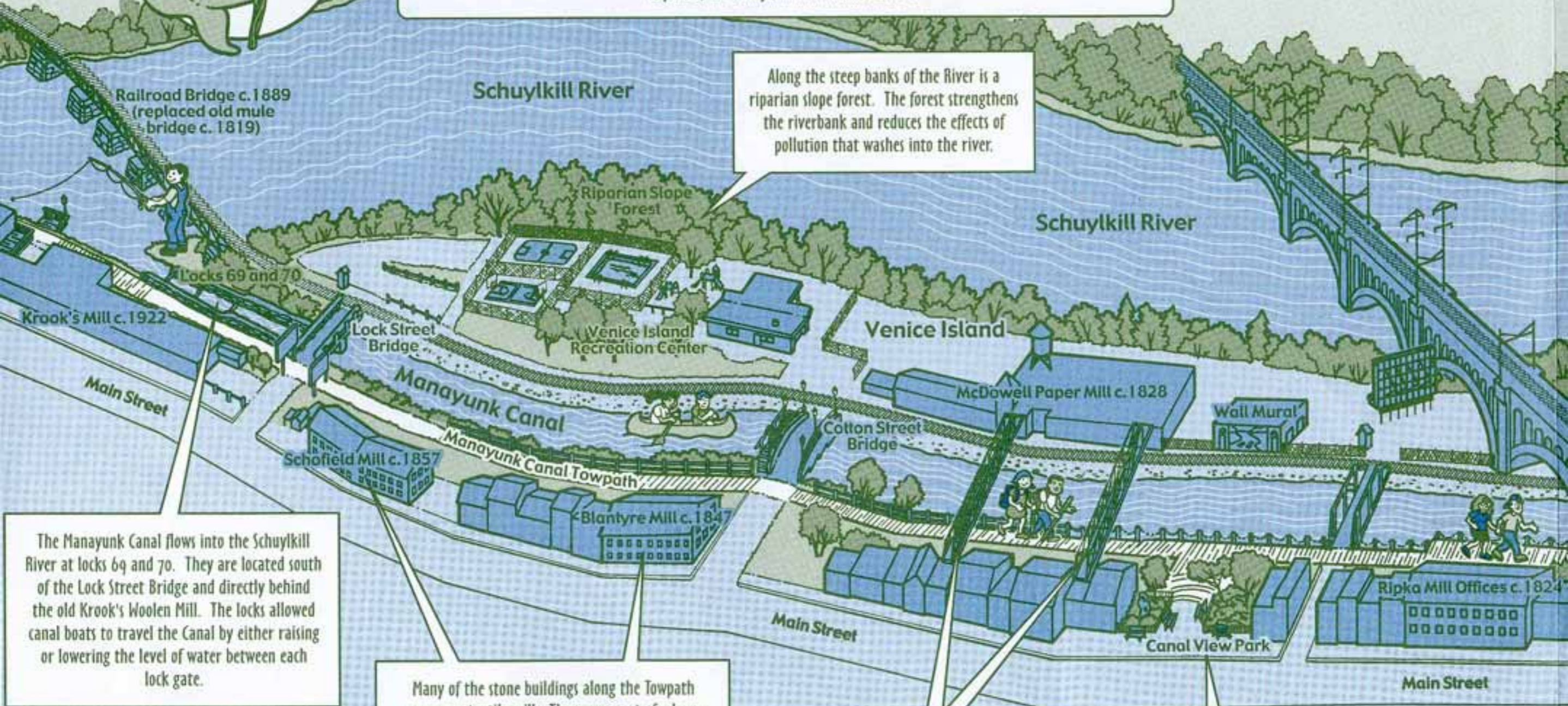




Yo Kids! Take a Hike along the Manayunk Canal!

This walking tour will guide you along the historic Manayunk Canal from the Lock Street Bridge in the center of Manayunk to the more natural environment at Flat Rock Dam. Your walk will take you along the Canal Towpath for a distance of nearly two miles. The original Towpath was the path used by mules as they pulled canal boats carrying coal and passengers through the water. The railway covered it in 1889. The path you are walking on today is part of the Schuylkill River Trail. Lets Go!

"Manayunk" is a Native American word meaning... The Canal was used to transport coal from Schuylk... on Venice Island. During the 1800's, th... Many of the...



