Enter color-coded trail networks at these gated trail entrances:

- Railroad Ditch Entrance, 3120 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA
- Jericho Lane Entrance, 1330 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA
- Washington Ditch Entrance, 3076 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA
- Portsmouth Ditch Entrance, 3457 Martin Johnson Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Feeder Ditch Entrance (by water only), Dismal Swamp Canal, Chesapeake, VA
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, 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 objectives.

Lake Drummond

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 restroom
- 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.

- Selfserve permits required for auto access. Permits available at the entrance gate.
- 6 miles of gravel road to Lake Drummond

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 freshwater license is required.
- Vessels are limited to a maximum 25 hp on the lake.
- Lake hours are from sunrise to sunset.

Be Aware

- Cell phone coverage is limited.
- Insect repellant is suggested during warm season.
- Pets must be on leash at all times.
- Collecting any plants or animals prohibited.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Fishing prohibited.
- Campfires prohibited.
- A complete set of regulations is available from the refuge website.

Refuge Office
3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA 23434

Office 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.