



Howard County

RECREATION & PARKS

FIND YOUR

PARK



Adventure Through Howard County Parks



Why should you find your park?

Quality of life improvements for all ages – Studies have found that:

Children who play outside are more physically active, more creative in their play, less aggressive and show better concentration. (Burdette and Whitaker, 2005; Ginsburg et al., 2007).

Physical activity outdoors for as little as five minutes leads to measurable improvements in mood and self-esteem for children and adults. (Environ. Sci. Technol., 2010, 44 (10), pp 3947–3955).

Older adults who spend more time outdoors have less pain, sleep better and have less functional decline in their ability to carry out their daily activities. (J Aging Health, 2008 Apr; 20 (3): 259-72).

A new adventure – If you want something fun (and free) to do by yourself, with a loved one, or with your family this summer, why not make finding your favorite local park into an adventure?

Prizes – Did we mention you can win prizes? See below or check out www.howardcountymd.gov/FindYourParkHoCo for details.

Everyone will receive a prize when they turn in their completed booklet and will be automatically entered to win the grand prize. Fill out one booklet for each participant.

How to use this book

Each of the eight parks included in this booklet contain a special “Find Your Park” post with a rubbing plate that you can use to document your visits to the parks.

Any person who visits all eight parks and turns in their booklet receives a prize bag, and is entered into a drawing to win the grand prize, a four-person tent with camping chairs from our supporters at REI. Bring your completed booklets to the Robinson Nature Center (6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044) anytime during the month of September 2016 to receive your prize bag and to be entered into the grand prize drawing. Winners of the grand prize drawing will be announced by the end of October.

Though you only need to find the eight posts to be eligible for a prize, each park also holds an additional optional adventure for you to enjoy.

Contact information for grand prize drawing

Full Name: _____

Please check how you would prefer to be contacted if you win*:

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

*Winners who do not provide legible contact information and cannot be reached within one week of the drawing will forfeit their prize and a new winner will be chosen.

Find Your Park Locations 2016

Check the parks that you had visited *before* starting the Find Your Park contest:

- Robinson Nature Center
- Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
- Meadowbrook Park
- Savage Mill Trail
- Centennial Park
- Rockburn Branch Park (West)
- Western Regional Park
- Cedar Lane Park (West)

Check the parks that you have visited *upon completion* of the Find Your Park contest:

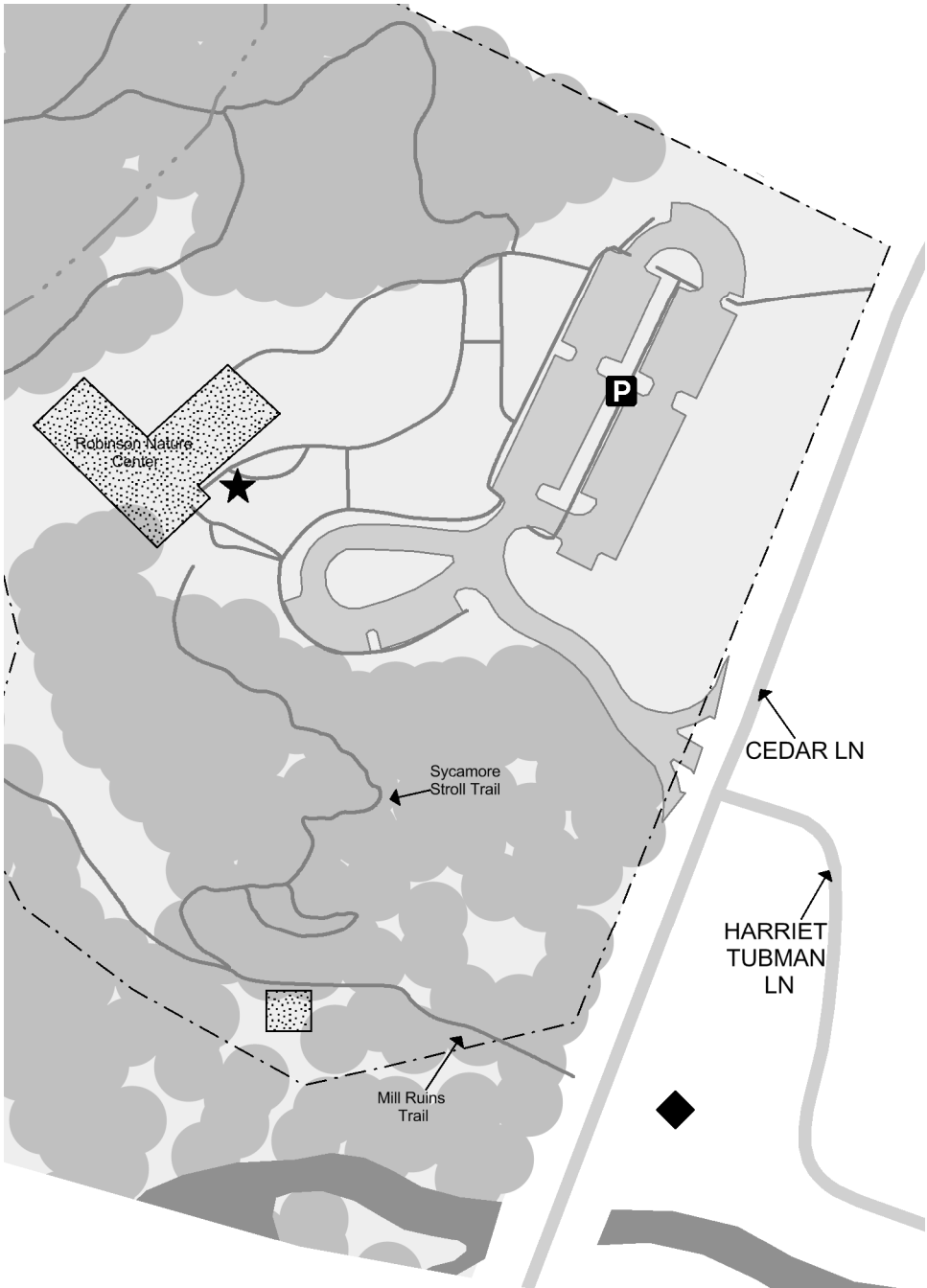
- Robinson Nature Center
- Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
- Meadowbrook Park
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- Centennial Park
- Rockburn Branch Park (West)
- Western Regional Park
- Cedar Lane Park (West)



DOWNLOAD OUR PARK APP

Search "HoCo Parks" on Google Play or iTunes

• MAPS & DIRECTIONS • PARK INFO • AND MORE



★ Required Expedition Marker

P Parking

— Pathway/Trail

◆ Optional Expedition Marker

Note: Maps are not to scale



Robinson Nature Center

Address: 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 20144

Parking: As you come up the drive, parking is on your right. Handicap parking is in the drive's circle.

Green Roof Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: 200 yards from the parking lot

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.19, Longitude: -76.895

Trail conditions: Level, paved pathway

Follow the pathway to the front of the Robinson Nature Center. Can you spot the Green Roof to the right of the building? Robinson Nature Center was built to meet the highest level of green building standards, and was awarded the LEED platinum designation in 2012. The green roof covers the Center's mezzanine hallway, cutting down on the amount of storm water that would run off the building if the hallway was covered with a traditional roof. Check out other "green" features inside the building or come back for one of the Center's many programs. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (ages 3-17 years) and free for children under the age of 3. Wednesdays are complimentary for individuals and families.

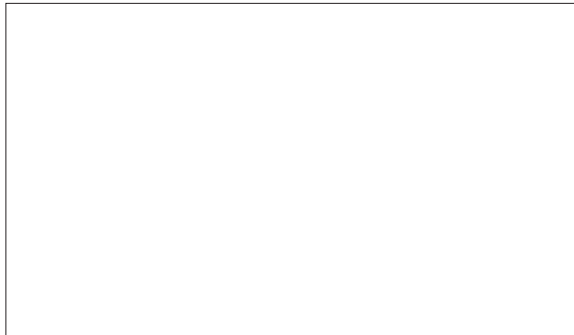
Simpsonville Mill Ruins Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: 0.3 miles from the trailhead located near the entrance to the Center

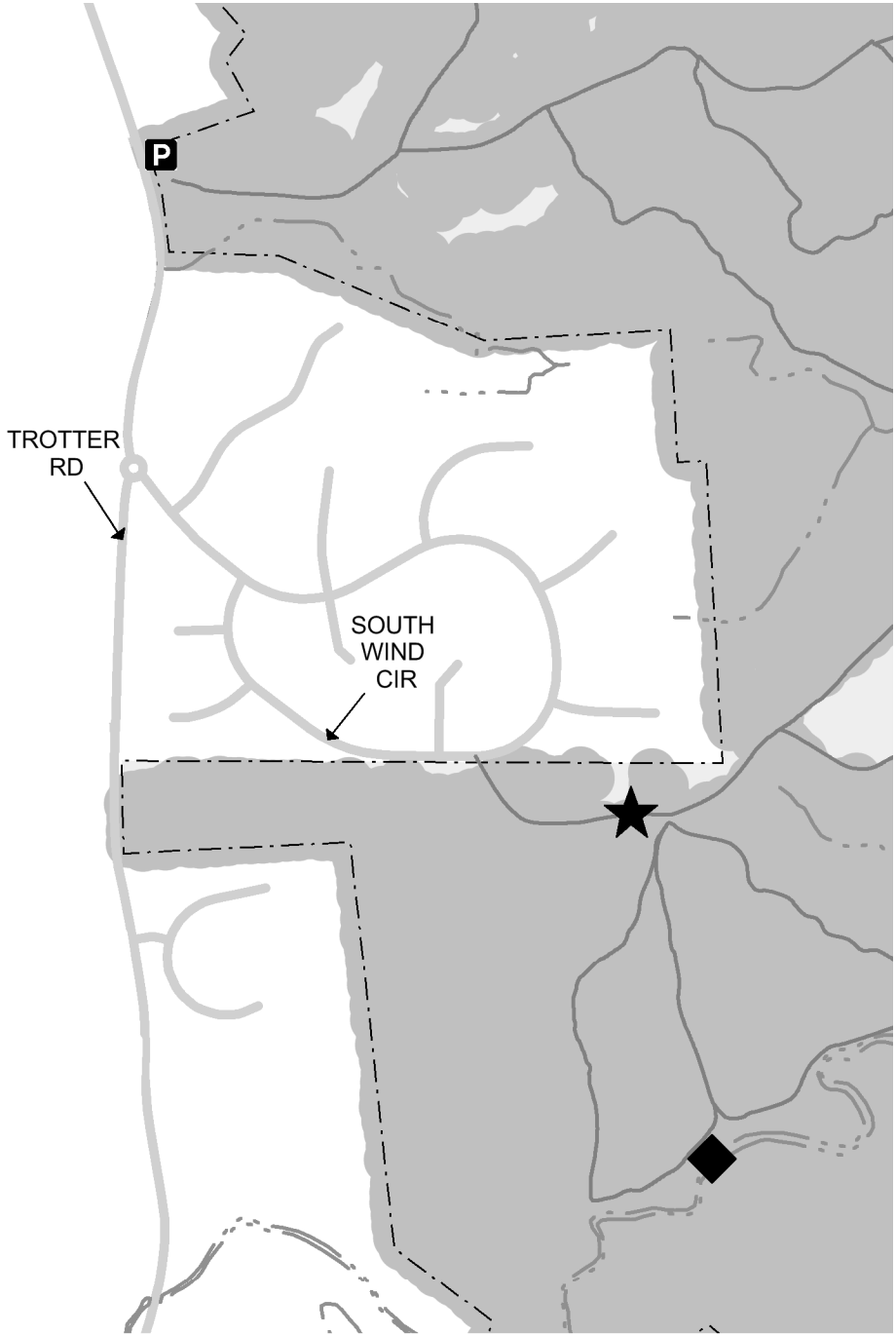
Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.1884, Longitude: -76.8936

Trail conditions: Unpaved trail through forest landscape

From the trailhead, follow the Sycamore Stroll trail to the Mill Ruins trail. Underneath the Cedar Lane bridge, you will find the ruins of the Simpsonville Mill. Built in 1758, the mill operated until 1944! During that time, it went through several changes, functioning as a saw mill, grist mill, wool mill, and at one point a cider mill. The Simpsonville Mill Archaeological and Historic District is one of the few professionally-studied mill sites in Maryland. More than 42,000 artifacts have been recovered through decades of investigations, including machine parts, clothing, bottles, window glass, and two millstones.



