

Explore **CUNNINGHAM FALLS & GAMBRILL STATE PARKS** 2020



FEATURING ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION,
MAPS AND MUCH MORE FOR
**Cunningham Falls State Park
& Gambrill State Park**



**Maryland
Iron Festival**
page 21




**Maple Syrup
Festival**
page 23

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Office: 8602 Gambrill Park Road		
Cunningham: Thurmont, MD 21788		
Lake: 14274 William Houck Drive	39° 37' 08.97" N	77° 27' 58.98" W
Manor: 6709 Cunningham Falls Park Road	39° 35' 14.96" N	77° 26' 08.90" W
Campground: 5783 Campground Drive	39° 37' 21.04" N	77° 28' 07.47" W
Catoctin Furnace: 12698 Catoctin Furnace Road	39° 34' 53.82" N	77° 26' 02.68" W



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FROM THE COVER
by Craig Kuhn
Ranger Alicia Norris demonstrating
maple syrup making.



Cunningham Falls Gambrill State Parks

HEADQUARTERS

14039 Catoctin Hollow Road
Thurmont, MD 21788
Office: 301-271-7574
Duty Ranger Cell: 301-712-6964

GAMBRILL RANGER STATION

8602 Gambrill Park Road
Frederick, MD 21702
Office: 301-293-4170
Duty Ranger Cell: 301-514-7840

PARK WATCH: 800-825-PARK
DNR Communications: 410-260-8888
Central Reservation: 888-432-CAMP
General Information: 800-830-3974
TTY users call via the MD Relay

dnr.maryland.gov

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CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK

Activities for All await in this Mountain Park

Cunningham Falls State Park is located in the picturesque Catocin Mountains. It is divided into two separate but unique areas. The William Houck Area, located three miles west of Thurmont on Route 77, has the 78-foot cascading namesake falls, a 43-acre lake, and a camping area. The Manor Area off Route 15 three miles south of Thurmont has the Scales & Tales Aviary, the historic Catocin Iron Furnace, camping, a playground and shelter. With plenty to explore, natural outdoor activities abound at Cunningham Falls State Park: swimming, hiking, fishing, canoeing, camping and more.

Swimming: Sandy beaches welcome swimmers to three designated areas of Hunting Creek Lake. Lifeguards monitor the beach and swim area daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For your safety and the protection of the natural resource, swimming is not allowed at the falls.

Picnicking: Picnic tables and grills are available near the lake in the William Houck Area on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no covered pavilions or shelters in this area. Picnic tables and grills also are available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Manor Area, where a picnic shelter is available by reservation only. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps out of native stone, the shelter holds 150 people.

Boating: A boat ramp for launching private watercraft onto Hunting Creek Lake is available for a small service charge. Only electric motors are permitted, no gasoline motors. Boat rentals are available from the Hunting Creek Lake Concession; contact the Park Office in advance for availability.

Fishing: Cunningham Falls State Park has several opportunities for fishing. A Maryland Freshwater Sport Fishing License is required for all fishermen 16 years and older. Hunting Creek Lake is a put and take trout area. An accessible fishing pier is located off of Catocin Hollow Road next to the boat ramp. Fishermen can also fish for bass, bluegills, sunfish, crappie and catfish. Big Hunting Creek along MD Route 77, as well as its tributaries within Cunningham Falls State Park, are catch and release trout streams limited to artificial fly fishing only. Little Hunting Creek in the Manor Area is a catch and release trout stream limited to the use of artificial lures and flies only.

Boat Rental Hours

Come enjoy a relaxing paddle on beautiful Hunting Creek Lake. Rental rates are \$19.50 per boat/per half hour on the weekend and \$24.50 on weekends/holidays. Tax is included. We are open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends and holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, weather permitting.



DAY USE SERVICE CHARGES

HOUCK AREA: Memorial Day–Labor Day, weekdays: \$3*/person; Memorial Day–Labor Day, weekends and holidays: \$5*/person; all other times: \$3*/vehicle; Boat launch charges: \$3*/vehicle

MANOR AREA: Year-round: \$3*/vehicle

Maryland State Park Passport (good at any Maryland State Park): \$75*

For Maryland State Park Passport information visit

dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands

*Maryland resident discount; additional fees for out-of-state residents

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Please remember to arrive early as the park often reaches capacity by mid to late morning on weekends and holidays. If the park reaches capacity, visitors will be turned away.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all state park areas. The only exception is with an alcohol permit for the Manor Area Shelter.

Buses and vans must make a reservation by calling 1-888-432-CAMP. Buses and vans are not permitted on summer weekends and holidays.

Pets are allowed on all trails and the William Houck day-use area. Pets are not permitted on the sandy portions of the beaches Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day. In the Manor Area, pets are allowed in the day-use area and on trails, but not in the Visitor Center or Aviary. Pets are allowed in the Addison Run, Bear Branch and Manor Area camping loops. Pets must be attended and on leashes at all times. For more on our Pet Policy see page 6.

EMERGENCY AND 24-HOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Assistance	911
For Park Ranger Information or Assistance, Call the Park Ranger	Duty Ranger 301-712-6964
For 24-Hour Assistance or to Report a Violation, Call the Natural Resources Police	410-260-8888 OR 800-825-7275

THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE IS THE PRIMARY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FOR MARYLAND STATE PARKS.



PET POLICY

In Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks, pets must be on a leash and under control at all times. Under "voice command" is not sufficient. Pets cannot be left unattended. Excessive barking is not allowed.

Manor Area: Pets are allowed in the day-use area, campsite and trails.

Houck Area (Beach & Lake): Pets are allowed anywhere on land

except for the sandy portion of the beach from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Pets are allowed on private boats on the lake. Pets are allowed in the water after Labor Day and before Memorial Day weekend in the spring.

Cunningham Falls Campgrounds: Pets are allowed in Addison Run, Bear Branch, and the Manor Area camping loops.

Gambrill State Park: Pets are allowed in all day-use areas, campsites and trails. Cabin 18 is pet friendly. Pets are not allowed in the Tea Room or Cabins 4, 5 or 6.

Please use caution during hunting season. You and your pet should always be wearing "blaze orange" while hiking. The park is a shared natural resource. Canines pose a perceived threat to both humans and wildlife. It is for this reason that we ask you to keep a leash on your pet at all times. In addition, leash laws help to contain territorial "marking," which can disturb wildlife during mating and nesting seasons.

YOU ARE IN SNAKE TERRITORY

Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks are home to a large diversity of protected wildlife, including many species of snakes. Two species found here are venomous: the northern copperhead and timber rattlesnake. Snakes are rarely aggressive. If you encounter a snake, maintain a safe distance and quietly move away from it.

Report any potentially venomous snakes to the Duty Ranger by calling 301-712-6964.

If you are bitten by a snake, remain calm and dial 911.

Snake Bite Prevention Measures:

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Stay on the path when hiking and in the campgrounds
- Wear sturdy footwear with closed toes
- Maintain a safe distance from any snakes that you encounter
- Look before you reach
- Watch where you step and sit
- Snakes are most active during warm weather (April–October)

It is illegal to kill snakes in the state of Maryland.



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Ice Fest 2021

January 28 - 31

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION:

Improving the parks for you!

The Maryland Park Service and the staff of Cunningham Falls State Park are always improving our facilities to make them safer, more efficient and more accessible for our visitors.

Construction updates

Here's a list of current and upcoming projects that may have an impact on your visit:

William Houck Day-Use Renovation – The renovation project is coming to the end! After two years, the park has made beach improvements to our South Beach, added a second entrance lane and improved 40 picnic pads. We also have renovated our nature center and replaced one bathroom. Up next is work to improve our concession stand, an original Civilian Conservation Corps structure. This will impact day-use visitors with area closures and reduced parking. We anticipate an increase in park capacity closures over the summer. Plan ahead! Food service will not be available in the park besides access to vending machines. Work is scheduled to be completed in early 2021.

Catoctin Furnace Ruins – This project is an ongoing effort to stabilize the ruins of the historic Iron Master's House ruins in the Manor Area of the park. Phase III was completed in 2018. The east wall is slated to be repointed in 2020. The Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks Inc. have been leading the effort to find grant funding to protect this important part of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District. Learn how to support this effort to preserve local history at <http://www.cunninghamgambrill.org/>.

