Characteristics of the Bays

Shallow water estuary

- Coastal lagoon system behind a barrier island
- Average depth = 4.5 ft
- 300 sq miles of watershed/32 sq miles of surface water
- Tidally connected to the ocean through Inlets
Delaware Center for the Inland Bays

Areas of our Mission

- Science and Research
- Habitat Restoration
- Public Policy
- Education and Outreach

To preserve, protect, and restore Delaware’s Inland Bays, the water that flows into them, and the watershed around them.
The year-round population more than doubled between 1990 and 2010.

It’s expected to increase by another 46% by 2040.
Your Creek is a community-based program organized around the rivers and creeks that flow into our Bays.
Outputs/Deliverables

1. Form a Creek Team
2. Introduce the team to their creek
3. Design and distribute Creek watershed surveys
4. Develop a *State of the Creek* report
5. Produce education/outreach materials
6. Identify opportunities and engage Team members
7. Work with the Creek Team take the message to their community through social media, community presentations and events.
Through the Your Creek project we hope to connect communities and people to their local creek. Connect people who live on the creek to each other. And to connect the people and communities to us...
There are about fourteen major tributaries so this will be a multi-year project.
Love Creek was the pilot creek
Love Creek Tributary and the Delaware Inland Bays

Love Creek Tributary

Love Creek

Other Tributary Watersheds

State Line

Miles

0 1.5 3 6 9
Form a Creek Team and identify team leadership
Introduce the team to the creek

Love Creek Paddle
Launched Marina at Route 24 Bridge
Design and distribute Creek survey
IF LOVE CREEK IS YOUR CREEK...
WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

WWW.INLANDBAYS.ORG
Produce a State of the Creek Report

Develop a flyer, exhibit and presentation
Take it to the community
Identify opportunities for engagement
Lessons Learned

Every creek is different—so is every Creek Team. We’ve developed a general template that works well—but prepare to be flexible to opportunity.

1. Love Creek-development pressure was motivating interest in taking strong community action so they have already fledged from Creek team to Friends of Love Creek.
2. Dirickson Creek leadership had a strong interest in community organizing around ‘bay-friendly’ landscaping so we are supporting their efforts to pursue that.
3. Be alert to opportunities to cross-fertilize with other projects in your organization—living shorelines, bay-friendly gardening, etc.
People are interested in meeting like-minded people
1. Create opportunities for those social connections to take place

Identify opportunities for engagement that give options for participation so momentum is not lost.
1. Boots on the ground
2. Community outreach
3. Citizen science research

Work from the beginning with the goal to transition from a ‘Creek Team’ to a ‘Friends of’ group. This is a labor intensive project. Don’t overreach.
Long Term Outcomes

1. Improved water quality in Your Creek tributaries
2. Increase in the number of community partners, such as HOA's, providing a conduit for information to and from the communities
3. Increased membership and volunteers in support of the DE Center of the Inland Bays and its mission
The Your Creek project is all about building relationships at the local level...creek by creek. What’s good for the creeks...is good for the Inland Bays.

For more information:
Sally Boswell   outreach@inlandbays.org