

You protect what you love.



Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

*To preserve, protect, and restore Delaware's Inland Bays, the water that flows into them,
and the watershed around them.*



The Center for the Inland Bays is a private non-profit organization established in 1994 to oversee and facilitate the implementation of a long-term approach to preserve, protect, and restore Delaware’s Inland Bays: Rehoboth Bay, Indian River Bay, and Little Assawoman Bay.

With its many partners, the Center conducts public outreach and education, develops and implements restoration projects, encourages scientific inquiry, and sponsors research.



- The Inland Bays are:
- Waters of exceptional recreational and ecological significance
 - 30 square miles of beautiful shallow lagoons fringed by 10,000 acres of salt marsh
 - Home to more than 112 species of finfish and 40 species of shellfish
 - A critical stopover for migratory birds on the Atlantic flyway
 - A vital spawning ground for horseshoe crabs
 - A mecca for nature lovers and eco-tourists who support a \$7 billion coastal economy



Decades ago, the Bays were thought to be healthy...

clear waters with plentiful bay grass meadows, productive oyster reefs, and healthy oxygen levels that supported diverse fish populations. However, years of accumulated nutrient pollution and habitat loss have changed the Bays to generally murky waters that are dominated by algae, have very few bay grasses or oysters, and do not support healthy oxygen levels in many areas.



Now, thanks to over two decades of hard work and sacrifices made by farmers, homeowners, businesses, boaters, elected officials, resource managers, and scientists, some indicators of environmental quality suggest the Bays are moving back in a healthy direction.

**THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE.
IT WILL ONLY BE POSSIBLE WITH YOUR HELP.**

The challenges are vast, but with your support the accomplishments will continue to add up.

CHALLENGE: Excess nutrients, from agriculture, septic systems, and fertilized lawns, contaminate groundwater and cloud bay waters choking out bay grass habitat and reducing dissolved oxygen that fish need.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Worked with our partner organizations to reduce nutrient pollution from wastewater by 85% and documented significant reduction of nutrient pollution from farms, developments, and the atmosphere.

CHALLENGE: Habitat destruction has led to a loss in plant and animal diversity, which in turn reduces the number of ecologically and economically important species.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Restored upland forests, grasslands, and salt marshes on public lands including the Angola Neck Preserve, the Marion R. Oakie Preserve, and the James Farm Ecological Preserve.

CHALLENGE: Once plentiful native oysters filtered Bay waters and provided important aquatic habitat but were nearly wiped out by pollution and disease in the mid-1900s.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Led a community group to lay the groundwork that resulted in a law allowing shellfish farming in the Inland Bays to benefit water quality and the local economy.

CHALLENGE: Since 1938, 24 percent of tidal wetlands were destroyed as a result of dredging, filling, and sedimentation.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Worked with our partners to help protect 3,000 acres and restore 15,000 acres of natural habitats in the Inland Bays watershed.

CHALLENGE: Horseshoe crabs, oysters, shorebirds, migratory fish like herring, and American eels have dramatically declined due to overharvest, disease, and abuse of their habitat.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Successfully advocated to end a damaging water cooling practice at the Indian River Generating Station, resulting in 2 million fish and hundreds of thousands of blue crabs being saved each year.

CHALLENGE: Population growth over the past several decades has created the need for more roads, power, and waste water treatment and placed increased demands on the Inland Bays resources.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Educated a new generation of caretakers for the Bays over the past decade by providing a watershed learning experience to over 13,000 students at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.



PROTECTING, PRESERVING, AND RESTORING
OUR INLAND BAYS WON'T BE EASY.
BUT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT NEVER IS.



What you can do.

There's no way around it: The Inland Bays will not be revitalized without money. The money pays for research, preservation programs, community education, habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, and more.

Remember, donations big and small all count. Larger amounts help us do larger projects, like reforesting former agriculture fields for migratory bird habitat or conducting research to track recovery of horseshoe crab and fish populations.

Small gifts also count in other ways. The small gifts show foundations, governments, and businesses the breadth of support and our level of importance in our community, state, and even nationally.

YOUR GIFT TODAY WILL LEAD TO CLEANER,
HEALTHIER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL BAYS.



- Your support will help...
- Promote the protection of natural shorelines
 - Fund the work of citizen scientists to monitor fish and wildlife populations as indicators of Bay health
 - Keep the James Farm Ecological Preserve an oasis of natural beauty in our community
 - Restore populations of wild oysters to clean Bay waters and provide habitat for fish and other aquatic life
 - Reduce pollution entering the Bays by restoring natural habitat
 - Ensure that the Bays have support through a thriving Endowment Fund



Make your tax-deductible gift today!
Without your donation the Inland Bays are vulnerable to pollution,destroying their physical protection and economic viability. Not only will the fish, shellfish, and birds suffer, but our community will, too!



the vision

The vision of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays is clear: recover the vitality and raise the importance of Delaware's Inland Bays so everyone benefits from their protection and takes an active interest in their conservation. The fulfillment of this vision will not be easy or quick. It will only occur with your help.

It is our promise to work for the betterment of the Inland Bays.



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS
Research. Educate. Restore.

Get on board with the Bays!

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