

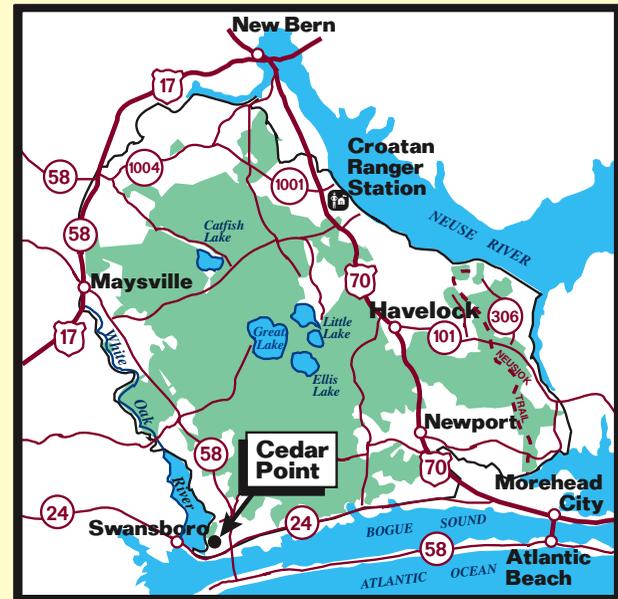
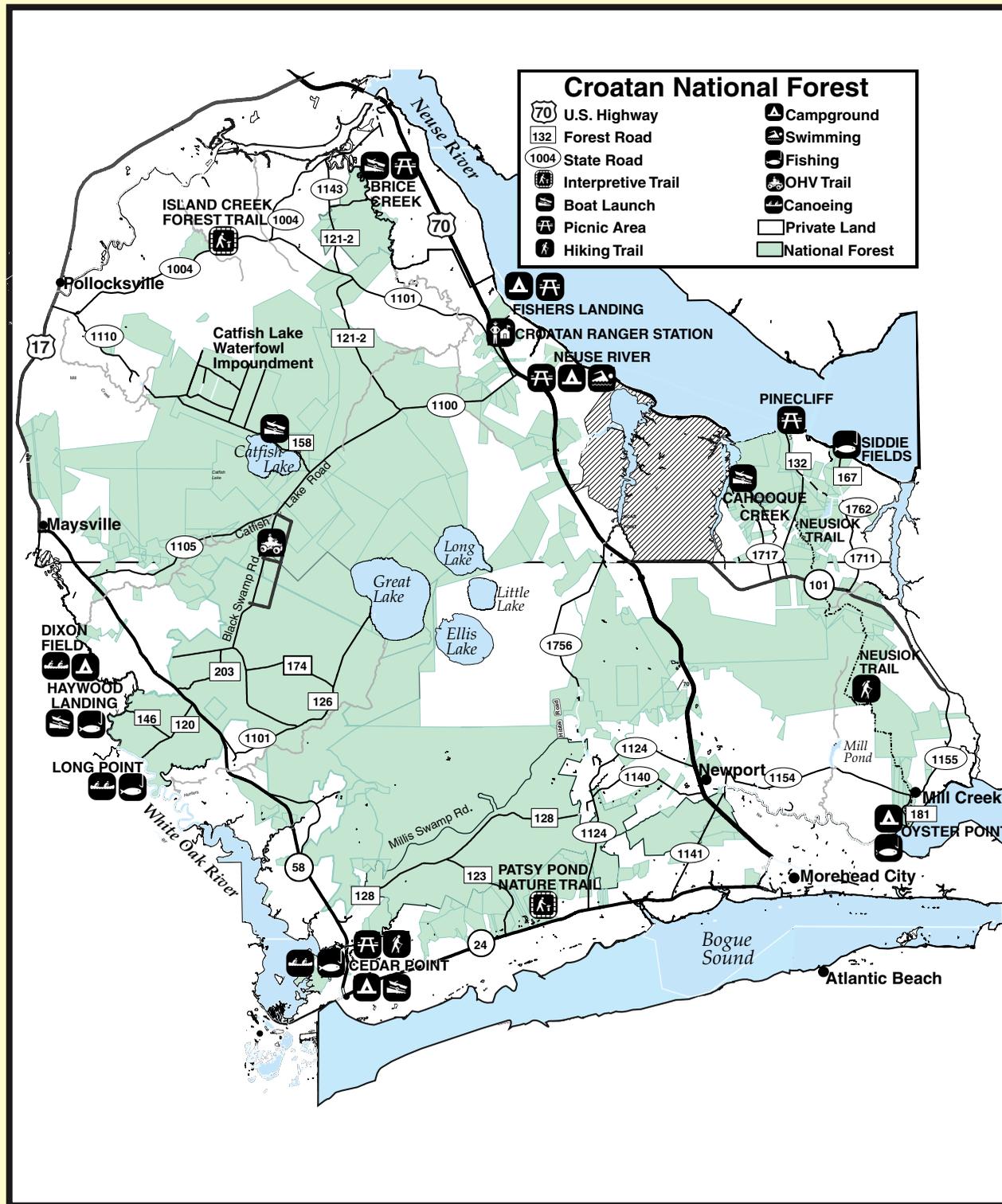
Croatan National Forest

Land of Wonder



Discover a matrix of longleaf pine forests, evergreen-shrub bogs and wetlands.

USDA Forest Service
Croatan National Forest



DIRECTIONS:

The Croatan's district office is about 10 miles south of New Bern off U.S. 70. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

INFORMATION: Croatan National Forest; 141 E. Fisher Ave.; New Bern, NC 28560; (252) 638-5628.

