Public Access

Specific public access points are marked with red stars on the map.

In Newark they are located in Rittenhouse Park and Cooch-Dayett Mill Historic area.

Continuing downstream access is also available near Whitewood Village, Miller's Reserve, Barrett Run, Smalley's Pond, Lewden-Green Park, Churchmans Road Bridge, Newport, and the Russell Peterson Wildlife Refuge.

In Wilmington you can enjoy a stroll along the Riverwalk.

There are two boat ramps with paved parking, marked with red triangles on the map. These are located in Newport and at Churchmans Road.

The river is navigable by small boats, without portages, as far west as the dam at Smalley's Pond. West of that point, numerous portages may be necessary – primarily because of fallen trees and other natural obstructions in the water.

In Rittenhouse Park there is a small boat ramp near the pedestrian bridge.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY PARKS

RULES AND REGULATIONS: SUMMARY

1. HOURS - All New Castle County parks are open year-round. Hours of operation are dawn to dusk, except with permission of the Department.
2. TEMPORARY CLOSURE - The General Manager has the authority to temporarily close a museum or the grounds when required by Public Health, Safety and Welfare.
3. MOTOR VEHICLES - No motor vehicles shall be driven except in areas specifically designated for their use. All motor vehicle laws of the State of Delaware must be followed.
4. POSTING - No signs or markers can be put in place, except with written permission of the Department. Sales or solicitation are also generally prohibited.
5. ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND GAMBLING - Consumption, possession or sale of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is prohibited. Gambling is also prohibited.
6. DAMAGE AND DUMPING - Vandalism of trees, shrubs, plants, turf, rocks, buildings, fences, bridges, signs, stream water quality or any other natural or man-made asset of the park is prohibited. Nothing may be dumped in the park.
7. FIRE - No fires shall be kindled.
8. SAFETY OF ANIMALS - No one shall trap, snare, shoot, poison, injure, annoy or disturb any wild animal or bird or damage any nest.
9. DISORDERLY CONDUCT - Threatening, abusive, insulting, or indecent language, obscene or indecent actions and fighting are prohibited.
10. WEAPONS - No one shall carry any knife having a blade three (3) inches or longer on the grounds. The possession or discharge of BB guns, air guns, firearms, bows and arrows or any lethal weapon is prohibited.
11. ACTIVITIES - Entertainment, demonstrations or exhibitions are prohibited, except with the approval of the Department.
12. GROUP FUNCTIONS - Permits for group activities should be obtained in advance from the Department.
13. NOISE - Loud music is not permitted. Please be respectful of your neighbors.
14. DOGS - Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, unless they are enjoying the fenced Bark Park. Please, pick up after your dog.

This publication is produced by New Castle County with the support of the Christina Conservancy, whose mission is to promote preservation, restoration, and conservation of the natural and historical resources of the Christina River watershed.

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Online maps and additional information on New Castle County’s park system are available on our website at www.nccde.org/parks
The Christina River in Delaware History

- The approximately 35 mile long river was named for Queen Christina of Sweden.
- Delaware's only Revolutionary War battle took place at Cooch's Bridge on September 3, 1777.
- Before the C & D Canal was completed in 1829, a portage near Iron Hill to the Christina River established an important trade route between the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware River.
- The Christina River played a vital economic role and gave rise to the building of Wilmington, Newport and Stanton.
- Eventually the industrial revolution resulted in less importance placed on the water-powered mills and river transport was replaced with railroads and paved highways.
- Currently the Christina River is emerging as an environmental and recreational resource. New Castle County, along with Newark and Wilmington, have been assembling a corridor of over 2,300 acres of parkland and open space along the banks.

Wildlife Opportunities

Broadly speaking, there are two wildlife habitats along the river.

The tidal habitat extends from Wilmington to the dam at Smalley's Pond. An ideal location to view wildlife from is the DuPont Environmental Education Center within the Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge located on the southwest side of Wilmington.

Along this expanse of river nearly 200 different species of birds have visited, along with over 30 species of amphibians and reptiles. Almost 40 different mammals call this area home.

From Smalley's Pond to Newark there is a non-tidal habitat. Here the river runs through largely residential areas. Along the river corridor almost 40 species of amphibians and reptiles can be found, along with a great variety of over 180 birds and 60 species of butterflies. In the quiet waters 30 species of freshwater fish can be found.