Museum of the Iron Worker – This one-room cottage used to be the home for furnace workers in the 1820s. Our partners from the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society Inc. have been raising funds to restore this structure back to its original appearance and are planning to open it at the Museum of the Iron Worker in the summer 2020. Once opened, the museum will allow visitors to journey back in time and learn about life in Catoctin Furnace when it was an iron-making village. For more information about this museum and the historic village of Catoctin Furnace, go to <https://catoctinfurnace.org/>.

We apologize for any inconvenience the construction plans cause our park patrons. If you have any questions, please call the park office at 301-271-7574, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. or email the Park Manager at: mark.spurrier@maryland.gov. Continue to check this website for updates and sign up for our Twitter account for the most up-to-date information on park closures.



Museum of the Ironworker



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CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK CAMPING

Get away from it all to connect with family and nature

Cunningham Falls State Park has campsites in both the William Houck Area and the Manor Area, both of which are open from April through October. The William Houck Area Campground has 107 basic sites and 33 sites with electric hook-up. The Manor Area Campground has 23 basic sites and eight sites with electric hook-up. Each campsite has a picnic table and fire ring. There is a bathhouse with hot showers and flush toilets centrally located in the middle of each camping loop. Pets on leashes are allowed in Addison Run, Bear Branch, and the Manor Area camping loops.

Primitive camping at the Manor Area Campground is available from Nov. 1 through March 31. This means that the bathhouse is closed for the winter, but a portable toilet is available. Area might close due to severe weather.

The William Houck Area Campground has four 4-person camper cabins and four six-person camper cabins. Each cabin site has a picnic table, fire ring, and lantern post. All cooking must be done outside the cabin. Some cabins have air conditioning but no heat. Campers may bring an electric heater or fan. No propane heaters are allowed. Campers must provide their own linens. There are firewood, ice and other camping supplies available for purchase upon arrival at the camp office or camp store.

The operation of generators is prohibited during quiet hours. At times outside of quiet hours, they must not disturb other visitors and preserve the peace and tranquility of the park environment.



CAMPSITE RESERVATION:

Reservations are recommended for both the William Houck and Manor Area campgrounds, since they often fill weeks or months in advance. Call 1-888-432-CAMP between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday–Friday, or reserve a site online anytime at parkreservations.maryland.gov

Campsite costs range up to \$34 per night; service charges, weekend, holiday, non-resident and electric premiums apply. Camper cabins cost \$50.49 for four-person and \$65.49 for six person; service charges apply. The Manor Area shelter can be reserved for \$36.75 per day; 150-person capacity, service charge applies. Alcohol is prohibited in the campgrounds and throughout the park, except by permit at the Manor Area shelter. Quiet hours start at 10 p.m.; check out is 1 p.m.



Beckley's provides camping services to Cunningham Falls, Gambrill

New for 2020! We have partnered with Beckley's RVs to offer visitors a special service. Beckley's staff will deliver and set up any available rental unit* from their inventory on your camp site prior to your arrival. After your stay, they will come and pick it up for you – no need to pull a trailer or purchase a tent that you will only use a few times a year. Call Beckley's RVs directly and tell them you are staying at Cunningham Falls or Gambrill state parks. They can provide options to meet



TIPS FOR CAMPING IN BLACK BEAR COUNTRY:

Bears do visit our campgrounds, and they will eat almost everything. Don't encourage a bear by leaving food or garbage around campsites. Garbage-trained bears associate food with humans and soon lose their fear of humans. Because of this loss of fear, a bear might become a danger to park visitors.

Here are a few simple reminders to help keep you and the bears safe and ensure that you have an enjoyable stay:

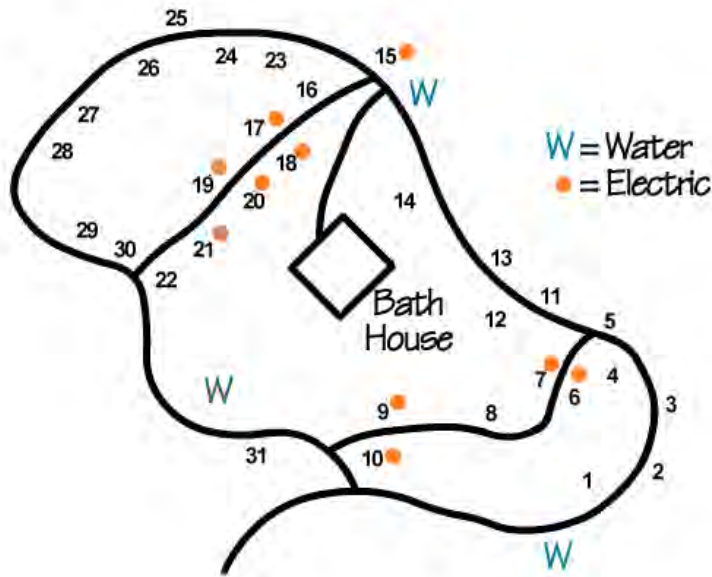
- Keep your campsite clean.
- Never keep food in your tent, and don't cook or eat in your tent. Bears follow their noses to food.
- Store food and garbage out of a bear's reach by storing food securely in the trunk of your vehicle. Remember to secure your pet's food also.
- Remove your trash from your site daily and place in the campground dumpsters. If you're just visiting for the day, remember Maryland State Parks are trash-free: take your trash home to be recycled and disposed of properly.
- Always clean utensils after each use.
- If a bear comes into camp, don't feed it! Scare it away by making noise.
- See a park employee to get more detailed information on how to camp in black bear country or visit dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife.

Photo by Debra Spurrier

your needs and will offer a 20% off discount for the service. Confirm your camping reservation, and they will take it from there. Call 1-800-301-4RVS or go to www.beckleysrvs.com/rentals/rv-rental to view their rental options and policies.

* The rental fee is in addition to the campsite reservation fee. Campsite limitations may limit camping unit size and availability. Any questions about the camping unit should be directed to Beckley's RVs staff.

