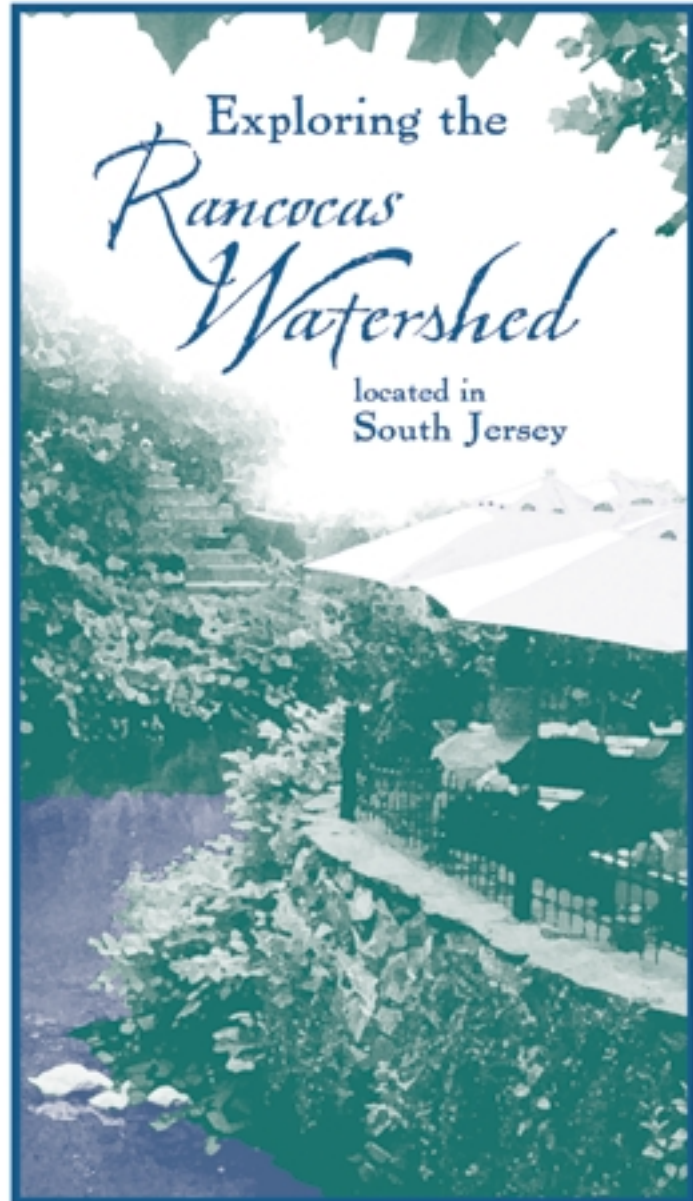
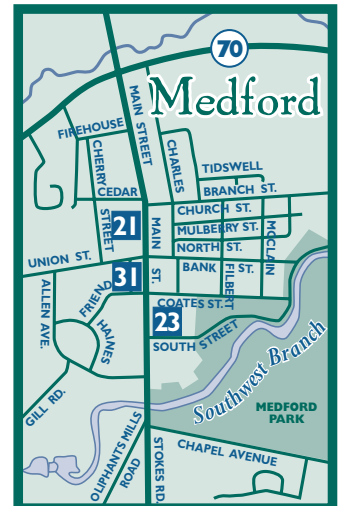
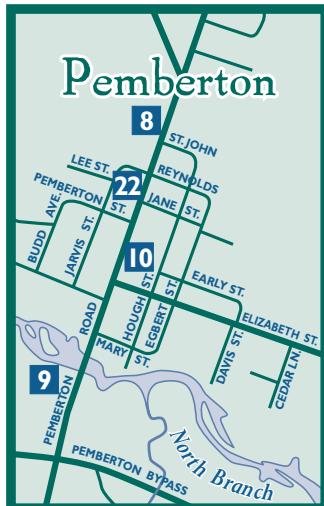
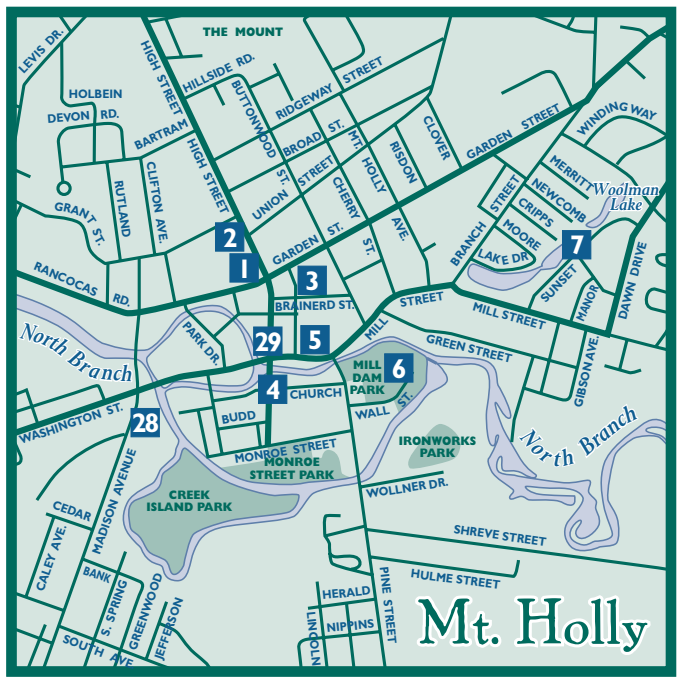


