

#### **DELAWARE AND RARITAN CANAL STATE PARK**

Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal State Park is one of central New Jersey's most popular places for boating, jogging, hiking, bicycling and fishing. The 70-mile-long park is a valuable wildlife corridor connecting fields and forests.

With its wooden bridges, locks, spillways, waste gates, stone-arched culverts and bridge and lock tender houses, the canal is an attraction for history lovers. The upper reach of the feeder canal wanders through several historic New Jersey towns along the Delaware River such as Stockton and Lambertville. The main canal winds northward from Bordentown through Trenton into Lawrence Township and continues through central New Jersey ending in New Brunswick.

#### **TRAILS IN TRENTON**

This detailed map highlights the trails through Trenton where the D&R Canal splits for a short distance. Visitors can continue along the historic route of the canal or follow the D&R Greenway, formerly the Belvidere & Delaware Railroad.

Along the canal route visitors will pass three surviving bridge tender houses at Prospect, Calhoun and Hanover Streets respectively. The buildings were homes for canal company employees assigned to operate and maintain the swing bridges at these road crossings. The canal ceased operations in 1932 and by the 1950s, all swing bridges were removed and replaced with the modern stationary bridges seen today.

The Trenton Battle Monument, commemorating the crucial victory of the Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776, is also located along this section of the D&R Canal trail. Park visitors are asked to use caution while traveling through the city by obeying traffic signals and using crosswalks where available.



#### **HIGHLIGHTED AREAS**

Six Mile Run Reservoir Site: Located in central New Jersey, Six Mile Run Reservoir Site provides an essential area to enjoy the outdoors with hiking, biking, horseback riding and hunting opportunities. Call for more information: 609-924-5705.

**Bulls Island Recreation Area:** This 80-acre forested island provides numerous opportunities for recreation. The island includes a park office, large picnic area, playground, Roebling-designed pedestrian bridge to Pennsylvania, access to the D&R Canal and boat launches. Visitors can also explore the mature forests of the Bulls Island Natural Area along a 1-mile-long loop trail. Call for more information: 609-397-2949.

**Rockingham:** This farm homestead served as the final wartime headquarters for General George Washington. It was here where he wrote his Farewell Orders to the Armies of the United States. Soon after, he received word that the Treaty of Paris had been signed, thus ending the Revolutionary War. The house contains period furnishings, reproductions of Washington's military equipment and a life-size figure of the General. An 18th-century-style kitchen garden is on site. Call for more information: 609-683-7132.

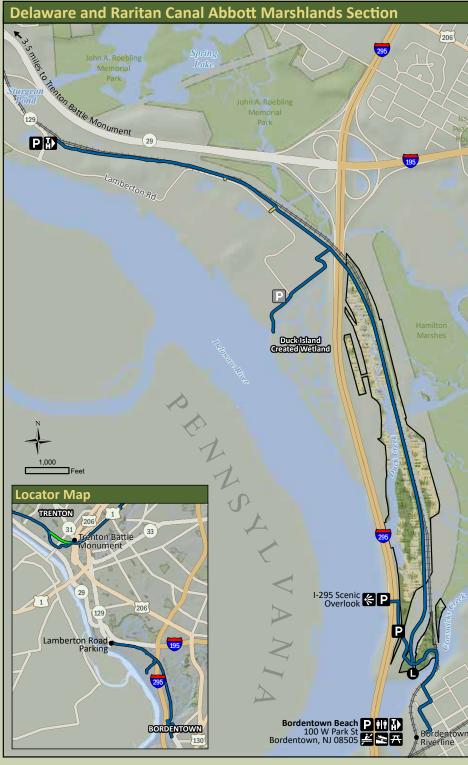
Washington Crossing State Park: Washington Crossing State Park was founded in remembrance of the historic crossing of the Delaware River by General George Washington and his troops on Dec. 25, 1776. Park visitors can tour the visitor center museum to learn about America's revolutionary conflict, with an emphasis on the military campaign known as "The Ten Crucial Days." The Johnson Ferry House offers living history programs that will immerse visitors into the 18th century. The nature center offers year-round programming and displays representing the local environment. Picnic areas, playgrounds, trails and group camping offer something for everyone. Call for more information: 609-737-0623.

