

Totuskey Creek Water Trail

Legend

Points of Interest

- Totuskey Creek Boat Ramp
- Possible Birds of Prey
- Possible Wading Birds
- Possible Waterfowl
- Phragmites
- Marsh Mallow
- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Old Granary

Aids to Navigation

- Green Daymark
- Red Daymark

Experience Level

- Novice-Intermediate
- Intermediate-Advanced

Intermediate-Advanced
Trail Loop is 9.61 miles

Novice-Intermediate
Trail Loop 6.61 miles

Folly Neck

Waverly Point












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 #NA16NOS4190171 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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-  Phragmites
-  Marsh Mallow
-  Picnic Area
-  Parking
-  Old Granary

Aids to Navigation

-  Green Daymark
-  Red Daymark

Experience Level

-  Novice-Intermediate
-  Intermediate-Advanced

Intermediate-Advanced Trail Loop is 9.61 miles

Novice-Intermediate Trail Loop 6.61 miles

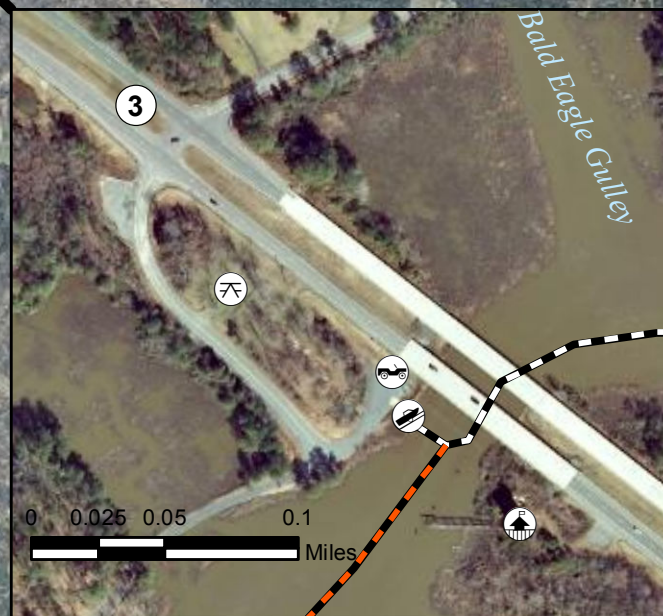
Rappahannock River

Waverly Point

Folly Neck

History Land Highway

Bald Eagle Gulley



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



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The Totuskey Creek Water Trail is based from the Totuskey Creek launch ramp, off of Route 3 in Richmond County, VA. The water trail routes explore both up and downstream on this tidal creek. Totuskey Creek is fed by streams in central Richmond County, ending in the brackish waters of the Rappahannock River. Riparian marshlands flank the sides of the creek for most of the trail. This mixture of environments creates a unique habitat shared by many diverse species of plants and animals, making Totuskey appealing to those interested in both birding and fishing. Additionally, the Native American history of the creek also appeals to those interested in the location's historical value.

From the creek's boat launch and dock, travelers can choose to take trails up or downstream. The calm, sheltered waters of the creek make its waters easily navigable for boaters, kayakers, and canoers. Going upstream, however, can be hazardous for larger boats as high tides can decrease the clearance beneath the bridge and shallow waters can lead to grounding for boats with large drafts.



The upstream trail begins after travelling beneath the Totuskey Creek Bridge and follows the narrower meander of the creek. Not long into the trail, travelers will find themselves in waters out of

sight from any development, providing a view of some of the untouched nature that can be found in the Northern Neck. The trail ends where the water significantly narrows, though paddlers can choose to continue up the shallower waters at their own discretion. Paddlers on this trail are also free to explore Bald Eagle Gulley, a shallow, northern offshoot at the beginning of this trail.



Downstream, the trail begins by passing the remains of an old granary and following the creek to its mouth at the Rappahannock River. This loop provides views of several historic buildings along the banks of the creek. The creek ends near the Richmond County community of Wellford and across from the Essex County community of Wares Wharf, both of which served as steamboat landings during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Totuskey Creek also holds a rich Native American history. The creek originally served as the eastern end of the Rappahannock Tribe's territory. During John Smith's 1608 expedition up the Rappahannock, he recorded two small villages (Menaskunt and Auhomesk) near the Totuskey's mouth. By the mid-17th century, both the Rappahannock and their rivals, the Morattico, appear to have put aside their differences and settled a town called Totas Chees (or Totuska/Totusha), which was located up Bald Eagle Gulley. English colonists purchased patents from them for land at the mouth and eastern banks of the creek in 1651 while the western side served as

boundary for the Rappahannock Reservation, extending between Totuskey and Cat Point Creeks. In 1667, the Native tribes sold their town and moved across the Rappahannock to the Middle Peninsula, likely attempting to avoid advancing settlers and to seek higher elevations after the disastrous storms that destroyed their houses and crops earlier that year.

Also worth mention is the 1778 baptism of Robert Carter III that occurred in this creek. Carter was an American plantation owner recognized for freeing the largest number of slaves prior to the Civil War.

For those interested in angling or birding, the creek is home to several species of fish. Upstream from the boat ramp, it is common to find largemouth bass, white and yellow perch, and snakeheads. Blue catfish, croaker, and puppy drum can be found in the middle ranges of the creek, close to the boat ramp. Downstream, in the saltier waters are perch and striped bass. The creek is also home to many species of birds such as bald eagles, osprey, blue heron, kingfishers and waterfowl.

Directions to the Totuskey Creek boat landing: Take Richmond Road southeast from the town of Warsaw until it meets up with VA State Route 3. After turning right, follow this road for 2.5 miles. Just before Totuskey Creek Bridge, take a right onto Woodyard Road and follow it to the creek. On the left are the boat ramp, a dock, and several parking spaces.



A digital map of the Totuskey Creek Water Trail is available at:
www.northernneck.org/parks-nature-trails/