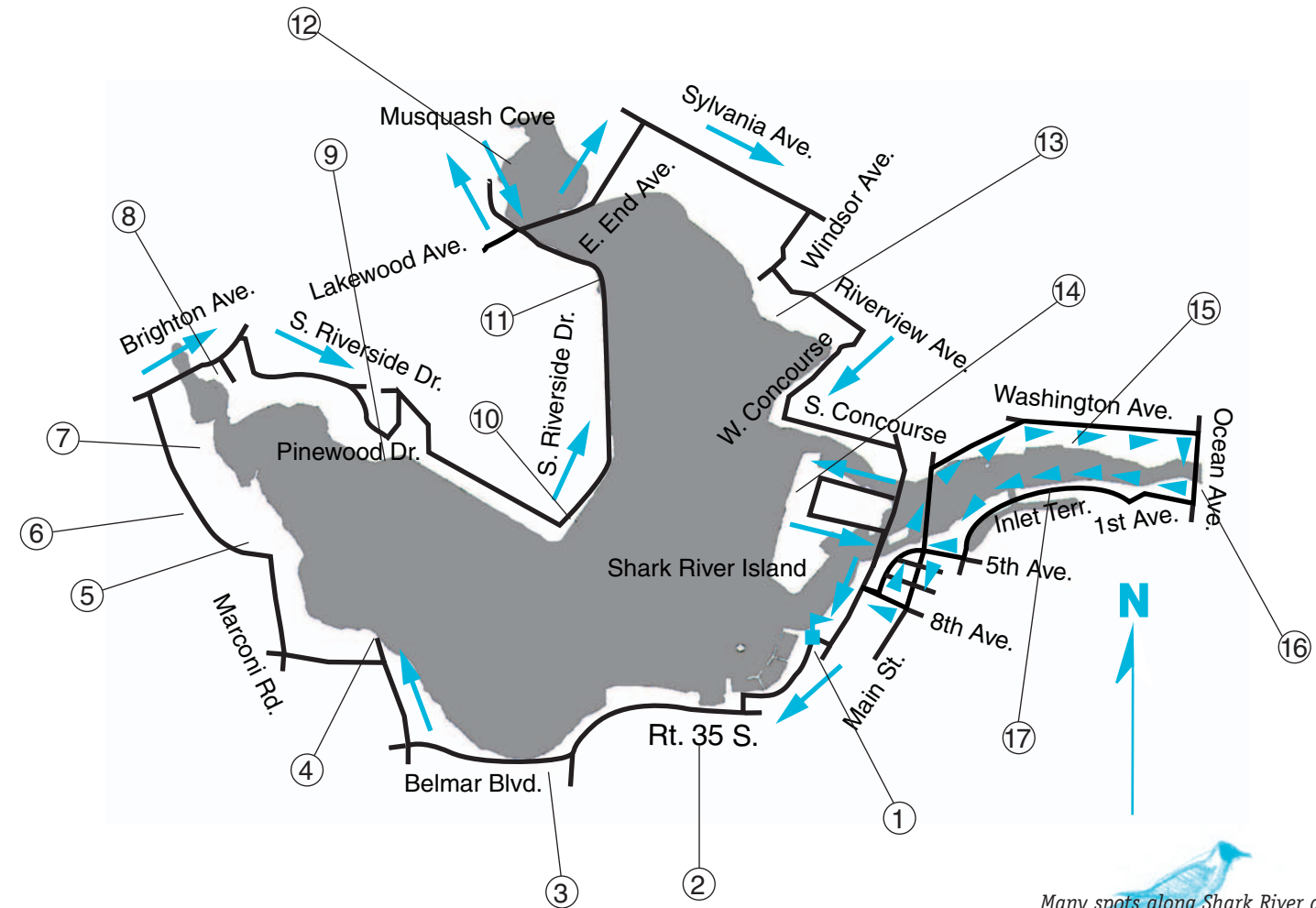


The Shark River Tour



SCENIC NOTES

- 1 Panoramic river view from East side of Shark River.
- 2 View from Southeast side of Shark River.
- 3 Popular bird watcher's spot. Fresh and salt water meet.
- 4 Delicate salt marsh and natural habitat.
Look for wading birds hunting for food along water's edge.
- 5 National Historical Landmark: Diana Radar Tower was used in 1946 to send the first radio signal to the moon and back.
- 6 Site of future InfoAge Science-History Center (more info at www.InfoAge.com)
- 7 Marconi Tower: Site of the first wireless message ever sent.
- 8 This is where the bay meets the saltwater marsh and shows the true definition of an estuary, where the outgoing tide is freshwater and the incoming tide is saltwater. (Hillside Rd. has a large wooded area overlooking river; this is a Monmouth County Park. Feel free to wander.)
- 9 This is the Shark River Hills section of Neptune. Enjoy overlook views of the river from spots along Pinewood Dr.
- 10 Panoramic river views of natural areas on northwest side of Shark River.
- 11 In Jan. & Feb., look for harbor seal on drain pipes!
- 12 View Osprey family on stand in season. Trail in left corner of field leads to river.
- 13 Broad view of river from Neptune City Memorial Park, one of the highest points along the river.
- 14 From this point, you can see the main boating channels of Shark River.
- 15 Dead ends on Jefferson Ave. offer beautiful inlet views.
- 16 Shark River empties into the Atlantic Ocean. View Belmar Fishing Pier, the largest, privately owned fishing pier on the east coast and a prime example of Mission architecture. Walk on "shell" beach, with its natural shore habitat.
- 17 Enjoy many beautiful views of Shark River Inlet.

Many spots along Shark River are great for bird watching. Depending on the season, some of the many you may see are: Mute Swan, Brant, Black, Canvasback, Ruddy and Mallard ducks, Bufflehead, Coot, Cormorant, Egret, Great Blue Heron, Mourning dove, Merganser, and possibly a family of Ospreys at Musquash Cove! (Contact SRER for our up-to-date bird listing.)

