

Anacostia Park

Anacostia Park is one of the largest parks in the District of Columbia, encompassing more than 1700 acres and 11 miles of Anacostia River shoreline. The Park shelters one of the last remaining tidal wetlands in the District and is home to many species of amphibians, birds, mammals, reptiles and native plants. It is also home to the D.C. Aquatic Resources Education Center, which is run by the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, and to the D.C. Urban Tree House, run by the Student Conservation Association.

Topics: Ecology, geology, streams, rivers, estuaries, wetlands, biodiversity, habitat restoration, solid waste, air and water quality, local Native American history and culture, environmental anthropology

Serving: K through 12

Standards:

Also see: Bridging the Watershed, page; D.C. Aquatic Resources Education Center, page; D.C. Urban Tree House, page, Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, page; Project WET, page

Resources

- * Environmental education programs
- * Videos, slide shows and PowerPoint presentations
- * Curriculum-based programs include Bridging the Watershed (grades 9 through 12), Project WILD (SCA) and Project WET(D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division).
- * Online and computer-based lessons and activities
- * Maps
- * Speakers, lectures and symposia⁹
- * Species inventories online
- * Field activities include soil and water testing
- * Pre- and post-visit activities
- * Community service learning
- * Teacher workshops and professional development (seat hours)
- * Summer Angling classes through the DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division

Notes

- * Much of the Park is wheelchair-accessible.
- * The Park provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for vision-impaired students with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

For More Information

Kara Jones, Education Coordinator

Phone: (202) 472-3883

Fax: (202) 426-1889

Email: kara_sholas-jones@nps.gov

Address: Anacostia Park, National Park Service, 1900 Anacostia Dr. SE, Washington, DC 20020

Web site: www.nps.gov/anac

Aquatic Resources Education Center of DC

Sitting on the banks of the Anacostia River in Anacostia Park, the Aquatic Resources Education Center is an ideal place to study aquatic ecosystems, water quality, and local fish and fisheries. The Center features live species exhibits, interactive displays, and an indoor pond for handling live animals. It is operated by the DC Department of Health's Aquatic and Wildlife Resources Branch.

Topics: Ecology, fresh and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, fish biology

Serving: Pre-K through 12

Also see: DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division, page; and Project WET, page

Resources

* In-School Aquatic Education Program (K through 12)

* Curriculum resources include videos, slide shows, presentation materials, fact sheets, worksheets and the manual *Aquariums in the Classroom*.

* Teacher workshops may include Project WET (seat hours)

* Technical assistance

* Speakers and lectures

* Field trips

* Summer Aquatic and Angler Education programs teach biology, ecology, conservation and ethical angling. (ages 5 through 16)

* Publications include the *Capital Geographic* newsletter.

* College internships (paid)

Notes

* Reservations required for group programs.

Location and Getting There

Anacostia Park, 2700 Anacostia Drive SE, Washington, DC

For More Information

Aquatic and Wildlife Education Branch Chief

Phone: (202) 535-2260

Fax: (202) 535-1373

E-mail:

Address: 51 N St. NE, Washington, DC 20002-3323

Web site: <http://dchealth.dc.gov>

Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Formerly known as Bladensburg Marina, Bladensburg Waterfront Park sits near the confluence of Northwest Branch and Northeast Branch, the Anacostia River's two largest tributaries, and nestles among the Port Towns of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, and Cottage City, Maryland. Bladensburg was once a thriving port for ocean-going ships.

Topics: Freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, habitat and biodiversity, sustainability, solid waste, transportation, energy, water pollution

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Park is developing programs that address Prince George's County standards of learning.

Resources

- * Pontoon Boat River Ecology Tour for all ages and for groups of up to 40 people.
- * Speakers and lectures
- * River Habitat classroom programs is being developed. May be followed by the Pontoon Boat River Ecology Tour (Grades 3 through 5).
- * Field trips
- * Interpretive history and nature displays
- * Self-guided walking history tour (Grade 4 and up)
- * Canoe, kayak and boat rentals. Canoe and kayak lessons.
- * Weekend youth activities
- * Community service learning

Notes

- * The Park can provide sign language interpretation with two weeks notice.
- * The pontoon boat can accommodate three wheel chairs.

Location and Getting There

Metro: bus R12; .4 mile walk

For More Information

Steve Radov, Park Manager

Phone: (301) 779-0371

Fax: (301) 927-8166

Email: steve.radov@pgparks.com

Address: 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Web site: www.pgparks.com/places/nature/bladensburg.html

Brookside Gardens

Brookside Gardens is Montgomery County's award-winning 50-acre public display garden. The complex is part of Wheaton Regional Park and includes two conservatories for year-round enjoyment, a horticultural reference library, azalea garden, rose garden, yew garden, formal garden, fragrance garden, Japanese garden, children's garden and trial garden.

Topics: Botany, horticulture

Serving: Grades 2 through 5

Standards: Programs address Maryland, Montgomery County, and national standards of learning.

Also see: Brookside Nature Center, page .

Resources

* Programs and workshops for elementary school groups, children's service organizations, and others (grades 2 through 6) include "How Seeds Travel," "Growing with Butterflies," "Every Plant Has a Habitat," "Trees," and "Plants Eat, Too."

* Field trips

* *Guide to Gardening Programs and Events* published in spring and fall

* Community service learning (generally May to September)

* High school and college internships (generally unpaid)

* Garden tours for adult groups of 10 or more *

Notes

* Group reservations required for tours and programs.

* Brookside is wheelchair-accessible.

* Brookside provides sign language interpretation and will adapt programs for vision-impaired students with two weeks notice.

* For community service and internship opportunities, contact Volunteer Coordinator Ellen Hartranft at (301) 962-1429 or ellen.hartranft@mncppc-mc.org .

Location and Getting There

Metro: Metrobus routes C8, C 9 or Z4; Ride-On routes 10 or 31 (.3 mile)

For More Information

Children's Horticulturist Lynn Richard

Phone: (301) 962-1408

Fax: (301) 962-7878

E-mail: lynn.richard@mncppc-mc.org

Address: 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902

Web site: www.brooksidegardens.org

Brookside Nature Center

A system of trails, a pond, and the forest and meadows of Wheaton Regional Park are the setting for the Brookside Nature Center. The Center features wildlife exhibits, nature activities, and a 19th-century cabin and smokehouse. Combine your Nature Center visit with a tour of Brookside Gardens.

Topics: Ecology, geology, wetlands and freshwater ecosystems, forests, habitat, solid waste, weather, pioneer living, Native America life

Serving: Pre-K through 12

Resources

- * Environmental and heritage education programs (ages 3 and up)
- * Online educator's guide
- * Fact sheets
- * Trails and hands-on exhibits
- * Afterschool, weekend and summer youth programs
- * Community service learning for Montgomery County students
- * High school internships (unpaid)
- * Volunteer naturalist program
- * Summer nature and science camps (Pre-K through 12; open to non-Montgomery County youth)

Notes

- * Wheelchair-accessible boardwalk; limited wheelchair access on trails.
- * Registrations required for group programs.

Location and Getting There

For More Information

Park Naturalist

Phone: (301) 946-9071

Fax: (301) 949-1574

E-mail:

Address: 1400 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902

Web site: www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/brookside_nature.shtm

Catoctin Mountain Park

Catoctin Mountain Park in the Appalachian Mountains features an eastern deciduous forest with 25 miles of hiking trails, picnic facilities, and family and group camping facilities. Schools and environmental groups have used the Park as an outdoor classroom since the 1940s. The Park has a rich history of human habitation. Visitors can explore a charcoal-making exhibit, the foundations of old mountain homesteads, and the remains of a 19th-century sawmill and whiskey still.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, forests, environmental ethics

Serving: Grades 1 through 8

Standards: Programs address Maryland and national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Environmental and heritage education programs (grades 1 through 8) with preparation and follow-up activities
- * Curriculum materials include slide shows, PowerPoint presentations, educational software, and maps.
- * Guided walks
- * Tent and cabin camping
- * College internships (unpaid)
- * Bookstore

Notes

- * Reservations required for group camping and most programs.

Location and Getting There

Off Route 15 on Maryland Route 77 West in Thurmont, north of Frederick

For More Information

Chief Park Ranger

Phone: (301) 663-9388

Fax: (301) 271-2764

E-mail:

Address: National Park Service, Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, MD 21788-1598

Cheltenham Natural Area

Cheltenham Wetlands Park's roughly 270 acres of wetlands and woodlands support a wide variety of plants and wildlife. Its wetland nature study trail with boardwalks and upland trails through forest and meadows provide excellent opportunities to observe and learn about native flora and fauna. Nesting boxes are provided for eastern bluebirds, wood ducks, American kestrels, screech owls, and tree swallows.

