

*“And in divers places that abundance of fish lying so thick with their heads above the water as for want of nets (our barge driving amongst them) we attempted to catch them with a frying pan, but we found it a bad instrument to catch fish with. Neither better fish, more plenty, nor more variety for small fish had any of us ever seen in any place so swimming in the water than in the Bay of Chesapeack, but they are not to be caught with frying pans!”*

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH  
ON THE POTOMAC IN JUNE 1608



## “The Nation’s River”

### EXPLORING THE POTOMAC FROM ITS MOUTH TO THE NATION’S CAPITAL

Captain John Smith and his crew steered their *Discovery Barge* “with the River Patawomeck” on June 16, 1608, on their way south from the Patapsco River. The weary crew had persuaded Smith to turn back to Jamestown without reaching the head of the Bay during that summer’s first voyage. By the time they reached the Potomac, however, the crew had apparently regained their courage and curiosity about the Chesapeake. They launched a four-week odyssey that Smith described in his accounts and detailed map.

The English sailed, rowed, and allowed themselves to be towed up the river, visiting multiple local Indian communities on the way. They took the *Discovery Barge* to the head of navigation at Little Falls, from which Smith led a small party overland to Great Falls, where they planted a cross. They also met a canoe of local Indians who fed them game.

According to Smith, he and his crew were repulsed by one tribe on the lower Potomac whose chief claimed that his orders came from Powhatan, although there is no other historical indication that Powhatan’s influence extended to the Potomac. During his explorations of the Potomac, Smith was aided in his visits to local tribes by Mosco, an Wighcocomoco Indian with a black beard (possibly a result of European ancestry).

Mosco, whom Smith had met earlier, acted as an ambassador for the English during their visits on both sides of the river. It was Mosco who persuaded the Patawomeck chief to provide Smith with guides who showed him a reputed silver mine on part of what is today the Quantico Marine Reservation near Washington, D.C. In his book *John Smith in the Chesapeake*, Edward W. Haile recounts a version of the Potomac exploration, using clues from Smith’s journals and his map. (See Resources on p. 1.)

Publication of Captain John Smith’s map began to open up the Chesapeake in general and the Potomac River in particular, beginning in 1634 with establishment of the Maryland colony at St. Mary’s City on the river of the same name. Twenty-one years later, upriver on the Virginia side, John Washington patented a plantation he named Wakefield, on the river shore beside a waterway he named Pope’s Creek. His great-grandson, George, was born there 77 years later. The site is now the George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

As the 17th century flowed into the 18th, a sophisticated plantation society developed on both sides of the river, in what became Southern Maryland and the Northern Neck of Virginia. Families like the Brents and Lancasters in Maryland and the Lees and Washingtons in Virginia put down deep roots along the river that endure today. Although both sides of the river have seen a surge of summer cottages and permanent homes of retirees over the past century, the lower reaches of the Potomac still have a lovely pastoral quality, especially beside tributaries such as the Yeocomico River and Nomini Creek on the Northern Neck, and the St. Mary’s and Wicomico rivers in Southern Maryland.



PHOTO BY SARAH ROGERS

Smith’s map opened the Potomac to English settlement, including the ancestral home of George Washington. Washington’s birthplace is now a national monument.

#### PREVIOUS PAGE

Point Lookout State Park, at the mouth of the Potomac River, is a popular fishing spot on the Smith trail.

PHOTO BY SARAH ROGERS

### RESOURCES&CONTACTS

Learn more about the Potomac's rich natural and cultural resources:

#### POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, part of the National Trails System, is a developing network of locally managed trails, parks, and historic sites between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands. Blending outdoor recreation and educational opportunities, the trail network along the tidal Potomac includes the Mount Vernon Trail, various hiking and water trails, and bicycling routes in Southern Maryland and on Virginia's Northern Neck.

304-535-4014, [www.nps.gov/pohe](http://www.nps.gov/pohe)

#### POTOMAC RIVER WATER TRAIL

A water trail map and guide, covering the 115 miles of the lower Potomac River from Washington, D.C., to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, is available from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

[www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/mdwatertrails/southern.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/mdwatertrails/southern.asp)



PHOTO BY CHRIS SPIELMANN

The 40-mile Occoquan Water Trail joins the Potomac River Water Trail, accessing seven regional parks, a county park, two state parks, two national wildlife refuges, and the town of Occoquan on its way.

### EXPLORING THE POTOMAC RIVER TODAY

Establishment of the Nation's Capital at the upper reaches of the Potomac River has resulted in heavy development along both sides of the river, with commuter suburbs now extending south from the Washington area nearly to the Route 301 bridge. Fortunately, land preservation efforts on both sides of the Potomac have preserved some large tracts of forested lands, such as the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, just above the mouth of the Occoquan River on the Virginia side, and Piscataway Park on the Maryland side, opposite George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. Juxtaposition of old-growth woods and the river produce excellent habitat for bald eagles.

For many years, Washington, D.C., and its suburbs sent excessive loads of sewage and stormwater pollution into the Potomac. The federal Clean Water Act of 1972 initiated a long restoration process that began to bear encouraging fruit in the 1980s, making the river safe again for water sports such as fishing and sailing. The Potomac has certainly rebounded significantly and is well worth exploring by boat. Population growth, however, continues to challenge restoration efforts. With more than four million people living along its tidal reaches and many more upstream in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, and western Maryland, we should never take the health of "the nation's river" for granted again.

## Good Vessels for Exploring



#### PADDLE CRAFT (CANOES AND KAYAKS)

The creeks and protected shores of the Potomac are well suited for exploring in self-propelled vessels such as canoes and kayaks. The river itself is large and powerful, with frequent heavy traffic and strong currents. Explore it only if you are an experienced and physically fit sea kayaker and you know the precautions you must exercise to stay safe.

If you're a novice or intermediate paddler, keep to shorter trips inside creeks like those at Point Lookout State Park and Dyke Marsh. There's plenty to explore there that will delight you, especially if you are interested in the American Indian stories related to Captain John Smith's national historic trail.



#### SKIFFS AND RUNABOUTS

Skiffs and runabouts make great vessels for day trips on the Potomac and its large tributaries, such as Nomini Creek and the Port Tobacco River. They'll also serve well in side creeks, provided they're equipped to deal with mud flats and submerged logs. This is a big river, and its main stem can kick up rough. If you're going to explore the Potomac, maintain your boat carefully, equip

it properly with safety and emergency gear, plan your itineraries, and leave a float plan with family or friends.

The Potomac offers plenty of marina facilities with service shops, tow boat companies, and emergency services. Even so, it pays to be prepared and to keep your itineraries within your skills. Even short trips can reveal beautiful, fascinating places here.



### CRUISING POWERBOATS

Cruising powerboats, like trawlers and cruisers with Chesapeake or Downeast workboat hulls, are excellent choices for exploring the Potomac, especially if they're equipped with seaworthy dinghies, canoes, or kayaks (great combinations for places like Nomini and Mattawoman creeks).

Whether you cruise at 7 knots or 15, be sure to actively observe the river. Don't let the boat insulate you from the waters, shorelines, and wildlife. Even if your boat can cruise faster, don't. As one wise builder of cruising boats once said, "Over 15–16 knots, you miss too much."

If you navigate carefully, you'll find that the Potomac will offer a wide enough channel that you can cruise relatively close to shore, keeping you in close touch with what is there as well as out in the water. Watch your wake—keep it low to protect sensitive shorelines and avoid disturbing people in small boats and other watercraft.



### CRUISING SAILBOATS

Among the Chesapeake's rivers, the Potomac is one of the few large enough to offer consistent winds and maneuvering room for cruising sailboats, as well as multiple secluded, but deep, secure anchorages. Also, below Alexandria, the only two bridges (Woodrow Wilson on the Capital Beltway and Morgantown on Route 301) are high enough to allow most cruising sailboats underneath.

This river is the next best part of the Chesapeake Bay system to explore under sail as Smith did (after the main Bay itself). Upstream of Colonial Beach, Virginia, and Cobb Island, Maryland, the Potomac River narrows considerably and turns through a tight east-west dogleg between Mathias Point and Potomac Creek (site of the Indian town of Patawomeck). There are more twists and turns between the mouth of the Occoquan River and Fort Washington. It's a beautiful river, and plenty of boats sail it today, but it will make a modern skipper appreciate the skills of those who have sailed the Potomac before.

## FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

### *Chesapeake Bay Gateways*

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is part of a much larger story of the Chesapeake Bay—a story with rich historical, natural, and environmental chapters for your discovery and enjoyment. Throughout the Bay watershed a variety of parks, wildlife refuges, maritime museums, historic sites, and trails tell their part of the Chesapeake story. These special places are part of the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. Visit them to experience the authentic Chesapeake.

