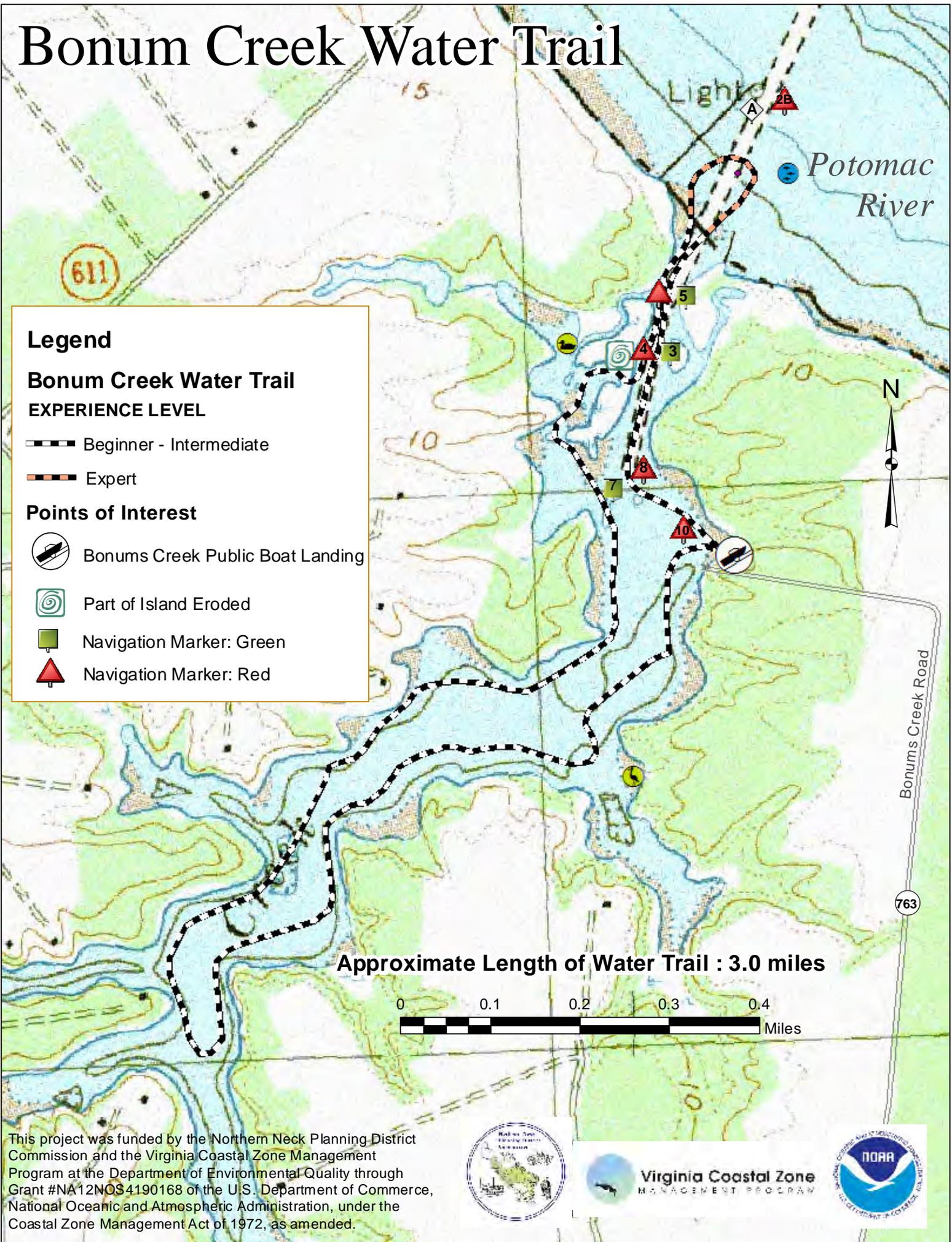


Bonum Creek Water Trail



Legend

Bonum Creek Water Trail

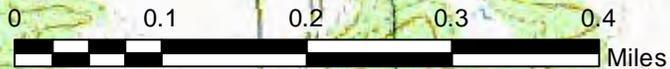
EXPERIENCE LEVEL

- Beginner - Intermediate
- Expert

Points of Interest

- Bonums Creek Public Boat Landing
- Part of Island Eroded
- Navigation Marker: Green
- Navigation Marker: Red

Approximate Length of Water Trail : 3.0 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 #NA12NOS4190168 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.



