



The First State Webfooters  
Welcomes You to  
C&D Canal Trail Walk and Bike  
An AVA Sanctioned Seasonal Events



The Michael N. Castle Trail offers a scenic walking and biking route along the north shore of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in northern Delaware. Named for former U.S. Congressman and Governor Michael N. Castle, the trail includes 12.1 miles of paved surface, three trailheads and amenities including benches. Trail counters measure trail usage of this popular trail with estimates exceeding 200,000 annually. It's well worth a visit.

The C&D Canal dug in the 1800's and widened in the early 1900's links the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River via a 14-mile route through what were once swampy marshlands. Today, the canal continues to be one of the world's busiest, as much of the shipping traffic to and from the Port of Baltimore—one of the largest ports in the United States—makes its way through the channel.

Abundant wildlife and scenic views along the C&D Canal make this area a perfect location for a multi-use trail providing outstanding recreational opportunities for pedestrians, bicyclists, bird-watchers and nature enthusiasts. Trail users can view wildlife, such as deer, turkeys and raccoons, along with rarer species, that include peregrine falcons, pied-billed grebes, and bald eagles as they travel along the banks of canal and past the area's grasslands, forests, tidal marshes and ponds.

The trail is fairly flat, except for a somewhat challenging climb up a hill to get around the Summit North Marina. Just west of the boat slips, the trail emerges into the southern reaches of Lums Pond State Park, which surrounds the largest freshwater pond in the state.

**Walk/Bike Registration:**

Registration takes place online using the AVA Online Start Box, on [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org). Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

**Walk/Bike Completion and Walk/Bike Credit:**

Once you have physically completed the Walk/Bike, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk/bike as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

## **Table of Contents:**

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

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## **Starting/Finish Point Location:**

Battery Park, at the foot of Clinton Street, Delaware City, DE; parking is on street. North: From the intersection of I-95 & DE-141 (exit 5A). Merge onto DE-141 S and proceed 3.9 mi. Turn right onto DE-9 S (W 7th St) & continue for 6.8 mi. Turn left to continue on DE-9 S for 2 mi. Turn left onto Washington St & proceed 0.6 mi. Battery Park is located at the end of Clinton Street. South: From route 1 take exit 142 (route 896) to route 13 north. Go 4.5 miles turn right onto Cox Neck Rd. Drive 4 miles to Battery Park.

Latitude 39.57965      Longitude -75.58755

## **Restrooms:**

Located at Battery Park and more on the trail at Biddle Point parking lot (after Bench #11), St Georges Trailhead (after Bench #25) and South Lums Parking Lot. Restrooms are open on a seasonal basis.

## **Restaurants:**

Crabby Dick's, 30 Clinton Street, Delaware City, DE 19706; 302-832-5100

Grain H2O (Gastropub), 3006 Summit Harbour Pl, Bear, DE 19701; 302-440-4404

Summit North Marina, Ship Store (snacks), 3000 Summit Harbour Pl, Bear, DE 199701; 302-836-1800

Creamery at St Georges, St Georges, DE 19733; 302-729-4340

## **Emergency Numbers:**



In case of emergency: Dial 911;  
Event related assistance:  
Kathy Szczesiak: 302-388-5740

## **Special Programs:**

Walking the United States

Walking the USA A-Z

Rails to Trails

## **Walking Instructions:**

Trail benches are numbered and referenced on directions for the Michael Castle Trail.

## 5km, 10km, 16km, 21km, 31km Walking/Biking Directions for the C&D Canal Trail

### **5km Walk Directions:**

1. From your parking spot walk to the fence just before the water (stores behind you)
2. Turn RIGHT and follow the brick walk way keeping the water on your left
3. After you pass the Delaware City Marina the trail will turn RIGHT and change from brick to pavement
4. After you cross the foot bridge the trail becomes Michael Castle Trail
5. You will notice a couple bodies of water on your right
6. At the end of the second body of water turn around and retrace your steps back to the start.
7. If you happen to have missed the bodies of water and you reach bench #3, you have walked a bit too far and turn around at that point