MAP OF CUNNINGHAM FALLS MANOR CAMPING AREA



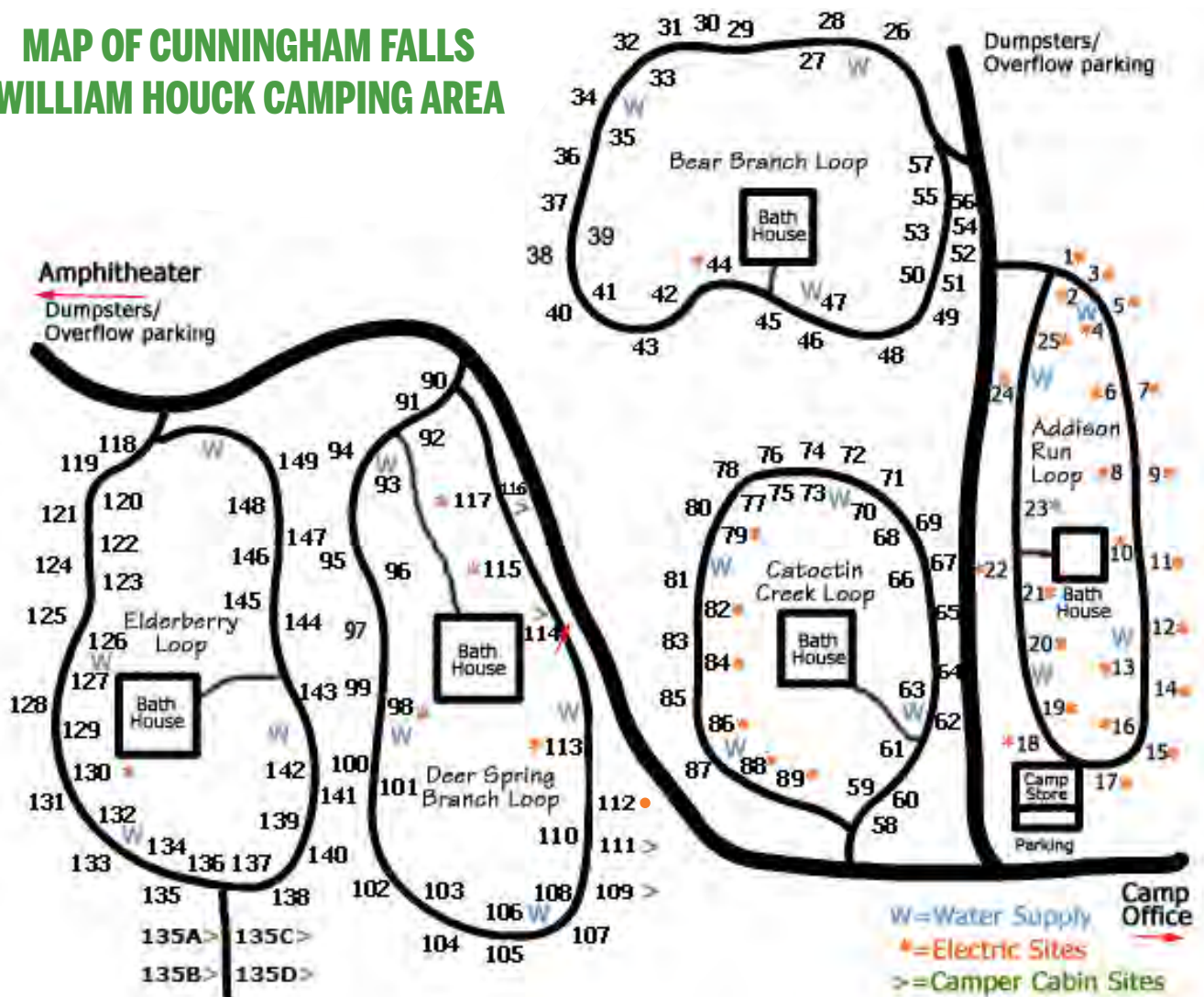
CAMP HOSTS WANTED

- Help maintain the park
- Make campers feel at home
- Help with special events and programs
- Have a good time!

In exchange for 20 hours of volunteer work per week, camp hosts receive a free campsite with full hook-ups and a sense of community with Cunningham Falls State Park.

Call 301-271-7574 for more information.

MAP OF CUNNINGHAM FALLS WILLIAM HOUCK CAMPING AREA



CUNNINGHAM FALLS & GAMBRILL STATE PARKS

2020 Special Events



March 14-15 & 21-22

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Cunningham Falls State Park
William Houck Lake Area

Learn the traditional process of maple sugaring and enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast for an additional charge. **\$3 DONATION.**

April 18

9 a.m. - noon

FISHING RODEO

Gambrill State Park

Anglers 15 and younger are invited to fish in the pond at Gambrill State Park. All participants must be accompanied by an adult and bring their own fishing tackle and bait. Limited to the first 35 registered participants. Call 301-293-4170 or email alicia.norris@maryland.gov to reserve your space. **FREE.**

May 16 & 17

MARYLAND IRON FESTIVAL

Cunningham Falls State Park
Historic Catoctin Iron Furnace
FREE.

June 6

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Cunningham Falls State Park

If you enjoy hiking and your public lands, this is the day to give back to the trails you love. Join Rangers for a day of trail work. You will work hard, get dirty and have fun while doing it. Work can be strenuous. Sturdy boots or shoes, work gloves and water are recommended. Register by calling 301-271-7574. **FREE.**

Aug. 8

ES MI PARQUE!

This Spanish language outreach program is a fun way to share our natural resources with the Hispanic community by reducing communication barriers. Join Rangers and other Natural Resources professionals for interactive animal programs, history demonstrations and more.

Sept. 13

3 to 5 p.m.

AUTUMN TEA AT THE TEA ROOM

Gambrill State Park
Tea Room

Enjoy a traditional tea service and the beautiful fall scenery at one of Frederick's oldest gathering places. For information and to reserve your seat, visit cunninghamgambrill.org.

Sept. 26

PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Gambrill State Park

Give back to your public lands by joining a small crew for an afternoon of cleanup and beautification projects at Gambrill State Park. Sturdy boots or shoes, work gloves and water are recommended. Register by calling 301-293-4170. **FREE.**

Oct. 17

SPIRITS OF THE FURNACE

Cunningham Falls State Park
Historic Catoctin Iron Furnace

Step back in time and experience a guided tour through the historic village with a seasonal twist. Spirits of the Furnace will tell stories based on local lore and historical events. Reservations and tickets required. For more information, visit catocinfurnace.org.

Oct. 25

FRIENDS 10K/5K/FUN RUN/WALK

Cunningham Falls State Park
William Houck Lake Area

Enjoy Frederick County's most scenic 5K Fun Run/Walk in the fall foliage and crisp air. Space is limited, so register early. Sponsored by the Friends of Cunningham Falls State Park. For information and to reserve your space, visit cunninghamgambrill.org



Jan. 1, 2021

FIRST DAY HIKES

Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks
Start the New Year off on the right foot by taking a hike through Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Rangers will be on hand to guide hikers and answer questions.



Interpretive programs

Interpretive programs for visitors are offered during the day and may vary in length and content on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Call ahead, 301-271-7574, for the latest information on upcoming programs.

SAVE THE DATE!

March 13-14 & 20-21, 2021
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Maple Syrup Festival 51st Anniversary

Cunningham Falls State Park



Deer at Sunrise by Abby Seal



HUNTING

Observe Safety Zones and Respect Private Property

Hunting is permitted on 4,400 acres of wild lands in accordance with statewide hunting regulations. A Maryland hunting license and knowledge of the Maryland hunting seasons is required. There is **NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS**, but it is allowed in surrounding areas. The hunting area consists of forested terrain with steep access routes. To improve your hunting experience, scout out the areas prior to hunting season. Hunters may enter and or remain on park property outside the regular posted hours provided they are engaged in legitimate, authorized hunting activity.

Make sure your weapon is unloaded in the safety zones and also while hiking to your destination through non-hunting areas. Respect private property. Off-road motorized vehicle use is strictly prohibited. Remember that many hikers using park trails may be unaware of hunting seasons. Park boundaries are marked with yellow paint bands; most hunting boundaries are posted with red and white "Managed Hunting Area" signs.

A reservation-only deer hunting area is available for hunters with a Hunt from the Vehicle Permit. Reservations are required and can be made beginning at 8 a.m. the day after Labor Day. Make reservations in person at the Park Administration Office or by calling 301-271-7574. Reservations can be made for Deer Firearm Season and the first week of Muzzleloader Season.

To learn more about hunting on public lands, hunting licenses and education programs, visit dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife.

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Fountain Rock Nature Center
8511 Nature Center Pl.
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HIT THE TRAILS

Cunningham Falls Park offers miles of mountain trails, many leading to scenic overlooks

The Cunningham Falls State Park trail system varies in terrain from short, flat hikes to steep and rocky ascents that will challenge even the experienced hiker. Trail distances vary from .5 mile to 7.5 miles.

Lower Trail

Blaze Color: **RED**
Distance: 0.5 mile
Difficulty: This easy to moderate trail is the shortest and easiest access to the Falls. Interpretive signs and benches along the way. Return to the lake by this trail or Cliff Trail. This trail terminates at the Falls.

Cliff Trail

Blaze Color: **YELLOW**
Distance: 0.75 mile
Difficulty: Rough terrain offers strenuous hiking past rock outcrops that lead to the Falls. Return to the lake by this trail or Lower Trail.

Campground Trail

Blaze Color: **ORANGE**
Distance: 0.75 mile
Difficulty: This strenuous trail gives campers direct access to the Cliff Trail.

Old Misery Trail

Blaze Color: **ORANGE**
Distance: 2 miles
Difficulty: This steep, strenuous trail with many switchbacks and scenic views connects with the Cat Rock Trail.

Catoctin Trail

Blaze Color: **BLUE**
Distance: 27 miles
Difficulty: This strenuous trail leads from Gambrill State Park through Frederick City Watershed, Cunningham Falls and Catoctin Mountain Park. Nine miles of trails are in Cunningham Falls. Camping permitted only in designated campgrounds.

Cat Rock Trail

Blaze Color: **YELLOW**
Distance: 3 miles
Difficulty: This steep, strenuous trail leads to Cat Rock (elevation 1,560 feet) and scenic views. Trail connects to Catoctin Trail.

Bob's Hill Trail

Blaze Color: **YELLOW**
Distance: 1.5 miles
Difficulty: This steep, strenuous trail leads to Bob's Hill (elevation 1,765 feet) and two short spur trails with views north and south.

Catoctin Furnace Trail

Blaze Color: **NO BLAZE**
Distance: 0.25 mile
Difficulty: A self-guided trail which leads to Catoctin Furnace. Crosses US 15 via elevated foot path (46 steps up the stairway).



