

Directions
 From Washington, D.C./Baltimore:
 Take I-70 West to I-68 West. Take Exit #64 (M.V. Smith Road).
 Make a right onto M.V. Smith Road. Headquarters Drive is on the right after crossing I-68. (Travel time approximately 2 hours).
 From Pittsburgh:
 Take I-79 South to I-68 East. Take Exit #64 (M.V. Smith Road).
 Make a right onto M.V. Smith Road. Headquarters Drive is immediately on the right. (Travel time approximately 3 hours).

Campsites are first-come, first-serve. Register at forest headquarters upon arrival. For groups of 20 or more, reserved camping is available for group sites by calling forest headquarters at 301-478-3124.

Plan your outdoor adventure online!
DNR.MARYLAND.GOV
 customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or mental disability. This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.

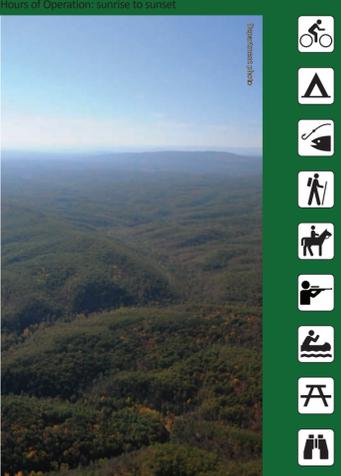
Maryland Forest Service
 580 Taylor Ave., E3
 Annapolis, MD 21401
 877-620-8086
 dnr@maryland.gov



EMERGENCY AND 24-HOUR CONTACT INFORMATION	911
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	
FORCES INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CALL THE FOREST RANGER	301-478-3124
FOR 24-HOUR ASSISTANCE OR REPORT A VIOLATION CALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE	410-260-8888 OR 301-478-3140

Green Ridge State Forest
 28700 Headquarters Drive, NE
 Flintstone, MD 21530-9525
 (301) 478-3124

GREEN RIDGE STATE FOREST
 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



WESTERN REGION



ABOUT GREEN RIDGE

As one of Maryland's largest state forests, Green Ridge offers more than 47,000 acres of recreational opportunities. Managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, this working forest provides 50 miles of trails for hiking, backpacking, and hunting. There's easy access to the Potomac River for fishing and paddling. Or, take the scenic driving tour to enjoy the beautiful overlooks.



HISTORY



In the early 1800s, Charles Carroll, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, owned most of present-day Green Ridge State Forest. The Carroll Chimney, part of a steam saw mill built in 1836, is the only known surviving structure.

Frederick Mertens came to Cumberland from Germany in the mid-1800s to build boats on the new Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. By the 1870s, Mertens became very wealthy and acquired a large tract of land, over 30,000 acres in size, from Carroll family heirs.

After their father's death, Merten's sons developed an elaborate business venture: convert the forest into apple orchards and promote it as the "largest apple orchard in the universe." By 1918, the orchard company went bankrupt, and the Maryland Department of Forestry acquired the land in 1931.



Some of the earliest forest management at Green Ridge was performed during the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Three camps were located at Green Ridge State Forest. Their main focus was fire control. Other work consisted of building roads, trails, recreation enhancements, and the management of existing forest for its future timber and wildlife potential. During World War II, the camp at Fifteen Mile Creek housed German prisoners of war, who mainly performed agricultural work. In 1955, the former camp site became home to Green Ridge Youth Camp.

Today, Green Ridge is a diverse forest, consisting primarily of a 110-year-old even-aged mixed oak forest. Roughly 40 percent of the forest is managed to preserve and enhance rare ecological functions. Approximately 150–200 acres of timber are harvested annually from the remaining 60 percent to contribute to the wood products industry and support the local economy, while increasing habitat diversity in the forest in perpetuity.



BIKING

Mountain biking is permitted on all open forest roads, as well as the designated Mountain Bike Trail. The Mountain Bike Trail is also open to foot traffic and includes a variety of terrain, including fallen trees, fast descents, steep inclines, and stream crossings. It is approximately 12 miles long and considered difficult. Mountain bikes are not permitted on other trails.