Along the steep banks of the River is a riparian slope forest. The forest strengthens the riverbank and reduces the effects of pollution that washes into the river.

The Manayunk Canal flows into the Schuylkill River at locks 69 and 70. They are located south of the Lock Street Bridge and directly behind the old Krook's Woolen Mill. The locks allowed canal boats to travel the Canal by either raising or lowering the level of water between each lock gate.

Many of the stone buildings along the Towpath were once textile mills. They were part of a large textile-manufacturing center that produced, among other things, cotton blankets for the Union Army during the Civil War. Both of these mills used steam for power. The mills once located on Venice Island used waterpower, which they obtained from water intakes called "raceways".

The two small iron bridges over the Canal provided mill workers with access to and from the mill and its offices. The Canal was once lined with mills on either side and small bridges like these were very common.

Take a break at Canal View Park and enjoy this peaceful spot. The mural across the Canal shows the industrial history of Manayunk and the role of the Canal.

The high Railroad Manayunk

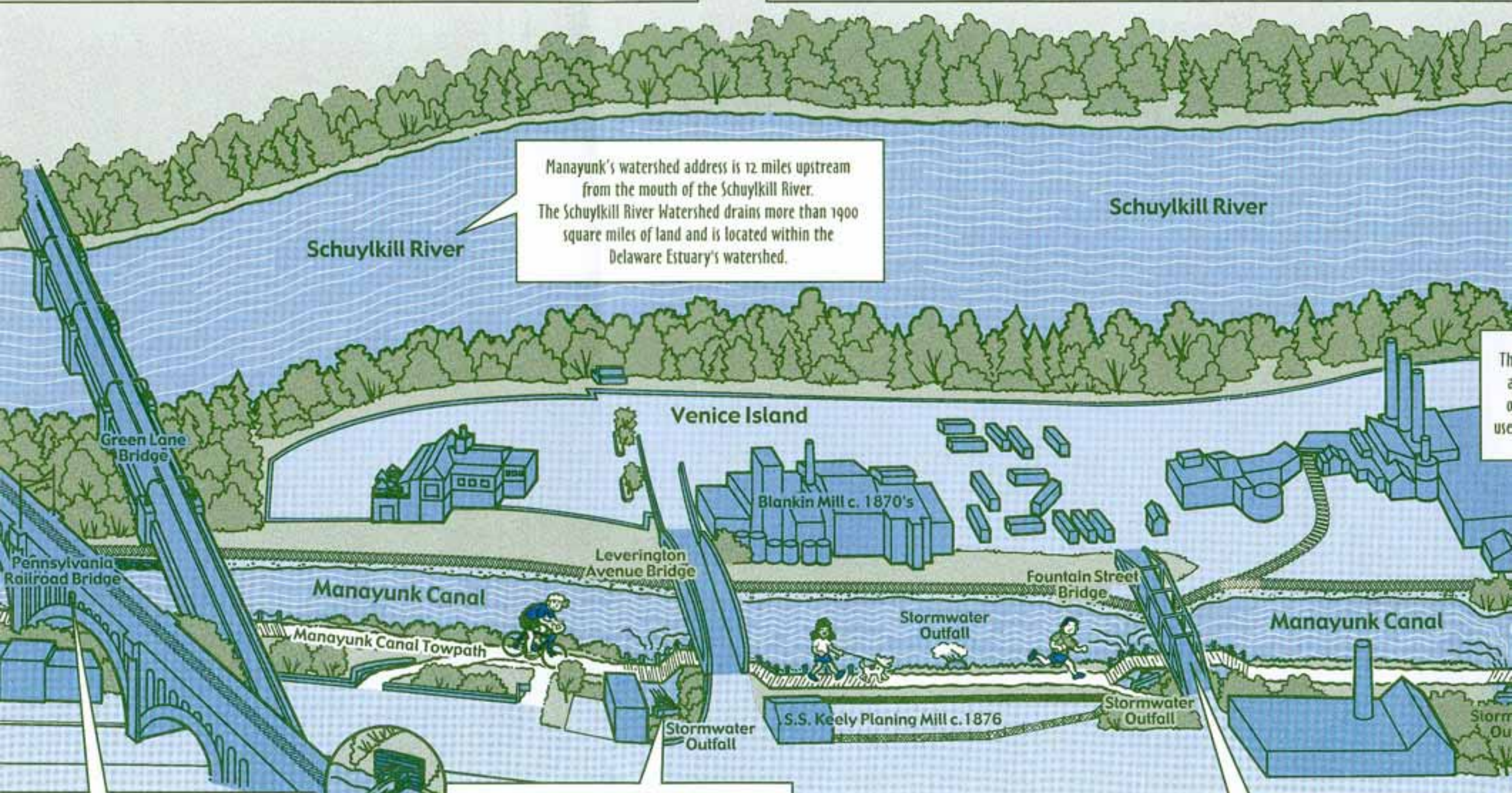
This map was made possible with support from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary under the Delaware Estuary Program's Mini-Grant Initiative funded through the U.S. EPA.