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE



★ Required Expedition Marker

P Parking

— Pathway/Trail

◆ Optional Expedition Marker

Note: Maps are not to scale





Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Address: 6497 South Wind Circle, Columbia, MD 21029

Parking: Roadside parking is available near the intersection of South Wind Circle and Misty Top Pass.

Meadow Habitat Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: .1 miles from South Wind Circle kiosk

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.206, Longitude: -76.9123

Trail conditions: Level, unpaved trail

After parking along the street, follow the trail into the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) and look ahead for the post! The MPEA is a 1,021-acre natural area that is home to a diversity of wildlife, including an impressive list of close to 150 species of birds, more than 40 species of mammals, and numerous amphibians, reptiles, fishes, butterflies, plants and other wildlife. If you choose to continue along the trail, at the top of the hill you will reach Cleggs Meadow. This area is currently being managed to promote the growth of warm-season grasses that provide for a native grassland habitat for local wildlife.

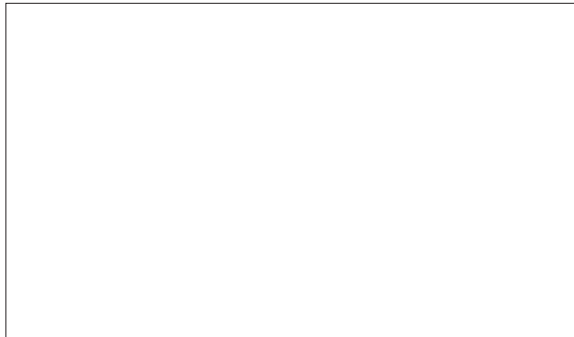
Cricket Creek Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: .7 miles from the South Wind Circle kiosk

Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.2025, Longitude: -76.9112

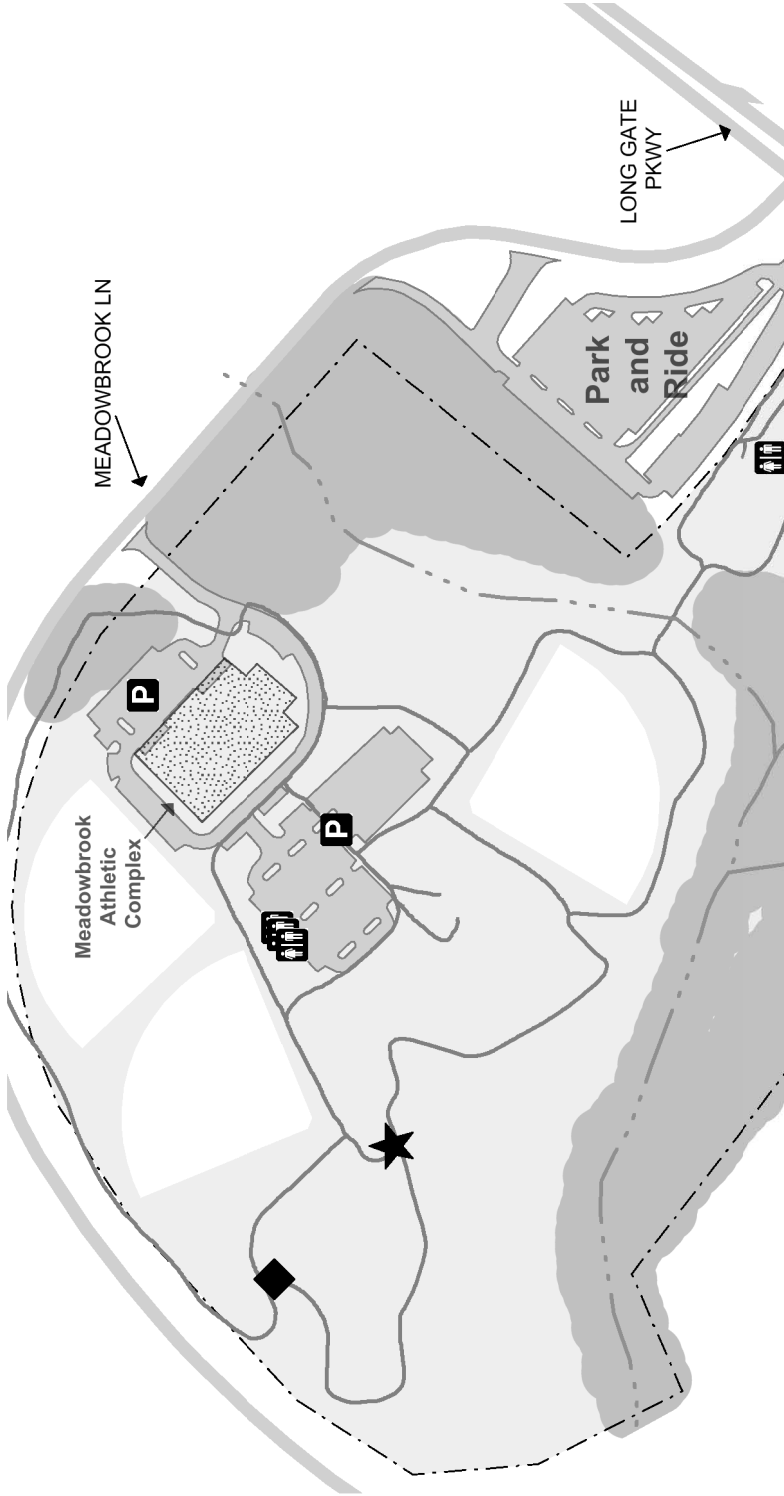
Trail conditions: Unpaved trail through forest landscape

Venture to Cricket Creek! This optional expedition will take you .7 miles into the MPEA to a scenic location along one of the seventeen tributaries that flow in the Middle Patuxent River. Once you reach the location, you will see Cricket Creek, by far the largest of all of the tributaries.



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE





- ◆ Optional Expedition Marker
- ★ Required Expedition Marker
- P Parking
- Pathway/Trail

Note: Maps are not to scale

Meadowbrook Park

Address: 5001 Meadowbrook Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Parking: The parking area is located behind the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex.

