Savage River State Forest’s more than 54,000 acres of rugged terrain challenges hikers, hunters, anglers and mountain bikers alike. Each season brings the forest to life with delightful colors and sounds, like bright white trillium on a sunny slope and the sounds of migrating warblers taking a brief rest. The tranquility of the secluded forest provides shade over native brook trout streams and a cool place to camp at night.

More than 12,000 acres have been designated as State Wildlands, ensuring the preservation of the forest’s unique and unspoiled natural resources.

Savage River State Forest is enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. Please help us protect the forest’s natural and historic resources by following these Leave No Trace ethics. Learn more at LeaveNoTrace.org.

• Be considerate of other visitors
• Respect wildlife
• Minimize campfire impacts
• Plan ahead and prepare
• Travel and camp on durable surfaces
• Dispose of waste properly
• Leave what you find
• Minimize campfire impacts
• Respect wildlife
• Be considerate of other visitors

Residents of the Forest
Rhododendron thickets, hickory and oak trees — native to northern hardwood forests — provide habitat to many wildlife such as black bears, white-tailed deer, bobcats, raccoons and other small mammals. More than 100 species of birds are identified in the forest, including hawks, owls and songbirds. Eagles have also been spotted soaring over the Savage River Reservoir.

Keep wildlife wild by not feeding them and keeping your distance. Allow others to discover the forest’s unique resources by leaving rocks, plants, cultural artifacts and other natural objects of interest as you find them.

TRAILS
Aasa Burd Trail 4.5 miles - moderate
This trail provides an enjoyable day hike through rolling forestlands. Upland hardwood forests that have reclaimed former pastures and farmlands host stands of pine and spruce trees and valleys rimmed in rhododendron. This area is recommended for backcountry cross-country and cross-country skiing.

Poplar Lick Trail 6 miles - moderate
This forested dirt road — beginning off New Germany Road and ending at the Savage River — is the remainder of a Civilian Conservation Corps roadway constructed in 1934. This hiking, biking and camping trail has 11 stream crossings, but only 3 bridges. Visitors will see rhododendron blossoms and colorful wildflowers. A B&BS monument sits between Campsites 154 and 155.

Monroe Run Trail 6.4 miles - moderate
Hikers only. Crambling bridge abutments are the only remaining evidence that this scenic trail was formerly a connection road built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Frequent stream crossings provide plenty of cool resting spots along the way, ending near the Savage River Reservoir in Big Run State Park.

Margraff Trail 7.5 miles - moderate
A series of crisp, gravel roads provide less technical hiking and mountain biking opportunities, while more advanced cyclists can test their skills on challenging single track trails. With an elevation of 2,200 feet, visitors enjoy splendid views year round. Designated campsites occur along the trail, and some sections are open for snowmobile use.

Mt. Aetna Tract Trails 7.6 miles - difficult
Diverse loop trails offer opportunities for bird watching, mountain biking and hiking. Heavy snowfall supports cross-country and cross-country skiing activities during winter months. Trail maps are available at the forest office. The privately owned Savage River Lodge also contains cabins and a gourmet restaurant.

Meadow Mountain Trail 12 miles - moderate
Originally created for fire control, this rocky trail fluctuates in elevation. The four-mile section near 14B — or East Shell Road — is open for ORV use. The remaining eight miles, southeast of New Germany Road, is closed to ORVs, except for snowmobiles. This portion generally follows the crest of Meadow Mountain and provides an excellent view from the Meadow Mountain Overlook — easily accessible by a three-quarter mile ski trail.

Negro Mountain Trail 8 miles - difficult
Winter sports lovers can enjoy adventurous snowmobiling by following markers. Stream crossings and uneven terrain make this trail challenging for hikers and mountain bikers.

WATER RECREATION AND FRESHWATER FISHING
Savage River State Forest is the birthplace of two mountain rivers separated by the Continental Divide. Popular among advanced paddlers and anglers, the Savage River flows south to the Potomac at 85 feet per minute. Some of the best wild Trout fishing in Maryland happens here.

The Casselman River flows north into the Youghiogheny River and eventually empties into the Mississippi. Stocked with Rainbow and Brown Trout, anglers enjoy this freshwater experience.

Fishing regulations and other detailed information is available at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries.

LEAVE NO TRACE

CAMPING
The forest’s 70 primitive sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bear Pen — a group camping site — is located off Savage River Road and requires a reservation. More information is available at the forest office.

New Germany and Big Run State Parks, located within Savage River State Forest, offer additional camping and recreational opportunities. To learn more, contact the park’s office at 301-885-5433.

The best way to avoid bear problems is to avoid attracting them in the first place. If a bear comes into camp, don’t feed it! Make noise to scare it away.

Black Bear Tips
Never feed bears. They will associate people with food. It is illegal to feed bears in Maryland.

Never keep food in your tent. Store food in your vehicle or on a container on your site, or hang it between two trees.

Mane hall or baby camp, promptly place trash in a dumpster.

HUNTING
Hunting is permitted throughout the forest. Boundaries are marked with yellow paint. No hunting allowed where there are safety zone signs or where posted by private landowners. Hunters should consult the Maryland Hunting Guide — available at dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide — for exact season dates and bag limits.

Several access roads are available to hunters with disabilities. Hunters must possess a valid permit and display it in their vehicles. More information is available at the forest office.

Savage River Shooting Range
The public can shoot in their weapons or enjoy target practice at the Range located off New Germany Road. No fully automatic weapons or shotguns are permitted.

Self-registration envelopes are available on site. Yearly passes can be obtained at the Range or the Forest Headquarters Office.

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