

Heathsville

360

# MAP: Great Wicomico River–West

[NAPSva.org/GWicW](https://NAPSva.org/GWicW)

37° 53' N



360

Northumberland Hwy

644

Hacks Neck Rd

**Coopers Landing (public):**  
Turn south from US 360 onto  
Coopers Landing Rd. to end. Park  
away from concrete ramp to allow  
launching of trailered boats.

639

707

Burgess

200

76° 22' W

Blackwells Creek

Girl Scout  
Camp

Island  
Pt

Betts Mill Creek

699



**Blue Compass  
Marina/Horn  
Harbor Rest.**

**(commercial):**  
Follow signs  
from Rte. 200.  
(804) 453-3351

663

810

Horn  
Harbor

Glebe Point  
Campground

Tiffany  
Yachts

Blue Compass Marina &  
Horn Harbor Restaurant

**Great Wicomico River**

Tipers Creek

Barrett Creek

**Glebe Point Public Landing:**  
Just south of the bridge, turn west  
on Fishing Pier Way. Take gravel  
road on right to kayak/canoe launch  
directly under bridge (sand beach).

610

76° 25' W

Sampsons Wharf Rd

## See page 2:

- Paddling Route Descriptions
- Tide/Weather Info & Links
- NOAA Chart Link
- Safety Checklist
- Stewardship Guidelines

## MAP LEGEND



Public Launch Sites



Marina Launch Sites



Campgrounds



Trash/Recycling

1 DEGREE OF LATITUDE =  
1 NAUTICAL MILE,  
(1.15 MILES OR 6,080 FT)

37° 50' N

Wicomico Church  
& Kilmarnock

Joins Great Wicomico River–East map →



## MAP: Great Wicomico River—West

NAPSva.org/GWicW

### Tide Information:



Scan QR for tide predictions at Glebe Point, Great Wicomico River (site also links to the local marine weather forecast).

Average tidal range is 14 inches but can vary widely due to frequent coastal flooding.

The marshes at the headwaters of most of the creeks are secluded and full of wildlife. They are best explored near high tide, **BUT PLAN CAREFULLY: Explore only while the tide is rising – A falling tide may leave you STRANDED!**

### Wind & Weather:



Scan QR for Weather Underground's Heathsville forecast and live radar. Storms can develop very quickly, especially in the afternoons during spring and summer.

Moderate winds (13-20 mph) can cause significant wave action on the open sections of the Great Wicomico River, but the creeks are mostly well-protected by high banks and can be comfortably navigated in most conditions.

### Marine Charts:



Scan QR for NOAA Chart of this segment courtesy of WaterwayGuide.com (or download the Waterway Guide® or other marine charting app for IOS or Android)

## Paddling Routes

The paddling routes shown on the map are less than 4 miles roundtrip in mostly well-protected waters, and can be enjoyed by paddlers of any skill level in just a few hours.

### Paddle Route #1 Bush Mill Stream

This may be the most wonderful paddle in the Northern Neck. Put in at Coopers Landing Public Boat Ramp (limited parking) and paddle west up the Great Wicomico River for about a mile. Where the river splits, take the southern stem (Bush Mill Stream). Look for the interpretive sign and canoe/kayak landing on the southern shore – this marks the end of the "Deep Landing" trail in Bush Mill Stream Natural Area Preserve. The preserve is open daylight hours and has walking trails, a boardwalk along the marsh, amazing views from its observation platform, and interpretive signs about its history and ecology – please "leave no trace" if you visit. A paddle through the headwaters will also reveal an abundance of wildlife, but please do not feed or disturb.

### Paddle Route #2 Balls Creek

Put in at the public launch of Rte. 200 under Glebe Point Bridge (high winds from north to east can be hazardous here). Balls Creek is immediately to the west – protected by high banks. You will paddle past homes and docks until you reach the two branches at the headwaters – quiet, secluded forest and marsh abundant with wildlife, including a river otter den! Tippers Creek to the east of the bridge is similar.

### Other Paddle Routes

Each of the creeks off the western part of the Great Wicomico River have similar characteristics to the ones above and provide a wonderful paddling experience! Choose your launch, choose your creeks, and enjoy!



Find more Northumberland County paddling routes on our detail maps of Great Wicomico East, Little Wicomico, Yeocomico, Coan, and Indian & Dividing Creeks.

For paddling routes in other Virginia counties, visit [VirginiaWaterTrails.org](http://VirginiaWaterTrails.org) →



## Did you know Northumberland County has its own volunteer sea rescue service?

For over 50 years, **Smith Point Sea Rescue** has been "there when needed" to assist or rescue boaters – **no charge!** It monitors VHF Channel 16 or can be dispatched through the Northumberland County Sheriff's Office or 911. Scan QR to learn more or to make a donation.



## Safety Checklist:

- ☐ Paddle with a buddy.
- ☐ Dress appropriately – bring rain gear or poncho.
- ☐ Wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and/or paddleboard leash.
- ☐ Carry an extra paddle, a bilge pump or bailer, and a first aid kit.
- ☐ Leave a "float plan" with a friend – let them know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- ☐ Watch for motorized watercraft and wakes. Carry a whistle and wear highly-visible clothing and hat. An orange flag mounted on a mast is recommended.
- ☐ Bring a smartphone and/or GPS receiver – keep in a sealable bag with flotation (most smartphones will function normally while inside a baggie). A VHF radio is recommended.
- ☐ Bring charts and/or guides – always know where you are.
- ☐ Bring water, snacks, insect repellent, and sunscreen.
- ☐ Be aware of tides, currents and wave action. Do not venture into the Chesapeake Bay or Potomac River unless you have the skills and preparation to navigate open, unprotected waters.

**Emergency? Call 911 on mobile phone or MAYDAY on VHF-16**

## Stewardship Guidelines:

- Respect private property.
- "Leave no trace" – dispose of all trash properly.
- View wildlife from a distance and do not disturb nests or dens. Do not touch or feed wildlife!
- Fishing requires a fishing license and knowledge of regulations.

Please send suggestions, corrections, or new info to [Stewardship@NAPSva.org](mailto:Stewardship@NAPSva.org). Produced and frequently updated by NAPS – an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to preserving and improving the natural environment for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors. If you are enjoying these paddler's guides, please donate to NAPS – or better yet, join us! (scan QR for more info) →