#### **ABBOTT MARSHLANDS**

Covering more than 3,000 acres of upland forests, tidal waterways and wetlands, Abbott Marshlands is an oasis of natural beauty. The beginning of the D&R Canal at Lock 1 can be found near the convergence of Crosswicks Creek and the Delaware River. What was once a bustling hub of commerce is now a quiet place to explore stands of wild rice and a chorus of bird songs. This 3.5-mile-long trail is accessible from the I-295 scenic overlook, the pedestrian bridge next to the Bordentown light rail station and a parking area along Route 129 in Trenton.

A network of trails within Abbott Marshlands is maintained by local government and nonprofit agencies. Please visit www.abbottmarshlands.org.





#### **HISTORY**

During the early 19th century, canals were built as transportation routes to link manufacturing centers and markets. The Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal was constructed across central New Jersey to provide an efficient route for transporting freight between Philadelphia and New York City. The two cities selected as the canal's two terminuses were Bordentown on the Delaware River and New Brunswick on the Raritan River. Water is supplied to the main canal via a 22-mile-long feeder canal that was dug adjacent to the Delaware River beginning at Bulls Island and continuing south.

Construction of the D&R Canal began in 1831. Many skilled men became contractors and builders, while the arduous tasks of digging ditches, moving earth and tree removal fell to scores of unskilled local men. This local workforce was supplemented in large numbers by migratory and immigrant laborers from Ireland. Originally, the main canal was 44 miles long. The feeder canal was 22 miles long, 60 feet wide and six feet deep. The entire canal system was completed in June 1834 at an estimated cost of \$2,830,000.

Initially, canal boats were pulled exclusively by mule teams, but by 1843, steam-powered vessels were in use. These faster, modern boats plied the waters alongside the mainstay mule-powered boats into the early 20th century. To reduce damage to the banks of the canal and its towpath, a speed limit of four miles per hour was enforced.

Today, nearly 36 miles of the main canal, 22 miles of its feeder and numerous historic structures still exist. These serve as a reminder of the days when the delivery of freight depended upon a canal, teams of mules and steam-powered boats.

**The Feeder Canal** – Originally designed as a water supply for the main canal, the feeder canal was navigated by vessels from the time of its completion. In 1847, canal boats from Pennsylvania's Delaware Division Canal were granted access to the D&R Feeder Canal in Lambertville. This shortened the journey for boats transporting coal from Pennsylvania to New York City. In 1850, construction of a rail line along the feeder canal began when the Belvidere & Delaware Railroad laid track on the waterway's original towpath. By 1854, regular rail service opened alongside the D&R Canal's feeder canal.

**Decline of the Canal** – For nearly a century, the D&R Canal was one of America's busiest navigation canals. Inevitably, the speed and efficiency of railroads overtook the slower pace of canals. The D&R Canal's last year of operating at a profit was 1892, but it remained open through the 1932 shipping season. After closing, the canal sat unused

> until ownership was turned over to the State of New Jersey in 1936. In the 1940s, work to repurpose the canal as a water supply began. From the 1930s to the 1970s, it transitioned from a working canal to a linear park. Due to a strong grassroots effort to preserve the waterway from

encroachment, pollution and development, the canal and its remaining structures, were entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. A year later more than 60 miles of the canal and a narrow strip of land on both banks were made an official state park. A portion of the Belvidere & Delaware Railroad corridor from Bulls Island to Frenchtown was added to the park in the 1980s.

