

Map of the St. Jones Watershed



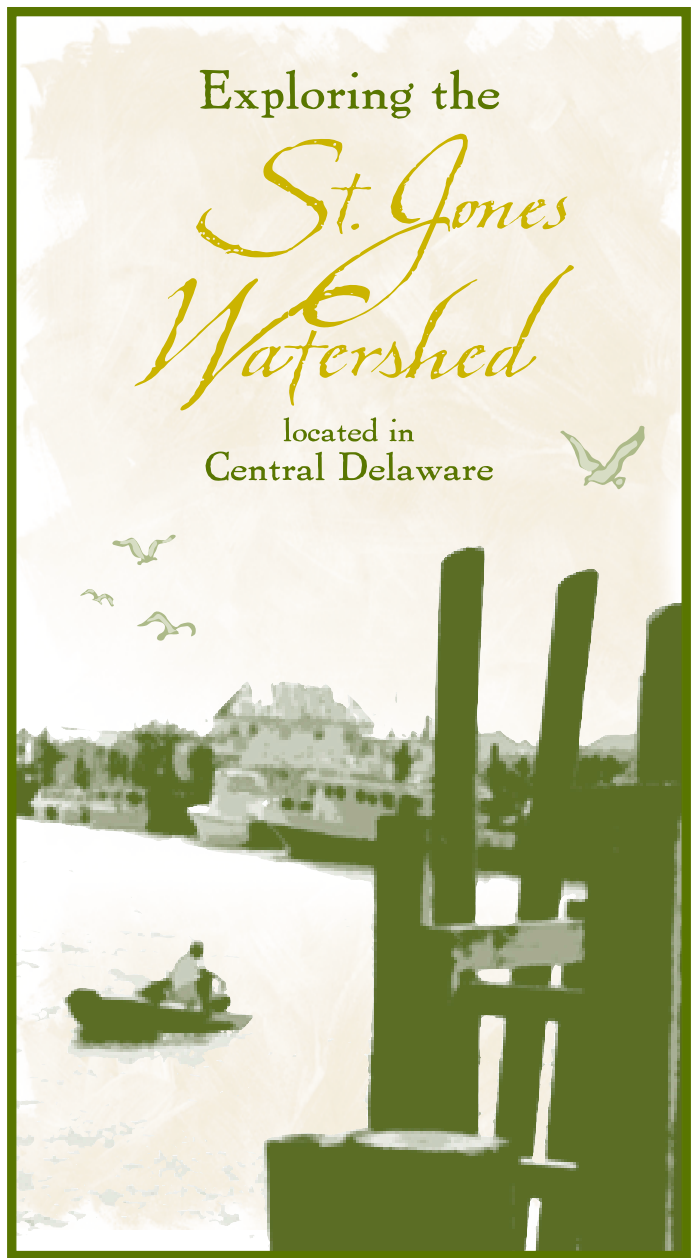
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The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary promotes the Estuary as a regional resource through public education and outreach. Our goal, with this brochure, is to promote ecotourism based upon the Estuary's watershed boundaries rather than politically 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

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Exploring the
St. Jones Watershed
 located in
 Central Delaware

*"Let noisy waters tumult as they will
 But deepest are the waters that are still."*

Julia Burns Holland



The spindly branches and forks of the **St. Jones Watershed** originate deep within Amish farmland before reaching the main stem of the St. Jones River. The River then meanders through Dover’s legislative center, protected marshlands, and finally, the Delaware Bay. The St. Jones Watershed includes all of the land that drains into this waterway.

In the 1880’s, the St. Jones was famous for its lotus lilies. This species of lotus lily was found only in the Nile River and one other location in the world. Unfortunately, the lilies died after WWI when the river was straightened to improve navigation, which resulted in increased salinity levels in the water. So how did the lilies appear in the river? Legend has it that a ship of Egyptian design was found by a dredging crew in 1887, maybe indicating the presence of Egyptians in the St. Jones. Like this legend, the St. Jones Watershed has many other stories to tell. The Watershed is home to a diverse population, fascinating wildlife, and plenty of opportunities for learning and fun, and as such, merits an overnight stay.

