

Chemung Basin River Trail

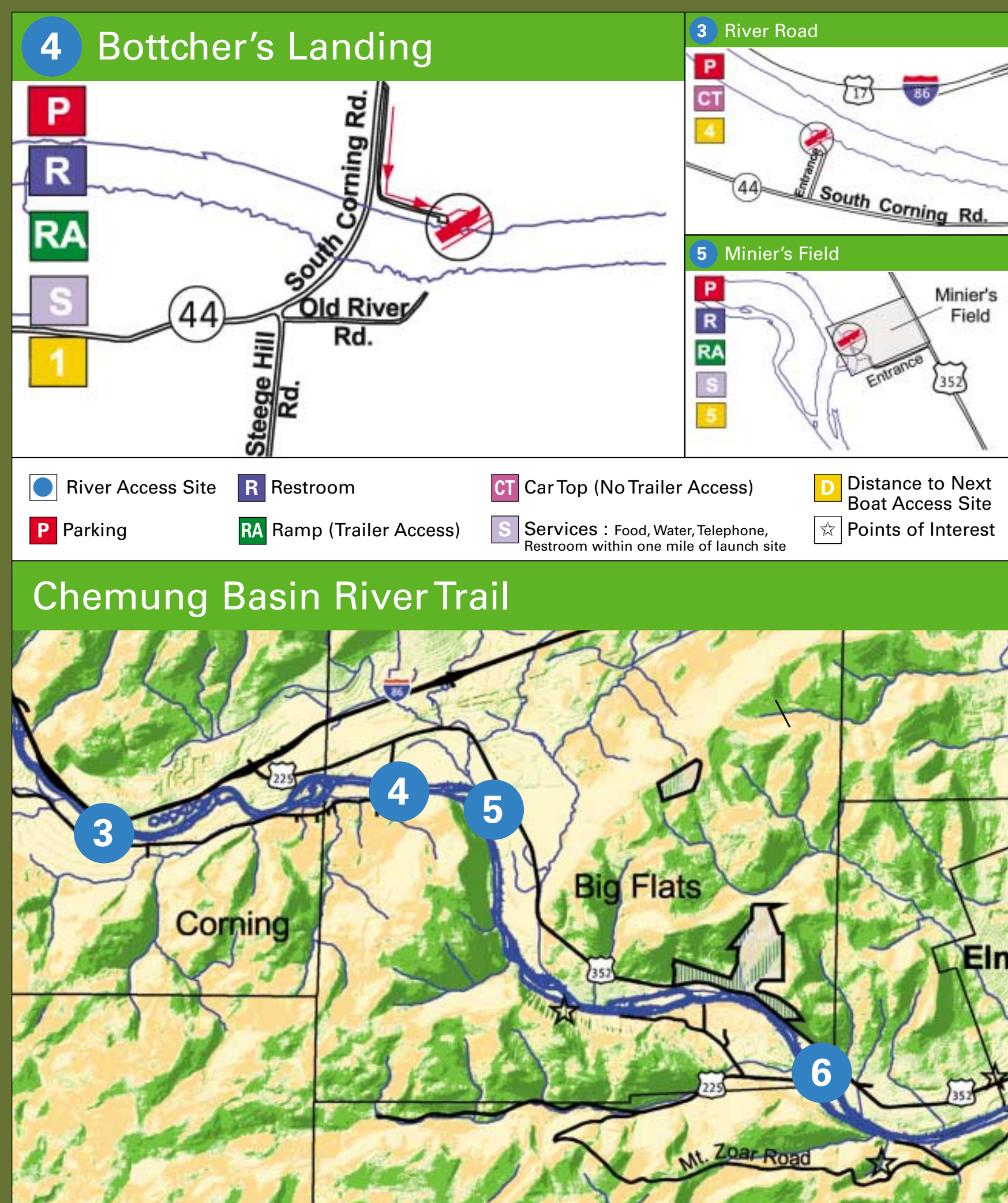


The Chemung Basin River Trail encompasses the Chemung, Tioga, Cohocton and Canisteo rivers. It provides a gateway to the Chesapeake Bay.

That means you can paddle all the way to the Atlantic Ocean from here! If you did, you'd be exploring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, a 64,000-square-mile

ecosystem that's home to more than 15 million people, and has supported human life for 13,000 years.

Bottcher's Landing Access Site



Valley Soil Perfect for Tobacco

The entrance to this access site abuts what used to be farmland owned by the Bottcher family. The Bottchers took advantage of the rich, loamy soil in the flatland along the Chemung River to grow cigar-leaf tobacco from the late 1800s to about 1940.

The Bottchers' involvement in tobacco farming closely parallels trends in tobacco production throughout the Chemung Valley. At its peak, the tobacco industry boasted 200 growers and 1,000 employees locally. "Big Flats Tobacco," as the product was known within the industry, was used primarily in cigars, although it was occasionally incorporated into other tobacco products, such as cigarettes,



*Tobacco farm in the Chemung River Valley.
Courtesy of the Chemung County Historical Society.*

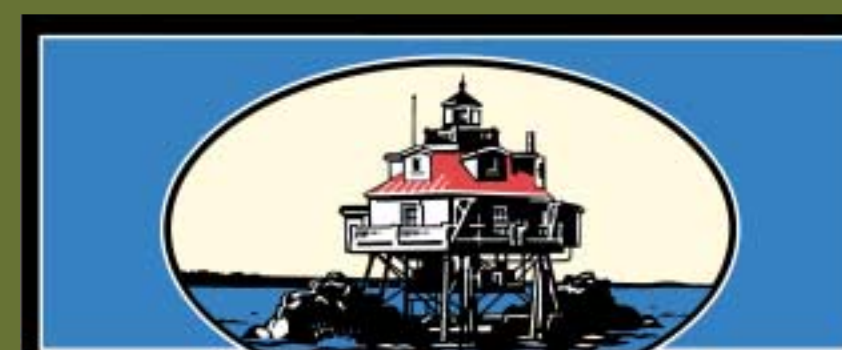
snuff and chewing tobacco. Chemung Valley farmers sold their crop to local "tobacco rollers" – or cigar manufacturers – primarily located in Elmira. When the popularity of cigars waned during World War I, cigar-leaf tobacco production in the Chemung Valley declined sharply. Tobacco was last farmed in the Chemung Valley in 1957.

Boating Regulations

- One Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) required per person.
- A device capable of making a sound that's audible for a half-mile (such as an athletic whistle) required per boat.
- Operating watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal.

Enjoy the River, Leave No Trace

- Use only official river access sites to enter the river.
- Few river access sites have restrooms; plan ahead to use nearby facilities. Do not dispose of human waste on site.
- Leave rocks, plants, trees and artifacts as you find them.
- Be courteous and respect the privacy of others.



CHESAPEAKE BAY
GATEWAYS NETWORK



Help keep our river clean. Use the bags located on this kiosk to carry out all of your waste.