

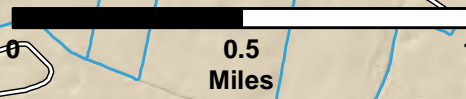


James Branch Nature Preserve

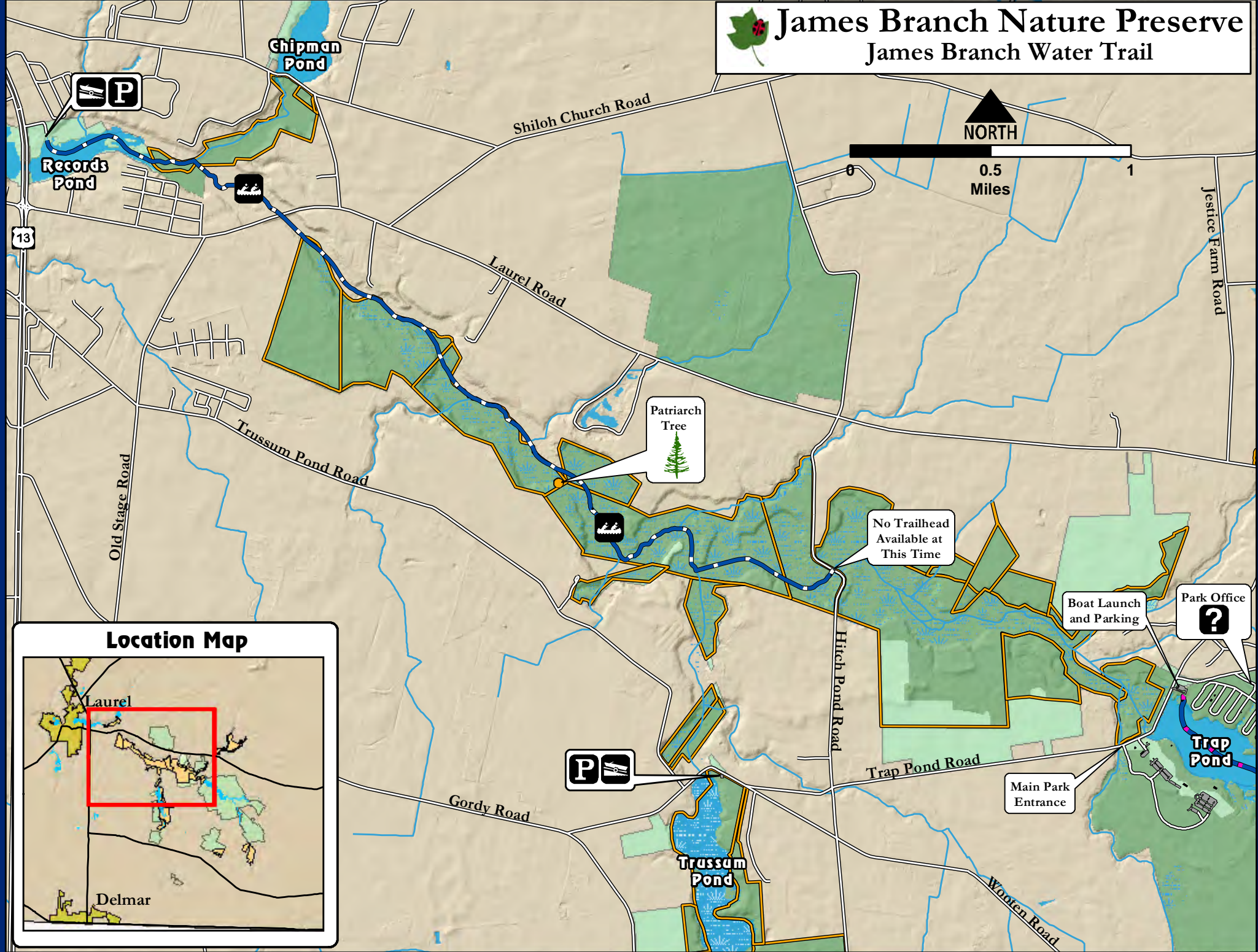
James Branch Water Trail



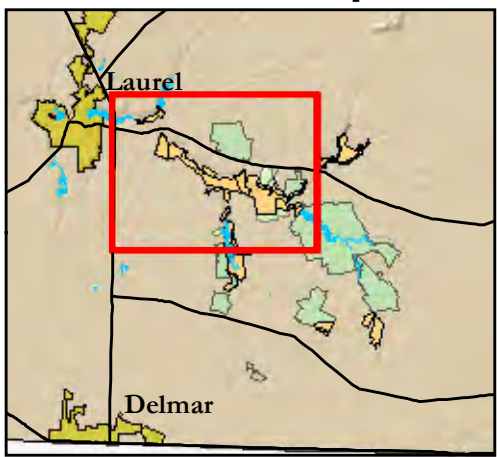
NORTH



0.5
Miles



Location Map



Laurel

Delmar

Park Office



Boat Launch and Parking

No Trailhead Available at This Time

Patriarch Tree



Main Park Entrance

Trap Pond

Trussum Pond

P

Records Pond

Chipman Pond

Shiloh Church Road

Laurel Road

Trussum Pond Road

Old Stage Road

13

Gordy Road

Hitch Pond Road

Trap Pond Road

Wooten Road

Justice Farm Road



James Branch Nature Preserve

James Branch Water Trail

Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Open Park Land | Water | Parking |
| Wooded Park Lands | Baldcypress Swamp | Information |
| James Branch Nature Preserve | Wetlands | Canoeing/Kayaking |
| James Branch Nature Preserve | Parking Areas | Boat Launch |
| James Branch Water Trail (3.8 mi.) | Trap Pond Water Trail (1.3 mi.) | |

The Nature Preserve

The designation of "Nature Preserve" is the highest level of land protection afforded by the State of Delaware. These lands are rare and often fragile environments that represent some of Delaware's most important natural habitats. The Nature Preserve designation provides a means to protect and conserve Delaware's important natural heritage while guaranteeing its existence for future generations.

Situated between Trap Pond State Park and the town of Laurel, Delaware, the 685-acre James Branch Nature Preserve is the largest of the state's 27 Nature Preserves. The first of nine separate tracts of land was dedicated in 1985, with the latest addition officially dedicated in 2005. The James Branch Nature Preserve is home to the oldest-growth and greatest concentration of baldcypress remaining in Delaware. Canoeing and kayaking the James Branch Water Trail are secondary activities; preservation of the natural resources is the primary land management responsibility of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Contact Information

Park Office: (302) 875-5153 Nature Center: (302) 875-5163
Campground Reservations: (877) 987-2757