TIPS FOR THE TRAILS

- Pets are allowed on the trails, but must be kept on a leash at all times.
- Horseback riding is permitted only on that part of the Catoctin Trail that is located between the park boundary with the Frederick City Municipal Watershed and the Manor Area. Horseback riding is not permitted in the Houck Area that includes the lake and the falls.
- Find trail maps on pages 14-15

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5 Locations

HAGERSTOWN FREDERICK
Sharpsburg Pike 36 Thomas Johnson Dr.
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PROPANE REFILLS

- Motor Homes
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- Heater Tanks

877-RU-RENTS (787-3687) rentalsunlimited.com



Gambrill State Park

Park Address:
8602 Gambrill Park Road
Frederick, MD 21072
Contact: 301-271-7574 **Emergencies:** 410-260-8888

- Parking
- Scenic
- Fishing
- Pavillion
- Restroom
- Picnic
- Camper Mini-Cabin
- ADA Accessible Features

Trail (color indicates Blaze)

Park Boundary (Approx.)

Park Road

20' Contour Interval
(from USGS)



Last Updated Feb 2020
Gambrill State Park Website:
dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/western/gambrill.aspx

LEGEND

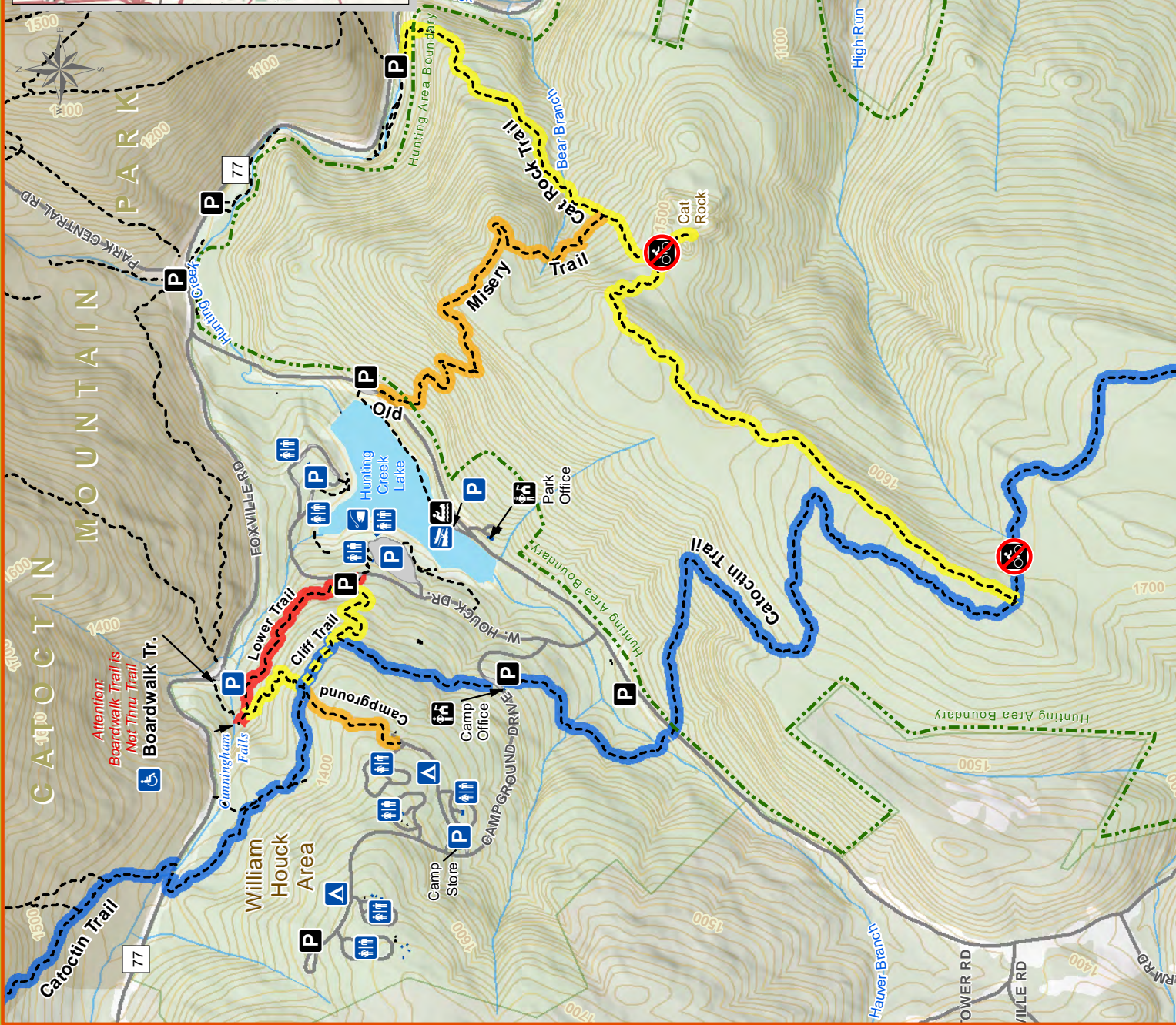
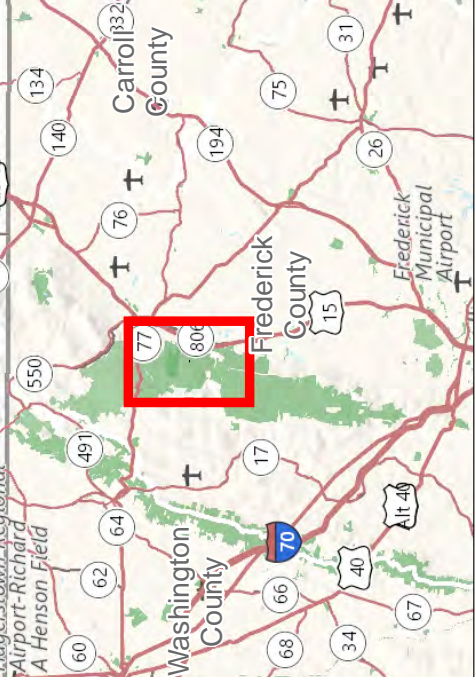
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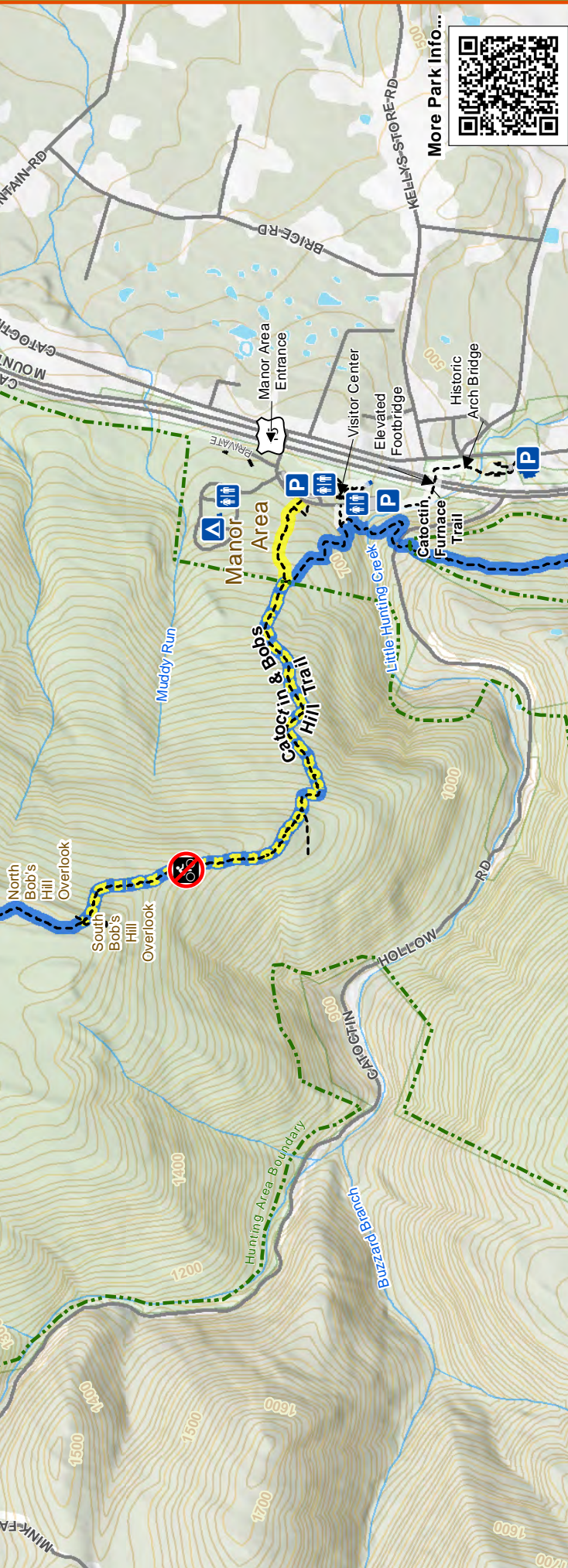


PULLOUT MAP – Take it with you! It's removable.

Gambrill map continues on page 16.

Location of Cunningham Falls State Park





Cunningham Falls State Park

Parking

Restroom

Park Office

Shelter

Campground

Boat Ramp

Accessible Features

Trail (color indicates Blaze)

Park Boundary (Approx.)

Other Protected Lands

Federal Lands

Roads

20' Contour Interval (from USGS)

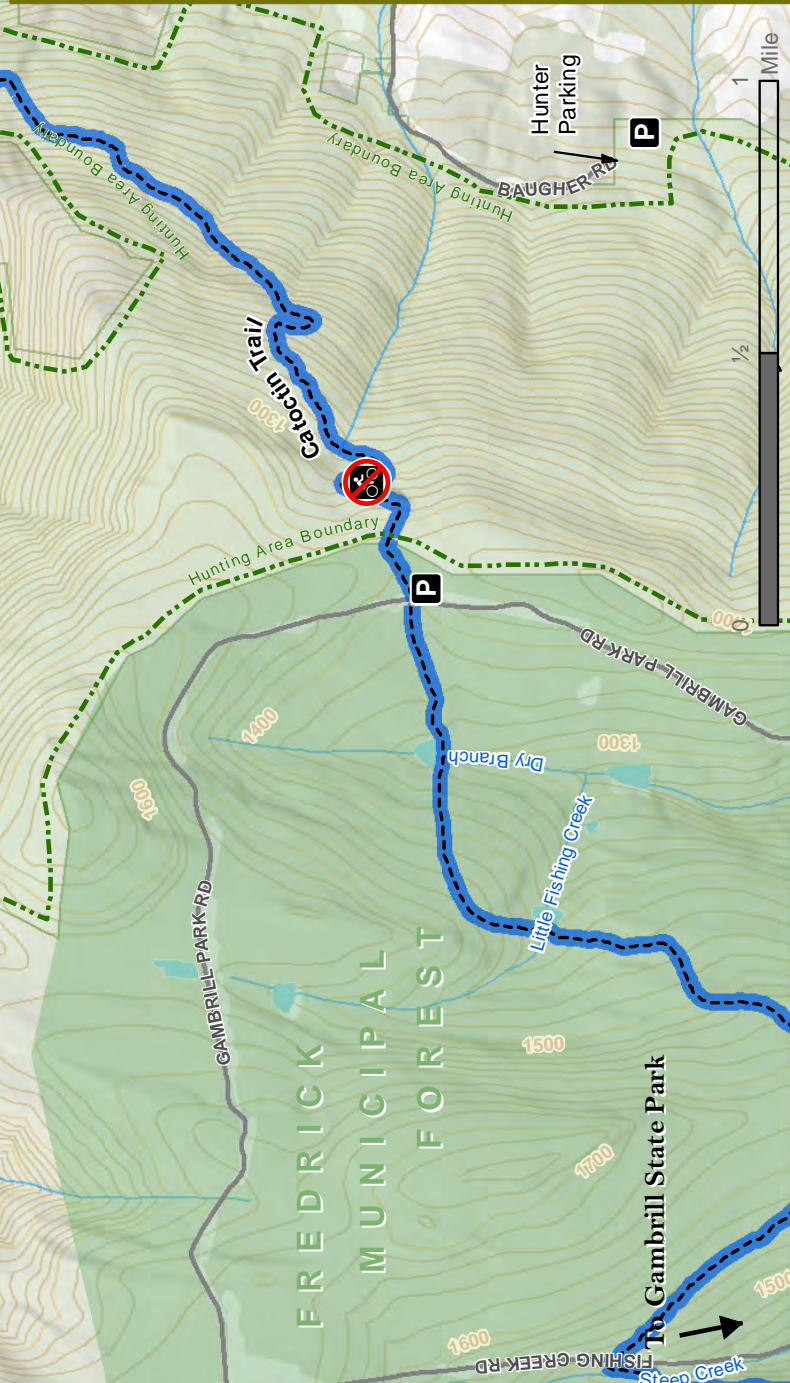
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

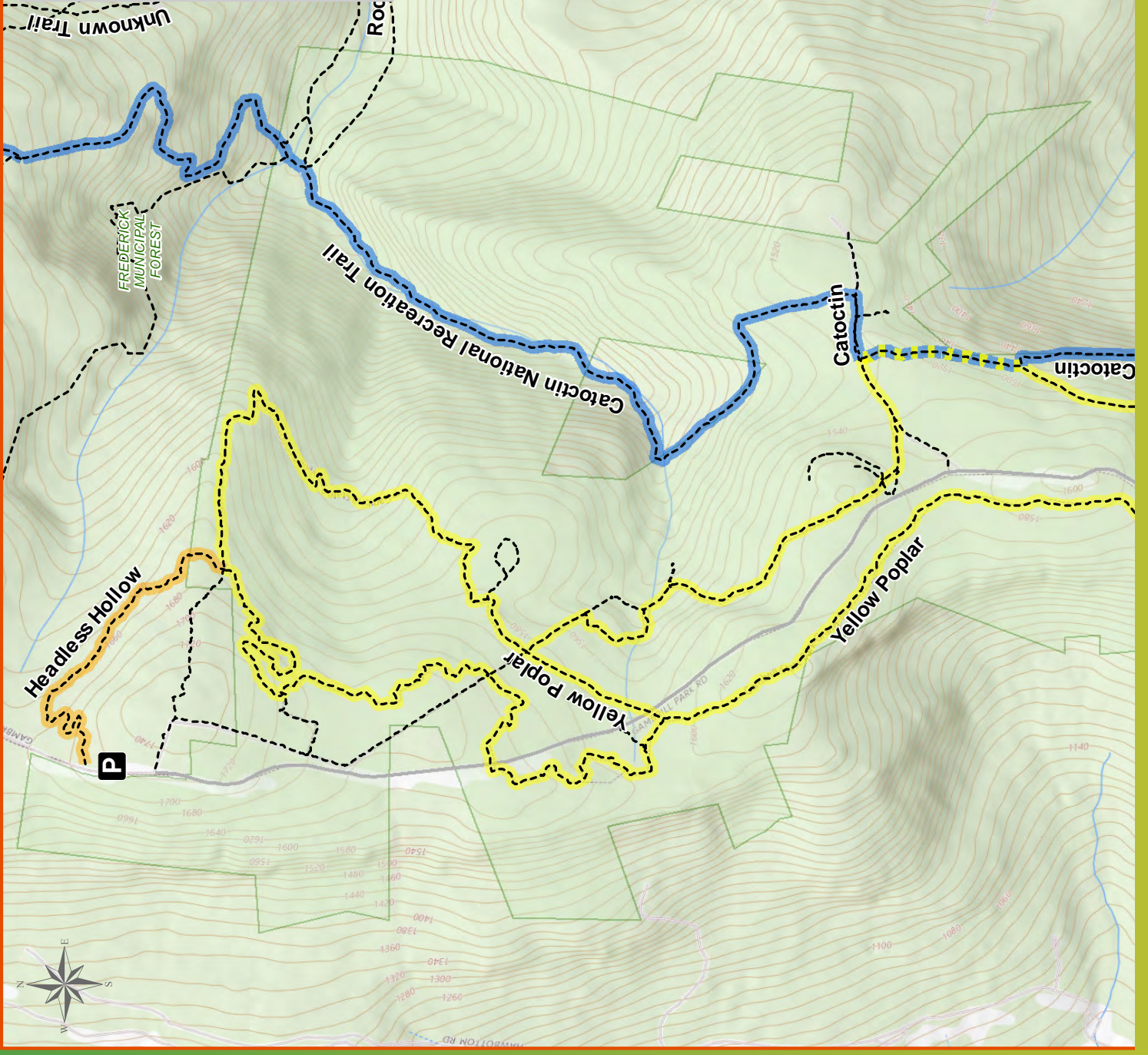
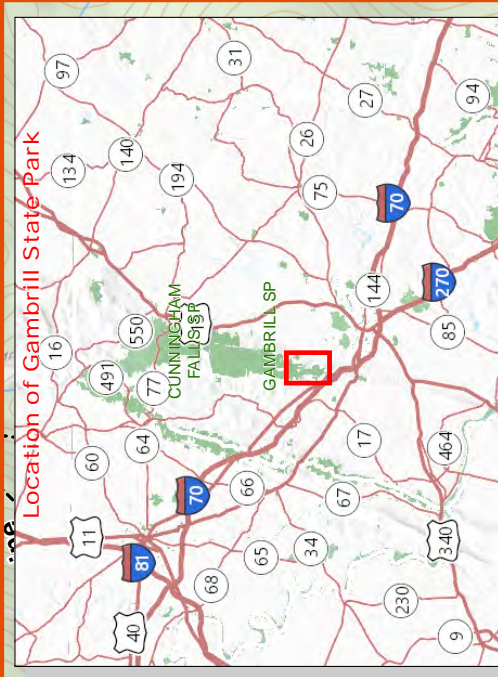
CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK

More Park Info...

Last Updated Feb 2020
Cunningham Falls website:
dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/western/cunningham.aspx

LEGEND







GAMBRILL STATE PARK

Challenging Trails, Scenic Overlooks and a Cozy Campground Combine in this Beautiful Park

Gambrell State Park is a beautiful mountain park, located on the ridge of the Catoctin Mountains in Frederick County. Its most popular feature is the 16 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The park is separated into two areas: the Rock Run area and the High Knob area. From the 1,500-foot High Knob, three stone overlooks offer breathtaking views of the Frederick and Middletown valleys then continue to the northern reaches of the Shenandoah Mountains. The High Knob area also offers wooded picnic areas, three picnic shelters, and a large stone lodge, called the Tea Room. The picnic shelters and the Tea Room are available for reservation. The Rock Run area offers a cozy family-style campground, a picnic area, and a small pond for fishing.

Gambrell State Park was named in honor of the late James H. Gambrell Jr., a well-known citizen of Frederick. Mr. Gambrell was a conservationist who first brought attention to the beauty of the area in the early 1900s. He believed that it was in the public's best interest to develop the area into a park, and a group of local citizens, following his lead, joined together to purchase the land.

Most of the buildings and facilities within the park were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a Federal program created during the Great

Depression to create jobs for young men and to help restore the nation's struggling natural resources. The Corps built the park's Tea Room, a native-stone building originally designed for community events and gatherings that is still available for reservation today.

Picnicking: Picnic tables, grills, restrooms, and playground facilities are available at Gambrell State Park. The High Knob area also offers three rustic log picnic shelters, available for rent from April through October. Pets are allowed in the day-use area.

Fishing: A small pond is located in the Rock Run area, just a short walk from the campground. The pond has a healthy population of large mouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. Swimming or wading is not allowed in the pond. Pets also are not allowed in the pond. The pond is a free fishing area; no license is required.

Nature Center: The Nature Center, located in the High Knob area of the park, features information on the Civilian Conservation Corps, as well as information on native wildlife. The Nature Center also has activity packets available for family activities such as scavenger hunts and self-guided hikes. The center is open by appointment; please contact the Park Office to schedule access.

DAY USE SERVICE CHARGES

Year-round \$3*/vehicle

Maryland State Park Passport

(good at any Maryland State Park): \$75*

For Maryland State Park Passport information visit dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands

*Maryland resident discount; additional fees for out-of-state residents

PLAN YOUR VISIT

- Limited parking available at High Knob and Trailhead Areas. North Frederick Overlook and Rock Run Areas closed to vehicular traffic during periods of inclement weather. All areas are open to foot traffic.
- Pets on leashes are allowed on Gambrell State Park trails, the day use area and in the campground.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all state park areas except in rental facilities with permit.
- Shelters are available by reservation for \$41 per day; service charge applies. 35 person capacity.
- The Tea Room may be reserved for \$126 per day on non-holiday weekdays and \$226 per day on holiday weekdays/weekends; service charge applies. 55 person capacity.
- Call 1-888-432-CAMP between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday–Friday, or reserve online anytime at parkreservations.maryland.gov

HIT THE TRAILS

Gambrell Park offers miles of mountain trails, beautiful views from scenic overlooks

Gambrell State Park has over 16 miles of trails, which begin at the Trailhead Parking Lot on Gambrell Park Road, between the Rock Run area and the High Knob area. Though the terrain is steep and rocky, hikers are rewarded with three scenic vistas of the Frederick and Middletown valleys. All trails close at sunset.

Catoctin Trail

Blaze Color: **BLUE** Distance: 27 miles
Difficulty: This strenuous trail leads from Gambrell State Park through Frederick City Watershed, Cunningham Falls and Catoctin Mountain Park. Nine miles of trails are in Cunningham Falls. Camping permitted only in designated campgrounds.

White Oak Trail

Blaze Color: **WHITE** Distance: 1 mile
Difficulty: This easy loop trail is a good choice for families with small children.

Yellow Poplar Trail

Blaze Color: **YELLOW** Distance: 7.1 miles
Difficulty: Loop trail features some steep and rocky sections and passes two stone overlooks built by the Civilian Conservation Corps; considered one of the most "technical" trails in Maryland by mountain bikers.

Green Ash Trail

Blaze Color: **GREEN** Distance: 2 miles
Difficulty: Several steep slopes and little level ground.

TIPS FOR THE TRAILS

- Pets are allowed on the trails, but must be kept on a leash at all times.
- All trails in Gambrell State Park are open to horseback riding and mountain biking, with the exception of the White Oak Trail, which is restricted to hiking. Parking for horse trailers is limited.

Red Maple Trail

Blaze Color: **RED** Distance: 1 mile
Difficulty: One short steep section; connects to the campground.

Black Ash Trail

Blaze Color: **BLACK ON WHITE**
Distance: 3.3 miles
Difficulty: Moderate difficulty with several steep slopes; shows off the beauty of the park with views of the Frederick Valley to the east and Middletown Valley to the west.

GAMBRILL STATE PARK CAMPING



The Rock Run area of Gambrill State Park has a campground with 34 campsites. Each campsite has a picnic table, fire ring, and lantern post. Some campsites also have electric hook-ups. All types of camping units are welcome. A dump station is available for sewage and potable water. A bathhouse is located at the center of the campground, with hot showers and

flush-toilets. The operation of generators is prohibited during quiet hours. At times outside of quiet hours, they must not disturb other visitors and preserve the peace and tranquility of the park environment.

Four camper cabins with electricity are also available in the Rock Run Campground. Camper cabins are designed to sleep up to four people, with one bunk bed

CAMP HOSTS WANTED

- Help maintain the park
- Make campers feel at home
- Help with special events and programs
- Have a good time!

In exchange for 20 hours of volunteer work per week, camp hosts receive a free campsite with full hook-ups and a sense of community with Gambrill State Park.

Call 301-271-7574 for more information.

and one full size bed. Linens are not provided. Each cabin site has a picnic table, fire ring, and lantern post. All cooking must be done outside the cabin. Cabins have no heat or air conditioning, but campers may bring an electric heater or fan. Propane heaters are not allowed.

Campsite Reservation

Call 1-888-432-CAMP between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday–Friday, or reserve a site online anytime at parkreservations.maryland.gov. Campsite costs range between \$18.49 and \$24.49 per night plus reservation fee; weekend, holiday, non-resident and electric premiums apply. Camper cabins cost \$50.49 per night plus reservation fee. Alcohol is prohibited in the campgrounds and throughout the park, except by permit at the Tea Room and shelter. Quiet hours start at 10 p.m.; check out is noon for cabins, 1 p.m. for camp sites.