Wetland Walk Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: .2 miles from parking area

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.2482, Longitude: -76.8245

Trail conditions: Paved trail with moderate elevation changes

From parking area behind Meadowbrook Athletic Complex, take the paved trail toward the wetland walk. As you walk the trail, look for signs with fun information about the wetland. See how many birds and insects you can spot. You may want to bring binoculars!

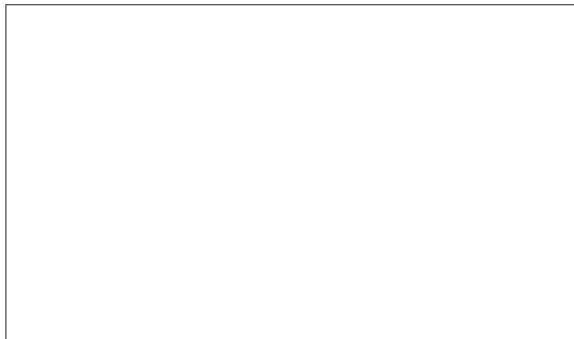
The Big Rock Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: 0.5 miles from end of wetland walk

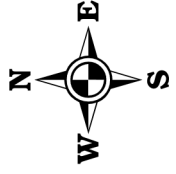
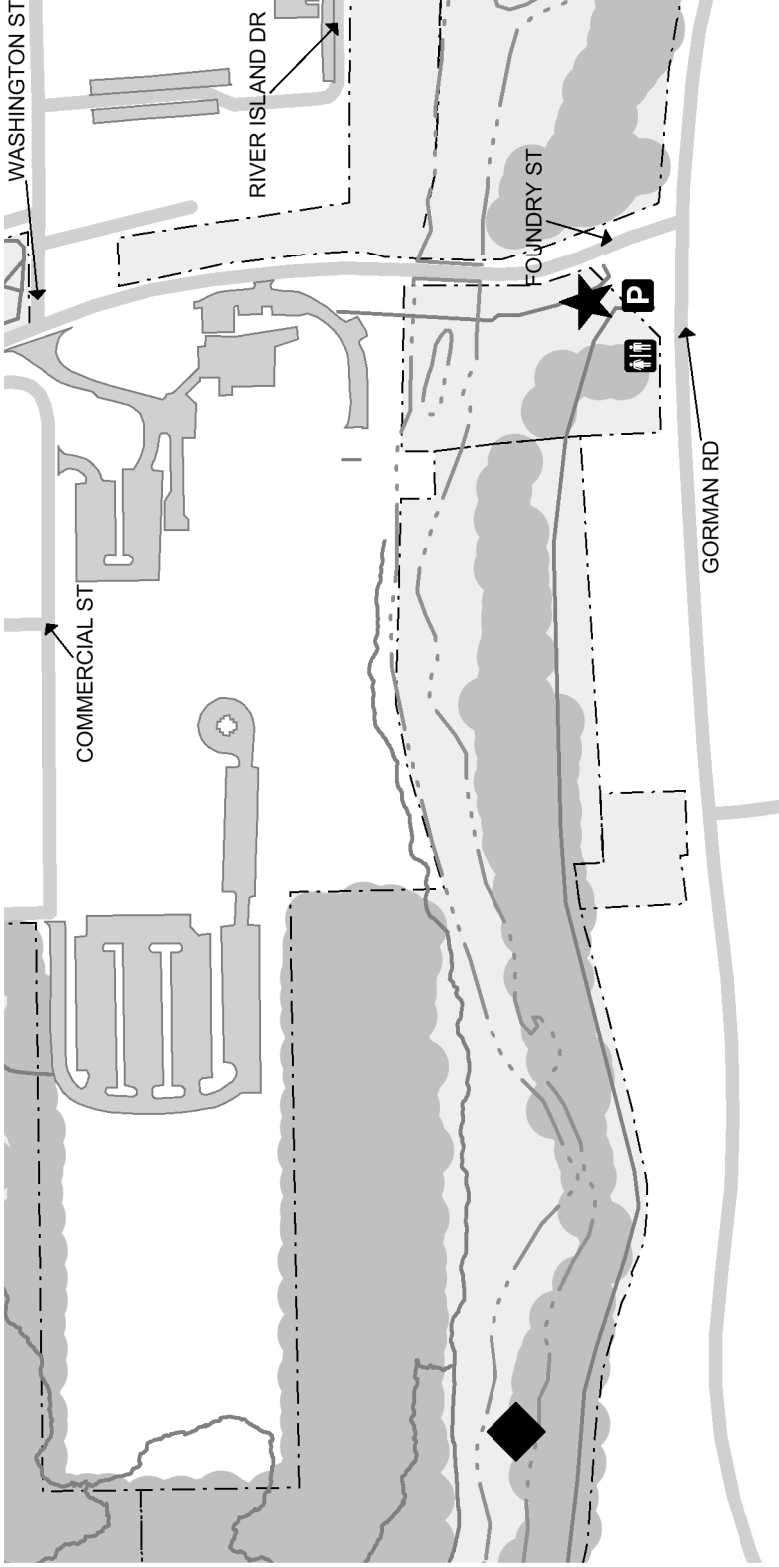
Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.2487, Longitude: -76.8253

Trail conditions: Paved trail with steep hill climb ending at overlook

After locating the Find-Your-Park post along the wetland walk, continue along the paved trail. You will climb a big hill, at the top of which you will find an outcropping of rocks overlooking a valley.



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE



- ◆ Optional Expedition Marker
- ★ Required Expedition Marker
- Ⓟ Parking
- ♿ Pathway/Trail

Note: Maps are not to scale

Savage Mill Trail

Address: 8400 Fair Street, Savage, MD 20763

Parking: Park on Foundry Street by the Bollman Truss Bridge.

Bollman Truss Bridge Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: 60 yards from Foundry Street

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.1342, Longitude: -76.825

Trail conditions: Paved, stairs from Foundry Street. For handicap accessibility, enter path from Gorman Road

Named after its inventor, Wendel Bollman, an engineer from Baltimore, the Bollman Truss Bridge is the last of its type in the United States. The 160 foot double-span truss bridge made of iron was completed in 1869. The bridge was a part of the B & O main line until 1887, then moved to its present location to be used as an industrial spur servicing Savage Mill until its closing in 1947. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and was rehabilitated by Howard County Recreation and Parks in 1983 and 2000. Enjoy the view of this beautiful historic bridge and the mill ruins to the west.