### **10km Walk/Bike Directions**

1. From your parking spot walk to the fence just before the water (stores behind you)
2. Turn RIGHT and follow the brick walk way keeping the water on your left
3. After your pass the Delaware City Marina the trail will turn RIGHT and change from brick to pavement
4. After you cross the foot bridge the trail becomes Michael Castle Trail
5. At the 5K point of the trail, you will see a sign for the Biddle Point Trailhead
6. Turn around at the Trailhead and return back to the start

### **16km Walk/Bike Directions**

1. From your parking spot walk to the fence just before the water (stores behind you)
2. Turn RIGHT and follow the brick walk way keeping the water on your left

3. After you pass the Delaware City Marina the trail will turn RIGHT and change from brick to pavement
4. After you cross the foot bridge the trail becomes Michael Castle Trail
5. Just after you walk under the first bridge, you will see a sign on your right for the St Georges Trailhead
6. Turn around at the trailhead and return to the start

### **21km Walk/Bike Directions**

1. From your parking spot walk to the fence just before the water (stores behind you)
2. Turn RIGHT and follow the brick walk way keeping the water on your left
3. After you pass the Delaware City Marina the trail will turn RIGHT and change from brick to pavement
4. After you cross the foot bridge the trail becomes Michael Castle Trail
5. At the 10.5K point you will see a bench #35, turn around and
6. return to the start

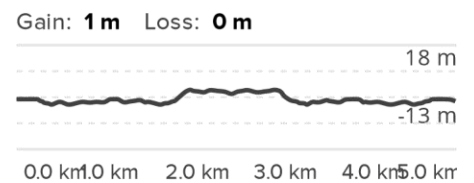
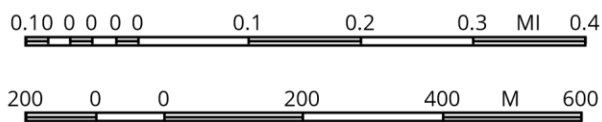
### **31km Walk/Bike Directions**

1. From your parking spot walk to the fence just before the water (stores behind you)
2. Turn RIGHT and follow the brick walk way keeping the water on your left
3. After you pass the Delaware City Marina the trail will turn RIGHT and change from brick to pavement
4. After you cross the foot bridge the trail becomes Michael Castle Trail
5. At the 15.5K point you will see a sign for the South Lum's Pond Trailhead on your right
6. Turn around at the trailhead and return to the start

