

CALVERT COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

General information and facility reservations

CypressSwamp@calvertcountymd.gov
www.calvertcountymd.gov/naturalresources
410-535-5327

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, 410-535-5327
Flag Ponds Nature Park, 410-586-1477
Kings Landing Park, 410-535-2661

For more information on programs, memberships, donations, events, newsletters and volunteer opportunities
www.calvertparks.org



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NATURE PARKS

Calvert Nature Society is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Calvert County's natural heritage and the creation of an environmentally literate and aware community. We provide opportunities for appreciation and understanding of our natural world through our outreach initiatives and in support of the mission of the Calvert County Natural Resources Division. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization.

For information on these opportunities, memberships, donations and more, visit www.calvertparks.org or call 410-535-5327.

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This brochure is made possible by the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.



Swamp Trail Visitors



Tobacco Prize



Environmental Education Program



TAKE PART IN CALVERT COUNTY'S OUTDOOR ADVENTURES!

CALVERT COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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Our mission is to preserve, manage and operate natural resources areas to provide compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to the public.



Searching for Shark Teeth

EDUCATION

The Natural Resources Division, in partnership with the Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Public Schools, provides quality environmental education to help develop a responsible environmental ethic. Education efforts extend beyond the classroom with exhibits, interpretive signs and public programs. Visit www.calvertparks.org for more information on programs.

HIKING TRAILS

Hiking trails are the most intimate way to connect to nature. Each park has unique hiking opportunities, from forests and beaches to swamps and rivers. Each season, nature offers new surprises: Ospreys and other migrant birds arrive in spring, flowers bloom in the wetlands in the summer, leaves show their colors in autumn and great horned owls nest in the winter.

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

Kings Landing Park includes trails that meander around meadows and through the woods. Equestrian clubs can also rent the 150' x 300' riding ring for shows and competitions, which includes a judge's stand, restrooms and water hydrants. Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm and Gatewood Preserve offer trails along the old fields and forest edge. Free permits required.

HISTORY

Calvert County is steeped in history. John Smith featured the Patuxent River ("Pawtuxunt") on his detailed map from 1608, which included 17 Algonquin settlements on her shores. Archaeological traces of a Native American seasonal camp dating from the Woodland Period (1000 BCE-1600 CE) have been located along the river. The John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Patuxent Water Trail connect the parks to our nation's history.

Flag Ponds Nature Park was once known for the pound net fishing industry while Battle Creek Cypress Swamp was the source of cypress lumber used in early structures throughout the region. From 1950-1980, Kings Landing Park was the home of the Baltimore YMCA and run as a summer camp to provide outdoor and nature activities for inner city African-American boys and girls.

The Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm is an example of a tobacco farm operated by tenant farmers throughout the 20th century. George E. Rice, an African-American farmer, owned the land in the early 20th century and raised a large family in the house located on the hill near the entrance to the farm.



FOREST WILDLIFE "Forest Interior Dwelling Species" (FIDS) refers to birds, such as the hooded warbler and barred owl, that require forests of at least 50 acres. Conserving healthy forests helps protect these vulnerable species.

PRESERVATION & STEWARDSHIP

The Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River are estuaries where salty water from the ocean mixes with fresh water. This ecosystem supports unique plants and animals, including blue crabs and oysters, and offers ample opportunities for exploring the natural world. While the waterways frame the landscapes important to humans, the preservation of forests and undeveloped land within the watershed helps maintain water quality and provides the diversity of habitats required by all of Calvert County's wildlife.

WATER ACCESS

In Calvert County, you are always within five miles of either the Chesapeake Bay or the Patuxent River. Kayak and canoe launches, boat ramps, fishing piers and public shorelines provide options for water recreation. Spending a day fishing or crabbing is easy to do at most of the natural resources parks. Catch rockfish, flounder, catfish and blue crabs at Kings Landing Park or Flag Ponds Nature Park. Freshwater fishing for bass and bluegill is available at Hutchins Pond in Owings. Appropriate Maryland fishing licenses are required.

BUGS, KNEES AND SNAKES, OH MY!



TIGER BEETLES

Several species of tiger beetles hunt for prey on the open, sandy beaches at Flag Ponds Nature Park. Recent studies show that tiger beetles run so fast they blind themselves!

