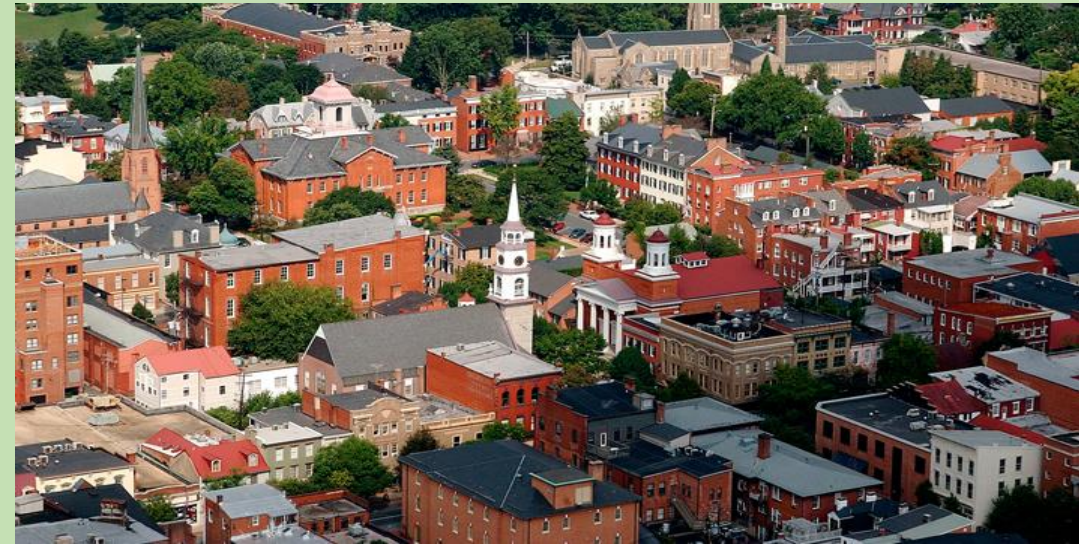


Frederick County Maryland Parks Recreation and History

Frederick County

Frederick County welcomes you! As the largest county in Maryland at 667 square miles, Frederick County offers many recreational opportunities. The county sits at the boundary between the Piedmont Plateau and Appalachian mountains making it a unique landscape with smaller mountains like Sugarloaf or larger ones like the Catoctins. There are many small creeks and tributaries connecting to the famous Monocacy and Potomac rivers providing plenty of fishing and river sport opportunities. Perhaps the most historical county in MD, Frederick County is filled with civil war history as it sat on the border between the north and south and has been long known as a crossroads of American History. It is home to the Monocacy and South Mountain battlefields. With a rich history and landscape, the county is home to a wide range of parks, many of which originated around historical sites.



Source: <http://www.preservationmaryland.org/attracting-retail-to-historic-communities/>

Battle of the Monocacy

Monocacy National battlefield lies southeast of Frederick city, is preserved as a national historic landmark and is a hallmark of Frederick County. There is a visitor's center and walking tours on site. In July of 1864, Confederate General Robert E. Lee ordered General Early north through the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland towards Washington. He would hopefully reach the under guarded capital. The Union was caught mostly off guard and conglomerated East of the Monocacy River below Frederick, with around 6,500 troops, less than half the numbers of the Confederates. They were able to warn the Union which immediately sent forces to Washington. On July 9th, the Battle of Monocacy was set. Confederates attacked Union troops from the South and West, having to cross the river in the process. They slowly pushed back Union forces until they fled East with their remaining troops. Although the Union lost the battle, it provided enough time for Union forces to reach and defend the capital, and because of this, the battle is also known as "The Battle That Saved Washington."



