

**93 River Access Site With Ramp And Parking**  
 Access Information for Philadelphia to Marcus Hook Section of Water Trail Map

**93 West Deptford Township, NJ** (Lat 39 52 38 Lon 75 10 47), surfaced ramp, parking \$10, dock, port-o-potties, shore fishing, hrs 6:00 am to 8:30 pm; gate closes at 8:45 pm or dusk, closed Dec-Mar, driving dir: from north, I-295 Red Bank Ave (Exit 22), L on 2nd, R on Center St to ramp. From south, I-295 Red Bank Ave (Exit 22), L on Red Bank Ave, L on 2nd, R on Center St to ramp.

**D1 Ridley Township Marina on Darby Creek, PA** (Lat 39 52 13 Lon 75 18 50), surfaced ramp, fuel, ramp fee, parking, restaurant, bait, ice, bottle water, port-o-potties, secured boat lock, shore fishing, hrs 10 am - 8 pm, 8 am-8 pm weekends, nearby lodging (airport area), 610-521-2800, MapQuest dir to: Township of Ridley Marina, 401 S Swarthmore Ave, Ridley Park, PA 19078.

**82 Chester City at Flower St, PA** (Lat 39 49 56 Lon 75 22 36), surfaced ramp, dock, parking, shore fishing, hrs sunrise to set, MapQuest dir to: Flower St and Seaport Dr, Chester, PA 19013, ramp is under Commodore John Barry Bridge.

**91 Carry-In Kayak Access Site**

**S7 Walnut Street Bridge on Schuylkill River, PA** (Lat 39 57 15 Lon 75 10 46), dock access (yield to tour boat), roadway parking only, shore fishing, nearby food and lodging, MapQuest dir to: S 25th St and Locust St, Phila, PA 19103, dock is accessed by foot 1 block north of 25th and Locust.

**S5 Bartram's Garden on Schuylkill River, PA** (Lat 39 56 01 Lon 75 12 29), dock access, parking, restrooms, shore fishing, hrs sunrise to sunset (gate is then locked), MapQuest dir to: Bartram's Garden, 54th and Lindbergh Blvd, Phila, PA 19143. Or see <http://www.bartramsgarden.org/information/directions.html>

**91.4 Fort Mifflin, PA** (Lat 39 52 31 Lon 75 12 34), dock access (call ahead; dock may be locked), parking, restrooms, drinking water, camping, rustic lodging, hrs March to November 10 am - 4 pm, Wed to Sun or by appt, (215-685-4167), MapQuest dir to: 1 Fort Mifflin Rd, Phila, PA 19153.

**91 RiverWinds Point, West Deptford Township, NJ** (Lat 39 51 46 Lon 75 12 27), beach access, parking, adjacent to RiverWinds Community Center, Mapquest dir to: Grove Rd and RiverWinds Dr, West Deptford, NJ 08086, then follow RiverWinds Dr to launch (bear right down narrow road at RiverWinds Community Center).

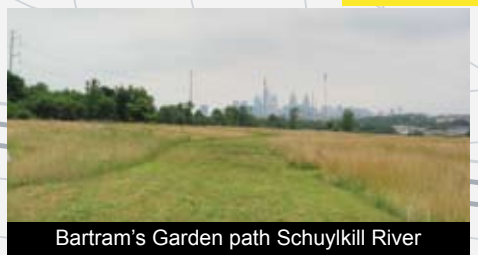
**D5 John Heinz Wildlife Refuge on Darby Creek, PA** (Lat 39 53 33 Lon 75 15 31), small ramp, hr sunrise to set, port-o-potties, shore fishing, visitor center with restrooms and water with hrs 8:30 am - 4 pm, food nearby, MapQuest dir to: 8601 Lindbergh Blvd, Phila, PA 19153-2501, refuge entrance is on right.