Topics: Wetlands, forests, biodiversity
Serving: Grade 1 through 8

Resources

- * Ranger-led hikes. Groups should have at least students and no more than 50. With notice, rangers often can address specific topics or standards of learning.
- * Community service learning with rangers through the Conservation Club.

Notes

- * Reservations required for group programs.
- * Services for students with hearing or vision impairments are available with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

For More Information

Park Rangers

Phone: (301) 627-7755

Fax: (301) 627-4905

Email: pgp-parkrangers@pgparks.com

Address: Cheltenham Wetlands Park, Park Ranger Office, 4955 Pennsylvania Ave., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Web site: www.pgparks.com/places/nature/cheltenham.html

Clearwater Nature Center

Clearwater Nature Center features forest and wetlands that serve as valuable habitat to beaver, fox, songbirds, waterfowl and other wildlife. Five miles of forest trails, and a lake provide a living laboratory to study wetland ecology and good places to observe beaver dams, and amphibians and other fauna. The Nature Center has a live eagle, an indoor pond, hands-on exhibits, and an auditorium, and offers a variety of activities.

Topics: Raptors, dinosaurs and fossils, rocks and minerals, wetlands, insects, adaptation, animal characteristics, vertebrates, Indians of Southern Maryland, plant photosynthesis and cycles

Serving: Pre-K through 6

Standards: Programs address Maryland and national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Scout programs
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Videos, slide show and fact sheets
- * Tent camping at Cosca Park
- * Teacher workshops
- * Speakers, in Prince George's County
- * Nature puppet theater
- * Community service learning
- * High school and college internships (generally unpaid)
- * Volunteer programs for ages 14 and up
- * Afterschool, weekend and summer youth programs

Notes

- * Reservations required for programs and for groups of 10 or more.
- * Bus parking fee for groups from outside of Prince George's County.
- * Sign language interpretation available with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Thrift Road off Brandywine Road (Route 381) in Clinton, MD

Metro: bus C11 or C13, connecting to The Bus route 30, from Federal Center SW (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Park Naturalist

Phone: (301) 297-4575 or TDD (301) 699-2544

Fax: (301) 297-5743

E-mail: sandy.lyon@pgparks.com

Address: 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD 20735

Web site: www.pgparks.com

Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve – George Washington Memorial Parkway

Dyke Marsh provides an ideal location for the study of wetlands, their importance, and the ways in which humans have affected them. The Preserve encompasses roughly 380 acres of freshwater marsh, floodplain and swamp forest. Dyke Marsh is one of the largest remaining tidal freshwater marshes in the Washington area, and provides critical habitat for a huge variety of plants and animals, including several threatened or endangered species. Nearly 300 bird species – including Osprey, Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Great Egret, Red-Winged Blackbird, and Yellow Warbler – and 360 plant species have been identified at Dyke Marsh

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability, water pollution, climate change, human impacts on the environment

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address national standards of learning.

Also see: Theodore Roosevelt Island, page; Turkey Run Park, page; George Washington Memorial Parkway, page; Bridging the Watershed, page .

Resources

- * Curriculum-based and other education programs (all ages)
- * Stability Through Diversity curriculum-based program helps students (grades 6-8) develop skills to learn about wetlands and biodiversity. Includes pre- and post-visit activities.
- * Bridging the Watershed curriculum-based programs provide opportunities to teach students about invasive, exotic plants, and human impacts on land and water, and include pre- and post-visit activities. (grades 9 through 12)
- * Teacher workshops (credit)
- * Guided walks
- * Trails
- * Brochures
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Weekend programs for all ages
- * Junior Ranger programs and a Junior Ranger booklet
- * Community service learning
- * Volunteer workdays
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Please call for wheelchair access information.
- * Please call before using the Preserve for group programs.
- * Staff will work to accommodate students with impaired hearing or vision, with two weeks notice.
- * Reservations required for ranger-led programs.

Location and Getting There

Along George Washington Memorial Parkway, adjacent to Belle Haven Park and roughly one mile south of Old Town Alexandria.

For More Information

Dana Dierkes, Supervisory Park Ranger

Phone: (703) 289-2552 or 2500

Fax: (703) 289-2546 (please call first)

E-mail: gwmp_superintendent@nps.gov

Address: George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101

Web: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp>

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park's 660 acres are home to the Walney Visitor Center, Cabell's Mill/Middlegate complex, Walney Pond, farm gardens and fields, and natural habitat. Its oak-hickory, pine and red cedar stands, meadows, streams and pond harbor a great variety of plant and animal species, including beavers, deer, foxes, wild turkeys, small mammals, ducks, owls, hawks and over 100 species of birds.

The Park offers a variety of natural and cultural history programs. Walney Visitor Center is located in a converted 1780 farm house, and features live animal exhibits, historic exhibits, a children's touch table area, a greenhouse, and a classroom.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests and other terrestrial habitat, habitat restoration, biodiversity, sustainability, agriculture, land use, energy, climate change, ozone depletion, environmental ethics, local Native American history

Serving: Pre-K through college; curriculum-based programs focus on Pre-K through 6

Standards: Programs address Virginia and national standards of learning

Resources

- * Classroom programs (Pre-K through 6)
- * Field activities and interpretive programs (Pre-K through 6)
- * Pre- and post-visit activities
- * Videos (in development), slide shows and PowerPoint presentations at the Park
- * Community service learning
- * High school and college internships (paid)
- * Summer camps

Notes

- * Much of the Park is wheelchair-accessible.
- * The Park provides sign language interpretation, and adapts programs for vision-impaired students, with 10 days notice.
- * Reservations required for group programs.

Location and Getting There

Western Fairfax County

For More Information

Tony Bulmer, Naturalist, Historian and Senior Interpreter

Phone: (703) 631-0013 or TTY (703) 324-3988

Fax: (703) 631-8319

Email:

Address: 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly, VA 20150

Web site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ecl

Fort Dupont Park

With 376 rolling, wooded acres east of the Anacostia River, Fort Dupont Park is the second-largest park in the District of **Columbia**, and a wonderful place to investigate a forest ecosystem, study local geology, study a stream, and examine the impact of urban living on natural systems. The Park features an activity center, self-guided nature trails, a hiker-biker trail, community gardens, picnic areas and an indoor ice rink. Fort Dupont is one of 68 forts built to protect the nation's capital during the Civil War. Park programs highlight area history, multicultural awareness and environmental education.

Unfortunately, environmental education programs at Fort Dupont Park have been suspended indefinitely due to lack of staff.

Topics:

Serving: Pre-K through 12

Resources

- * Curriculum materials and brochures
- * Self-guided trails
- * Volunteer In Parks (VIP) program
- * Youth Conservation Corps offers summer jobs to youth ages 15 to 18.
- * Summer Theater with jazz concerts and other performances
- * Community gardening
- * College internships (some paid)

Notes

- * Wheelchair access on trails is limited.
- * Reservation required for groups.

Location and Getting There

Minnesota Ave. and Randle Circle SE, Washington, DC.

Metro: bus V4 or V6 from Potomac Avenue (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (202) 426-5961

Fax: (202) 426-5961

E-mail: nace_superintendent@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, National Capital Parks-East, Fort Dupont Park, 1900 Anacostia Drive SE, Washington, DC 20020

Web site: www.nps.gov/fodu

George Washington Memorial Parkway

Several national park sites that are part of George Washington Memorial Parkway provide a natural buffer along the banks of the Potomac River in the District, Maryland and Virginia. Areas ideal for environmental and heritage education include the wetlands and forest of Theodore Roosevelt Island, the woodland trails 250 feet above the river at Turkey Run Park, the beautiful wetlands of Dyke Marsh, the earthworks of Fort Marcy (which protected Washington during the Civil War), and Fort Hunt (a Spanish-American War fort that later played a key role in military intelligence during World War II).

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability, water quality, climate change, human impacts on the environment, history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address national standards of learning.

Also see: Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, page; Theodore Roosevelt Island, page; Turkey Run Park, page; Bridging the Watershed, page

Resources

- * Curriculum-based and other education programs (all ages)
- * Teacher workshops (credit)
- * Guided walks
- * Trails
- * Brochures
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Weekend programs for all ages
- * Junior Ranger programs and a Junior Ranger booklet
- * Community service learning
- * Volunteer workdays
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Please call for wheelchair access information.
- * Staff will work to adapt programs to accommodate students with impaired hearing or vision impairments, with two weeks notice.
- * Please call before using this site.
- * Reservations required for ranger-led programs.

Location and Getting There

The Parkway runs from the Beltway in Montgomery County to Chain Bridge in Maryland and from the Beltway south to Mount Vernon in Virginia.

