### Points of Interest

1. **Launch Point**
   - A boat ramp is located within Mallows Bay Park for small craft (shallow water) access to the Potomac River. It is open from 5:30 AM to dusk year-round.

2. **Accomac**
   - The only steel-hulled vessel in the Mallows Bay Shipwreck area. She remained in the Mason's yard in Washington, DC until she was sold for scrap in 1922.

3. **Benzonia**
   - Launched into the Columbia Steamship Company’s fleet in 1918. She was sold for scrap in 1922.

4. **Mono**
   - Was the first wooden ship to be launched in Mallows Bay. She was sold for scrap in 1922.

5. **Yawah**
   - Was documented as making at least one voyage from San Francisco to Genoa, Italy, in late 1919. She was eventually purchased by the British Admiralty in 1922 for use as a signal platform.

6. **Casmalia**
   - Named by the wife of President Woodrow Wilson, Dora Wilson, was launched in 1918. Her career, like many other vessels built for WWI, was brief, and she was sold for scrap in 1922.

7. **Grady’s Spit**
   - The Bethlehem Steel Corporation built a salvage basin during World War I to recover metal from the abandoned ships in Mallows Bay. Now known as the Burning Basin, the opening of the gateway is 44 feet across, and wide enough to permit passage of the largest steamship hull.

8. **The Barge Wreck**
   - This wooden barge with iron fittings was used by Bethlehem Steel during the creation of the Grady’s Spit Basin. It is badly used as a work platform and for housing debris, spoil, cargo, and scrap during the disposal operation.

9. **The Three Sisters**
   - A group of three wrecks: Deltona, the “Henri Wreck”, and the Mosaslaw. Deltona was briefly in the coasting trade. The “Henri Wreck” is named for the frequent sightings of Great Blue Herons on and about the site. The Mosaslaw carried timber logs to Europe from 1919 until 1922.

10. **The Flowerpot Wrecks**
    - Here lies the remains of an unidentified US Shipping Board (USWB) wooden hulked cargo ship. Both wrecks are submerged with vegetation and fire damage is evident around the stern and through some of the exposed hull areas.

11. **SS Afrania**
    - Engaged to make at least unknown trans-Atlantic voyage to Rouen, France, from which she sailed on her return voyage for Norfolk, VA, in 1919. Afrania lies resting on her keel and is partially submerged.

12. **Lewis**
    - Named by the wife of President Woodrow Wilson, Dora Wilson, was launched in 1918 in the presence of 3,000 spectators. Her career, like many other vessels built for WWI, was brief, and she was sold for scrap in 1922.

13. **Boone**
    - Named after a local California, Casimalia’s career, like those of her sister ships was short. Today, the line at the extreme northern end of Mallows Bay beside an unidentified wooden shipwreck, both sitting on their keels in sand usually awash and submerged.

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### Map of Mallows Bay

- **Points of Interest**
- **Boat Wrecks**
- **Wreck Identification Numbers**

**WARNING**
- Paddle at your own risk. Vessel names are fragile and potentially hazardous. Do not paddle, walk, or climb over wrecks. Danger was instilled objects below the surface of the water may not be visible.

**Recommended**
- Not recommended for inflatable kayaks or stand up paddleboards.

**Private Property**
- The area surrounding Mallows Bay is primarily privately owned and trespassing is prohibited.

**Easy Option**
- 50 miles
- Bicycle or Hike

**NATURE LOOP**
- 80 miles
- Bicycle or Hike

**THE SEA SCOUT WRECK**
- 50 miles
- Stand up paddleboards

**THE BARGE WRECK**
- 50 miles
- Stand up paddleboards

**THE THREE SISTERS WRECK**
- 50 miles
- Stand up paddleboards

**PRIVATE PROPERTY**
- The area surrounding Mallows Bay is primarily privately owned and trespassing is prohibited.
WELCOME TO MALLOWS BAY!

Just a short drive from Washington D.C., the Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay is home to the largest number of visible historic shipwrecks in the Western Hemisphere, and offers a truly unique paddling experience. Over one hundred wooden and steel-hulled ships dating from the 18th century through the mid-20th century are located here, with nearly ninety belonging to the United States Shipping Board’s World War I Emergency Fleet Corporation. These ships were built for the US Emergency Fleet between 1917-1919 as part of America’s engagement in World War I. Their construction at more than 40 shipyards in 17 states reflected the massive wartime effort that swept the shipyard and economic development of communities and related maritime service industries.

