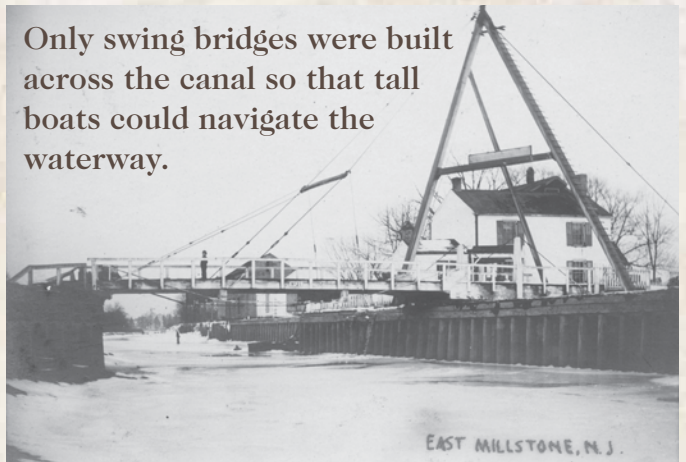


It's a transportation system... It's a park... It's the D&R Canal!

D&R THEN . . .



The D&R Canal was one of the most successful towpath canals in America. Before the steam engine, mules towed boats and barges. In 1866 it carried more cargo than the bigger and more famous Erie Canal.



Only swing bridges were built across the canal so that tall boats could navigate the waterway.

. . . AND NOW!

The D&R Canal and its tow path became a State Park in 1974. It winds through Mercer, Hunterdon, Middlesex and Somerset Counties.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

The D&R Canal is home to 625 species of plants and 230 species of birds including bald eagles and herons, so it's a great place for wildlife and nature photos. How can you get a good shot?



- Shoot at dawn or dusk when animals are more active
- Use your camera's action mode
- Be still, silent and patient!

Somerset County's annual Weekend Journey Through The Past is an initiative of the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission in collaboration with many county-wide local historical organizations and commissions, and other county organizations.

HIDDEN HISTORY

Hundreds of immigrant canal workers died in 1832 when cholera broke out. While some were buried in cemeteries, it is believed that many were buried in unmarked graves along the canal.



New Jersey teacher John Holland invented the first modern submarine in Paterson. Over decades



with different partners, he improved the vessel, waiting for the Navy to accept it. How did Holland transport his sub from Elizabethport to Washington when the Navy said, “Yes!”? He took it through the D&R Canal (and then the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway)!



LOCK IT UP (OR DOWN!)

Like roads, waterways go up and down hill. A canal lock “locks” up an area of waterway, then fills or drains it until the water is level in the direction in which a boat is traveling. The D&R Canal had 15 locks—see one in person at the Griggstown Bridgetender’s house.



GOT WATER?

The D&R canal supplies drinking water for about a million residents in Central New Jersey. Canal water comes from the Delaware River via a 22-mile feeder canal.



HISTORY MYSTERY... SOLVED?

Why do some people call the D&R Canal the, “mystery canal”? Unfortunately, we only have a few records of the canal’s construction and use (it was used to transport goods and people for 100 years!). There is much we don’t—and may never—know.