Source: <https://www.nps.gov/mono/index.htm>

Battle of South Mountain

After invading Maryland in September of 1862, Robert E. Lee divided his army so part of it, lead by Stonewall Jackson, advanced to siege the Federal Garrison in Harper's Ferry and the other portion advanced further westward in Maryland. Unfortunately for the Confederates, Union Commander McClellan got a hold of Lee's plans and immediately took action. He sent his forces to the three passes on South Mountain to destroy the standing portion of Lee's divided army. Although McClellan was successful in defeating Lee at South Mountain, the Confederate resistance gave Jackson enough time to take control of Harper's Ferry and allow Lee to round up scattered troops. South Mountain State Park which encompasses the battlefield lies just north of Myersville on the western border of Frederick County.

Water Bodies

Potomac River

Forming the southern border of Frederick County, this 405-mile river is an integral part for recreation in the county. Whether it be kayaking, canoeing, or just a boat ride down the river, there are many water activities available. The river also provides numerous great fishing spots along its banks. Historically, this river has been important to native people who have lived in the area for thousands of years. More recently, the C & O canal was built as a safer alternative waterway to transport goods. Today, it serves as a park where canoes and kayaks can utilize the waterway.



Source: https://www.fredericknewspost.com/places/local/frederick_county/canoe-camping/article_36299f3e-b875-59b5-a242-2995fbf8b1bf.html

Monocacy River

With its size and relatively calm waters, this river is very popular for numerous activities. These activities include canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. With so many sites to visit along the river, like the Monocacy Battlefield for example, the river is often used by paddlers as a method to tour the county.



Source: <http://monocacyriver.blogspot.com/>

Catoctin Creek

A 27.9-mile-long creek that starts near Myersville and ends in the Potomac River. The creek is best known for being a great fishing area, specifically for trout.

Park Names	Acreage	Grid Location	Hiking	Camping	Historical Significance	Horseback Riding	Fishing	Hunting
Emmitsburg Watershed	614.355	C1, D1	X				X	X
C & O Canal National Park	1464.84	A5, B5, B6, C6	X	X	X		X	
Cunningham Falls State Park	6264.8649	C2,C3	X	X			X	X
Frederick Municipal Forest	7020.957	B2, B3, C2, C3	X			X	X	X
Gambrill State Park	1147.913	B3, C3, B4, C4	X	X		X	X	
Gathland State Park	31.108	A4	X	X	X			
Greenbriar State Park	912.231	A3, A4, B3	X	X			X	X
Monocacy National Battlefield	1417.771	C5			X			
Monocacy NR Management Area	2068.197	C6	X			X	X	X
Old National Pike Park	155.834	E5						
Point of Rocks Regional Park	191.024	B6						
South Mountain State Park	2930.959	A5, A4, A3, B3, B2	X	X			X	
Sugarloaf Mountain Park	2934.671	C6, D6	X					
Urbana District Park	95.247	D5						
Utica Park	248.909	C3						
Washington Monument State Park	28.47	A3	X	X	X			
Catoctin Mountain Park	5771.386	B1, C1, C2	X	X			X	

Parks

Gathland State Park

A long and narrow park located along the western border of Frederick. Visitors can hike the Appalachian trail from Maine to Georgia or just stop by. The section of the trail within this park passes the "War Correspondent's Arch" and historical buildings that survived and once belonged to Civil War Journalist, George Alfred Townsend.

Urbana District Park

A smaller park that includes picnic tables, open fields, as well as some short trails that whine around the park. What makes this park unique is the creation of a Veteran Memorial to honor Veterans from Frederick County that gave their lives in the war on terrorism after the attacks on 911.

Washington Monument State Park

Named after the monument of George Washington located inside it, this park is located on the western border of Frederick County. The main activities here are camping and hiking. Hiking trails include the Appalachian Trail itself.

Utica Park

Located north of Frederick, this smaller park includes a lot of active recreation including baseball, multipurpose fields, beach volleyball court, and a playground. There is also has a 1.1-mile walking trail around the park.

Greenbriar

With a 42-acre lake, a nature center, various hunting areas, bike paths, multiple playgrounds, and walking trails, there is no end to the amount of stuff you can do in this park. The lake itself has opportunities to go paddle boating on, as well as numerous fishing spots. One of the trails inside the park will eventually connect you with the Appalachian trail.

