

Featherstone

National Wildlife Refuge



A Hidden Sanctuary

Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge is the southernmost parcel of the three refuges that make up Potomac River NWR Complex. Adjacent to CSX Transportation and Virginia Railway Express, Featherstone NWR provides a safe sanctuary of 325 acres of upland forest and freshwater tidal marsh for migrating birds, wintering waterfowl, and a variety of mammalian species. Most of the habitat was acquired in 1979 from the District of Columbia with the remainder donated in 1992 by Prince William County.

A Beautiful Getaway via the Waterway

Public access to Featherstone is limited due to the railroad but recently a **non-motorized** boat landing on the southern end of Farm Creek has been constructed for public use. Water is the only point of access for the public currently until an agreement of safe access is reached between Prince William County and CSX.

Once landed, feel free to take a hike down the trail to discover what Featherstone has to offer. What better way to start a wildlife experience than by quietly paddling to it?

A map is located on the backside of this flyer illustrating non-motorized boat landing, trail, and waterways.



Animals of Featherstone's Forests and Marshes

The upland forests provide important areas where migrating birds can rest and refuel on their travels north in the spring and south in the fall. Notable species include prothonotary warbler, golden-winged warbler, and blackburnian warbler. Many birds such as eastern bluebirds, mockingbirds, and American robins nest here as well.

Amongst the tidal marshes, great blue herons, great egrets, and double crested cormorants fish for food. The shoreline also provides feeding and perching opportunities for osprey, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, and bald eagles.

During the winter months, waterfowl such as black ducks, mallards, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, and teal find shelter in the protected marshes.

Featherstone is just as important to mammals as it is to birds. White-tailed deer browse on vegetation in the forests while beavers cruise the wetlands. Red fox, raccoons, gray squirrels, and other small mammals thrive here as well.

For more information:

Refuge Headquarters: (703) 490-4979

Website:

<http://www.fws.gov/masonneck/complex/>



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge
Public Use Features



Data Sources:
 USFWS, USGS

Not to be used for legal purposes.

1: 12,000

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers