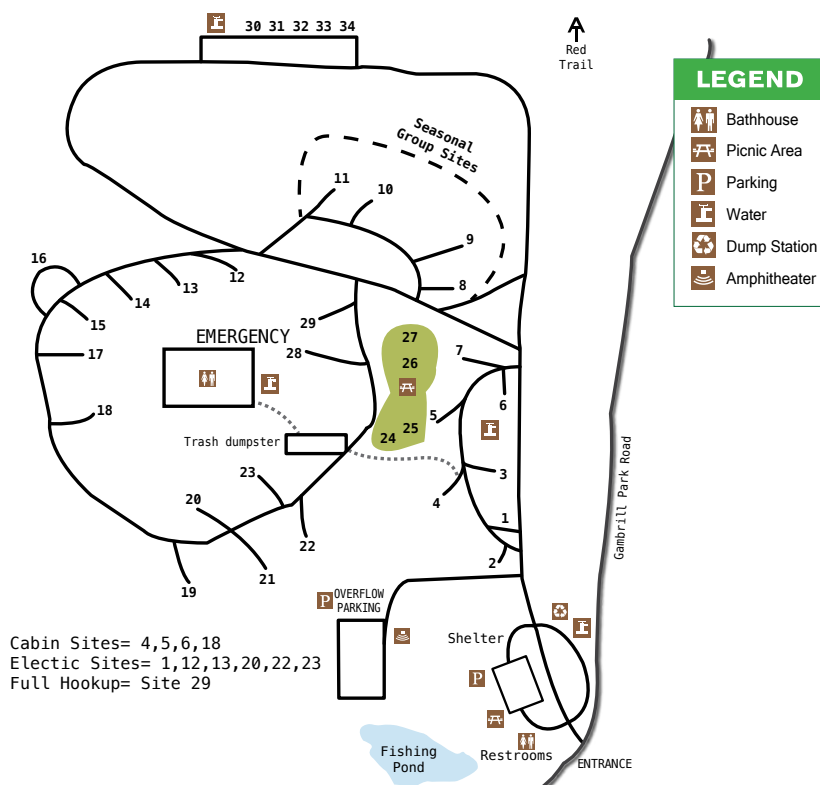
Pets on leashes are permitted in the campground and at cabin 18. Bears do visit our campgrounds. See page 6 for tips on how to keep yourself and the bears safe.

The Rock Run Campground offers two group sites. The sites are available by reservation through the park office from April to the Thursday before Memorial Day weekend, and the day after Labor Day through October. Each site has a capacity of 20 people. For information or reservations, call 301-293-4170.

Rock Run Campground

8002 Gambrill Park Road
Frederick, Md.
301-271-7574

MAP OF GAMBRILL STATE PARK CAMPING AREA



Tea Room Open House Dates 2020

Wed. April 15

Sun. May 10

Wed. June 17

Wed. July 15

Wed. August 19

Wed. September 9

Wed. October 7



GAMBRILL TEA ROOM

Charming Features and Spectacular Views for Any Occasion

The Tea Room has been a popular feature of Gambrell State Park for over 70 years. The native-stone building, built by the CCC in the 1930s, was originally designed for community events and gatherings. Today, the Tea Room is a popular location for weddings, family reunions, business meetings, and other special events. The main hall features cathedral ceilings with exposed rafters and massive log beams. A stacked-stone fireplace offers a cozy focal point, and outdoors, the hillside sweeps away from the building-length veranda, offering sweeping views of the valley below.

In addition to the main dining room, the Tea Room includes two restrooms and a kitchen with a household-sized refrigerator, sink, conventional oven and stove. Tables, chairs, and firewood are also provided. The building is available for rent from April through October, and can accommodate up to 55 people. Alcohol permits are available for an additional fee. Pets are not allowed in the Tea Room. To reserve the Tea Room, visit parkreservations.maryland.gov.

Due to the popularity of the Tea Room for weddings and small meeting events, we have set aside several monthly open house dates for potential renters and park visitors to get a glimpse of this one-of-a-kind venue.

HM788397.1

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Make lasting memories one campfire at a time...



CAMPING CABINS
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Set up once,
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PET FRIENDLY
LODGING AVAILABLE



Thurmont, Maryland



301-271-7012





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TALKING TREADS TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

- Help park staff and other volunteers lead interpretive hikes throughout Cunningham Falls & Gambrill State Parks.
- Perform routine trail maintenance, provide park staff with trail reports, and help with special trail projects.

SEEDS & WEEDS PLANT VOLUNTEERS

- Manage pollinator, sensory and native gardens and plants throughout the parks using multiple types of hand tools.
- Plant native species, mulch, fertilize and pull weeds in the gardens, and also remove invasive plants.

VOLUNTEER CONSTRUCTION CREW

- Perform small carpentry and maintenance projects throughout the parks. Examples include building perches for the Aviary raptors, upgrading picnic tables, and repairing campground accessories.
- Volunteers in this crew can already possess skills with hand tools to join, but no experience is necessary—just a willingness to learn.

VISITOR & NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

- Greet park visitors, provide accurate information, answer questions, and be the happy face of the park.
- People who enjoy helping others, who love the parks, and who want to share that joy with others are encouraged to volunteer.

BE A FRIEND!

Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks, Inc. is a 501(c)3 dedicated to helping actively and financially support the programs and facilities of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Members host and volunteer at special events like the annual Maple Syrup Festival and Tea at the Tea Room program. The Friends also help raise grant funds for historic preservation, purchase needed equipment and help support the Scales & Tales Aviary. Go to www.cunninghamgambrill.org to join or donate.

MARYLAND MASTER NATURALIST CLASSES FORMING FOR FALL 2020

This is an intensive volunteer training course for people who want to know

more about their local environment and how they can help. Participants meet weekly for eight weeks and learn from environmental experts in geology, botany, wildlife, local history and more. This year's class is being hosted by the Frederick County Nature Council starting on Sept. 11. For information, contact Dana Collingwood at DCollingwood@frederickcountymd.gov.

**YOU CAN
VOLUNTEER!
LEND A HAND!**

Email coordinator
Claudia Padilla at
claudia.padilla@maryland.gov
or call 301-271-3676 to
learn more about
volunteering or to request
an application.



MAY 16-17, 2020
10AM-5PM • BOTH DAYS

FREE ADMISSION
www.catoctinfurnace.org

MOUNTAINS, METAL & MALT

The Maryland Iron Festival, celebrated in the historic village of Catoctin Furnace, Catoctin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park, commemorates the state as a center for the craft of ironmaking.

FEATURING:

- Blacksmithing & Casting Demonstrations
- Delicious Historic Foods
- Wine & Beer Garden
- Heirloom Plants & Flowers
- Cannonball Toss & Anvil-Lifting Contests
- Arts, Crafts, & Jewelry
- Children's Activities
- Plein Air Artists at Work

LIVE MUSIC

Saturday | May 16
Jubilee Voices

Sunday | May 17
Slim Harrison

SAVE THE DATE

October 9-10
Fallfest at Catoctin Furnace
October 17
Spirits of the Furnace

December 5
Traditional Village Christmas
December 12
Museums by Candlelight

Festival Partners:



Special Thanks To:



SCALES & TALES

Cunningham Falls State Park is home to one of the Maryland Park Service's Scales & Tales Aviaries housing non-releasable wildlife native to Maryland. From a bald eagle to an 80-pound snapping turtle, its animal ambassadors come in all shapes and sizes and all have valuable stories to share. It is through these stories, or "tales" of how each animal came to live at the Aviary, that naturalists discuss vital environmental issues, such as protecting wildlife, climate change and how we impact our environment every day.

The Aviary is open to park visitors at various hours throughout the year. Starting in April, the Aviary is open to visitors on the weekends. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the aviary is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. After Labor Day, the Aviary returns to weekend hours only. Scales & Tales is also featured in many of the park's programs. Sign up for our park newsletter at bit.do/GovDelivery to receive updates of onsite programs.

The Scales & Tales program provides up-close animal presentations and displays that engage the public, are educational and are fun for all ages. This environmental education program brings nature into classrooms, community centers, festivals, fairs and many other public locations. A variety of programs, provided year-round, are available for booking with a service charge. The Cunningham Falls Scales & Tales primarily serves Frederick, Washington, and Montgomery Counties, but will consider other surrounding areas.

To reserve a Scales & Tales program, or for more information about Scales & Tales, call 301-271-3676.