Many of these Gateways to the Chesapeake are located along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Those with boating access to the water trail are noted throughout this Boater's Guide. Others await your exploration by land. You can make virtual visits via the Gateway Network's website at [www.baygateways.net](http://www.baygateways.net) where you can find sites by name, location, activities, or themes. As you travel the Potomac River, learn more about important Chesapeake connections at the following Gateway sites and attractions.

### CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS ALONG THE POTOMAC RIVER

Point Lookout State Park • Scotland, MD  
 Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park • Scotland, MD  
 Historic St. Mary's City • St. Mary's City, MD  
 St. Clement's Island – Potomac River Museum • Colton's Point, MD  
 Stratford Hall Plantation • Stratford, VA  
 Westmoreland State Park • Montross, VA  
 George Washington Birthplace National Monument • Colonial Beach, VA  
 Caledon Natural Area State Park • King George, VA  
 Smallwood State Park • Marbury, VA  
 Leesylvania State Park • Woodbridge, VA  
 Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge • Lorton, VA  
 Mason Neck State Park • Lorton, VA  
 Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge • Woodbridge, VA  
 Piscataway Park/National Colonial Farm • Fort Washington, MD  
 Fort Washington Park • Fort Washington, MD  
 Huntley Meadows Park • Alexandria, VA  
 Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park • Hagerstown, MD  
 Great Falls Park • McLean, VA  
 Riverbend Park • Great Falls, VA  
 Potomac River Water Trail • VA and MD  
 Occoquan Water Trail • Fairfax Station, VA



PHOTO BY SARAH ROGERS

Boat launch facilities, boat rentals, and campsites are among the amenities available at Point Lookout State Park for Smith trail explorers.

## Trip Itineraries

### POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK, MD ONE-WAY LOOP, 3–5 MILES



At the visitor center, pick up a copy of the park’s water trail guide (modest fee). Launch your canoe or kayak there to take the Green Points Trail around Lake Conoy (1.7 miles) and continue into the protected Heron Alley Trail (3.4 miles) around Point Lookout Creek. If the weather is calm, sneak out through the jetties toward the western end of the trail into the broad embayment known as Cornfield Harbor for a look at the open Potomac River. Be careful—the river here at the mouth is 7 miles wide, measuring directly across to the Northern Neck shore, or 11 miles diagonally to Smith Point.

After sailing around Point Lookout, Smith and his crew may have anchored here for the night before beginning their exploration of the Potomac. They saw no local Indians, but the Yaocomaco who lived up the nearby St. Mary’s River probably collected oysters and fish here, working from seasonal camps. In the late 17th century, this tribe sold their land to the Maryland Colony and moved across the Potomac to the pretty Virginia river that bears a variant of their name today (Yeocomico).

### LITTLE WICOMICO RIVER, KOHLS ISLAND, VA TWO-WAY, 4 MILES



Check the regulations for visiting Kohls Island from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Then launch your canoe, kayak, dinghy, or skiff at Smith Point Marina (modest fee) and head out the marina’s channel to the island. Pay close attention to boat traffic in the Little Wicomico’s channel as you cross it.

The outer beach of Kohls Island forms the Potomac side of Smith Point. The narrow western end of the island was actually the mouth of the Little Wicomico (“Little River” to locals) until August 1933, when a devastating but unnamed hurricane swept up the Chesapeake and closed it. Afterwards, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredged out a channel to the Bay and stabilized it with the massive rock jetties that hold the mouth in place today. What remains of the old river mouth is a slough that harbors crabs, minnows, and wildlife like great blue herons, ospreys, and river otters. Moor your boat in the area by the slough and explore the island’s beach on foot (observing the Virginia Outdoors Foundation’s regulations).

The Little Wicomico is named for the Indian town of Wighcocomoco, the home of Captain John Smith’s bearded friend and guide, Mosco. Smith visited here at the end of his exploration of the Potomac and mapped the town in the upper reaches of Little River.