BALD CYPRESS KNEES



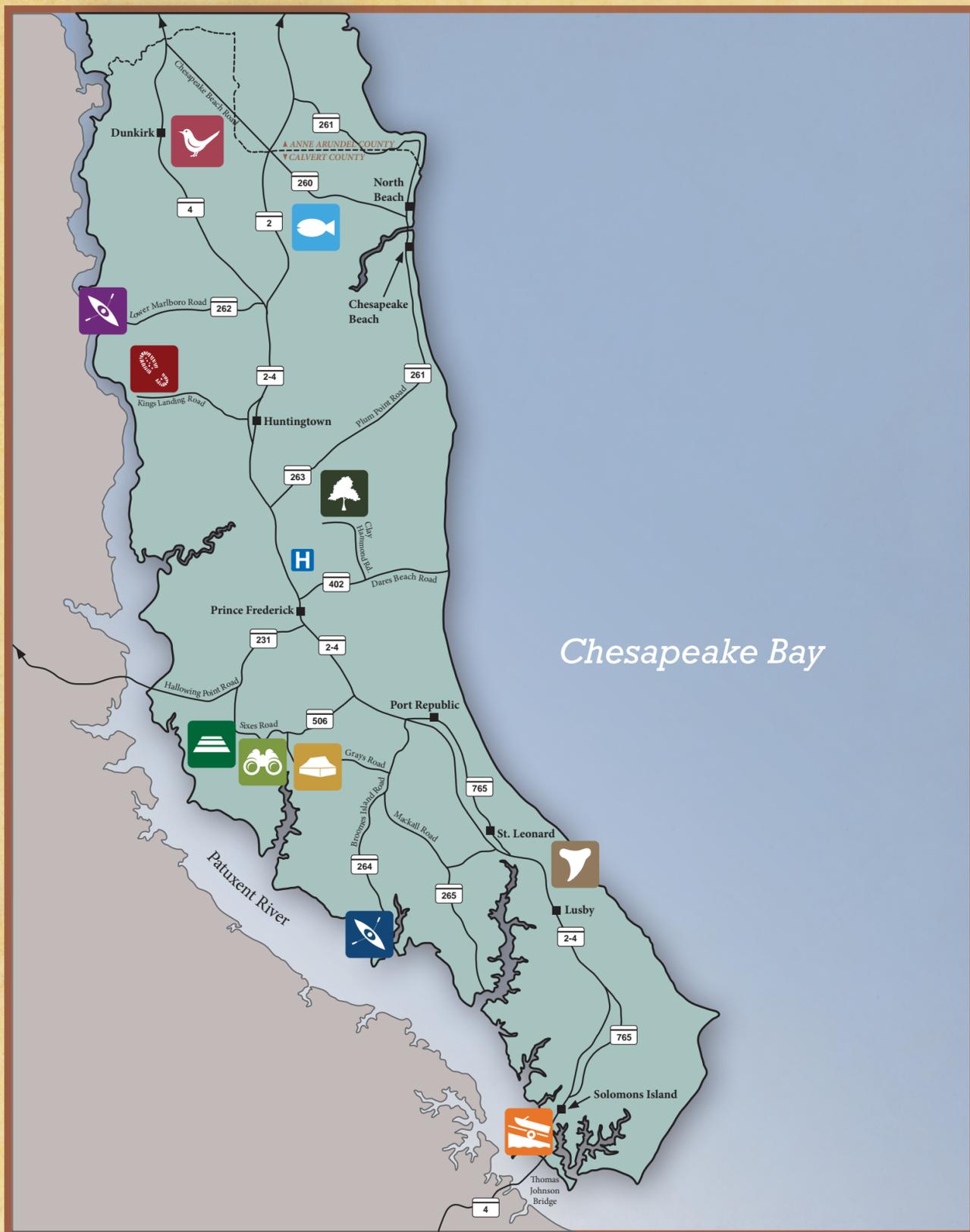
Why do bald cypress have these strange projections from their roots? No one knows for sure, but they probably help stabilize the trees in the soft, soupy wetland soil.

INDIAN LANDSCAPES

The high bluffs of the Patuxent were favorite places for Native American villages. Each of Calvert's nature parks has evidence of precolonial occupation by Native Americans.

