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 Cohanzick Zoo and good birding any time of the year.

The Cohanzick Zoo is accessible by taking County Road 607, or Greenwich Road.

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 Cumberland County Administration Building, located at 790 E. Commerce St. in Bridgeton.

While there are few designated cycling trails in the region, the roads in the Cohanzie 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 Cohanzie River and Delaware River (see map). Remember to always wear a helmet and take the necessary precautions when riding on public roads.

Enjoying nature...

Public access for water-based recreation and fishing is available at both of PSEG’s Estuary Enhancement Sites. The mission of PSEG’s Estuary Enhancement Program is to provide food and habitat for fish and other aquatic species by restoring and preserving the aquatic habitats of the Delaware Estuary.

For your back and tackle supplies or fishing and boating needs, try Hancock Harbor Marina located at the end of Tidwell Island Road (856-455-2610), or Hancock Boat Works & Marina on Greenwich Pier Road (856-455-1300). The Bayside Tract 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 visit 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 Cavan. It is now home to warblers and swallow-tailed kites, and bald eagles. The only sign of human influence are the aged pilings from the former fishing port. The Bayside Tract, a spring nesting 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 Boon’s Neck Road for a little over a mile. At the “T” intersection make a right onto Stratham’s Neck Road and follow the signs for Bayside.

The 22-acre Wetland Restoration Site is a 4,500-acre site 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 Cohanzie Watershed is dotted with lakes. Sunset Lake and Mary Ennr Lake will provide anglers with some excellent fishing opportunities. Public access to both lakes is found off County Road 607 in Bridgeton City Park.

The Hancock Harbor Marina is located at the end of Tidwell Island Road (856-455-2610). A full-service bait and tackle shop, outdoor tiki bar, and fishing charters.

The Cohanzie Watershed is an area full of history, wildlife, and natural beauty just waiting for your exploration. The Cohanzie 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 readily just the beginning.

The Cohanzie 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 nesting and resting areas for a wide variety of fish, birds, and other wildlife. For example, the Cohanzie River is home to the largest nesting population of bald eagles in New Jersey.

In 1982, 17 miles of the Lower Cohanzie, 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 “Outstanding Recondite Values.” Almost 30 years later, the Cohanzie 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 Cohanzie 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 Cohanzie Watershed.

In Town... Bridgeton

We suggest using Bridgeton as your base for discovery. Bridgeton is a 200-year-old city, the largest town in the Cohanzie Watershed, and home to New Jersey’s largest historic district. The Cohanzie 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 complementary walking-tour map is available at the Bridgeton Tourist Information Center. And a similar guide is available online at www.vis.cumberland.nj.us, keyword “walking tour.”

The city is committed to preserving its heritage and revitalizing its downtown. Bridgeton’s diverse population is reflected in its choices of eating. 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 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 Cohanzie Zoo and good birding any time of the year.

Greenwich

Visitors to the Cohanzie could easily speed past the village of Greenwich in seconds, but it deserves a visit, if not to stroll through the Cumberland County Prehistoric Museum, then for a bite at the Greenwich Country Store. Greenwich, founded in 1673, 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 and took 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 John DuBois Maritime Museum, located at 497 Yards Street (856-455-1776), 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.

The Bayside Tract Natural Viewing Area is a 4,300-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 visit 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 Cavan. It is now home to warblers and swallow-tailed kites, and bald eagles. The only sign of human influence are the aged pilings from the former fishing port. The Bayside Tract, a spring nesting 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 Boon’s Neck Road for a little over a mile. At the “T” intersection make a right onto Stratham’s Neck Road and follow the signs for Bayside.

The 420-acre Green Swannom Swamp Trail is a 4,300-acre site open to the public for photography, fishing, crabbing, and exploring. A brochure and map for the Green Swannom Swamp Trail is available by calling 1-888-MARSHES, or visit www.pseg.com/environment/estuary. The Bayside Tract Natural Viewing Area has more than 1,000 acres of naturally preserved land. Hike through the property along designated nature trails. The boat launch on the Cohanzie 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 Cohanzie Watershed is dotted with lakes. Sunset Lake and Mary Ennr Lake will provide anglers with some excellent fishing opportunities. Public access to both lakes is found off County Road 607 in Bridgeton City Park.

The Dix Wildlife Management Area contains 370 acres of woods, fields, and salt marshes. This expansive, yet little-known coastal oasis straddles both the lower Cohanzie River and Delaware River. There are several marked parking areas and trails you can use to access former salt-marsh lakes, 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). Vegetate Seed Road, which will lead you directly into the Management Area. Bald eagles, raptors, and grassland songbirds are common sights inside the Dix Wildlife Management Area. This 1,300-acre preserve is highly accessible thanks to three short, but highly scenic roads. Cemetery, Mosely, and Percy. 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 parking area at the intersection of Cemetery and Mosely Roads south of County Road 607, or Green Swannom Swamp Trail.

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 532) 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 back and tackle supplies or fishing and boating needs, try Hancock Harbor Marina located at the end of Tidwell Island Road (856-455-2610), or Hancock Boat Works & Marina on Greenwich Pier Road (856-455-1300). The Barton’s Bait is also located on Main Street in Fairton (856-455-3288).