

KENT ISLAND WATER TRAILS

Explore Maryland's Eastern Shore - Queen Anne's County

There are hundreds of miles of paddling opportunities on Maryland's scenic Eastern Shore. This publication shows just some of the routes available on Kent Island in Queen Anne's County. Easily accessible from the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas, the waters around Kent Island provide tranquility, scenery, and opportunities for exploring and learning about the cultural heritage and natural habitats of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

This map highlights six paddling trails on Kent Island, and depicts a diverse mix of paddling opportunities for novices to experienced paddlers. The trails are listed and identified on the index map below.



- Chesapeake Bay Trail: Terrapin Nature Area to Matapeake Park
- Eastern Bay Trail: Shipping Creek Landing to Romancock Pier
- Thompson Creek Trail: Thompson Creek Landing to Warehouse Creek Landing
- Kent Narrows Trail North: Kent Narrows Landing to Piney Creek
- Kent Narrows Trail South: Kent Narrows Landing to Goodhands Creek Landing
- Cabin Creek Trail: Cabin Creek Landing and Prospect Bay



MAP LEGEND	
	Land Trail/foot/bike
	Water Trail
	Canoe/Kayak access
	Boat Ramp
	Visitor Center
	Water Trail rest area (available by water only)
	Parking
	State Site
	Federal Site
	Local Site
	Private Conservation
	Private
	Water
	Roads

This map of the Kent Island Water Trails is intended for use primarily by non-motorized boaters, although powered watercraft utilize the numerous access facilities identified along the water trail routes. Consult the legend for icons denoting boat ramps and other locations that provide access to paddling destinations, such as protected bays, marshes and tributaries. These are areas that have been identified as ideal for exploration by canoe or kayak and have opportunities for viewing wildlife and enjoying the Bay's scenery.

PLEASE NOTE: This map is meant to be used as a reference for existing public access sites and facilities. We strongly recommend using more detailed maps, charts and supplemental information geared to your specific needs when planning for or undertaking extended excursions.

Queen Anne's County Fees and Regulations

Queen Anne's County allows both motorized and non-motorized boats to launch from public landings with boat ramps. The landings without boat ramps are limited to canoes and kayaks only (Cabin Creek Landing; Jackson Creek Landing; Warehouse Creek Landing).

Public Landing Fees and Permits:
A permit is required for parking at all public landings. The annual permit is \$35 for Maryland residents and \$60 for non-residents. One-day permits are available at a cost of \$10 for in-state residents and \$15 for out-of-state residents. The permits are valid January through December, of the applicable year, and may be obtained at the following Stevensville, Chester, and Annapolis locations:

Blue Heron Golf Course	410-643-5721	Chesapeake Outdoors	410-604-0446
L&B Marine	410-643-3600	Angler's Sport Center	410-974-4013
Western Tire and Auto	410-643-5572		

- Public Landing Regulations**
- All public landings are trash free. You must take home what you bring with you.
 - At all landings a current permit must be displayed by every vehicle with or without a trailer, for either boat launching or general parking.
 - Annual permits are valid only when displayed on the driver's side of either the boat trailer tongue or the vehicle rear bumper.
 - Daily permits are valid only when displayed on the vehicle windshield facing out.
 - Launching at landings without a ramp is limited to canoes, kayaks, and car-top boats.

PLEASE NOTE: This general permit is valid at Matapeake Pier and Romancock Pier for the launching of a vessel only. All other users of the piers must pay the separate entrance fee of \$10 per vehicle per 24 hours. An on-site machine accepts cash and credit cards, which produces a receipt that must be displayed face up on your dashboard and is valid at either pier during the 24-hour period.

For additional information contact the Queen Anne's County Department of Parks and Recreation at 410-758-0835 or visit www.parksnrec.org

1 Chesapeake Bay Trail: Terrapin Nature Area to Matapeake Park

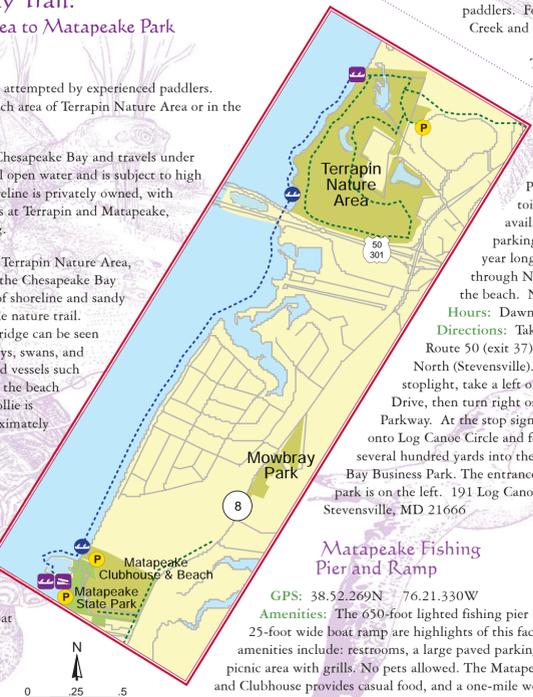
Distance: Approximately 3.25 miles
Difficulty: This water trail should only be attempted by experienced paddlers. For an easier alternative, stay along the beach area of Terrapin Nature Area or in the immediate vicinity of Matapeake Park.

This trail follows the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay and travels under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The route is all open water and is subject to high winds, waves and strong currents. The shoreline is privately owned, with no public access between the identified sites at Terrapin and Matapeake, providing minimal opportunities for resting.

Access to the northern end of the trail is at Terrapin Nature Area, a 276-acre bayfront property, just north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The park includes over 4,000 feet of shoreline and sandy beach, 73 acres of wetlands, and a 3.25-mile nature trail. Spectacular views of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge can be seen while paddling this route and herons, ospreys, swans, and other wildlife can also be seen. Hand-carried vessels such as canoes and kayaks can be launched from the beach but portage is required and use of a boat dolly is recommended, as the parking area is approximately 1/2 mile from the beach.

The southern end of the trail is accessible from the Matapeake Park boat ramp. The County also owns a site, the Matapeake Clubhouse and beach, along the shoreline just north of the State Park's fishing pier. Paddlers should exercise caution when approaching the Park and the entrance to the boating facility at Matapeake. This area is subject to large boat traffic, tidal fluctuations and wave action. The ramp/landing area is located at the southern end of the complex.

Terrapin Nature Area
GPS: 38.59.568N 76.19.629W
Amenities: The site offers a beach area, a 3.25-mile nature trail, gazebo, observation blinds, and access to the Cross Island Trail.



2 Eastern Bay Trail: Shipping Creek Landing to Romancock Pier



Distance: Approximately 3 miles
Difficulty: This water trail should only be attempted by experience paddlers. For an easy to moderate alternative, stay in the confines of the Shipping Creek Cove.

The northern access to this water trail is in a quiet cove located on a tributary of Shipping Creek, where paddlers might see watermen's boats moored year round. From the cove, paddle out to the mainstem of the creek. Continue south along the shoreline and into the Eastern Bay. The shoreline is marked by residential housing and private piers which provide little opportunity for rest stops. Paddlers will see a series of small islands (Philpots Islands) which mark the mid-point of the trail. Be aware that the open waters of Eastern Bay are subject to high winds and surf, so check weather conditions before departing and stay close to shore.

The southern terminus of the trail is the Romancock Pier where you'll find a small sandy beach for launching kayaks and canoes, restrooms, picnic facilities, and a connection to the Kent Island South Trail.

Shipping Creek Landing
GPS: 38.54.789N 76.20.777W
Amenities: This 2.5 acre facility has a 14-foot wide boat ramp, providing access to Shipping Creek and Cox Creek. No pets allowed. Parking for 40 vehicles. Daily or Annual Public Landings Permit is required for parking. Portable toilets provided May to November.
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
Directions: Follow Route 50/301 to Route 8 South. Continue approximately 5 miles. Turn left onto Shipping Creek Road and follow to the end to 131 Shipping Creek Road, Stevensville, MD 21666