## RESOURCES & CONTACTS

POTOMAC RIVER  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
COMPLEX  
703-490-4979  
[www.fws.gov/masonneck/complex](http://www.fws.gov/masonneck/complex)

POINT LOOKOUT STATE PARK  
301-872-5688  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/pointlookout.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/pointlookout.asp)

VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION  
804-786-9603  
[www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org](http://www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org)



## NOMINI CREEK, CURRIOMAN LANDING, VA TWO-WAY, 6–8 MILES



Nomini Creek is a lovely, pastoral waterway, with deep, protected coves for anchoring cruising boats and launching dinghies. Skiffs and paddle craft can launch at Currioman Landing and run east across Currioman Bay into the creek. Two bridges impede larger boats, but carefully-piloted smaller ones can make it all the way up to the Nomini Hall site, and even beyond, if equipped with push-poles.

For trailered skiffs, Westmoreland State Park is a reasonable trailhead for visiting Nomini Creek. Using it means making a 10-mile trip down the Potomac River shore to the creek's mouth. The scenery along the cliffs at the park and Stratford Hall is spectacular, but the Potomac is wide here, and a prudent skipper will want to factor weather conditions into the trip. The route into Nomini Creek from Currioman Landing is much less exposed.

This is a long watershed that flows from the relatively high land on the spine of the Northern Neck. Nomini's headwaters cradle those of Cat Point Creek, which flows to the Rappahannock opposite Tappahannock.

The mouth of Nomini Creek, called Onawmanient (with the accent on the next-to-last syllable) was the first place where Captain John Smith and his crew encountered native people on the Potomac. The initial skirmish gave way to a feast at the leader's house, up where the headwaters of the creek fork into two tributaries—a site later to become the center of the Nomini Hall plantation. Local Indian trails (and now winding county roads) kept the tribes and later the English in communication with one another.

## PORT TOBACCO RIVER CHAPEL POINT STATE PARK, MD TWO-WAY, 2–4 MILES



This short but lovely river is a fine jumping-off place for exploring the mid-section of the Potomac River. If the weather is good, launch canoes and kayaks at Chapel Point State Park on the east side of the river; launch skiffs at Goose Bay Marina on the west side.

Captain John Smith mapped a leader's town at Potapaco, a location that was anglicized to Port Tobacco when colonists took over the area. The land between the Port Tobacco River and Nanjemoy Creek (which Smith also apparently visited) was patented by the Roman Catholic Society of Jesus (the Jesuit Order) only a few years after the founding of the Maryland colony. It stayed in Jesuit hands until 2008, when The Conservation Fund ([www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)) brokered a purchase by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

At the lower end of the peninsula the Blossom Point Proving Grounds is property of the U.S. Army, which prohibits access to it. An ambitious and skillful kayaker or skiff captain might want to explore this part of the Potomac over toward Potomac and Aquia creeks, where the leader's town of Patawomeck was located—but only under good weather conditions.

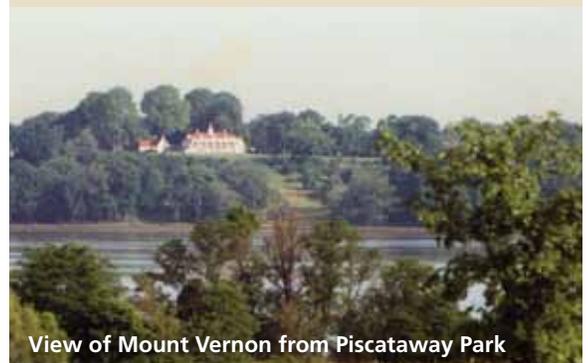
## For Cruising Boats TRAVELING THE POTOMAC

In a cruising boat, the Potomac offers lovely rivers for exploring. Examples, starting at the river's mouth and working upstream, include the St. Mary's River (Maryland); the Little Wicomico, Coan, and Yeocomico rivers (Virginia); Breton and St. Clements bays (Maryland); Nomini Creek (Virginia); the Wicomico and Port Tobacco rivers (Maryland); Potomac and Aquia creeks and the Occoquan River (Virginia); Mattawoman and Piscataway creeks (Maryland).

The river's main stem is lovely as well, especially along the wooded banks from the Route 301 bridge up to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge near the Nation's Capital. Keep an eye out for bald eagles—several hundred call this part of the river home for part or all of the year.

Nearing the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, the Potomac becomes much less rural, with the huge new National Harbor complex of marina, conference centers, hotels, and entertainment venues in Smoot Cove on the Maryland side, just below the bridge. Even so, it is a stirring sight to watch the Nation's Capital rise above the river in the long reach from the mouth of Piscataway Creek to Alexandria. We can only imagine what Captain John Smith and his crewmen would think if they returned to sail their *Discovery Barge* up the Potomac today.

