

# Dismal Swamp

## Canal Trail

Chesapeake, VA



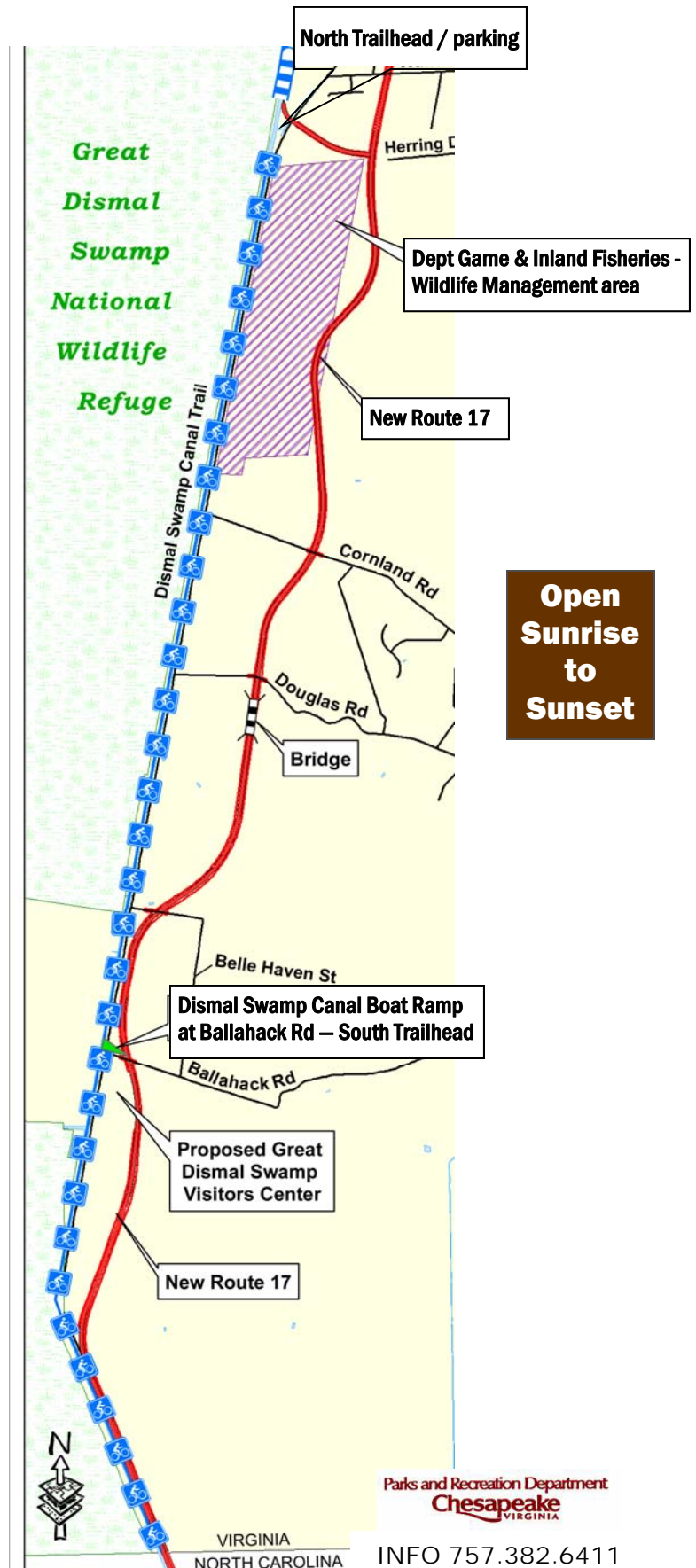
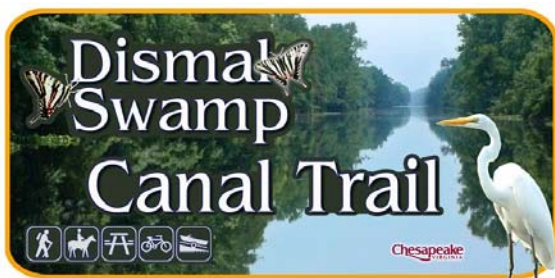
The Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, a former section of Virginia State Rt. 17, is now a multiuse trail open to bicycling, walking, running, horse-back riding, and boating. The north trailhead is located at the intersection of Dominion Blvd and Old Rt 17 in Chesapeake, VA, and runs south 8.3 miles along the Dismal Swamp Canal, which is the eastern border of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Dismal Swamp Refuge.

The Great Dismal Swamp Refuge is home to myriad species of wildlife. Parts of the Refuge were surveyed by George Washington's company and the Swamp is nationally recognized as a stop on the "Underground Railroad." The GDS Refuge is also a resting spot for thousands of migratory birds in the fall and spring.

This multipurpose-linear nature trail threads through some of the most uniquely historic and ecologically-significant habitats in the United States. The Dismal Swamp Canal Trail is an historic, environmental and outdoor recreation delight. Open to walkers, boaters, bicyclists, and horse-owners, the 8.3-mile trail is marked every 1/4-mile, and provides a 16-mile bike loop or a leisurely 2-mile-up-and-back nature walk and picnic with the family. Spend a day or a couple of hours. It's perfect for people of all ages to bike or walk and horse-owners to ride.

The Ballahack Rd./Great Dismal Swamp Boat Ramp provides easy access to launch your boat, canoe or kayak and is considered the South trailhead.

The Canal is the site of the popular "Paddle for the Border," which takes place in the spring. The event attracts paddlers from Maryland to Georgia, ages eight to eighty, fitness-buffs to historians, nature enthusiasts to families looking for a pleasant day's adventure.



**Open  
Sunrise  
to  
Sunset**

Parks and Recreation Department  
**Chesapeake**  
VIRGINIA

INFO 757.382.6411

[www.cityofchesapeake.net/parks](http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/parks) then click DISMAL SWAMP CANAL TRAIL