Romancock Pier and Romancock Wharf County Park
GPS: 38.52.845N 76.20.172W
Amenities: Fishing pier and canoe/kayak launch are available at this site. The park also provides a large parking lot, restrooms, picnic area with tables and grills, and a connection to a multi-use walking and biking trail, the Kent Island South Trail. The picnic area is open down to dusk. **Hours:** Open 24 hours, seven days a week.
Directions: Follow U.S. Route 50/301 to Route 8 South (Romancock Road). Continue on Route 8 for approximately 8 miles and follow the signs to Romancock Pier at 9700 Romancock Road, Stevensville, MD 21666

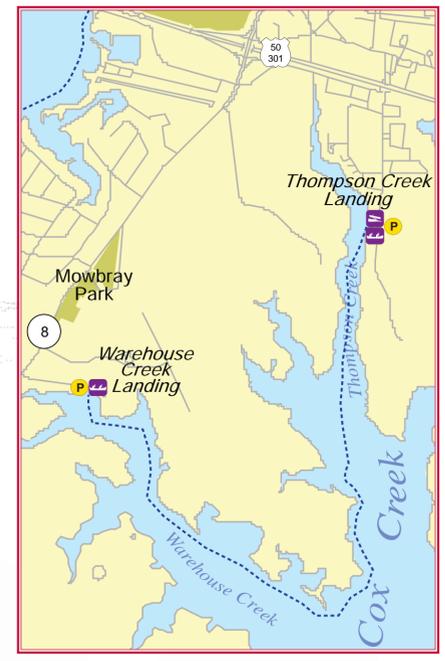
3 Thompson Creek Trail: Thompson Creek Landing to Warehouse Creek Landing

Distance: Approximately 3.6 miles
Difficulty: The full route of this water trail should only be attempted by experience paddlers. For an easier alternative, launch at either Thompson Creek or Warehouse Creek and stay in the narrower, more sheltered shoreline areas.

This trail offers paddlers views of various landscapes, from developed residential shoreline, to marshlands and upland forests. The trail begins at the Thompson Creek Landing. As you leave the landing head south, (to the left) out of Thompson Creek, towards the larger waters of Cox Creek. This area is very open, is subject to high winds, and offers very few areas for shelter or to pull off. Keep to the western shore and continue around the point into Warehouse Creek. Forests and marshes dominate in this area, but you'll notice Batts Creek Plantation on the southern shoreline. Continue in a northwest direction into Warehouse Creek. A large historic property, featuring a prominent white house will be on the point to your right. The landing is just past this property.

Portable toilets are available in the parking lot all year long and April through November at the beach. No park fee.
Hours: Dawn to dusk.
Directions: Take U.S. Route 50 (exit 37) to Route 8 North (Stevensville). At the first stoplight, take a left onto Bateau Drive, then turn right onto Skipjack Parkway. At the stop sign, turn left onto Log Canoe Circle and follow it for several hundred yards into the Chesapeake Bay Business Park. The entrance to the park is on the left. 191 Log Canoe Circle, Stevensville, MD 21666

Matapeake Fishing Pier and Ramp
GPS: 38.52.269N 76.21.330W
Amenities: The 650-foot lighted fishing pier and the 25-foot wide boat ramp are highlights of this facility. Other amenities include: restrooms, a large paved parking lot, and a picnic area with grills. No pets allowed. The Matapeake Beach and Clubhouse provides casual food, and a one-mile wooded trail that leads to the Bay. **Hours:** Picnic area is open down to dusk, pier and ramp are open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
Directions: Follow U.S. Route 50/301 to Route 8 South (Romancock). Turn right onto Marine Academy Drive and follow the signs to 1112 Romancock Rd, Stevensville, MD 21666