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

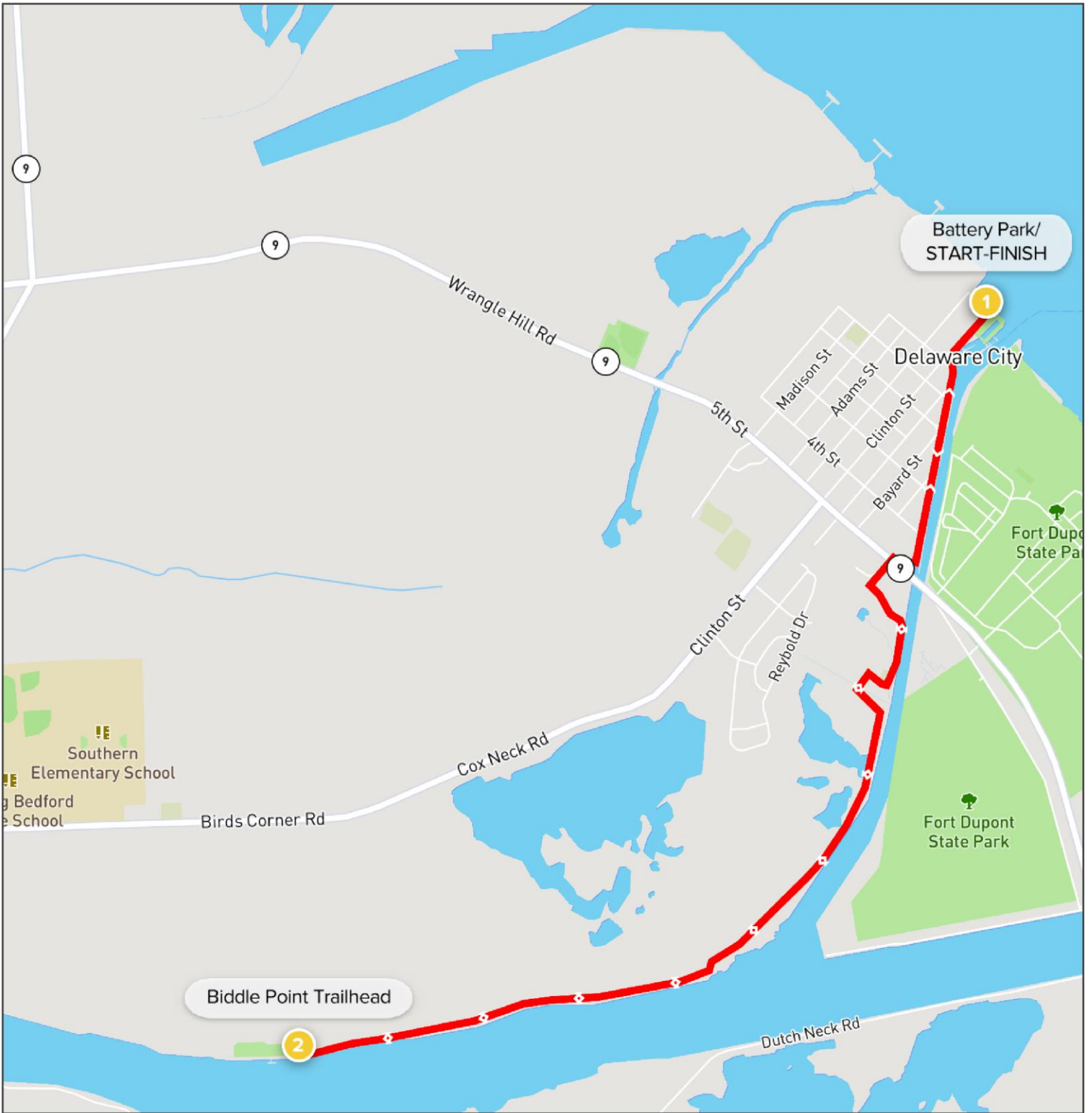


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2/11/2022

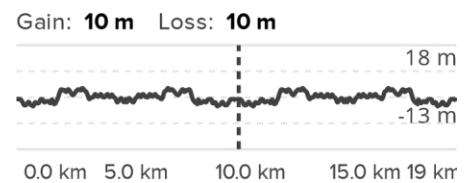
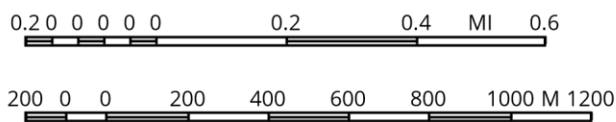


