, or Greenwich Road.*

14 Clark's Pond Wildlife Management Area, located near Fairton, contains four impounded ponds providing habitat for waterfowl. *Clark's Pond is accessible by taking Fairton-Gouldtown Road (Route 553) out of Fairton. Make a right onto Clark's Pond Road. Parking is available in a small dirt lot, which is located half a mile down on the right.*

For your bait and tackle supplies or fishing and boating needs, try **15 Hancock Harbor Marina** located at the end of Tindall Island Road (856-455-2610), or **16 Greenwich Boat Works & Marina** on Greenwich Pier Road (856-451-7777). **17 Bartone's Bait** is also located on Main Street in Fairton (856-451-3288).

Other places of interest...

18 Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, 1325 State Highway 77, Seabrook, 856-451-8393. The cultural diversity of this region is celebrated through museum-style exhibits.

19 Sunny Slope Orchards, 400 Greenwich Road, Bridgeton, 856-451-0022. This orchard picks, packages, and sells fresh peaches to the public, all on the same premises.

20 Sunset Lake Fish Ladder, Bridgeton. This project was undertaken by PSEG to provide river herring with access to spawning areas. It is located in Bridgeton City Park, and it's visible from the Albert J. Kolonich, Jr. Nature Trail.

21 Swansea Vineyards, 860 Main Street, Shiloh, 856-453-5778. This vineyard has a tasting room that is open Saturday and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. Try the Ship John red. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Cumberland County Historical Society.

At the **1 Bridgeton Tourist Center**, located at Broad & Pearl Streets (856-451-4802), you can find any of the resources mentioned in this publication, including a map of Cumberland County and the "Bridgeton Walking Tour Guide," as well as additional information needed for your adventure.

Where the locals grab a bite...

22 Bait Box Restaurant, Hancock Harbor, Greenwich. Dine on cooked-to-order food while overlooking the Cohansey River. 856-455-2610. www.HancockHarbor.com

23 Brenner's Brew, 21 E. Commerce St., Bridgeton. An eclectic coffee-house complete with mixed-and-matched furniture, board games, and poetry readings. 856-451-5885. www.BrennersBrew.com

24 Bridgeton Grill, 1 1/2 E. Broad St., Bridgeton. A small-but-quiet diner along Bridgeton's waterfront promenade. 856-451-0220

25 Bridgewater Pub, 22 S. Laurel St., Bridgeton. Good food, good service, and good spirits accompanied by live music. 856-455-9551

26 Coach Room, 59 W. Broad St., Bridgeton. A local favorite. 856-451-0041

27 Dutch Neck Village & Country Rose Restaurant, 97 Trench Road, Bridgeton. Quaint country village of unique shops and arboretum. 856-455-6003

28 Greenwich Country Store, 1016 Ye Greate Street, Greenwich. A charming general store and sandwich shop. 856-453-3622

29 Toad Fish Bar & Grill, 222 Bridgeton-Fairton Road, Fairton. Full-service bait and tackle shop, outdoor tiki bar, and fishing charters. 856-455-1300. www.ToadFishBar.com