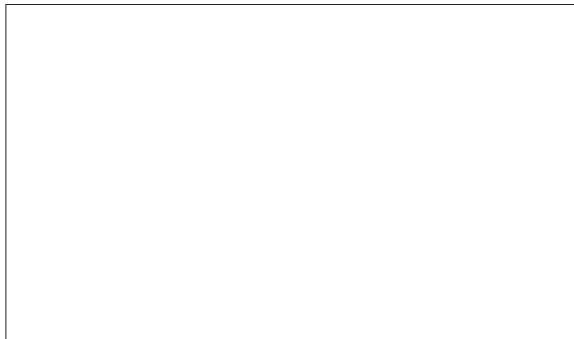
Savage Rapids Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: .35 miles from Bollman Truss Bridge

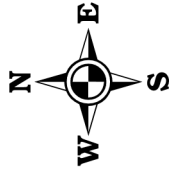
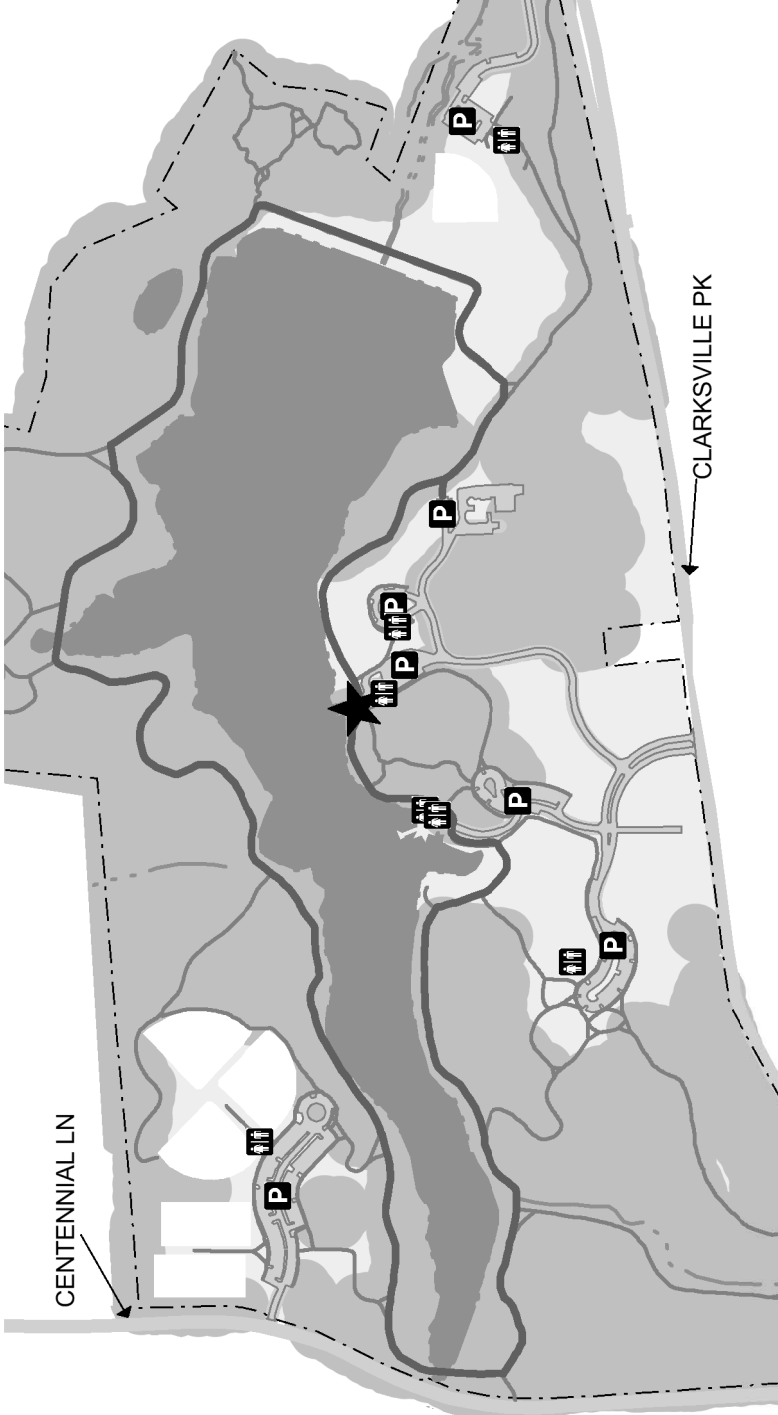
Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.1345, Longitude: -76.8312

Trail conditions: Unpaved, natural surface trail with few elevation changes

From the Bollman Truss Bridge, walk south 60 yards to the Savage Mill Trail. Follow the trail to the rapids. There are multiple short side trails which are steep and rocky, but provide an unobstructed view of the rapids.



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE



- Optional Expedition Marker
- ★ Required Expedition Marker
- P** Parking
- Pathway/Trail

Note: Maps are not to scale

Centennial Park

Address: 10000 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Parking: As you enter the park, look for signs for the boat ramp, where parking can be found.

Wildlife Viewing Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: 150 yards from the boat ramp parking area

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.2416, Longitude: -76.8589

Trail conditions: Paved path with slight incline

From the handicapped parking area, follow the paved path to the Find-Your-Park post at the kiosk. As you walk, see if you can spot the many native wildlife species that call Centennial Park home. From this point, you can see Barn Swallows flying around the lake in the nesting season, Eastern Painted Turtles basking in the sun in the warm seasons and Canada Geese on the water year-round.