Delaware City Branch Canal/Michael Castle Trail 5K  
Delaware City, DE



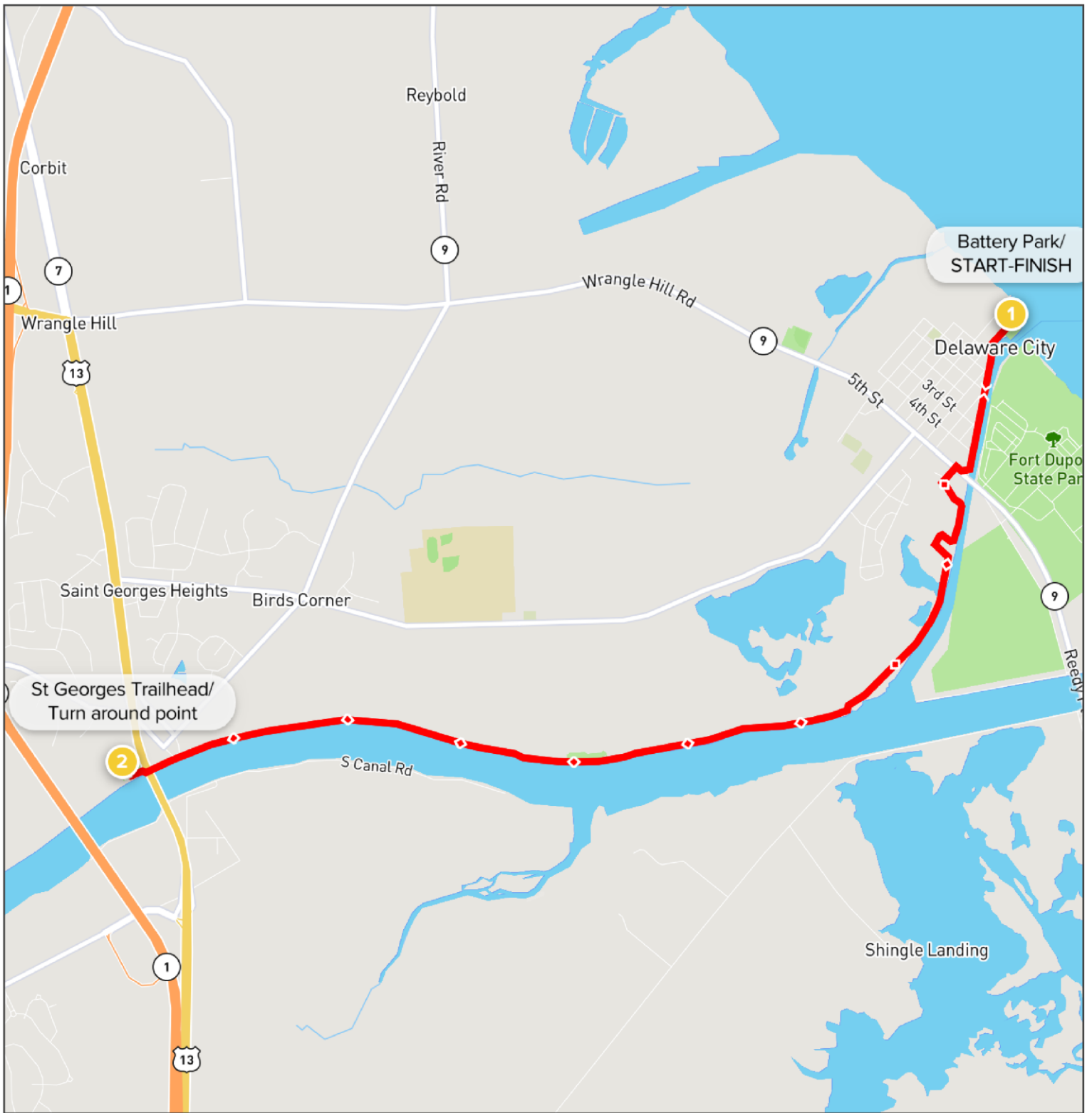


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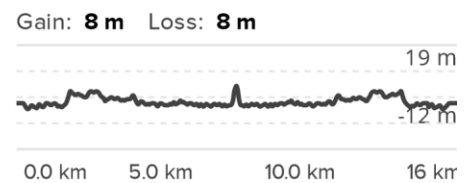
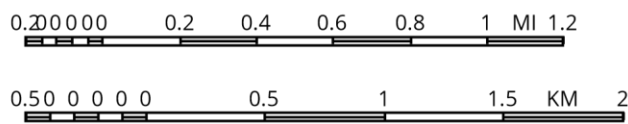