Below the Route 301 bridge between Morgantown, Maryland, and Dahlgren, Virginia, there are many full-service marinas on both sides of the Potomac. An online search will lead to the best of them.



View of Mount Vernon from Piscataway Park

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ACCOKEEK FOUNDATION



Paddlers can beach their canoes or kayaks beside the fishing pier while visiting Piscataway Park on the Potomac.



Fort Washington offers a great view across the Potomac to Washington and the Virginia shoreline. Now a National Park Service site, the fort once guarded the water approach from the Chesapeake Bay to the Nation's Capital.

## MATTAWOMAN CREEK, MD TWO-WAY, 4–8 MILES



Mattawoman Creek, site of the leader's town of Pamacocack, remains a true jewel today. Despite its proximity to the District of Columbia and the fast-growing suburbs that surround Washington, this long, powerful creek provides invaluable habitat for wildlife, birds—especially migratory tundra swans, scaup ducks, bald eagles, and ospreys—and fish—especially largemouth bass, yellow perch, and hickory shad. (Fishing license required).

The lower creek is accessible to powerboats up to 35 feet, though their skippers must pay close attention to its winding channel and shallow shoulders, which can be hard to see if the tide is up. There is no speed limit around Sweden Point Marina, but as the creek narrows, a 6-knot limit is imposed. Mattingly Park, on the other side of the creek in the town of Indian Head, is a great place to launch paddle craft and skiffs for slow exploration on the upper creek. (Pay launch fee at honor box at ramp.)

## PISCATAWAY CREEK AND PARK, MD TWO-WAY, 2–4 MILES



Fort Washington Marina is a good jumping-off point for paddle craft and skiffs, with transient slips for larger vessels, marine services, and a restaurant. The creek is heavily silted-in—the result of several centuries of intensive tobacco agriculture, followed by suburban development.

This creek was home to the leader's town of the Piscataway at Moyaons on the opposite shore, and it is still a special place to the Piscataway Indians. The land is now part of Piscataway Park, a national park managed in cooperation with the Accokeek Foundation. Paddlers from Fort Washington Marina may beach their boats on the Potomac side of Piscataway Park and visit. Larger boats cannot dock there yet, but a new dock for power- and sailboats up to 25 feet is scheduled to open in 2012. Park officials advise paddlers to visit the park by land first to become familiar with the layout. Be sure to pull canoes/kayaks well up on the bank and tie them carefully to prevent boat wakes on the Potomac from disturbing them.

## LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK, VA TWO-WAY, 2–4 MILES



Leesylvania State Park lies on the Potomac shore just downstream of the Occoquan River, between Neabsco and Powells creeks. The park offers launch ramps on the river shore for trailerable boats and a canoe/kayak launch on Powells Creek. Although suburbs surround the park, it is an oasis of woods, trails, and interesting shorelines. These lands were the territory of the Tauxenent Indians. In the later centuries, Leesylvania was a home of the politically influential Lee family.

## DYKE MARSH, VA TWO-WAY, 2 MILES



Dyke Marsh, another jewel, is tucked away along the George Washington Memorial Parkway just south of Alexandria. Managed by the National Park Service, it benefits greatly from an active group of volunteers, the Friends of Dyke Marsh. Enter the marsh's boardwalk and walking trail from the Belle Haven Marina, which also offers launch ramps for canoes, kayaks, and skiffs and a few transient slips for larger boats. (There is a modest ramp fee.)

This tidal freshwater marsh is typical of many others around the Chesapeake. It would have served as a place for local Indians to harvest edible plants and to trap both water birds and mammals, like muskrats.



View of Nation's Capital with Theodore Roosevelt Island in the foreground.  
PHOTO COURTESY CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

# TRAILHEADS ON THE POTOMAC

## LOWER POTOMAC

**Point Lookout State Park, MD**    
 38° 03' 31" N, 76° 19' 46" W  
 301-872-5688, [www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/pointlookout.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/pointlookout.html)

**Kohls Island, VA**   
*Mouth of the Little Wicomico River at Smith Point*  
 37° 53' 42" N, 76° 14' 39" W  
 (For access information and regulations, visit [www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org](http://www.virginiaoutdoorsfoundation.org))

**Smith Point Marina, Reedville, VA**      
 37° 53' 00" N, 76° 15' 04" W  
 804-453-4077, [www.smithpointmarina.com](http://www.smithpointmarina.com) (ramp fee)

## NOMINI CREEK, VA

**Nomini Creek Mouth**      
 38° 08' 02" N, 76° 43' 20" W

**Currioman Landing**    
 38° 09' 13" N, 76° 45' 41" W  
 (At end of Virginia Route 622/Currioman Road)  
[www.mrc.Virginia.gov/vsrfd/](http://www.mrc.Virginia.gov/vsrfd/) (Use search function.)