CUM. MILEAGE	POINT TO PT.	DIRECTIONS
0.0	0.0	① Start: North Pier of Belmar Marine Basin (just north of Bait Shop). ®
	0.1	Go down to South Pier.
	0.1	Exit (right) onto Rt. 35 south.
	0.2	② Turn right into MacLearie Park, stop at southern most point in parking lot. ®
		Exit (right) onto Rt. 35 south.
	0.2	First right onto Belmar Blvd. ç: traffic
	0.1	③ Stop on wide shoulder.
1.0	0.3	Second right onto Marconi Rd.
	0.3	④ Follow to dead end at river.
	0.1	Back track up hill, make right (still Marconi Rd).
	0.2	Bear right at stop (still Marconi Rd).
	0.3	⑤ Diana Radar Tower on right.
2.0	0.2	⑥ InfoAge Center site on left
	0.1	⑦ Marconi Tower on right.
	0.1	First right onto Brighton Ave.
	0.2	⑧ First right onto Hillside Rd., right into small nature clearing.
		Backtrack to Brighton Ave., make right.
	0.1	First right onto S. Riverside Dr.
3.0	0.4	⑨ Bear right onto Pinewood Dr.
	0.2	Right onto S. Riverside. ç: steep grade; road curves left at bottom of hill.
	0.2	⑩ Stop in clearing next to river at bottom of hill.
	0.5	⑪ Continue to Shark River Yacht Club on right.
4.0		Continue on S. Riverside.
5.0	1.0	⑫ Straight at stop sign to Musquash Cove.
	0.2	Backtrack to stop sign, make left on Lakewood Rd., proceed over bridge.
	0.3	Right onto Tucker Dr. ç: steep grade
	0.2	Right at stop sign onto W. Sylvania.
6.0	0.3	First right onto Union Ave.
	0.1	Left onto Riverview.
	0.2	Right onto Windsor Ct.
	0.1	⑬ Left back onto Riverview to park. ®
		Exit park onto Riverview.
	0.2	Right onto Steiner Ave.
	0.1	First right onto Boston Rd., which becomes W. Concourse.
7.0	0.3	Left at curve onto S. Concourse.
	0.3	Right onto Rt. 35 south.
	0.1	Right at light onto Sea View Cir.
	0.2	⑭ Follow to Salt Marsh sign.
		Proceed on Sea View Cir.
	0.2	Right onto Rt. 35 south.
		Cross bridge. ç: bikes, pedestrians should use sidewalk.
8.0	0.4	Right into Belmar Marine Basin back to starting point
		OR continue with Inlet Option.

