U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wildlife Drive Map

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
Open Daily - Dawn to Dusk

LEGEND

Visitor Center
Auto Drive and Bike Trail
Walking Trail
Wooded Area
Marsh
Restroom
Education Building
Self Service Pay Station
Parking Area
Accessible Area
Observation Platform
Pollinator Sanctuary
Refuge Headquarters
Soft Launch
Photo Blind

Do not block the flow of traffic. If stopping for extended periods of time, please use designated pull-offs.
Welcome
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1933 as a refuge for migratory birds, primarily ducks and geese. The refuge includes more than 32,000 acres of tidal marsh, mixed pine/hardwood forests, managed freshwater wetlands, and croplands. It serves as an important resting and feeding area for migratory waterfowl and is one of the chief wintering areas for Canada geese using the Atlantic flyway. The refuge supports large populations of two formerly endangered species, the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel and the bald eagle.

To protect this haven we ask that you follow these regulations:

General visitor activities:
- A daily permit is required for all visitors to the Wildlife Drive.
- Boating is permitted in refuge waters dawn to dusk. From October 1 to March 31, waters between Route 335 and Maple Dam Road are closed to prevent disturbance to wildlife. Consult the refuge Visitor Center or web site for more information on seasonally closed waters.
- Fishing and crabbing are restricted to boats and the Key Wallace Drive causeway across the Little Blackwater River. No fishing or crabbing is permitted along any other refuge shoreline or the Wildlife Drive.
- Canoes, kayaks and small boats can be launched at the Route 335 Bridge soft launch and the launch adjacent to the Little Blackwater River Bridge on Key Wallace Drive. County public boat launches are located on Egypt Road, Smithville Road, and at Shorters Wharf.
- Airboat use is not permitted.

Safety:
- April through October, poison ivy is common along the trails. Remember the saying “leaves of three, let it be”.
- Biting insects and ticks are abundant from mid-April through mid-October. Protective clothing and insect repellent are recommended. You should check yourself carefully for ticks at the conclusion of your visit.

Visitor Center:
For more information please contact or stop by the Refuge Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is open 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.