



In partnership with the National Park Service, the Accokeek Foundation stewards 200 acres of Piscataway Park, where it demonstrates and educates about land conservation, historic preservation, sustainable agriculture, and environmental stewardship. This site is home to the National Colonial Farm, an outdoor living history museum that depicts life for an ordinary family in colonial Maryland. The park's grounds and trails are open to the public year 'round.

Keeping Your Dog Safe



on the trail

Essential Items

- **Leash:** Avoid long leashes. Opt for a short heeling leash or a moderate leash under 10 feet long that you can quickly shorten to heeling length.
- **Dog Brush and/or Comb:** To keep your dog's fur deburred.
- **Snug Collar:** With your telephone number and your dog's name, rabies tag, and dog license.
- **Dog Booties:** To protect sensitive paws or if your dog cuts a pad or tears a claw.
- **Water:** Carry at least a quart of water for your dog for every 3 miles you plan to hike if there are no reliable water sources along the route.
- **Water Dish**
- **Dog Food/Snacks:** Bring actual dog food and/or dog biscuits, which are nutritionally balanced and easier for dogs to digest than human food.
- **Spare Rope:** Depending on what you carry for a leash, a spare rope is helpful for times when you need to tie your dog to a tree or another fixed object.
- **Plastic Bags:** If your dog does its business anywhere along a trail or in a camping area, you need to pack it out.
- **Dog First-Aid Kit:** Basic components can be found online at www.outdoors.org*

*source: <http://ow.ly/n44130bEbxW>

Other Tips

- Make sure your dog is up to date on tick medication and vaccines, and check for ticks when you get home.
- Halt chewing immediately so your dog doesn't ingest poison or tainted plants.
- Monitor for signs of exhaustion and heat stroke, resting and drinking often if necessary.
- Be aware of wildlife. Your leash is your best defense against interactions with animals that could be harmful to your pup.

NATURE TRAILS



pup edition



Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park

3400 Bryan Point Road | Accokeek, MD 20607
www.accokeekfoundation.org

Park Regulations

While enjoying the trails, please remember that these grounds are part of Piscataway Park, a public space and conservation area.

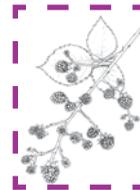
- The park is open to the public from dawn to dusk year ‘round. The park gate closes at dark.
- Stay on the trails and within designated areas at all times. Trails are designed to minimize human impacts on the surrounding environment.
- Please do not collect anything from the site (plants, animals, or cultural artifacts, etc.). This is prohibited by federal and state law.
- Please leave the park as you found it. Deposit your trash in a designated receptacle.
- Dogs must remain on leash and their waste must be picked up and disposed of in a designated receptacle.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails.

Accokeek Connector Trail



The Accokeek Connector Trail begins at the Ecosystem Farm and connects the 200 acres of Piscataway Park managed by the Accokeek Foundation to the Accokeek Creek access point and boardwalk. This trail is a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, which celebrates the heritage of the Potomac and upper Ohio river basins. An enterprise of many partners, the evolving Trail network offers opportunities for hiking, bicycling, boating, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

Distance: 0.31 mile one-way
Difficulty: Easy
Markers: Bright blue blazing



Blackberry Trail

The Blackberry Trail begins in a small hayfield near visitor parking, and meanders through a floodplain forest. The water that gathers in this area feeds into a tidal wetland before emptying into the Potomac River. This environment provides excellent habitat for moisture-loving animals and plants—such as jack-in-the-pulpit, pokeweed, and pawpaw trees—as well as white-tailed deer, whose tracks are often visible on the trail. Boots are recommended, since portions of the trail are muddy.

Distance: 0.5 mile one-way
Difficulty: Easy, seasonally muddy
Markers: Purple blazing

Bluebird Trail



The Bluebird Trail runs along the edge of the Native Tree Arboretum and around scattered chestnut groves down to the Potomac River. It crosses through current and former agricultural fields, some that are still in use for grazing and some that have grown into small stands of trees. A handful of nestboxes are visible along the trail, erected to provide nesting sites for Eastern bluebirds and monitored by a group of volunteers. These native cavity nesters are present in the park year ‘round. The Bluebird Trail connects to the Pawpaw and Riverview Trails.

Distance: 0.9 mile one-way
Difficulty: Easy
Markers: Light blue blazing



Pawpaw Trail

The Pawpaw Trail begins at the Native Tree Arboretum and leads up the hillside through a mature forest, offering a glimpse of what the land was like before European settlers arrived. The hillside provides excellent wintertime views of Mount Vernon across the Potomac River. The trail is named for the pawpaw tree, which grows in abundance in the park and produces the green fruits that have given Accokeek its name. “Accokeek” is often translated to mean “place of the wild fruit,” referring to the pawpaw. The Pawpaw Trail ends in a grove of American chestnut trees, where it connects with the Bluebird Trail.

Distance: 0.5 mile one-way
Difficulty: Moderate; short, steep climbs
Markers: White blazing

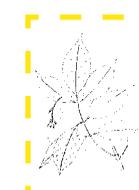
Persimmon Trail



The Persimmon Trail begins in the barnyard and circles the Conservation Pond. This pond collects runoff from our agricultural fields and controls the flow of sediment into the Potomac River. The pond also serves as valuable habitat for fish, frogs, turtles, ducks, geese, beavers, and other wildlife. Waterfowl often nest on the small island in the pond and a number of Canada geese have adopted the pond as their year ‘round home. The trail is named for the persimmon trees that grow along the pond’s north edge. The Persimmon Trail connects with the Riverview Trail.

Distance: 0.4 mile loop
Difficulty: Easy
Markers: Orange blazing

Pumpkin Ash Trail



The Pumpkin Ash Trail follows the Potomac River from near the Visitor Center to the Ecosystem Farm, passing through a forest and a tidal wetland, and providing excellent views of Mount Vernon. The level of water present in the wetland changes with the tide. During high tide, fish and amphibians are abundant. During low tide, the tracks of animals like opossums or racoons can often be seen in the mud. The trail is named for the pumpkin ash tree, which grows here in one of the northern-most groves known to exist in the United States. The Pumpkin Ash Trail connects with the Blackberry Trail.

Distance: 0.25 mile one-way
Difficulty: Easy
Markers: Yellow blazing

Riverview Trail



The Riverview Trail follows the Potomac River from near the Visitor Center, providing some views of Mount Vernon along the way. It leads through a strip of land known as a riparian forest buffer, which reduces soil erosion, nutrient runoff, and other effects that agriculture and other inland uses can have on waterways. Planted with more than 50 varieties of trees and shrubs native to Maryland, this buffer completes a two-mile stretch of continuous riparian forest. The Riverview Trail passes the Museum Garden and connects with the Persimmon and Bluebird Trails.

Distance: 0.6 mile one-way
Difficulty: Easy
Markers: Dark blue blazing