CUM. MILEAGE	POINT TO PT.	SHARK RIVER INLET LOOP (optional)
	0.1	Back track to northern most marina exit, at 8th Ave. in Belmar.
		Cross Rt. 35 at light onto 8th Ave.
	0.1	First left immediately after railroad tracks onto narrow Railroad Rd.
	0.1	Cross 7th Ave. at stop, proceed to Main St.
	0.2	At 5th Ave. traffic light, left onto Main St.
		Cross Main St. Bridge into Avon. ç: bikes, pedestrians should use sidewalk.
	0.2	First right onto Poole Ave.
9.0	0.1	⑮ Right at stop onto Jefferson Ave.
	0.1	Bear right at stop onto Washington Ave.
	0.5	Right onto Ocean Ave.
		Continue over Ocean Ave. bridge into Belmar. ç: bikers, pedestrians should use sidewalk.
	0.2	⑯ Stop at 1st Ave. beach next to Belmar Fishing Club on left.
		Right onto 1st Ave.
10.0	0.1	⑰ Bikers & pedestrians: make right on Inlet Terr. and continue over foot bridge to 5th Ave.
	0.2	Motorists: continue straight and bear right on River Ave. to 5th Ave.
	0.4	All: right on 5th Ave.
	0.3	Left onto Main St. at traffic light.
		Cross lights at 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Aves.
	0.4	Right at 10th Ave.
	0.2	Cross Rt. 35 at traffic light into Marine Basin and back to starting point.

® = restrooms
ç = caution

Neptune Twp.

Criss-crossed with modern highways and known today as “The Crossroads of the Jersey Shore”, the Township of Neptune’s past and future flow together on the currents of its Shark River. Ten thousand years before Europeans arrived, Lenape Indians lived along this watercourse. A well-worn trail (now Brighton Avenue) linked a permanent village site with several seasonal camps. By 1740, the same waterpower was attracting English, Scottish, and Dutch colonizers to Neptune. The local economy was built on milling, fishing, clamming, oystering, and boatbuilding. Efforts to sell Shark River into private ownership produced such local outcry in 1881 that New Jersey took action to protect the river, legislating the first Riparian Law. The river beach at Long Point served as a mecca for clambakes, picnics, horseback riding and swimming. At 118 feet, the river’s “Skytop” promontory is the second-highest point on the New Jersey coast, and was hinted to be the location of Captain Kidd’s lost treasure. During the 1920’s, investment developers transformed this hilly paradise-on-the-river into a real-estate goldmine called “Shark River Hills.”

Tinton Falls

The headwaters for Shark River are located in the NAD EARL military base area of Tinton Falls. Runoff from rainfall enters small streams which drain into Shark River Brook. This fresh water stream serves as the boundary between Wall and Neptune Townships, eventually meeting Jumping Brook and entering Shark River Bay at Brighton Ave. These two brooks combine to become the primary source of fresh water for Shark River Bay. Although far from the Bay area, it is important to remember that what happens in Tinton Falls has a direct effect downstream.

Wall Twp.

The beautiful bluffs overlooking Shark River on Wall Township’s northern border were key to the early days of radio and became a leading-edge army communications research site for nearly six decades. The Marconi Tower (#7) is the last of 30 towers which once stood at the 200-acre Marconi Company site, which was part of the first worldwide wireless network. After Marconi left, the property was used by the KKK, rum runners and the King’s Christian College. It then became the heart of U.S. WWII secret radar development and was renamed Camp Evans, where Army research was conducted from 1941-1998. In 1946, a radar signal was bounced from the Diana site (#5) off the moon, proving that earth-to-space communication was possible. This launched man’s electronic exploration of space. Often called the “Army’s House of Magic,” Camp Evans was home to basic research with transistors, radar, radio, vacuum tubes, lasers, satellites, computers, defense systems and radiation detection. Today the site is a NJ historic district and will house the InfoAge Science-History Center.

