

# Eastern Neck

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex



#### Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Senator Chris Von Hollen  
Rep. Andy Harris (1st)

#### Profile

First unit established: 1962  
Current acres: 2,286  
FTEs: 2  
2016 volunteer hours: 1,580  
2016 visitation: 37,000

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is administered by the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which also administers Blackwater, Martin and Susquehanna NWRs.

FY 2016 Chesapeake Marshlands NWR Complex budget:

\*Salaries/ops. \$1,821,485  
Visitor Use Revenue \$65,517

\*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

#### Purpose

Eastern Neck NWR was established for the protection and management of habitat for migratory birds, threatened and endangered plants and animals, and other native species.

#### Public Use Notes

- Visitor contact station and bookstore
- Interpretive trails (3 fully accessible boardwalks with observation towers)
- Hunting (deer and turkey)
- Fishing and crabbing
- Public boat ramp (county permit)
- Environmental education
- Annual winter waterfowl walks
- Annual youth fishing day

#### Management Activities

- Managing 13 water impoundments to provide migratory bird habitat
- Managing a cooperative farming program on 426 acres to provide food for waterfowl and migratory birds
- Enhancing migratory bird habitat through prescribed burning
- Monitoring and protecting nesting bald eagles and their habitat
- Maintaining nest boxes and platforms for bluebirds, wood ducks and osprey
- Controlling invasive and exotic species
- Administering public hunts to introduce youth to hunting and to manage the refuge deer population
- Protecting wetland and upland habitats on the refuge

#### Contact

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[www.fws.gov/refuge/eastern\\_neck](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/eastern_neck)



Waterfowl at Tubby Cove

Heather Orkis

#### Highlights

- Visitors can observe an amazing number of waterfowl; in winter thousands of ducks fill coves on the refuge. About 500 tundra swans are an additional treat for visitors.
- 3,500' shoreline protection/ storm resiliency project is nearly complete.
- From October through April, migratory waterfowl, including tundra swans, geese and ducks, frequent the refuge.
- Shorebirds, and wading and marsh birds such as herons, egrets and rails, can be seen along the refuge's shores and marshes throughout the year.
- The refuge has implemented renewable energy technologies, such as solar panels.
- The refuge provides crucial spawning habitat for blue crabs, horseshoe crabs, rockfish, and terrapins.