For More Information

Dana Dierkes, Supervisory Park Ranger

Phone: (703) 289-2552 or 2500

Fax: (703) 289-2546 (please call first)

E-mail: gwmp_superintendent@nps.gov

Address: George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101

Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp>

Great Falls Park – George Washington Memorial Parkway

Great Falls Park in Virginia preserves the scenic beauty of Mather Gorge and the Great Falls of the Potomac, and the historic ruins of the Patowmack Canal. The Potomac's power and beauty are evident here as the River spills down from the Piedmont to the Coastal Plain and races through the narrow gorge. Geologic formations expose ancient rocks and tell the story of Earth's changing environments. The Patowmack Canal, one of the nation's earliest, was George Washington's project to make the river navigable and bind the nation together in a network of trade and mutual interest. The Park is ideal for studying geology, watershed concepts, 18th-century trade and transportation, a wide variety of plants and animals, and for exploring various forest communities and local ecosystems.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater ecosystems, forests, biodiversity; sustainability, land use, transportation, water pollution, history, plants and animals.

Serving: Grade 1 through college

See also: Bridging the Watershed, page; and Parks As Classrooms, page

Standards: Parks As Classrooms and Bridging the Watershed address national and state standards of learning.

Also see: Parks As Classrooms, page; and Bridging the Watershed, page .

Resources

* Parks As Classrooms curriculum-based programs (grades 4 through 6) include Geology – Formation of Great Falls; Clay Pond – Nature's Delicate Balance; Native American Indians of the Potomac River Valley; and The Patowmack Canal – Expanding Westward.

* Bridging the Watershed curriculum-based programs (grades 9 through 12) explore watershed concepts, including sedimentation, macroinvertebrates, water quality, and trash, and investigate the health and ecological importance of freshwater environments.

* Ranger talks on natural history; plants and animals; wildlife and forest ecology; geology and Earth processes; river systems, watersheds; and George Washington and the Patowmack Canal.

* Speakers cover environmental topics, the history of the National Park System, and Park Service career opportunities.

* Slide show, *History of Great Falls* (8 minutes, on site)

* Visitor center with interpretive exhibits

* Year-round Junior Ranger program (ages 7-12), appropriate for individuals or scout groups.

* Community service learning

* College internships (some paid)

* Teacher stipends for assistance in developing Parks As Classrooms programs.

Notes

* Group reservations required for programs

* Please call for wheelchair access information.

* Sign language interpretation is available with four weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 22102

For More Information

Park Ranger Program Coordinator

Phone: (703) 285-2966

Fax: (703) 285-2223

E-mail: no general address

Address: National Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway/Great Falls Park, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101

Web site: www.nps.gov/gwmp/grfa

Green Spring Gardens

Green Spring Gardens, a 27-acre park in Alexandria, preserves and interprets local horticultural, historical, and natural resources. Its features over 20 demonstration gardens, including a Children's Garden, Family Garden, and Backyard Habitat Garden. Its Horticulture Center offers a research library, greenhouse, educational displays, and changing exhibits. Visitors may explore the many demonstration gardens, ponds, forested paths, and a restored 18th-century manor house.

Topics: Ecology, soil studies, botany, horticulture, landscape design, biodiversity, recycling and composting, gardening for wildlife, gardening with kids

Serving: Main school audience is Pre-K through 4.

Standards: Green Springs' programs address Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * Educational programs (all ages)
- * Curriculum-based programs (Pre-K through 4)
- * Field trips and guided tours
- * Horticulture classes and lectures
- * Horticulture library
- * Teacher workshops being developed (possible credit)
- * Summer youth programs (ages 6 to 12)
- * Master Gardener Program for Virginia Tech University (age 18 and up, certificate)

Notes

- * Reservations required for programs.
- * Site and classes accessible to people with special needs. For special accommodations, please call (703) 324-8563 ten days advance.
- * Sign interpretation available with 10 days notice. Please call TTY (703) 324-3988.

Location and Getting There

Metro: bus 29N from King Street (Yellow Line)

For More Information

Charlotte Albers, Children's Education Coordinator

Phone: (703) 642-5173

Fax: (703) 642-8095

E-mail:

Address: 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312

Web site: www.greenspring.org

Greenbelt Park

A beautiful green oasis in an urban area, Greenbelt National Park is a great place to study conservation, local history, and forest, meadow and wetland ecosystems. It constitutes one of the largest tracts of forest inside the Beltway. The Park shelters a wide variety of nesting and migrating birds, and illustrate one example of the land to begin to recover from intensive farming. Its upland forests include Virginia Pine and oaks, often with an understory dominated by American Holly, Mountain Laurel, or blueberries.

Topics: Ecology, wetlands, forests, meadows, local history

Serving: Grade 1 through college

Resources

- * Environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Teacher workshops if requested with educational programs.
- * Guided walks
- * Trails
- * Tent camping and campfire programs (grades 1 through 12). Camping fee is \$14 per night.
- * Junior Ranger programs (ages 8 to 11)
- * Junior Ranger Activity Guide (ages 6 to 12)

Notes

- * Group reservations required for educational programs.

Location and Getting There

Greenbelt Road off Kenilworth Avenue South

Metro: Metrobus C2 or The Bus 16 from Greenbelt (Green Line)

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (301) 344-3944 or 3948

Fax: (301) 344-3736

E-mail: major_horsey@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Web site: www.nps.gov/gree

Gulf Branch Nature Center

Located in a wooded stream valley, Gulf Branch Nature Center, features exhibits on local plants and animals and a special exhibit on the Woodland Indians of Virginia. Visitors can view a demonstration beehive, hike a woodland trail to the Potomac River, visit the pond, or explore the Gulf Branch stream

Topics: Ecology, geology, streams, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Gulf Branch addresses Virginia standards of learning on request.

Resources

- * Environmental and heritage education programs (all ages)
- * Summer camp (grades 1 to 8), and afterschool and weekend youth programs
- * Speakers and on-site lectures
- * Guided hikes
- * Volunteer opportunities for people 15 and up
- * Community service learning
- * Summer jobs for college students

Notes

- * Not yet wheelchair accessible.
- * Gulf Branch provides sign language interpretation with three weeks notice, and adapts programs for students with impaired vision or mobility.
- * Group reservations required for programs; minimum of 12 per group.
- * \$2 per student fee for out-of-county groups.

Location and Getting There

North Military Road, near Chain Bridge

Metro: Arlington Bus route 22 from Ballston (Orange Line)

For More Information

Phone: (703) 228-3403

Fax: (703) 228-4401

E-mail: dchauv@co.arlington.va.us

Address: 3608 North Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207

Web site: www.co.arlington.va.us/prcr/scripts/nature/gulfbranch.htm

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Hidden Oaks Nature Center, in the hardwood forest of Annandale Community Park, features interactive exhibits and programs for children and adults. Two streams and a trail run through the forest. An old railroad bed provides insight into local history. The Fred M. Packard Cultural Arts Center is also part of this area.

Topics: Ecology, geology, streams and wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability, solid waste, land use, energy, pollution, climate change, history, anthropology

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs and materials address Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * Environmental and cultural history education programs (ages 3 and up)
- * Teacher workshops (suspended for 2003)
- * Curriculum materials on local history, Native American culture and nature
- * Videos and fact sheets
- * Community service learning
- * College and high school internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Fees charged for some programs.
- * Group reservations required two weeks in advance.
- * Most of Hidden Oaks is wheelchair-accessible.
- * Hidden Oaks provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for students with impaired vision with one week notice.

Location and Getting There

Hummer Road off Little River Turnpike in Annandale

Metro: Fairfax Connector route 401 from Dunn Loring (Orange Line) or Franconia-Springfield (Blue Line)

For More Information

Interpretive Specialist

Phone: (703) 941-1065

Fax: (703) 941-2073

E-mail:

Address: 7701 Royce St., Annandale, VA 22003

Web site: www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/nature

Huntley Meadows Park

Just minutes from the District, Huntley Meadows Park features 1,428 acres of wetlands, forest and wildflower meadows. The Park is ideal for birdwatching, observing wildlife, and exploring a wetland ecosystem. Over 200 bird species have been identified at Huntley Meadows. A boardwalk and trails provide easy access to this lovely natural area, and an observation tower offers a great view.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, forests, wetlands, biodiversity

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address Virginia and Fairfax standards of learning.

Resources

* Environmental, natural history and cultural education programs (all ages)

* Curriculum-based programs (Pre-K through 12)

* Group tours

* Visitor Center with exhibits and a sales desk

* Summer internships for college students, teachers and others (paid)

Notes

* Group reservations required for programs and tours. Make reservations in early September for Fall; in mid-January for Spring and Summer.

* Much of Huntley Meadows is wheelchair-accessible.

* The Park provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for students with impaired vision with 10 ten days notice.