CAMPING

Primitive camping has become a rare opportunity, but not at Green Ridge! There are 100 primitive designated campsites dispersed throughout the forest. Each site has a picnic table and fire ring. Register for campsites at forest headquarters prior to occupation. Backcountry backpack camping is also permitted within the forest. Permit and fees apply.



FISHING

Fishing opportunities abound at Green Ridge! The Potomac River has bass, catfish, muskellunge, and sunfish. Put-and-take trout fishing is popular on Fifteen Mile Creek, Sidling Hill Creek, and White Sulphur and Orchard ponds during spring. Town Creek also offers a special management delayed harvest trout fishing program. Fishing requires a valid license. Refer to the Maryland Fishing Guide for more information at eregulations.com/maryland/fishing.



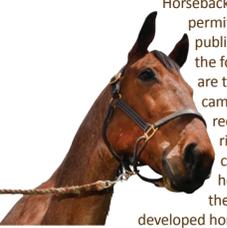
HIKING

Green Ridge has over 50 miles of hiking trails available for day hikes or multi-day backpacking experiences. The trail system varies in terrain and can be very rugged—many trails have steep climbs or stream crossings. It's recommended that visitors wear blaze orange during hunting seasons. See Trail Descriptions on the map (*other side*) for details.



HORSEBACK RIDING

Horseback riding is permitted only on public roads within the forest. There are two primitive campsites that are recommended for riders who wish to camp with their horses—although these are not developed horse camping sites.



HUNTING

Game species include dove, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, and white-tailed deer. Hunting requires a valid license and is allowed during all legal seasons. Refer to the Maryland Hunting and Trapping Guide for more information at eregulations.com/maryland/hunting.



PADDLING

The Potomac River is accessible year-round except after severe drought. Average speed is about 1.5 miles per hour during normal conditions. The river is mostly flat, but currents can be strong and unpredictable. Bond's Landing has campsites and a boat ramp.

- Paw Paw, WV to Bond's Landing**
Class 1 (12 miles—5 hours)
- Bond's Landing to Fifteen Mile Creek**
Class 1 (9 miles—3 hours)



SHOOTING RANGE

The shooting range was developed through the collection of hunting license fees and established to benefit sportsmen. It is a facility which visitors may use by registering for a daily or annual permit—available only at forest headquarters. The range may be reserved by law enforcement or other agencies to conduct training or hunting safety courses. Please contact forest headquarters for fees and rules.

Permits are required at all times. Rules and regulations are listed on all applications and are posted on information boards. Forest Service personnel and Range Safety Officers staff the ranges, and the Maryland Natural Resources Police patrol during periods of high use.



A FIRE-DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEM

With exceptionally thick bark and the ability to re-sprout at the trunk, pitch pines are structurally adapted to survive wildfires. When natural fires spread through the forest, these trees survive while limiting the growth of the hardwood species they normally compete against. Fire also necessitates the pines' ability to reproduce—the cones usually open up to disperse the seeds only after exposure to a blaze.

LEAVE NO TRACE

- Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics:
1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
 3. Dispose of Waste Properly
 4. Leave What You Find
 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
 6. Respect Wildlife
 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



SCENIC DRIVING TOUR



Enjoy Green Ridge State Forest from a different perspective—by car! You'll not only enjoy beautiful views, but also learn forest management practices along the way. Use our self-guided driving tour to find them. The tour begins and ends at forest headquarters. It covers approximately 45 miles and takes about three hours to complete.

C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Green Ridge State Forest borders the historic Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, offering 30 miles of biking, hiking, and horseback riding along the canal's towpath. The canal operated from 1828–1924 as a transportation route, hauling coal from western Maryland to the port of Georgetown.



SAFETY

With rocky and slippery trail surfaces, and biting critters such as ticks and mosquitos, trail users and hunters should wear long pants, socks, and sturdy boots. Visitors are responsible for having the necessary skills, knowledge, and equipment for a safe and environmentally sensitive visit.

ACCESS FOR ALL

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources works to ensure that the state's natural resources are accessible to all citizens and visitors. Staff members are trained to be aware of the needs of a diverse public. Recognizing the non-uniformity of disabilities, staff members are prepared to assist whenever and wherever possible.



BRING THE DOG

Pets are allowed at Green Ridge State Forest. Pets must be kept under reasonable control. Leashes are required except for hunting activities.



ATTRACTIONS

- BIKING**
On select trails
- CAMPING**
Primitive accommodations
- FISHING**
At streams, ponds, and river
- HIKING**
50 miles of trails
- HORSEBACK RIDING**
Primitive accommodations
- HUNTING**
And shooting range
- PADDLING**
Along the Potomac River
- PICNICKING**
Throughout the forest
- SIGHTSEEING**
Overlooks with great views



GEOCACHING

This outdoor treasure-hunting game uses GPS and other navigational techniques to "hide-and-seek" containers called "caches." There are nearly two dozen approved official caches within Green Ridge State Forest.

Information on caches located at Green Ridge can be found at geocaching.com. Please contact the forest headquarters to apply for permission to place a new cache at Green Ridge State Forest.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

C&O Canal Towpath

30 miles along the forest border—easy
Preserving America's early transportation history, the C&O Canal, the canal was a lifeline for communities for nearly 100 years. Today, the 184.5-mile towpath is a multi-use path for discovering historic, natural, and recreational treasures!

Deep Run/Big Run Trail

7 miles—moderate (green blazes)
Passes through state wildland designated for protection of unique flora and fauna. Annual precipitation is lowest in the state—just 36 inches—creating pockets of desert-like habitats. Uncommon plants like prickly pear cactus, large blazing star, and Kate's mountain clover are found here.

Great Eastern Trail

9.5 miles—moderate (yellow blazes)
The Great Eastern Trail stretches from Alabama to New York for 1,600 miles. This gives hikers a new adventure in the east and will hopefully alleviate pressure on the much-loved Appalachian Trail.

Log Roll Trail

4.5 miles—moderate (orange blazes)
During the late 1880s timber boom, logs dragged from nearby hills were rolled into Town Creek. From the C&O Canal, this trail begins with several stream crossings and ends with a breathtaking view of the Town Creek valley. The mountains to the left are in West Virginia; to the right, Pennsylvania. For a longer circuit, follow the canal north about five miles to the Paw Paw Tunnel and 20 miles to reach Long Pond Trail.

Long Pond Trail

9 miles—difficult (red blazes)
Take a scenic route to the C&O Canal near Lock 58, while hiking along Fifteen Mile Creek. The dense woods lining the creek are home to the peculiar one-flowered, cancer-root and wild ginger. Peak viewing times are in early May. Plus, a climb will reward you with a spectacular view.

Mountain Bike Trail

12-mile circuit—difficult (pink blazes)
This trail has been designed with mountain bikers in mind, but is also open to hiking. Intermediate and advanced riders are challenged by a variety of terrain, including stream crossings, fallen trees, steep inclines, and fast descents. A primitive campsite is available at the trailhead, including a picnic table and fire ring. Mountain biking is also permitted on all forest roads.

Pine Lick Trail

6 miles—moderate (blue blazes)
Cross Fifteen Mile Creek on a footbridge, and hike the stream valley north to the historic Mason-Dixon Line. Surveyed in the 1760s, the line helped settle land disputes between the Penn and Calvert families. This trail includes numerous stream crossings with seasonally-flowing water.

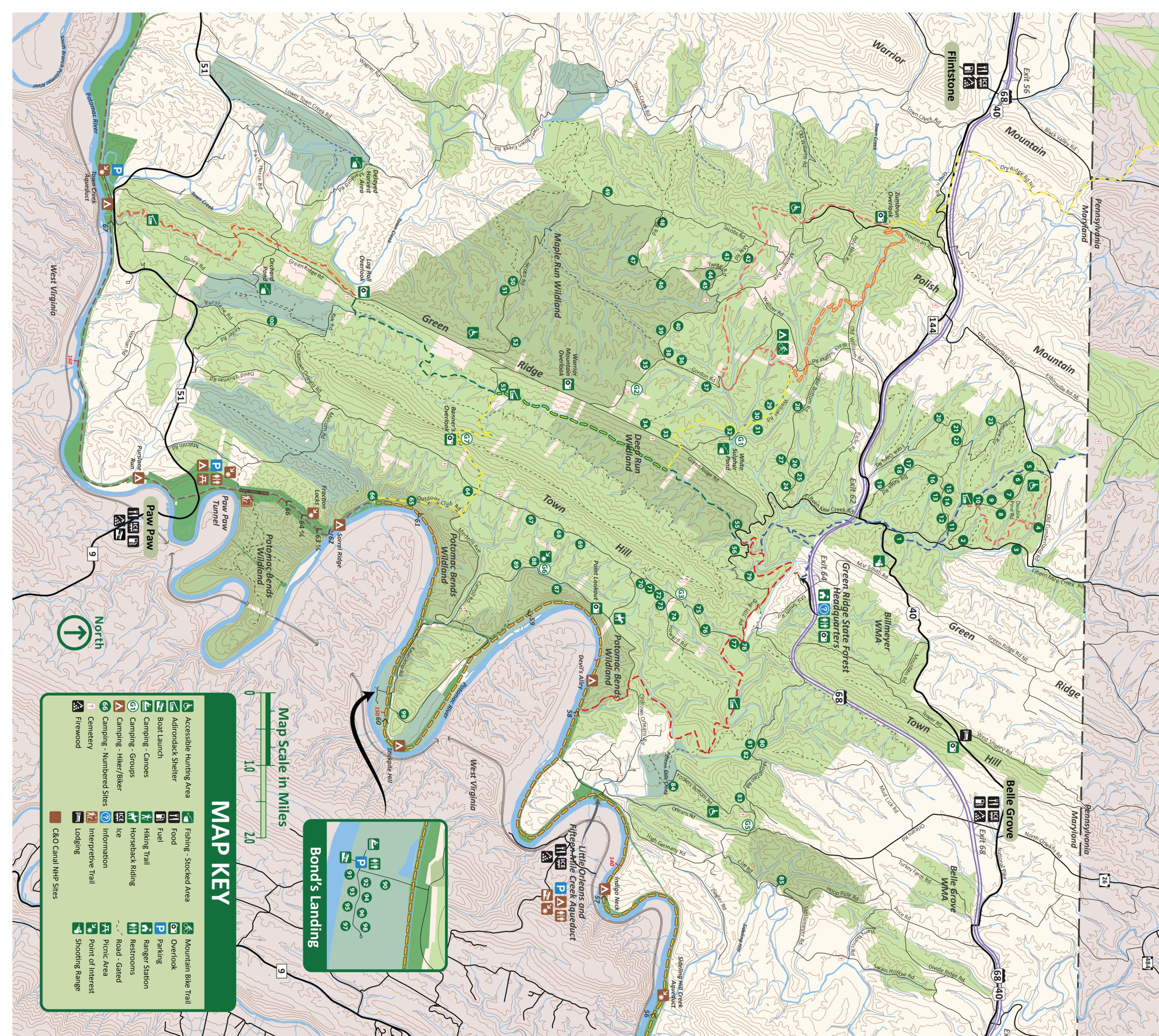
Scenic Overlook Trail

50 yards—easy (paved walkway)
This short accessible trail leaves the forest headquarters and ends at an overlook with impressive views of Town Hill and Green Ridge mountain ridges. Bring your camera and lunch with you!

Twin Oaks Trail

2 miles—moderate (pink blazes)
Named for a one-room schoolhouse used in the late 1800s, this trail travels through diverse ecosystems, such as mature oak stands, wildlife clearings, and pine plantations. Return to your starting point via the Pine Lick Trail to create a four-mile circuit.

EMERGENCY AND 24 HOUR CONTACT INFORMATION	
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	911
FOR FOREST INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CALL THE FOREST RANGER	301-478-3124
FOR 24 HOUR ASSISTANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION CALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE	410-260-8888 OR 301-478-3140



MAP KEY

	Accessible Hunting Area		Mountain Bike Trail
	Adirondack Shelter		Overlook
	Boat Launch		Parking
	Camping - Canoes		Ranger Station
	Camping - Groups		Restrooms
	Camping - Hiker/Biker		Road - Gated
	Camping - Numbered Sites		Picnic Area
	Cemetery		Point of Interest
	Firewood		Shooting Range
	Information		
	Interpretive Trail		
	Lodging		
	C&O Canal NHP Sites		

Map Scale in Miles

0 1.0 2.0

Bond's Landing