

Cat Point Creek Water Trail

Legend











Cat Point Creek Water Trail

EXPERIENCE LEVEL

— Novice

— Expert



Points of Interest

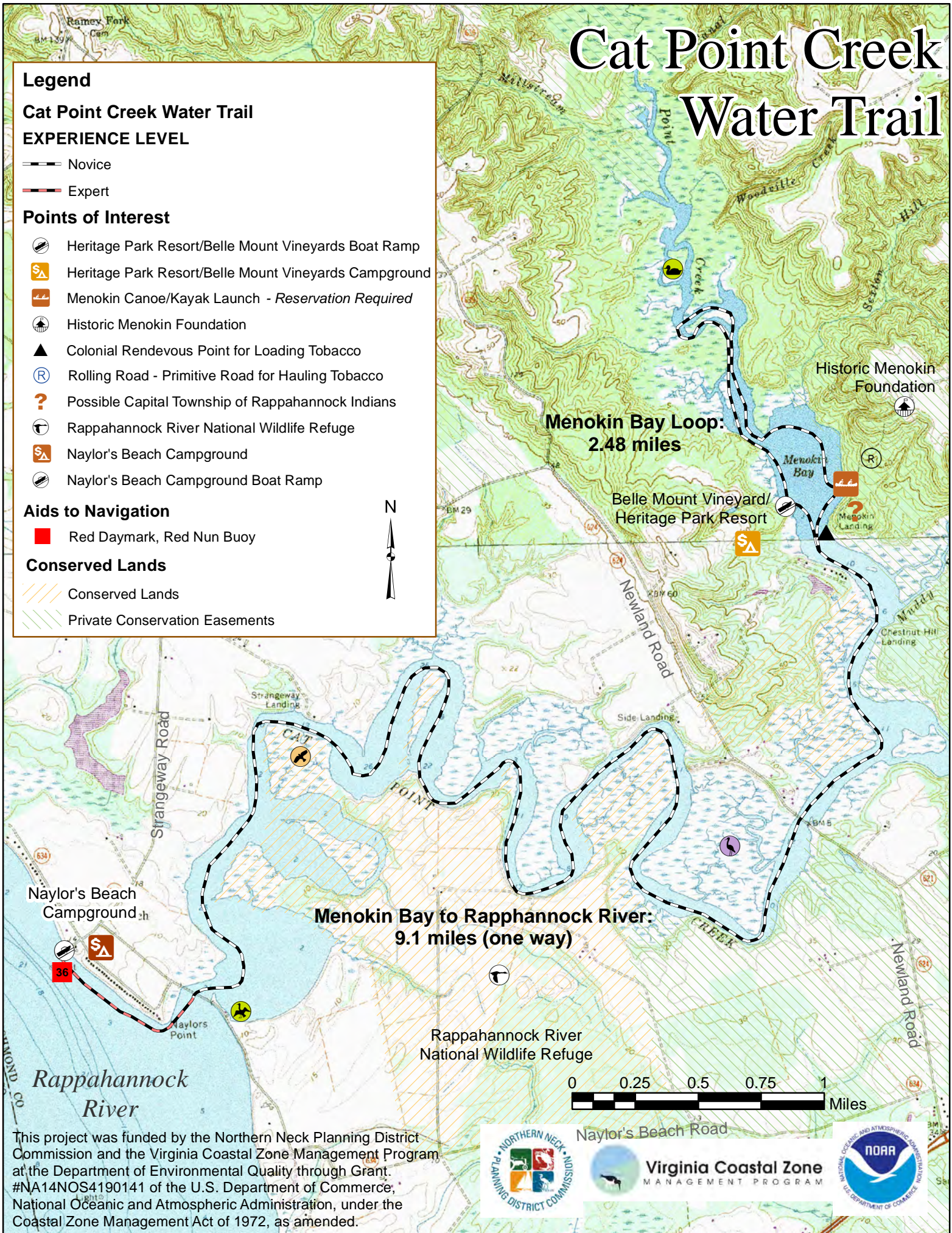
-  Heritage Park Resort/Belle Mount Vineyards Boat Ramp
-  Heritage Park Resort/Belle Mount Vineyards Campground
-  Menokin Canoe/Kayak Launch - *Reservation Required*
-  Historic Menokin Foundation
-  Colonial Rendezvous Point for Loading Tobacco
-  Rolling Road - Primitive Road for Hauling Tobacco
-  Possible Capital Township of Rappahannock Indians
-  Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge
-  Naylor's Beach Campground
-  Naylor's Beach Campground Boat Ramp

Aids to Navigation

-  Red Daymark, Red Nun Buoy

Conserved Lands

-  Conserved Lands
-  Private Conservation Easements



Menokin Bay to Rappahannock River:
9.1 miles (one way)

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

This project was funded by the Northern Neck Planning District Commission and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA14NOS4190141 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.