The St. Jones River is one of many tributaries of the Delaware Estuary. The Delaware Estuary Region 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 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 St. Jones 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, may help to protect the natural resources of this wonderful area.

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

In Town...

Dover

Dover, Delaware’s capital, is the center of activity in the St. Jones Watershed. From the ballet, to Legislative Hall, to NASCAR, you will find it all in Dover. Get your bearings by beginning with a stop at the **1 Delaware State Visitor Center** at 406 Federal Street, (302) 739-4266, for maps and other local information. Located in the same building is the **2 Sewell C. Biggs Museum of American Art**, (302) 674-2111, which features a collection of paintings and antiques from Delaware Valley artisans. Walking tours of historic Dover begin at 214 S. State Street. For more information,

call (302) 736-1419.

Loockerman Street is Dover’s primary commercial strip. The surrounding blocks are graced with beautiful homes and political activity. For a city of Dover’s size, there are a large number of museums and cultural attractions. One of the more unusual is the **3 Museum of Small Town Life** located at 316 S. Governors Avenue in an 1880’s Sunday School (302) 739-4266. Pack a picnic lunch and head for **4 Silver Lake Park** (302) 736-7050, which is within walking distance of the downtown area.

The **5 Delaware Made General Store**, 214 S. State Street, (302) 736-1419, sells *everything* Delaware: books, magnets, posters, t-shirts, crafts, honey, and more.

Located at the corner of Loockerman and State Streets is the **6 Dover Millennium Fountain**. Sit and enjoy the mist that sprays from the wonderfully sculpted heron. The surrounding garden also offers a shady area for quiet reflection at the end of a busy day.

North Bowers Beach

In between the mouth of the St. Jones River and the mouth of the Murderkill River is the sandy bayside town of North Bowers Beach. This friendly fishing village is one of the few towns along the bay affording the public access to the beach. For your bait and tackle needs, visit **7 Bayside Bait & Tackle**, 193 Davidson Street, (302) 335-5529. Fishing boat charters are available at the **8 Tradewinds Fishing Fleet** on Wyatt Street, (302) 422-3474. The **9 Bowers Beach Maritime Museum** located at Main and Williams Streets has on display a variety of maritime artifacts. The museum is open on weekends from June through August. There is no phone number available for the museum.

On the Road...

As in most rural areas, there are few designated cycling trails, and the roads in the St. Jones Watershed are becoming more and more congested every year. There is, however, local interest in promoting bicycle touring of the area, and recently, a very detailed touring map was printed. One local “loop” you might consider will take you through Amish Country. In fact, the “Amish Country Tour” is an annual cycling event held in the month of September to benefit the YMCA of Dover. Organizers have identified a route that runs through the watershed west of the City of Dover. For information about this event and other cycling opportunities, call the Kent County Tourism Office at 1-800-233-5368.

Enjoying nature...

Nature walks, birding, fishing, and wildlife photography are some of a few activities available for visitors to the 2,000-acre **10 Ted Harvey Conservation Area** (302) 739-5297. This site is managed primarily for hunting and as a refuge for migratory waterfowl. A handicapped

accessible fishing dock and portable toilet facility are located approximately one mile into the refuge. *From Route 1 South, make a left onto Kitts Hummock Road. Travel approximately two miles, and make a right into refuge. The entrance is marked with signage. An information board with a map is located shortly after entering the refuge.*

The **11 St. Jones Reserve**, (302) 739-3436 is part of National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The reserve features a 1/4 mile boardwalk through salt-water marshes, several new interactive educational displays, and plenty of opportunities for wildlife observation. Some important raptors including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, osprey, and Northern harrier have all been sighted in the reserve. With advanced notice, guided river trips on the St. Jones are available to the public. *From Route 1 South, make a left onto Kitts Hummock Road. The reserve is the second right off of Kitts Hummock Road. The entrance is marked with signage. Follow the gravel road straight back to the visitor’s center.*

There are a number of locations within the St. Jones Watershed that provide the public access to the water for fishing and boating. **12 Scotton Landing**, located off of Route 1, offers a modern boat ramp and fishing pier. *From Dover, take Route 1 South to the exit for Magnolia. Make a right onto Trap Shooters Road and a left onto Barkers Landing Road. River access and parking is on the right.*