Lake Path Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: Follow the 2.6 mile path around the lake to return to the kiosk

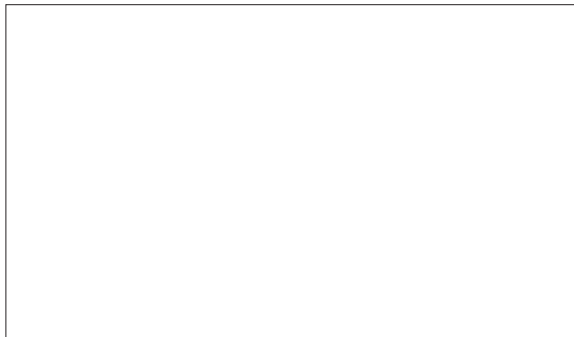
Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.2416, Longitude: -76.8589

Trail conditions: Paved trail with a few hills

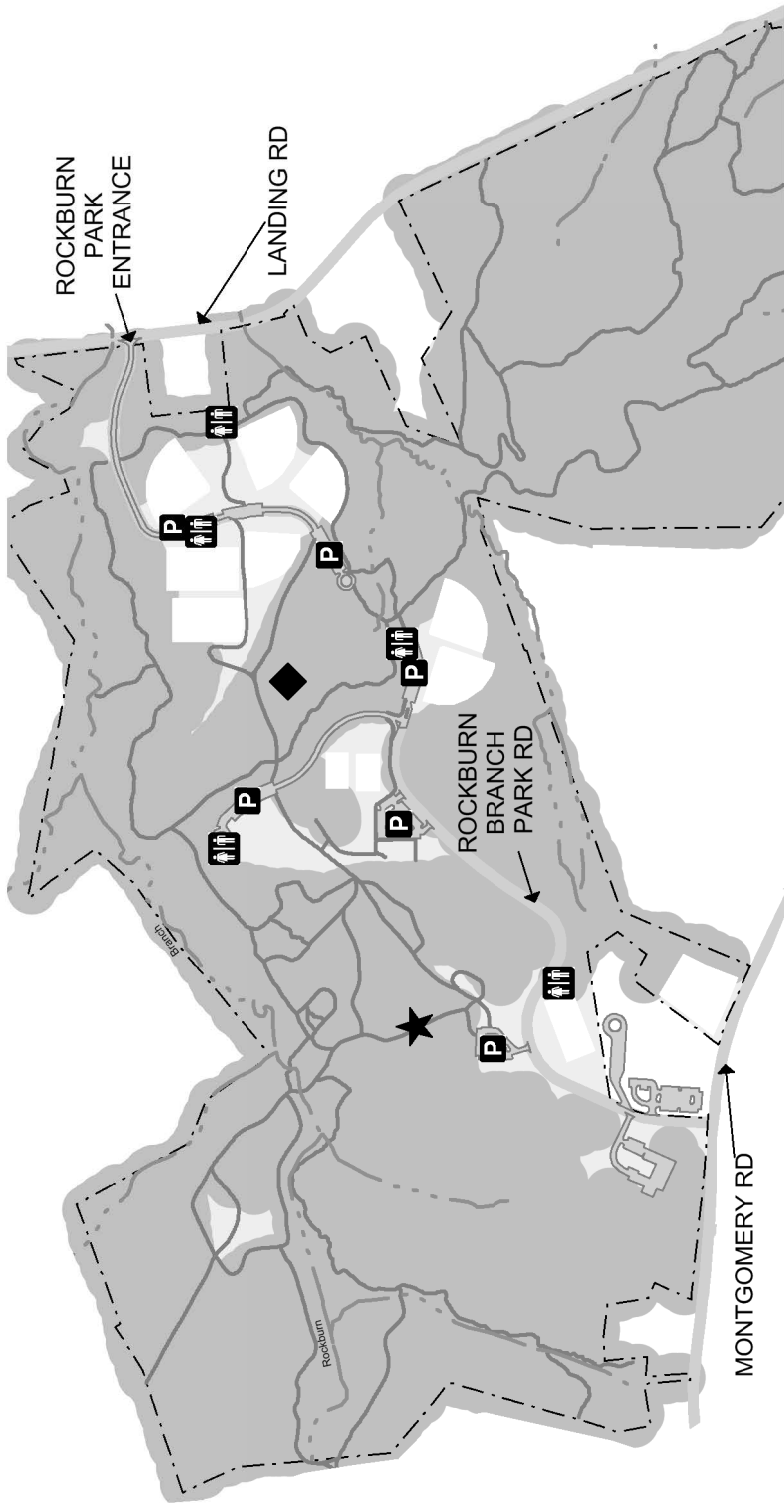
Continue your journey around the 54-acre man-made lake by walking, running or biking on the 2.6-mile paved pathway (some hills) and look for other indigenous wildlife like the White-tailed Deer, Great Blue Heron or Northern Watersnake. In the springtime, listen for tiny frogs called Spring Peepers, they peep!

For more information on flora and fauna, visit

http://www.howardbirds.org/birdinghowardcounty/Centennial/centennial_species_lists.htm#bird.



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE



- ◆ Optional Expedition Marker
- ★ Required Expedition Marker
- Parking
- Pathway/Trail

Note: Maps are not to scale



Rockburn Branch Park (West)

Address: 6105 Rockburn Branch Park Road, Elkridge, MD 21075

Parking for Required Expedition: Navigate to 6121 Rockburn Branch Park Road and use the parking lot closest to the Clover Hill House

Parking for Optional Expedition: Navigate to Parking Lot near the Rockburn Park Pavilion.

Disc Golf Course Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: .4 miles from the parking lot near the Clover Hill House

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.2185, Longitude: -76.7681

Trail conditions: Paved path with slight incline

From the parking lot, follow the stone dust trail leading towards an informational kiosk. The path will lead you down into the disc golf course area, and the Find-Your-Park post will be next to Hole #1 on the right side of the trail. Bring a frisbee and try your hand at this 18-hole Disc Golf Course.