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Menokin Bay Loop:
2.48 miles

Belle Mount Vineyard/
Heritage Park Resort

Newland Road

Naylor's Beach
Campground

Menokin Bay to Rappahannock River:
9.1 miles (one way)

Rappahannock River
National Wildlife Refuge

Rappahannock
River

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Naylor's Beach Road

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Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The majority of the Cat Point Creek Water Trail is sheltered and ideal for novice paddlers. However, the lower section of the trail from Naylor's Beach Road Bridge out into the Rappahannock River to the Naylor's Beach Boat Ramp is recommended for expert paddlers due the possible high wind and wave exposure in this area.

The Heritage Park-Belle Mount Vineyards launch ramp is visible in the background of the photo on right. To contact Heritage Park - Belle Mount Vineyards contact them at 804.333.4038 or find them on the web at <http://www.heritagepark.com>.

Across Menokin Bay from the Heritage Park launch ramp is Menokin. Menokin was the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. To access Menokin from Cat Point Creek, you need to make a reservation with Menokin by calling 804.333.1776.

The canoe landing point has a trail leading upland to the ruins of Menokin.

Staff at Menokin will be glad to show you the ruins, explain how life was back in colonial times and describe some of the features of the nearly 500 acres that the Menokin Foundation owns.

From historical records, there is indication of a major Indian settlement that was located on Cat Point Creek in pre Colonial times. While the exact location is unknown, the area of was on the banks of Cat Point Creek a mile or so upstream. That area is near where Heritage Park and Menokin are located. It is interesting to note that the Cat Point Creek area has been an ideal habitat for humans for at least several centuries!

Cat Point Creek is one of the most pristine creeks on the Northern Neck Peninsula. There is little development on the creek, due in part, to the low bridges that cross the creek. In addition, some of the land bordering Cat Point Creek is part of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and as such, will not be developed into the future. Near Menokin Bay, the water is tidal freshwater and you can catch crappie, bluegill, perch, catfish, as well as largemouth bass. In the Spring, shad and herring migrate upstream to spawn, as well as striped bass. In the lower sections of Cat Point Creek, where the water is saltier, you can catch spot, croaker in the summer months.



The upper portion of the Cat Point Creek Water Trail near Menokin Bay is tidal freshwater, while the lower portion of the trail near Naylor's Beach is brackish water. Therefore, you will see a marked change in the type of vegetation found on the banks of Cat Point Creek as you progress upstream or downstream the creek.

At right is a photo from Menokin Bay in upper Cat Point Creek. The vegetation is thick in this tidal freshwater habitat and includes Arrow Arum, Pickerelweed and Yellow Pond Lily in the foreground. In the background you can see some trees that are dying, most likely from sea level rise inundating their root system.

There are two launch/retrieve points for the Cat Point Creek Water Trail, one upstream on Menokin Bay (Heritage Park) and one near the mouth of Cat Point Creek (Naylor's Beach Campground). To contact Naylor's Beach Campground call 804.333.3951 or visit them on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/naylorsbeach>

To arrive at Naylor's Beach Campground from the town of Warsaw, travel west on US 360 approximately 2.4 miles and take a right onto Rt. 624 (Newland Rd.). Travel around 1/8 of a mile and take a left onto Rt. 634 (Naylor's Beach Rd.) Travel 3.9 miles to the intersection with Rt. 636 (Strangeway Rd.) Take a right at this intersection (you will still be on Naylor's Beach Rd.) and travel 1/10th of a mile to the boat ramp. To reach the Heritage Park Resort - Belle Mount Vineyard's boat ramp travel to Warsaw, then west on US 360 for approximately 2.4 miles, turn right onto Rt. 624 (Newland Rd.) for 2.5 miles and look for the Heritage Park Resort sign on the right side of the road.

