

**NORTHERN  
NECK  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**



Box 991  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482  
[www.northernneckaudubon.org](http://www.northernneckaudubon.org)

For details about Virginia's  
Birding and Wildlife Trails,  
check out

[www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov)

or

[www.dgif.state.va.us](http://www.dgif.state.va.us)

**Join the members of Northern Neck  
Audubon on our monthly bird walks!**

They're a great way to learn about local flora  
and fauna and to meet fellow nature lovers.

Check our website for more information.



**REMEMBER THAT THESE SITES HAVE  
SENSITIVE NATURAL HABITATS  
THAT NEED TO BE PROTECTED.**

*So please:*

- Stay on designated paths
- Remove nothing from the area
- Keep pets on a leash

Please note that most sites do not provide  
drinking water or bathroom facilities.

**NATURE WALKS  
in  
NORTHUMBERLAND  
AND  
LANCASTER COUNTIES**



*Birdwatching at Belle Isle State Park*

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## 1. Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve — FREE

At the mouth of Bush Mill Stream, freshwater meets the saltwater of the Great Wicomico River. Fresh to brackish tidal marshes and mud flats are hidden between the steep-sided forested shores of this upper Coastal Plain stream. The quiet waters are home to an abundance of waterfowl and wading birds, including colonial nesting birds and raptors. When parents are feeding their young, the marshes and adjacent tidal mud flats attract large numbers of great blue herons. This remote reach of stream and river is an excellent example of a habitat that once was abundant in the Chesapeake Bay drainage. Several ancient oaks and large mountain laurel remain in the mostly second growth forest of this preserve.

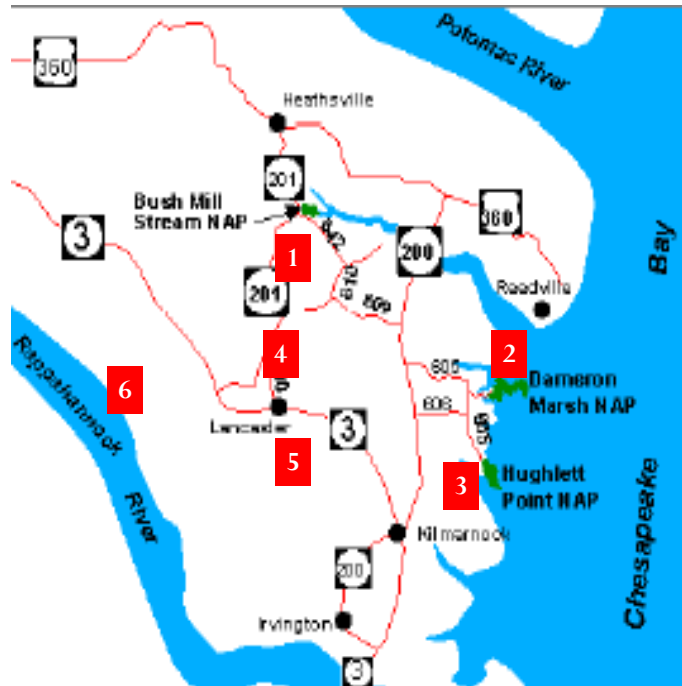
## 2. Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve — FREE

The 316-acre Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve contains one of the most significant wetlands on the Chesapeake Bay for marsh-bird communities, and its pristine beach habitat is very important for the survival of the federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle.

Dameron Marsh supports impressive salt marsh communities, sand beach, and upland forest habitats. Efforts to conserve sites like Dameron Marsh are an effective means to sustain important coastal ecosystems that support both rare and common species of plants and animals.

### 3. Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve — FREE

Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve contains several excellent examples of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, as well as exemplary undeveloped beaches, dunes, and upland forests. The preserve supports the federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle and other rare invertebrates. Hughlett Point is an important wintering area for migrating waterfowl and songbirds, and provides habitat for bald eagles, osprey, and northern harriers.



#### 4. Hickory Hollow Nature Preserve — FREE

Hickory Hollow's 254 acres of mixed pine-hardwood forest, ravines, and Cabin Swamp form an important habitat for migratory songbirds, wild turkey, and rare plants. Cabin Swamp is an exceptional quality wetland community that supports a very high diversity of plants- perhaps 500 plant species, including several (like the lady slipper pictured here) that typically appear only in the mountains.



## 5. Chesapeake Trail — FREE

This trail runs through twelve acres of mature mixed forest with mountain laurel, an ephemeral pond, a tidal marsh and a fern glade. Many wild flowers and different types of ferns are evident throughout the area.

## 6. Belle Isle State Park — Fee for Admission

The park has seven miles of frontage on the north shore of the Rappahannock, and it borders Deep and Mulberry creeks. It features diverse tidal and non-tidal wetlands, lowland marshes, tidal coves and upland forests. The diverse habitats found in the park provide homes to many predator birds (such as blue herons, osprey, hawks and bald eagles) as well as white-tailed deer, turkeys, groundhogs, rabbits, squirrels, moles, reptiles and amphibians. There are eight distinct types of wetlands within the park. These diverse ecosystems make Belle Isle an excellent outdoor laboratory for environmental education.