

ACCESS SITES, BOAT RAMPS, CAMPGROUNDS

WATERWAYS GUIDE



ISN'T IT TIME FOR A LITTLE U.O.U.

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“With many acres of wild swamp to explore, Chesapeake is growing as a destination for birders and outdoor enthusiasts.”

-AAA World, March-April 2009



Come to Chesapeake and experience the most awe-inspiring waterways in Coastal Virginia. Paddle the Dismal Swamp Canal in the area surveyed by General George Washington's land company and encounter history in action. Weave through bald Cypress trees in Lake Drummond, a 3,100-acre pristine dreamland. Or follow the Northwest River along the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail to view our extraordinary flora and fauna. With some of the most beautiful waterways Mother Nature has to offer, Chesapeake is the perfect destination for your next outdoor waterways expedition.

WATERWAY LOCATIONS

1 DEEP CREEK LOCK PARK

Chesapeake Parks & Recreation
300 Luray Street 757.421.7151

This site has a dock step down and boat cleats. Site features floating dock and bank slide, paved parking lot and restroom facilities.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 44' 737" / W 076° 20' 439"

2 DISMAL SWAMP CANAL TRAIL (North Trailhead Gate)

Chesapeake Parks & Recreation
1200 Dismal Swamp Canal Trail 757.421.7151

This site is located along the Dismal Swamp Canal, the oldest continuously working man-made canal in the country. Access to the bank launch put-in ramp requires 80' portage from the parking lot. Site features include a paved parking lot and restroom facilities.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 41' 485" / W 76° 21' 523"

3 DISMAL SWAMP CANAL TRAIL SOUTH (Ballahack Boat Ramp)

Chesapeake Parks & Recreation
Intersection of State HWY RT 17 & Ballahack Rd 757.421.7151

The Dismal Swamp Canal is the oldest continuously working man-made canal in the U.S. and defines the eastern edge of the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. At the boat ramp, paddle south toward North Carolina and take the Feeder Ditch for easy access to Lake Drummond (one of only two natural lakes in Virginia).

The concrete ramp can accommodate larger boats, as well as canoes and kayaks. Site features restroom facilities and a gravel parking lot with ample parking for trailers and multiple cars.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 36' 257" / W 76° 22' 888"

4 BUNCH WALNUTS ROAD BRIDGE

Triple R Ranch
3531 Bunch Walnuts Road 757.421.4177

At the site of this gently arched bridge of bent pine and weathered steel – the only one of its kind in the Hampton Roads area – a smooth, easy water access is provided. Parking is limited. Check in at the Triple R Ranch office.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 36' 106" / W 76° 16' 583"

5 INDIAN CREEK ROAD

Chesapeake Parks & Recreation
1733 Indian Creek Road 757.421.7151

The gentle, sloping bank is good for launching small boats on trailers. The site is 1.2 miles west of the entrance to Northwest River Park & Campgrounds on Indian Creek Rd.; NWRP is a full service park with a boat dock, restrooms and a picnic area. Site features a small gravel parking area for 2-4 vehicles.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 35' 123" / W 76° 10' 012"

6 BAUM ROAD

Chesapeake Parks & Recreation
2212 Baum Road 757.421.7151

A site with easy access to Smith Creek and the Northwest River. Site features a small crush-and-run parking lot and easy water entry.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 43' 087" / W 076° 05' 982"

7 CENTERVILLE MARINA

100 N. Centerville Turnpike 757.547.4498

This is a privately-owned public access boat ramp that is geared toward power boats. Launch fees apply to all watercrafts including canoes and kayaks. Site features a large gravel parking lot and restroom facilities.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 43' 273" / W 76° 11' 123"

8 ELIZABETH RIVER BOAT LANDING & PARK

Chesapeake Parks & Recreation
103 Poindexter Street 757.421.7151

This 2-lane boat ramp is located on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River at the Jordan Bridge and a quarter-mile west of the Poindexter Street Exit (#4), off I-464. It has a 144' pier. Site features a large gravel parking lot, restroom facilities and a play area. NOTE: Area is prone to strong tidal flows and water level changes.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 48' 563" / W 76° 17' 142"

9 GREAT BRIDGE LOCK PARK

Chesapeake Parks & Recreation
100 Lock Road 757.421.7151

This 19-acre park with a 2-lane boat ramp is located at the end of Lock Road, or at transition of Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River and the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal on the Intracoastal Waterway at the Great Bridge bridge. Site features a large gravel parking lot and restroom facilities.

Longitude/Latitude: N 36° 43' 520" / W 76° 14' 810"



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KAYAKING SAFETY TIPS

There are basic safety rules that all kayakers should follow. Always use common sense and follow safety rules at all times.

Do Your Homework: Seek qualified instruction to learn proper paddling techniques, water safety and basic first aid before setting out.

Be Weather Wise: Be aware of weather conditions and water temperature. Prepare for changes in weather.

Avoid Overload: Never exceed the weight capacity of your kayak and always check your equipment for wear and tear before you paddle.

Dress for Success: A kayak life vest is often overlooked by experienced swimmers. Virginia law requires at least one lifejacket per person on board. When paddling in rivers, always wear a helmet.

Don't Be a Stranger: When paddling in a new area, be aware of local currents, shoreline conditions and weather patterns. Plan an "escape" route - an alternative place to get off the water - should environmental conditions dictate it. Abiding by these rules will help to make your kayak adventure safer and more fun.

Don't Go It Alone: Tell someone your paddle plan, which includes where you are going, what you will be doing, how long you expect to be gone and how many people are in your party. Then stick to your plan.

Avoid Horse Play: Kayaks and canoes are lightweight and small. Once seated inside a canoe or kayak, avoid unnecessary movement. Board the kayak in shallow water, then paddle out. Do not stand until you return to shallow waters and are ready to depart the kayak.

Be Prepared: Bring appropriate safety, rescue and navigational aids, and more-than-adequate food, water and extra protective clothing. Program the closest Emergency U. S. Coast Guard search and rescue number into your cell phone: (757) 638-6641.

Avoid Drugs and Alcohol: Never mix paddling with alcohol or drugs.

Be Visible: Wear bright colors so others can see you between waves or in the fog. Carry a bright light, flares and whistle to signal your position.

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

The essential equipment needed for recreational kayaking. Having all necessary gear ready when you are on the water will make your kayaking experience more enjoyable.

- Paddle
- Life Jacket (PFD)
- Whistle
- Paddle float
- Portable light for paddling after dark
- Clean drinking water
- Bilge pump in a dry bag
- Cell phone in a dry bag
- GPS and/or compass in a dry bag
- Proper footwear and clothing
- Extra clothing in a dry bag
- UV eye protection

CONTACT US

For additional information on Chesapeake waterways, call 757.421.7151 or visit www.cityofchesapeake.net/parks

Parks and Recreation Department
Chesapeake
VIRGINIA


Chesapeake Parks & Recreation 112 Mann Drive, Chesapeake, VA, 23322

For visitor information, call 1.888.889.5551 or 757.502.4898, or go to www.visitchesapeake.com.



CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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