



**Dismal Swamp State Park**  
2294 US 17 North  
South Mills, N. C. 27976

**Joy Greenwood, Superintendent**  
Phone: (252) 771-6593  
Email: [dismal.swamp@ncdenr.gov](mailto:dismal.swamp@ncdenr.gov)

The park entrance is adjacent to the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center on US 17, three miles south of the North Carolina/Virginia border. The Dismal Swamp State Park is accessed by an 80-foot, floating pedestrian bridge across the Dismal Swamp Canal.

State Park offers:

- Visitor Center w/exhibit hall
- Wildlife and /or flora programs
- Canoes and kayaks (rentals available)
- Restroom facilities
- Interpretive programs/group scheduling
- Handicapped accessible
- Picnic tables
- Birding (200 species)
- Boardwalk
- Car-top boat launch
- Abundant animal and plant life
- Butterflies (43 species)
- Hiking and mountain-biking trails-17 miles (bike rentals available)



**Merchants Millpond State Park**  
176 Millpond Rd.  
Gatesville, N. C. 27938  
Phone: (252) 357-1191

**Jay Greenwood, Superintendent**  
Email: [merchants.millpond@ncdenr.gov](mailto:merchants.millpond@ncdenr.gov)

Merchants Millpond is located in northeastern North Carolina in Gates County near the community of Gatesville. The Park may be reached from US 158, NC 32 and NC 37. It is approximately 30 miles from the cities of Ahoskie, Elizabeth City and Edenton, North Carolina and Suffolk, Virginia.  
State Park offers:

- Visitor Center (LEED facility) w/exhibit area
- Wildlife and/or flora programs
- Canoes and kayaks (rentals available)
- Restroom facilities
- Interpretive programs/group scheduling
- Handicapped accessible
- Picnic tables and shelter
- Birding (200 species)
- Family, group and backpack camping
- Boat ramp
- Abundant animal and plant life
- Fishing (2 primitive species)
- Hiking trails - 9 miles



**WATERWAY INFO**

- 150 ft. dock runs parallel with Canal
- Bathrooms open 24/7 (shower facilities not available)
- Boaters' book exchange
- Computer usage (Wi-Fi not available)
- Potable water at dock
- Staff available for assistance

*Dismal Swamp Welcome Center*  
**Dismal Swamp Welcome Center**



WHERE MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE MEET!



**Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center**  
2356 Highway 17 N  
South Mills, N. C. 27976  
Tel: (252) 771-8333  
Fax: (252) 771-2055

E-mail: [dscwelcome@camdencountync.gov](mailto:dscwelcome@camdencountync.gov)  
Website: [www.DismalSwampWelcomeCenter.com](http://www.DismalSwampWelcomeCenter.com)

Hours: 9am to 5pm (subject to change)  
Summer—Daily Winter—Tues.-Sat.



**DISMAL SWAMP CANAL WELCOME CENTER**  
**2356 Highway 17 North**  
**South Mills, N. C. 27976**  
**Penny Leary-Smith, Director**  
**Phone: (252) 771-8333**  
**Email: [dscwelcome@camdencountync.gov](mailto:dscwelcome@camdencountync.gov)**  
**Website: [www.DismalSwampWelcomeCenter.com](http://www.DismalSwampWelcomeCenter.com)**

## Where Mystery and Adventure Meet!

- **Gift Shop**

Dismal Swamp Canal Books  
 Swamp memorabilia  
 Jewelry  
 Bobble-head turtles  
 Ornaments

- **Birding**

Photography

- **Hiking**

Wildlife

- **Biking**

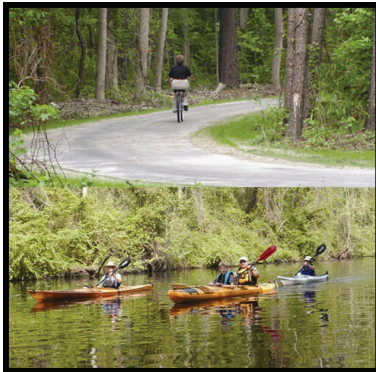
Road bikes  
 (available)

- **Picnicking**

Tables and grills

- **Swamp/Canal Literature**

History  
 Books  
 Snakes  
 Birds  
 Videos



In 1989, the NC Dept. of Transportation became pioneers in the travel industry with the opening of the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center. It is the first Visitor/Welcome Center built off of an Interstate highway in our State and the only such facility in the country greeting visitors by both a major highway and historic waterway. Approximately 600,000 travelers visit the Center each year by highway, while nearly 2,000 boats transit the waterway annually.

The Dismal Swamp Canal is the oldest hand-dug waterway in the country still in use as part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. It has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, designated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, and recognized as part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. It is part of both the North Carolina and Virginia Civil War Trails.

Access is provided for both canoes and kayaks on the Dismal Swamp Canal. (Rentals available at DS State Park.) The access is located beside the pedestrian bridge adjacent to the southern parking lot for the Dismal Swamp State Park. The site is located 5 miles north of the South Mills lock and 17 miles south of the Deep Creek lock. The 3-mile long Feeder Ditch into Lake Drummond is 7 miles north of the Center.

- **Trails**

1/4 mile Nature Trail  
 3 mile hiking and biking  
 Tree identification

- **Information, Maps, and Publications**

Trails  
 Dismal Swamp  
 North Carolina  
 Intracoastal Waterway  
 Accommodations  
 Camping  
 Ferry schedules  
 Retirement  
 Events  
 Attractions

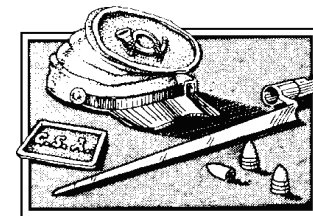
### The Civil War Battle Of South Mills Camden County

Camden County is a sleepy little rural county in Northeastern North Carolina near Hampton Roads Va. Our county's history comes to life as you view boats traveling this historic waterway and imagine its stories unfolding.

The Dismal Swamp Canal, opened to waterway traffic in 1805, became a "prize of war" during the Civil War. Southerners in the early months of the war used the Canal to transport much-needed supplies. Commander W. F. Lynch, *C.S.S. Sea Bird*, received naval supplies via the Canal when he was in charge of a tiny fleet defending Roanoke Island. After Roanoke Island fell into Union hands, Lynch took a position at Elizabeth City. Elizabeth City was captured and the *Sea Bird* was sunk. Two other ships fled northward up the Pasquotank River to the Dismal Swamp Canal enroute to Norfolk, Va. One made it safely through the Canal to Norfolk, while the other was too wide for the locks. The Captain set the ship on fire rather than let it be captured by the enemy.

Word was received by the Union Forces that the Confederates were going to use the Dismal Swamp and Currituck Canals to bring ironclads south. The

Union General was commanded "to move troops to South Mills and blow up the locks there, then proceed to the Currituck Canal and destroy its banks".



The *Battle of South Mills* took place in April 1862 below the locks at Sawyers Lane. The Battle lasted for five hours with 750 defenders withstanding the Union assaults. The Commander of the Union Forces withdrew his troops because of low ammunition and the oppressive heat. The Union troops did not accomplish their mission. The Dismal Swamp Canal remained intact. Later the Union troops used the Canal to transport goods.