About the Shark River and the Environmental Roundtable

What do Egrets, the first lunar radio signal, an Osprey nest and award-winning architecture have in common? Shark River! This small but popular river offers a rich history and is home to a diversity of life. The Shark River Tour covers the ecology and history of the area, from the Diana Tower in Wall Township — the site of the first radio signal sent to the moon and back — to the Herons and Ospreys in Neptune’s Musquash cove to the legends of Captain Kidd’s buried treasure. A Shark River Inlet option travels past beautiful waterfront homes in Avon and Belmar, and highlights the award-winning architecture of the Belmar Fishing Club.

The area most people know as Shark River is actually a small bay or tidal basin. The bay, along with feeder streams and adjacent marshlands, is referred to as an estuary, a unique ecosystem where salt and fresh water come together. To preserve this ecosystem, the Roundtable worked to have the EPA declare the Shark River a “No Discharge” zone for boaters. The tour takes you to many interesting habitats and includes beautiful panoramic views of the river. There are perfect spots along the way for picnics and rest, too. From the hustle and bustle of commercial and private marinas to secluded marshes and mudflats, this wonderful waterway has been a favorite for centuries!

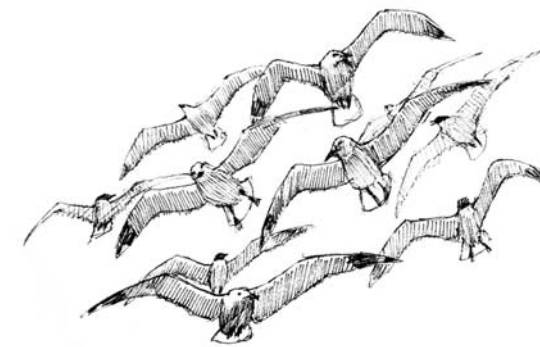
HOW DID SHARK RIVER GET ITS NAME?

Originally called the Nolletquesset River by the Lenni Lenape Indians, the name Shirk River appears on a 1764 indenture for an adjacent land sale. It’s said the name refers to the laziness of certain settlers or soldiers who shirked their duties to enjoy the beauty and recreation of the river. The name Shack River is listed on a 1781 map, probably for the many fishing and hunting shanties that lined the shores. Another map of the same time refers to the river as Hogs Pond. By the early 1800’s, the crescent-shaped waterway was referred to as Shark River Pond. While it may very well be a derivation of the names “Shirk” or “Shack” River, the evolution of the name is fancifully bantered about in different folk myths. It’s said in the mid 1800’s, a large shark was swept up river and perished. The locals pulled the creature up on the beach and immortalized it by renaming the river. Others say it is named for the many fossil shark teeth that can still be found along its banks.

The Shark River Environmental Roundtable is a consortium of citizens and environmental commissions from the towns surrounding the river. The mission of the SRER is to protect and preserve the balance between man and nature in the Shark River and to ensure that it will be enjoyed for generations to come.

