



EDUCATION

Each semester, local students visit the Preserve for a unique hands-on experience that is closely tied to the classroom curriculum! Students identify plants, examine water quality, and survey fish!

Other educational opportunities are available for groups of all ages upon request!

Learn more at www.inlandbays.org.

VOLUNTEERING

Want to give back to a place you love? Sign up online at www.inlandbays.org/volunteer.



PRESERVE ETIQUETTE

Hours: 365 days/year from dawn to dusk.

Pets: Pets must be leashed at all times! Please help keep our Preserve clean. Free waste bags are located by the parking lot.






Trash: Carry in/carry out all trash. No glass.

Vehicles: No motorized vehicles allowed past the parking lot. Bikes are welcome.


Hunting: No hunting is allowed at any time.

Emergencies: Call 911 and give the address *30048 Cedar Neck Road, Ocean View, DE.*

STAY IN TOUCH!

-  James Farm Preserve
-   @deinlandbays
-  Delaware Center for the Inland Bays
-  www.inlandbays.org/JamesFarm

VISIT / CONTACT US

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James Farm Ecological Preserve



ABOUT

The James Farm Ecological Preserve is an oasis of wild land in Ocean View, Delaware, located along the southern shore of Indian River Bay — just a short drive from Bethany Beach!

At this 150-acre retreat, you can relax on a calm bayside beach, observe native plants and animals, and hike three miles of trails through seven distinct habitats!

HISTORY

In 1992, the Preserve property was given to Sussex County by the late Mary Lighthipe, a descendant of the James family who farmed the land for generations. This generous donation was made in memory of her son, Harold, on the condition that the property be used for educational and recreational purposes.

The Preserve has been managed by the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays on behalf of Sussex County since 1998.



Joshua Rubin James and his family at their farm house, circa 1900.



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

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YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Donations made to the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays help us maintain the Preserve for all who visit!

Give online at
www.inlandbays.org/donate



SEVEN DISTINCT HABITATS

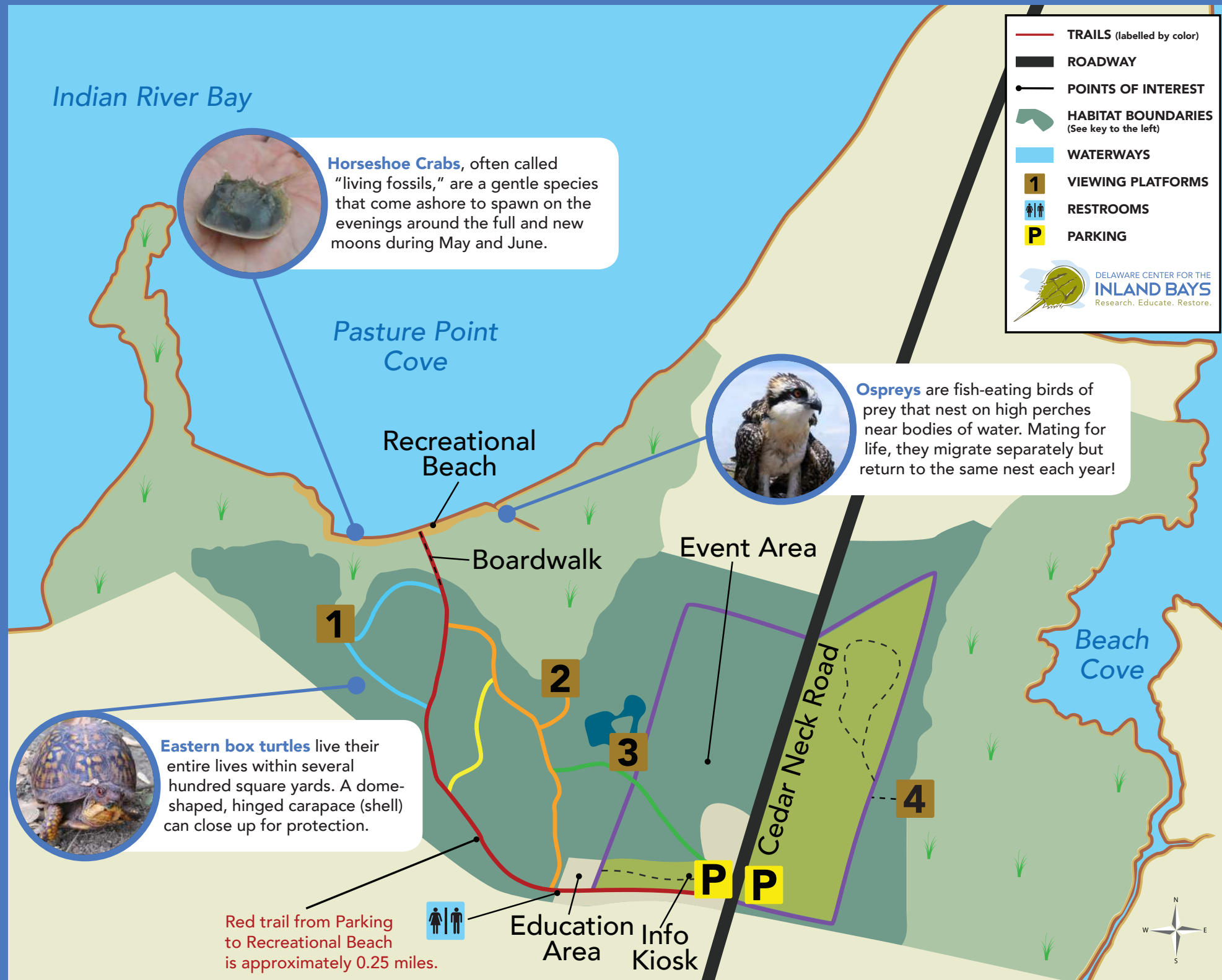
Near the parking lot, the **meadow** hosts native milkweed that is aflutter each fall with migrating monarchs!

In the nearby **maritime forest**, white-tailed deer and foxes make their home among the loblolly pines and American holly. Interspersed within, small patches of **hardwood forest** feature hickories, oaks and wild black cherry.

Small **freshwater wetlands** absorb flood water during storms, while bayside **salt marshes** support salt marsh cordgrass, glasswort, and mussels!

Sandy beaches are critical nesting habitats for Diamondback Terrapins and Horseshoe Crabs, and are feeding ground for shore birds. In the mud of the adjacent **intertidal flats**, fiddler crabs, mollusks, and shrimp are adapted to a harsh environment that is overwashed by salty tides twice daily.

The **Inland Bays** support 100+ species of fish and 40+ species of shellfish. These three bays are a brackish estuary, receiving fresh water from rivers and creeks and saltwater from the Atlantic.



Horseshoe Crabs, often called "living fossils," are a gentle species that come ashore to spawn on the evenings around the full and new moons during May and June.



Ospreys are fish-eating birds of prey that nest on high perches near bodies of water. Mating for life, they migrate separately but return to the same nest each year!



Eastern box turtles live their entire lives within several hundred square yards. A dome-shaped, hinged carapace (shell) can close up for protection.

Red trail from Parking to Recreational Beach is approximately 0.25 miles.