Bonum Creek Water Trail

Potomac River

Legend

Bonum Creek Water Trail EXPERIENCE LEVEL

-  Beginner - Intermediate
-  Expert

Points of Interest

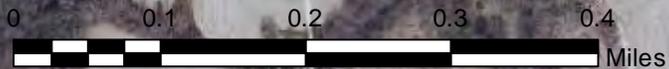
-  Bonums Creek Public Boat Landing
-  Part of Island Eroded
-  Navigation Marker: Green
-  Navigation Marker: Red



Bonums Creek Road

763

Approximate Length of Water Trail : 3.0 miles



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The majority of the Bonum Creek Water Trail is intended for beginner to intermediate paddlers, with the Potomac River section requiring advanced to expert paddling skills.

Bonum Creek is a sheltered creek that is off the Potomac River on the Virginia side in eastern Westmoreland County, upriver from the larger Yeocomico River. While Bonum Creek is relatively small, it makes an ideal paddling environment, due to its sheltered nature and lack of residential development along the shoreline. As a result of the relatively natural setting along the banks of Bonum Creek, you are likely to see more waterfowl and wildlife along the shoreline. If you decide to venture to the mouth of Bonum Creek, and into the Potomac River, you will see a jetty on the port (left) side as you leave the creek. A jetty is an armored stone wall that juts out into the water to protect the creek navigation channel from shoaling in. Sand is normally transported along the shoreline, this is called littoral drift, and a jetty is designed to intercept this littoral drift and collect the sand and sediment.

This area near Bonum Creek is home to many species of fish, and shellfish. Bonum Creek is located near the edge of the ideal salinity range for oysters. The two rivers downstream of Bonums have thriving oyster beds as well as oyster aquaculture. Next door to the Bonum Creek boat launch ramp, is an oyster house, Bonums Oyster Company, Inc. Bonums Oyster Company is a wholesaler of local seafood and oysters, so you may see a Chesapeake Bay Deadrise Boat tied up to their dock.

In the picture to the right, you can see Bonum Creek public boat launch ramp, which recently was transferred from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to Westmoreland County. Westmoreland County undertook a renovation of the site and re-constructed the boat ramp and courtesy pier.



Bonum's Creek Landing
Public Boat Launch Ramp



In 1608, this land was near the border between two woodland Algonquin Indian chiefdoms, the Chicacoan to the East and the Matchotic to the West. Each chiefdom was ruled by a leader called a Werowance. The Werowance lived in the largest village which the center of trade and activity in the chiefdom, similar to our county seats. Other smaller villages were scattered through the chiefdom, as well as temporary hunting and gathering temporary camps, sometimes near the mouth of creeks. There is no historical record of skirmishes between the two chiefdoms, but likely there was some conflicts over prime hunting grounds or over oyster gathering bars at times of low tide.

Be sure to check the marine forecast from the National Weather Service for the Potomac River from Cobb Island to Smith Point area by clicking on the Potomac River polygon on the map at : <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/akq>

Boaters also need to be in compliance with Virginia boating equipment regulations regarding personal flotation devices, sound producing devices, and visual distress signals. More information can be found here: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/wog/equipment-regulations.asp>

Directions to Bonum Creek Landing public boat launch follow.

From Callao in neighboring Northumberland County, turn left onto Hampton Hall Road, Rt. 202 towards Westmoreland County. Approximately eight miles from Callao on on Rt. 202, turn right onto State Rt. 611 Zion Church Road, follow for 0.9 miles and turn right again onto Rt. 610 Rose Tucker Road. Go 1.3 miles and turn right onto Tucker Hill Road, Rt. 606. After 0.6 miles, turn left onto Rt. 663, Kelly Road, with a slight right in 0.9 miles onto Rt. 763 Bonums Creek Road and follow to the end where the boat ramp is located.