History

"where we go to drink." The Manayunk Canal was built in 1818 to make travel on the Schuylkill River possible. It provided waterpower for textile mills and other types of industry. The Canal was lined with mills that produced clothing, blankets, and other materials made out of cotton. Laborers in the mills were women and children who worked long, hard hours.

More History

When the industries in Manayunk and other upstream communities polluted the Schuylkill River, it became unfit for drinking. Today, much of the industry in Manayunk is gone and the Canal is no longer used to transport goods. The water is clean and all kinds of fish can be found swimming. We can now enjoy the Canal and the natural environment of Manayunk and discover for yourself Manayunk and its Canal.



Manayunk's watershed address is 12 miles upstream from the mouth of the Schuylkill River. The Schuylkill River Watershed drains more than 1900 square miles of land and is located within the Delaware Estuary's watershed.

The
a
o
use

The concrete bridge in front of you is the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge. It was completed in 1918 and has become Manayunk's landmark. The span you are walking underneath is 120 feet wide and 40 feet high.



Any water or litter on the streets of Manayunk will eventually flow into a stormwater inlet, travel through an underground pipe, and spill into the Canal from a stormwater outfall, like the one at the base of the Leverington Avenue Bridge. There are many stormwater outfalls along the Canal.

A gang of thieves called the Schuylkill Rangers used the Fountain Street Bridge, and other similar bridges, to ambush canal boats by jumping down onto the boats as they passed underneath. The leaders of the Schuylkill Rangers were Harry "Red" Carroll and "Wild Bill" Katon.

Underneath the boat
The plant growing

people to drink or to support wildlife.
r in the Schuylkill River is cleaner
the Towpath. So take a walk