As the historic hub of the Mallows Bay Widewater National Register Historic District, and the Chesapeake Tidewater, where the country’s most unique maritime landscape in the Western Hemisphere, and offers a truly unique paddling experience.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Mallows Bay boasts a diverse collection of historic shipwrecks dating back to the Revolutionary War, but is most renowned for the remains of more than 100 wooden steamships known as the “Ghost Fleet.” These ships were built for the US Emergency Fleet between 1917-1919 as part of America’s engagement in World War I. Their construction at more than 40 shipyards in 17 states reflected the massive wartime effort that swept the shipyard and economic development of communities and related maritime service industries.

In addition to the rich WWII history in Mallows Bay proper, the surrounding area is home to historic mess trail, dating back to the Revolutionary War. During the Civil War the shores were fortified and defended by thousands of Union troops to prevent a Confederate invasion of Southern Maryland, with batteries extending from Sandy Point southward to Liverpool Point. The nationally significant history of this site earned it the designation as the Mallows Bay Widewater Historic and Archeological District on the National Register of Historic Places. It has also been named a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Potomac River is home to three national trails: The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and the Historic National Forest Trails.

WILDLIFE

Mallows Bay has tremendous opportunities for wildlife viewing, both on shore and on the water. The bay and surrounding area is inhabited by massive bald eagles, heron, and an array of fish, plants and animals. This list below describes some of the species you are likely to observe during your visit.

BIRDS

BALD EAGLE
Bird of prey with white head and tail that can be found nesting in the trees along the shoreline.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT
A piscivorous, black, winged seabird with yellow-orange feet and black eyes.

GREAT BLUE HERON
Sublime blue-gray pelican and often stands motionless as it scans for prey.

DOLPHIN
Zip past wildlife on a truly unique paddling experience.

HERRING GULL
Quotidian gray and white, red legs and “spectacles” can be found around much of the US, especially in winter.

RING-BILLED GULL
Medium-sized gull with yellow legs and a yellow bill with a black band around it.

FISH

LARGEMOUTH BASS
Considered one of the most popular sport fishes in the US, with an elongated yellow body, dark green belly and dark wide stripes.

BLUE CATFISH
Large, invasive fish with a blue body and whisker-like barbels around its mouth.

NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD
Large, invasive fish with a snake-like pattern, large mouth, protruding lower jaw, and many teeth.

PLANTS

HYDRILLA
An invasive bay grass made up of long, finely branching stems with tiny, straight or lance-shaped leaves that usually have visible teeth along the edges.

COONTAIL
A buoyy-floating bay grass with whorls of stiff, forked leaves along deeply branched stems.

WILD RICE
A native, perennial grass that has a round, hoisted upright stem. Its long, flat leaves have tough, toothed edges and can grow up to 16 inches in length and 2 inch wide.

INSECTS

DRAGONFLY
Live near still bodies of water and have an appetite for mosquitoes and other small insects. Many species feature brilliant iridescent or metallic colors.

DAMSELFLY
Dragonflies and damselflies are often mistaken for each other, but damselflies have slender bodies and hold their wings above their body while at rest, while dragonflies cannot do this.

BUTTERFLY (ZEBRA)
Lives in moist, low woodlands where its host plant, the cypress tree, grows.

RING-BILLED GULL
Medium-sized gull with yellow legs and a yellow bill with a black band around it.

PADDLING SAFETY

• Always wear your life jacket.
• Paddle with others if possible.
• Cold water temperatures are hazardous to paddlers. Paddling is recommended between May and September.
• When paddling in wind, stay close to shore.
• Respect wildlife. Animals and birds should be viewed from a distance.
• Beware of hidden wrecks. It is dangerous to travel through the central shipwreck cluster, especially during high tide when ship remains lie just below the waterline and are invisible to the paddler.

GETTING THERE

MALLOWS BAY PARK:
1440 Wilson Landing Road Nanjemoy, MD 20662
(301) 932-3470
• Amenities include a boat ramp, soft launch, portable toilets, parking lot, interpretive trail, interpretive signs, and picnic area.
• The park is open daily from 5:30 am to sunset.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
CHARGES/COUNTING C/05/13/2022/14.01
A Self Guided Tour of the Ghost Fleet of the Potomac River

A PADDLER’S GUIDE TO MALLOWS BAY

FUNDING GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY:

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