Birding is a Flight of Fancy in Smithfield & Isle of Wight County

Established in 1634 as one of the original 8 shires of the Virginia Colony, this rural community is rich in history, but the pastoral setting, historic attractions & downtown historic district of Smithfield, a charming rivertown, make the area a very popular destination for those who love the outdoors as well.

Smithfield & Isle of Wight County offer a great variety of natural habitats and our unique birding location - at the southern end of the northern nesting birds range and at the northern end of the southern range - make it ideal for wildlife observation opportunities.

All of our parks are open year-round and offer ample free parking and many amenities such as picnic areas, walking trails and clean facilities.

Great birding spots in Smithfield & Isle of Wight include: Fort Boykin Historic Park, Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area, Cypress Springs Farm and Carrollton Nike Park - all of which are listed on the "Tidewater Loop" of the Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail.

The brand new Windsor Castle Park, located right in the heart of Smithfield, with miles of walking trails and foot bridges, covering a wide range of habitats, will be the hub of your birding experience. The park also offers a kayak/canoe launch, dog park and picnic areas.

But what really makes the area special is that after your outdoor adventure, you can simply relax and take in the delights of shopping & dining in downtown Smithfield. Stop by the Visitor Center - also home to the Arts Center @ 319 - offering tourist information, a gallery/gift shop & the chance to chat with resident artists. Or visit one of our many historic sites, including the Isle of Wight Museum, Schoolhouse Museum, Historic St. Luke's Church, the Old Courthouse of 1750, Boykin's Tavern and Fort Huger.

Looking for an elegant B&B, or beautiful waterfront setting? You'll find comfortable and distinctly different accommodations to choose from in this eco-friendly community.

For further information contact the Visitor Center at (757) 357-5182 or (800) 365-9339.
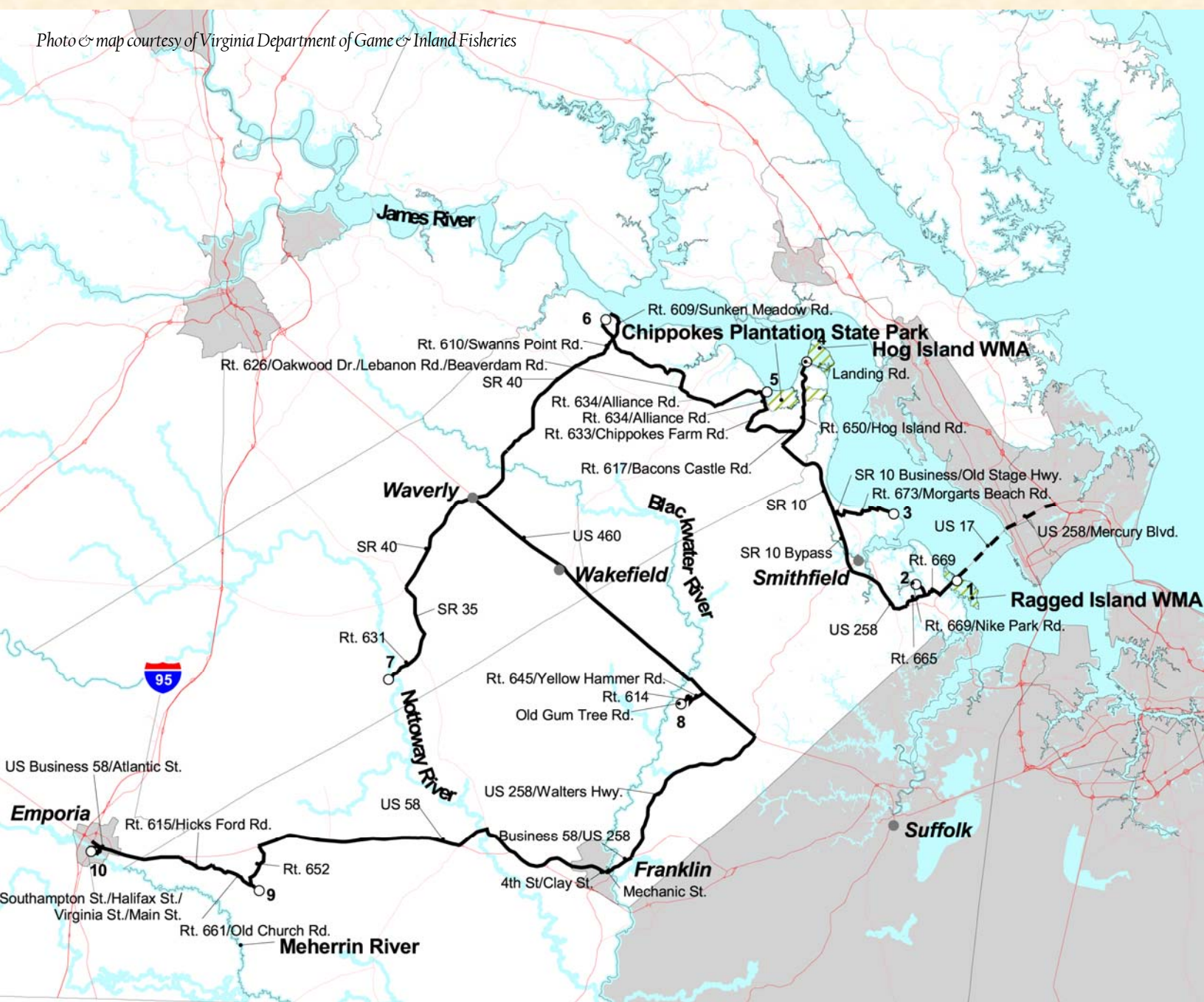
Photo & map courtesy of Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries