



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Great Dismal Swamp

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Trails



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.



Bald Cypress trees on Lake Drummond



Prothonotary warbler

Refuge Entrance Points

Washington Ditch Trailhead

3076 White Marsh Road
Suffolk, VA

The Washington Ditch Trail is the most often recommended trail for hiking and biking.

- 3/4 mile boardwalk trail
- 4 1/2 mile stonedust road for hiking and biking to Lake Drummond
- Parking located 1 mile from entrance
- Pier at Lake Drummond
- Fishing from pier
- Vault restrooms

Jericho Lane Trailhead

1330 White Marsh Road
Suffolk, VA

- Five dirt roads for hiking and biking, including the 6 mile Pond Pine Woodland Loop
- Parking located 2 miles from White Marsh Road on Jericho Lane entrance
- Vault restroom

Railroad Ditch Trailhead
Lake Drummond Wildlife Drive

3120 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA

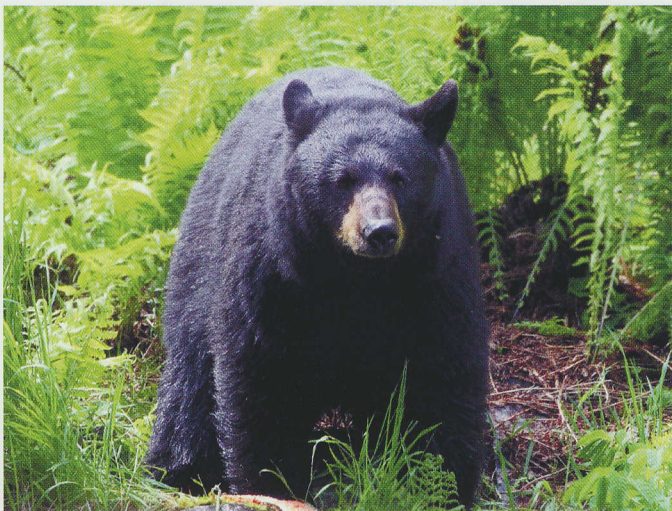
This is the wildlife drive route to Lake Drummond.

- Self-serve permit required for auto access (\$5 cash). Permits available inside the entrance gate
- 6 miles of gravel road to Lake Drummond
- Underground Railroad Education Pavilion and boardwalk trail
- Cypress Marsh boardwalk trail
- West Ditch boardwalk trail
- Pier at Lake Drummond
- Fishing from pier or boat (25 hp maximum)
- Gate opens for auto access daily with seasonal hours of:
 - April 1 through September 30, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm,
 - October 1 through March 31 as 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Portsmouth Ditch Trailhead

3457 Martin Johnson Road
Chesapeake, VA

- 3.5 mile Black Bear Trail (1 mile being along the road)
- 1.5 mile Kids in Park TRACK Trail (out and back portion of Black Bear Trail)
- 13 miles of dirt roads for hiking and biking beyond the gated Big Entry Bridge
- 2 parking areas on the entrance road at mile marker 0.6 and 1.6



Black bear

Feeder Ditch Water Trail

Dismal Swamp Canal
Chesapeake, VA

A water based access route to Lake Drummond. The Feeder Ditch connects the Dismal Swamp Canal to Lake Drummond. A short portage around the dam is required to access the lake.

- Fishing and boating are permitted year-round on Lake Drummond
- Vessels are limited to a maximum 25 hp on the lake
- Lake hours are from sunrise to sunset

Refuge Headquarters

3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA

- Foot trail through pine forest surrounding headquarters complex. Trail connects to Railroad Ditch Trail; 1/2 mile to Underground Railroad Education Pavilion

Be Aware

- Cell phone coverage is limited.
- Insect repellent is suggested during warm season.
- Off trail travel is prohibited.
- Pets must be on leash at all times.
- Collecting any plants or animals is prohibited.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Ditch fishing is prohibited.
- Camping and camp fires are prohibited.
- A complete set of regulations is available from the refuge website, listed on the back cover of the brochure.