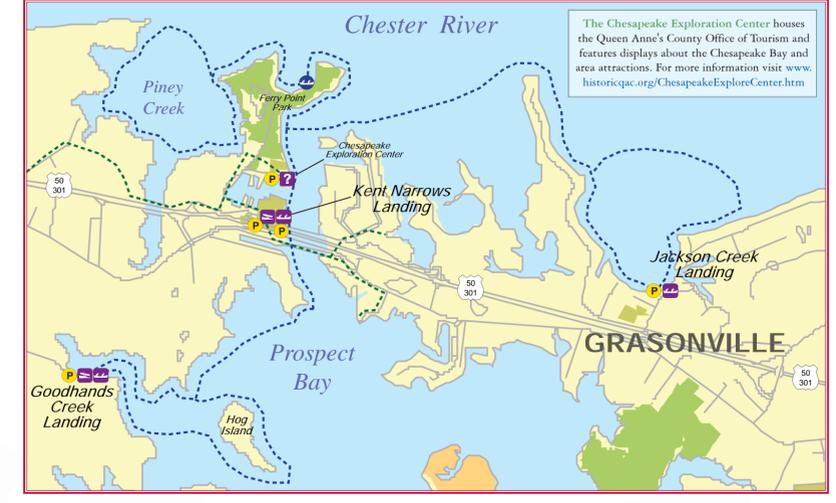
Warehouse Creek Landing
GPS: 38.57.407N 76.20.172W
Amenities: This very small (0.1 acre) facility provides access to Warehouse Creek for enjoying nature, fishing or crabbing. There is a small dirt parking lot and no amenities. No pets allowed. A Daily or Annual Public Landings Permit is required for parking. This is a soft landing, appropriate for hand-launched vessels such as canoes and kayaks only.
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
Directions: Follow U.S. Route 50/301 to Route 8 South. Continue 1.75 miles and turn left on Great Neck Road. Go .25 of a mile and turn right into the landing parking area.

4 Kent Narrows Trail North: Kent Narrows Landing to Piney Creek or Jackson Creek Landing

Distance: It is approximately 1.7 miles from Kent Narrows Landing to Piney Creek, and an additional mile if you paddle the creek loop. It is approximately 2.5 miles from Kent Narrows Landing to Jackson Creek Landing and an additional 1.5 miles if you add the loop.
Difficulty: Paddling in the Kent Narrows and open waters of the Chester River should only be attempted by experienced paddlers. For an easier alternative launch at Jackson Creek and stay in the cove.

These trails provide a diversity of landscapes from the highly developed commercial area of Kent Narrows to the marshlands and forests in Piney Creek, and the neighborhood beach and parkland of Jackson Creek. As you leave the Narrows heading north, stay close to the western shoreline, out of the main channel, and away from the large sailboats and motorized boat traffic typical of this area, especially during nice weather. To reach Piney Creek, head west around the point into the Chester River and continue following the shoreline. You will pass a small cove with a sandy beach on your left. This property is Ferry Point Park and is owned by Queen Anne's County. It is an excellent spot for picnicking, resting, or emergency exits. Continue westward into the cove of Piney Creek. To reach Jackson Creek Landing, follow the same route out of the Narrows, but head east into the open waters of the Chester River. This area is marked by private residences so please respect private property and do not trespass. Continue east around the point and follow the shoreline directly to the landing.

Kent Narrows Landing
GPS reading: 38.58.297N 76.14.939W
Amenities: This one-acre landing has two 34-foot wide boat ramps, a picnic pavilion, fishing, and parking for 85 vehicles. A Daily or Annual Public Landings Permit is required for parking. Portable toilets are provided from May to November. No pets allowed. **Hours:** Open 24 hours, 7 days a week.
Directions: Follow U.S. Route 50/301 to Route 18, Piney Narrows Road. The landing and parking area are underneath the Kent Narrows Bridge.



Jackson Creek Landing
GPS: 38.58.068N 76.13.212W
Amenities: This 1.5 acre facility has a small (2-5 car) parking lot, and beach area for fishing, crabbing, enjoying nature, and launching canoes or kayaks (hand-carry, car top boats only). A Daily or Annual Public Landings Permit is required for parking. Portable toilets are provided May to November. No pets allowed. **Hours:** Open 24 hours, 7 days a week. **Directions:** Eastbound on Rt. 50/301, take exit 43A to Rt. 18 to Jackson Creek Road. Follow to the end of the road.

5 Kent Narrows Trail South: Kent Narrows Landing to Goodhands Creek Landing

Distance: It is approximately 1.7 miles from Kent Narrows Landing to Goodhands Creek Landing. The distance from Goodhands Creek Landing and around Hog Island is approximately 2.4 miles
Difficulty: Paddling in the Kent Narrows should only be attempted by experienced paddlers. For a moderate to easy alternative, launch from Goodhands Creek and make the loop around Hog Island.

