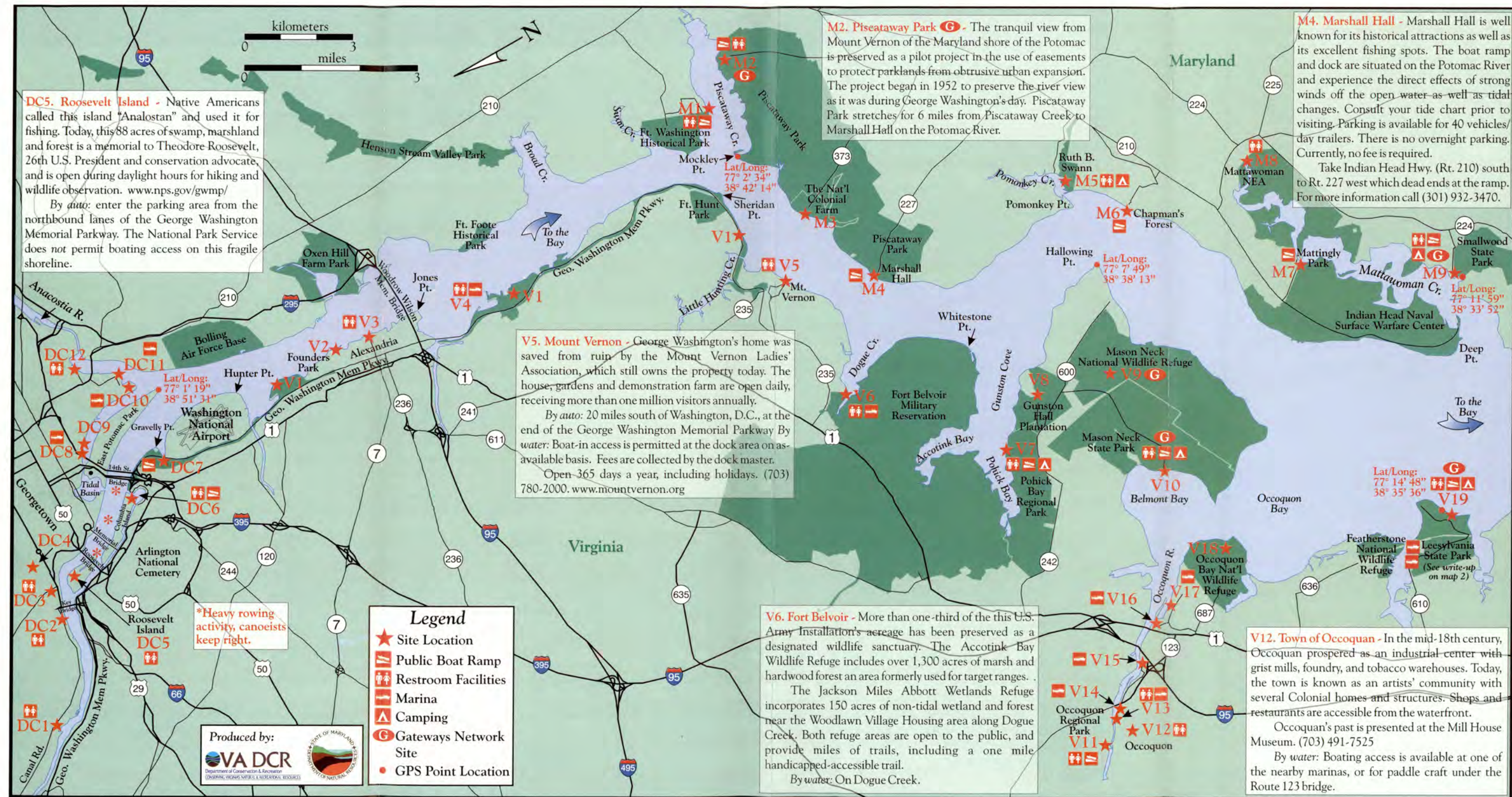


# Potomac River Water Trail

## Map 1

Washington, DC to Leesylvania State Park, Virginia



Cover Photo: View of Washington, D.C. from Iwo Jima, Arlington.



©Virginia Tourism Corp.

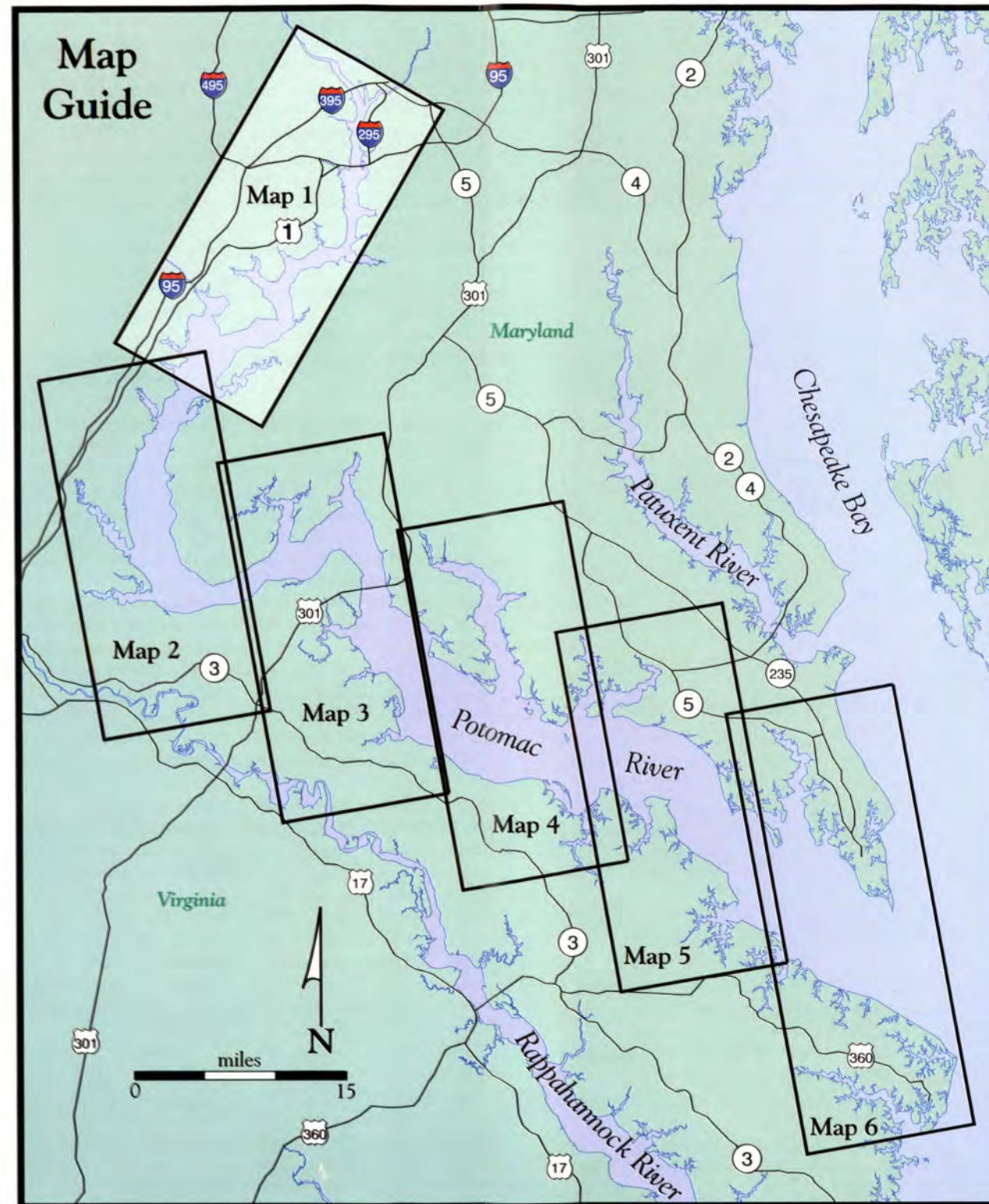
Produced by:  
VA DCR  
Department of Conservation & Recreation  
DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION & HISTORIC RESOURCES

**Selected Site Descriptions**

**V3. Old Town Alexandria** - One of the first historic districts formed in the U.S., this popular museum, shopping and dining area is the heart of the oldest part of Alexandria, Virginia (established in 1748). The Torpedo Factory, located on the waterfront, houses several art galleries as well as studios for working artists. During World War II, torpedoes were assembled here for shipment overseas.  
By water: access is permitted at the Torpedo Factory dock.  
Torpedo Factory Art Center: (703) 838-4565. Alexandria Visitors Bureau: (703) 838-4200

**V12. Town of Occoquan** - In the mid-18th century, Occoquan prospered as an industrial center with grist mills, foundry, and tobacco warehouses. Today, the town is known as an artists' community with several Colonial homes and structures. Shops and restaurants are accessible from the waterfront.  
Occoquan's past is presented at the Mill House Museum. (703) 491-7525  
By water: Boating access is available at one of the nearby marinas, or for paddle craft under the Route 123 bridge.





