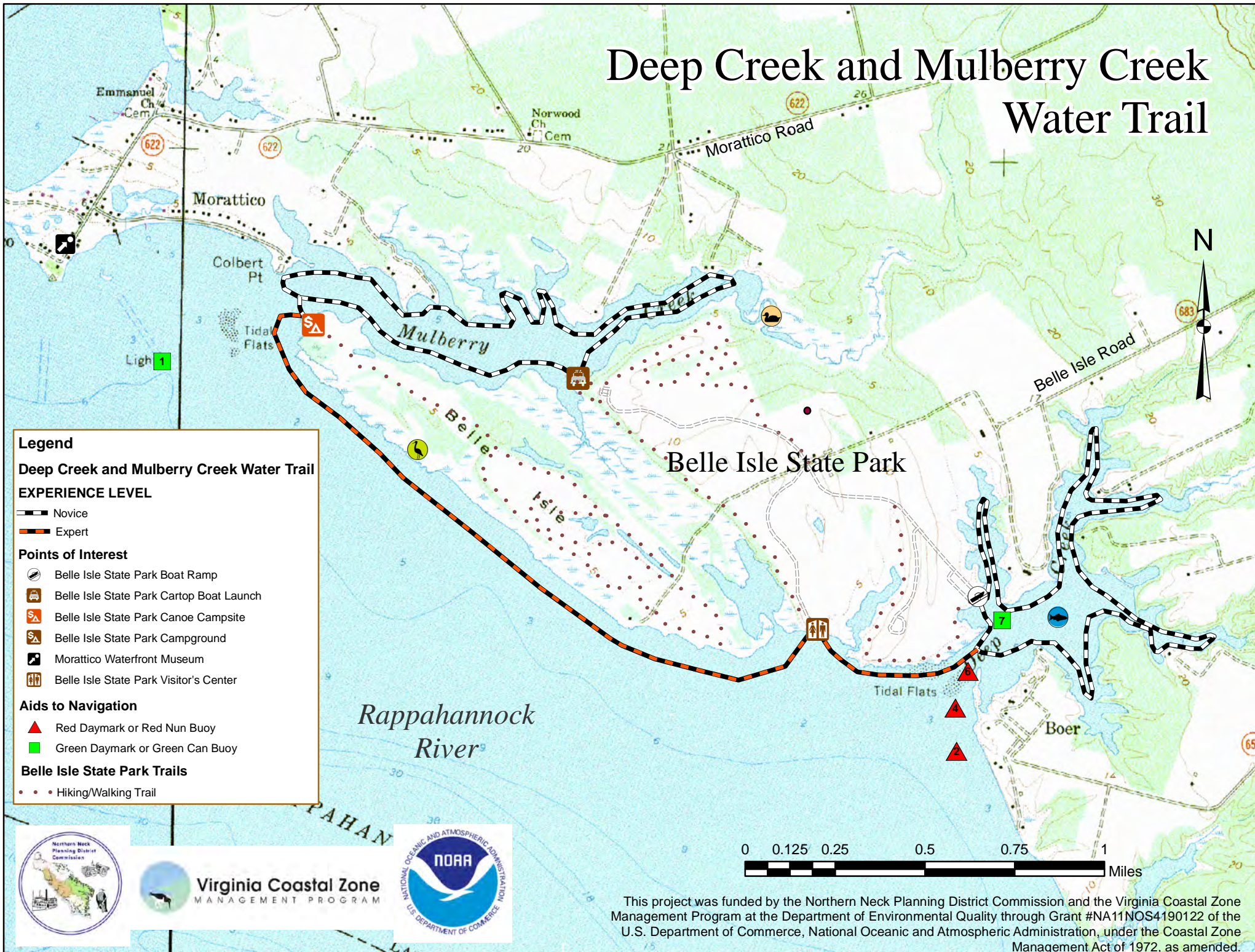


Deep Creek and Mulberry Creek Water Trail



Legend

Deep Creek and Mulberry Creek Water Trail

EXPERIENCE LEVEL

- Novice
- Expert

Points of Interest

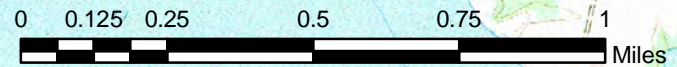
- ☐ Belle Isle State Park Boat Ramp
- ☐ Belle Isle State Park Cartop Boat Launch
- ☐ Belle Isle State Park Canoe Campsite
- ☐ Belle Isle State Park Campground
- ☐ Morattico Waterfront Museum
- ☐ Belle Isle State Park Visitor's Center

Aids to Navigation

- ▲ Red Daymark or Red Nun Buoy
- Green Daymark or Green Can Buoy

Belle Isle State Park Trails

- Hiking/Walking Trail



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The two water trails located in Mulberry and Deep Creek are sheltered enough for novice paddlers, however the water trail that extends out into the main stem of the Rappahannock River is designed for expert paddlers only.

Mulberry and Deep Creek are relatively sheltered from waves of the main stem of the Rappahannock River. However, if the wind blows, then waves can be driven into these creeks, causing large waves. These large waves make it difficult to navigate small vessels such as canoes and/or kayaks without capsizing. Always check the weather and wind forecast to be sure that conditions are safe to venture out. Click on the Rappahannock River polygon on the National Weather Service local website: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/akq/>

Paddlers need to consider the possibility of hypothermia when paddling in colder water temperatures. Paddling with others is strongly encouraged, as is a dry change of clothes in case of accidental immersion. Waterproof dry bags are available in sizes large enough to accommodate a change of clothes. Other safety recommendations are a cell phone and marine VHF radio for contacting help, should it become necessary.

Boaters also need to be in compliance with Virginia boating equipment regulations such as personal floatation devices, sound producing devices and visual distress signals. More information can be found here: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/wog/equipment-regulations.asp>