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WELCOME TO THE CROATAN NATIONAL FOREST

Welcome to the Croatan National Forest, one of four national forests in North Carolina and the only true coastal forest in the East. The Croatan National Forest's 160,000 acres have pine forests, saltwater estuaries, bogs and raised swamps called pocosins. Bordered on three sides by tidal rivers and the Bogue Sound, the forest is defined by water.

All this water provides a variety of recreation and diversity of wildlife—from deer, black bears and turkeys to wading birds, ospreys and alligators. Canoeing and fishing are popular on blackwater creeks and saltwater marshes. The Croatan is also home to the carnivorous Venus fly-trap, sundew and pitcherplant. For more details, please stop by the ranger's office Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; write Croatan National Forest, 141 East Fisher Avenue, New Bern, NC 28560; or call (252) 638-5628. In addition, a kiosk with brochures is at the ranger's office.

NEUSE RIVER

Locally known as Flanners Beach, this area is 10 miles south of New Bern off U.S. 70 beside the Neuse River. The facilities include an accessible campground with 42 sites, flush toilets, warm showers, drinking water and a dumping station. Nine sites are equipped with electric hook-ups. Nearby is a swimming beach with flush toilets, cold showers, drinking fountains and a picnic area with 44 picnic tables and grills. No lifeguard is available. A fully accessible paved biking and hiking trail circles the campground. A longer loop for hikers and mountain bikes travel through a tupelo swamp and a hardwood

forest. The camping fee is \$12 a site per night and \$5 extra for electric sites. Swimming and picnicking are free. The campground is open from March 2 to Nov. 31.

OYSTER POINT

This campground is situated on the Intercoastal Waterway and is the trailhead for the 21-mile Neusiok Trail. The trail meanders through cypress swamps, loblolly pines and vast bogs of thick vegetation. Oyster Point's shallow water boat ramp provides a launching point for boaters and anglers. Nestled under tall loblolly pines, the campground features 15 sites and two vault toilets. Each site has a picnic table, fire grill, parking spur, tent pad and lantern post. The fee is \$5 per night. The campground is open all year.

FISHERS LANDING

Open year-round, Fishers Landing is located on Neuse River about 8 miles south of New Bern. Walk-in picnicking and tent camping are free. Facilities include vault toilets and drinking water. Access Fishers Landing off U.S. 70 across from the sign.

CEDAR POINT

Cedar Point is near White Oak River and offers camping, picnicking, fishing, boating and hiking. Open year-round, the campground has 42 sites with electrical hookups, a bathhouse with flush toilets, warm showers, drinking water and a ramp for shallow water boats. Picnic tables are nearby. The camping fee is \$17 per night with electricity and \$12 without electricity. All facilities are fully

accessible. The Cedar Point Tideland Trail crosses boardwalks to explore the salt marsh and the life above and beneath. To reach Cedar Point, follow the signs from NC 58 or NC 24.

DIXON FIELD

Open all year, Dixon Field is a primitive, low-impact canoe launch that offers dispersed camping. No fee is charged.

PINECLIFF

Visitors may picnic, hike and fish in this picnic area beside the Neuse River. Trailhead parking for the 21-mile Neusiok Trail and vault toilets are provided. To reach Pinecliff, turn off U.S. 70 in Havelock onto NC 101. About 4.7 miles east on NC 101, turn left on Ferry Road (SR 1716/NC 306). Travel north for 3.2 miles and turn left on Forest Road 132. Go 1.5 miles to the recreation site. Pinecliff is open year-round from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

BLACK SWAMP OHV TRAIL

This trail offers eight off-highway-vehicle trail miles for riders. The trail is designated for all-terrain vehicles, trail bikes and four-wheel drives with a wheel base less than 50 inches. Off-highway-vehicle riders can purchase permits in advance at the district office, local stores or at the trailhead. The daily fee is \$5, and the season pass is \$30.

ISLAND CREEK FOREST WALK

This 0.5-mile trail meanders through a stand of upland hardwoods and follows picturesque Island Creek. Large cypress and tupelo trees are draped in Spanish moss. The trail is lined by wildflowers in the spring. To access the trail, take U.S. 70 south of New

Bern and turn at the Burger King by Trent East Crossing Shopping Center. Go to the stop sign and take a left onto SR 1004 and continue 7.5 miles. The trailhead is on the right.

NEUSIOK TRAIL

This 21-mile hiking trail stretches from the Neuse and Newport rivers. Starting at Pinecliff Recreation Area, the trail meanders through a cypress-lined beach, hardwoods, loblolly pines, savannas and thick pocosins. The trail ends at Oyster Point's estuary. Be sure to bring drinking water and wear raincoats, waterproof boots and bug repellent. Park at Pinecliff, Oyster Point and Neusiok Trail and NC 306 intersection. Camp anywhere along the trail's route, except in Pinecliff.

CEDAR POINT TIDELAND TRAIL

Designated a National Recreation Trail, this easy path has two loops. The 0.6-mile loop crosses the salt marsh and its edges. A 1.3-mile loop continues along the White Oak River. Bird watching is popular from the trail. Flush toilets are at the trailhead.

BOATING ACCESS

The following boat-launching areas are popular due to their natural beauty and easy access to water: Brices Creek, Catfish Lake, Great Lake, Siddie Fields, Cahooque Creek, Cedar Point, Haywood Landing and Oyster Point. Brices Creek and Haywood Landing fishing piers are fully accessible. Great Lake, Catfish Lake, Siddie Fields and Oyster Point have no facilities, but primitive camping is permitted. Boats ramps at Great and Catfish lakes and Cedar Point are for shallow-bottomed boats. All boat-launching areas are used for fishing and picnicking..