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# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# **Rappahannock River Valley**

National Wildlife Refuge

The Hutchinson Trail





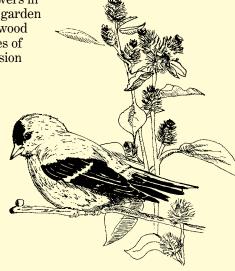
# Each season, your footsteps will lead to something new...

#### **SPRING**

- Songs of goldfinches, vireos, and other migratory birds as they arrive
- Verdant green colors as trees and grasses send out new growth
- Kingfishers moving in and out of cavity nests near the fishing pier

■ Perennial flowers in the butterfly garden

 Upland hardwood trees in stages of forest succession



#### SUMMER

- Butterflies flitting in and out of flowers in the butterfly garden
- Songs of warblers and other songbirds in early morning hours
- Ticks waiting to catch a ride
- Northern bob-white whistling their calls from the grasslands and hedgerows
- Warm-season grasses popping in the summer sun





### **FALL**

- Red-wing blackbirds forming large undulating aerial flocks
- Vibrant reds of sweet gums and maples, sun yellows of tulip poplars, and warm amber colors of tickseed sunflowers
- Berries of sumac, poke, and other fruiting woody and herbaceous shrubs
- The last flights of butterflies and bees
- Mounded lodges of muskrats in the marshes of Mt. Landing Creek



#### WINTER

- Songs of white-throated sparrows, Carolina wrens, and tufted titmice
- Flocks of Canada geese in V formation overhead
- Beautiful open views of the trees from the elevated walkway
- Stark grassland landscapes across the marsh from the fishing pier
- Sumac seed pods and gumballs along the trail

#### FINAL STEPS

# **Respect Wildlife**

- Observe wildlife from a distance so they are not scared or forced to flee.
- Carry binoculars or a spotting scope to view and photograph wildlife from observation areas and trails.

## **Be Considerate of all Visitors**

- Many people come to the outdoors to listen to nature; noise takes away from everyone's experience.
- Follow refuge regulations regarding bicycles, running on trails and pets.

# Stay on the Trail

- Concentrating travel on trails reduces the likelihood that tracks will scar the landscape.
- Please stay on the durable trail surface.

# Pack it in, Pack it out

- Carry a plastic bag with you and carry out all trash.
- Leave only footprints.

## **Minimize Impacts**

- Every part of this Refuge provides a home for creatures great and small.
- Please preserve this habitat.

## **Leave What You Find**

- Allow others a sense of discovery. Leave the Refuge as you found it.
- The removal of any public property including natural objects...on any National Wildlife Refuge is prohibited.

