This trail takes you south, away from the highly developed commercial area of the Kent Narrows. The strong currents and tidal influence in the Narrows can be tricky for paddlers so stay close to the western shoreline and watch for motorized boat traffic as you pass underneath the Route 50 bridge. Once through the Narrows, continue in a southwesterly direction towards a low marshy island (Hog Island) which marks the entrance to Goodhands Creek. The Creek's quiet marshlands and forested areas offer a more sheltered environment and provide protection from winds and strong currents. Continue northwest into the creek, keeping an eye out for bald eagles which have been seen feeding and nesting in the area. The landing is located in a cove which will appear on your left.

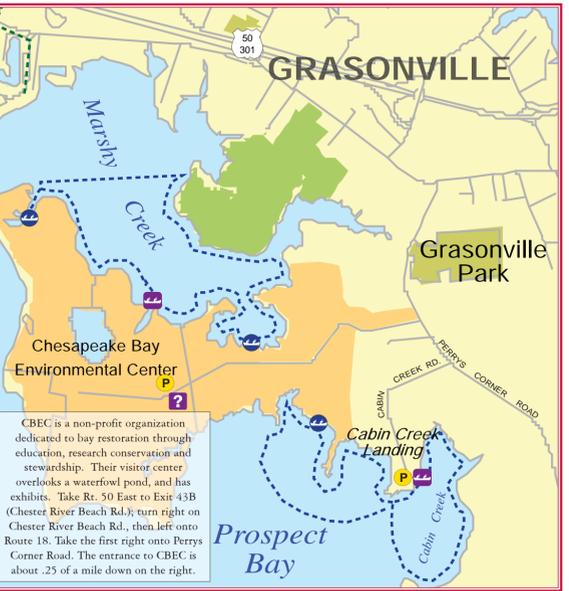
6 Cabin Creek Trail: Cabin Creek Landing and Prospect Bay loop trails

Distance: The loop trail in Cabin Creek is approximately 1.25 miles long. Add the loop out to the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC) and Prospect Bay for an additional 2 miles of paddling.
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate.

The Cabin Creek Trail is located in a protected cove off Prospect Bay. It is ideal for beginning paddlers or for a short excursion to explore the cove's tidal habitats. For a longer paddle, travel out of the Cabin Creek cove along the southern shoreline of CBEC and continue out into Prospect Bay. Be aware that you will be passing some private property before reaching the Center's 500-acre preserve. Please be sensitive to private landowners and do not trespass.

CBEC has many on-going research projects related to shoreline restoration and oyster recovery. Along the shoreline you can see a riparian area demonstration project to assess various shoreline protection methods. Just past the project you'll find the access to a small beach area with interpretive trails. Buoys set in Prospect Bay mark CBEC's oyster sanctuary. Visitors may paddle around the buoys, but be careful not to disturb this area. A separate Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center Water Trail Guide is available for water trails on Marshy Creek. For more information contact CBEC at 410-827-6694 or visit www.bayrestoration.org.

Cabin Creek Landing
GPS: 38.56.639N 72.12.706W
Amenities: This 2.6 acre facility offers fishing and crabbing, a small beach area to launch canoes and kayaks (hand launched vessels only), and a 4-6 car paved parking lot. A Daily or Annual Public Landings Permit is required for parking. No amenities. No pets allowed.
Hours: Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Directions: Rt. 50/301 to Rt. 18 south. Go past firehouse and turn right onto Perry's Corner Road. Travel .75 miles and turn right onto Cabin Creek Road. Follow to end of road.



CBEC is a non-profit organization dedicated to bay restoration through education, research conservation and stewardship. Their visitor center overlooks a waterfowl pond, and has exhibits. Take Rt. 50 East to Exit 43B (Chester River Beach Rd); turn right on Chester River Beach Rd.; then left on Route 18. Take the first right onto Perry's Corner Road. The entrance to CBEC is about .25 of a mile down on the right.