www.destateparks.com



**Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control**
Division of Parks and Recreation



The James Branch Water Trail

James Branch offers one of the most spectacular canoe trails in the First State. Peace of mind and a sense of wilderness await the intrepid paddler. The pointy "knees," flared bases and towering heights of the greatest concentration of old-growth cypress in the state create a feeling of seclusion along this spectacular water trail. One impressive "old-timer" known as "The Patriarch" is more than 500 years old. Fallen logs, both submerged and above the water's surface, present navigational challenges and contribute to the sense of wilderness.

Paddling Checklist

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File a Float Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life Jacket | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dry Bag with Extra Clothing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map and Compass | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Bug Repellent |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPS (recommended) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bailer or Bilge Pump | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plenty of Drinking Water (one gallon/person day) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extra Paddle | |

Paddling the Water Trail

The Water Trail can be accessed off of Hitch Pond Road or at the Records Pond boat launch. Due to the length of the trail and some navigational hazards, the James Branch Water Trail is recommended for intermediate to advanced paddlers. Paddlers will encounter downed trees, low-hanging branches and both floating and submerged logs. The trail is best suited for springtime excursions or during times of high water levels. Shallow water levels, typical in the summertime, make completing the entire trail difficult. Contact the park office for the latest information about water conditions. Please respect the fragile and rare habitats throughout the Nature Preserve so that we may protect them for future generations.

