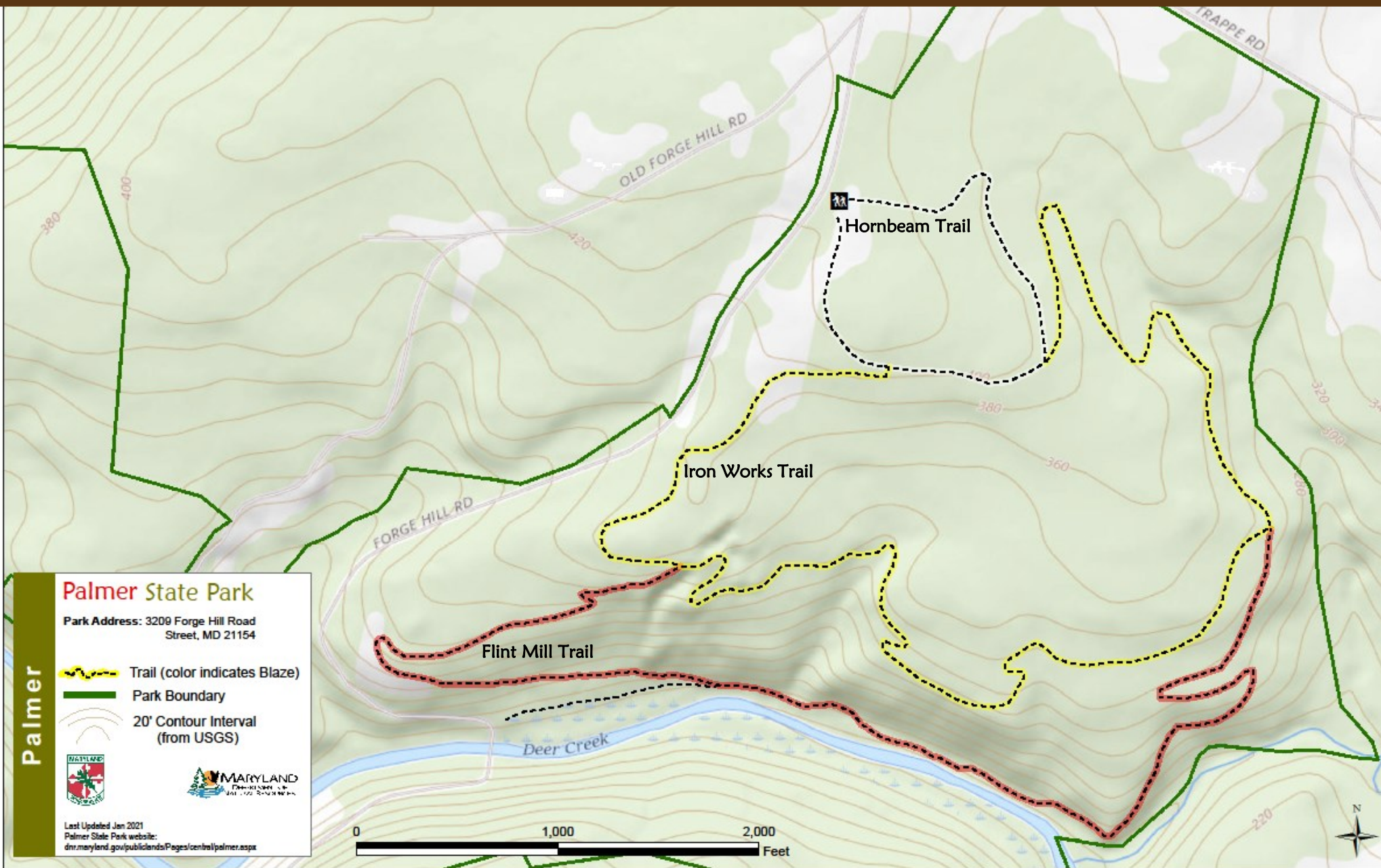


Palmer State Park - Trail Map & Information



Palmer State Park

Address: 3209 Forge Hill Road Street, MD 21154 **For more information call:** 410-557-7994 or **email:** Rocks.statepark@maryland.gov

Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Under an unbroken canopy of second-growth and riparian forests, two miles of scenic Deer Creek runs through the 555-acre Palmer State Park. Historic sites can be found along the creek banks and native flora and fauna thrive in the forested habitat. Though the park is less than 20 minutes from the town of Bel Air, nature enthusiasts and historians alike will appreciate the recreational opportunities at Palmer State Park. Palmer State Park is a “trash-free” park and there are no dumpsters available. Please plan to take all of your trash (including pet waste bags) home with you when you leave.

Hiking Trails:

Hornbeam Trail: 0.7 miles long. **Blazed trail color:** White **Hiking difficulty:** Easy

This trail starts at the parking lot and loops partly through the open fields and into the forest. Once in the woods, you will see very tall trees of a second growth forest. This trail was named the 'Hornbeam' trail for a cool-looking tree that grows throughout the understory of the tall trees at Palmer State Park. Also known as musclewood for its odd shape. (Trunks look like they are contracted muscles). It is a distinct tree, not seen in every forest so we thought it could use a noteworthy mention here. In the spring you can also see the showy orchid. Maryland is actually home to 57 species of orchid. Relax, and take an easy hike on the Hornbeam trail and enjoy the nature around you!

Iron Works Trail: 2.7 miles long. **Blazed trail color:** Yellow **Hiking difficulty:** Moderate

For a slightly harder and longer hike the Iron Works Trail is next. On this trail, you will walk by a beautiful tributary of Deer Creek and get into a more dense forest with some nice hills to climb. You will pass by old quarry sites where quartz was mined out of the ground to make ceramics. The 'Iron Works' of Deer Creek was once a bustling town with a store and you can see many ruins throughout the park due to such a rich history. The Iron Works Trail is a "U"-shaped extension of the Hornbeam Trail. To hike the Iron Works trail you will first begin on the Hornbeam Trail (either direction) and follow it until you reach either end of the Iron Works Trail.

Flint Mill Trail: 3.4 miles long. **Blazed trail color:** Red **Hiking difficulty:** Moderate

Lastly, the longest and perhaps most difficult trail, the Flint Mill Trail. Named for the Husband Flint Mill that turned quartz into beautiful ceramics. The ruins of the mill are along Deer Creek and you can still peer into one of the furnaces. This trail follows Deer Creek for about a mile with some great viewing spots. Deer Creek actually flows from Palmer 11 miles down until it empties into the mighty Susquehanna River. This trail also boasts some great rock outcroppings as you hike through the woods. The Flint Mill Trail is a "U"-shaped extension of the Iron Works Trail. To hike the Flint Mill trail you will first begin on the Hornbeam Trail (either direction) and follow it until you reach the intersection with the Iron Works Trail, then follow the Iron Works Trail until you reach the intersection with the Flint Mill Trail.