TRAILS IN TRENTON

This detailed map highlights the trails through Trenton where the D&R Canal offers a short-distance visit. Visitors can continue along the historic route of the canal and follow the D&R Greenway, formerly the Bol悦e & Delaware Railroad.

Along the canal's route, visitors will pass through 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 stone bridges at these road crossings.

The canal opened operations in 1852 and by the 1950s, all stone bridges were removed and replaced with the modern masonry bridge 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.

DELWARE AND RARITAN CANAL STATE PARK

Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal State Park is one of Central New Jersey’s most popular places for canoeing, kayaking, 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.

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 terminals were Bordentown on the Delaware River and New Brunswick on the Raritan River. Water is supplied for freight between Philadelphia and New York City.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Hiking and Biking: D&R Canal State Park's multi-use trail of crushed and packed stone provides more than 70 continuous miles of trails for recreation along the historic route of the D&R Canal and former rail lines. Numerous access points make it ideal for a day hike or bike trip in Central New Jersey. The park’s trail system was designated a National Recreational Trail in 1992 and it is a part of the East Coast Corridor, the longest biking and hiking routes that connects Maine to Florida. Today it is used by millions as a much-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 sloping waterway is perfect for beginners or those looking to enjoy a leisurely paddle. The canal flows under many bridges and paddlers will have to negotiate their boats over the concrete locks along the canal. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the Delaware River, all canals and the D&R Canal are open to fishing. In the canal all motorized boats, including inflatables, are prohibited.

Fishing: Fishing is permitted along the entire lengths of the D&R Canal and Delaware River. While there are restrictions at certain locations in the canal during spring months, anglers will find waterfowl year-round. The Delaware River provides habitat for many game species, including migratory American shad and striped bass. Fishing is subject to Dсон. Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations.