

Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

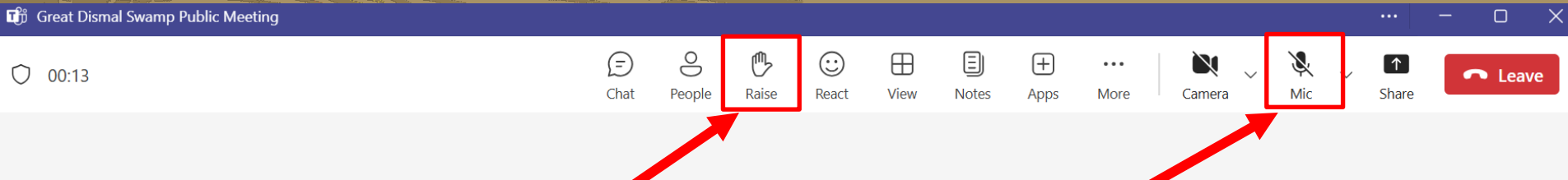


Virtual Public Meeting

March 2025

Meeting Etiquette:

The presentation portion of this meeting will be recorded. The question-and-answer session after the presentation will not be recorded.



Please raise hand to speak.

Keep your microphone muted unless called on to speak.

What is a National Heritage Area?

“A National Heritage Area is a place designated by Congress where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in them. Continued use of National Heritage Areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance.”



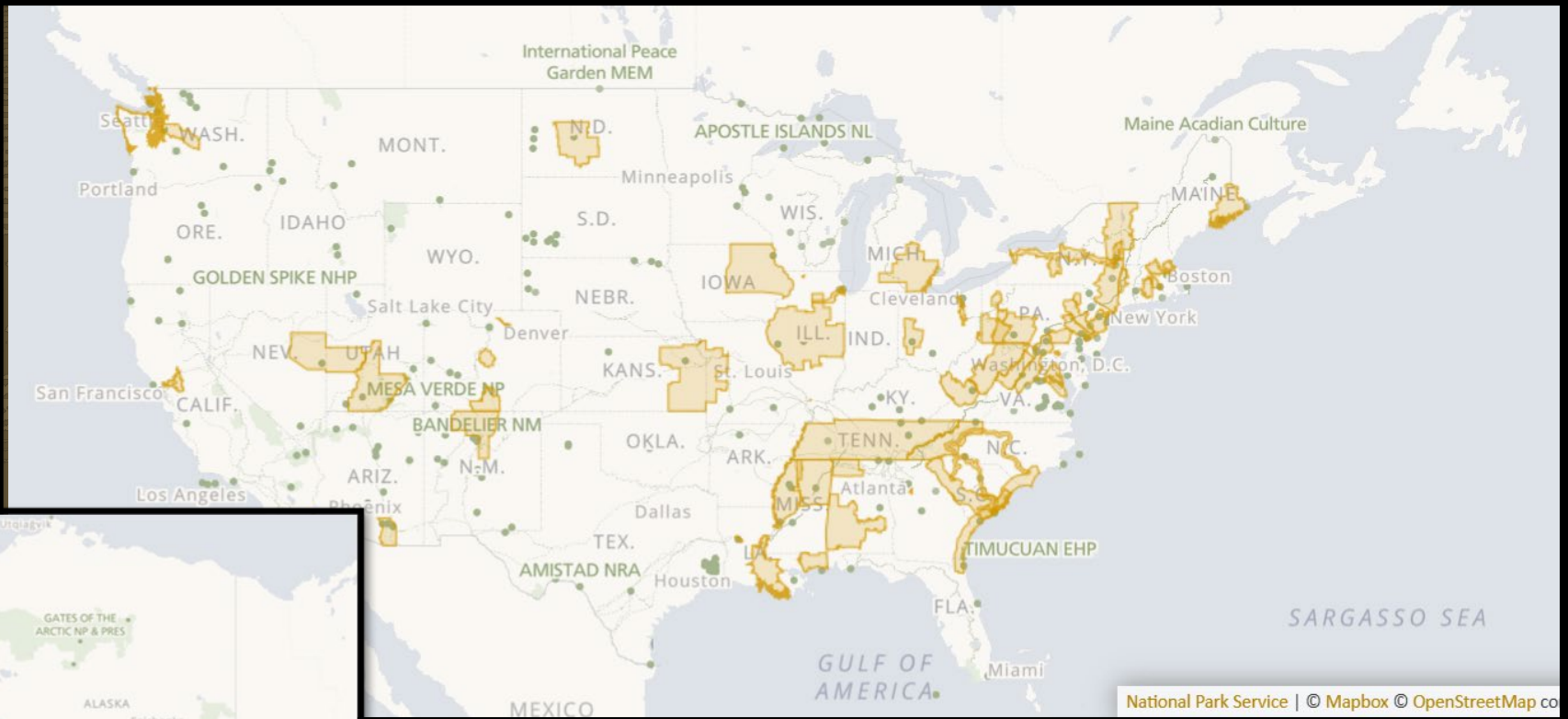
Susquehanna National Heritage Area

What a National Heritage Area is not

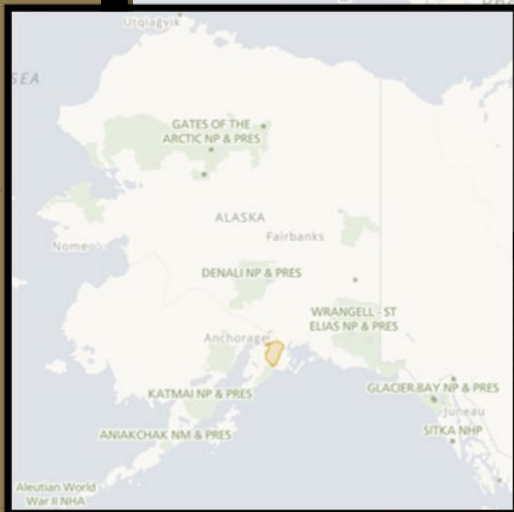
- Federally owned
- A unit of the National Park Service
- A regulatory overlay



62 National Heritage Areas in 36 States and Territories



National Park Service | © Mapbox © OpenStreetMap co



National Heritage Areas are involved in:



- **Conservation/Natural Resource Protection** Land restored and maintained via invasive species removal, replanting and toxic site clean-up
- **Historic Preservation** Cultural landscapes preserved and maintained; Oral histories recorded; Historic properties saved; Historic preservation grants awarded
- **Recreation** Trails developed and maintained; Events organized
- **Education** Grants for education programs awarded, online interpretive materials developed and posted
- **Community Development** Streetscape improvements and art projects fostered
- **Economic Development** Economic impact from heritage tours and development of tourism infrastructure; Outdoor recreation-based support through trail partnerships