Boating hazards that paddlers may encounter in this stretch of the lower Rappahannock River are crab pot buoys, gill nets, pound nets as well as dangerous wakes from large powerboats that can easily swamp a canoe. It is best to avoid large powered vessels.

The main attraction of the Mulberry and Deep Creek water trails is, of course, the relatively easy access to both creeks from Belle Isle State Park. The Car Top Boat Launch offers easy access to Mulberry Creek while the Boat Ramp offers quick access to Deep Creek.



Belle Isle State Park has just completed a new canoe camping facility on the shoreline near the mouth of Mulberry Creek. The campsite is accessible by canoe and offers four campsites and a pit privy. This facility is a welcome addition to Belle Isle State Park and a much needed amenity for paddlers, who paddle on the lower Rappahannock River. Reservations are required to use this facility and can be made by calling Belle Isle State Park at 804-462-5030 or by visiting the DCR Belle Isle State Park website at: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/bel.shtml

In addition to the boat ramp, camping facilities, and the car top boat launch, Belle Isle State Park has numerous hiking trails, a small fishing pier, cabin and houses to rent, canoes, kayaks, and small powerboats to rent, as well as scheduled guided tours and events.

One can expect to find numerous species of birds: ospreys, bald eagles, hawks and blue herons. Terrestrial creatures that can routinely be found in or near the park include white tailed deer, turkey, groundhogs, moles, rabbits, and squirrels. In the warmer months reptiles as well as amphibians also can be spotted roaming about.

Species of fish that can be found in the water off Mulberry and Deep Creek include croaker, striped bass, perch, bluefish, and possibly puppy drum.

Directions to Belle Isle State Park from Warsaw travel south on Rt 3 to Rt. 354 (River Road) for three miles. Turn Right onto Rt 683 (Belle Isle Rd) to park entrance. From Kilmarnock take Rt 3 North to Lively, then left on Rt. 201 (White Chapel Rd) for three miles then right on Rt 354 for three miles, then left onto Rt. 683 to the park entrance