Old National Pike Park

This park located east of Frederick, MD is great for its active recreation. Some amenities include baseball fields, volleyball courts, play equipment, open fields (with soccer nets and football goalposts), and horseshoe pits.

Point of Rocks Regional Park

Located next to the Potomac River, this park includes different multipurpose fields, tennis courts, play equipment, and basketball courts. However, this park also has some history to it. This park connects to the first bridge built over the Potomac outside of the Washington D.C. area.



Source: <http://www.riverexplorer.com/details.php?id=1171>

Parks with Notable Trails

C & O Canal Park

Once an important canal to ship goods (especially coal) between Cumberland and Washington D.C., today it is a historical landmark representing an earlier America.

C & O trail

What used to be the towpath for the canal, is now a 184.5-mile trail from Georgetown to Cumberland running right through Frederick county. Both hiking and biking are very popular on this trail.

Appalachian Trail in Frederick County

41 miles of the 2,200 trails runs along the west edge of Fredericks. The trail follows South Mountain and passes through some of Frederick's parks including Greenbrier, Washington Monument, and Gathland.

Monocacy National Management Area

1,800 acres of natural area located along the Monocacy river north of Dickerson. The park is used primarily for hunting, fishing, hiking, and horseback riding.

Sugarloaf Mountain

Encompassing all of Sugarloaf Mountain itself, this park provides some of the most scenic views in all of Frederick County. Some popular activities include hiking, rock climbing, picnicking, as well as horseback riding at different points during the year.



Source: <https://www.hikingupward.com/OMH/SugarloafMountain/>

Gambrill State Park

Gambrill state park features 16 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. There are 8 trails characterized mostly at moderate difficulty that traverse the small park. There are also 3 picnic shelters and a stone lodge called the Tea Room available for reservation.

Catoctin Mountain Park

This national park allows you to get away from the city, with activities like camping at the Owens campground, fishing, and hiking. Scenic overlooks are very common in this park and the park itself has an extensive network of trails. These trails are divided into the East Side Trails and the West Side Trails.

Cunningham Falls State Park

Located in the Catoctin mountains, this state park is divided into two parts, the Manor Area and William Houck Area. The William Houck Area contains the lake and falls which makes for great swimming, fishing, and canoeing. Camping and cabins are available seasonally as well as the Scales and Tales Aviary, and Iron Furnace in the Manor Area. There is a good mix of easy, moderate, and hard trails within Cunningham Falls boundaries.

Emmitsburg Watershed

Since many of the parks along the west side of Frederick merge with the Appalachian trail, biking is often prohibited. The Emmitsburg Multi User Trail system offers short trails popular with bikers in the local area.

Frederick Municipal Forest

With over 7,000 acres of forest in Frederick, this park is a popular destination for hunting. Fishing is allowed in several small ponds as well. One of the major trails through this area is the Catoctin Blue Trail, which runs 26 miles north and south through the park.

Towns

Mount Airy

This city, established in 1830, sits on the eastern border of Frederick County. The town's history mostly revolves around it having a stop on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

Brunswick

A very historical town located right on the Potomac River. Here, there are many museums pertaining to the history of the C&O Canal as well as the B&O railroad, which ran through the town.

Rosemont

Located just north of Brunswick, this newer establishment has had a population change of less than 100 from 1960 to 2016 because of its tiny area.

Woodsboro

Home to the LeGore bridge, which is on National Register of Historic Places. This limestone bridge built back in 1900 is a site to see, and still to this day cars can drive over it.

Burkittsville

Located on the western border of Frederick County, this town played a role in the Civil War. In September 1862, Confederate forces occupied the town in which during such time, the battle of Crampton's Gap was fought nearby. This lead to the churches being used for hospitals. The town today still has many historic structures, which puts it on the National Register for Historic Places.

Middletown

Even though it is a small town, it produces some sights, with its numerous historical buildings. One stop to visit is the Heritage gallery, where you can check out different historic artifacts and photos pertaining to its history.