**Westmoreland State Park, Montross, VA**   
 38° 10' 27" N, 76° 52' 45" W  
 800-933-PARK  
[www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks) (Use search function.)

## PORT TOBACCO RIVER

**Chapel Point State Park**   
 38° 28' 15" N, 77° 01' 54" W  
 301-743-7613, [www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/chapelpoint.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/chapelpoint.html)  
 (canoe/kayak access only)

**Goose Bay Marina**      
 38° 27' 12" N, 77° 03' 10" W  
 301-932-0885, [www.goosebaymarina.com](http://www.goosebaymarina.com)  
 (trailer boat access, ramp fee)

## NANJEMOY CREEK, MD

**Friendship Landing**    
 38° 27' 14" N, 77° 09' 02" W  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/boatramps.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/boatramps.asp) (Search Charles County.)

## MATTAWOMAN CREEK

**Mattingly Park, Indian Head, MD**    
 38° 35' 25" N, 77° 09' 40" W  
[www.townofindianhead.org](http://www.townofindianhead.org)

**Sweden Point Marina, Smallwood State Park**      
 38° 33' 27" N, 77° 11' 05" W  
 301-743-7613, [www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/smallwood.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/smallwood.html)  
 (ramp fee)

## PISCATAWAY CREEK, MD, AND UPPER POTOMAC

**Fort Washington Marina, MD**      
 38° 42' 00" N, 77° 01' 27" W  
 301-292-7700,  
[www.coastal-properties.com/ftwashington.html](http://www.coastal-properties.com/ftwashington.html)  
 (ramp fee)

**Piscataway Park, MD**   
 38° 41' 33" N, 77° 04' 10" W  
*Part of the National Park Service under National Capital Parks-East*  
 301-763-4600, [www.nps.gov/pisc](http://www.nps.gov/pisc)  
 For additional information:  
 The Accokeek Foundation  
 301-283-2113, [www.accokeek.org](http://www.accokeek.org)

## POWELLS CREEK, VA

**Leesylvania State Park, VA**     
 38° 35' 09" N, 77° 15' 20" W  
 703-730-8205, [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/lee.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/lee.shtml)  
 (launch facilities for canoes, kayaks, and trailered boats; ramp fee)