POTOMAC RIVER WATER TRAIL - USER SERVICES													
NUMBER	SITE NAME * = write up on map of selected sites	RESTROOM	BEACH	PICNIC	HISTORIC/ NATURAL SITE	BOAT LAUNCH CARTOP	BOAT RAMP	TRANSIENT SLIPS	PUMP/OUT/ FUEL	CAMPING	OVERNIGHT ACCOM.	FOOD SERVICE	COMMENTS
DC1	Fletchers Boat House	X				X							
DC2	Jack's Boats	X				X							Rentals
DC3	Thompsons Boat House	X											Rowing center
DC4	Georgetown	X			H / N						X	X	
DC5	Roosevelt Island*	X			H / N								Heavy rowing traffic
DC6	Columbia Island Marina	X					X	X	P / F				
DC7	Gravelly Point Landing						X						
DC8	Washington Marina	X					X	X	P / F				Restaurants near-by
DC9	Washington Fish Mkt.				H							X	
DC10	James Creek Marina	X					X	X	P / F				Anacostia River
DC11	Buzzard Point Marina	X					X	X	P / F				Anacostia River
DC12	Washington Navy Yard	X			H / N								Anacostia River
M1	Fort Washington Marina	X				X	X						State Park (301) 292-7700
M2	Piscataway Park*	X		X	X	X							Prince George County (301) 699-2407
M3	The National Colonial Farm				X								
M4	Marshall Hall*				X	X							Charles County (301) 932-3470
M5	Ruth B. Swann	X		X	X					X			Charles County (301) 932-3470
M6	Chapman's Forest				X	X							State Park (301) 743-7613
M7	Mattingly Park	X				X							Charles County (301) 932-3470
M8	Mattawoman NEA	X		X	X								State Park (301) 743-5161
M9	Smallwood State Park*	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			State Park (301) 743-1561
V1	G. Washington Parkway	X		X	H / N	X							Informal access
V2	Founders Park			X	H / N								
V3	Old Town Alexandria*	X			H / N				X	P / F	X	X	Shops, museum, tours
V4	Belle Haven Marina	X		X			X	X	P / F			X	
V5	Mount Vernon*	X			H / N								Fees reqd., access space limited
V6	Fort Belvoir*	X		X	H / N			X					
V7	Pohick Bay Regional Park	X		X	H / N	X	X	X			X	X	Fees reqd., access space limited
V8	Gunston Hall				H / N								Not accessible from water.
V9	Mason Neck NWR*				H / N								
V10	Mason Neck St. Park*	X		X	H / N	X					X		Primitive camping only. Permit required.
V11	Occoquan Regional Park	X		X	N	X	X	X				X	Fully developed regional park
V12	Town of Occoquan *	X			H	X					X	X	Marinas, food services, visitor info.
V13	Occoquan Boat Club	X					X		P / F				Adjacent to museum, full service marina
V14	Lady's Landing Marina	X							X	P / F		X	Full service, rentals, cruises, info.
V15	Prince William Marine	X							X	P / F			Full service marina
V16	Hoffmasters Marina	X							X	P / F			Full service marina
V17	Riverview Marina	X							X	F			
V18	Occoquan Bay NW Complex				H / N								Access from water limited.
V19	Leesylvania State Park	X	X	X	H / N	X	X		P / F	X		X	Primitive camping only. Permit required.

**Enjoy the River**  
Leave No Trace From Camping or Day Use

- Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- Know your trip and carry the proper equipment.
  - Know your limitations and skills, as well as those of your group.
- Camp on Designated Public Areas or With Prior Permission**
- Use existing clearings that won't be damaged by your stay.
  - Keep groups small.
  - Avoid trampling vegetation.
- Pack It In, Pack It Out**
- Try to leave the site cleaner than you found it.
  - Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.
  - Properly dispose of all waste. Put it in a trash can or dumpster, or take it with you.
- Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out**
- Clean and wash equipment, dishes, etc., as far away from the river as possible.
  - Use only biodegradable soaps.
- Respect Natural and Cultural Heritage as Well as Private Property**
- Be courteous to other river users.
  - Respect the privacy of others.
  - Remember, most of the water front property is privately owned, and often posted against trespassing.
  - Leave plants, trees, and artifacts as you found them.
- Minimize Use and Impact of Fires**
- Use existing fire rings or pits if they exist.
  - Keep fires small or use a camp stove.
  - Use only downed, dead wood.
  - Drown fires and spread ashes before you leave.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:**

Maryland Natural Resource Police (410) 260-8888

VA or MD Sheriff's Dept. Dispatcher (area code) + prefix - 911

VA Marine Resources Commission (757) 247-2265  
Law Enforcement Operation Center

The Potomac River Water Trail map is a joint project of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as part of The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network. This publication was supported, in part, through the assistance of the National Park Service.

For comments or questions, contact  
In VA. (804) 786-5046, www.dcr.state.va.us  
In MD. (410) 260-8780, www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways



# Potomac River Water Trail

- Map 2 -

Leesylvania State Park, Virginia to Camp Merrick, Maryland



Cover Photo: Alexandria - water, city scene.

## Selected Site Descriptions

**M10. Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area** - Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area is a 381-acre site situated along Chicamuxen Creek in Charles County, Maryland. The area consists of prime marshlands as well as upland and rolling forested habitats and provides ample opportunities to view wildlife. Chicamuxen WMA was the site of a Civil War encampment under the leadership of Union General, Joseph Hooker.

At Chicamuxen you can see a variety of waterfowl species including black ducks, gadwall, mallards, widgeon, wood duck, bufflehead, hooded merganser, ringneck and canvasback ducks. Adult and immature bald eagles can be seen almost daily hunting the marshes and upland areas. A wide variety of forest interior dwelling birds can be observed during the nesting season. Upland areas feature wildflowers and native grasses as well as annual wildlife plantings to attract different species.

Take Rt. 210 south to Indian Head. Travel east on Rt. 225 for 2 miles, then Rt. 224 south to Chicamuxen WMA. For additional information contact the Myrtle Grove Work Center at (301) 743-5161.

**M11. Mallows Bay** - In the Potomac River just offshore of Charles County, Maryland lies one of the Potomac River's great historical oddities. Mallows Bay is the resting place of some 130 sunken ships, including the remains of 81 historically significant wooden steamships built under a crash government program during World War I, making it the largest "ship graveyard" in the country. State and county officials have been interested in establishing the area as a shipwreck preserve. By law, the state owns any historic artifacts in tidal waters, including wrecks. Mallows

*Continued on back*



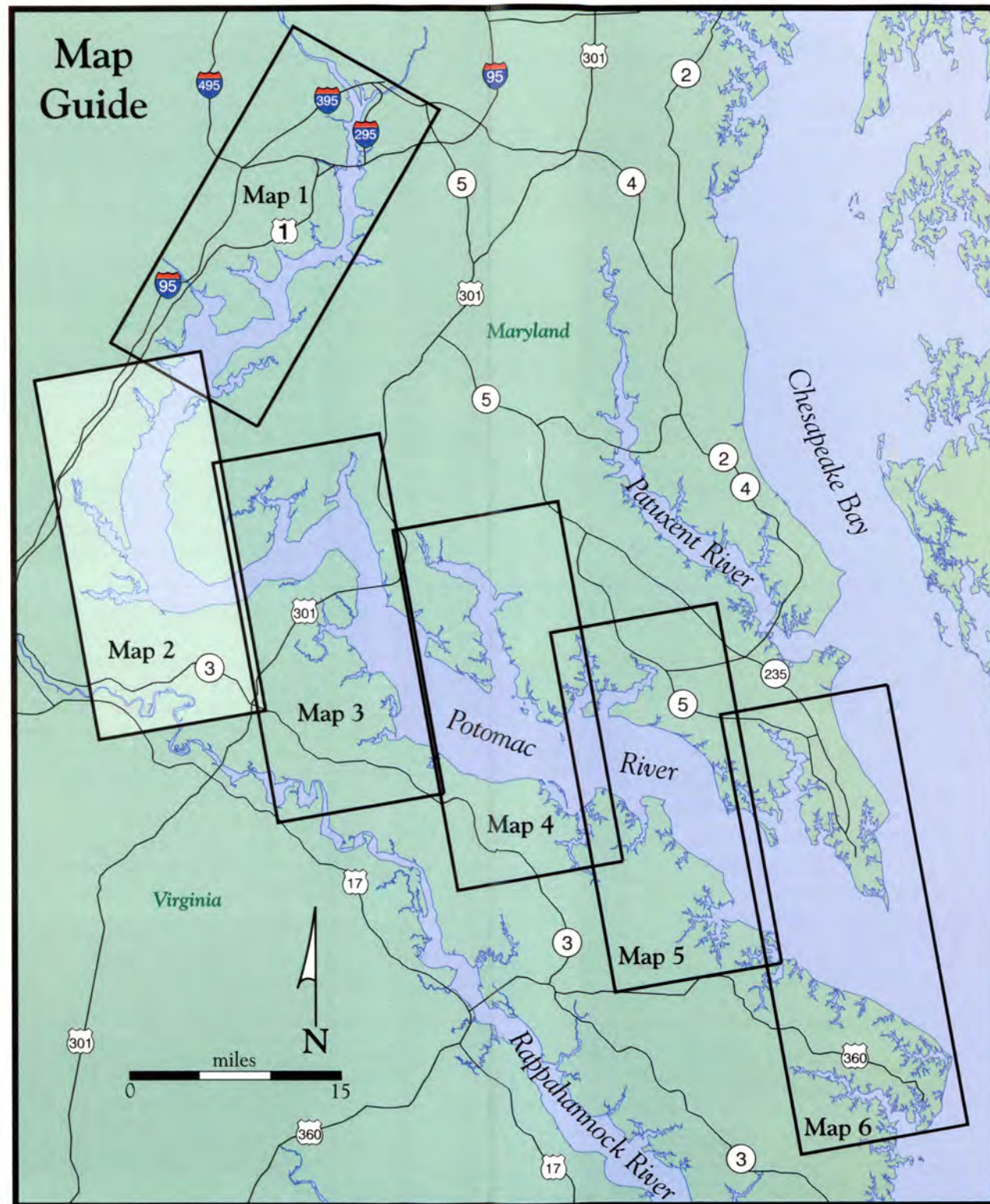
Sunken ships in Mallows Bay, Maryland.

