

NORTHERN NECK Native Plant Trail



INTRODUCTION

The *Plant NNK Natives: Go Native---Grow Native* campaign seeks to inspire those who live and work in the Northern Neck to use native plants in their gardens and to protect existing native vegetation.

Native plants provide tremendous ecological benefits from water management to food and shelter for all our flora and fauna. Because Northern Neck plants are indigenous, that is, they were likely growing in the Northern Neck before European settlers came to the area, they are well-adapted to local soils and climate and can tolerate varying conditions such as drought and flooding. They usually require less watering and little if any fertilization and pesticide application compared to non-native plants.

For more information, visit elsewhere on our website - NNVNPS.org

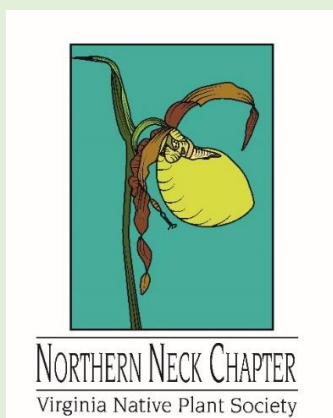
Credits:

The original Printed Edition was researched and written by Paula Boundy and Janet Pawlukiewicz, Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society.

This 2022 Online Edition was researched and edited by Betsy Washington with contributions by Kevin Howe, Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. It will be periodically updated online.

Cover Photo Credits:

Photos from top left clockwise: Monarchs nectaring on Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, at Shiloh School (by Kevin Howe); Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea virginica*, and Blue Flag Iris, *Iris versicolor*, Old Northumberland Co. Courthouse Garden (by Betsy Washington); The Reedville Living Shoreline Garden (by Betsy Washington). Shiloh School Garden with Joe-pye-weed and Great Blue Lobelia (by Susan and Jack Moore), Coastal Meadow at Belle Isle State Park (by Denise Greene)



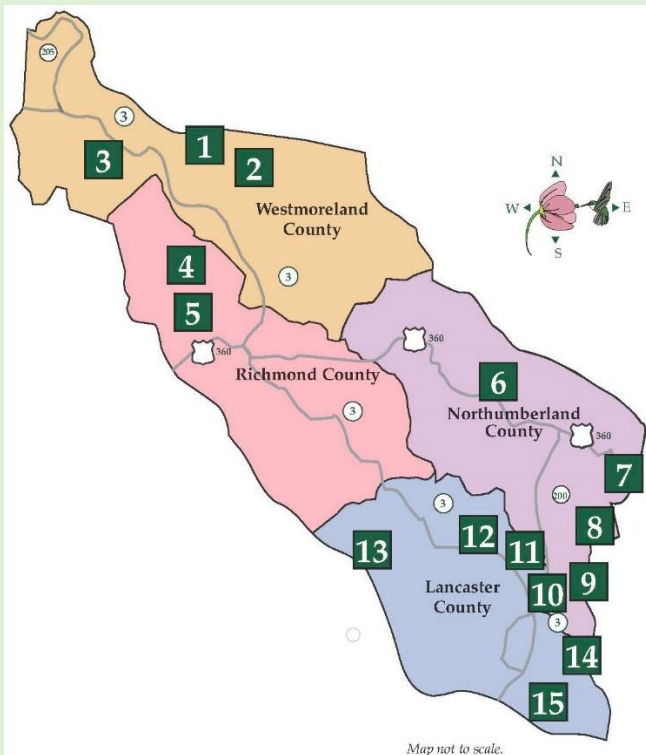
DEMONSTRATION GARDENS ON THE NORTHERN NECK

Want a closer look at the native plants featured in this guide?

Visit these demonstration gardens on the Northern Neck.

These sites feature Virginia native plants, many of which are indigenous to the Northern Neck. These gardens were designed to showcase the beauty, benefits, and variety of our native plants.

For more information on best times to visit, features of each garden, and updates, visit www.NNVNPS.org/resources.



1. Westmoreland State Park
Visitors' Center
145 Cliff Road
Montross, VA
2. Stratford Hall
(across from entrance booth)
483 Great House Road Stratford, VA
3. Voorhees Nature Preserve
The Nature Conservancy
(Entrance Road meadow and
rain swale)
Rt. 674, Bristol Mine Road,
Colonial Beach, VA
4. Menokin
Visitors' Center
4037 Menokin Road
Warsaw, VA
5. Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Wilna Lodge
336 Wilna Road
Warsaw, VA
6. Old Northumberland Co. Courthouse
Heathsville
72 Monument Place
Heathsville, VA
7. The Reedville Living Shoreline Garden
Next to Fishermen's Museum
504 Main Str
Reedville, VA
8. Lancaster County Judicial Center
8265 Mary Ball Road
Lancaster, VA
9. Shiloh School Garden
At corner of VA 605 and VA 606
Kilmarnock, VA
10. Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club
Park along Seminole Trail (Rt. 1103)
Kilmarnock, VA
11. Towne Centre Park
The Town of Kilmarnock
(all Plantings & stormwater pond plantings)
150 North Main Street
Kilmarnock, VA
12. Boys and Girls Club
517 N. Main St.
Kilmarnock, VA
13. Belle Isle State Park
Visitors' Center
1632 Belle Isle Road
Lancaster, VA
14. Dug In Farm
(Road front display beds &
new plantings in progress)
155 Fleets Bay Road
White Stone, VA
15. The Tides Inn
480 King Carter Drive
Irvington, VA
(This private resort has extensive shoreline plantings and
best practices in shoreline and bank
stabilization. Please call ahead to arrange a visit - (804)
438-5000)

Northern Neck Native Plant Trail

1 WESTMORELAND STATE PARK

SUNNY UPLAND GARDEN

Garden Objective

Expose visitors to and educate them about the value of native plants by showcasing a variety of native plants. Interactive and interpretive signs lead to a website which gives specific information about individual plants.

Best Time to Visit

Late Spring through Fall but has four-season interest.

Other Special Interest

Riverside views and trails nearby. Excellent bird and wildlife watching opportunities year-round. Several nearby meadows also feature native plants selected to support pollinators and are part of the Park's pollinator project.

Website: www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/Westmoreland

Phone: 804 493-8821

Parking fees required.

2 STRATFORD HALL

SHADY GARDEN

Garden Objective

Show how flowering plants that are native to the Northern Neck can grace the landscape under existing trees and accent the entrance with handsome native shrubs.

Best Time to Visit

Spring and Fall but has four-season interest.

Other Special Interest

A conservation area between the garden and the entrance road shows how many lovely native plants will volunteer in woods that are left undisturbed. See Bluets, Christmas Ferns, and lots of lovely mosses. Excellent opportunities for birdwatching. Also, be sure to visit Stratford Hall to learn about the Lee family and history of the Northern Neck.

Website: Stratfordhall.org

Parking fee required.

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3 VOORHEES NATURE PRESERVE

The Nature Conservancy

STORMWATER SWALE AND MEADOW

Garden Objective

Manage stormwater runoff from the new entrance road with stormwater swales and native meadow plantings that support a variety of pollinators and other wildlife. These meadow plantings were planted from seed and chosen for their tough nature and ability to tolerate alternating periods of drought and flooding. They require only a once annual cutting back in late winter in exchange for months of beauty.

Best Time to Visit

Summer through Fall, but year-round interest and the Preserve is spectacular!

Other Special Interest

Enjoy four miles of hiking trails with fabulous views of the Rappahannock River and its tributaries from the high bluffs, extensive freshwater tidal marshes and beaver ponds. Excellent habitat for nesting bald eagles, waterfowl, and many other birds and wildlife. In spring look for colonies of beautiful wildflowers that line the trails. Enjoy a dazzling array of wetland plants for shallow water and poorly drained soils in full sun from the bridge at Owl Creek.

Website: search "TNC.org Voorhees Preserve"

4 Menokin

TREE TRAIL

Garden Objective

Trail amongst naturally existing mature native trees.

Best Time to Visit

Late April – early May for blooms and late October for fall color.

Other Special Interest

Enjoy the woodland trail down to Cat Point Creek. Butterfly Garden behind historic house site and Visitor's Center. Public launch and kayaks available.

Website: Menokin.org

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5 RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER VALLEY WILDLIFE REFUGE WILNA LODGE POLLINATOR GARDEN AND MEADOWS

Garden Objective

Showcase Virginia native plants that support and attract pollinators and hummingbirds. Nearby the refuge offers 40 acres of grassland/meadows featuring many Virginia native plants designed to support increasingly rare grassland birds as well as the pollinators and butterflies.