**86.5 Marinas - Open To Public**

**86.5 Anchorage Marina, PA** (Lat 39 51 33 Lon 75 17 43), fuel, hrs 9 am - 4 pm (no credit cards after certain hours), first PA fuel stop south of Penn's Landing on PA side, pump out, 610-521-0660.

**86.2 Lagoon Marina, PA** (Lat 39 51 36 Lon 75 18 09), restaurant and night club, 610-521-1400.

Mapping by FisherWorks Consulting



**The Tidal Delaware River presents a host of SAFETY challenges for motor, sail and paddle craft:**

- Be alert for big, fast ships, especially in the shipping lane and anchorages.
- Ships and the tugboats accompanying them generate large wakes.
- Be aware of the changing tide. The river reverses its flow direction four times daily.
- Kayakers on the tidal Delaware should be experienced. Open canoes without flotation are not recommended.
- Do not boat alone. Be sure to be visible to other boaters, and be aware of what is around you (including behind you).
- Look out for floating debris, especially after heavy rain.
- Much of the river is urbanized with ports and industry. River walls and piers may present obstacles.
- Be prepared for adverse weather such as wind, rain and cold.
- Homeland security is an issue around bridges, ports, pipelines and other facilities. Keep clear of security risk areas and be prepared to communicate with Coast Guard, marine police and other security personnel.

PFBC, [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)

DCNR, [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

DEP, [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

PA Environmental Council, [www.pccpa.org](http://www.pccpa.org)

Tidal Delaware River Water Trail [www.tidaltrail.org](http://www.tidaltrail.org)

Tide Gauge Predictive Reading-Internet Accessible: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/> Or <http://www.saltwatertides.com/dynamic/dir/delawariversites.html>  
 Tide And Current Change Direction Every 5-7 Hours. Average Current ~2 mph.

**93** River Access Site With Ramp And Parking (ID Number Is The Approximate River Mile - See Chart For Facilities And Directions)

**91** Carry-In Kayak Access Site (ID Number Is The Approximate River Mile - See Chart For Facilities And Directions)

**86.5** Marina - Open To Public - See Marina Chart

Private Boat Clubs - Members Only

Fairmount Dam On Schuylkill River - Must Portage (Difficult)

USGS Stream Level Gauge

87 River Mile From Mouth Of Delaware River (1 Mile Interval)

1 River Mile From Mouth Of Schuylkill River (1 Mile Interval)

1 River Mile From Mouth Of Darby Creek (1 Mile Interval)

3T Green Lateral Buoys With ID - Shipping Lane Is Between Red and Green Buoys

4T Red Lateral Buoys With ID - Shipping Lane Is Between Red and Green Buoys

Important Bird Area

Primitive Camping On Island - Leave No Trace <http://www.lnt.org/>

Railroad Bridge

Land Trail - Proposed Or Under Construction

Land Trail - Existing

92 Point Of Interest Listed In The "Along The Way" Section On Reverse Side

Commercial Shipping Lane (Light Blue) - Paddle Boats Avoid Whenever Possible

Designated Anchorage Area For Large Ships (Use Extreme Caution)

Islands

Cities

Boroughs

Public Land

0 1 Kilometer  
 0 1 Mile



# Tidal Delaware River Water Trail

## Philadelphia-to-Marcus-Hook Section

River Miles 93-76

## Map & Guide

[www.tidaltrail.org](http://www.tidaltrail.org)

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river or ocean between specific points, containing access points and day-use and/or camping sites for the boating public. Water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote resources stewardship. Explore this unique Pennsylvania water trail. This three-map set focuses on the river from Trenton to Marcus Hook.



### For your safety and enjoyment:

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.
- Know fishing and boating regulations.
- Be prepared for river hazards.
- Carry proper equipment.



### THE TIDAL DELAWARE RIVER

The tidal Delaware River flows over the fall line between the Piedmont Plateau and the Coastal Plain as it passes between the cities of Trenton, New Jersey and Morrisville, Pennsylvania. Here the river meets a tidal surge that rises and falls over the next 130 or more miles before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. The Delaware deepens and widens as it crosses the flat, sandy reaches of the Coastal Plain, allowing for the passage of larger ocean-going vessels.

