

# delaware

## JUNCTION AND BREAKWATER TRAIL

The siren song that calls surf- and sun-worshippers to the ocean isn't the only draw of Delaware's coastline. The Junction and Breakwater Trail is a peaceful respite from the bustle of the beach with its tree-lined path, cornfields and wetland scenery.

Red blackberries grow wild along the Junction and Breakwater Trail.

Away from the breaking waves and colorful umbrellas sprinkled along the sand shading the suntan-lotioned throngs, the Junction and Breakwater Trail in Rehoboth Beach is the oasis for any sea-side vacation. Like the state in which it travels, the Junction and Breakwater Trail is small in size but expansive in scenic appeal. Nearly four miles long, the trail combines densely shaded pathways of oak, hemlock, pine and maple trees, and winds past wide-open fields where cornstalks sway in the off-ocean breezes. It's here, amid the cornfields, that Delaware's agricultural industry is most clear to trail users. And while you can't pick the corn from the farmers' fields, you can gather handfuls of bright-red, ripe red blackberries that are prominent on most parts of the trail during July.

The longest of the three rail-trails in Delaware, the trail passes through Cape Henlopen State Park, a wetland area that gives visitors other trail



**By Amanda Race**  
Special to *Rails to Trails*

shorter sections that connect residential areas and shopping centers.

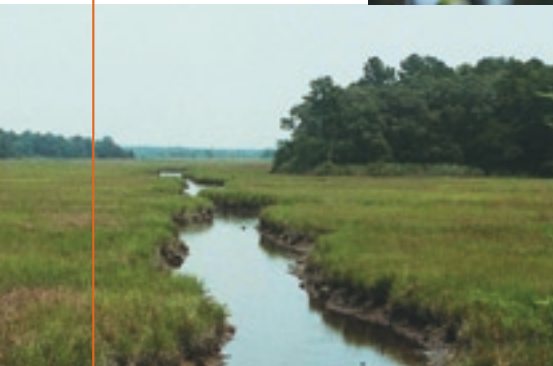
Sheltered from the sun with an assortment of trees and hanging vines, the Wolf Neck portion of the trail has one of the two street crossings on the trail. In half a mile, you reach a timber bridge which gives you views of Delaware's wetlands and is lined by vermilion trumpet vine flowers hanging from the trees. Although the Wolf Neck section ends here, enthusiastic trail users hope to extend the trail to the neighboring town of Lewes.

Or, from the Wolf Neck trailhead, turn right to Rehoboth, where the trail begins similarly for the first half mile, showcasing another timber bridge with

more views of the wetlands. But soon the landscape changes dramatically. The forest canopy opens to the sky and, instead, you're flanked by trees and cornfields. Three trail spur options emerge after about a mile. Go right, following signs to the outlets in Rehoboth near the southern trailhead, where you can find a place for a snack before making the trek back. Another option is to continue straight, crossing Holland Glade Road and then winding through a 0.7-mile forest to end behind a residential area. Lastly, a left turn also curves to Holland Glade Road, a country byway with a roomy bike lane to take you back toward Route 1.

No matter how you stroll on the Junction and Breakwater Trail, it's bound to be a serene experience—one you'll share with other savvy beach-goers who know there are coastal gems beyond where the tide breaks, like this rail-trail.

(Clockwise from top) Trumpet vines hang like veils along the trail; evergreens line the trail with shade and needles; the wetlands along the trail attract a variety of birds. (Opposite page, top) The bustling Rehoboth boardwalk; (bottom) bicyclists at one of the few road-crossings on the trail.



options like Gordon's Pond and Bike-Hike, and the Pinelands Nature Trail.