Map of the Rancocas Watershed



Illustration and Design by Frank McShane
 Printed on Recycled Paper



Exploring the
Rancocas Watershed
 located in
 South Jersey

"for this is why I wanted to live here, on Main Street"

Brigit Pegen Kelly



The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary promotes the Estuary as a regional resource through public education and outreach. Our goal, with this brochure, is to promote ecotourism based upon the Estuary's watershed boundaries rather than politically designated county or township lines. It is also designed to educate you about the natural resources of this watershed while being sensitive to its preservation.



For more information, call 1-800-445-4935 or visit our web site at www.DelawareEstuary.org
 Funding for this brochure was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in support of the Delaware Estuary Program.



Everywhere you look, the **Rancocas Watershed** seems to be reinventing and rediscovering itself. While open space is yielding to new development, most towns in this watershed are actively preserving their history and promoting small town America.

The Rancocas Watershed includes not only the river itself, but also the land it drains. From its headwaters in the cranberry bogs and Pine Barrens of western Ocean County, to its mouth at the town of Riverside, the watershed is as diverse in its appearance as it is in its offerings. A little research into the watershed's history will reveal that many of its early settlements stemmed from the creation of mills used to harness waterpower from the Rancocas Creek.

The Rancocas Creek is divided into the North and South Branches, and is one of many tributaries of the Delaware Estuary. The Delaware Estuary Region extends from the falls at Trenton, New Jersey and Morrisville, Pennsylvania to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. It is the tidal portion of the Delaware River – where salt waters of the Atlantic Ocean and fresh waters of the Delaware River mix. The Delaware Estuary provides critical habitat for many species of plants, animals, birds, and fish.

Identified in this brochure are listings of natural areas, recreational resources, and locally owned and operated accommodations and eateries. We have made an effort to include businesses that provide visitors with a unique insight into the culture of the Rancocas Watershed. Many of the proprietors listed have a professed interest in our environment. Your support for these businesses will in turn help to sustain the local economy and in doing so, will contribute to protecting the natural resources of this wonderful area.

We hope you find this guide helpful and that you enjoy your visit to the Rancocas Watershed.

In Town...

The Rancocas Watershed is a large area (approximately 360 square miles), so there are a number of interesting towns and places to explore. Riverside, Delanco, and Medford all have stories to tell and should not be overlooked. There are many places of interest in these towns, which are mentioned throughout this brochure, but we chose to introduce you to two other prominent towns in the watershed – Mount Holly and Pemberton.

Mount Holly

Mount Holly seems to have a market on the heart and minds of those in the Rancocas Watershed. Being the county seat, it is a town of historical significance. It is also now realizing its potential as a tourist destination. Two of the town's main attractions are man-made as opposed to natural. The **1 Burlington County**

Courthouse, cir. 1796, 120 High Street, and the **2 Burlington County Prison**, cir. 1809, 128 High Street, are arguably the town's most impressive historical structures. The prison was designed by Robert Mills, who also designed the Washington Monument. It was one of the oldest U.S. prisons in continuous use and held its last occupant until 1966. Also of historical interest is the **3 Old Schoolhouse** cir. 1759, 35 Brainerd Street. It is the oldest schoolhouse in New Jersey standing on its original site. For a more informative look at historic Mount Holly, stop by Robin's Nest Restaurant for information about their self-guided audio walking tour.

Most of the activity in town is centered along High and Washington Streets. Mount Holly hugs the North Branch, with some of its shops and eateries spilling over the banks. The **4 Shops at Mill Race Village** offer visitors one-of-a-kind finds from hand-painted furniture to note paper, to handcrafted jewelry. Every season in Mount Holly is filled with special events, cultural festivals, or art exhibits. Call (609) 267-8600 ext. 20, or visit www.RancocasValley.com and www.MountHolly.com for a schedule of events in Mount Holly and the surrounding area.

If a more relaxing time is what you're after, head to **5 Berry's Bait and Tackle**, 41 Mill Street, (609) 261-5636, and then onto **6 Mill Dam Park**, or **7 Woolman Lake** for a little fishing, or just to enjoy a peaceful afternoon. A streambank restoration project, using native plants, was recently completed at Mill Dam Park. Take a walk on the trail, which features interpretive signage in this restored area.

Pemberton

Pemberton is a small place with something for everyone. This former mill town has retained much of its old charm. The **8 North Pemberton Railroad Station Museum**, 3 Fort Dix Rd., (609) 894-0546 is home to a variety of local exhibits. It is also the starting point of a converted rail-to-trail, which guides hikers on a 2-mile loop out to the former Birmingham Station and back to Pemberton. A guidebook to the trail is available at the Station, which identifies the locations of historic rail structures and types of wildlife that can be found along the path.

On the opposite end of town, located in an old blacksmith's shop, is **9 Clarks Canoe Rental**, 201 Hanover Street, (609) 894-4448. Paddling in a canoe will give you a first-hand look at the North Branch. But before you put-in, stock up on all of your picnic needs at the **10 Hanover Deli & Grocery**, 70 Hanover Street, (609) 894-8938.

Bike or Take a Hike...

One of the few trails built and maintained by a hiking club, **11 Batona** is a 50-mile trail stretching through both Wharton and Brendan T. Byrne State Forests. The trail is intersected by roads at different locations, so shorter hikes are possible. Trail maps are available in the forest offices at Byrne, Batsto, or Atsion. A variety of options are available for camping in the forest.

Opportunities to cycle present themselves on the less congested back roads, especially in the headwaters areas and on the sandy trails in **Brendan T. Byrne State Forest**, New Lisbon, (609) 726-1191. Remember to always wear a helmet and take the necessary precautions when riding on public roadways.

Enjoying Nature...

The **12 Delanco** waterfront along Delaware Avenue is mostly private property. There are, however, public benches at Walnut, Edgewood, and Willow Streets, which allow you to take in a magnificent view of the Delaware River. Fishing supplies can be purchased on the opposite shore of the Rancocas Creek at **13 Ric's Outdoor Sportsman Bait and Tackle** (856) 764-6100, in Riverside.

