



Recognizing the benefits of eco-tourism, Delaware City is taking the bold initiative to restore and conserve biodiversity habitat.

Delaware City Eco-Tourism and Ecological Restoration Plan

New Castle County, Delaware

Main Street Delaware City, Inc. a non-profit revitalization organization formed in 1995, is working to improve and market historic and cultural attractions that bring new residents, visitors and businesses to Delaware City. A main component of the town's revitalization is the development of an eco-tourism program. Main Street Delaware City, Inc. turned to Biohabitats to assess the current status of ecological resources in the project area, establish priorities for the protection of existing ecological infrastructure, and make recommendations for ecological restoration and management measures in order to support a thriving eco-tourism program.

The ecological assessment portion of the project included a science-based evaluation of existing natural and cultural resource conditions. The ecological assessment approach looked at regional landscape ecology using GIS. The assessment involved collecting, reviewing and extracting pertinent natural resource information augmented by site investigations of existing ecological conditions. The product of the first phase of the project included a concept plan that highlights ecological protection needs and restoration opportunities compatible with eco-tourism initiatives.

The types of ecological restoration initiatives proposed include wetland restoration and enhancement, shoreline stabilization, stream restoration and invasive species control. The concept plan supports bird watching, other wildlife observation, canoeing and kayaking, sport fishing, walking and jogging, native vegetation viewing and environmental education.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

SERVICES	Inventory & Assessments Planning Public Outreach
CLIENT	Main Street Delaware City, Inc.
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE	Atlantic Coastal Plain
BIOREGION	Chesapeake/Delaware Bay
WATERSHED	Brandywine-Christina