



Great Dismal Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge

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 - Hiking / Biking Trail
 - Boat Access Area
 - Pier

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Dismal Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge

Trails

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA 23434
757/986 3705
www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Dismal_Swamp

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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This blue goose, designed by J.N. “Ding” Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Located in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina, the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is a wonderful place to experience the beauty of nature. With more than 112,000 acres of forested wetlands and the 3,100 acre Lake Drummond at its center, the refuge contains some of the most important wildlife habitat in the mid-Atlantic region.

Visitor Opportunities

Refuge trails are open daily, sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise posted. Visitors may participate in a variety of activities including hiking, biking, nature photography, wildlife observation, hunting, fishing and boating. The refuge was established for the purpose of protecting and managing the swamp’s unique ecosystem which includes wildlife and habitat. Therefore, portions of the refuge may be periodically closed to public use activities in order to accomplish this objective.



Lake Drummond



Prothonotary warbler

Refuge Entrance Points

Washington Ditch Entrance
3076 White Marsh Road
Suffolk, VA

- The Washington Ditch Trail is the most often recommended trail for hiking and biking.
- ¾ mile boardwalk trail
 - 4 ½ mile dirt road for hiking and biking to Lake Drummond
 - Parking located 1 mile from entrance on White Marsh Road
 - Pier at Lake Drummond
 - Fishing from pier
 - Vault restrooms
 - Open daily, sunrise to sunset

Lake Drummond Wildlife Drive Entrance
Railroad Ditch Road
3120 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA

- This is the wildlife drive route to Lake Drummond.
- Self-serve permit required for auto access. Permits available at the entrance gate.
 - 6 miles of gravel road to Lake Drummond

- Underground Railroad Education Pavilion and boardwalk trail
- Cypress Marsh boardwalk trails
- West Ditch boardwalk trail
- Pier at Lake Drummond
- Fishing from pier or boat per terms of self-serve permit
- Boating access per terms of self-serve permit
- Wildlife Drive auto access with required self-serve permit. Gate opens every day with seasonal hours of April 1 through September 30, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, and October 1 through March 31 as 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- Open daily for hiking and biking, sunrise to sunset

Jericho Lane Entrance
1330 White Marsh Road
Suffolk, VA

- Four dirt roads for hiking and biking
- Parking located 2 miles from White Marsh Road on Jericho Lane
- Bird Banding Station, in season
- Vault restrooms
- Open daily, sunrise to sunset

Feeder Ditch
Dismal Swamp Canal
Chesapeake, VA

- A by-water only access to Lake Drummond. The Feeder Ditch connects the Dismal Swamp Canal to Lake Drummond.
- Fishing and boating are permitted year-round on Lake Drummond. A Virginia fresh water license is required.
 - Vessels are limited to a maximum 25 hp on the lake.
 - Lake hours are from sunrise to sunset.



Black bear

Portsmouth Ditch Entrance
3457 Martin Johnson Road
Chesapeake, VA

- Dirt roads for hiking and biking
- Vehicles are allowed to drive to the Big Entry bridge, two miles from Martin-Johnson Road. Parking is allowed on the roadside. Do not block bridge or road.
- Open daily for hiking and biking, sunrise to sunset

Headquarters/Pines Trail
3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA

- Foot trail through pine forest surrounding headquarters complex. Trail connects to Railroad Ditch Trail; ½ mile to Underground Railroad Education Pavilion.
- Open daily, sunrise to sunset, for hiking
- Gate to parking area open during office business hours.

Be Aware

- Cell phone coverage is limited.
- Insect repellent is suggested during warm season.
- Off trail travel is prohibited.
- Pets off leash prohibited.
- Collecting any plants or animals prohibited.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Ditch fishing prohibited.
- Camping and camp fires prohibited.
- A complete set of regulations is available from the refuge office.

Refuge Headquarters

3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA 23434
Offices hours: open Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, closed federal holidays.

Portions of the refuge may be temporarily closed to public use activities due to trail maintenance, prescribed burns, scheduled hunts, and other management activities. Check our website and Facebook page for special announcements.