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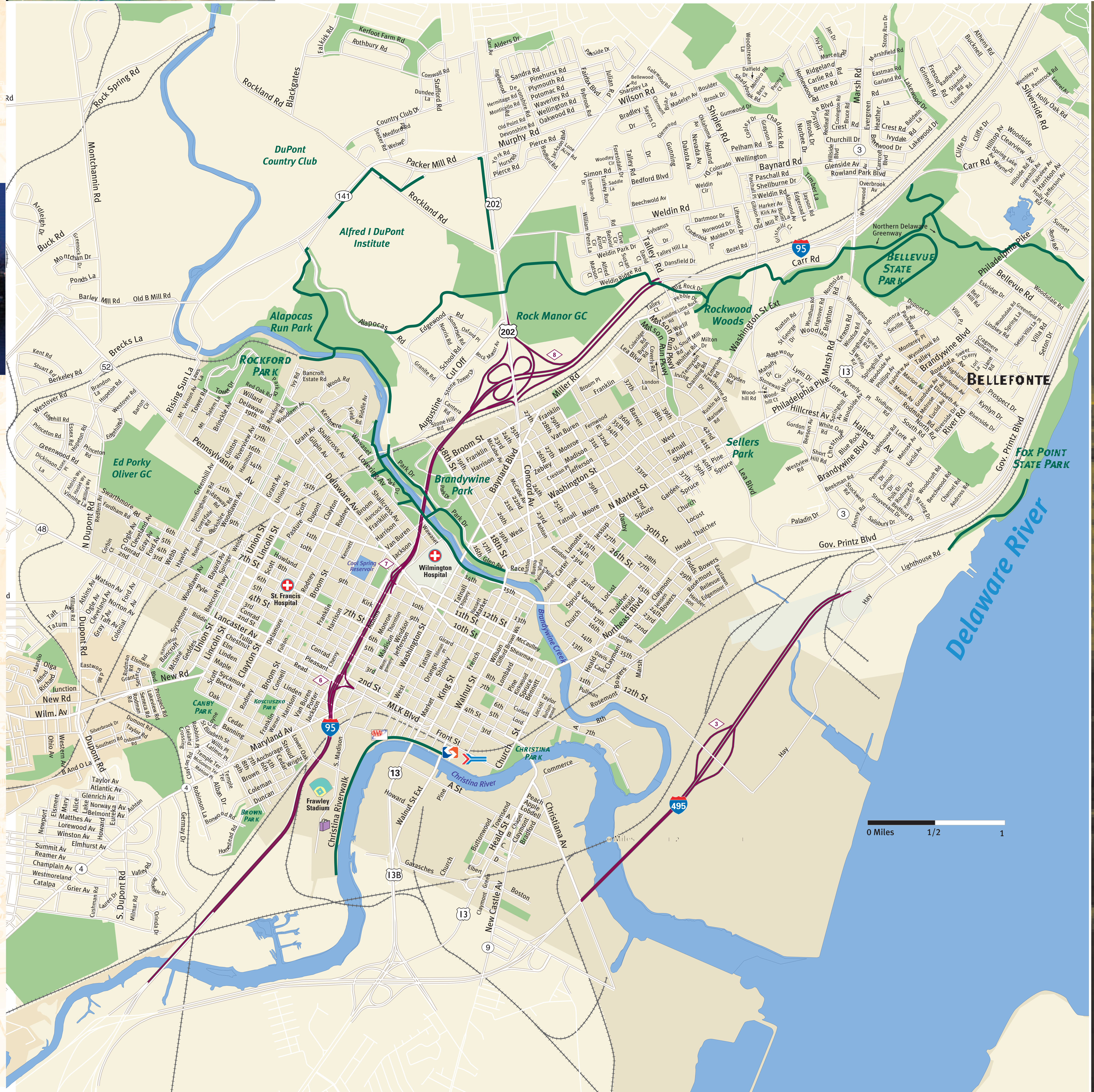
NORTHERN DELAWARE AND WILMINGTON HERITAGE MAP



Sponsors

WILMINGTON

Duration: 30-45 mins

Wilmington has been the region's economic and cultural heart from 1638 continuing into its current period of revitalization. Throughout its history, the city has seen important developments in industry and commerce, culture and the arts, immigration, religious freedom, and civil rights. Its Downtown, riverfront, and neighborhoods offer a rich tapestry of urban experiences.

1.a. Wilmington Train Station

Celebrating its centennial, Wilmington's train station is critical to the City's history and continuing economic vitality. The location has long been notable: Washington camped here in 1781, and it served as an important Underground Railroad crossing. It boasts the last remaining campus of buildings designed by architect Frank Furness.

Contact: 1 (800) USA-RAIL
www.downtownwilmington.com
www.amtrak.com
Open: 5am-11:30pm

1.b. Wilmington Riverfront/Dravo Plaza

A location central to Wilmington's naval shipbuilding heritage, Dravo Plaza sits in the midst of historic shipbuilding structures and burgeoning riverfront revitalization. During World War II, more than 200 ships were made here. Surrounded by shopping, entertainment, and wildlife, it is now both a memorial and site for public events.

Contact: Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware (302) 425-4890

www.riverfrontwilmington.com
www.bluerocks.com
Hours of shopping, restaurants, and attractions vary.

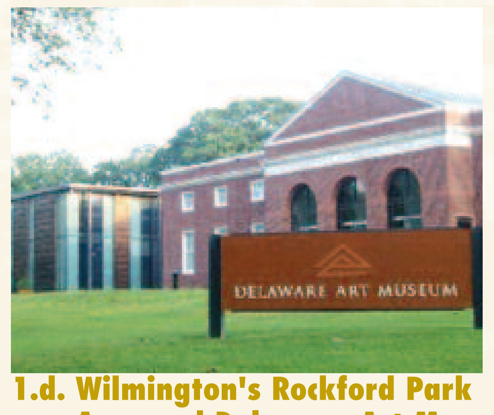
1.c. Wilmington's West End/Little Italy

This historic immigrant community has been part of Wilmington's cultural heritage since the late 1800s. A neighborhood of shops, restaurants and residences, Little Italy is home to historic St. Anthony of Padua Church, and its Italian Festival, held every June. Historic Bancroft Parkway and Union Park Gardens are located nearby.

Contact: Little Italy Neighborhood Association, c/o Luigi Vitrone (302) 654-4993
www.discoverlittleitaly.com

Hours of operation for Little Italy's many shops and attractions vary

Dining, entertainment



1.d. Wilmington's Rockford Park Area and Delaware Art Museum

Delaware Art Museum has been located on scenic and historic Kentmere Parkway since 1912. Near the sweeping overlooks of Rockford Park and the vibrant Trolley Square district, the museum is home to the nation's largest Pre-Raphaelite collection, a sculpture garden and major collections of American illustration and turn-of-the-century art.

Contact: (302) 571-9590
www.delart.org
www.visittrolleysquare.com

Open: Tuesday-Saturday 10-4 (Wed open until 8); Sunday 12-4; closed Monday

Restrooms, shopping, dining, entertainment, parks, telephones

1.e. Downtown Wilmington and Rodney Square

Rodney Square represents the heart of Downtown Wilmington. Surrounded by historic structures and featuring the Caesar Rodney statue minted on the Delaware state quarter, the square hosts several festivals and nearby theater events each year. Several important African-American historic sites are located to the south and east.

Contact: City of Wilmington Office of Cultural Affairs (302) 576-2100
www.duponttheatre.com
www.downtownwilmington.com
Rodney Square is publicly accessible.

Restaurants, entertainment, dining

1.f. Swede's Landing/7th Street Peninsula

European and free African settlers first landed in present-day Wilmington at this site in 1638. Old Swedes Church – the oldest continuously operating congregation in the country – is here, as are the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard and Fort Christina Park. Nearby, visitors can view the confluence of the Brandywine Creek and the Christina River.