Best Time to Visit

Late spring, summer and fall

Other Special Interest

Be sure to notice the pollinator “house” in the pollinator garden. The Lodge itself is a “green” building. Look for nearby pond, wetlands, and trails off the parking lot for more birdwatching and wildlife viewing. The administrative office building also features a native plant entrance garden. Meadows are maintained by controlled burns every few years.

6 OLD COURTHOUSE GARDEN, HEATHSVILLE FORMAL ENTRANCE AND FOUNDATION PLANTINGS

Garden Objective

Native plants used in a formal setting; this garden is being lovingly revitalized and updated.

Best Time to Visit

Spring and summer but this garden has four-season interest.

Special Interest

The garden has several Northern Neck and Virginia native plants. Sit on the bench and enjoy the fragrance of the Sweetbay Magnolia, Virginia Sweetspire, and Blue Flag Iris in spring and a bounty of blooms in summer and fall. Plants are labelled.

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7 REEDVILLE LIVING SHORELINE TEACHING GARDEN

Garden Objective

Demonstrate “soft-scaping” the shoreline with coastal plants with deep, fibrous roots adapted to prevent erosion, trap run-off and filter out any pollutants from the parking lot before they can reach the creek. It features grasses, shrubs, and perennials that contribute to a healthy shoreline and watershed.

Best Time to Visit

Late summer when the garden is full of blooms such as Ironweed, goldenrods, and black-eyed susans as well as pollinators, butterflies, and the glistening seedheads of grasses. Come in late spring to see the delicate blooms of the Fringetree and Blue flag irises.

Other Special Interest

Next to Reedville Fishermen’s Museum - rfmuseum.org

8 THE SHILOH SCHOOL GARDEN SUNNY GARDEN

Garden Objective

Create a lovely garden designed in a classic four-square pattern containing native plants that children would have been familiar with when the schoolhouse was built in 1906. The garden features over 40 species of plants native to Virginia’s Northern Neck and surrounding coastal plain. Most plants are labeled.

Best Time to Visit

Late spring to fall when this garden is full of blooms and pollinators.

Other Special Interest

This garden attracts a multitude of pollinators and is one of the best places in Northumberland County to see a diverse array of butterflies attracted to the native plants. Also admire the native shrubs and small trees surrounding the garden and enjoy at picnic lunch at one of the picnic tables.

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9 INDIAN CREEK YACHT AND COUNTRY CLUB FAIRWAY # 12

WETLAND GARDEN AROUND PONDS AND BORDER PLANTINGS ALONG PATH AND FENCING

Garden Objective

Replace turf with native plantings to beautify and protect wetland ponds, reduce mowing, and showcase our beautiful Northern Neck native plants - all while supporting songbirds, pollinators, and other wildlife. Most plants are labeled.

Best Time to Visit

Anytime, but especially in late spring through fall when the plants are in bloom or full of fruit and there are clouds of birds, butterflies, and dragonflies.

This is a private and very **active golf course, so please use caution** and avoid the area when golfers are playing. Best time to visit is on Mondays, and before 8:30am and after 5:00 pm when the golf course is not in use.

Other Special Interest

Native plantings are continually being added, creating spectacular gardens for humans as well as butterflies, pollinators, and a variety of birds. The wetland plantings have created perfect habitat for a variety of frogs and other amphibians that rely on these vernal ponds to breed. Listen and notice that they greatly prefer the habitat created by the wetland plantings to ponds surrounded by lawn!

10 KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTER PARK

SUSTAINABLE PARK WITH A MAJORITY OF NATIVE PLANTS AND FIVE RAIN GARDENS.

Garden Objective

Create a beautiful yet sustainable town park designed to capture and manage stormwater runoff from the parking lots. The park features many native trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials including many Northern Neck natives. The park contains five stormwater-rain gardens planted with native plants selected for their ability to tolerate alternating drought and flooding as well as for their year- round beauty.

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Best Time to Visit

Anytime for the beautiful bark, berries, fall color, and seasonal blooms - spring through fall.

Other Special Interest

This public park is not only beautiful but showcases sustainable best practices to protect our watershed and support birds, pollinators, and other wildlife. It offers something for the whole family - picnic tables, playgrounds, water features, farmers markets, concerts and even a dog park.