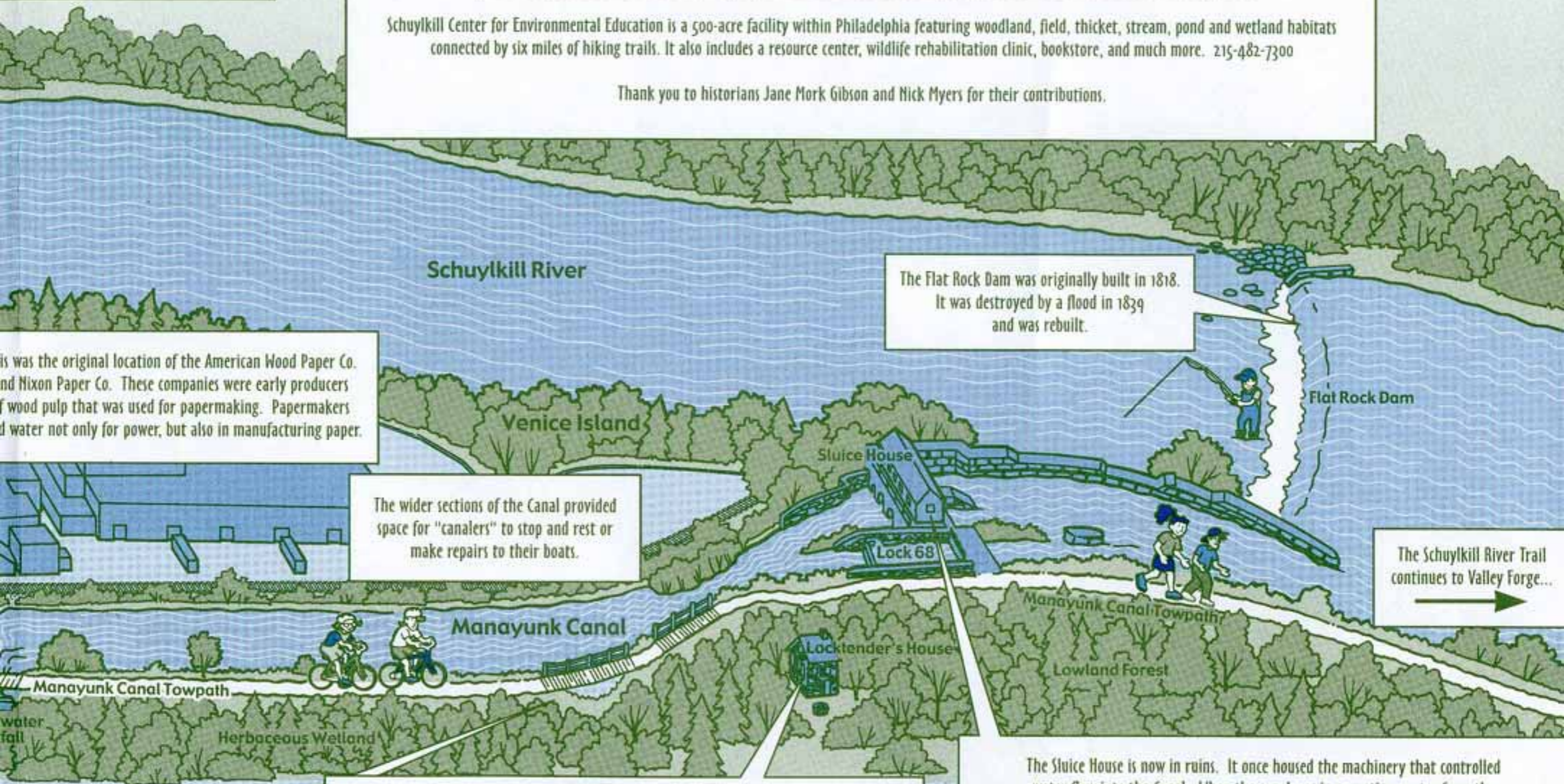
For more information about the Canal...

Manayunk Development Corporation is a nonprofit community development corporation formed to encourage economic development that benefits the entire community. MDC is working on a project to restore the Manayunk Canal. 215-482-9565

* Friends of the Manayunk Canal is a watershed group that was established to promote preservation of our watershed resources through responsible land use and environmental research, public education programs, conservation activities, community organizing and advocacy. 215-483-9238 *

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education is a 500-acre facility within Philadelphia featuring woodland, field, thicket, stream, pond and wetland habitats connected by six miles of hiking trails. It also includes a resource center, wildlife rehabilitation clinic, bookstore, and much more. 215-482-7300

Thank you to historians Jane Mork Gibson and Nick Myers for their contributions.



is was the original location of the American Wood Paper Co. and Nixon Paper Co. These companies were early producers of wood pulp that was used for papermaking. Papermakers used water not only for power, but also in manufacturing paper.

The wider sections of the Canal provided space for "canalers" to stop and rest or make repairs to their boats.

The Flat Rock Dam was originally built in 1818. It was destroyed by a flood in 1839 and was rebuilt.

The Schuylkill River Trail continues to Valley Forge... →

rdwalk lie the remains of an historic wetland. In the wetland is watercress, which is bright green almost year-round.

Much of the area at the upper end of the Canal is lowland forest comprised of red and silver maple and sycamore trees. Through the trees you may be able to see the ruins of the locktender's house. Captain Winfield Scott Guiles was the locktender at lock 68 for more than 60 years. His wife, a Lenni-Lenape Indian known as the "Manayunk Healer," treated the people of Manayunk when they were ill with herbs, leaves, and bark from local plants.

The Sluice House is now in ruins. It once housed the machinery that controlled water flow into the Canal. When the canal was in operation, water from the Schuylkill River was channeled into a sluiceway, and was either let through or held back by the opening or closing of the sluice gates. For example, if the water level in the canal was too low, the sluice gates would be opened and water that was once held behind closed gates would flow into the canal to raise the water level. The water level was very important because if there was not enough water in the Canal, the mills would not be able to operate.