©Virginia Tourism Corp.

©Maryland DNR







Bay is difficult to access directly because the shoreline is privately owned and there is no road access to this site. Protruding debris threatens the hull of any craft larger than a canoe or kayak, but it is possible to paddle to the site from either Purse State Park or Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area.

**M12. Purse State Park** - Purse State Park is located on the Potomac River on Wades Bay. Purse is an undeveloped wooded area that is used primarily for hunting, bird watching, fishing and fossil hunting. Parking is located off of Maryland Route 224 across from a .25-mile trail leading to the waterfront. There are also a few unmarked trails on the same side of the road as the parking area that are good for bird watchers.

Fossil hunting has become a popular activity at Purse. Fossilized sharks teeth, bones, and shell fragments are often found at low tide in the rocks and sand along the water's edge. Fishermen will need a Bay Sport (Tidal) Fishing License to fish this area. Wades Bay is a great fishing location for carp, large mouth bass, white perch and many other fish species. During the summer months Wades Bay tends to fill with submerged aquatic vegetation that can make fishing a challenge. Check the tide charts before you come. At high tide there is very little available beach.

Purse State Park is open for public use year round, sunrise to sunset. The park is located just off of Route 224, approximately 4 miles south of Nanjemoy. For more information call (301) 743-7613.

**V19. Leesylvania State Park** - Rich in history, this land once served as home to Revolutionary War hero "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, perhaps better known as the father of Civil War General Robert E. Lee. During the Civil War, confederate forces located a battery here as part of a blockade of the Potomac.

The park offers picnicking and hiking trails overlooking the Potomac River and Occoquan Bay. The picnic area features a long natural sand beach. Facilities include a boat ramp, car-top boat launch, park store/snack bar, picnic shelters and a visitor center.

*By auto:* from U.S. Route 1, turn east onto Route 610 (Neabsco Road) for about four miles. *By water:* Boat ramp and car-top boat launch are available. Primitive boat-in and group camping sites are available by special use permit by calling the park.

Leesylvania State Park: (703) 670-0372. [www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/leesylva/](http://www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/leesylva/)

**V21. Town of Quantico** - The Town of Quantico (est.1654) lies along land and water routes which were used heavily during the Revolutionary War. George Washington and his French ally, General Rochambeau, traveled the "Quantico Road" with their troops. The fledgling Navy of Virginia, numbering 72 vessels, was harbored in the area.

After the Civil War, Quantico was one of several Potomac River towns that became tourist destinations, with picnic areas, beaches, refreshment stands and a dance pavilion provided for visitors who arrived by steamboat.



View of Douglas Point and Wades Bay along the Potomac shoreline in Charles County, Maryland.

In 1918 the U.S. Marine Corps purchased land next to the town and established a small base. Today, the base encompasses some 68,000 acres and totally surrounds the town.

*By water:* canoe and kayak access is available at the town park. Access to marine facilities by prior approval.



Egret on the Northern Neck of Virginia.

The Potomac River Water Trail map is a joint project of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as part of The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network. This publication was supported, in part, through the assistance of the National Park Service.

For comments or questions, contact  
 In VA. (804) 786-5046, [www.dcr.state.va.us](http://www.dcr.state.va.us)  
 In MD. (410) 260-8780, [www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways)

POTOMAC RIVER WATER TRAIL - USER SERVICES													
NUMBER	SITE NAME * = write up on map of selected sites	RESTROOM	BEACH	PICNIC	HISTORIC/NATURAL SITE	BOAT LAUNCH CARTOP	BOAT RAMP	TRANSIENT SLIPS	PUMP/OUT/ FUEL	CAMPING	OVERNIGHT ACCOM.	FOOD SERVICE	COMMENTS
M10	Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area*	X		X	X					X			State Park (301) 743-5161
M11	Mallows Bay*				X								Future access. Tourism: (301) 645-0558
M12	Purse State Park*	X		X	X	X							1/4 mi. portage. State Park (301) 743-7613
M13	Camp Merrick Lions Club	X		X	X	X				X		X	Camp Merrick (301) 870-5858
V19	Leesylvania St. Park*	X	X	X	H/N	X	X		P/F	X		X	Primitive camping only, permit required
V20	Tim's River Shore Rest.	X										X	
V21	Town of Quantico *	X	X		H/N	X					X	X	Town park- restaurants, shops, info.
V22	Aquia Landing (Co. Park)	X	X	X		X							Fees/seasonal

## Enjoy the River

### Leave No Trace From Camping or Day Use

#### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know your trip and carry the proper equipment.
- Know your limitations and skills, as well as those of your group.

#### Camp on designated public areas or with prior permission

- Use existing clearings that won't be damaged by your stay.
- Keep groups small.
- Avoid trampling vegetation.

#### Pack It In, Pack It Out

- Try to leave the site cleaner than you found it.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.
- Properly dispose of all waste. Put it in a trash can or dumpster, or take it with you.

#### Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out

- Clean and wash equipment, dishes, etc., as far away from the river as possible.
- Use only biodegradable soaps.

#### Respect Natural and Cultural heritage as well as Private Property

- Be courteous to other river users.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Remember, most of the water front property is privately owned, and often posted against trespassing.
- Leave plants, trees, and artifacts as you found them.

#### Minimize Use and Impact of Fires

- Use existing fire rings or pits if they exist.
- Keep fires small or use a camp stove.
- Use only downed, dead wood.
- Drown fires and spread ashes before you leave.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:**

Maryland Natural Resource Police (410) 260-8888

VA or MD Sheriff's Dept. Dispatcher (area code) + prefix - 911

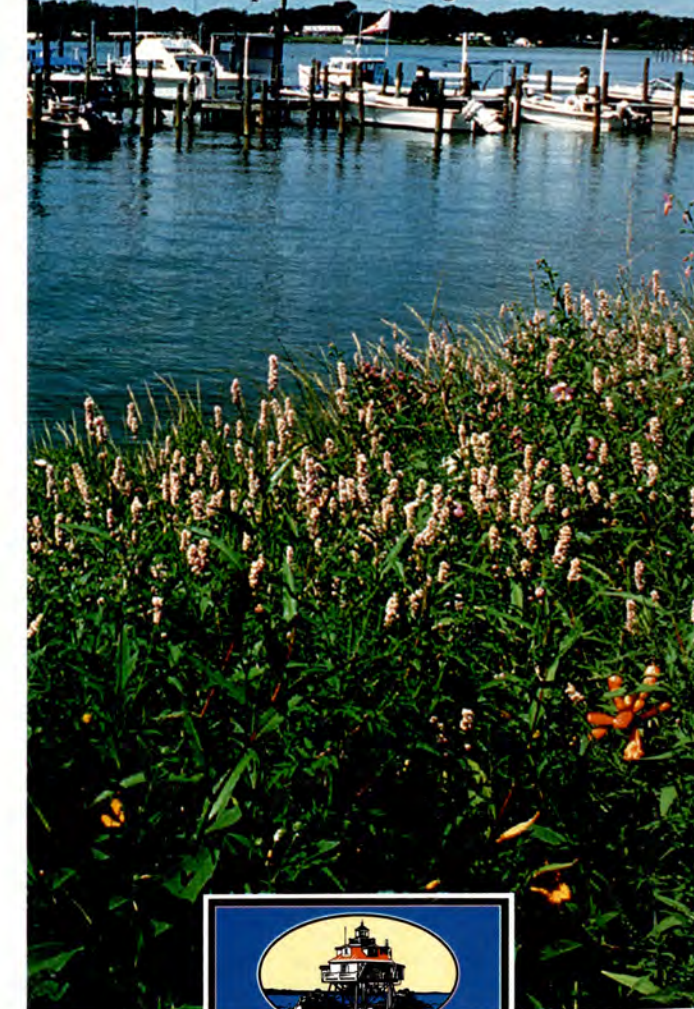
VA Marine Resources Commission (757) 247-2265  
 Law Enforcement Operation Center