Location and Getting There

Lockheed Blvd. off Richmond Hwy. (Route 1) in Alexandria, VA

For More Information

Staff

Phone: (703) 768-2525

Fax: (703) 768-8746

E-mail:

Address: 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22306

Web site: www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/huntley.htm or www.Friendsofhuntleymeadows.org

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

The Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary protects 1,200 acres of natural areas, including more than 600 acres of wetlands supporting a variety of plants and animals. The Sanctuary is a great place for birdwatching, hiking, canoeing and nature photography. It features a nature center with interactive exhibits; weekend programs for families; eight miles of trails; several boardwalks; a marsh overlook; and a working farm. Staff and volunteers conduct research on plant and animal communities and monitor the health of the Patuxent River.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems and wetlands, forests, biodiversity, water quality, habitat restoration

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Classrooms in the Field supports Maryland performance standards, the Maryland Environmental Education Bylaw, and National Science Education Standards.

Resources

* Classrooms in the Field programs offer custom-designed field experiences tailored to the needs of teachers and students. They involve students in the learning process and introduce them to many facets of ecology and scientific research. Tuesday through Thursday. Reservations required. See the web site for a brochure and reservation form.

* Speakers

* **Marsh Notes quarterly newsletter**

* McCann Wetlands Center features interactive exhibits.

* Symposia and lectures include Lectures in the Field for adults and older children.

* Teacher workshops (some for credit)

* Naturalist-led family programs on weekends

* Canoe trips

* Community service learning in conservation and research includes Teen Adventure, which meets twice weekly in the summer.

* Volunteer opportunities

* Summer youth programs include Summer Science Camps (grades 5 through 12).

* High school interships in research and education (unpaid)

* College internships in field biology and education (some paid)

Notes

* Wheelchair access is limited on trails.

* Appointments required for all visitors.

* Low entrance fee.

Location and Getting There

Lothian, MD, on the banks of the Patuxent River

For More Information

Education Coordinator

Phone: (410) 741-9330

Fax: (410) 741-9346

E-mail: jugbay@toad.net

Address: 1361 Wrighton Road, Lothian, MD 20711

Web site: www.jugbay.org

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens

Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens' 700 acres feature a system of shallow ponds and dikes bordered by tidal marsh on the east bank of the Anacostia River. Kenilworth contains a shallow remnant of the Anacostia River's original marsh, with swampy hummocks and herbaceous plants. Much of Kenilworth's existing marsh was created in 1993 by the National Park Service to help replace natural marsh that had been destroyed through dredging.

With a nature trail running between the river and marsh, Kenilworth is an ideal location to investigate pond and wetland ecosystems, learn the history of human attitudes toward river systems, observe marsh restoration, spot wildlife, go birding, canoe, and learn about aquatic plant propagation. Kenilworth is particularly beautiful in late spring and summer, when water lilies are in bloom.

Topics: Fresh and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, biodiversity, sustainability, land use, climate change, water pollution, environmental ethics

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address national standards of learning.

Also see: Anacostia Park, page; Bridging the Watershed, page .

Resources

- * Environmental education programs (Pre-K through college). Park staff will work to meet teachers' needs.
- * Curriculum materials include videos, slide shows and PowerPoint presentations available for classroom use.
- * Bridging the Watershed curriculum-based programs (grades 9 through 12)
- * Guided and self-guided tours
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Field activities and water testing
- * Teacher workshops on watersheds and through Bridging the Watershed (credit for some)
- * Summer Junior Ranger Program (ages 8 through 14)
- * Community service learning
- * Internships through National Capital Parks – East. Call (202) 690-5185.
- * Boardwalk and river trail

Notes

- * Group reservations required for guided programs.
- * Wheelchair access is limited on trails.
- * The Park provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for students with impaired vision with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

1550 Anacostia Ave. NE, Washington, DC

Metro: bus V7 from Deanwood (Orange Line); .3 mile walk.

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (202) 426-6905

Fax: (202) 426-5991

E-mail: renee_strother@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, National Capital Parks-East, 1900 Anacostia Drive SE, Washington, DC 20020

Web site: www.nps.gov/nace/keaq

Locust Grove Nature Center

Locust Grove Nature Center offers environmental education opportunities set in 500 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands in Cabin John Regional Park. The Park features 13 miles of foot and bike trails and a train ride through a wooded area.

Topics: Ecology, geology, streams and wetlands, forests, biodiversity, weather

Serving: Pre-K through 12

Resources

- * Environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Speakers, within Montgomery County
- * Self-guided walks, hands-on exhibits, live animal exhibits, and wildlife habitat
- * Nature library
- * Afterschool, weekend and summer youth programs
- * Community service learning for Montgomery County students
- * High school internships (unpaid)
- * Summer nature camps (ages 3 through 9; open to non-Montgomery County youth)

Notes

- * Limited wheelchair access on trails.
- * Group reservations required for programs.

Location and Getting There

Metro: Ride-On routes 26 from Glenmont (Red Line) or 47 from Rockville or Bethesda (Red Line)

For More Information

Park Naturalist

Phone: (301) 299-1990

Fax: (301) 469-0759

E-mail:

Address: 7777 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817

Web site: www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/nature_centers.shtm

Long Branch Nature Center

A good spot for birdwatching, Long Branch Nature Center is surrounded by a stream valley forest, beautiful native plant gardens, wetlands, two ponds and a stream in Glencarlyn Park. The Center features an indoor pond and wildlife displays.

Topics: Ecology, geology, saltwater ecosystems, streams and wetlands, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity, solid waste, water pollution

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Some Long Branch programs address Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * Environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Videos, slide show, and PowerPoint presentations, all on site.
- * Field trips, on and off site.
- * Teacher workshops
- * Wildlife advice and rehabilitation referrals
- * Trails
- * *The Snag* quarterly newsletter
- * Afterschool, weekend and summer youth programs
- * Community service learning for Arlington schools
- * Summer jobs for college students or people 18 or older with six months' experience.

Notes

- * Wheelchair access limited on trails.
- * Long Branch provides sign interpretation with two weeks notice, and will work to adapt programs for vision-impaired students.
- * Reservations required for all programs.

Location and Getting There

Near Route 50 in Arlington

Metro: bus 12 and 25 from Pentagon (Yellow and Blue lines) and Ballston (Orange Line)

For More Information

Phone: (703) 228-6535

Fax: (703) 845-2654

E-mail:

Address: 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204

Web site: www.co.arlington.va.us/prcr/scripts/nature/longbranch.htm

Mason Neck State Park

Mason Neck State Park protects over 1,800 acres of wildlands including tidal wetlands, meadows and forest. The Park offers a range of educational programs, and its trails and observation blinds make it a fine location for wildlife observation and discovery learning.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, Bald Eagle habitat

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Your Backyard Classroom address Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

* Teacher-led environmental education programs (K through 12) include Your Backyard Classroom.

* Curriculum materials (workshop attendance required)

* Preparation and follow-up activities

* Teacher workshops for Your Backyard Classroom

* Environmental Education Center with library and sampling equipment

* Guided canoe trips (April to October) and car top boat launch

* Primitive tent camping for educational groups of up to 50 (fee)

* Community service learning

Notes

* Wheelchair access is limited on trails.

* Group reservations required for programs.

* Low parking fee.

Location and Getting There

For More Information

Park Manager

Phone: (703) 550-0960

Fax: (703) 550-0654

E-mail: masonneck@dcr.state.va.us

Address: 7301 High Point Road, Lorton, VA 22079

Web site: www.dcr.state.va.us/parks/masonnec.htm

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens conducts research and education to help conserve native plant species, and to enhance public understanding of and appreciation for native plant's aesthetic and ecological value. Meadowlark's 95 acres feature a relatively new and growing Potomac Valley Native Plant Collection, a Virginia Native Plant Collection, three lakes with native aquatic plants, exhibits on plant diversity, and ornamental gardens.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater ecosystems and wetlands, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity and endangered plant species, habitat restoration, sustainability, agriculture, genetically modified organisms, land use, climate change, ethnobotany, invasive weeds, basic birding, nature photography

Serving: Grade 1 through college

Standards: Meadowlark works with teachers to address SoLs.

Also see:

Resources

- * Slide shows, PowerPoint presentations, and maps
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Gardening
- * Field studies
- * High school (unpaid) and college (paid) internships
- * *Dirca* quarterly newsletter
- * Online conservation, ecological and collection information

Notes

- * Most trails are wheelchair-accessible.

Location and Getting There

.5 mile west of Wolf Trap Farm Park, and five miles west of the Beltway

For More Information

Keith Tomlinson, Manager

Phone: (703) 255-3631 x 102

Fax: (703) 255-2392

Email: meadowlark@starpower.net

Address: 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct., Vienna, VA 22182

Website: www.washacadsci.org/meadowlark-gardens

Meadowside Nature Center

Situated near the source of Rock Creek, Meadowside Nature Center is surrounded by the forest, meadow and marshes of Rock Creek Regional Park. The Center features 10 miles of maintained trails; annual and perennial wildflower gardens for butterflies and hummingbirds; a live raptor exhibit; a reconstructed 1850s farmstead with herb and heritage vegetable gardens; and three indoor exhibit areas – “The Legacy of the Land,” “The Legacy of the People” and “Curiosity Corner.”

Topics: Ecology, geology, streams, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, human history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address Maryland, DC, Virginia and national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Environmental and heritage education programs (all ages)
- * Video and slide shows
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Summer Conservation Camps and Spring Break Camp
- * Spring and Harvest Festivals
- * Natural and cultural history exhibits
- * Live animal exhibits
- * Community service learning
- * College internships (paid)

Notes

- * Limited wheelchair access on trails.
- * Sign language interpretation of many programs is available with at least two weeks notice.
- * Group reservations required for programs.

Location and Getting There

Off Muncaster Mill Road (Maryland Route 115), near Norbeck Road

For More Information

Phone: (301) 924-4141

Fax: (301) 924-1034

E-mail:

Address: 5100 Meadowside Lane, Rockville, MD 20855

Web site: www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/facilities/meadowside_nature.shtm

Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center

Mt. Rainier Nature and Recreation Center is the only urban nature center in Prince George's County. The Center features an array of special displays and exhibits, including exhibits on weather and local Native American history. It offers visitors of all ages a variety of interpretive programs on a wide range of topics, including nature study, urban wildlife, urban beautification, and animal care. The Center also offers curriculum-based science programs.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests and other terrestrial habitat, biodiversity, weather, Native American history, and recycling, composting and waste prevention
Serving: K through 12

Resources

- * Curriculum-based science programs, in the classroom and at the Center (K through 9)
- * Site visits and field trips
- * Pre- and post-visit activities and materials
- * Classroom programs (K through 12)
- * Videos, lectures and symposia at the Center
- * Printed curriculum material (K through 9), facts sheets, maps and posters
- * Water testing
- * *Naturegram* newsletter published thrice annually (free)
- * Camping (grades 5 through 12)
- * After school, weekend and summer youth programs
- * Community service learning
- * High school internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Reservations required for group programs.
- * Please request Sign language interpretation and other accommodations for special needs at least two weeks in advance.
- * The Center is wheelchair-accessible.

Location and Getting There

4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier, MD

For More Information

Bernadine Sandy, Park Naturalist

Phone: (301) 927-2163

Fax: (301) 699-9625

Email: bernadine.sandy@pgparks.com

Address: Mount Rainer Nature and Recreation Center, P.O. Box 104, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

Web site: www.pgparks.com/places/nature/rainier.html

National Zoological Park (Friends of the National Zoo)

The 163-acre Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in Rock Creek Park conducts a wide range of research and educational programs, and was the first zoo established to save animals on the brink of extinction. Established by an Act of Congress in 1889, the Zoo is a world leader in exhibition, conservation, zoological research and education. It is home to more than 5,800 mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. Nearly 130 of the Zoo's species of animals are endangered or threatened. The Zoo participates in 48 of the 108 Species Survival Plans coordinated by the American Zoological Association to ensure the survival of populations of endangered species.

Topics: Habitat and biodiversity

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Zoo programs address national standards of learning.

Resources

* Activity Guides

* Educational programs (all ages)

* Curriculum materials

* **How To Zoo teacher's guide with classroom and on-site activities**

* Customized teacher workshops

* Summer Seminars for Teachers, a four-day course in July for elementary school teachers, explores the definitive characteristics of invertebrates, vertebrates, and three major ecosystems at the Zoo. Call the Smithsonian Office of Education at (202) 357-3050 or see http://educate.si.edu/ut/prof_summer.html. (credit)

* Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center offers a range of resources, including the Songbird Kit (grades K through 5); "Bridging the Americas," a cross-cultural program linking elementary school classes across the hemisphere; *Birds Over Troubled Forests*, a 32-page booklet on the natural history, behavior and conservation of migratory birds; and the bilingual coloring book *Feathered Travelers: Neotropical Migratory Birds of the Americas*

* Summer youth programs and volunteer opportunities

* Summer day and overnight camps

* Community service learning

* High school internships (unpaid)

* Weekend Tours

Notes

* Reservations required for educational programs and weekend tours.

* The Zoo provide sign language interpretation and adapts programs for vision-impaired students with two to four weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Metro: Cleveland Park or Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan (Red Line), a 15-minute walk from either station

For More Information

Friends of the National Zoo Education Office

Phone: (202) 673-4955

Fax: (202) 673-0241

E-mail: education@fonz.org

Address: 3001 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008

Web site: www.fonz.org

Old Maryland Farm

Old Maryland Farm is an educational farm located in Watkins Regional Park. Students can view farm animals and herb, vegetable and flower gardens. This is a good place for children to make connections between urban living and our dependence on the Earth. Combine a visit to the Farm with a trip to the Watkins Nature Center.

Topics: Agriculture and natural history

Serving: Pre-K through 6

Resources

- * Farm tours
- * Natural interpretive and curriculum-based programs (Pre-K through 6)
- * Fact sheets
- * Gardening
- * Special events
- * Volunteer opportunities (age 13 and up)
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Reservations required for groups.
- * The Farm is wheelchair-accessible.
- * The Farm provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for students with impaired vision with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Off Enterprise Road near Rt. 214

For More Information

Farm Staff

Phone: (301) 218-6770 or TDD (301) 699-2544

Fax: (301) 218-6774

Email:

Address: 301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774-1667

Web site: www.pgparcs.com

Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm

Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm offer a variety of educational programs in agriculture, economic and social change, and ecology. The working farm is typical of 19th-century and early 20th-century farms in the Washington area. It demonstrates basic farming principals and techniques, and is a good place for young children to discover the difference between wild and domestic animals and gain an understanding that our food comes from the Earth, not from supermarkets and fast food restaurants. Students can observe and even participate in milking cows, collecting eggs fresh from the nest, shucking corn, and other farm chores. Structures include the historic farm house, dairy barn, grain exhibit building, hexagonal tool shed, and wind mill. From the late 1890s to the 1950s, the Farm was operated by patients from St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

The Park's 512 acres also include open meadows, deciduous forest, marsh and swamp, all providing habitat for native flora and fauna.

Topics: Ecology, streams and rivers, wetlands, forests and meadows, biodiversity, habitat restoration, sustainability , food and agriculture, solid waste , land use , energy, environmental economics, water quality, weather

Standards: Curriculum-based programs address national and Maryland standards of learning.

Serving: Pre-K through college

Resources

- * Videos (some available for classroom use), fact sheets and maps
- * Curriculum-based programs include Animal Life on the Farm (Pre-K to grade 1); Contact Earth: Garden Morning (grades 1 and 2); "Moo Velous Milk" (grades Pre K and K); and others for K through 6. Monday's 10 a.m.
- * Printed, web-based, and computer-based lessons and curricula (K through 6)
- * Dailyfarm programs include Cow Milking, the Chicken Program, and Hay Rides.
- * Seasonal programs include Apple Cider Days, Whose Home, Old Fashioned Corn Harvest, Quilts - Not Just Blankets For The Bed, Talking Turkeys, Sheep Shearing, and Egg Incubation.
- * Speakers, lectures, and symposia
- * Environmental field activities, gardening (grades 4 and 5) and soil testing
- * Pre- and post-visit activities
- * Teacher workshops and professional development
- * Teacher stipends for curriculum development through Parks As Classrooms
- * Community service learning
- * High school (unpaid) and college (paid) internships
- * Summer youth programs

Notes

- * Group reservations required for programs.
- * Some of the Park is wheelchair-accessible.
- * The Park provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for students impaired vision with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Oxon Hill, MD, on Oxon Hill Rd. off I-95 near Rt. 210

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: Voice and TDD (301) 839-1176

Fax: (301) 763-1066

Email: lori_james@nps.gov

Address: Oxon Cove Park, National Park Service, 1900 Anacostia Dr. SE, Washington, DC 20020

Web site: www.nps.gov/nace/oxhi

Patuxent River Park and Jug Bay Natural Area

Forests, wetlands and other habitat in the 2,000-acre Jug Bay Natural Area buffer the Patuxent River and provide a critical link in conserving the area's natural resources. The Park offers a interpretive programs on estuarine ecology and on cultural history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries at the Patuxent Rural Life Museum.