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Delaware City, DE



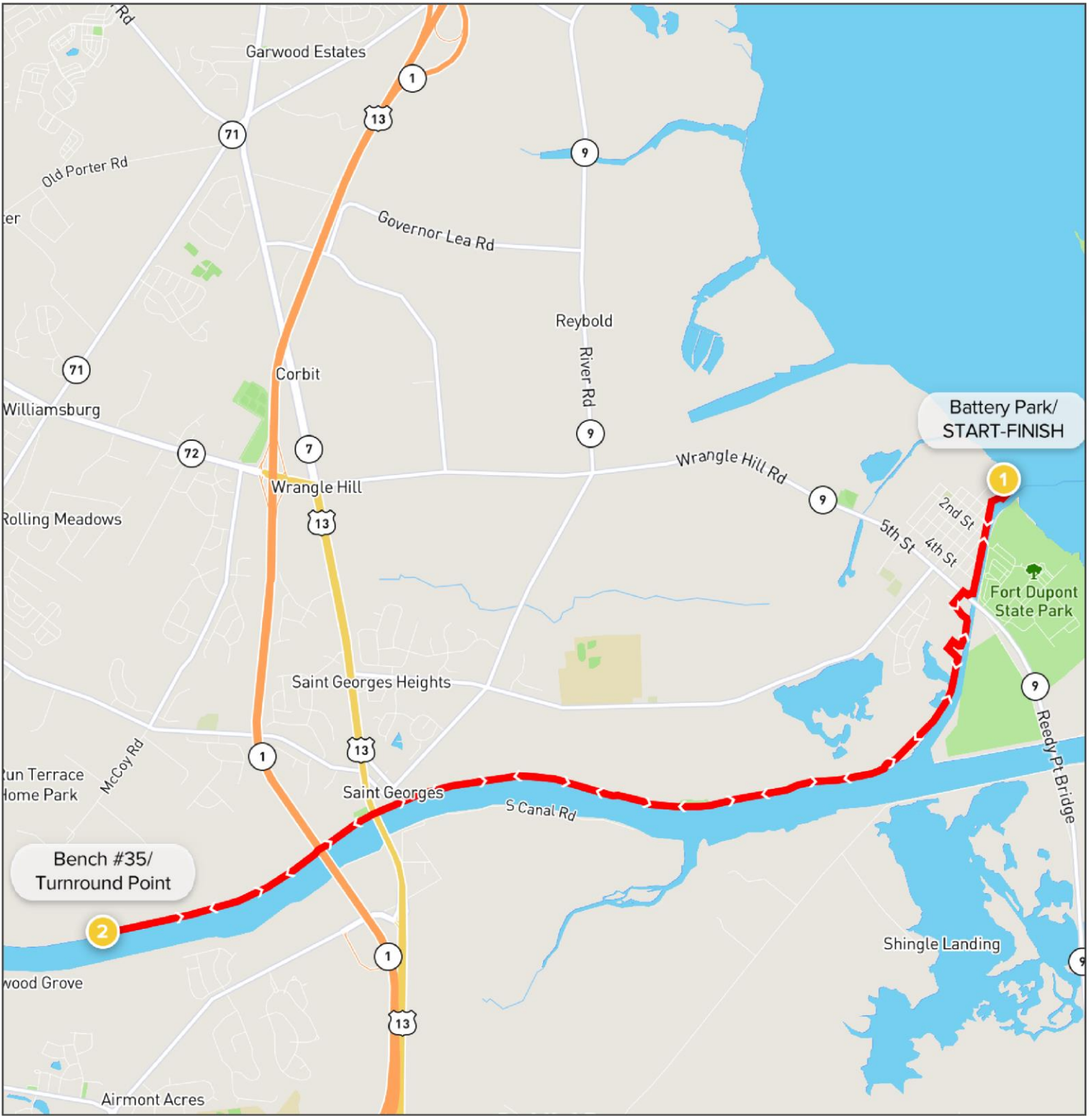


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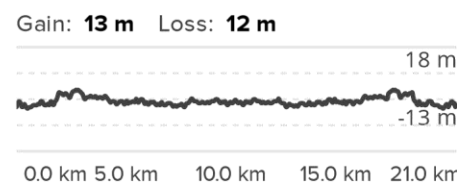
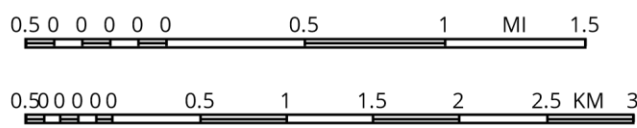


Delaware City Branch Canal/Michael Castle Trail 16K  
Delaware City, DE





MN ★  
11.8°W  
2/11/2022



Delaware City Branch Canal/Michael Castle Trail 21K  
Delaware City, DE



