

Dismal Swamp State Park



Trails

Swamp Boardwalk: (0.5 mile) Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the wheelchair-accessible boardwalk as it takes you over the swamp. Hear the sounds of frogs and birds without getting your feet wet. *Hiking only.*

Supple-Jack Trail: (0.9 mile) This trail begins near the Visitor Center and is blazed with blue triangles. It winds through dense vegetation and connects to Canal Road at three different places. Keep your eyes peeled for the remains of illegal liquor stills from the Prohibition era. *Hiking only.*

Canal Road: (2.2 miles) With its sandy surface, this trail is a great place to observe animal crossings. A replica liquor still is located 0.25 mile down Canal Rd., near the first Supple-Jack Trail junction. An example of a lighter boat (flat-bottomed barge) can be found near Cross Canal, about 0.7 mile down Canal Rd.

Bull Boulevard: (2.25 miles) This trail is a quiet, grassy road deep in the swamp, where cypress and cedar trees grow. You may find signs of bears, wood ducks and otters.

Corapeake Road: (4.8 miles) Running just south of the N.C./V.A. state line, this trail stretches west to east across the park. At the intersection of Forest Line and Corapeake, you can observe the effects of the 2011 wildfire, which burned for 111 days. You can also see abundant pocosin habitat along Corapeake. Common flora species include bay and gallberry.

Forest Line Road: (2.3 miles) This trail is a gravel road with shoulders dotted with Atlantic White-Cedar trees. Black bear and otter are commonly seen here on the park's western boundary, in the heart of the swamp.

Kim Saunders Road: (5.4 miles) This is a grassy dirt and gravel path, stretching across the park from its intersection with Canal Road. Black bears, turkeys, bobcats and butterflies may be seen here. Birders will enjoy the trail for the many warblers frequenting the woods along either side.

Laurel Trail: (1.0 mile) This trail is a gravel road running between Kim Saunders and Corapeake. From there, you can continue further into the park along Corapeake or turn east and visit the water control structures near the park's eastern boundary.

S. Martha Washington Trail: (1.2 miles) This is a newer road connecting Kim Saunders and Corapeake trails. Beginning just a few hundred feet beyond the end of Canal Road, this is the fastest way to reach the water control structures which are near the junction of Corapeake and S. Martha Washington.

Western Boundary Trail: (1.0 mile) This trail connects Kim Saunders to Corapeake Trail, west of S. Martha Washington and Laurel. Be sure to pack a snack to enjoy at the picnic table at the corner by Kim Saunders. A 6-mile hike brings you here from the visitor center.

All trails are classified as easy, are listed with one way distances and do not loop.