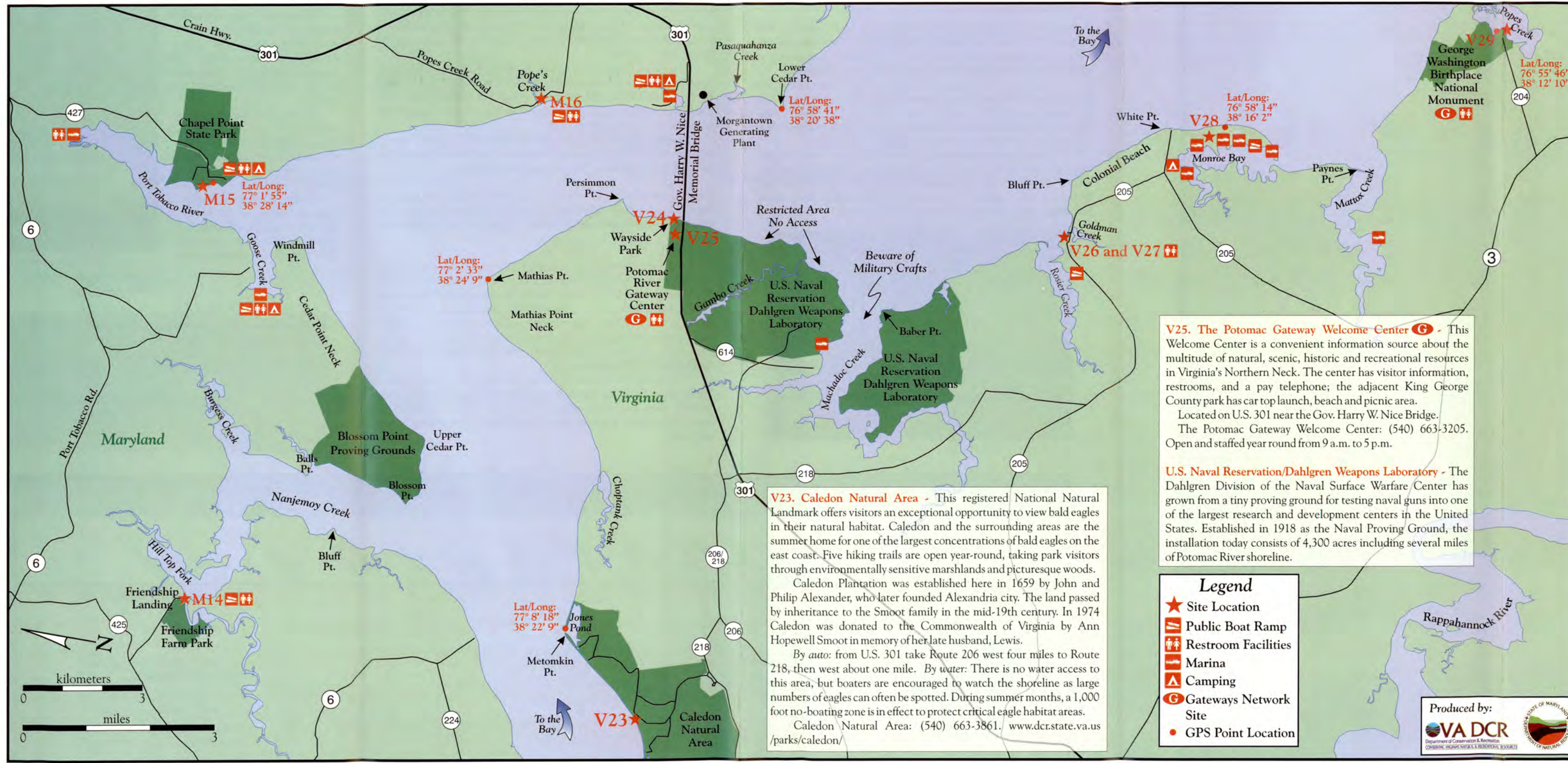
# Potomac River Water Trail

## - Map 3 -

Nanjemoy Creek, Maryland to  
Geo. Washington Birthplace /  
Pope's Creek, Virginia



©Dwight Dyke



Cover Photo: Monroe Bay, Colonial Beach.

### Selected Site Descriptions

**M15. Chapel Point State Park** - Chapel Point State Park is a 600-acre park along the very scenic Port Tobacco River. The sand and gravel boat ramp at the park is ideal for launching car-top boats or canoes. No launch fee is required and restrooms and a picnic area are also available. Chapel Point is a great spot for wildlife viewing as it provides an abundance of wildlife habitat. Quail, squirrels, doves, rabbits, whitetail deer, wild turkey and other waterfowl can be found here year round.

Chapel Point is 5 miles south of La Plata. Take U.S. Route 301 south to Bel Alton, then right onto Route 427 west for a half mile. Follow Chapel Point Road to the park entrance. For more information call (301) 743-7613.

**M16. Pope's Creek** - Pope's Creek has a long and varied history. John Wilkes Booth crossed the Potomac River at Pope's Creek during his escape after assassinating President Abraham Lincoln. The area once featured both a railroad line and a power plant. Today, Pope's Creek is better known for the popular crab houses along its waterfront. These establishments are a haven to boaters and paddlers alike and offer visitors fabulous seafood, beaches and playgrounds as well as stunning river sunsets.

**Gov. Harry W. Nice (Route 301) Bridge** - Opened in 1949, this was the first (and still only) bridge crossing the Potomac River below the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The dozens of ferries that once operated on the lower Potomac have all disappeared.

**V28. Town of Colonial Beach** - Colonial Beach prospered during the 19th century, when fishing, oystering, and crabbing were its main source of income. Around 1858, the sands of nearby White Point were

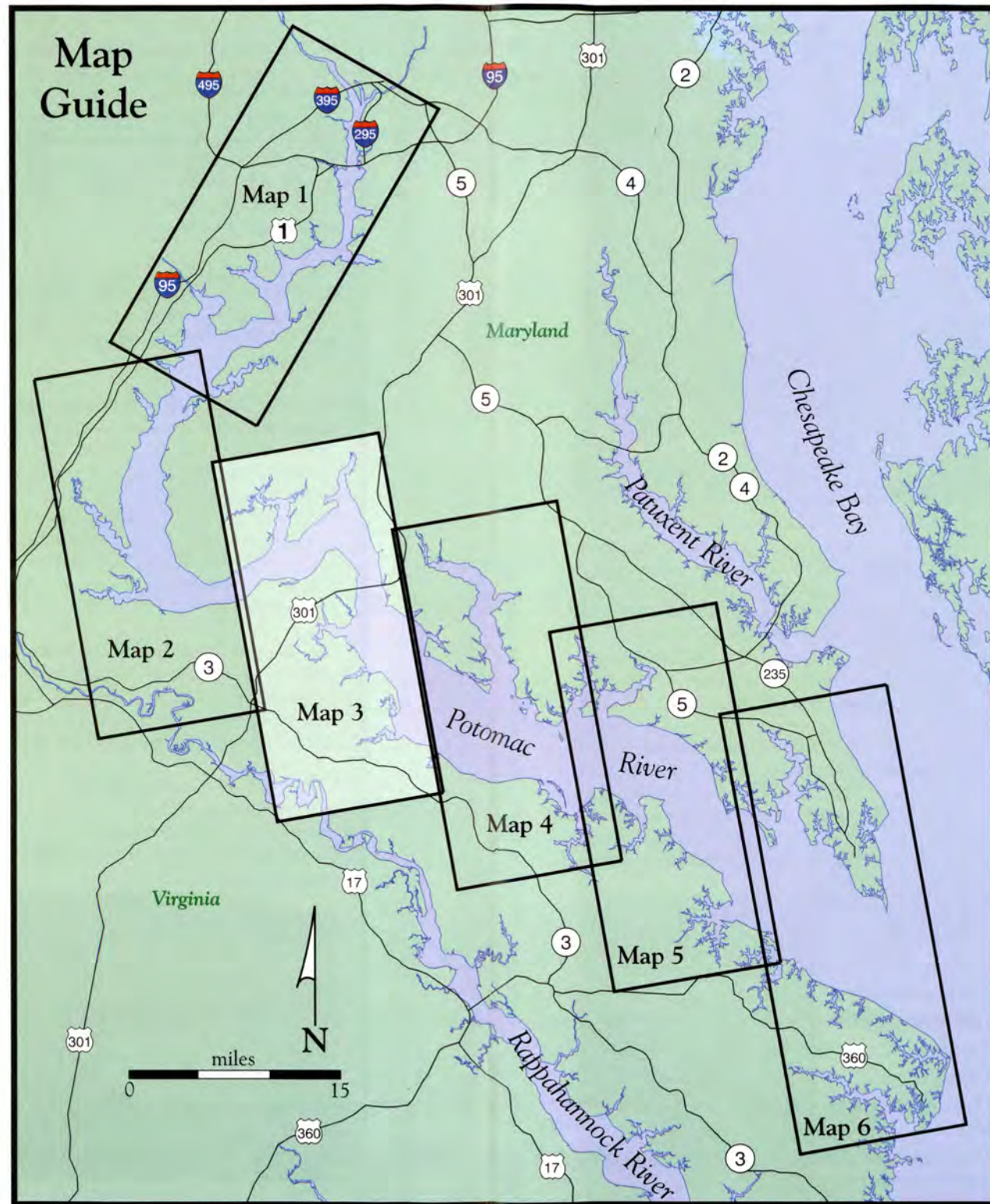


Shoreline along the Potomac in southern Maryland.

Lisa Gutierrez







**V28. Colonial Beach, continued.**

discovered by the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead, who ordered tons of it for his parks in Central Park in New York and the Boston parks system. In the years just after the Civil War, thousands of tons of this sand were dug and shipped north for use in public parks.

By the late 19th century, the lure of the beaches started a building boom. Large Victorian houses and quaint hotels continued to appear well after the town's 1892 incorporation. One of the town's most distinguished frequent summer residents was Alexander Graham Bell, whose home still stands as a privately owned bed and breakfast.

The 20th century brought river boats and tourists to the town in large numbers, with dance halls and a period of legalized gambling making the town a favored weekend resort for Washington, D.C. and Richmond area residents. Because most of the Potomac River lies in Maryland, ships moored off Colonial Beach could take advantage of



Fishing pier, Colonial Beach

©Dwight Dyke

Maryland's experiment with legalized slot machines. Colonial Beach also earned its name of Oyster Capital of the Potomac, with many skirmishes between Virginia and Maryland watermen fought just offshore during the Oyster Wars of the 1950s.

