



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Michael N.
Castle C&D
Canal Trail**
Delaware



Michael N. Castle C&D Canal Trail

Delaware

The Michael N. Castle C&D Canal Trail offers a scenic 12.4-mile route along the north shore of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal



The Michael N. Castle C&D Canal Trail offers a scenic 12.4-mile route along the north shore of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in northern Delaware. The popular trail is named after the former governor and US representative whose efforts in Congress helped initiate the project on behalf of local trail users.

About the Route

The trail's northeast end is in Delaware City, which is home to two state parks: Fort DuPont State Park (which served as a military base from the Civil War through World War II) and Fort Delaware State Park (popular with birders and accessible via ferry).

Heading southwest from Delaware City, the paved

Michael Castle passes under three bridges. Regularly spaced benches accommodate trail users who wish to watch the ships in the canal. On the edge of Delaware City, the trail also passes the parklike African Union Church Cemetery, which features historical displays.

Nature enthusiasts can be on the lookout for native wildflowers, trees, and wildlife, including deer, turkeys, and raccoons. Birders will enjoy spotting rarer species, such as peregrine falcons, pied-billed grebes, and bald eagles. The only diversion from the canal's edge—and the only exception to the trail's otherwise flat grade—is a brief arc and somewhat steep climb around the Summit North Marina. (Note: If riding in the reverse direction, west to east, wayfinding around the marina and up Summit Point can prove challenging.) Horses are not permitted on this short section.

Just west of the boat slips, the trail passes the southern reaches of Lums Pond State Park, which surrounds the largest freshwater pond in the state. Fishing and boating is allowed here, but not swimming. Several trails inside the park cater to hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and snowmobilers. (Note: that the Michael Castle Trail is not open to motorized vehicles.)

From the trailhead south of Lums Pond State Park on Old Summit Road, head 3.4 miles west to reach the terminus of the Michael Castle Trail and the beginning of the [Ben Cardin C&D Canal Recreational Trail](#), at the Delaware–Maryland state line. The Ben Cardin C&D Canal Recreational Trail follows the canal nearly 2 miles to quaint Chesapeake City, Maryland. (Note: that when going westward past the South Lums Pond parking area, the trail has steep areas that may be difficult for wheelchair users.)

Connections

At its southwest end, the trail connects seamlessly to the [Ben Cardin C&D Canal Recreational Trail](#).



Michael N. Castle C&D Canal Trail

Delaware

States: Delaware

Counties: New Castle

Length: 12.4 miles

Trail end points: Delaware City Marina (Delaware City) to Ben Cardin C&D Canal Recreational Trail at the Delaware/Maryland state line (Newark)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Parking & Trail Access

The Michael N. Castle C&D Canal Trail runs between Ben Cardin C&D Canal Recreational Trail at the Delaware/Maryland state line (Newark) and the Delaware City Marina (Delaware City).

Parking is available at:

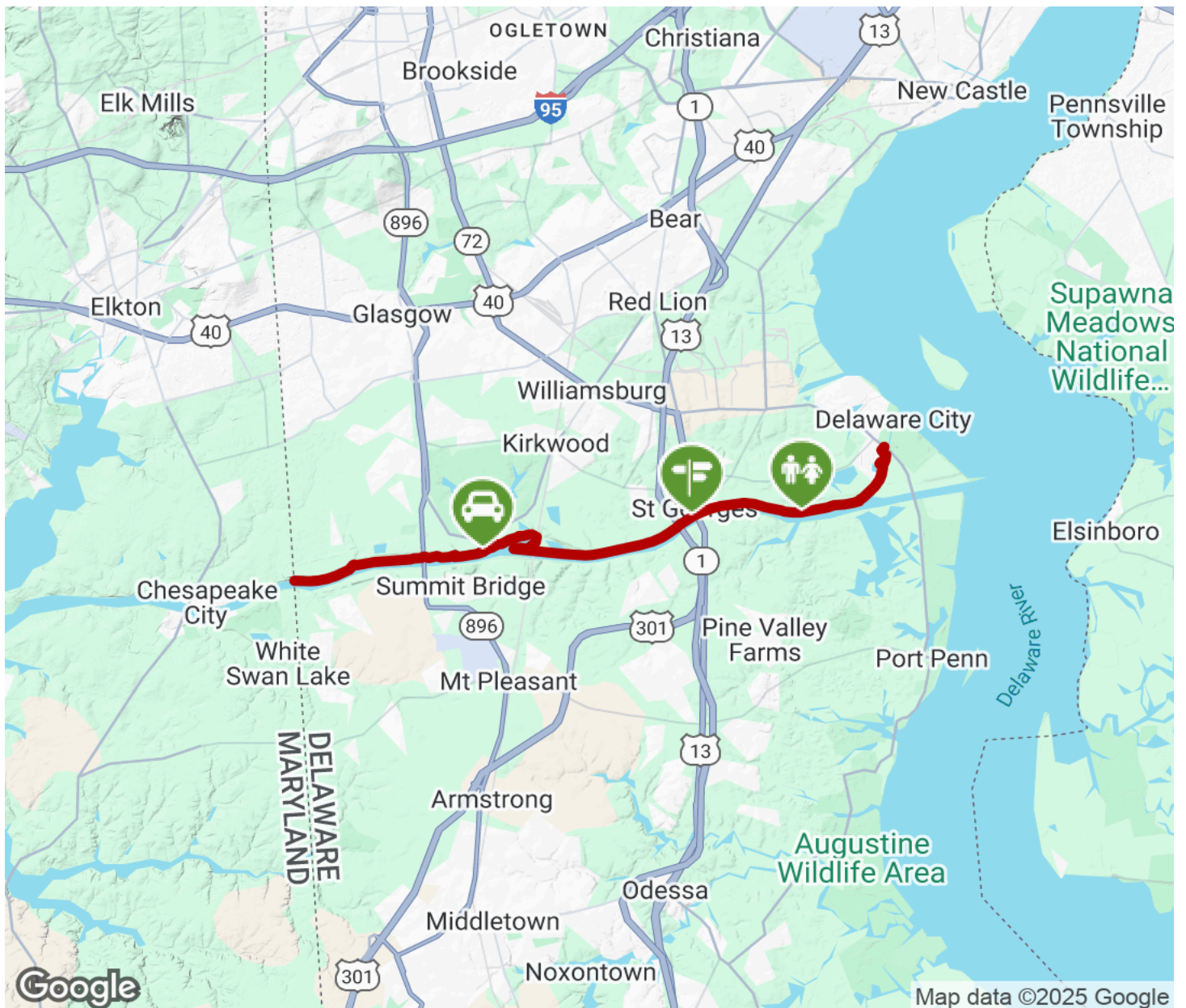
- South Lums Trailhead, Old Summit Rd (Bear)
- St. Georges Trailhead, S Dupont Hwy/US-13 (New Castle)
- Biddle Point, Cox Neck Rd (New Castle)

These are not official addresses, visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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Delaware



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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