Topics: Estuaries and freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, agriculture, history

Serving: Grade 5 through college

Standards:

Resources

- * Environmental and heritage education programs, with preparation and follow-up activities (all ages)
- * Videos, slide shows, fact sheets, maps, and *Possum Talk* annual newsletter.
- * Guided hikes in the Black Walnut Nature Study Area
- * River Ecology Boat Tours (April through October, grades 5 through 12)
- * Patuxent Rural Life Museum includes a 19th-century log cabin, a tobacco farming museum, a blacksmith shop, and the Henry Duvall Tool Museum.
- * Soil testing and garden equipment
- * Teacher workshops and professional development (credit)
- * Eight miles of multi-use trails
- * Canoe and kayak rentals, boat ramps and fishing areas
- * Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Driving Tour
- * Primitive camping for up to 200
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)
- * Community service learning

Notes

- * Special use permit or reservation required for any activity.
- * Group reservations required at least two months in advance.
- * Wheelchair access limited on trails.
- * Sign language interpretation available with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Upper Marlboro, MD, on the banks of the Patuxent River

For More Information

Reservations Staff

Phone: (301) 627-6074 (Tuesday through Friday)

Fax: (301) 952-9754

E-mail: greg.lewis@pgparks.com

Address: 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-8395

Web site: www.pgparks.com/places/parks/patuxent.html

Patuxent Research Refuge – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Patuxent Research Refuge protects 12,750 acres of natural habitat and is ideal for environmental education. Bald Eagles are among the many species that inhabit the beautiful river, wetland, and forest ecosystems. The Refuge's North Tract and the National Wildlife Visitor Center are open to the public.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity, sustainability, land use, air and water pollution, climate change, ozone depletion, environmental ethics

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Refuge's educational programs address state and national standards of learning.

Resources

ResourcesBoth Sites:

- * Interpretive programs (all ages)

North Tract:

- * Visitor Contact Station, classroom, wildlife habitats, trails, and viewing area

National Wildlife Visitor Center:

- * Curriculum materials on wildlife and habitat for teachers completing workshops.
- * Naturalist-led programs. Teacher orientation required. (K through 12)
- * Teacher workshops and professional development for K through 12 educators. (Credit for Maryland teachers and possibly for District teachers) See <http://patuxent.fws.gov/workshops.html>.
- * Internships for people 18 or older. Twelve to 18 weeks; subsistence allowance provided; housing might be available.
- * Exhibits, trails and outdoor study areas
- * Guided tram tours Spring through Fall. Fees and group reservations required.
- * Summer and weekend youth programs

Notes

Notes* Reservations required for some programs.

* The Visitor Center and some trails are wheelchair-accessible.

* The Refuge provides sign language interpretation and services for students with impaired vision with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Location and Getting ThereNorth Tract: Off Maryland Route 198, 1½ miles east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway

Visitor Center: Off Powder Mill Road, 2 miles east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway

For More Information

For More Information North Tract: Outdoor Recreation Planner (410) 674-3304

Visitor Center: (301) 497-5760

Fax: North Tract (410) 674-5631; Visitors Center (301) 497-5765

E-mail: kate_vaughan@fws.gov for Interpretive Programs

stacie_henry@fws.gov for Teacher and Environmental Education

nell_baldacchino@fws.gov for General information

Address: Patuxent National Wildlife Visitors Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027

Web site: <http://patuxent.fws.gov>

Peirce Mill – Rock Creek National Park

The last of eight mills that operated in the Rock Creek Valley, Peirce Mill represents the rural society and economy of America in the 1820s. The Mill illustrates the transition to power-driven machinery from centuries-old methods that relied on sheer muscle power. Isaac Peirce bought the Mill in 1794 along with 150 acres in the Rock Creek area. In 1820, he and his son rebuilt the Mill using blue granite quarried in the nearby Broad Branch area. Administered by the National Park Service, Peirce Mill is a great location to study the connections between humans and our environment, local 19th-century history, mechanization, hydropower and more.

Topics: Anthropology, agriculture, energy and technology, freshwater ecology, geology, history, land use

Serving: K through college

Standards: Programs address DC, Maryland, Virginia and national standards of learning.

Also see: Rock Creek National Park, page

Resources

- * Heritage and environmental education curriculum-based programs (grades 3 through 12)
- * Tours and demonstrations
- * Videos, Power Point presentations, fact sheets, maps, and student worksheets
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Weekend programs
- * Community service learning

Notes

- * Wheelchair access to first floor only.
- * Sign language interpretation is available with four weeks notice.
- * Group reservations required

Location and Getting There

Rock Creek Park near Tilden St. and Beach Drive

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (202) 895-6070

Fax: (202) 895-6230

E-mail: rocr_pierce_mill@nps.gov

Address: Rock Creek National Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW, Washington, DC 0008-1207

Web site: www.nps.gov/rocr

Potomac Overlook Regional Park & Nature Center

Forested Potomac Overlook Regional Park features two miles of trails, an organic vegetable garden and compost area, and a butterfly and native plant garden. The Nature Center offers environmental and cultural heritage exhibits and activities, and features an active solar energy station. The area was once inhabited by the Necostin people, and a spring that served as their water source still remains.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater ecosystems, forests, sustainability, biodiversity, soils, agriculture, solid waste, energy, climate change, Native American history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address Virginia and national standards of learning.

Resources

* Environmental and heritage education programs (all ages). Topic areas include Ecology, Plant and Animals, and Human Beings and Nature. Staff will work with teachers to adapt programs.

* Field trips, site visits and guided tours

* Newsletter and descriptive materials

* Videos and slide shows, some available for classroom loan.

* Teacher workshops

* Lectures

* Gardening and soil testing

* Trails

* Music programs

* Community service learning

* High school and college internships (unpaid)

* Summer and weekend youth programs

* Summer jobs

Notes

* Limited wheelchair access on trails.

* Group reservations required for programs. Fee of \$60 per program for groups outside Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun; counties, and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria and Fairfax.

* Staff will work to accommodate vision-impaired and hearing-impaired students.

Location and Getting There

Off Military Road, in north Arlington; five minutes from George Washington Memorial Parkway.

For More Information

Martin Ogle, Chief Naturalist

Phone: (703) 528-5406

Fax: (703) 528-0750

E-mail: potomac@nvrpa.org or info@nvrpa.org

Address: 2845 Marcey Road, Arlington, VA 22207

Web site: www.nvrpa.org/potomacoverlook.html

Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Mason Neck, Occoquan Bay & Featherstone

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages three National Wildlife Refuges for endangered species, waterfowl and migratory birds in Northern Virginia: Mason Neck in Fairfax County and Occoquan Bay and Featherstone in Prince William County. The National Wildlife Refuge System is the most comprehensive wildlife resource management program in the world. Mason Neck NWR protects nearly 2,300 acres of forest and marshlands, set aside primarily to protect the endangered Bald Eagle, and was one of the first refuges established under the Endangered Species Act. It also protects waterfowl habitat, promotes biodiversity, and is dedicated to wildlife education and public use. The 640-acre Occoquan Bay NWR protects nesting grassland birds and migratory birds, and the 312-acre Featherstone NWR protects waterfowl.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, invasive species, endangered species, biodiversity

Serving: K through college, and adult education

Standards: Curriculum materials address national and Virginia standards of learning.

Resources

- * Teacher-led environmental education programs (preparatory visit required)
- * Curriculum materials (K through 12)
- * Speakers
- * Videos, films, and slide shows, on site or for loan
- * Fact sheets, and maps
- * College internships (intermittent, generally unpaid)
- * Trails and environmental study sites, with on-site loans of field study equipment

Notes

- * Group reservations required.
- * Wheelchair-accessible trails and restrooms at Mason Neck and Occoquan Bay.

Location and Getting There

Mason Neck: On High Point Road near Gunston Road and Route 1 in Lorton, VA. Exit 63 off I-95 near the mouth of the Occoquan River.

Occoquan Bay: On Dawson Beach Road off Route 1 in Woodbridge, VA. Exit 161 off I-95 near the mouth of the Occoquan River.

Featherstone: Near the Rippon VRE station in Woodbridge; not open to the public

For More Information

Outdoor Recreation Planner

Phone: (703) 490-4979

Fax: (703) 490-5631

E-mail: msnnwr@fws.gov or marty_mccleavy@fws.gov

Address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 14344 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Woodbridge, VA 22191

Web site: <http://northeast.fws.gov/va/msn.htm>

Prince William Forest Park

Prince William Forest Park offers 13,500 acres of natural and cultural resources to explore. Quantico Creek flows through the Park's eastern deciduous forest, which was once home to Native Americans, early settlers and a 19th-century pyrite mining operation. The Turkey Run Environmental Education Center offers programs for school groups that come for the day or stay overnight in group campgrounds or in rustic cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Park was used by the Office of Strategic Services during World War II.

Topics: Ecology, geology, streams and wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability, agriculture, land use, energy, air and water pollution, climate change, weather

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address Virginia standards of learning in science, math, social studies and other subjects.

Also see: Bridging the Watershed, page; and Parks as Classrooms, page

Resources

- * Environmental and heritage education programs (all ages) are adaptable and address standards of learning for K through 6.
- * Curriculum materials include fact sheets, maps, PowerPoint presentations, and online materials.
- * Videos and slide shows on many subjects, usually shown on site
- * Guided hikes, orienteering and other programs
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Summer Teacher/Ranger Institute, through Bridging the Watershed (seat hours or graduate credit hours)
- * College internships (some with stipends)
- * Evening and campfire programs
- * Tent and cabin camping. Up to 50 in tents, and up to 200 in cabins. Some cabins are wheelchair-accessible.
- * Cultural and natural history exhibits at the visitor center
- * Trails
- * Bookstore
- * Site bulletins cover nature, cultural history, and other subjects.

