



Calvert County Environmental Commission

Calvert County Features

1. How large is Calvert County?

The total land area is 213 square miles, or about 137,000 acres--plus an additional 132 square miles (a little over 84,000 acres) of water. Calvert is the smallest county in Maryland. Elevation ranges from sea level to at least 168 feet.

2. How many people live in the county, and what are the projected population growth trends?

The 2010 Census said that 88,737 people were living in the County. In 2016, the population was closer to 91,000, which yields a density of 414 people per square mile. On April 18, 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the population of Calvert County was 92,003 and ranks 15th out of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. According to the Maryland Department of Planning, by 2040, the County's population is projected to grow to 100,450-- a lower rate of increase than occurred during the 1970s through the 1990s.

3. What is the highest point in the county?

According to the Maryland Geological Survey, the highest point is 168 feet above sea level and located in Sunderland near the intersection of Routes 4 and 262 ([Highest and Lowest Elevations in Maryland Counties](#)). On 1/22/18, Erick Pate (GIS Administrator; Calvert County Technology Services Department) stated that the highest point in the county is closer to 190 feet and located further north, at a location near the intersection of Skinners Turn Rd. and Pinnacle Lane in Owings. A 1928 soil survey of Calvert County by S.O. Perkins and M. Hershberger reported that the elevation of the county ranges from sea level to 181 feet above sea level at Mount Harmony.

4. How many miles of shoreline does Calvert County have along the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay?

Just over 243 miles, according to the Maryland Geological Survey (personal communication with Katherine Knippler, Geologist, on 1/22/18). This is likely the maximum length of shoreline in Calvert County and includes not only the shorelines of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay (closer to 100 miles), but also shoreline distances along tidal and no-tidal streams that flow into these larger water bodies, in addition to marshy areas and ponds.

5. What's the current picture of land cover/land use in the county?

2010 data from the Maryland Department of Planning paints this picture:

- Forests = 45.8% (includes wooded large-lot subdivisions)
- All developed lands = 37.5 %
- Farmland = 14.3%
- Wetlands = 2.1%
- Extractive/Barren/Bare = 0.2%

County Land Use Characteristics

Another analysis states that there are 81,781 acres (58% of the total land area) of forest cover with 37% of forest cover or 22% of county land area representing Forest Interior (forest more than 100 meters from a forest edge). Forest Interior provides important habitat for Forest Interior Dwellings Species (FIDS) [Habitat Protection Areas, Natural Resources Protection Areas and Forest Interior Dwelling Species](#).

6. What are impervious surfaces and how much of them does the County have?

Impervious surfaces are land cover/land use types such as roads, parking lots, sidewalks, roofs, and packed soil areas that shed rather than absorb rainfall. Impervious surfaces make up 6% of Calvert County, overall. Imperviousness is higher in more developed areas, such as in the Mill Creek watershed (which includes the Solomons Town Center and Chesapeake Ranch Estates), where 15.2% of the land surfaces are impervious.

To find data on impervious surface coverage for each watershed in Calvert County, explore Calvert County's interactive watershed map: [Watershed Map](#).

7. What are the temperature extremes for Calvert County?

The typical July day in Calvert County has a high temperature of 86 F and a low of 66 F. The record high in Prince Frederick was 103 F in 1980. The typical January day in the county has a high of 44 F and a low of 25 F. The average coldest winter temperatures range from 10-15 F in Solomons to 5- 10 F in northwest Calvert County. The record low in Prince Frederick was -9 F in 1996. The coldest winter in modern times occurred in 1976-77. On average, Calvert County's annual snowfall is 15 inches, but as much as 24 inches has fallen in a single storm (February 1979). Proximity to the Chesapeake Bay tends to reduce annual snowfall amounts, extends the growing season, and moderates both summer heat and winter cold.

8. Have earthquakes ever occurred in Calvert County?

There is no record of an earthquake epicenter in Calvert County. However, large and major 'mid- plate' earthquakes have been felt here, most recently the Virginia shock (23 Aug. 2011, magnitude 5.8), the Charleston South Carolina earthquake (21 Aug. 1886, M7.9-7.3, reported in the Calvert Gazette), and almost certainly the three great earthquakes (16 Dec. 1811, M7.5; 23 Jan. 1812, M7.3; and 7 Feb. 1812 M7.5) whose epicenters were located near New Madrid, Missouri. Church bells were rung in Philadelphia and ice cracked on the Chesapeake Bay.

9. On what tectonic plate is the county located?

Calvert County is located in the middle of the North American tectonic plate.