At river’s edge —
the oldest town in Bucks County.

Bristol Borough is a bustling riverside community that incorporates its past into the fabric of its present. Located along the Delaware River, Bristol Borough is the oldest town in Bucks County and the second oldest borough in Pennsylvania.

The waterfront that once offered its abundance to the indigenous people of the Delaware now offers a serene, natural space for residents and visitors. The town’s mills have been converted into modern housing and commercial space for small businesses. In fact, it seems around every corner in Bristol, the past waits to be discovered as the present marches on.

Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia is an initiative of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) designed to foster the growth of the region’s older communities by promoting what makes each community a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Explore Bristol Borough, PA and the other Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia at classictowns.org.
Founded more than 300 years ago, Bristol Borough celebrates and preserves its rich historical heritage. The story of Bristol Borough is the story of America itself.

Living in Bristol Borough
To live in Bristol Borough is to know your neighbor. A small, close-knit community, friends and neighbors walk together, talk on the porch, or wave as they ride by.

Bristol's residents are part of a diverse and active community. A wide spectrum of ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds can be found in this 1.7 square mile town. Some of the oldest and most diverse places of worship in the county can be found in Bristol Borough. People of all faiths celebrate respectfully within blocks of one another.

As a testament to the community's shared respect for its diverse heritage, four ethnic festivals are held each year. Residents and visitors can be found at the waterfront sampling cultural cuisine, listening to live music, and taking part in the day's festivities.

Residents live in contemporary homes and charming historic houses and enjoy a strong and successful school system. Affordable and well-maintained, the average home price is $200,000 and residential rents average $700 a month.

Working in Bristol Borough
From a colonial market town, to a boom town during the Industrial Revolution, to its current incarnation as an oasis for small and large businesses, Bristol continues to be a place of economic growth and prosperity.

Jobs are plentiful in Bristol and its environs. Employment can be readily found with both large and small companies, as well as with many privately owned enterprises.

Business owners and entrepreneurs enjoy the benefits of a cooperative government, affordable commercial space, and a community that prides itself on supporting local businesses. All of this, coupled with an abundance of public parking, accessibility to public transportation, and Bristol's aesthetic beauty, make it an ideal location for anyone looking to start a business.

Professionals in all fields find Bristol to be an ideal commuter town. Bristol Borough offers affordable homes in an historic district and safe and family-friendly streets — all within an easy commute to Philadelphia, New York City, and beyond. Commuters also have the option of a public transportation system that is accessible and convenient.

Playing in Bristol Borough
There is something for everyone in this small town on the banks of the Delaware River.

The waterfront provides an entire spectrum of water sports: boating, fishing, kayaking, jet-skiing, and rowing. Nature buffs can tour the Nature Conservancy's Bristol Marsh or visit the Silver Lake Nature Center, the best protected coastal plain woodland remaining in the commonwealth.

Sports enthusiasts — spectators and athletes alike — will be pleased with the recreational options in the borough. The batting cages and baseball, softball, and soccer fields are buzzing with excitement all summer long, and the bleachers of Bristol High's football field and basketball court are bursting with activity during the fall and winter months.

Parents with young children can enjoy the playgrounds, attend Grundy Library programs, walk Spurline Park, or take ice skating classes offered at the ice rink.

Visiting Bristol Borough
Bristol Borough is a great walking town. Park the car and bring the dog, baby carriage, bikes, or just your walking shoes and stroll the four-mile Spurline Park that winds through its neighborhoods, parks, woodlands, playgrounds, and canals. Peruse the shops and eateries and get that old main street feeling reminiscent of a Norman Rockwell painting.

Enjoy the Grundy Museum and the cutting-edge Grundy Library or hike the trails at the Silver Lake Nature Center.

Visitors often take part in the activity teeming on the banks of the Delaware. They drop their lines in off the covered wharf or load in their canoes or kayaks to explore the coastline. Those who wish to just relax can grab an ice cream, gelato, or coffee and stroll along the rocky banks of the Delaware.

Visitors can take in the idyllic view for as far as the eye can see and witness the wide variety of birds — including bald eagles and osprey — that follow the flight path along the river.

For a more family friendly evening out, bring the coolers and lawn chairs to Waterfront Park on Sundays in the summer and take in a free concert, or enjoy some of the best festivals in the region that are held throughout the year.

Regional service is provided by SEPTA’s R7 Regional Rail Line and bus routes 128 and 129. Visit septa.org for schedules. Local service is provided by the Bristol Rush. Learn more at rushbus.org/bristol.htm.