11 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB GARDEN

SUNNY ENTRANCE GARDEN FOR KIDS, BUTTERFLIES, BIRDS, & POLLINATORS

Garden Objective

This garden is intended to be a teaching garden for the Club members, focused on conveying the importance of native plants, especially to pollinators and the crucial role they play in our environment. Low maintenance native plants that support a diversity of pollinators, butterflies and songbirds are featured to engage students with nature.

Best Time to Visit

Anytime! The first stage is open at the front of the building, more coming in 2022.

Other Special Interest

Raised beds for the Boys and Girls Club vegetable gardens are located nearby. Visit the Club weekdays from 3:30 – 6:00 PM to arrange a tour of this new state of the art facility and gardens.

12 LANCASTER COURTHOUSE

STORMWATER RETENTION POND

Garden Objective

Beautify and improve functioning of the stormwater retention pond with plants that tolerate alternating drought and flooding.

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Best Time to Visit

Early spring to see the Serviceberries bloom, summer for the Seashore Mallow blooms, and fall for the beautiful russet foliage of the Baldcypress and the magenta berries of the Purple Beautyberries.

13 BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

SUNNY VISITORS' CENTER GARDEN, MEADOWS, AND SHORELINE RESTORATION ALONG DEEP CREEK

Garden Objective

Create a sunny curbside garden planted with locally native plants to beautify the entrance to the public Visitors' Center and to support pollinators and wildlife. Coastal meadows featuring native plants surround the Visitor Center and help protect the Rappahannock River. A new shoreline stabilization project along Deep Creek will be completed this summer. It is designed to stabilize the bank and reduce runoff of sediments and pollutants, as well as create a living shoreline and breakwater at the water's edge - all featuring native plants.

Best Time to Visit

All seasons! Plenty of flowers from spring to fall, along with summer and fall berries, seedheads, and fall foliage.

Other Special Interest

The Visitors' Center and trails through the coastal Meadows have wonderful views of the Rappahannock River. The extensive Meadows are managed by controlled burns. The shoreline along Deep Creek Trail is being restored with native shrubs, grasses, and perennials. Excellent, bird watching, dragonfly, pollinator and butterfly viewing, wetland trails, kayaking, fishing and more! Be sure to visit the interpretive displays in the Visitors' Center.

Website: dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/belle-isle

Parking fees required.

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14 Dug In Farms

SUNNY DISPLAY GARDENS AND STORMWATER SWALES ALONG ROADSIDE.

Garden Objective

Display native plants in an eye-catching manner and help mediate stormwater runoff from the road. The gardens are designed to attract visitors as well as a variety of pollinators, butterflies, and hummingbirds to help pollinate plants in this working farm/nursery.

Best Time to Visit

Anytime from March through December

Other Special Interests

Visit the sustainable farm market for fresh produce, locally prepared foods, and buy native plants at the nursery.

Website: www.duginfarms.com

15 The Tides Inn

Garden Objective

A large shoreline restoration along Carter's Creek was designed to stabilize the shoreline and prevent erosion and sedimentation. This restoration is a great learning opportunity featuring a stunning 1300' shoreline boardwalk, 18,000 sq. ft of living shoreline with coastal native plants, with over 10,000 shoreline plants and 10,000 additional upland plants along the steep upper banks, and 150' of oyster reefs. It is not only beautiful, but is functional and protects the Creek, the Bay, the shoreline, and existing upland plantings while creating a beautiful sustainable garden.

Best Times to Visit

Spring through fall.

Other Special Interests

Be sure to check out the many other native plants used in the formal and informal plantings around the Inn, as well as the woodland garden, mushrooms, kitchen garden, meadows, and beekeeping.

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Note: This is a private resort so please call ahead to arrange a visit or reserve a table to enjoy a cocktail and dinner on the terrace above the gardens. (877 898-2117).

Website: www.tidesinn.com

ECOLOGICAL & OBSERVATIONAL NOTE:

All the gardens in this brochure were designed to showcase the beauty, benefits, and variety of our Northern Neck native plants. Take a close up look at the plants in these gardens for ideas and inspiration to create your own beautiful sanctuary - for you, our flora and our wildlife.



Queen Bumblebees depend on early blooming plants like our native Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*, for nectar and pollen to build a new colony.
(Photo by Betsy Washington at Belle Isle State Park)



Photo Credit: Shiloh School Native Plant Garden (Susan & Jack Moore)