



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck

National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Information

The refuge is open seven days a week:

April through September
7 AM to 7 PM

October through March
7 AM to 5 PM



Enjoy Your Refuge

Visitors to the refuge can enjoy hiking our 4 miles of trails to view birds and other wildlife or simply to enjoy the solitude. Whatever your reason for coming, the refuge is a place to learn about nature and the history of man's use of the land on the Neck. Our desire for each visitor is that they connect with nature in a meaningful way.

See reverse side of this sheet for a map of the refuge and a description of the refuge trails.



The Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. Great Marsh Trail is fully accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. Restrooms and facilities at the refuge parking lots and those located along the trail corridors have been constructed to meet current accessibility standards.



Enjoy the search for woodland songbirds, waterfowl and eagles as you hike through the mature upland forests of oak and hickory to the expansive tidal marsh habitat. Vistas and overlook platforms located along the trails provide secluded viewing points to capture photographs of wildlife and colorful landscapes. Bald eagles are best viewed during winter when large numbers congregate along the Potomac.



Protect Your Refuge

To ensure that plants and wildlife are protected, all visitors must remain on the trails. Wandering into the forest or marshes to explore or pursue other activities is strictly prohibited. Please plan your visit so that you are not on the trails after closing hours.



Pets must be kept on a leash and under your control at all times. The leash may not exceed 10 feet in length.



Do not collect or remove any natural or cultural objects including mushrooms, nuts, flowers, wood, rocks, feathers, bones, arrowheads or bottles.



Camping and outdoor fires are not permitted on the refuge.



Bicycles are not permitted on any of the refuge trails. Bike racks are available at the trail head parking lots. Bicycles are permitted on the High Point Multi-Use Trail.



Do not feed, disturb or capture any wildlife on the refuge. Do not release domestic or wild animals into the refuge. The use of mechanical or electronic devices to lure or attract wildlife is prohibited.



Fishing is not permitted on or from the refuge.



The refuge conducts deer management hunts each fall utilizing hunters selected by a lottery. Contact the refuge office or website for information on dates and requirements. Seasonal hunting and trapping of any wildlife or waterfowl on or from the refuge, unless part of a management hunt, is not permitted.



Lands within the boundary of the refuge are closed to public access with the exception of the refuge trails and the High Point Multi-Use Trail. We invite you to take advantage of the opportunities to see wildlife along these designated trail corridors. Area Closed signs designate additional areas closed to visitors to protect wildlife and plant life or to provide for safety.

Need immediate help? Dial 911 – Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge located along High Point and Gunston Road, Lorton, VA 22079. Want to report a violation or have a question? Dial 703/490-4979. For more information, consult the refuge brochure or visit our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/masonneck/index.html>.



Woodmarsh Trail

This 3-mile circuit begins at a parking lot off High Point Road. A hike along the trail provides you with an opportunity to wind your way through a mature eastern deciduous forest. A large covered platform with a telescope is located just over 1 mile from the parking lot and provides a sweeping view of the central portions of the 250 acre Great Marsh. This trail is composed of compacted soil and gravel. Some portions may become muddy after rains and some have steep up and down segments. Comfortable walking shoes are sufficient for navigating this trail. The lower portion of the trail is divided into three loops with the Fern Pass and Hickory Pass crossovers. A portable toilet is located off of the lower loop near Sycamore Road.

Portions of the Woodmarsh Trail may be closed from December 1 through the middle of June if eagles are nesting near the trail.

Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. Great Marsh Trail

The paved, ¾-mile long, mobility accessible trail is located on Gunston Road one mile east of High Point Road. The trail follows a forested ridge to the 250 acre Great Marsh. A platform at the end of the trail rewards the hiker with a view of the entire marsh. Benches spaced at intervals provide quiet rest stops along the 20 minute walk. This trail affords the best opportunity to observe bald eagles and wintering waterfowl.

Summers in this region are hot and humid with biting insects. Biting deerflies may hinder your visit from June through August. Carry water and use repellants. Check for ticks during and after your visit.