The river's largest side-wheeler, the 315 foot *Potomac* could carry 3,000 passengers and started service in 1934 between D.C. and Colonial Beach, Chapel Point and Liverpool Point. Big bands played while passengers enjoyed moonlight cruises. Her last trip was a moonlight excursion to Occoquo Bay in 1948.

*By auto:* from U.S. 301, turn south on Route 205; or, from Route 3, turn east on Route 205. *By water:* Boaters may tie up at the town pier, or land canoes and kayaks on the town beach near the pier.

**The Museum at Colonial Beach** - Open on weekends and holidays, noon to 3 p.m. between Memorial Day and Labor Day and on Saturdays, noon to 3 p.m. the remainder of the year. (804) 224-5800 or (804) 224-8020.

**V29. George Washington Birthplace National Monument** - Located on beautiful Popes Creek, this was home to generations of Washingtons from 1658 to 1815. George Washington was born here in 1732, and this 550-acre site offers visitors a glimpse of life in his day. In addition to a visitor center with exhibits, the park includes archaeological resources, the family cemetery, the Memorial House and Rockefeller structures, kitchen, blacksmith shop, spinning room, farm buildings and period animal breeds.

The Memorial House was built in 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth, and is based on architectural interpretation of the available ruins and written records. The house is said to resemble the basic design of Mount Vernon before later federalist style alterations and additions.

The abundant natural resources provide a timeless link to the environment in which George Washington was born. An interpretive nature trail system winds through the farm, woodlands and marshes.

*By auto:* from Route 3 turn east on Route 204. *By water:* Although the park does not support water entry, beaching or water sport recreational use, the birthplace is visible from the mouth of Popes Creek.

George Washington Birthplace National Monument: Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. (804) 224-1732. [www.nps.gov/gewa/](http://www.nps.gov/gewa/)



A costumed historical interpreter at George Washington Birthplace National Monument.

©Virginia Tourism Corporation

The Potomac River Water Trail map is a joint project of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as part of The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network. This publication was supported, in part, through the assistance of the National Park Service.

For comments or questions, contact  
In VA. (804) 786-5046, [www.dcr.state.va.us](http://www.dcr.state.va.us)  
In MD. (410) 260-8780, [www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways)

POTOMAC RIVER WATER TRAIL - USER SERVICES													
NUMBER	SITE NAME * = write up on map of selected sites	RESTROOM	BEACH	PICNIC	HISTORIC/NATURAL SITE	BOAT LAUNCH CARTOP	BOAT RAMP	TRANSIENT SLIPS	PUMP/OUT/FUEL	CAMPING	OVERNIGHT ACCOM.	FOOD SERVICE	COMMENTS
M14	Friendship Landing	X		X	X	X				X			Charles County (301) 932-3470
M15	Chapel Point State Park*	X		X	X	X	X			X			State Park (301) 743-7613
M16	Pope's Creek	X		X		X						X	Access / Restaurant
V23	Caledon Natural Area*				H / N								No access from water- restricted
V24	Wayside Park		X	X		X							Potomac Gateway RIC adjacent
V25	PRG Welcome Center*	X		X	H								Behind Wayside Park
V26	Wilkersons Restaurant	X										X	Tie up for restaurant & info
V27	Happy Clam Restaurant	X										X	Tie up for restaurant & info
V28	Colonial Beach*	X	X		H / N	X	X	X	P/F	X	X	X	Marinas, campground, beaches, restaurants, lodging, visitor info
V29	G. W. Birth Place N. M.*	X	X	X	H / N								No boat access, fees

**Enjoy the River**  
Leave No Trace From Camping or Day Use

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**

- Know your trip and carry the proper equipment.
- Know your limitations and skills, as well as those of your group.

**Camp on designated public areas or with prior permission**

- Use existing clearings that won't be damaged by your stay.
- Keep groups small.
- Avoid trampling vegetation.

**Pack It In, Pack It Out**

- Try to leave the site cleaner than you found it.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.
- Properly dispose of all waste. Put it in a trash can or dumpster, or take it with you.

**Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out**

- Clean and wash equipment, dishes, etc., as far away from the river as possible.
- Use only biodegradable soaps.

**Respect Natural and Cultural heritage as well as Private Property**

- Be courteous to other river users.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Remember, most of the water front property is privately owned, and often posted against trespassing.
- Leave plants, trees, and artifacts as you found them.

**Minimize Use and Impact of Fires**

- Use existing fire rings or pits if they exist.
- Keep fires small or use a camp stove.
- Use only downed, dead wood.
- Drown fires and spread ashes before you leave.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:**

Maryland Natural Resource Police	(410) 260-8888
VA or MD Sheriff's Dept. Dispatcher	(area code) + prefix - 911
VA Marine Resources Commission Law Enforcement Operation Center	(757) 247- 2265



# Potomac River Water Trail

- Map 4 -

Swan Point, Maryland to  
Nomini Bay, Virginia



Cover Photo: Cockrell Creek, Reedville

## Selected Site Descriptions

**M19. Cobb Island** - Cobb Island offers boaters several friendly marinas at the junction of the Potomac and Wicomico Rivers. Visitors can get great meals, often caught locally, and enjoy other waterfront amenities. Facilities vary by marina.

**M27. St. Clements Island State Park** **G** - On March 25, 1634, the first English settlers under the Baltimore proprietorship sailed to St. Clements Island on the *Ark* and the *Dove*. Today, St. Clements Island is a 40-acre park with a natural setting. It is located in the Potomac River off shore of St. Mary's County, near St. Clements and Breton Bays. The park is accessible only by boat. Attractions on St. Clements Island include exhibits on the early settlers and a memorial cross dedicated to the memory of the first Marylanders, a pier, prime fishing spots, hiking trails, restrooms, and picnic facilities.

The park is located at the end of Route 242 in St. Mary's County, at Coltons Point. For more information call (301) 872-5688.



The Dove at St. Clements Island State Park.

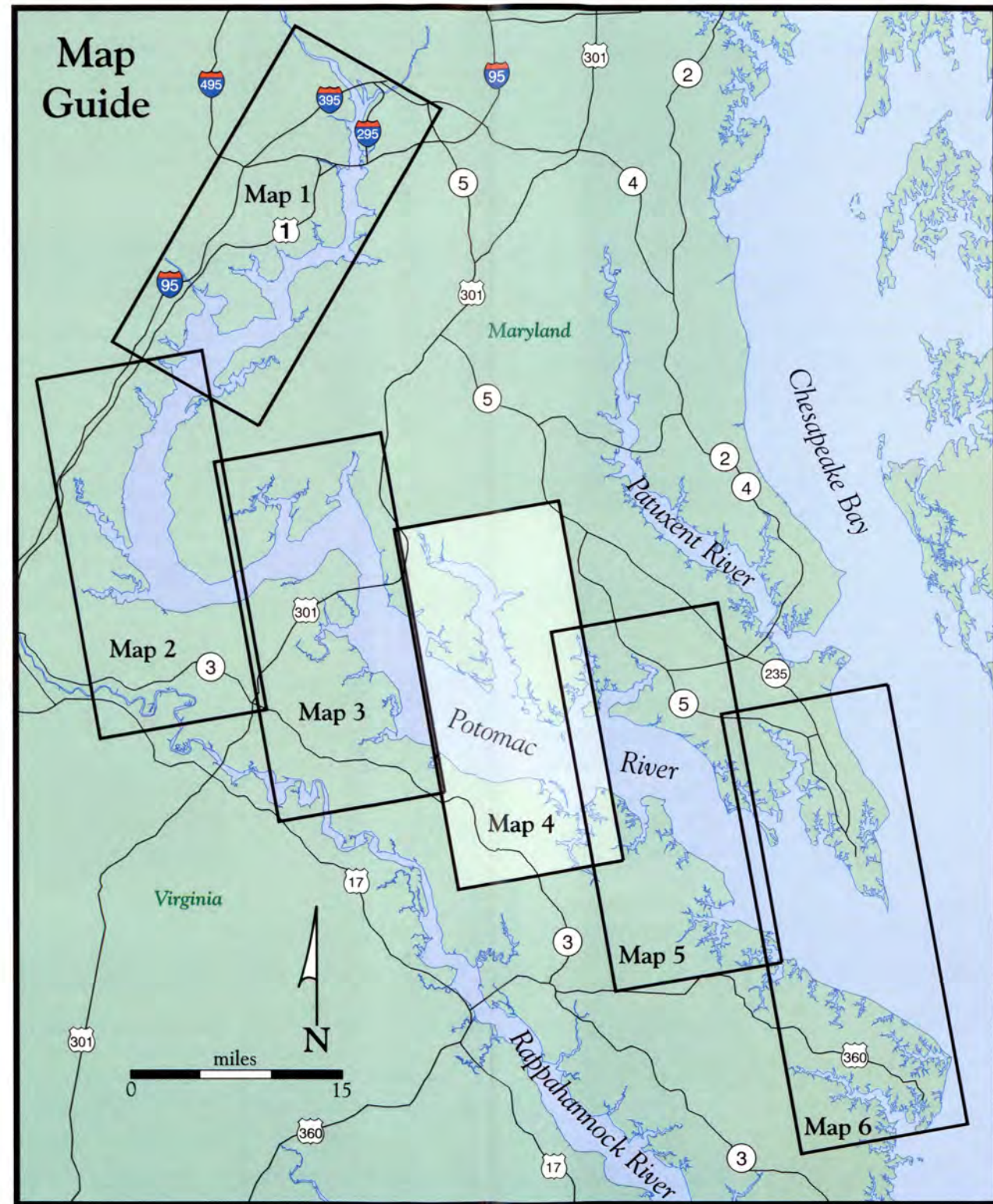
**V30. Westmoreland State Park** **G** - Westmoreland is one of six state parks established in the mid-1930s by the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. This 1,300-acre park offers visitors the chance to explore a unique geologic formation -- Horsehead Cliffs, which rise 150 feet above the water. These cliffs are composed of compacted

Continued on back.



©Dwight Dyke





**V30. Westmoreland State Park, con't.**

sea matter dating from the early Miocene Epoch (starting about 18 thousand years ago), when rising land and receding sea level replaced the ocean that once reached up to the Fall Line. Myriads of prehistoric artifacts have been found in this area, including shark teeth and fossilized bones of whales, camels, rhinoceroses and crocodiles.

The powdery composition of these cliffs makes them subject to landslides and extremely dangerous to climb. A better choice is to explore the several miles of trails that wind through marshlands, woods, meadows and beach.

In addition to its scenic beauty, the park offers hiking, camping, cabins, fishing, boating and swimming. The visitor center, open during the summer, gives an informative historical and ecological perspective to this important natural area on the Potomac.

*By auto:* from Route 3 turn east on Route 347. *By water:* Boat ramp and paddle craft access. Boat-in primitive camping area is available by special use permit. Call the park for details.

Westmoreland State Park: (804) 493-8821. [www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/westmore/](http://www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/westmore/)

**V31. Stratford Hall** - Built by Thomas Lee c. 1738, Stratford Hall Plantation was the boyhood home of Richard Henry ("Lighthorse Harry") Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, brothers who signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1807, future Confederate General Robert E. Lee was born here.

In addition to its history, the magnificent architecture of Stratford Hall sets it apart as one of the great houses in America. Using brick made on the site and timber cut from its own virgin forest, builders and craftsmen constructed the H-shaped manor house, its four

dependencies, coach house and stables. The Great Hall in the center of the house is one of the most architecturally significant rooms to survive from colonial America.

The 1,670 acre plantation is managed as a working farm with costumed interpreters leading tours through the house. Visitors can follow trails through meadows thick with wildflowers to the bluffs of the Potomac River and visit the restored gristmill.

*By auto:* from Route 3 turn east on Route 214 (Stratford Hall Road). *By water:* Access by power boat is not encouraged as there is no dock. Paddlers should obtain prior approval by calling during business hours.

Stratford Hall Plantation: Open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (804) 493-8038. [www.stratfordhall.org](http://www.stratfordhall.org)



Cliffs at Stratford Hall and Westmoreland State Park.



Chesapeake Bay deadrise.

The Potomac River Water Trail map is a joint project of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as part of The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network. This publication was supported, in part, through the assistance of the National Park Service.

For comments or questions, contact  
 In VA. (804) 786-5046, [www.dcr.state.va.us](http://www.dcr.state.va.us)  
 In MD. (410) 260-8780, [www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways)

POTOMAC RIVER WATER TRAIL - USER SERVICES													
NUMBER	SITE NAME * = write up on map of selected sites	RESTROOM	BEACH	PICNIC	HISTORIC/NATURAL SITE	BOAT LAUNCH/CARTOP	BOAT RAMP	TRANSIENT SLIPS	PUMP/OUT/FUEL	CAMPING	OVERNIGHT ACCOM.	FOOD SERVICE	COMMENTS
M17	Swan Point*	X		X		X							Semi-private
M18	Southern Point Park & Pier	X		X	X	X							Charles County (301) 932-3470
M19	Cobb Island*	X		X	X	X	X		X				Charles Co. Tourism Off. (301) 645-0558
M20	Hatton Creek	X		X	X	X	X						Charles County (301) 932-3470
M21	Wicomico Shores	X	X	X		X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M22	Chaptico Wharf / Rec. Area	X		X		X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M23	Bushwood Wharf	X		X		X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M24	River Springs Landing	X		X									St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M25	Paul Ellis Landing	X		X									St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M26	Coltons Pt./Pot. Riv. Mus.*	X		X	X	X		X					(301) 769-2222
M27	St. Clements Island St. Pk.*	X	X	X									State Park (301) 872-5688
V30	Westmoreland St. Pk.*	X	X	X	H / N	X	X		F	X	X	X	Fees, prim.boat-to camp on water
V31	Stratford Hall *	X	X	X	H / N						X	X	Fees reqd., house 1/2 mi. from water
V32	Currioman Dock Ramp						X						

**Enjoy the River**  
 Leave No Trace From Camping or Day Use

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**

- Know your trip and carry the proper equipment.
- Know your limitations and skills, as well as those of your group.

**Camp on designated public areas or with prior permission**

- Use existing clearings that won't be damaged by your stay.
- Keep groups small.
- Avoid trampling vegetation.

**Pack It In, Pack It Out**

- Try to leave the site cleaner than you found it.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.
- Properly dispose of all waste. Put it in a trash can or dumpster, or take it with you.

**Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out**

- Clean and wash equipment, dishes, etc., as far away from the river as possible.
- Use only biodegradable soaps.

**Respect Natural and Cultural heritage as well as Private Property**

- Be courteous to other river users.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Remember, most of the water front property is privately owned, and often posted against trespassing.
- Leave plants, trees, and artifacts as you found them.

**Minimize Use and Impact of Fires**

- Use existing fire rings or pits if they exist.
- Keep fires small or use a camp stove.
- Use only downed, dead wood.
- Drown fires and spread ashes before you leave.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:**

Maryland Natural Resource Police	(410) 260-8888
VA or MD Sheriff's Dept. Dispatcher	(area code) + prefix - 911
VA Marine Resources Commission Law Enforcement Operation Center	(757) 247- 2265



# Potomac River Water Trail

- Map 5 -

St. Clements Bay, Maryland to Lewisetta, Virginia



©Maryland DNR



**M31. Tall Timbers Landing** - Tall Timbers Landing is a public landing on Tall Timbers Cove off of the Potomac River. The site is managed by St. Mary's County. Launching from this landing, you can explore Herring Creek, McKay Cove and Big Duke Creek. There is a pier but no boat ramp. To get to Tall Timbers take Route 249 south towards Piney Point, turn right onto Old Tall Timbers Road and then right onto Tall Timbers Road. For more information call (301) 475-4572.

Lat/Long: 76° 31' 48" 38° 8' 12" Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

Lat/Long: 76° 37' 47" 38° 9' 17" Ragged Pt. Beach

**V34. Village of Kinsale** - Established in 1706, Kinsale is the oldest port on the Virginia side of the Potomac. The Kinsale Museum traces the village's history from its beginnings as a colonial port, through the bustling steamboat days to the present.

**Legend**

- ★ Site Location
- 🚤 Public Boat Ramp
- 🚻 Restroom Facilities
- 🚢 Marina
- ⛺ Camping
- G Gateways Network Site
- GPS Point Location

Produced by:  
**VA DCR**  
 Department of Conservation & Recreation  
CONSERVING OUR NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Scale: 0 to 3 miles / 0 to 3 kilometers

Cover Photo: Piney Point Lighthouse and Museum

## Selected Site Descriptions

**M32. Piney Point Lighthouse Museum**  
**G** - Clearly visible from the Potomac River because of its distinctive white tower, the Piney Point Lighthouse is the oldest permanent lighthouse on the Potomac and one of four Potomac lighthouses still in existence. The brick tower lighthouse was built in 1836 and features a fresnel lens and bell tower. The lighthouse was used until 1964. Historically, Piney Point was a very popular place. It served as a social center for Washingtonians in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Several presidents visited Piney Point and enjoyed its beaches on steamboat excursions from Washington, D.C.

In 1994 a museum was opened in association with the lighthouse. The Piney Point Lighthouse Museum features a boardwalk with interpretive signs explaining the history of the lighthouse and its environs as well as a beach and pier. The lighthouse is open daily from dawn to dusk. To get to the museum, take Route 249 south, turn right onto Lighthouse Road and follow the signs. For more information contact the St. Mary's Division of Parks at (301) 769-2222.

