

NLES Accessibility Final Report: The Brownsville Preserve Walking Trail

Final Score: **Yellow** – Use caution on this trail if you have a disability (especially after rain.)

***Please visit The Nature Conservancy’s Virginia Brownsville Preserve website at <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/virginia/placesweprotect/brownsville-preserve.xml> to download the “Trail Map” and “Trail Guide” found under the “Visit” tab. Both the map & guide are referenced in this report.



Trail head to boardwalk (non-accessible).

Comments:

This is a beautiful, 3.4 mile trail that winds its way through historic, coastal Virginia landscaping. The terrain is a mostly flat gravel/dirt mix which is acceptable for use by wheelchair users as well as users with physical or cognitive disabilities, although NLES would recommend using this trail cautiously after wet weather.

Before walking the trail users should be aware that this trail does not have an accessible restroom or access to public telephones/clean drinking water. Please bring water and prepare for toileting necessities prior to walking this trail.

It is also important to note that the trail itself is not clearly marked for accessibility so users should be aware that from the “trail head” (before entering the boardwalk or point 1 marked on the trail map/guide) disabled users should get back on Brownsville Road and follow this gravel road until they reach a gate.



Brownsville Road leads to a gate (red circle) which begins the accessible trail.

****Preserve Staff must be contacted prior to arrival in order for gate to be opened****

The trail remains moderately accessible up until point 9 where the gravel trail ends and becomes grassy fields – this would be a good stopping point for users with limited physical ability and/or users in a wheelchair.

Overall NLES would recommend this trail for users with disabilities. As long the recommendations above are taken into consideration before walking this trail a user with disability can still enjoy the beautiful scenery and historical value that this trail has to offer.



Over-looking the old salt meadow.



A view of the expansive forest surrounding the trail.

If you would like to add an observation or comment regarding this trail please e-mail e.fillebrown@gmail.com and include ESHC Brownsville Trail in the subject line.



NLES' Walking Trails Assessment Group.



Enjoy your walk on the William B. Cummings Trail at the Brownsville Preserve!