

VIRGINIA VAGABONDS
LANCASTER, VIRGINIA
BELLE ISLE STATE PARK
YEAR-ROUND WALK
5/10 KILOMETERS, BOTH RATED 1B

START POINT: Picnic Shelters Area, Belle Isle State Park, 1632 Belle Isle Road, Lancaster, VA. GPS: 37.77357, -76.59250.
Website: www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/belle-isle

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Virginia Counties - Lancaster County

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

FROM HAMPTON/NORFOLK:

1. Take I-64 to Exit 258B (US 17N/J Clyde Morris Boulevard).
2. Follow US 17 N for approximately 40.2 miles to Saluda. There is a \$2 toll charge to cross the York River Bridge.
3. Turn right on VA 33 East (Hardee's at this turn) for 6.9 miles
4. Turn left on Route 3 West.
5. Proceed approximately 21.8 miles to the flashing light at Lively.
6. Turn left on Route 201 South.
7. Approximately 3.1 miles, turn right on Route 354 North (River Road – stop sign and T-intersection).
8. Approximately 3.1 miles, turn left on Route 683 (Belle Isle Road).
9. Drive 0.8 miles to the gate for Belle Isle State Park.
10. Stop and pay your fee - \$5 (may be set up for you to pay on the honor system).
11. Drive 1.3 miles to the parking lot by the picnic shelters and white building (restrooms) – do not make any turns on side roads in the park.
12. Park close to the white building (restrooms).

FROM RICHMOND:

1. From I-295 (bypass around Richmond), take Exit 37A (US 360 East towards Tappahannock).
2. Follow Route 360 East approximately 45.2 miles (passing through Tappahannock), until it joins Route 3 East in Warsaw.
3. Continue on Route 360 East and Route 3 East for about 0.9 miles.

4. Turn right on Route 3 East and follow Route 3 East approximately 14.6 miles.
5. Just after entering Lancaster County, turn right on Route 354 South (River Road).
6. Approximately 3.0 miles, turn right on Route 683 (Belle Isle Road).
7. Drive 0.8 miles to the gate for Belle Isle State Park.
8. Stop and pay your fee - \$5 (may be set up for you to pay on the honor system).
9. Drive 1.3 miles to the parking lot by the picnic shelters and white building (restrooms) – do not make any turns on side roads in the park.
10. Park close to the white building (restrooms).

FROM POINTS NORTH:

1. Follow I-95 South to Fredericksburg, VA.
2. You may take either Route 3 East or US 17 South.
3. If you follow Route 3 East, you will be on it until you enter Lancaster County (instruction 5 for the Richmond directions). Follow the Richmond directions from direction 5 thru 10.
4. If you follow Route 17 South, you will be on it until you reach Tappahannock. Then, turn left on Route 360 East, until it joins Route 3 East in Warsaw. Then, follow the Richmond directions from direction 3 thru 10.

WALK COMPLETION AND CREDIT: Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.)

In case of Emergencies, dial 9-1-1. For event-related assistance or to make comments regarding these directions, contact the P.O.C., Helen Garamone, hkgaramone@hotmail.com, cell 571-243-2573.

These maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

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Walk Directions for the 10K trail: pages 4-5

Walk Directions for the 5K trail: page 6

Surrounded by marshes and with seven miles of waterfront, Belle Isle State Park in Lancaster, Virginia, is a breath of fresh air. Uncluttered by “extras,” the park takes visitors back to a simpler time when strolls on the beach and telling ghost stories by moonlight were commonplace. Belle Isle State Park provides a location for outdoor recreation and educates the public about the marsh ecosystem.

The park's land originally belonged to John Bertrand, who purchased it in 1692. For three centuries, the land passed to various families until the state purchased it in 1992 with part of a \$95 million parks and recreational facilities bond referendum.

The park comprises 733 acres of land buffering Rappahannock River. Two creeks, Mulberry Creek and Deep Creek, amble through the park. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries describes the recent addition of Belle Isle State Park to the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail as "a wide diversity of habitats. Narrow hedgerows, maritime pine forests, salt marshes, and scenic overlooks of the Rappahannock River attract a wide diversity of wildlife." Common wildlife includes the eastern narrowmouth toad, gray tree frog, northern bobwhite, ospreys, terns, blue herons, bald eagles and various waterfowl. Trails meander near the salt marches.

The land is very flat but the trail surface varies from asphalt to grass to gravel to dirt. Dogs are allowed if on a leash and cleanup by the owner is expected.

10-KILOMETER WALKING DIRECTIONS:

1. Leave your car and walk to the far end of the parking lot away from the white building (restrooms).

2. At the far end of the parking lot, turn right on the road you drove in on, passing the Equestrian Parking Area on the left.

3. At the cross roads, just past the brown sign on the right, turn left on Creek Landing Road (no sign) towards the Cartop Launch.

4. Continue straight on Creek Landing Road. **1.07 km at the road to the right to the Campground**

Just past the campground road is the Amphitheater on the right.

5. At the end of Creek Landing Road, turn left toward the "Canoe/Kayak Launch" sign. (Restrooms)

6. At the asphalt walkway/gravel road, continue straight on the Mulberry Creek Boardwalk Trail (Food for Thought and Trekking with Trees). (burgundy blaze)

7. At the end of the boardwalk, continue straight onto the gravel Mud Creek Trail (yellow blaze).

8. As you exit the woods, turn right, keeping the field on your left and the woods on the right. You will be walking on a grassy trail.

9. At the T-intersection, turn right on the Watch House Trail (red blaze). **3 km**

10. Pass the Neck Fields Trail on the right.

11. At the next trail, turn left on Watch House Trail Loop (tan blaze).

As you turn back on the loop trail, the Rappahannock River will be on your left.

12. At the trail junction, turn right on Watch House Trail (red blaze). **4 km**

13. Cross Watch House Loop Trail and continue straight for a short distance on Watch House Trail.

14. At the next trail to the left, turn left on Neck Fields Trail (forest green blaze).

15. At the trails' signpost, turn right on Neck Fields Loop Trail (lime green blaze).

16. At the junction with the trail, turn right on Neck Fields Trail. **5.14 km**

17. Continue on Neck Fields Trail. **6 km at the second Brewers Trail on the left**

18. Continue on Neck Fields Trail to the small beach.

19. Reverse your direction, walking back down Neck Fields Trail the way you came.

20. At the first trail to the right, turn right on Brewers Trail (purple blaze). **DO NOT** continue on Neck Fields trail as it curves left.

21. Cross Neck Fields Trail and continue on Brewers Trail.

22. At the junction with the trail, turn left on Neck Fields Trail. **7.2 km**

23. At the next trail on the right, turn right on Neck Fields Loop Trail (lime green blaze).

24. At the trail to the left, continue straight on the Neck Fields Loop Trail. **8 km as the trail curves left before it curves left again and doubles back**

25. At the junction with the Neck Fields Trail, turn right on the Neck Fields Trail.

26. At the T-intersection, turn left on Watch House trail. **9.19 km**

27. Pass the Mud Creek Trail on the left and continue straight on the Watch House Trail for a short distance.

28. At the next trail to the right, turn right on the Porpoise Creek Trail (Animal Safari). (blue blaze)

29. As you leave the woods, turn right to stay on the Porpoise Creek Trail, walking with the field on the left and woods on the right. The trail is a grassy trail.