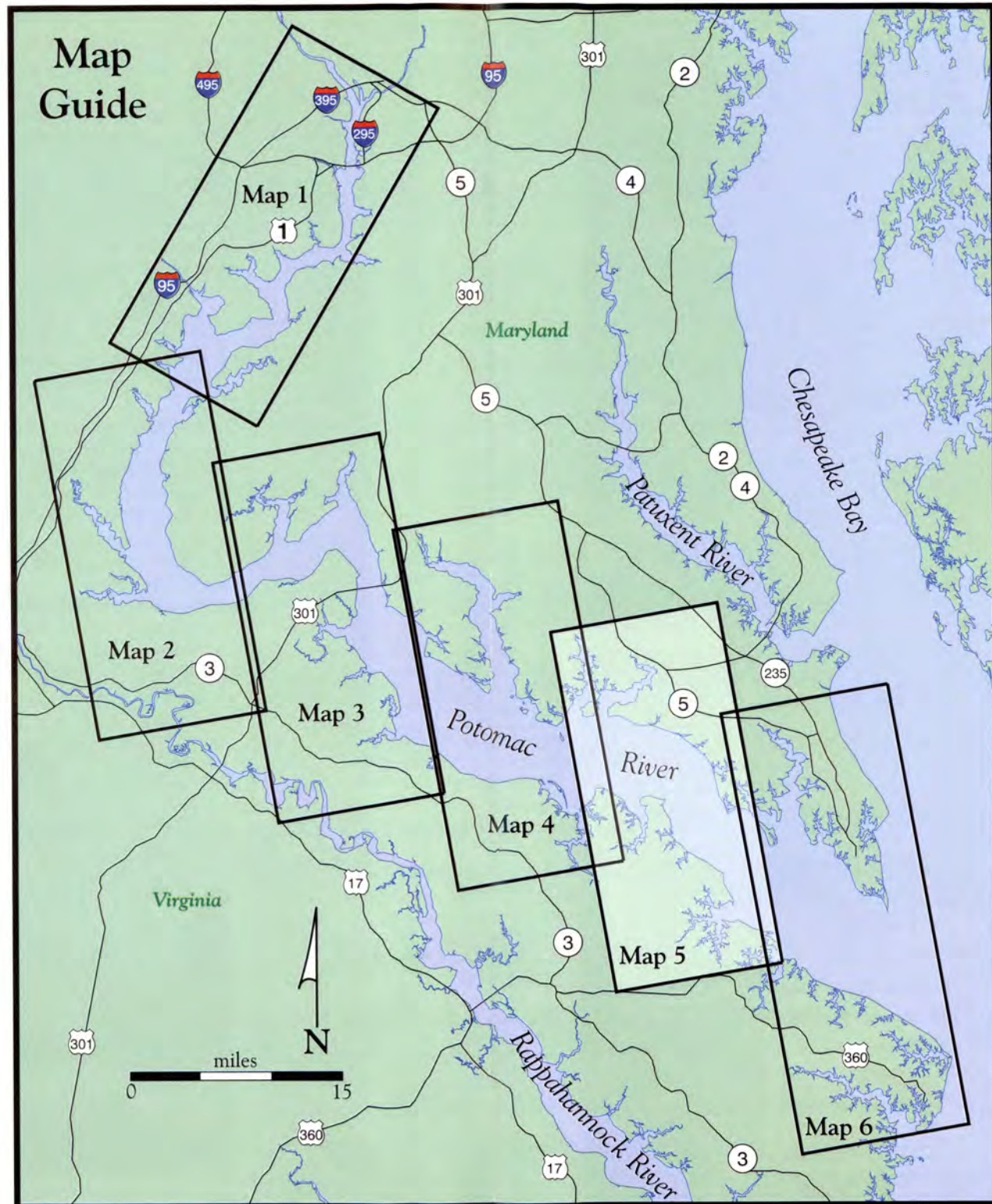
Continued on back



Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

©Maryland DNR





**M33. Piney Point Recreation Area** - The Piney Point Recreation Area is a public facility managed by St. Mary's County. The area features a pier, picnic tables, restrooms, and a boat ramp suitable for cartop boats, kayaks, and canoes. Piney Point Recreation Area is located on Route 249 just before you cross the bridge onto St. George's Island. For more information call (301) 475-4572.



Along the shores of St. George Island, Maryland.



Cole's Point, Virginia.

**V34. Kinsale Museum** - Visitors can learn about the heritage of the Chesapeake Bay's watermen and their distinctive boats, as well as touring the skipjack *Virginia W.* Built in 1904, she is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the oldest remaining examples of a Virginia-built skipjack.

Open Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. May 1 to October 31. (804) 472-3001

**Port Kinsale Maritime Museum at the Port Kinsale Marina**  
(804) 472-2044. [www.portkinsale.com](http://www.portkinsale.com)



Crab house in Reedville.

The Potomac River Water Trail map is a joint project of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as part of The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network. This publication was supported, in part, through the assistance of the National Park Service.

For comments or questions, contact  
In VA. (804) 786-5046, [www.dcr.state.va.us](http://www.dcr.state.va.us)  
In MD. (410) 260-8780, [www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways)

POTOMAC RIVER WATER TRAIL - USER SERVICES													
NUMBER	SITE NAME * = write up on map of selected sites	RESTROOM	BEACH	PICNIC	HISTORIC/ NATURAL SITE	BOAT LAUNCH/ CARTOP	BOAT RAMP	TRANSIENT SLIPS	PUMP/OUT/ FUEL	CAMPING	OVERNIGHT ACCOM.	FOOD SERVICE	COMMENTS
M28	Leonardtown Wharf Landing	X		X		X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M29	Camp Calvert Landing	X		X		X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M30	Abells Wharf	X				X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M31	Tall Timbers Landing*	X											St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M32	Piney Point Park Lighthouse Museum*	X	X	X		X							St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M33	Piney Point Rec. Area*	X				X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M34	St. Mary's River Watershed State Park	X		X	X	X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
V33	Coles Point Plantation	X	X	X		X	X	X	P / F	X	X	X	Full service marina
V34	Village of Kinsale*	X	X	X	H	X	X	X	P / F	X		X	Marinas, B&B, boat ramps, museum, & visitor info.

## Enjoy the River

### Leave No Trace From Camping or Day Use

#### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know your trip and carry the proper equipment.
- Know your limitations and skills, as well as those of your group.

#### Camp on designated public areas or with prior permission

- Use existing clearings that won't be damaged by your stay.
- Keep groups small.
- Avoid trampling vegetation.

#### Pack It In, Pack It Out

- Try to leave the site cleaner than you found it.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.
- Properly dispose of all waste. Put it in a trash can or dumpster, or take it with you.

#### Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out

- Clean and wash equipment, dishes, etc., as far away from the river as possible.
- Use only biodegradable soaps.

#### Respect Natural and Cultural heritage as well as Private Property

- Be courteous to other river users.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Remember, most of the water front property is privately owned, and often posted against trespassing.
- Leave plants, trees, and artifacts as you found them.

#### Minimize Use and Impact of Fires

- Use existing fire rings or pits if they exist.
- Keep fires small or use a camp stove.
- Use only downed, dead wood.
- Drown fires and spread ashes before you leave.

#### Emergency Phone Numbers:

Maryland Natural Resource Police	(410) 260-8888
VA or MD Sheriff's Dept. Dispatcher	(area code) + prefix - 911
VA Marine Resources Commission Law Enforcement Operation Center	(757) 247-2265



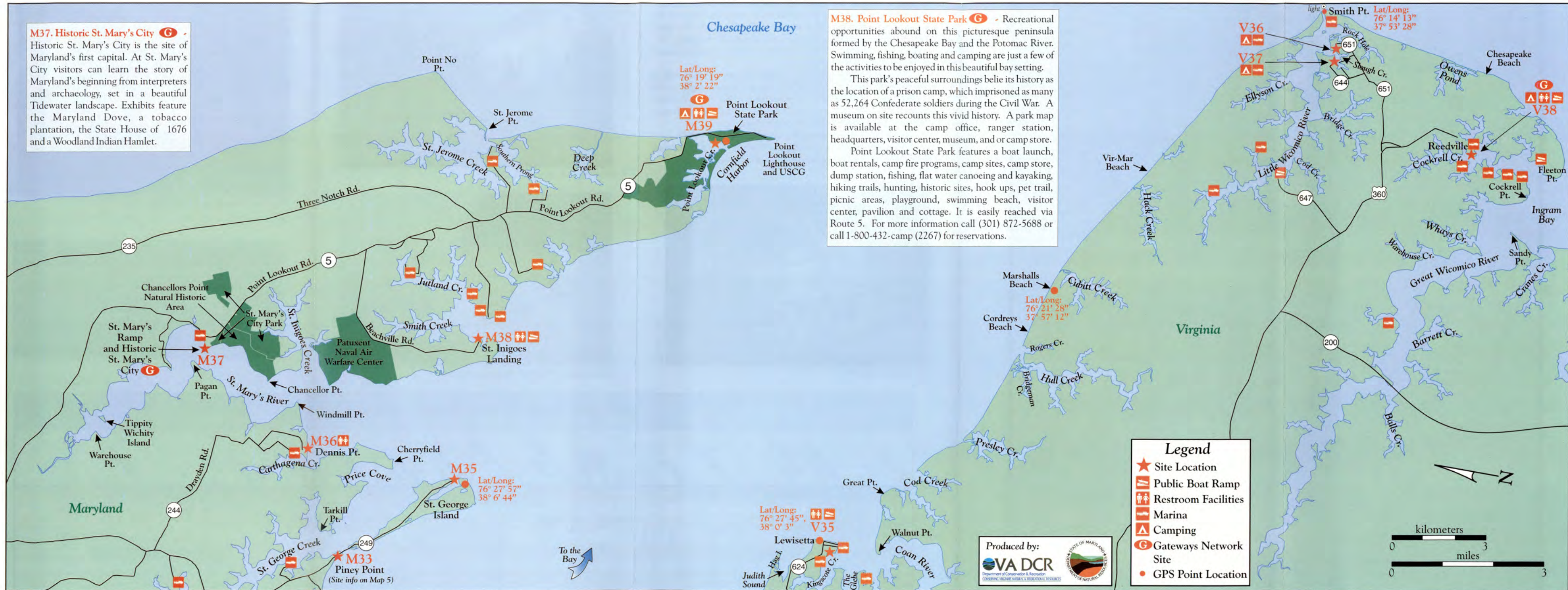
# Potomac River Water Trail

## - Map 6 -

St. George Island, Maryland to Reedville, Virginia



©Dwight Dyke



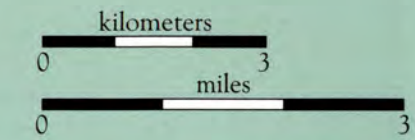
Cover Photo: Smith Point Light.