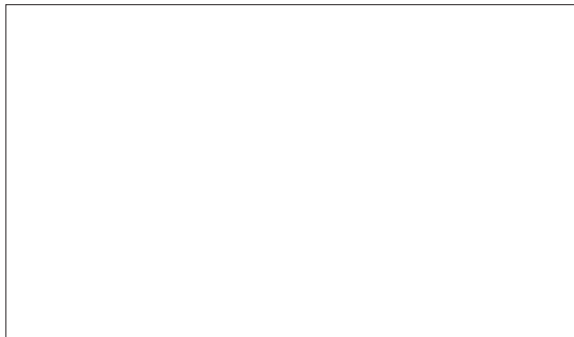
Rockburn Mountain Bike Skills Park Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: .2 miles from the parking lot near the Rockburn Park Pavilion

Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.2202, Longitude: -76.7619

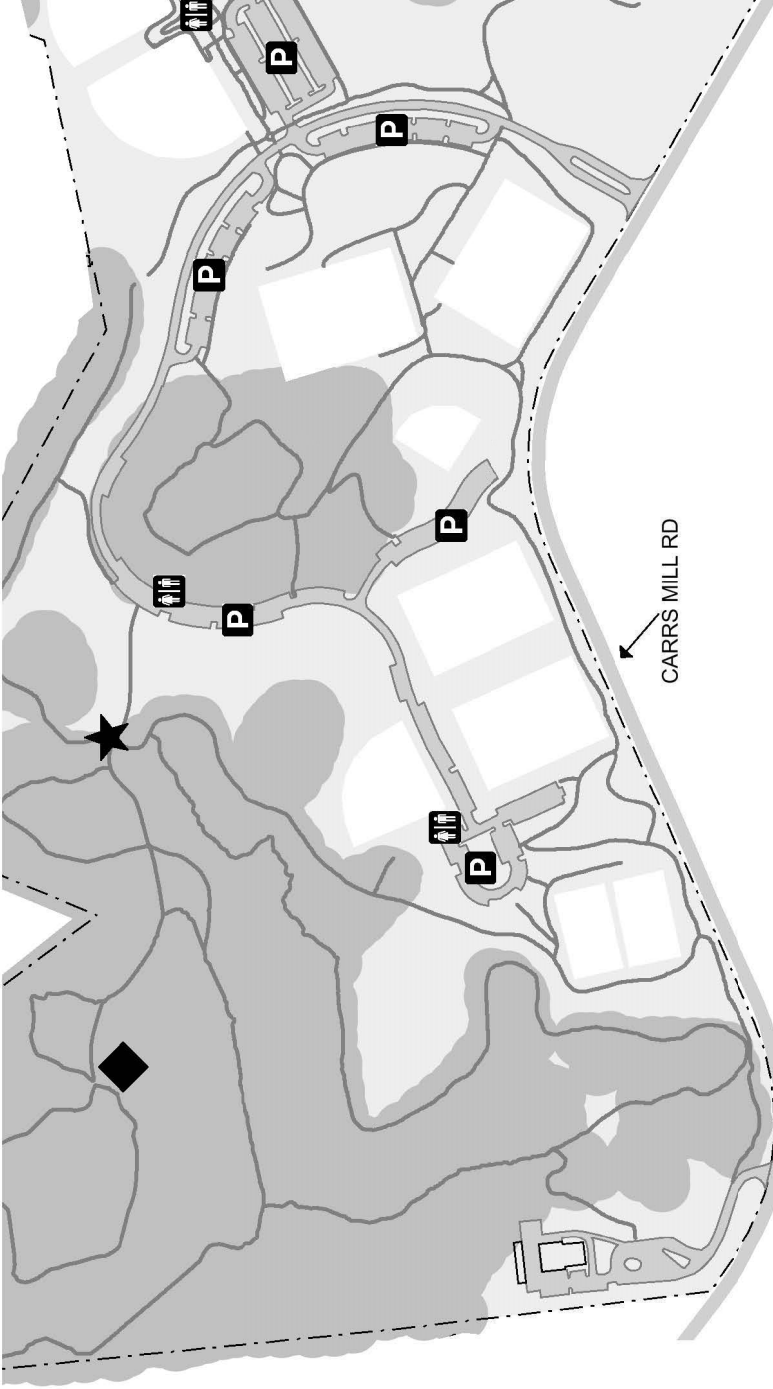
Trail conditions: Mountain bike skills course with variation in terrain

From the parking lot near the Rockburn Park Pavilion, follow the paved trail down to the skills park area. If you brought your bike, put on your bicycle safety helmet and try the Rockburn Branch Skills Trail. The skills trail includes a pump track and three downhill lines: one for beginners, one for intermediate riders, and one for more advanced riders. This family-first area is a great place where Howard County kids and adults can hone their bicycle riding skills.



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE





Note: Maps are not to scale

Western Regional Park

Address: 14800 Carrs Mill Road, Woodbine, MD 21723

Parking: Follow the driveway entrance located at the address above, and park next to pavilion 4.

Wildlife Viewing Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: 0.4 miles from pavilion 4

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.3082, Longitude: -77.0311

Trail conditions: Level, paved path with slight incline

Walk behind the pavilion and enter the meadow. As you enjoy your walk along the pathway, take a closer look at the lovely rolling hills, and you just might see some white-tailed deer or other local wildlife on your journey. The Find-Your-Park post will be next to kiosk when you start your journey.

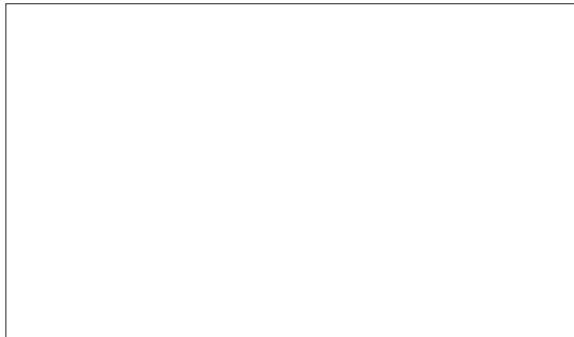
Woodland Hike Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: .9 miles from parking lot

