

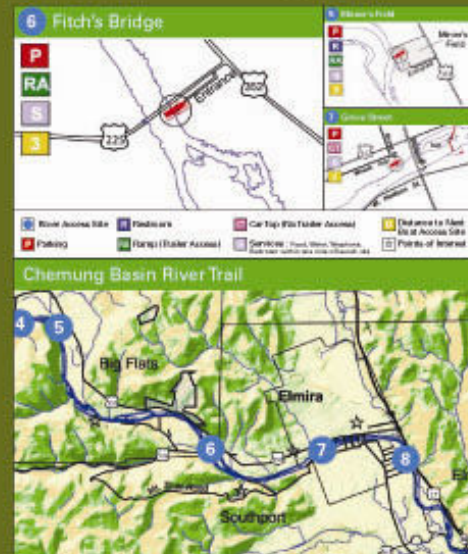
# Chemung Basin River Trail

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.

## Fitch's Bridge Access Site



## River Provides Fun, Poses Danger

**SPLASH!** At this site during the early 1900s, the brave of all ages, men and women alike, would ride the famous water toboggans created by Mrs. J.P. Frantz.

From a great height, the patrons would plunge down the slide and either splash into the water or sail out across it. One of the aims of the tobogganers was to skip out across the river as far as possible. Bathing suits were rented out to those who wished to join the activities. Witnesses often lined the river or paddled in boats nearby.

While the river provided recreation, it could also prove deadly. Fitch's Bridge was named after Ezra Fitch who



*Shoreline view of Fitch's Bridge and the famous early 20th-century water toboggan, ca. 1900. Courtesy of the Chemung County Historical Society.*

drowned attempting to ford the river. The original bridge at this location, constructed in 1881, was a covered wooden bridge known as Lumberman's Bridge. The following year, the bridge was replaced by an iron bridge, and renamed, as part of a project managed by Ezra Fitch's son, Daniel.

## 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.



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