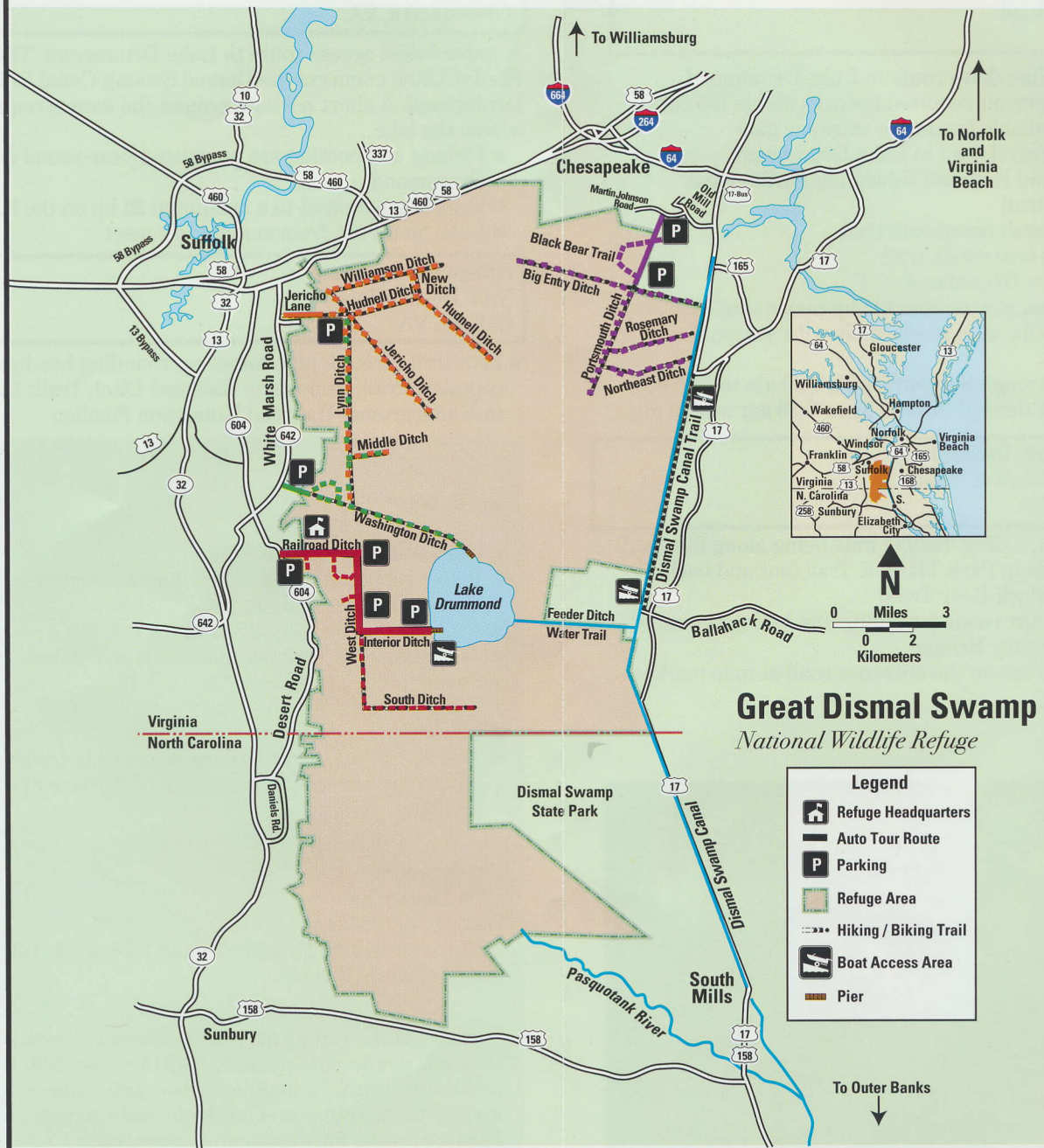
Headquarters

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.

TRAIL INFORMATION



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

- Washington Ditch Trailhead, 3076 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA
- Jericho Lane Trailhead, 1330 White Marsh Road, Suffolk, VA
- Railroad Ditch Trailhead, 3120 Desert Road, Suffolk, VA
- Portsmouth Ditch Trailhead, 3457 Martin Johnson Road, Chesapeake, VA
- Feeder Ditch Water Trail Entrance, Dismal Swamp Canal, Chesapeake, VA

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
3100 Desert Road
Suffolk, VA 23434
757/986 3705
www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Dismal_Swamp

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

June 2023



Washington Ditch Trail
USFWS