Located in Rancocas State Park, the **14 Rancocas Nature Center**, 794 Rancocas Road, Westampton (609) 261-2495, provides an educational starting point for exploration of the surrounding forest, fields and tidal marshes. Their nature trail hugs the banks of the Rancocas Creek and at points provides a nice view of the water.

15 Mill Creek Park, Willingboro (609) 871-5700. A township owned recreational facility with jogging trails, tennis courts, and though it sits alongside the Rancocas there is not a public access site to the Creek.

Finding **16 public access** to the Rancocas for paddling is not always easy for an outsider. A local resident suggested this stretch of the river. From Mount Holly's Mill Dam Park, paddle the North Branch down stream, past Rancocas State Park to its confluence with the South Branch. Loop around and head upstream on the South Branch to a take-out behind Flo's Lakeside Tavern. There is a small parking area behind the tavern. This trip should take about four hours. The Rancocas is tidal in these stretches, so check the charts before venturing out.

17 Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, (856) 983-0326. This wildlife rehabilitation hospital and educational facility treats more than 2,000 animals per year. Sixty percent are returned to the wild. Those remaining are there to teach you about our area's special creatures.

Other Places of Interest...

18 Whitesbog (609) 893-4646, is a silent village undergoing a major restoration effort through the leadership of the Whitesbog Preservation Trust. It was once a thriving blueberry and cranberry producing community. Even today, cranberry bogs are scattered throughout the region ranking New Jersey third in the nation in cranberry production.

19 Smithville Mansion and Industrial Village (609) 265-5068, was an industrial mill town turned bicycle manufacturing center. This 200-acre site is comprised of preserved historic structures, including a mansion owned by a socially progressive industrialist named Hezekiah Bradley Smith. There is a put-in location at this site for an easy two-hour paddle downstream to Mount Holly.

20 Timbuctoo or Bucktown was a community of freed and fugitive slaves in the early to mid 1800's. In its prime, the town's 125 residents supported a school and an AME Zion Church. The last remaining evidence of its existence is the cemetery located at Church Street and the North Branch of the Rancocas Creek. To schedule a visit to the cemetery call (856) 786-8689.

21 The Medford Village Culinary Herb Garden is filled with scents of lavender, sage, thyme, and tarragon. Located in Medford Village Park, come enjoy this peaceful spot along Main Street in beautiful downtown Medford.

Where to Lay your Head...

22 Isaac Hilliard House B&B, 31 Hanover St., Pemberton. Come enjoy the art of living well. (609) 894-0756

23 The Iris Inn at Medford, 45 South Main St., Medford. A delightful bed and breakfast experience in a beautifully preserved 1904 Victorian home. (609) 654-7528

24 Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, P.O. Box 215, New Lisbon. Campsites, cabins, and yurts are available at this state park facility. (609) 726-1191

Where the Locals Grab a Bite...

25 La Familia Sonsini, 202 Old Marlton Pike, Medford. (609) 654-5217

26 Flo's Lakeside Tavern, 2205 Maryland Ave., Hainesport. Comes highly recommended by the locals. (609) 261-3232

27 Runway Café, 68 Stacey Haines Rd., Medford. Serving-up hungry pilots and their passengers at the South Jersey Regional Airport. (609) 518-0400

28 The Deli Station, 25 Madison Ave., Mount Holly. This establishment, serving breakfast and lunch, is set-up in a late 1800's train station. (609) 261-2455

29 Robins Nest, 2 Washington St., Mount Holly. Classically inspired cuisine and waterside dining on the North Branch and Mill Race Waterway. (609) 261-6149

30 Dunleavy's Tavern, Rt. 38 & Lumberton Rd., Hainesport. Another local favorite. (609) 261-4053

31 Café Noelle, 20 South Main St., Medford. A French BYOB with a celebrity following. (609) 953-1155

32 Prospector's Grill and Saloon, Rt. 38 and Ark Road, Mount Laurel. You had better practice your two-step before stopping by. (856) 235-1121