30. At the signboard, turn left.

31. Walk across the grass and parking lot to return to your car.

5-KILOMETER TRAIL:

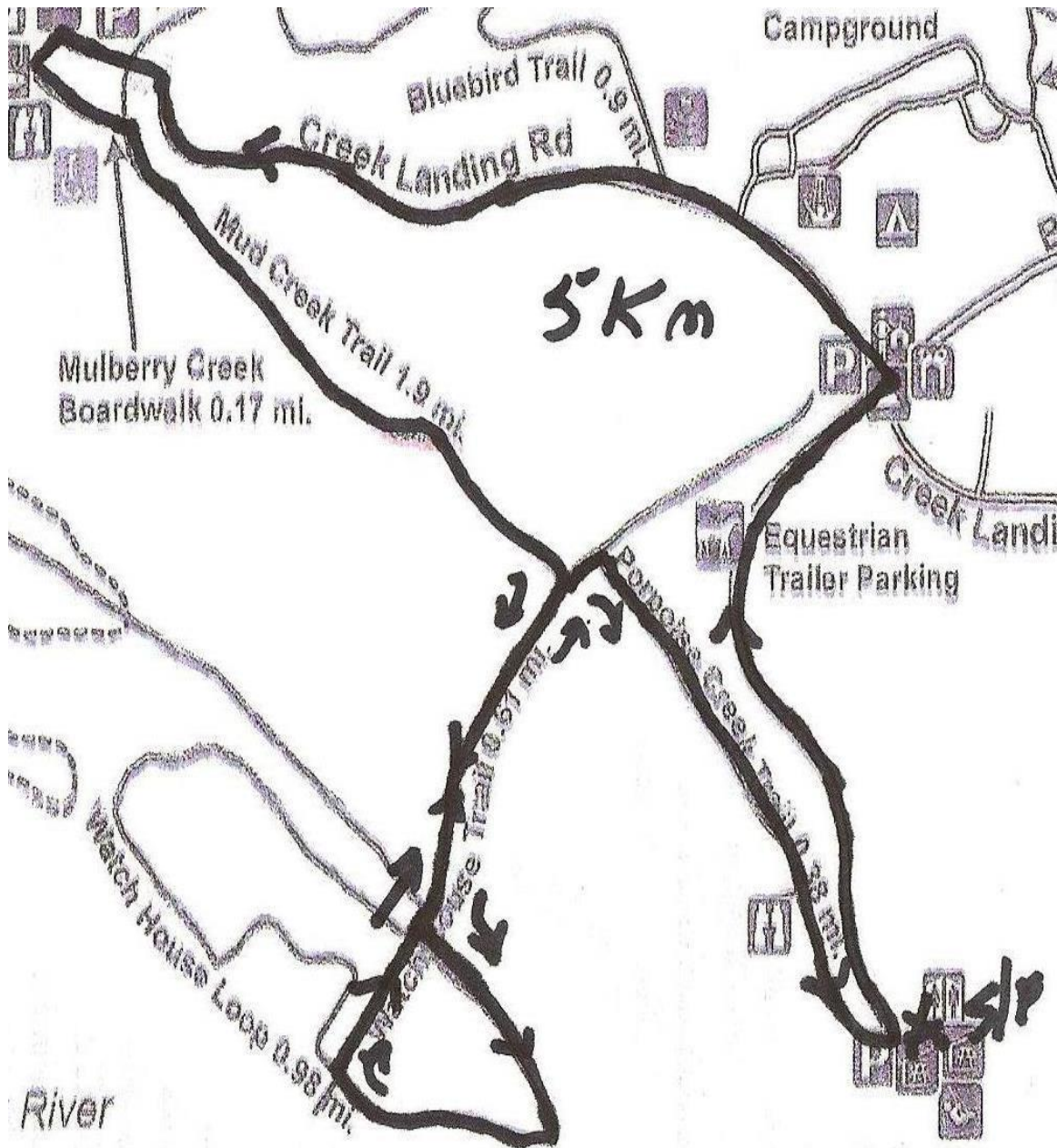
1. Follow the 10-kilometer trail directions 1 thru 13.