Thurmont

The small town, located north of Frederick, is home to some history. One of which is the Catoctin Furnace, an old iron forge from the Civil War. This historical site includes a small trail that has signs telling of how life was like back in the Civil War days.

Emmitsburg

This town lies just south of Mason Dixon line and was the site where Union soldiers attempted to stop the confederate invasion of the north in June 1863. It is home to Mount. St. Mary's University and is known for the National Shrine of Elizabeth Seton, the first American born catholic saint.

Walkersville

This town is located just northeast of Frederick City, and is popular for the Walkersville Southern Railroad which offers scenic train rides from May to October. It used to be part of the Pennsylvania railroad built in 1872 and the cars have been the same since 1920.

New Market

Known as the "antique capital of Maryland," New Market's downtown is lined with historic gift shops and antique stores. It developed through trade routes between Baltimore and Frederick and sits along what was the former National Road.

Myersville

This town is historically famous for the large Greek style Peter P. Grossnickel farm but is more recently known as the site where the two notorious D.C. area snipers were apprehended in October of 2002.

Frederick

Frederick is the second largest city in Maryland only second to Baltimore. It has a rich historic district filled with history of the French Indian, Revolutionary, and Civil Wars. Sitting between the famous battles of Antietam, Gettysburg, and the Monocacy, the city is famous for the stories of leaders, soldiers, and innocent citizens that witnessed conflict and helped with aftermath. Walk the same streets as Washington, Lincoln, and Robert E. Lee while enjoying many distilleries, museums, and unique shops.

Points of Interest

National Museum of Civil War

Medicine (C4)

Located in the city of Frederick, this famous museum focuses on medical issues during the civil and how difficult it was to receive proper care. It has exhibits demonstrating the medical aspects of life in army camps, evacuating from battle when wounded, what a field hospital was like and more. It is said to be the primary center for the preservation and research of civil war medical innovation. It's mission today is to inspire the public by telling past stories of heroic acts of humanitarianism during some of the war's most bloody and challenging times.



Source: <http://www.civilwarmed.org/visit/>

Manor Hill Manor (C4)

A present-day children's museum, this was the retirement home of Thomas Johnson, Maryland's first governor. In the early 1700s a group of German farmers purchased a 7,000-acre piece of and including the house. When they were not able to keep up financially, they sought help from Annapolis lawyer and land manager Daniel Dulany. Dulany purchased the land and sold it in smaller lots to German farmers. One 20-acre section of the land was named "Rose-Garden" and was then sold to Thomas Johnson for approximately 4,000 pounds which was the currency at the time.

Source:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose_Hill_Manor#/media/File:Rose_Hill_Manor,_Frederick,_Maryland.jpg



Source: <http://www.gowaterfalling.com/waterfalls/cunningham.shtml>

Cunningham Falls Waterfall (C3)

Cunningham Falls, the main attraction of the state park, is Maryland's highest waterfall standing at 78 feet. There are two platforms at the bottom for viewing and while climbing the rocks is frowned upon it is technically permitted. Only experienced climbers should take advantage of this but still be cautious as the falls are steep and slippery. There are also some calmer, safer pools at the top for sitting in on a hot summer day.

Camp David (C2)

This hidden presidential retreat center was originally built as a camp for federal agents and their families, but the name was changed to a presidential retreat center by Dwight Eisenhower in honor of his grandson, David. Cabinet meetings, international negotiations, and war plans have been discussed here although it is mainly for the recreation of presidents and their families. It lies deep tucked away in Catoctin mountains and is within the boundaries of Catoctin Mountain State Park.

Veterans Memorial (D5)

Located in Urbana District Park, this memorial was revealed on November 12, 2016 to honor veterans from Frederick County who have died in the fight against global terrorism since September 11th, 2001.

Washington Monument(A3)

This 40-foot tower is much less popular than the Washington Monument in our nation's capital but was the first monument dedicated to George Washington. It was constructed in 1827 while the monument in D.C. was built in 1885.