Hop on the trail in the lush, fern-floored forest at the Wolf House trailhead, where fallen pine needles soften the paved pathway. A short 0.2 miles from the trailhead, you hit a T-intersection in the trail. Go left for the 0.6-mile Wolf Neck portion of the trail. Or turn right on the Rehoboth section, which extends 1.5 miles before branching off into three



PHOTOS: JENNIFER KALEBA/RTC; MAP: DANIELLE MARKS

**DIRECTIONS:** From Washington, D.C., and points west, take 50 East to 404 East following signs to Rehoboth Beach. At the roundabout take 9 East, which becomes 1 South. Follow 1 South toward Cape Henlopen State Park. After a left-hand sign indicating the trail, turn left on Munch Branch Road. Continue on Munch Branch as it bends to the left. At the stop sign, turn right on Wolfneck Road. The entrance to Cape Henlopen State Park and the trail—along with parking, bike racks, bathrooms and an information stand—will be on your right. While driving, keep an eye out for the many roadside antique stores and farmers' markets.

**Junction and Breakwater Trail**  
Trail length 3.6 miles  
Crushed stone surface

-  Trailhead
-  Parking
-  Restrooms
-  Scenic Overlook



**WHAT TO DO:** The lively town of Rehoboth offers fun for everyone, and you won't be able to resist Main Street's charming yet funky appeal. Between quaint inns, beach houses, the boardwalk and fun shops and restaurants in the area, Rehoboth is that small beach town where you always dreamed of spending a summer—maybe even a lifetime. There's usually an event or festival in the making

such as the Mardi Gras weekend celebration in February, a chocolate festival in March and a seashore five-mile run/walk hosted by the YMCA on July 30. There's also plenty to do on Main Street or along the boardwalk. For more information on Rehoboth Main Street visit [www.rehomain.com](http://www.rehomain.com).

Cape Henlopen State Park ([www.destateparks.com/chsp/chsp.htm](http://www.destateparks.com/chsp/chsp.htm)) is one of the highlights of Rehoboth. In addition to the Junction and Breakwater Trail, the park hosts six miles of beach area, Pinelands Nature Trail, Seaside Nature Center, a World War II Observation Tower, Gordon's Pond and Bike-Hike and the beginning of the American Discovery Trail.



**WHERE TO EAT:** Stop by the Terrace Restaurant and Bar for Mexican and Spanish cuisine, and be sure to get a rooftop table to enjoy the ocean breezes. The ceviche and sangria make for a cool end to a hot day. For a fancier meal, wash the sand off your feet and head to La La Land, or for casual pub food and live music, visit Ramshead Beach House ([www.ramsheadtavern.com](http://www.ramsheadtavern.com)).

If you're craving fresh produce, stop by McQuays Market located on Rehoboth Avenue or for a lunch to go, run into Café Solé on Baltimore Avenue, which offers soups, salads, sandwiches and more.



**WHERE TO STAY:** In addition to high-rise hotels, there are many small inns and bed-and-breakfasts ([www.deshorebnbs.com](http://www.deshorebnbs.com)) in residential Rehoboth. These are great places to stay for those who want unique local flavor and the sensation of actually living beachside. There are also several camping areas near Rehoboth, including Big Oaks

Family Campground, 3 Seasons Camping Resort, and Steamboat Landing. For the addresses of the campgrounds visit [www.beach-net.com/Campdel.html](http://www.beach-net.com/Campdel.html).

**RENTALS:** If you need to rent a bike, Bikes-to-Go has a broad selection. Whether it's a beach bike, a trail bike, a kid's bike or a tandem bike, the shop can meet your needs. Bikes-to-Go also supply bike trailers to tow

the kids along, bike baby seats and jogger strollers.

The bikes are sold and replaced every year, guaranteeing you a top-quality ride. Make reservations for one of seven different bike tours, including one on the Junction and Breakwater Trail. For more information or to make a reservation, go to [www.biketogo.com/home.php](http://www.biketogo.com/home.php).

**FOR MORE:** Visit [www.destateparks.com/Activities/trails/J&B.htm](http://www.destateparks.com/Activities/trails/J&B.htm).