SNAKES

The Native American word for snakes is *mokasen*. There are 19 species of snakes in Calvert County. The copperhead is our only venomous snake, although the bites are rarely fatal.



WARD FARM RECREATION & NATURE PARK
10455 Ward Road, Dunkirk, MD 20754
410-535-5327

In addition to athletic fields, more than 130 acres will be protected as natural areas. Future plans include hiking trails through meadows and mature woods as well as boardwalks over ponds and wetlands.

HUTCHINS POND
8409 Mount Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736
410-535-5327

This small farm pond was donated by Harry and Grace Hutchins and is stocked with trout by the state of Maryland. It's the perfect quiet spot to bring the family and enjoy a picnic and a day fishing.

LOWER MARLBORO WHARF
3955 Lower Marlboro Road, Owings, MD 20736
410-535-5327

A floating dock affords kayaks, canoes and stand up paddleboards direct access to the Patuxent River, as well as a pier for fishing. No facilities; limited parking.

KINGS LANDING PARK
3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639
410-535-2661

Located on the Patuxent River, this park offers something for everyone including hiking trails, a fishing pier, a kayak/canoe launch and an equestrian facility. Hall and pavilion rentals are also available. Kings Landing Pool is open Memorial Day to Labor Day. Fee to swim.

BENNETT O. HUGHES MEMORIAL TREE FARM
1320 Clay Hammond Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-5327

This 208-acre preserve is a certified tree farm managed for healthy trees, abundant wildlife and recreational opportunities for hiking and fishing. No facilities; limited parking.

BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP
2880 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-5327

This 100-acre nature sanctuary recalls a time some 100,000 years ago when cypress swamps were common in the region. Enjoy the natural sights and sounds along the quarter-mile boardwalk trail. In the nature center, explore the mysteries of the swamp through exhibits that focus on the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

GATEWOOD PRESERVE
2800 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-5327

Hike along the meadows and enjoy the scenic view of Battle Creek. Future plans include a kayak launch and a visitor information center.

BISCOE GRAY HERITAGE FARM
2695 Grays Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-5327

This historically rich site has evidence from Native American settlements and small-scale colonial farming to farming practices through the centuries. The site is still under development and the grounds are open to the public dawn to dusk.

FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK
1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657
410-586-1477

The features at Flag Ponds include a sandy beach, freshwater ponds and the forested heights of Calvert Cliffs. View wildlife along three miles of hiking trails and scan for fossils over a mile of beach shoreline. There are observation platforms at two ponds, a fishing pier on the Chesapeake Bay and a visitor's center with wildlife displays. Entry fee.

NAN'S COVE
8081 Broomes Island Road, Broomes Island, MD 20615
410-535-5327

Nan's Cove is a sheltered landing on the Patuxent River with a pier for fishing and crabbing. A floating dock affords kayak/canoe access. No facilities; limited parking.

SOLOMONS BOAT RAMP
14195 Solomons Island Road S., Solomons, MD 20688
410-326-3899

This trailered boat launch and fishing pier offers access to the lower Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. Included are comfort stations and a bait and tackle shop. Ramp fee.

SOME RULES TO ENJOY AND PROTECT CALVERT COUNTY'S NATURAL PLACES

- Dogs must remain on leash; no pets allowed at Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- Stay on established trails and boardwalks
- Equestrian use requires a permit (free)
- No overnight camping, except by permit
- No fires, except in fire rings and grills provided at the parks
- Unless posted otherwise, park hours are sunrise to sunset
- Do not collect plants or animals
- Valid Maryland license required to fish
- Limited hunting at some parks with a valid Maryland State Hunting Permit
- See Chapter 82 of the Calvert County Code for other park regulations.

Things To Do	Hiking	Kayak and canoe launch	Equestrian trails	Fishing	Crabbing	Fossil hunting	Boat ramp
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp	X*						
Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm	X		X+				
Flag Ponds Nature Park	X			X	X	X	
Gatewood Preserve	X		X+				
Hughes Tree Farm	X			X			
Hutchins Pond				X			
Kings Landing Park	X	X	X+	X	X		
Lower Marlboro Wharf	X			X			
Nan's Cove		X		X	X		
Solomons Boat Ramp		X		X	X		X
Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park	X						

*No pets allowed

+For a free permit, call 410-535-5327