Shipping and trade routes existing since the early days of American history support vibrant port and industrial centers. Colonial-era town centers such as Bordentown, Bristol and Philadelphia continue to thrive into the 21st century, and offer opportunities to experience history and culture. Revolutionary War battlefields including Fort Mifflin and Red Bank hug the river banks. Near the river's edge are the mansions and estates of famous Americans such as William Penn and Walt Whitman.

The industrial and residential water pollution that plagued the tidal Delaware in the past century has been steadily ameliorated by an engaged citizenry empowered by the Clean Water Act. This act is allowing the river towns and boroughs to turn the river back into a "front yard" for public recreational uses such as boating, fishing, birding, walking trails and other eco-tourism and heritage activities. Waterfront stadiums, aquariums, entertainment amphitheatres, museums, restaurants and more can be found in the larger cities such as Trenton, Camden and Philadelphia.

Many ecological resources are found along the river. Wetlands and forested riparian edges offer important fish and wildlife habitat, including food and shelter for anadromous fish, waterfowl and wading birds. As fish return in greater numbers, there are opportunities to catch striped bass, smallmouth bass, American shad, catfish and white perch.

### FLOATING THE RIVER

The tidal Delaware is a working river, with a buoy-lined shipping lane and anchorages plied by muscular tugboats that tow container ships full of produce, raw materials and manufactured goods. But recreational powerboaters and sailboaters have a long-established presence on the river, including a well-developed network of boat clubs, marinas and boat access ramps. The Delaware River Yachtsmen's League includes 29 boat, yacht, sailing and paddle clubs as member organizations. Private marinas offer boating berths, fuel, pumpout facilities and other services.

The tidal Delaware River presents a host of safety challenges for motor, sail and paddling craft. Large commercial boats traverse the shipping lane that runs the length of the tidal river (lane marked by green and red buoys). These ships can be fast-moving and cannot stop or slow down easily. In addition to avoiding ships, recreational boaters need to be alert for the large wakes generated by ships. Kayakers can paddle the mainstem tidal Delaware, but a high level of expertise is required to negotiate wakes, including those churned by maneuvering tugboats. In addition to large ships and wakes, boaters must contend with river hazards such as tides and currents, boat traffic both large and small, floating debris, and river walls, piers and bridge abutments.

The tidal surge up the Delaware River is so powerful that the river changes direction four times daily. Boaters, particularly those in human-powered craft, must consider the changing tides. Boaters should carefully review daily tide change forecasts for the specific river sections they plan to traverse. Paddlers should plan their one-way or roundtrip excursions so they paddle with the tide the entire length of their trip. Paddlers need a high level of caution, planning and experience to be sure that the tidal current is traveling with them from start to finish. Before you get on the river, make sure you have clearly identified rest stops and emergency bailout locations along the way.

Boaters negotiating powerful tides and currents may also face stiff headwinds that can both tire and chill. Small boats and paddlers crossing the river should know where the shipping lanes are. They should monitor ship traffic to be sure the lane is clear, and cross directly and expeditiously. Be sure to be visible. Boaters should stay out of the river during a big rain or thaw that raises water volumes and increases the amount of river debris such as logs and ice. Water quality may also be poor or even hazardous near combined stormwater-sewer overflow discharge points (large sewer pipes) after rainstorms.

Additional Coast Guard regulations restrict boaters from operating within prescribed distances from certain vessels.

Maintain at least 500 yards distance from larger vessels, and get permission to come within 100 yards of naval vessels and escorted ships. In addition, boating is restricted on certain river sections during events such as fireworks displays, regattas and specific work projects. Boaters are encouraged to carry marine radios and monitor VHF channel 16. Emergency telephone contact numbers are listed under the "In case of Emergency" section.

Do not anchor in the shipping lane, at designated large ship anchorages or under bridges. Other places to avoid include active port, industrial and pipeline facilities. It is recommended that you maintain a 25- to 50-foot distance from such areas, and do not tie on to private piers. Steer clear of utilities and other structures such as pipelines.

### FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Every spring, this area is a favorite for striped bass. The standard baits are bloodworms, American eels (as baitfish) and cut herring. Catfish are also a popular quarry, and anglers use chicken livers, minnows and nightcrawlers. In addition, white perch and carp are also popular. Remember, though, that this area is tidal, so if you fish from shore, beware of where you set up.

### BOATING AND PADDLING SAFETY TIPS

- Wear your life jacket. Some 80 percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- Expect to get wet. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats. Bring extra clothing in a waterproof bag.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go boating.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- Scout ahead whenever possible. Know the river. Avoid surprises.
- Be prepared for the weather. Get a forecast before you go. Sudden winds and rain can turn a pleasant trip into a risky, unpleasant venture.
- Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes with wool, polypropylene, pile or neoprene socks.
- Never take your boat over a low-head dam.
- Portage (carry) your boat around any waterway section about which you feel uncertain.
- Never boat alone. Boating safety increases with numbers.
- Keep painter lines (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled and secure.
- Never tie a rope to yourself or to another boater, especially a child.
- If you collide with an obstruction in a kayak, lean toward it. This will usually prevent capsizing or flooding the boat.
- File a float plan with a reliable person, indicating where you are going and when you will return. Remember to contact the person when you have returned safely.



### PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS

- One wearable, Coast Guard-approved life jacket (personal flotation device or PFD) in serviceable condition and of the appropriate size is required for each person in your boat. If your boat is 16 feet or longer, one throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) is required. Canoes and Kayaks, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device.
- Life jackets must be worn by all children 12 years old and younger on all boats 20 feet or less in length while under way, and on all canoes and kayaks. Others are strongly encouraged to wear a PFD at all times on the water.
- All boats must display an anchor light (a white light visible for 360°) when at anchor between sunset and sunrise. Boats can use a lantern or clip-on battery-powered unit to meet this requirement.
- All powered boats must show running lights between sunset and sunrise. Between sunset and sunrise, unpowered boats must carry a white light (visible for 360°), installed or portable, ready to be displayed in time to avoid a collision.
- All motorboats are required to carry a sound-producing mechanical device audible for a half-mile. Athletic whistles meet this requirement.

- All motorboats must be registered, regardless of where they launch.
- Unpowered boats using Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission access areas must either be registered OR display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased on the web at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com). Click on "Permits & Forms" and then "Boat Registration."
- Operating watercraft, including canoes, kayaks and rafts, under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. The law is strongly enforced for user safety. For further information on boating regulations, contact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

### STEWARDSHIP

Help care for the land, water and cultural resources along the Tidal Delaware River Water Trail by respecting wildlife, nature and other people. "Leave No Trace," a national outdoor ethics program, provides some guidelines to minimize your impact. For more information about "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics, visit [www.Lnt.org](http://www.Lnt.org).

#### Leave no trace for camping and day use:

1. Plan and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfires.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

### WILDLIFE ALONG THE RIVER

Aquatic, wetland and upland areas in and along the Delaware Estuary provide a rich variety of habitats for invertebrates, fish, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Freshwater tidal marshes located in the water trail area provide important feeding areas for migratory birds, especially red-winged blackbirds; waterfowl such as pintails, black ducks, mallards, and blue-winged teal; and wading birds. Freshwater wetlands also provide migration, spawning and nursery areas for anadromous fish such as Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, American shad and American eel.

