



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS

Research. Educate. Restore.

Rehoboth | Indian River | Little Assawoman

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



OUR

In 1988, the Delaware Inland Bays were declared 'an estuary of national significance' by U.S. Congress and in 1994, the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays was established as one of 28 National Estuary Programs.

Today, the CIB, with its many partners, conducts scientific research and restoration, provides public outreach and education, and more—just take a look!

VISION



OUR VISION

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, dark, spotted fish. The fish is flat and has a mottled pattern of dark spots on its body. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a sandy or rocky surface.

Successful, science-based restoration efforts.

Robust scientific data helps to determine the progress made in restoring our Inland Bays.

Our scientists work with DNREC, environmental groups, and volunteers to collect comprehensive data on the waters of the Inland Bays and the species found in them.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Become a citizen scientist by joining our Fish and Horseshoe Crab Surveys that begin each April. No experience necessary!

OUR VISION

A new generation of Bay enthusiasts.

Children are the future protectors of our Inland Bays.

We promote environmental literacy with hands-on educational programs for local students and youth organizations at the James Farm Ecological Preserve.

A group of four young people, two boys and two girls, are wading in a shallow bay. They are wearing waders and boots, and are pulling a large, clear fishing net. The net is held up by a long white pole. The background shows a calm body of water, a line of trees, and some buildings in the distance under a clear blue sky.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Contact us about bringing a group to the James Farm!

OUR VISION

A photograph showing two workers on a boat. One worker in a blue shirt and orange life vest is using a yellow strap to secure large white PVC pipes. Another worker in a red shirt is visible in the background. The boat is on a body of water with a shoreline and buildings in the distance.

A bounty of oysters.

Shells of native hard clams and oysters are an invaluable natural material used in environmental restoration projects.

We're putting oysters to work to clean water, stabilize shorelines, and reintroduce oyster reefs to the Inland Bays.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Order oysters or clams at a "Don't Chuck Your Shucks" participating restaurant.

Visit inlandbays.org/shucks to learn more!

OUR VISION



Water so clear you can see your feet.

Nutrient pollution from wastewater, stormwater, and agricultural fertilizers causes algal blooms that block sunlight and deplete oxygen necessary for healthy Bays.

We're keeping nutrients out of the water by restoring shorelines and forested buffers along the Bays.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Fertilize your lawn sparingly (in the fall) or not at all! Instead, leave grass clippings to serve as a natural fertilizer.

OUR VISION

An aerial photograph of a coastal residential area. In the foreground, there is a marina with several boats docked. The middle ground shows a cluster of houses with swimming pools and green lawns. In the background, a golf course is visible with its green fairways and sand traps. The overall scene is lush and green, suggesting a well-maintained and scenic environment.

Working together for healthy waters.

To protect our Bays, we must also protect the rivers, creeks, wetlands, and lands surrounding them.

We're working with citizens, businesses and legislators to promote sound public policy that ensures the protection and restoration of water quality and habitat throughout the Inland Bays watershed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Contact your legislator or councilperson to show your support for bay-friendly policies.

OUR VISION

Lush forested areas for wildlife and for the Bays.

Lush planted areas not only provide shelter and nesting areas for songbirds, frogs, and other native wildlife, they also prevent runoff and reduce nutrient pollution to our Bays.

We work with landowners, communities, and other nonprofits to plant native trees and shrubs in strategic areas throughout the Inland Bays watershed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Volunteer at a CIB planting event.

Talk to your community about planting a buffer along your shoreline and protecting any forested area you may have.

OUR VISION

Clean, safe water for communities throughout the watershed.

As runoff travels over land, it washes pollution from lawns, streets, and industrial facilities into local waterways.

We help communities design and implement new stormwater controls that clean water, prevent flooding, and beautify neighborhoods.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Use rain barrels to capture runoff from your roof—and reuse it around your yard.

I want to help!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I'd like to volunteer!

I want to be a citizen scientist!

I want donate!

Send this in, give us a
call at **302-226-8105**
or you can do all of this
at inlandbays.org.

OUR VISION

Healthy meadows
of bay grass.

Once plentiful in local creeks, these rare grasses are an underwater 'dinner plate' for fish, crabs, wading birds and wildfowl.

We're helping to reduce sources of nutrient pollution around the Inland Bays that prevent the growth of bay grass meadows.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Plant a rain garden or buffer in your yard to capture and filter nutrient-rich runoff.

Photo by Jay Fleming

Welcome to the Inland Bays Watershed

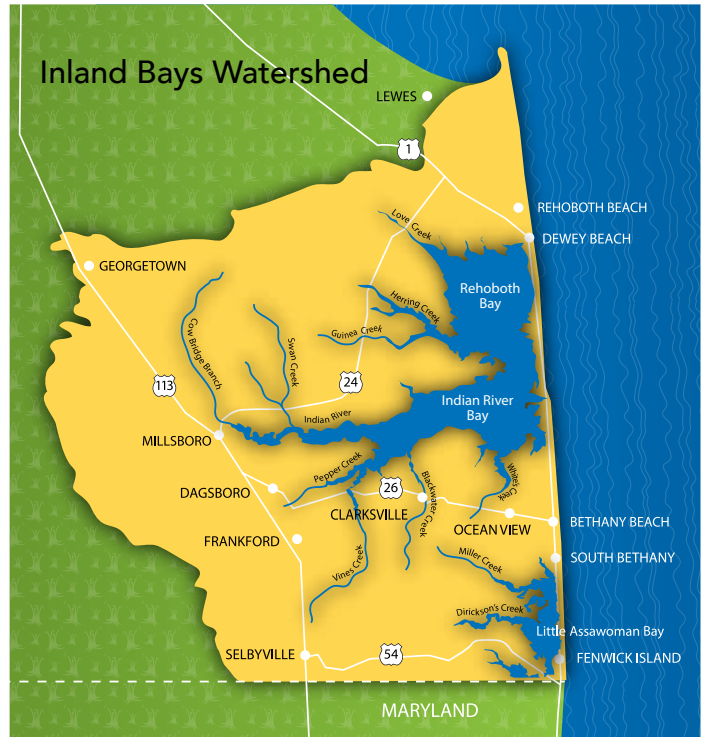
The Inland Bays watershed is 292 square miles of land that drains to 35 square miles of bays and tidal tributaries.

Collectively known as an “estuary”, these 35 miles are where freshwater rivers meet the salty ocean. Among the most productive places on the planet, estuaries support 80% of the world’s fish and shellfish species.

Get ‘on board’ with the Bays!

For over two decades, the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays has been working with our numerous partners to preserve, protect, and restore the Bays and the surrounding watershed. The investments made are showing some positive results, but much work remains—and we need your help!

Your time and donations help us save our Inland Bays for future generations. You can make a one-time contribution using the attached card, or you can visit inlandbays.org to make an online donation or sign up to volunteer!



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The Delaware Center for the Inland Bays
39375 Inlet Road
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