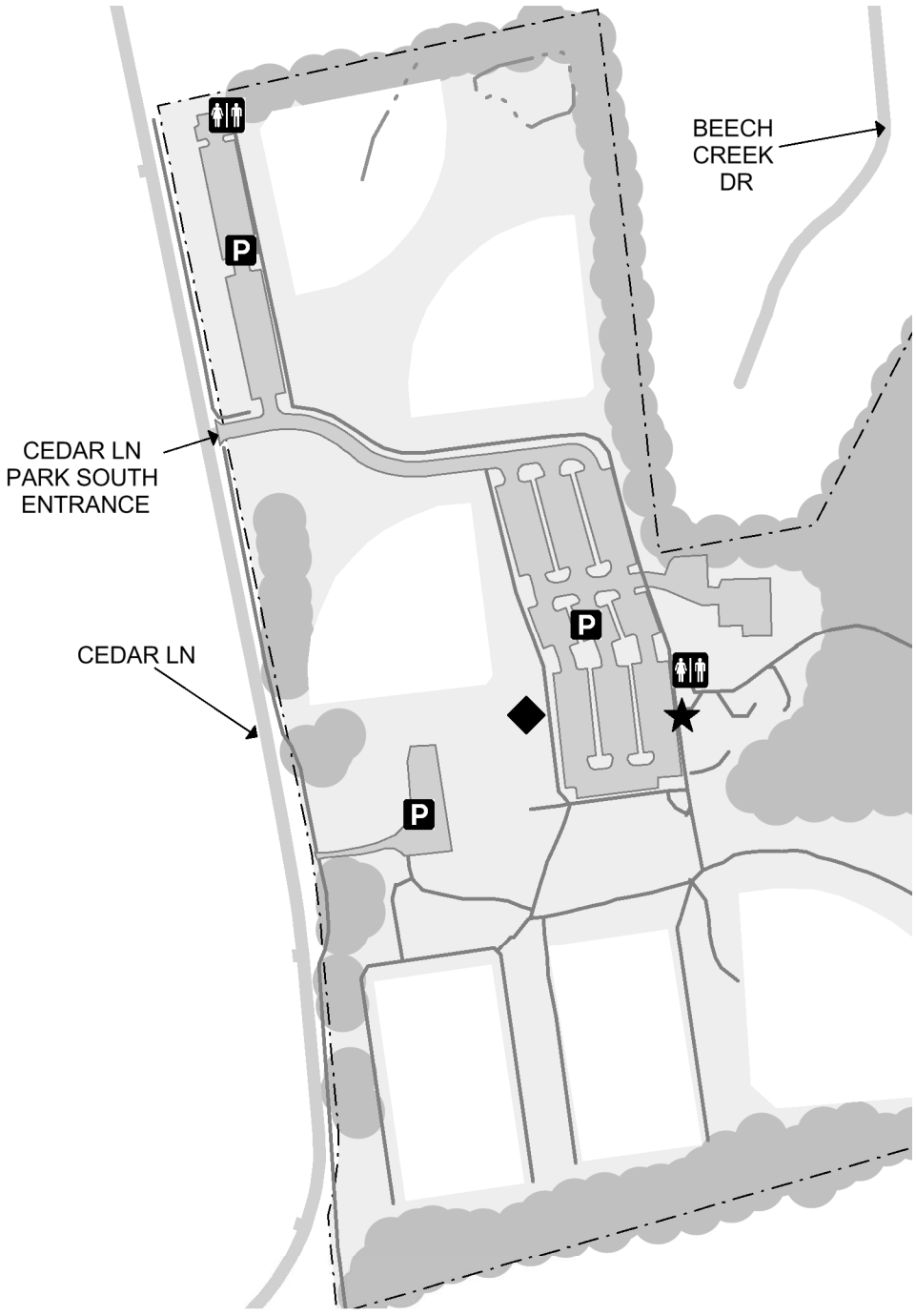
Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.3081, Longitude: -77.0343

Trail conditions: Unpaved trail through forest landscape

Follow the trail leading into the forested area. Continue your journey through the park, and enjoy a brisk hike under the canopy of many beautiful trees.



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE



- ★ Required Expedition Marker
- ◆ Optional Expedition Marker

P Parking

— Pathway/Trail

Note: Maps are not to scale





Cedar Lane Park (West)

Address: 5081 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

Parking for Required Expedition: As you drive into the park, look for playground and park in the lot nearest the playground.

Parking for Optional Expedition: As you drive into the park, look for the pavilion and park in the gravel lot nearest the pavilion.

Outdoor Fitness Area Expedition (Required)

Distance to Find-Your-Park post: 50 feet from parking lot nearest the playground

Coordinates of Find-Your-Park post: Latitude: 39.2294, Longitude: -76.8871

Trail conditions: Paved, accessible curb cut, no slope

Once you have parked, walk approximately 50 feet towards the playground, and you will see the fitness area. Enjoy the best of both worlds! Kids can play on the newly installed playground, while adults can get their workout in Howard County Recreation & Parks' only outdoor fitness area. Try the push press, elliptical, pull up/dip station, squat, and much more. The Find-Your-Park post is located in the landscape bed between the parking lot and the fitness area.

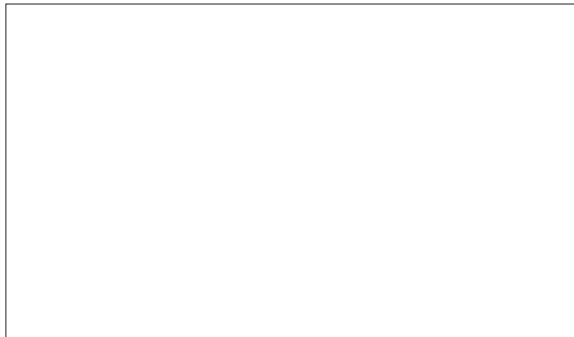
Bocce Ball Expedition (Optional)

Distance to destination: 50 feet from parking lot nearest the pavilion

Coordinates of destination: Latitude: 39.2294, Longitude: -76.888

Trail conditions: Natural grass surface, accessible, no steep slopes

Once you have parked, walk approximately 50 feet towards the Bocce Ball Courts where you can enjoy the rustic game of bocce. The two courts are 60 feet by 12 feet wide and are Howard County Recreation & Parks' only bocce courts. The courts can be reserved by calling 410-313-4626. If they have not been reserved, they are first-come, first-served. You must supply your own equipment, but we will supply the spot for family fun!



MAKE TRAIL MARKER RUBBING HERE



This booklet belongs to:

Please look for a trail marker like the one illustrated below for each Required Expedition.

Trail markers are mounted on 4x4 posts.

When you locate a trail marker, use a pencil or crayon to rub the number on the corresponding page of your passport.

1

To document your visit to this “Find Your Park” location, find the park’s page in your booklet and make a rubbing of the number with a pencil or crayon. To find out about the Find Your Park program, check out the website below.



www.howardcountymd.gov/FindYourParkHoCo