Notes

- * Reservations required for programs and group camping. Please call (703) 221-5843 for camping reservations.
- * The Park provides sign language interpretation with at least two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

On Route 619 West, exit 150B off I-95, roughly halfway between the Beltway and Fredericksburg

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (703) 221-7181

Fax: (703) 221-3258

E-mail: william_ellis@nps.gov

Address: National Park Service, 18100 Park Headquarters Road, Triangle, VA 22172

Web site: www.nps.gov/prwi

Riverbend Nature Center

Located on 409 acres of flood plain and upland forest along the Potomac River near Great Falls Park, Riverbend Nature Center offers educational programs and environmental and wildlife exhibits. Ten miles of trails run through the forest and wildflower meadow.

Topics: Geology, streams, forests, wildlife, habitat restoration

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address Virginia and national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Environmental education programs (ages 3 and up)
- * Field trips (Pre-K through 6)
- * Speakers
- * Exhibits and slide shows
- * Fact sheets, maps and interpretive trail guides
- * **Resource library, sales desk, picnic sites and boat ramp**
- * **Resources quarterly newsletter**
- * High school internships (unpaid)
- * Community service learning
- * Teacher workshops (credit)

Notes

- * Limited wheelchair access on trails.
- * The Nature Center provides sign language interpretation with 10 days notice and adapts programs for students with impaired vision with 30 days notice.
- * Group reservations required for programs. Please make reservations in January for Spring, in August for Fall.

Location and Getting There

Off Riverbend Road near Route 193

For More Information

Program Specialist

Phone: (703) 759-3211

Fax: (703) 757-0138

E-mail:

Address: 8814 Jeffery Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

Web site: www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/nature.htm

Rock Creek National Park

Located in the heart of the District, Rock Creek National Park's forest, meadows, streams, and historic sites offer a wide variety of educational experiences. The Park features a nature center and planetarium, hiking trails, bike paths, picnic areas, horse trails, the Carter Barron Amphitheater, and the remains of several Civil War forts. Peirce Mill, the Old Stone House, and Meridian Hill Park are great places to integrate history and science for students of all ages.

Topics: Astronomy, biodiversity, ecology, geology, history, land use, water ecology

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Curriculum-based programs address DC, Maryland, Virginia and national standards of learning.

See also: Pierce Mill, page; and Bridging the Watershed, page .

Resources

- * Curriculum-based education programs (K through 12) include Bridging the Watershed (See page).
- * Preparation and follow-up activities
- * Planetarium programs (grades 2 through 12)
- * Self-guided Junior Ranger Programs (ages 7 to 10)
- * Guided and self-guided tours
- * Urban wildlife kits for loan (pre-K through grade 2)
- * Speakers
- * Materials include slide shows, videos, PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets, maps, and online lessons
- * Afterschool, summer and weekend youth programs
- * Community service learning
- * Teacher workshops

Notes

- * Wheelchair access is limited in trails.
- * Group reservations required three to four weeks in advance for Ranger-led programs.
- * Sign language interpretation is available with four weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Along Rock Creek Parkway and Beach Drive between Chevy Chase and Georgetown; many points of access from Connecticut Ave. NW and 16th St. NW

Metro: bus H2, H3, H4, H5, or H7 from Brookland, Tenleytown, Van Ness , Cleveland Park or Woodley Park (Red Line) or Columbia Heights (Green Line)

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: Voice and TDD (202) 895-6070

Fax: (202) 895-6230

Address: Rock Creek National Park, 3545 Williamsburg Lane NW, Washington, DC 20008-1207

Web site: www.nps.gov/rocr

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) offers a wide range of hands-on science and distance learning programs for grades K through 12. SERC occupies 2,800 acres on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, including 12 miles of undeveloped shoreline on the Rhode River. Smithsonian Institution scientists study ecosystems at the SERC site in Maryland and affiliated sites around the world. The Center provides a natural laboratory for intensive long-term ecological research.

Topics: Ecology, geology, freshwater and saltwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability, land use, climate change, ozone depletion, weather

Serving: Grade 1 through college

Standards: SERC curricula address national and Maryland standards of learning.

Also see: Smithsonian Naturalist Center, page; and several Smithsonian Museum entries.

Resources

* PowerPoint presentations and online curriculum materials

* Speakers, lectures and symposia

* Teacher Summer Development Workshop provides in-depth information about of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and watershed. Topics include environmental research methods, Chesapeake Bay ecology and watershed dynamics, and distance learning. Learn how to bring SERC science into your classroom. (SERC plans to offer credit beginning in 2004.)

* Curriculum Units include: Creeks, Creatures, and Canopies (K through 3) offers participatory experiences in forests, wetlands, and estuaries, and corresponding to Maryland Public School classroom curricula; Estuary Chesapeake (grades 4 through 6), offers hands-on experiences at five waterside stations studying the Chesapeake Bay estuary (Going Fishing, Investigating Plankton, About Crabs, Water Testing and Oyster Bar Community); Wetland Ecology on Muddy Creek canoe trip (grades 6 through 12) trip offers a close look at wetlands, riparian ecosystems and wildlife; and Student Training in Aquatic Research (STAR, grades 9 through 12) uses the Smithsonian's research vessel to examine the biological and physical aspects of an estuarine system.

* Summer Enrichment Program (grades 5 through 8), a three to five-day interactive program to discover the living and nonliving components of the Chesapeake watershed.

* Distance Learning Program (grades 3 through 12) offers videoconferences, virtual field trips, and teacher-developed curricula to bring Smithsonian science into classrooms and homes across the country, and to take teachers and students behind the scenes at SERC. Students interact with SERC scientists and education staff through videoconferences. Topics include Building a Brackish Ecosystem in Your Classroom, Birds of a Feather, and Watershed Connection, focusing on wetlands, riparian forests, plankton, and diamondback terrapins.

* Watershed Radio, created by SERC and the Sierra Club, calls attention to the watershed, environmental issues, and the connection between natural processes and human activities. It is particularly suited for regular use in the classroom.

Visit www.watershedradio.org.

* Java History Trail, self-guided trail through field, forest and marsh, addressing four themes: Indians of the Chesapeake (pre-1600); Colonial Settlement (1600-1900); Java Dairy Farm (1915-1960); and Back to Nature (post-1960). Preparation and follow-up activities and teacher's guide available.

* Discovery Trail, a 1½-mile nature trail through various ecosystems and covering a wide variety of topics.

* Summer and weekend youth programs

* Community service learning

* College internships (paid)

* Seasonal newsletter

* Monthly Evening Lecture Series for adults and families, held in the Schmidt Center on the SERC campus. See www.serc.si.edu for schedule.

* Open House event in May. Check website for specific dates.

Notes

* Limited wheelchair access on trails.

* SERC provides sign language interpretation, and adapts programs for students with impaired vision, with two weeks notice.

* Group reservations required.

Location and Getting There

Twenty miles east of DC. See the SERC Web site for directions.

For More Information

Education Program Coordinator

Phone: (443) 482-2216

Fax: (301) 261-3415

E-mail: serceducation@si.edu

Address: SERC, 647 Contees Wharf Road, P.O. Box 28, Edgewater, MD 21037

Web site: www.serc.si.edu

Suitland Bog

The Suitland Bog is the last undisturbed Maryland coastal plain bog in Prince George's county and is unique within the Washington Area. It shelters a variety of carnivorous plants, as well as many plants that are or endangered in Maryland.

Topics: Wetlands, biodiversity
Serving: Grade 1 through college

Resources

- * Ranger-led hikes. Groups should have at least students and no more than 25. With notice, rangers often can address specific topics or standards of learning.
- * Community service learning with rangers through the Conservation Club.

Notes

- * Reservations required for group programs.
- * Services for hearing-impaired and vision-impaired students are available with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Suitland Road near the Suitland Parkway intersection.

For More Information

Park Ranger

Phone: (301) 627-7755

Fax: (301) 627-4905

Email: pgp-parkrangers@pgparks.com

Address: Suitland Bog, Park Ranger Office, 4955 Pennsylvania Ave., Upper Marlboro MD 20774

Web site: www.pg parks.com/places/nature/suitland.html

Theodore Roosevelt Island – George Washington Memorial Parkway

Named after the 26th U.S. president, Theodore Roosevelt Island features 91 acres of forest, and two and one-half miles of trails lead through the marsh, swamp and forest, including a half-mile boardwalk through a swamp forest. Visitors often see a variety of birds and small mammals.