Contact: Old Swedes Church, (302) 652-5629
Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard: (302) 429-7447
www.oldswedes.org
www.kalmarnyckel.org

Old Swedes Church guided tours: Wed-Sat 10-4; Kalmar Nyckel: M-F 9-5

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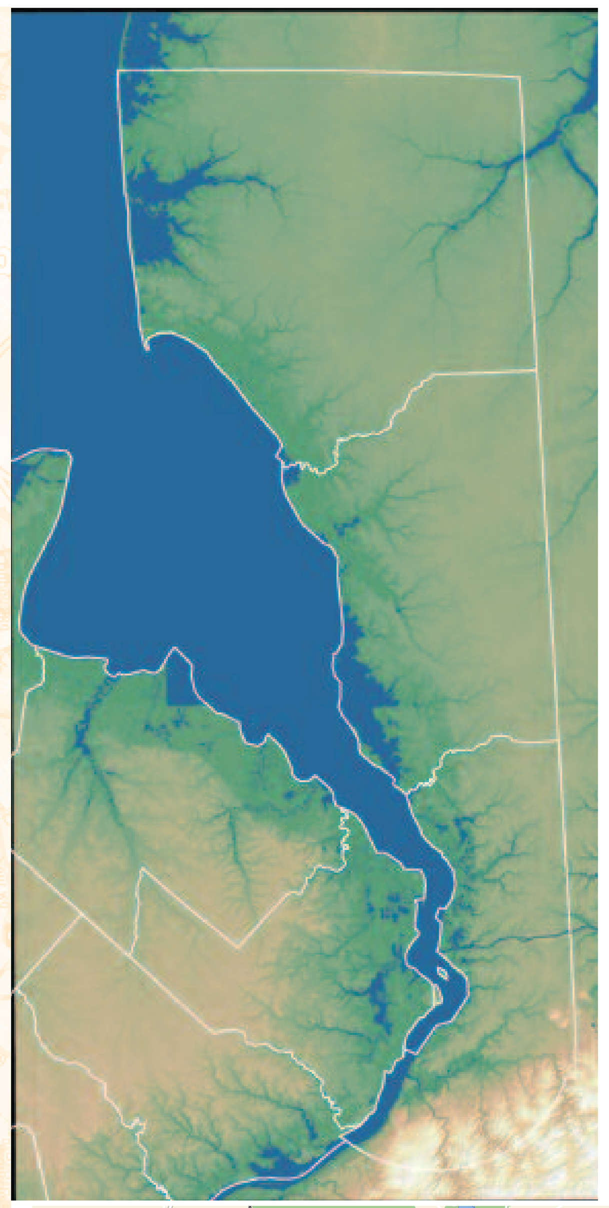

East Coast Greenway (ECG):

An urban greenway connected by a primarily off-road, multi-use trail system linking 25 major cities from Maine to Florida. In northern Delaware, the ECG is the spine of a heritage trail network linking communities to their cultural, historic & recreational assets.

Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway:

An unparalleled concentration of historic sites, glorious gardens, magnificent estates and museums is nestled within the rolling countryside, a testament to the lasting influence of the DuPont family dynasty.

Underground Railroad:

Not a specific land- or water-based route(s), the "Underground Railroad" describes a network of clandestine routes and safe harbors used by African slaves prior to the Civil War, in an attempt to escape to free states or Canada. Delaware, although a slave state, was a critical link in the escape to freedom due to abolitionist activity in the Wilmington area.

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R):

The W3R is a 620-mile route marched by thousands of allied American and French soldiers during the American Revolution, as part of the 1780-1783 Yorktown Campaign. 26 miles of the nine-state route is located in northern Delaware.

White Clay Creek National Wild & Scenic River:

White Clay Creek is a Bi-State Preserve and federally designated as a National Wild & Scenic River. Managed through a partnership of the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee and the National Park Service, the creek is renowned for its scenery, opportunities for birding and trout fishing, and historic features.