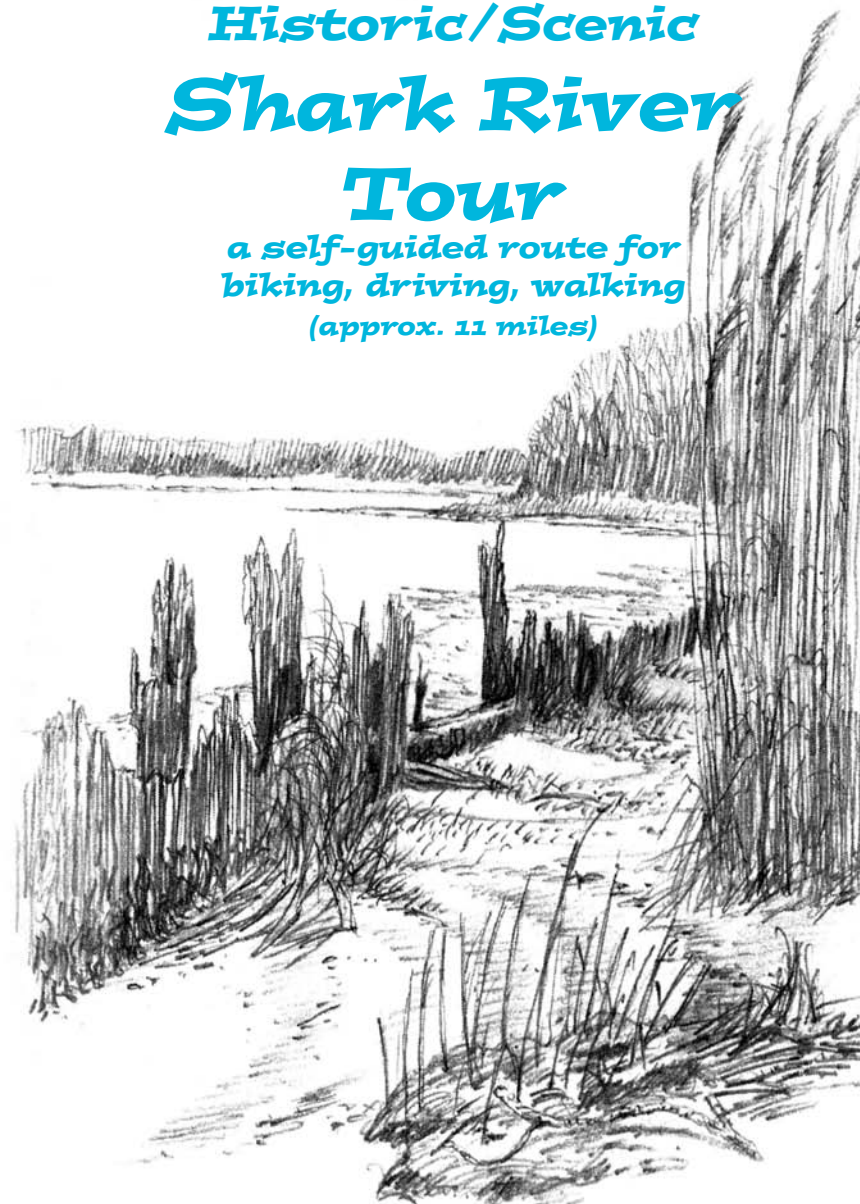
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BEC, PO Box A, Belmar, NJ 07719

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Historic/Scenic Shark River Tour

a self-guided route for biking, driving, walking
(approx. 11 miles)



The Towns Around Shark River

Avon

Key East, Avon-by-the-Sea’s original name, was founded in the late 1800’s by Edward Batchelor. After a particularly successful fishing trip in the area, he purchased 300 acres of land for \$45,000. His original plan to make the property a center for his tobacco manufacturing company was set aside, and real estate became the focus of his efforts. With a beautiful ocean-front beach to the east, the bountiful Shark River to the south and Duck Creek (now known as Sylvan Lake) to the north, the investment was bound to succeed. Magnificent inns and hotels were soon constructed, and the rich and famous made Key East a favored destination. The borough was incorporated on March 23, 1900. The town name was changed to Avon-by-the-Sea at that time, most likely after the Avon Inn, a popular hotel at the foot of Sylvania Ave. The borough is now enjoying its centennial celebration, with many fun-filled events throughout the year. Information can be obtained at www.avon-by-the-sea.com

Belmar

Christened “Belmar” on May 14, 1889, the name in French means “Beautiful Sea.” The area grew from a summer community of 25 people in 1872 to become one of New Jersey’s finest year-round resorts enjoyed by thousands of vacationers every year. By 1926 there was an influx of boarding houses and by 1939, Belmar’s commercial center had taken shape. Today, the one-square-mile borough is a four-season family destination, featuring small town charm, numerous recreation facilities and exceptional special events. More information is available at www.belmar.com.

Neptune City

Founded in 1881, Neptune City was first occupied by the Navesink Indians, who would visit Shark River during the summer months to feed on fresh fish and clams. Bounded on the western side by the Shark River, Neptune City’s Memorial Park (Scenic Note #13) is a perfect place to stop for a picnic and peaceful panoramic view of the wildlife and water. A covered pavilion with plenty of picnic tables, BBQ grills, a playground, bike racks and rest room facilities are available for public use, as well as beach access. (Swimming is not permitted.)

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