Concerned about the widespread destruction of habitat and species, Roosevelt established the U.S. Forest Service and signed the 1906 Antiquities Act, under which he proclaimed 18 national monuments. He also established 5 national parks, 51 federal bird reservations, and 150 national forests.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability, water pollution, climate change, human impacts on the environment, history

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: Programs address national standards of learning.

Also see: Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, page ?; Turkey Run Park, page ?; George Washington Memorial Parkway, page ?; Bridging the Watershed, page

Resources

- * Curriculum-based and other education programs (all ages)
- * Wings Over the Woodlands and Wetlands curriculum-based program, introduces students (K through 4) to birds, habitats, adaptations, stewardship, and more.
- * Bridging the Watershed curriculum-based programs provide opportunities to teach students about invasive, exotic plants; water chemistry and quality; and human impacts on land and water. (grades 9 through 12)
- * Teacher workshops (credit)
- * Guided walks
- * Trails
- * Brochures
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Weekend programs for all ages
- * Junior Ranger programs and a Junior Ranger booklet
- * Community service learning
- * Volunteer workdays
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Please call for wheelchair access information.
- * Staff will work to accommodate students with impaired hearing or vision with two weeks notice.
- * Please call before using the site.
- * Reservations required for ranger-led programs.

Location and Getting There

In the Potomac River *and* in Washington, DC, near Arlington. Auto access to the island parking lot is only from the northbound lane of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

For More Information

Dana Dierkes, Supervisory Park Ranger

Phone: (703) 289-2552 or 2500

Fax: (703) 289-2546 (please call first)

E-mail: gwmp_superintendent@nps.gov

Address: George Washington Memorial Parkway National Park Service, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101

Web: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp>

Turkey Run Park – George Washington Memorial Parkway

Sited on the Potomac River's Virginia shore, Turkey Run Park encompasses 700 acres of upland and floodplain forests; shelters a surprising diversity of plants and animals; and features miles of trails, including the Potomac Heritage Trail. A springtime hike here provides a wonderful opportunity to observe and learn about wildflowers. Studies show that 20 reptile and amphibian species and nearly 150 bird species live in the Park.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, sustainability, water pollution, climate change, human impacts on the environment

Serving: Pre-K through college

Standards: The Park's curriculum-based programs address national standards of learning.

Also see: Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, page ?; Theodore Roosevelt Island, page ?; George Washington Memorial Parkway, page ?; Bridging the Watershed, page

Resources

- * Curriculum-based and other education programs (all ages)
- * Bridging the Watershed curriculum-based programs provide opportunities to teach students about benthic macroinvertebrates, stream sedimentation, and human impacts on land and water. (grades 9 through 12)
- * Teacher workshops (credit)
- * Guided walks
- * Trails
- * Brochures
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Weekend programs for all ages
- * Junior Ranger programs and a Junior Ranger booklet
- * Community service learning
- * Volunteer workdays
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)

Notes

- * Please call for wheelchair access information.
- * Staff will work to accommodate students with impaired hearing or vision with two weeks notice.
- * Please call before using this site.
- * Reservations required for ranger-led programs.

Location and Getting There

Follow George Washington Memorial Parkway north from Washington, DC. Exit at Turkey Run Park.

For More Information

Dana Dierkes, Supervisory Park Ranger

Phone: (703) 289-2552 or 2500

Fax: (703) 289-2546 (please call first)

E-mail: gwmp_superintendent@nps.gov

Address: George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service, c/o Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101

Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp>

U.S. Botanic Garden

Lush tropical plants and heat-loving plants adorning the pathways of the Botanic Garden Conservatory make it a good location for biology or botany classes and a nice place to rest while visiting museums on the National Mall. The Botanic Garden offers programs for school groups, with hands-on and minds-on activities for students.

Topics: Forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, agriculture, genetically modified organisms, climate change

Serving: K through college

Standards: Programs address National Content Standards.

Resources

- * Curriculum-based programs (K through 6)

- * Guided tours for adults

- * Classes, workshops, demonstrations, lectures, and special programs

- * Information on plant care

- * High school and college summer internships (paid) through the Architect of the Capitol. Please call Lynda Poole at (202) 226-4080.

Notes

- * Reservations required at least four weeks in advance for group tours.

- * The Garden is wheelchair-accessible.

- * Please request services for students with special needs when making your reservation.

Location and Getting There

First St. and Maryland Ave. SW, on the National Mall

Metro: Federal Center SW (Blue and Orange lines)

For More Information

Public Information

Phone: (202) 225-8333

Fax: (202) 225-1561

E-mail: usb@ao.gov

Address: 245 First St. SW, Washington, DC 20024

Web site: www.usbg.gov

U.S. National Arboretum

The National Arboretum's beautifully planted wooded areas and gardens make it an ideal place to explore the world of botany. Attractions include the Aquatic Garden, Dwarf Conifer Collection, Asian Collection, Bonsai Collection, Fern Valley, National Herb Garden, and 22 Doric columns salvaged from the original East Portico of the Capitol.

Topics: Ecology, freshwater ecosystems, wetlands, forests, biodiversity, agriculture, land use

Serving: Grade 3 through college

See also: Washington Youth Garden, page

Resources

* Educational programs and tours (grade 5 and up)

* Speakers, lectures and exhibits

* Washington Youth Garden encourages hands-on horticultural and environmental education, self-esteem, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment (grades 3 and 4)

* Garden tours and nature walks

* High school summer internships (paid) in biology, physical science and engineering through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP). Applicants must be U.S. citizens and be 16 years of age or older program. Applications accepted from February through the second Friday in April. Call the U.S.D.A.'s Civil Rights Programs at (301) 504-6507.

* Summer college internships (paid)

Notes

* Group reservations required for educational programs and tours.

* The Arboretum is wheelchair-accessible.

* Arboretum staff provide sign language interpretation and adapt programs for students with impaired vision with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Off New York Ave. and Bladensburg Road NE

Metro: bus B2 from Anacostia (Green Line) or X6 (weekends and holidays only) from Union Station (Red Line)

For More Information

Tour Coordinators

Phone: (202) 245-4544 or (202) 245-4521

Fax: (202) 245-4575

E-mail:

Address: 3501 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002

Web site: www.usna.usda.gov

Walker Nature Education Center

Set on 72 wooded acres and between two streams that feed Lake Audubon, Walker Nature Education Center features outdoor displays, demonstration gardens, a covered pavilion, and trails.

Topics: Ecology, geology, watersheds, wetlands, streams, forests, habitat restoration, wildlife, energy, sensory awareness

Serving: Pre-K through 12

Standards: Center school programs address Virginia and national standards of learning.

Resources

- * Environmental education programs (all ages)
- * Classroom programs for Reston-area schools (Pre-K through 6)
- * Curriculum materials include videos, fact sheets, and maps.
- * Branching Out quarterly newsmagazine (free to teachers)
- * Nature Trunks on Loan
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Field trips and site visits
- * Teacher workshops (CEUs to Fairfax teachers; credit to others may be arranged)
- * After school, summer and weekend youth programs
- * Community service learning

Notes

- * Group programs require at least two weeks advance reservations.
- * One trail is wheelchair-accessible and is being adapted for vision-impaired visitors.
- * The Center provides sign language interpretation with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

11450 Glade Drive, Reston, Virginia

For More Information

Reston Association Member Services

Phone: (703) 435-6530

Fax: (703) 435-6516

E-mail:

Website : www.reston.org

Address: 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston, VA 20190

Watkins Nature Center

Surrounded by wetlands and mature forest, Watkins Nature Center features an indoor pond and interactive exhibits. Students can investigate a butterfly and hummingbird garden; an outdoor pond and other outdoor exhibits; a Chesapeake Bay aquarium; exhibits about reptiles, amphibians and birds of prey; and a children's Discovery Corner. Topics: Ecology, geology, streams and wetlands, forests, biodiversity, insects, fossils, dinosaurs

Standards: Programs address Maryland and national standards of learning.

Serving: Pre-K through college

Resources

- * Curriculum-based programs (Pre-K through 6)
- * Videos, slide shows and maps
- * Speakers and lectures
- * Nature clubs for children and adults
- * Volunteer opportunities for teens and adults
- * Collections of live native reptiles, amphibians, and birds of prey
- * Summer and weekend youth programs
- * Community service learning
- * High school and college internships (unpaid)
- * Home-school science program
- * Night hikes, evening campfire programs, and special events
- * Auditorium rental

Notes

- * The Center is wheelchair accessible.
- * Group reservations required for programs.
- * The Centers provides sign language interpretation and adapts programs for students with impaired vision with two weeks notice.

Location and Getting There

Off Maryland Routes 193 and 214 in Watkins Regional Park, Largo

For More Information

Facility Manager

Phone: (301) 218-6702

Fax: (301) 218-6712 (attention: Watkins Nature Center)

E-mail:

Address: 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774

Web site: www.pgparcs.com/places/nature/watkinsnc.html

