to Cedarville State Forest!

Located at the headwaters of Maryland's largest freshwater swamp, the Zekiah, Cedarville State Forest invites exploration and adventure of its diverse natural, recreation and historic features. Rare carnivorous plants that catch and eat insects are uniquely found here. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians can enjoy 19 miles of trails, developed in large expanses of the forest's bottomland containing left-over bottomland hardwood forest. The forest provides interested citizens and groups opportunities to produce heat. One kiln, located on the Heritage Trail, remains as a demonstration of the historic practice and management of the forest.

TRAILS

Please Play Safe!

Forestry

Cedarville State Forest uniquely showcases the full array of natural resource protection and management practices utilized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Fishery scientists, wildlife biologists, foresters and park managers work together to protect and manage all of the natural resources in Cedarville.

Archery

In particular, the forest provides interested citizens and private landowners with an opportunity to observe and learn about a variety of forestry practices. Forestry Demonstration Areas illustrate the effects of clear cutting, replanting, prescribed burning, thinning and tree planting on tree growth and the creation of wildlife food and cover.

Hunting

Historical records show that the Piscataway Tribe made this region of Southern Maryland their winter camping and hunting ground because of the mild climate and abundance of game. Legend has it that there is a Native American burial ground in Cedarville, but to date it has not been located. In the 1950s, the State began purchasing land in an effort to create a forest demonstration area. Under the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the renowned Civilian Conservation Corp (C.C.C.) developed Cedarville's roads and trails for fire prevention and future recreation development. From 1933 to 1935, approximately 150 men of the C.C.C., mostly African Americans from Baltimore and Washington, D.C. worked at Cedarville. Five barrows, originally located across from the current forestry buildings, housed up to 50 men each. The government paid Corps workers $20 per month, with most of the pay sent home to support their families.

Architecture

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Heritage

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Cedarville's 19 miles of trails are mostly flat, with a few gentle rollers and an occasional steep, but short pitch. Some areas can become extremely wet, particularly during spring. Due to the forest's coastal location, however, there is hardly a rock in sight, making these trails more accessible for the novice hiker and biker.

Blue Trail

This trail has some short hills with streams and springs. Pass abandoned farmland and the charcoal kiln.

Orange Trail

7 miles – easy

This trail may be wet at times. You will see holly, magnolia, marsh plants and flowers.

Brown Trail

2.5 miles - easy

This trail is generally level and dry, passing an abandoned pine plantation and a four-acre pond.

Green Trail

2 miles - easy

This trail passes through the headwaters of Zekiah Swamp.

White Trail

4 miles - easy

This trail passes through hardwood forest and pine plantations – ideal for bird watching.

Fishing

The forest's four-acre pond, which is open for public fishing only, has stocked bluegill, catfish, sunfish and bass. A Maryland non-idal sportfishing license is required for persons 16-years old and younger.

A Fish Hatchery Visitor Center is open for public tours. Hours vary seasonally. For information call: (301) 888-225.

Hunting

An area of the State Forest is designated for hunting seasonally. The Maryland Hunting & Trapping Guide provides information on required licenses, game, seasons and rules and regulations.

Camping

Camping at the State Forest can be enjoyed seasonally. Campsites are equipped with a picnic table and a fire ring. The bathroom is centrally located. Walk-ins are permitted on a first-come basis. Youth group camping is available year-round with youth group passes reserved. Honors must be made in advance.

Volunteers

The Friends of Cedarville State Forest, Inc., a non-profit group, in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources Forest and Park Service work with the staff of the Southern Maryland Recreational Complex (SMRC) to help maintain and operate Cedarville State Forest. For volunteer information contact: SMRC Volunteer Coordinator at 410-284-5380 or (301) 888-1410.

Cedarville State Forest is enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year. Please help protect the forest's natural and historic resources by following these Leave No Trace ethics. For more information on Leave No Trace, visit their website at: www.lnt.org

- 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 others.

Remember that all of Maryland's State Parks are Trash Free – so pack out what you pack in! Thanks for being a good steward of Maryland's outdoors.

Trail Stewardship

You can help support trails at your favorite forest or park by volunteering on trail projects or purchasing a tax-deductible trail stewardship sticker. Your support helps maintain and construct trails to protect the environment and benefit trail users.

Park Watch

The State Forest and Park Service’s Park Watch program encourages visitors and neighbors to take an active role in protecting personal property and preserving the park. If you observe suspicious activities, vandalism or safety hazards, please report these problems to any park employee or call: (301) 888-1410.

Guides and Outfitters

As part of DNR’s Nature Tourism Program, the park office can provide information on commercial and non-commercial group outings at (301) 534-3810.

Please protect our forest and stay on the trails.