

# Chemung Basin River Trail

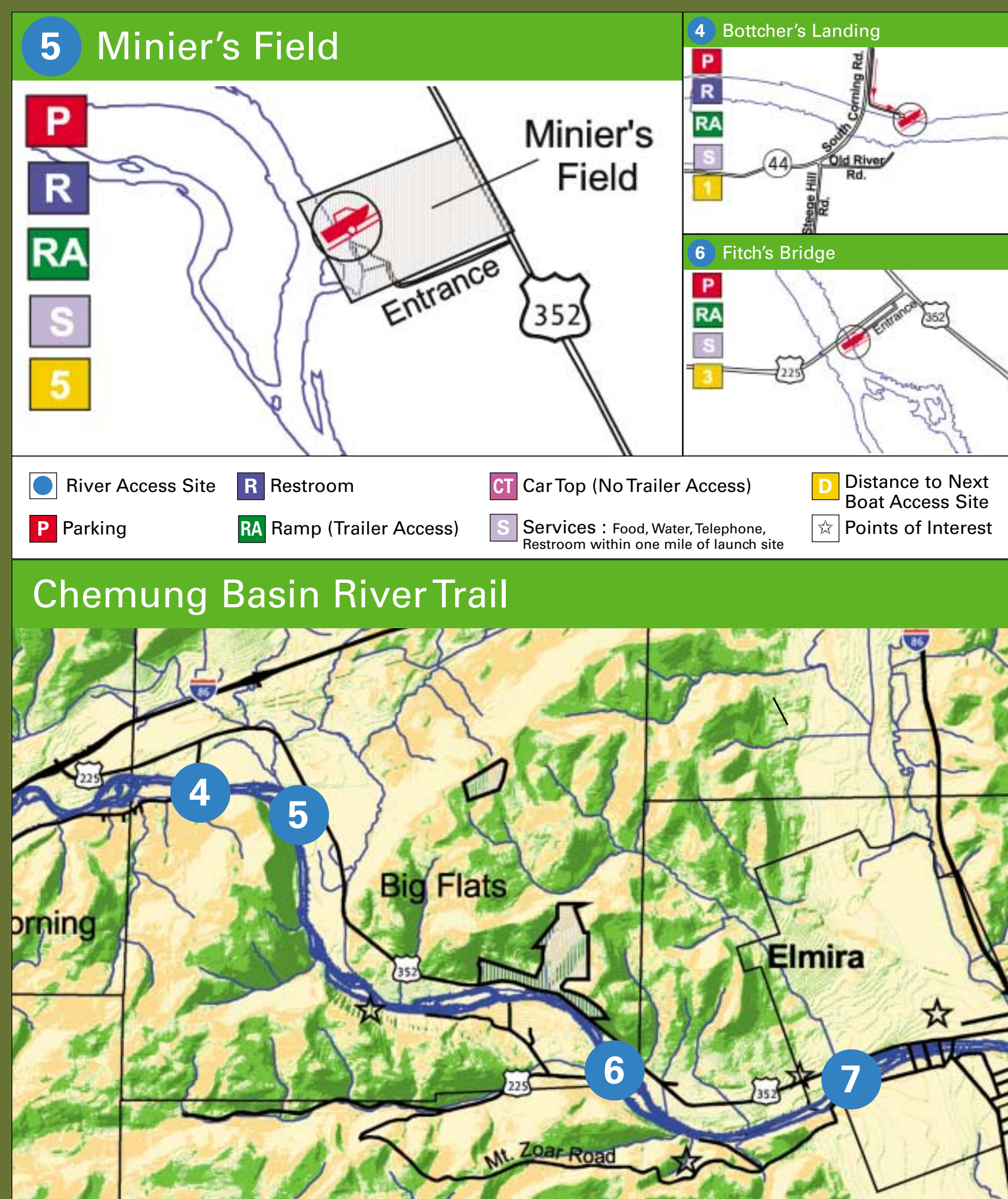


The Chemung Basin River Trail encompasses the Chemung, Tioga, Cohocton and Canisteo rivers. It provides a gateway to the Chesapeake Bay.

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.

## Minier's Field Access Site



## Minier Family First to Settle

In 1787, Christian Minier navigated the Chemung River to travel from his former home in Pennsylvania to set down roots in Big Flats. With his wife and seven children, he constructed the first log cabin and the first frame house, and planted the first orchard in the Town of Big Flats.



*Al Werner's sketch of the original Minier Brothers' Store. Courtesy of the Big Flats Historical Society.*

Following Christian's arrival, European settlement in the Chemung River Valley began in earnest. It was just after the Revolutionary War, and many Continental soldiers were awarded land in southern and central New York as payment for their service to the military.

John Minier, set up his two sons, Samuel and John Jr., in a building located at Canal and Main streets. For well over 100 years, a member of the Minier family has minded the family store.

After a century of population growth, the town needed a general store. In 1873, Christian's grandson,

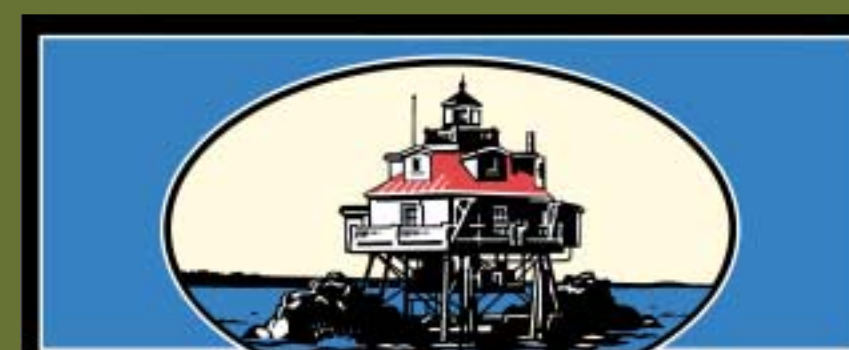
From Christian Minier's far-reaching roots, the Town of Big Flats continues to grow as an economic center and residential community.

## 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.