13 Moores Lake is not only a good fishing-hole, but is an excellent location for learning about the mechanics of a fish ladder. This ladder built in partnership by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and PSEG provides river herring (alewife and blueback herring) with access to historic spawning areas and nursery habitat. A pedestrian overhang provides a birds-eye view of the Alaskan Steeppass style fish ladder. *From downtown Dover, take State Street south, which becomes Alt. Route 113 (10 A). Access to the lake and parking area are located on the right, approximately two miles from the intersection with Route 13 (South DuPont Highway).*

There are two other parks worth visiting in the Watershed. **14 Brecknock Park**, while mostly a recreational facility with athletic fields and picnic pavilions, does have a nature and hiking trail alongside Isaacs Branch, a tributary to the St. Jones. *From downtown Dover, take State Street south. Make a right onto Old Camden Road. The entrance to the park is on the right.* **15 Tidbury Creek Park** has two warm season fresh-water fishing ponds. *From downtown Dover, take State Street south, which becomes Alt. Route 113 (10 A). The park is located on the left, a short distance after the intersection with Lebanon Road.*

Other places of interest...

16 Air Mobility Command Museum, 1301 Heritage Road, Dover AFB, (302) 677-5938. Located in a WWII hanger on Dover Air Force Base, the museum offers visitors a close up look at some amazing aircraft and at Air Force history.

17 John Dickinson Plantation, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover, (302) 739-3277. Step back in time to the boyhood days of John Dickinson, the “Penman of the American Revolution”. Guides in period

costumes recreate plantation life in the 1800’s.

18 Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village, 866 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover, (302) 734-1618. The recreated village of “Loockerman Landing” is a testament to southern Delaware’s commitment to historic preservation. Each building was donated to the museum and moved to its current location. Inside of each building is a detailed description of its previous life and that of its owners.

19 Spence’s Farmers Market & Bazaar, 550 S. New Street, Dover, (302) 734-3441. If the outdoor flea market isn’t enough to overload your senses, step inside the large red barn where the Amish vendors will gladly satisfy your palette with fresh produce, sandwiches, and sticky buns.

Where to lay your head...

20 Little Creek Inn Bed & Breakfast, 2623 N. Little Creek Road, Dover. Their critically acclaimed chef will serve you traditional foods of the Delmarva Peninsula. (302) 730-1300

21 The Rose Tower Bed & Breakfast, 228 East Camden-Wyoming Ave., Camden. This home, with a fascinating history, has been featured on the Home and Garden Network. (302) 698-9033

22 Loockerman Inn, 514 E. Loockerman St., Dover. Located only two-blocks from historic downtown Dover. (302) 674-3300

23 Bowers Old Inn, 46 Hubbard Ave., N. Bowers Beach. Ten rooms with rustic, small-town charm. (302) 335-3085

24 Killens Pond State Park, 5025 Killens Pond Road, Felton. This park, with year-round modern family campsites and cabins, is located just immediately outside the St. Jones Watershed. (302) 284-4526

Where the locals grab a bite...

25 Blue Coat Inn, 800 N. State St., Dover. A long-time Dover favorite for special occasions. (302) 674-1776

26 Irish Mike’s Old Towne Pub, 107 W. Loockerman St., Dover. A fine place to grab a brew and shoot a game of pool. (302) 734-4578

27 J.P.’s Wharf, (at the end of Hubbard St.), N. Bowers Beach. While their outdoor deck actually overlooks the Murderkill River, we couldn’t resist their seafood, fresh from the Estuary. (302) 335-4035

28 Loockerman Deli, 200 W. Loockerman St., Dover. A casual deli located on the ground floor of the historic Bayard Hotel, which closed in 1967 after more than 100 years of service. (302) 677-0430

29 Magnolia Family Restaurant, Walnut & Main Sts., Magnolia. Home cookin’, like mom use to make. (302) 335-1231

30 Steaming Bean, 25 W. Loockerman St., Dover. A popular hangout serving tasty homemade salads and sandwiches. (302) 734-2526