### PRIVATE LAND

Much of the shoreline along the tidal Delaware is urbanized and privately owned. Plan and make stops on shorelines open to the public. Respect the privacy and rights of landowners by obtaining permission before entering any privately owned land. Avoid loud behavior and making loud noises. Remember that sound carries across water much more clearly than on land. Share the same courtesy that you would want others to provide. A friendly wave or quiet greeting is always welcome.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Tidal Delaware River Water Trail project was created as a partnership among the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and many others. This project was financed by grants from DCNR and from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Coastal Zone Management Program.

### ALONG THE WAY

Points of interest are listed on the map with this icon and their corresponding river mile.

**94 Sports Complex** features Citizens Bank Park, home of the Phillies; Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Eagles; Wachovia Complex, where the Flyers and Sixers play, as well as concerts and other sporting events. Philadelphia is one of the few cities with a professional franchise in all four major league sports. The sports complexes are visible from the river but not accessible by river.

**92 Red Bank Battlefield** is the site of a Revolutionary War battle won by American troops. Troops wounded during battle were brought to the Whitall House, which was used as a field hospital. The 44-acre park now features picnic areas, walking and recreation opportunities. Call ahead to inquire about access from the river. Visit [www.nj.searchroots.com/Gloucesterco/redbank.html](http://www.nj.searchroots.com/Gloucesterco/redbank.html).

**91.3 Fort Mifflin** is known as the "the fort that saved America." Although the American Army was actually defeated here during the Revolutionary War, the battle gave Washington's troops time to make camp in Valley Forge. The fort contains 14 restored historic structures, constructed barracks, officers' quarters, a blacksmith shop and the dungeons. The gift shop offers authentic reproduction Revolutionary and Civil War items. Call ahead 215-685-4167 to arrange access from the river. Visit [www.fortmifflin.us](http://www.fortmifflin.us).

**82.2 Lazaretto** is a historic quarantine station that processed cargo and passengers bound for the Philadelphia port. It is the last example of its kind in America. Before it was a quarantine station it was part of a Swedish settlement. It was later a seaplane base during aviation's earliest days. This site is visible from the river but not accessible by river. Visit [www.ushistory.org/laz/index.htm](http://www.ushistory.org/laz/index.htm).

**86 Gov. Printz Park** is the site of the first permanent European settlement in Pennsylvania, the capital of New Sweden in the mid-17th century. The park features an outdoor exhibit on the history of New Sweden and a statue of Governor Printz. This site is visible from the river but not accessible by river.

**S8 Fairmount Water Works and Philadelphia Museum of Art.** Philadelphia was first to supply an entire city with drinking water, provided by the Fairmount Water Works. Today the site features beautiful landscaping and the Water Works Interpretive Center. Visit [www.fairmountwaterworks.org](http://www.fairmountwaterworks.org).

Since 1924, the Philadelphia Museum of Art has included more than 225,000 pieces of art that span two millennia from six continents. The museum also features a gift shop and restaurant, and it is widely known for its steps, made famous by the movie *Rocky*. Visit [www.philamuseum.org](http://www.philamuseum.org).

**S5 Bartram's Garden** is the pastoral 18th-century homestead of John Bartram, a Quaker farmer. With views of Center City Philadelphia, the garden features meadows, wetlands, a river

trail, archeological artifacts and farm buildings. See [www.bartramsgarden.org](http://www.bartramsgarden.org).

**D1-5 John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge** is Pennsylvania's largest tidal wetland. It is home to 280 species of birds, and fox, deer, muskrat, turtles, fish, frogs and a wide variety of wildflowers and plants. The refuge provides opportunities for bird-watching, photography, biking and hiking. The Cusano Environmental Education Center is a "green" building featuring interactive displays, a library and lunchroom. Visit [www.fws.gov/northeast.heinz](http://www.fws.gov/northeast.heinz).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Recreational Information

The **Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation** web site at [www.gophila.com](http://www.gophila.com) showcases things to see and do for boaters and others in the multi-county region.