## DYKE MARSH, VA, AND UPPER POTOMAC

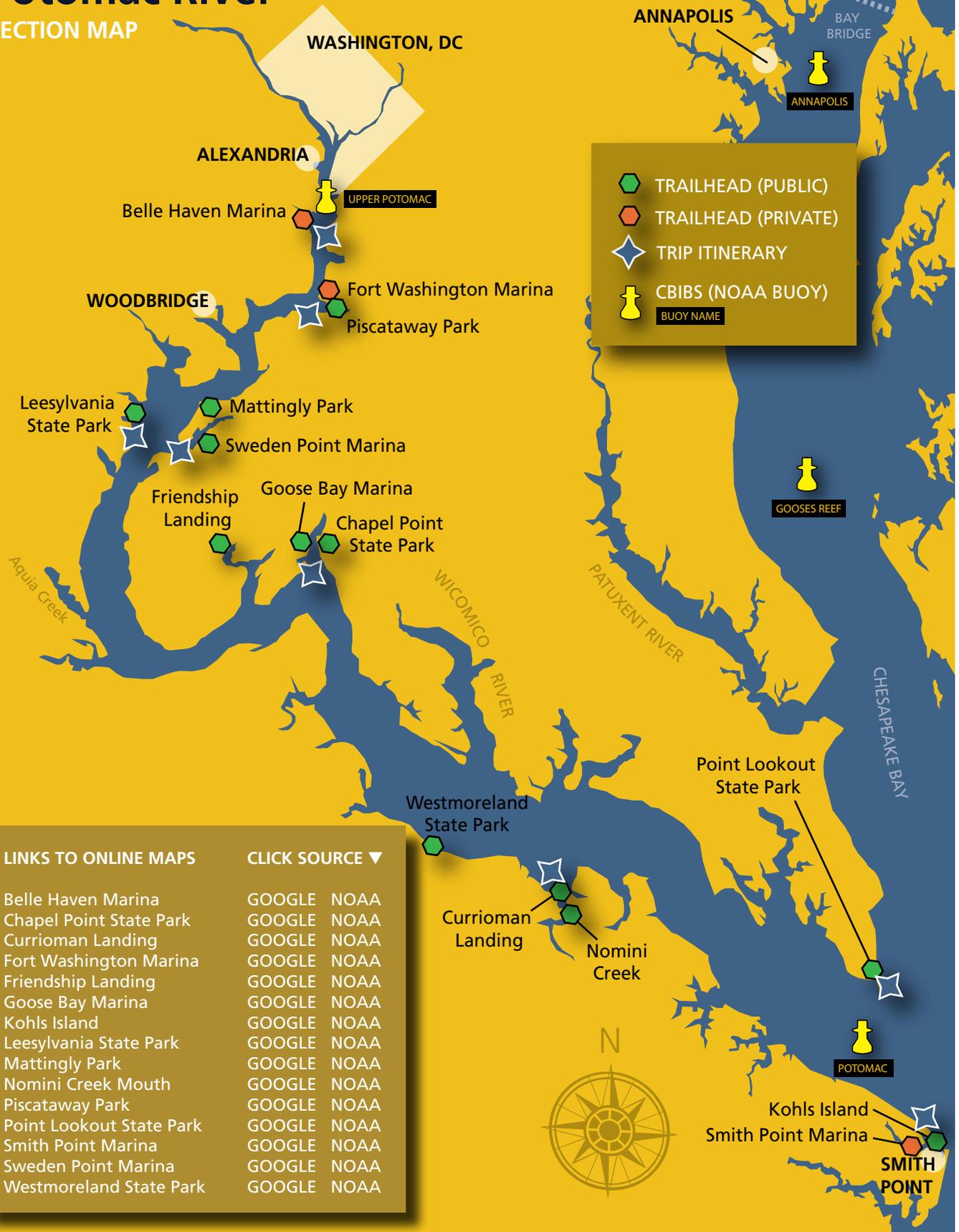
**Belle Haven Marina**      
 38° 46' 40" N, 77° 02' 57" W  
 703-768-0018, [www.saildc.com](http://www.saildc.com)  
 (canoe, kayak, and trailered skiff access; ramp fee)

**Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve**    
**Access from Belle Haven Marina**  
*Part of the National Park Service under the George Washington Memorial Parkway*  
[www.nps.gov/gwmp/dyke-marsh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/dyke-marsh.htm)  
 For additional information:  
 Friends of Dyke Marsh  
[www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org)

**NOTE:** Trailheads indicate access points for the suggested itineraries. River maps indicate trailheads as either private or public. All launch sites are open to the public. Those listed as private are part of privately owned businesses. Public trailheads are located on local, state, or federally managed properties. Fees may be charged at any of the launch sites and are subject to change. Contact the site directly for the latest information.

# Potomac River

## SECTION MAP



- ⬡ TRAILHEAD (PUBLIC)
- ⬡ TRAILHEAD (PRIVATE)
- ★ TRIP ITINERARY
- 📍 CBIBS (NOAA BUOY)
- BUOY NAME

LINKS TO ONLINE MAPS	CLICK SOURCE ▼
Belle Haven Marina	GOOGLE NOAA
Chapel Point State Park	GOOGLE NOAA
Currioman Landing	GOOGLE NOAA
Fort Washington Marina	GOOGLE NOAA
Friendship Landing	GOOGLE NOAA
Goose Bay Marina	GOOGLE NOAA
Kohls Island	GOOGLE NOAA
Leesylvania State Park	GOOGLE NOAA
Mattingly Park	GOOGLE NOAA
Nomini Creek Mouth	GOOGLE NOAA
Piscataway Park	GOOGLE NOAA
Point Lookout State Park	GOOGLE NOAA
Smith Point Marina	GOOGLE NOAA
Sweden Point Marina	GOOGLE NOAA
Westmoreland State Park	GOOGLE NOAA