



## VIRGINIA PRESERVES

The Nature Conservancy invites you to experience the lands and waters that your support enables us to protect. Reaching from the Appalachians to the Atlantic, more than a dozen preserves offer opportunities for recreation. Our Virginia is open for exploration—and we’re saving a place for you!

### PRESERVE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Warm Springs Mountain

**Location:** Bath County, near Hot Springs

**What to see:** Spring is prime time for wildflowers and bird watching. Summer is peak season for wildlife sightings, especially during morning and evening walks. And autumn offers beautiful displays of forest foliage.

**Access:** The Ingalls Overlook, Sandy Gap and Bear Loop hiking trails are open daily. These three trails offer distinct experiences, from expansive mountain views to a close-up look at a globally rare pine barren, along with opportunities to extend your hike on adjoining public lands.



#### Virginia Coast Reserve

**Location:** Eastern Shore

**What to see:** 14 barrier and marsh islands form the heart of the largest expanse of coastal wilderness in the eastern U.S. Spring and fall migration seasons are the best times to visit island and mainland preserves, though scenery and bird watching are spectacular year-round.

**Access:** Brownsville Preserve, our headquarters, features the William B. Cummings Birding and Wildlife Trail, a three-mile (round trip) hike through marsh and forest. Most barrier islands are open daily for low-impact recreation.



### PLACES YOU CAN VISIT

#### WESTERN VIRGINIA

- Warm Springs Mountain

#### SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

- Bottom Creek Gorge
- Falls Ridge

#### NORTHERN VIRGINIA

- Alexander Berger
- Fraser
- Voorhees

#### CENTRAL VIRGINIA

- Fortune’s Cove

#### EASTERN VIRGINIA

- Dragon Flats
- New Point Comfort
- Vandell/Cumberland Marsh

#### SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA

- Blackwater River
- Piney Grove

#### EASTERN SHORE

- Brownsville
- Virginia Coast Reserve Barrier Islands

Visit us online for directions, trail maps and other preserve information.

**NATURE.ORG/VAPLACES**



# Our Virginia

IT'S IN OUR NATURE



### Bottom Creek Gorge

**Location:** Montgomery County, near Roanoke

**What to see:** Bottom Creek is a powerful mountain stream that forms a scenic series of broad-basin cascades known as The Kettles. Because of ample water flows, spring is the best time to see Virginia’s second-highest waterfall, as well as an impressive variety of wildflowers.

**Access:** More than five miles of moderate trails are available to visitors. Winter weather can impact road conditions, so be on the lookout for washouts or potholes on the road leading into the preserve and consider parking on the shoulder.



### Dragon Flats

**Location:** Middle Peninsula, near Saluda

**What to see:** Spring is the main season for paddling one of Virginia’s most pristine bald-cypress swamps, Dragon Run, which meanders through Dragon Flats Preserve. It’s also the best season to see migratory birds such as prothonotary warblers.

**Access:** Friends of Dragon Run ([www.dragonrun.org](http://www.dragonrun.org)), our local partner, offers guided paddle trips in spring that include Dragon Flats. They recently added fall floats along a different section, and they maintain a nature trail at the Route 603 bridge near Mascot. Dragon Run State Forest offers additional recreation opportunities.



### Fortune’s Cove

**Location:** Nelson County, near Lovingston

**What to see:** Wildflowers, blooming trees and birds are springtime highlights at this mountain preserve, with excellent bird watching extending through summer nesting season. Vistas from rocky ledges are enjoyable year-round, but especially beautiful after the foliage turns in fall.

**Access:** A challenging 5.1-mile loop trail follows ridges around the cove, with an option to shorten your hike via a 3.7-mile inner loop. Fortune’s Cove is located within a short drive of Charlottesville or Lynchburg.



### Piney Grove

**Location:** Sussex County, near Wakefield

**What to see:** Spring and fall offer the best bird watching, and, with luck, you might spot or hear an endangered red-cockaded woodpecker foraging for insects within the preserve’s majestic pine savannas. We’ve been restoring this globally rare habitat for two decades, and, in spring, you might even glimpse our fire team in action.

**Access:** The Constance Darden Nature Trail is open daily from February through October. Unpaved Chinquapin Road (Route 604) also traverses the preserve. Nearby, the Blackwater and Nottoway rivers offer excellent opportunities for paddling.



### Vandell Preserve at Cumberland Marsh

**Location:** New Kent County, near Richmond

**What to see:** The preserve’s protected marsh habitat hosts a remarkable diversity of birds, especially in spring and winter. Visitors may see bald eagles, ospreys, great blue herons and egrets, as well as wintering populations of Canada geese, mallards, wood ducks and black ducks.

**Access:** A short ADA-accessible boardwalk with observation deck offers views of the marsh, while a 2.8-mile hiking trail leads through upland forest. Boaters can see much of Cumberland Marsh from the Pamunkey River, which flows along the boundary.



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