Visit **South Jersey** web site at [www.visitsouthjersey.com/index.asp](http://www.visitsouthjersey.com/index.asp) to learn more about what to see along the tidal Delaware, including river towns, outdoor recreation spots, and historical attractions.

The **Outdoor Club of South Jersey (OCSJ)** is the largest paddling and hiking club in New Jersey and provides an active schedule of safe, organized paddling trips in the tri-state area including tidal and non tidal Delaware and tributaries. The OCSJ is organized around the purpose of offering individuals a chance to have safe enjoyment when hiking or paddling. Visit their website at [www.ocsj.org](http://www.ocsj.org) for activity schedules and photos of OCSJ members having fun.

The **National Canoe Safety Patrol's** primary mission is to provide less experienced boaters with on-water safety training, teaching safe and effective paddling techniques, and performing river rescues and assists as necessary. See [www.ncspldc.org/](http://www.ncspldc.org/).

The **Philadelphia Canoe Club** has been in existence since 1905, and is a dedicated group of canoeists and kayakers. See [www.philacanoec.org/](http://www.philacanoec.org/).

The **Delaware River Yachtsmen's League** works to promote true Yachtmanship on the Delaware River, its tributaries and surrounding territory. It works for the betterment of waterways, harbors, channel markings and safe boating laws. See [www.dryl.org/](http://www.dryl.org/) for information on membership clubs, events and boater issues.

Schuylkill River Water Trail Map guides paddlers along the non-tidal portion of the Schuylkill River. Visit [www.schuylkillriver.org/Paddling.aspx](http://www.schuylkillriver.org/Paddling.aspx) for maps.

### Kayak Rentals

**Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC)** offers kayak tours by Hidden River Outfitters [www.hiddenriveroutfitters.com](http://www.hiddenriveroutfitters.com) and Schuylkill Banks River Tours, presented by SCA Americas, on the lower Schuylkill River in Center City. Tours run May-November Advance reservations are required. For information on all SRDC events, call 1-888-Riv-Phil or go to [www.schuylkillbanks.org](http://www.schuylkillbanks.org).

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

For distress calls, contact captain of the Port Delaware Bay, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay:

- Marine radios are recommended. Use VHF channel 16 for distress calls.
- If you need to use a cell phone, call 215-271-4940 for the search and rescue controller, 24 hours per day.

#### Other emergency contacts include Marine Police:

- NJ Marine Police, 609-387-1986.
- Philadelphia Marine Police, 215-685-1766.
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, 302-739-9913.

#### Calling 911 on the river

Calling 911 on the river works, but the use of a cell phone from a boat has many disadvantages including:

- Frequently misdirected to police or fire departments, which may delay any water rescue response.
- Area geography may limit or block a cell phone signal, making the cell phone unusable.
- Caller's location cannot be determined using radio direction finders.
- A cellular call cannot be monitored by other boaters.
- It may not be possible for the caller to be contacted by rescue boats or aircraft.

For these reasons, use of marine radio VHF channel 16 for distress calls is recommended.

#### Other important contacts:

- Coast Guard at [www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/d5/default.htm](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/lnm/d5/default.htm) (for navigation notices).
- For boater safety classes, contact 1-800-336-2628 or [www.5nr.org](http://www.5nr.org) (click on boating safety courses).

#### Camping on the river

**91.3 Fort Mifflin:** Camping and rustic lodging in old barracks, 215-685-4167

**86-87 Little Tinicum Island:** Primitive camping allowable by William Penn Forest District, PA Bureau of Forestry, 610-582-9660.

#### Tidal Tributaries

There are many opportunities for kayaking, canoeing and other boating on tidal tributaries to the Delaware. Garden State Canoeing by Edward Gertler is a paddler's guide to New Jersey. The following tributary within the water trail area is listed in the guidebook:

- Raccoon Creek: about 8 miles of tidal water, with no access point listed on Delaware; guide recommends take out at Route 130 by bridge keeper's house about 1.7 miles upstream from river mile 80.5.

