

Design-a-Quest: Sky's the Limit



Welcome to the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area! Our visitors can enjoy 5,600+ acres of rolling hills and quiet woodlands by hiking, biking, or riding the 80+ miles of trails. During this Park Quest we invite you to take control of your quest here at our park. **Choose any one of these activities** to complete your quest. Visit one of our five day use parking lots to start.

Hiking, Biking, or Riding

Covered bridge - built in 1860 at a cost of \$1165; one of two remaining covered bridges in Cecil County; received State of Maryland's Historic Civic Engineering Landmark Award in 1994.

Access via Parking Lot #2 (Covered Bridge).

Orange Trail - 5.8 miles- difficult- a circuit trail that meanders through mature forest, hayfields, and skirts Big Elk Creek at the midpoint. Although the trail offers primarily rolling hills, a few steep climbs are found throughout. Hiking the trail takes approximately three hours.

Access via Parking Lot #1 (Route 273).

Green Trail - 3.5 miles- moderate- a circuit comprised of double-track and single-track trails including old farm roads. This trail also passes by ruins of a stone house and barn. Hiking the trail takes approximately two hours.

Access via Parking Lot #2 (Covered Bridge) and Parking Lot #3 (North Appleton).

Center School – Visit a piece of Cecil County history: This is a one room schoolhouse which served the community from 1849 - 1921.

Access via Parking Lot #2 (Covered Bridge).

Blue Trail - 3.8 miles- moderate- is a route that includes a mix of woodland and open field trails that ends through a tunnel under Appleton Road. The Blue Trail skirts the Christiana Creek, which feeds into the Delaware Bay watershed. Hiking this trail takes approximately two hours.

Access via Parking Lot #3 (North Appleton)

Mason Dixon Marker - A marker is located at each mile of the Mason Dixon line, surveyed between 1763 and 1767 by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to resolve a border dispute between Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware; we have four accessible from Fair Hill. One can easily be reached by a short (1 mile round trip) hike off the blue diamond trail.

Access via Parking Lot #3 (North Appleton)

Hiking, Biking, or Riding continued...

Red Trail - 2.5 miles- easy to moderate- a trail through mature woodland and open hay field, often skirting and crossing the Grammys Run Creek. The red trail is the least strenuous circuit and will take approximately an hour and a half to hike.

Access via Lot #4 (Gallaher)

Yellow Trail – 3.2 miles – moderate- trail users enjoy scenic views at the Scott’s Mill Bridge crossing on Big Elk Creek after a fairly rapid downhill descent. Continue north along the creek to enjoy the serene beauty. It will take approximately two hours to walk this trail.

Access via Lot #5 (South Appleton)

Hike to Ruins - Scott’s Mill and the Willis House are found as you journey toward the Yellow Trail.

Access via Lot #4 (Gallaher)

Birding and Nature Observation

Fair Hill is comprised of various ecosystems, including grasslands, trout streams, ponds, wetlands and approximately 3,000 acres of mature woodlands. These habitats support a diverse variety of wildlife, such as beaver, fox, coyote and white-tailed deer. Birders can spot bald eagle, kingfisher as well as a wide variety of hawks, owls and vultures. Extensive meadows support numerous grassland birds such as bobolink, thrush, and flycatcher.

Access via any of our five day use parking lots

Fishing

Anglers can test their skills on Big Elk Creek, which is a stocked, put-and-take trout stream that travels the entire length of the Fair Hill Property. This creek supports self-sustaining populations of smallmouth bass, sunfish and bluegill. Every spring and fall, the creek is stocked by the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service with adult brown and rainbow trout. Parking for visitors with disabilities and an accessible fishing pier is available at the Foxcatcher Farm covered bridge.

A Maryland Freshwater Fishing license is required for all fishermen 16 years of age and older.

A Maryland Trout Stamp is also required to possess or keep trout.

Consult a Maryland Fishing Guide for additional information or visit: www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries

Access via Lot #2 (Covered Bridge)

Want to do an activity that isn't on the list? Go for it! This is Design-a-Quest: Sky's the Limit! You can: Stay for a picnic, toss a Frisbee, fly a kite, play kickball, bring a butterfly net or search for amphibians.



Fair Hill NRMA DIY Park Quest 2020

Park Quest Worksheet

Use this work sheet to enhance your Quest at Fair Hill.



1. Where are you exactly? Who owned this land prior to its purchase by the State of Maryland?

2. What kind of plants surround you?

3. Are you near water? Can you name the creek?

4. What habitats can you see?

5. What do you notice happening around you?

6. Describe the sounds of nature that you can hear. Close your eyes and listen again.

Thank you for visiting Fair Hill NRMA and participating in Park Quest.
We're so glad you came and hope you'll visit us again!

Happy Trails to You!