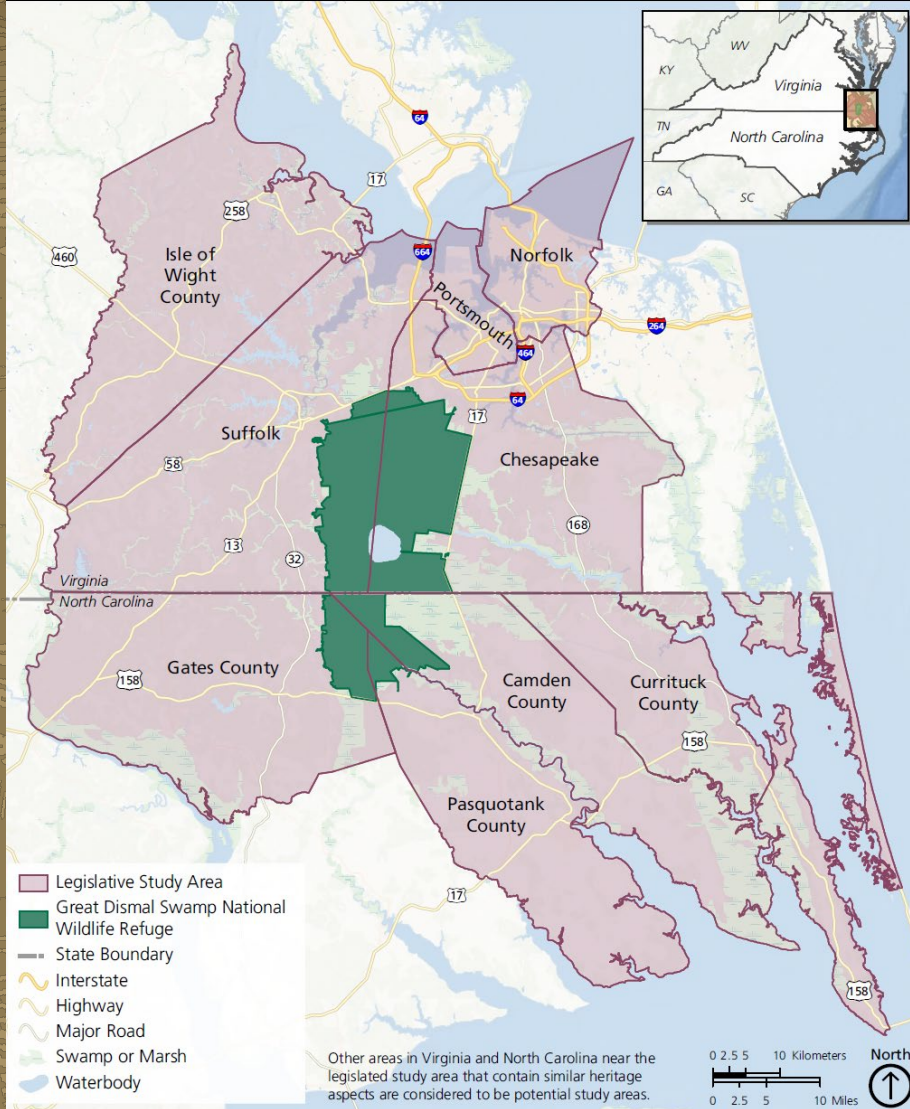
Types of Resources in National Heritage Areas



Traditional, recreational, built, and natural resources in NHAs

Great Dismal Swamp
National Heritage Area Feasibility Study
Study Area Overview

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



How are Feasibility Studies initiated?

- By local sponsors
 - Conducted by local sponsor or contractor
- By Congress
 - Conducted by NPS
 - **P.L. 117-339**

Virginia

Cities:

- Chesapeake
- Norfolk
- Portsmouth
- Suffolk

County:

- Isle of Wight

North Carolina

Counties:

- Camden
- Currituck
- Gates
- Pasquotank

Feasibility Studies – What are they and why are they important?

A process to engage local people and organizations in discussing the future of their region's resources and quality of life

A means to inventory, assess and document the **NATIONALLY IMPORTANT** resources and stories of the potential National Heritage Area:

- Tangible and intangible resources
- What's unique, important, endangered
- What's underutilized
- Who's going to be involved
- New opportunities created by the NHA

A method to promote a wide base of involvement among residents, business interests, non-profits, tourism and development interests, State and local governments, Congress, NPS

A way to identify management, funding, and sustainability strategies

3-Year Study Process




2024

- Gather information
- Engage with Stakeholders
- Orientation Site Visit
- Public Engagement
 - Planners and Administrators Presentation (April 2024)
 - Local Coordinating Entity Presentation (December 2024)

2025

- Subject Matter Expert Discussion (February 2025)
- **Public Comment Period - March 19 to May 19**
- Complete background research

 **We are here.**

2026

- Draft Study Report
- Internal NPS Reviews
- Complete Feasibility Study Document
- Transmit to Congress

NPS Criteria for NHA Evaluation

*Assemblages of resources that represent distinctive aspects of American heritage are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use best managed through partnerships.

*Reflects traditions and customs

*Provides opportunities for conservation, recreation, and education.

*Resources retain a degree of integrity and connect with themes.

*Interests in the region are involved in the planning and a financial plan and roles have been outlined.

*The proposed management entity and government units are willing to partner.

*The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity

*The boundary map is supported by the public.

*The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.

Developing Themes

- A Place of Refuge
- A Field of Conflict
- An Ideal of Justice
- A Connection to the Land
- And an Environment of Riches



Questions

- Does the region have a collection of natural, cultural, and historic resources that, when linked together, help to tell a nationally important story?
- What makes this area of southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina nationally distinctive, and how does the study area contribute to or exemplify a distinctive aspect of America's national heritage?
- What unique American stories are being told in the area, and why is the Great Dismal Swamp the area in which it is best to tell them?
- Do opportunities exist for improving the quality of resources through conservation, recreation, and education?
- Is there an organization or a number of organizations that have the financial and organizational capacity to coordinate the management of a national heritage area at the local level?
- Is there public support for a national heritage area designation and the proposed boundary?

Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

We want to hear from you!

Through **May 19, 2025** you are invited to participate in the planning process.

In addition to participation in the virtual meetings, comments may be submitted through:

The NPS project website, <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/GreatDismalSwamp>. Click on the “Open for Comment” tab under Project Links on the lefthand menu.

The US Postal Service at :
National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Attn: Great Dismal Swamp NHA / Julie Bell
1 Federal Center, Building 50
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225



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PEPC Home

Documents by Park

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PROJECT LINKS

Project Home

Plan Process

Meeting Notices

Links

Document List

Open For Comment (1)

A comment period for this project closes May 19, 2025: 61 Days, 12 Hours, 0 Min.

Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

[Denver Service Center » Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study » Document List](#)

Welcome to the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study project website. The National Park Service (NPS) will use this website to post project background materials, meeting dates and location(s), project updates, and documents for public comment and display public information throughout this study.

The National Park Service is conducting a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating certain cities and counties in Virginia and North Carolina as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area. Congress authorized the study in Public Law 117-339, which directs the Secretary of the Interior, [redacted] gnation as a national heritage area



To comment, on the project homepage select “Open for Comment”

and the public, the study team will key constituents who would have study, the findings and any

recommendations will be submitted to Congress for consideration.



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- Get Involved
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- Teachers
- Kids
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- PEPC Home
- Documents by Park
- Policy/Guidance
- Park Planning
- Search Documents

PROJECT LINKS

- Project Home
- Plan Process
- Meeting Notices
- Links
- Document List
- Open For Comment (1)

A comment period for this project closes **May 19, 2025**:
61 Days, 11 Hours, 53 Min.

Documents Open For Comment

Denver Service Center » Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

The following Documents are currently open for comment.

Select a document to review and comment:

-  [Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Newsletter](#)

Select "Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Newsletter"





PROJECT LINKS

Project Home

Plan Process

Meeting Notices

Links

Document List

Open For Comment (1)

Comment Now »

Comment period closes May 19, 2025

at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in 61 Days, 11 Hours, 47 Min.

Denver Service Center » Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study » Document List » Document Contents

Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Newsletter



This newsletter describes the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area feasibility study process, and six question for public feedback. Click the "Comment Now" button below to enter your feedback.

Your thoughts and ideas are important to us. Thank you for your interest and participation.

Comment Now » Comment Period: Mar 19, 2025 - May 19, 2025

Topic Questions:

1. Does the region have a collection of natural, cultural, and historic resources that, when linked together, help to tell a nationally important story?
2. What makes this area of southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina nationally distinctive, and how does the study area contribute to or exemplify a distinctive aspect of America's national heritage?
3. What unique American stories are being told in the area, and why is the Great Dismal Swamp the area in which it is best to tell them?
4. Do opportunities exist for improving the quality of resources through conservation, recreation, and education?
5. Is there an organization or a number of organizations that have the financial and organizational capacity to coordinate the study?
6. Is there a local or regional organization that can help coordinate the study?

Select "Comment Now" to enter Comments.

Disclaimer: Links within the above document(s) were valid as of the date published.

Note: Some of the files may be in PDF format and can be viewed using the Adobe Acrobat Reader software. You may download a free copy of from Adobe Systems.

Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Questions?

Contact: Julie_A_Bell@nps.gov
720-989-0282

To view the study's StoryMap please visit:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bddccea7bf4d48cd9f1619d7efeb4695>

To follow the study progress, please visit:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/GreatDismalSwamp>