**M37. Historic St. Mary's City** - Historic St. Mary's City is the site of Maryland's first capital. At St. Mary's City visitors can learn the story of Maryland's beginning from interpreters and archaeology, set in a beautiful Tidewater landscape. Exhibits feature the Maryland Dove, a tobacco plantation, the State House of 1676 and a Woodland Indian Hamlet.

**M38. Point Lookout State Park** - Recreational opportunities abound on this picturesque peninsula formed by the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Swimming, fishing, boating and camping are just a few of the activities to be enjoyed in this beautiful bay setting. This park's peaceful surroundings belie its history as the location of a prison camp, which imprisoned as many as 52,264 Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. A museum on site recounts this vivid history. A park map is available at the camp office, ranger station, headquarters, visitor center, museum, and or camp store. Point Lookout State Park features a boat launch, boat rentals, camp fire programs, camp sites, camp store, dump station, fishing, flat water canoeing and kayaking, hiking trails, hunting, historic sites, hook ups, pet trail, picnic areas, playground, swimming beach, visitor center, pavilion and cottage. It is easily reached via Route 5. For more information call (301) 872-5688 or call 1-800-432-camp (2267) for reservations.

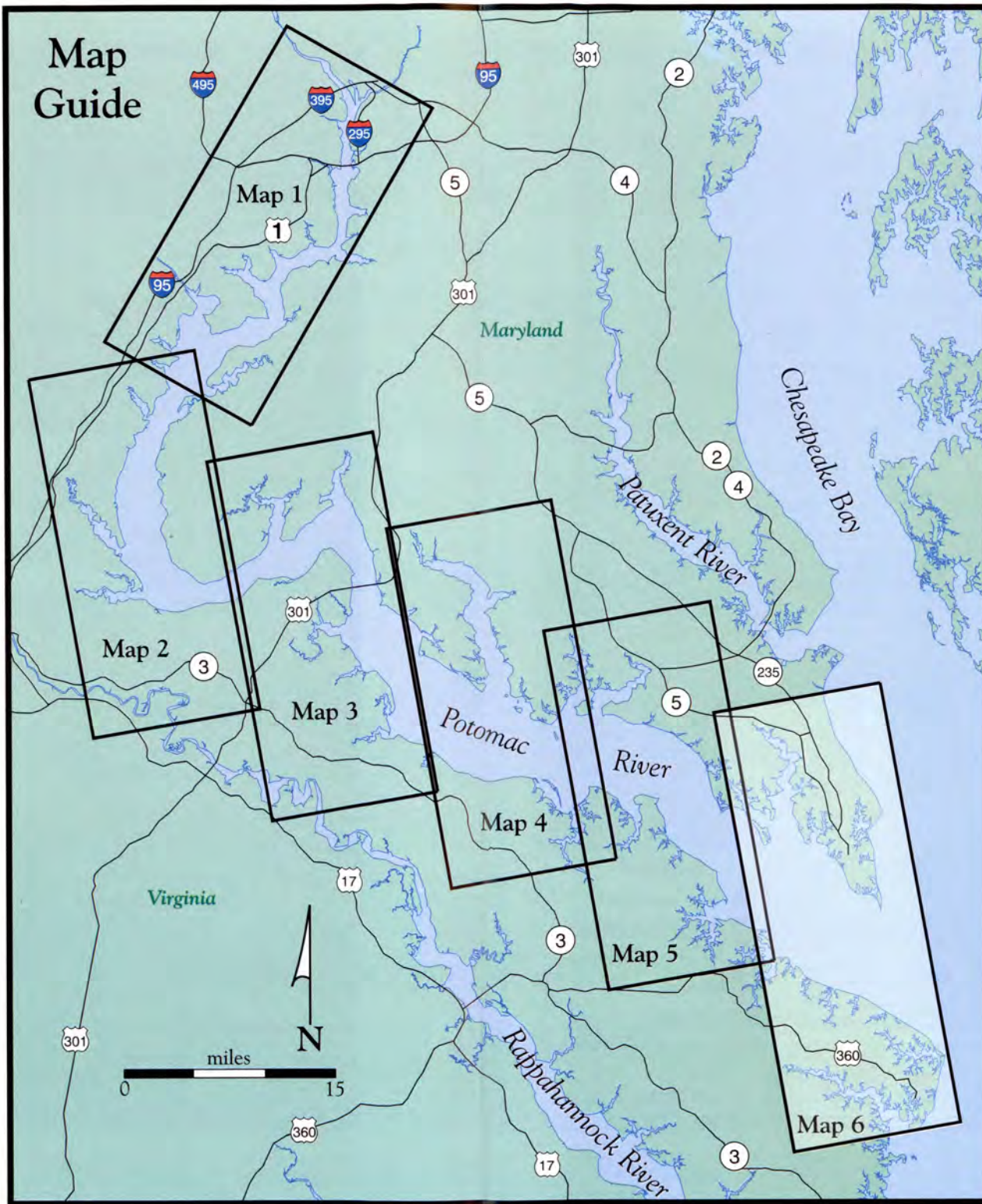
**Legend**

- Site Location
- Public Boat Ramp
- Restroom Facilities
- Marina
- Camping
- Gateways Network Site
- GPS Point Location



Produced by:





**V 70. Reedville** - In 1867, New England sea captain Elijah Reed followed schools of menhaden fish into the Chesapeake Bay and founded the thriving community of Reedville on Cockrell's Creek. At the Reedville Fishermen's Museum visitors learn about the Northern Neck's menhaden fishing industry and watermen's heritage. The Walker House (1875), a restored waterman's home, provides a glimpse of daily life at the turn of the century.

By the early 1900's the fishing industry was important enough so that Reedville was reputed to be the richest town per capita in the United States. This golden era of prosperity is visible in the Victorian mansions arrayed up and down Reedville's Main Street historic district. Self-guided walking/driving tour brochures available.

The Reedville Fishermen's Museum **G**: (804) 453-6529  
 Open daily 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from May to October. Limited hours during the remainder of the year. [www.rfmuseum.org](http://www.rfmuseum.org)



Main Street, Reedville.



Reedville Fishermen's Museum.



Point Lookout State Park Swimming Beach.



The State House of 1676 in St. Mary's City.

The Potomac River Water Trail map is a joint project of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as part of The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network. This publication was supported, in part, through the assistance of the National Park Service.  
 For comments or questions, contact  
 In VA. (804) 786-5046, [www.dcr.state.va.us](http://www.dcr.state.va.us)  
 In MD. (410) 260-8780, [www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/greenways)

**POTOMAC RIVER WATER TRAIL - USER SERVICES**

NUMBER	SITE NAME * = write up on map of selected sites	RESTROOM	BEACH	PICNIC	HISTORIC/ NATURAL SITE	BOAT LAUNCH CARTOP	BOAT RAMP	TRANSIENT SLIPS	PUMP/OUT/ FUEL	CAMPING	OVERNIGHT ACCOM.	FOOD SERVICE	COMMENTS
M35	St. George's Island Pier	X						X					St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M36	Dennis Point						X		X			X	St. Mary's County (301) 994-2288
M37	St. Mary's Ramp				X	X	X						
M38	St. Inigoes Landing	X	X	X		X	X						St. Mary's County (301) 475-4572
M39	Point Lookout State Park*	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	State Park (301) 872-5688
V35	Lewisetta	X					X	X	P/F				
V36	Smith Pt. Marina & Campgr.	X				X	X	X	P/F	X			
V37	Ches. Bay KOA and Marina	X				X	X	X	P/F	X		X	
V38	Reedville*	X		X	H/N		X	X	P/F		X	X	Marinas, 3 B&B, restaurants, museum, visitor information

**Enjoy the River**  
 Leave No Trace From Camping or Day Use

**Plan Ahead and Prepare**

- Know your trip and carry the proper equipment.
- Know your limitations and skills, as well as those of your group.

**Camp on designated public areas or with prior permission**

- Use existing clearings that won't be damaged by your stay.
- Keep groups small.
- Avoid trampling vegetation.

**Pack It In, Pack It Out**

- Try to leave the site cleaner than you found it.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely.
- Properly dispose of all waste. Put it in a trash can or dumpster, or take it with you.

**Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out**

- Clean and wash equipment, dishes, etc., as far away from the river as possible.
- Use only biodegradable soaps.

**Respect Natural and Cultural heritage as well as Private Property**

- Be courteous to other river users.
- Respect the privacy of others.
- Remember, most of the water front property is privately owned, and often posted against trespassing.
- Leave plants, trees, and artifacts as you found them.

**Minimize Use and Impact of Fires**

- Use existing fire rings or pits if they exist.
- Keep fires small or use a camp stove.
- Use only downed, dead wood.
- Drown fires and spread ashes before you leave.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:**

Maryland Natural Resource Police (410) 260-8888  
 VA or MD Sheriff's Dept. Dispatcher (area code) + prefix - 911  
 VA Marine Resources Commission (757) 247-2265  
 Law Enforcement Operation Center