#### **RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Hiking and Biking: D&R Canal State Park's multiuse trail of crushed and packed stone provides more than 70 continuous miles of wide, flat pathway along the historic route of the D&R Canal and former rail lines. Numerous points of entry make it ideal for a day hike or bike trip in central New Jersey. The park's trail system was designated a National Recreation Trail in 1992 and is a part of the East Coast Greenway, the longest hiking and biking route that connects Maine to Florida. Today it is used by millions as a much-loved and needed recreation corridor in central New Jersey.

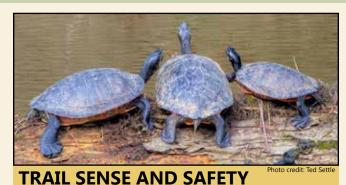
**Boating:** D&R Canal State Park's location along the federally-designated Lower Wild and Scenic Delaware River and the D&R Canal makes it an ideal location for boating. Canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and non-motorized boats are allowed along the entire length of the D&R Canal. This gently flowing waterway is perfect for beginners or those looking to enjoy a leisurely paddle. The canal flows under many bridges and paddlers will have to portage their boats over the concrete locks along the canal. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, to access the Delaware River, all boaters and paddlers must purchase a boat launch permit - available from the Bulls Island office. (Lambertville Boat Launch is free.) All New Jersey boating regulations apply.

**Fishing:** Fishing is permitted along the entire length of the D&R Canal and Delaware River. While trout are stocked at various locations in the canal during the spring, anglers will find warmwater fish year-round. The Delaware River provides habitat for many game species, including migratory American shad and striped bass. Fishing is subject to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

# PA N DELAWARE RIVER 14.8 MI, ROUND TRIP Lower Makefiel Morrisv ↓ 10 ml. to Bristo

#### **LOOP TRAILS**

A 30-mile-long stretch of parallel paths connected by seven bridges over the Delaware River creates multiple loop trails linking New Jersey's Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park with Pennsylvania's Delaware Canal State Park. Along these routes, there are numerous recreational opportunities as well as river towns with rich histories, eateries and shops. The loop trails offers beautiful scenic views and the



**Trail Etiquette:** The D&R Canal Trail is a multi-use trail that is shared by hikers, runners, bicyclists and

• Be aware of other trail users. • Stay to the right of the trail, except when passing.

· Give clear warning when passing on the left. · Travel at reasonable speed.

· Respect the environment by staying on trail. Preparations: Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when

you will return. Pets: All pets must always be leashed (max. six feet) and under the physical control of the owner. PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS.

Carry In/Carry Out: Picnicking facilities are located at Bulls Island and Blackwells Mill Day Use Area. There is no picnicking or grilling on the river! No alcohol is permitted. Please help keep our parks clean by carrying out your trash.



All N.J. State Parks are smoke-free.

or dial 911 **Bulls Island Kingston Office Recreation Area** 145 Mapleton Road 2185 Daniel Bray Highway Princeton, N.J. 08540 Stockton, N.J. 08559 609-924-5705

> **Explore Trail Tracker,** the Interactive **Trails Map of** N.J. State Parks

TRAIL spstrailtracker.nj.gov

609-397-2949

This brochure was funded by the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Hours: Visitors are welcome

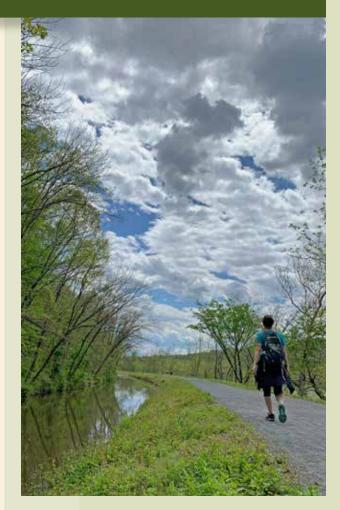
from sunrise to sunset.

**Emergency Numbers:** 

1-877-WARN-DEP

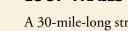
(1-877-927-6337)

### Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park









natural landscapes of the Delaware River Valley.

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