2. Pass the Neck Field Trail on the left.

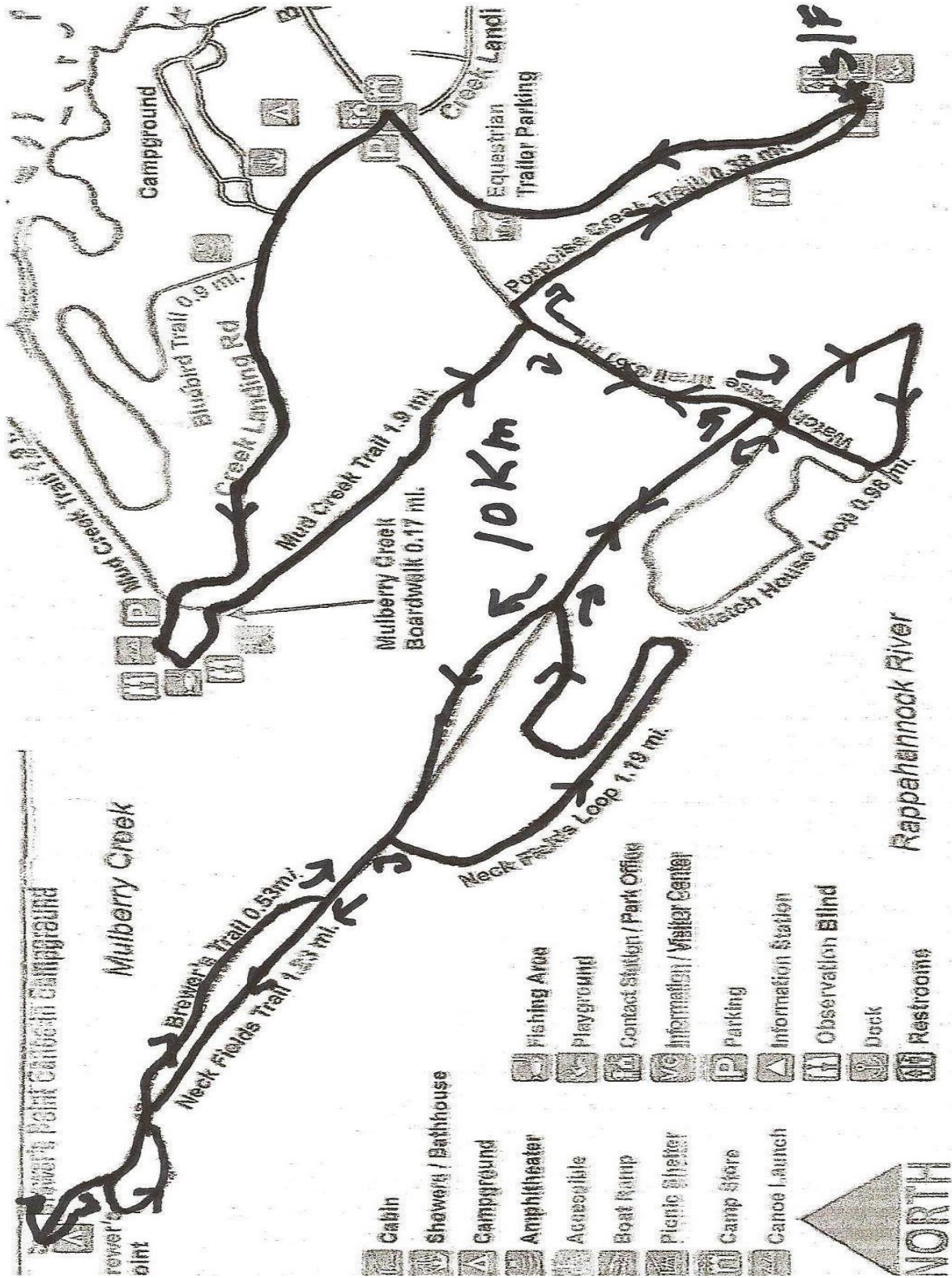
3. Follow 10-kilometer trail directions 27 thru 31.

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5-KILOMETER MAP:



10-KILOMETER MAP:



DRIVING MAP:

