

HURRICANE VS. STORM TRACKER

You should have already considered the tide activity below prior to arriving to the park to learn more about the considerations a storm tracker has to take when assessing a storm.

Storm trackers use weather patterns and climate information to determine when storms are forming and where they are heading. Wind, pressure systems, and temperature are just some of the factors that storm trackers need to consider when trying to figure out where a storm will end up. Because these factors change every day (even sometimes every hour!) tracking a storm is a difficult task and constantly changing.

The area of the Beaver Marsh Loop hiking trail where you are located has some factors that effect its sandy beach area. The Elk River is a tidal water body which means that the water level rises and recedes multiple times throughout the day. Storm trackers (and your team) need to research well in advance of storm systems to determine their paths so they can alert those that will be affected. To succeed in your quest, you will need to plan properly before heading to Elk Neck State Park to make sure the tide will be low or receding to have access to the sandy portion of the trail. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tracks, records, and predicts tides using thousands of remote sensing meters at various locations along our waterways and puts that information into what are called **Tide Charts**. Here: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html you will find the locations of those sensors and you can explore what different tides look like. The “Town Point Wharf, MD” station on the Elk River will give you the most accurate information regarding the Beaver Marsh Loop. Below is a sample tide chart and arrows pointing out examples of low tides.

What time is low tide while you are visiting the park?