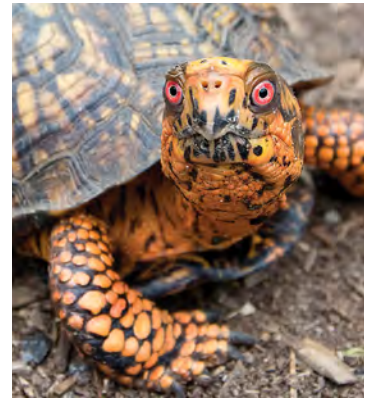


Photo by MJ Clingan

Visit

HAGERSTOWN

& WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD





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App! It's FREE!**

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301-791-3246
VISITHAGERSTOWN.COM



50th Annual MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL *set for March 14-15, March 21-22*



The sweet smell of spring is in the air when Maple Sugarin' season comes alive in our state parks! As the days become a bit longer and slightly warmer, the maple sap begins to flow. The best weather for good sap flow is when we have cold nights below freezing and then warmer, mild days above 40 degrees. When the sap is flowing, the trees are tapped with a metal spile and bucket to collect the sap. The maple sap is then collected from the trees and boiled down to make delicious pure maple syrup. Maple sap is actually mostly water – up to 98% water and just 2% sugar. It takes 40 gallons of maple sap to make just one gallon of real maple syrup.

Celebrate the 50th annual Maple Syrup Festival March 14-15 and March 21-22 with park staff and volunteers at Cunningham Falls State Park! Gather around the Sugar Shack where sugarmakers will demonstrate the traditional way of simmering sap to syrup starting on the half hour, every hour. Devour Maryland-made maple syrup served over a hot pancake and sausage breakfast. Live music will fill the heated tent with familiar tunes while your kids join in nature-based crafting. Don't forget to take a hayride through the Maple Grove to see exactly how Park Rangers collected sap. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the festival, we are bringing back the antique tractor display!

Proceeds from the Maple Syrup Festival benefit the nonprofit Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Park hours are from 9 a.m. until sunset. Breakfast will be served from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. for an additional cost. Hayrides will leave on the hour of every hour. A sign language interpreter will be stationed at the Sugar Shack on both Sundays. Pets are permitted on a leash, outside only. This event is ADA accessible.



BE A MARYLAND JUNIOR RANGER!

This exciting program for youth ages 8-13 introduces kids to the outdoors and Maryland state parks with fun guided programs.

Look for the Ranger Hat icon on weekly program flyers or ask staff about annual Junior Ranger Activity Sessions. Each extended session meets six times over the summer to learn about parks, animals, plants, history, planet Earth, and how we can make a positive difference for the environment. Junior Rangers who complete all six sessions get a patch and certificate. Just here for the weekend? You can still join in on the fun! This year we are reintroducing the Maryland Junior Ranger Activity Guide. This simple activity guide gives kids an opportunity to learn about the program during their visit. Complete the book and present it to a park naturalist at our Nature Center or our Camp Office and earn a cool collector's sticker. It is free for all kids younger than 13. Spanish language copies are available.



CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK

Recreation and Renewal

In 1936, the National Park Service received a directive to cultivate Catoctin Mountain as a Recreation Demonstration Area with rustic cabin camps, trails, picnic grounds and other public use amenities. It was one of 46 similar projects planned nationwide under the Recreation Demonstration Area program, a component of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, and something Americans had never tried on this scale.

Planners considered what facilities they would build, the condition of the natural resources, and who would do all the work. In doing so, they were guided by the twin ideals of renewing the spirit of American optimism and revitalizing the natural environment.

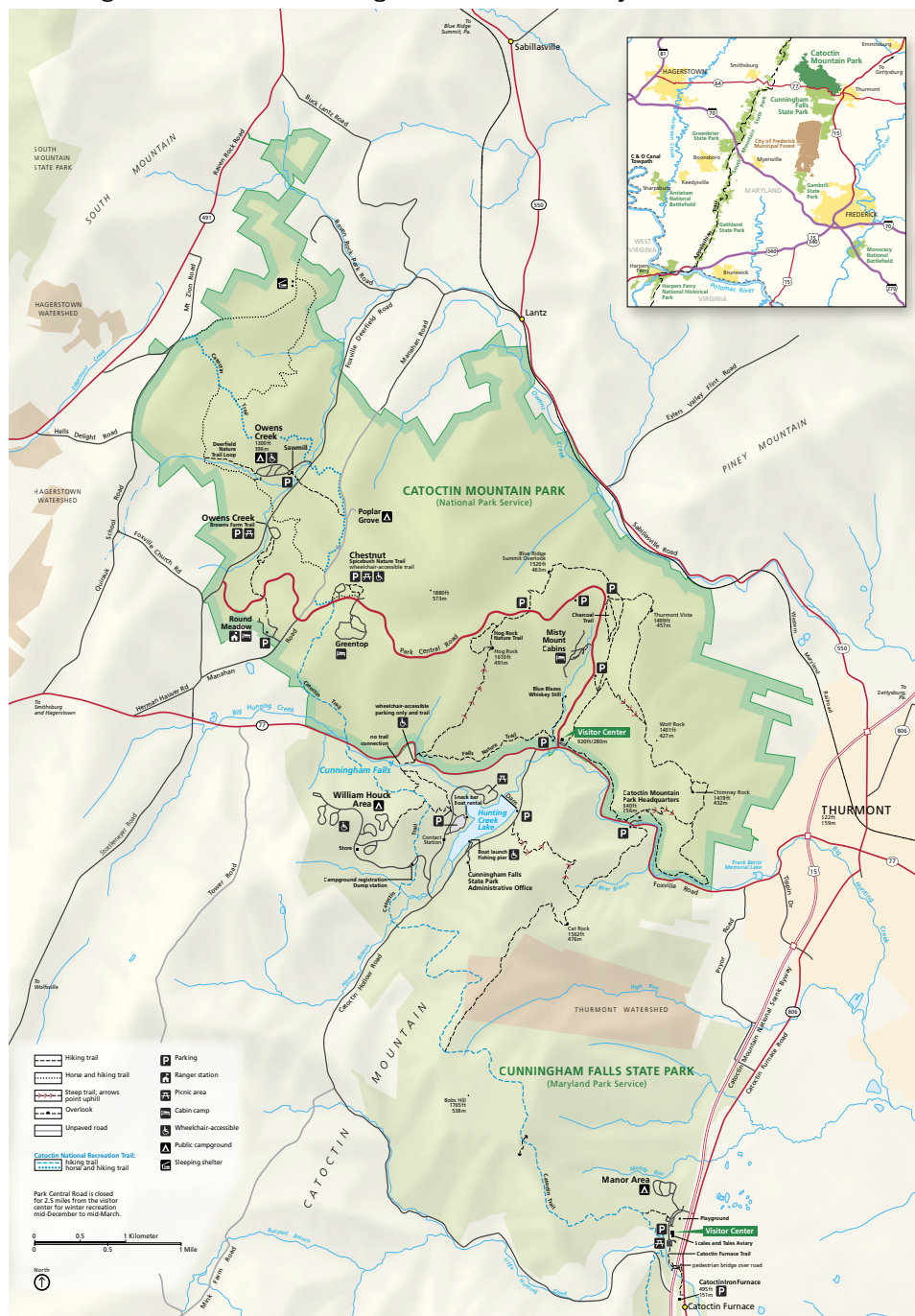
We continue to lean on those ideals – and a cadre of dedicated employees, partners and volunteers – to preserve the area for the enjoyment of future generations.



In the 1950's, the area was divided into two parks, one managed by the State of Maryland as Cunningham Falls State Park, and one managed by the National Park Service as Catoctin Mountain Park. Today, Catoctin Mountain Park preserves many resources and stories of national significance, including the site of the first Job Corps Camp, the nation's oldest camp for people with disabilities, the places used as secret training grounds for Office of Strategic Services officers during World

War II, and evidence of the resiliency and diversity of Eastern deciduous forests.

Stop in the Visitor Center and learn more about the history and natural beauty that resides here. Ask about the many trails options. Learn about charcoal-making or the Blue Blazes Whiskey Still. Camp at Owens Creek Campground or look across the landscape from majestic Chimney Rock. Experience recreation and renew yourself.



THURMONT PARKS

Destination for Relaxation!

By Jim Humerick

Thurmont has always been a popular destination for folks looking to visit great parks, relax, and get back to nature. With fantastic parks such as Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park close by, who wouldn't consider Thurmont their "happy place" when it comes to parks? However, the Town of Thurmont is also proud of our local parks that fall within our corporate boundaries. Thurmont, with just over 6,500 residents, proudly manages and maintains 11 parks, totaling 76.7 acres. Each of the parks has its own unique characteristics and amenities. Thanks to grant funding from Program Open Space and Community Parks and Playgrounds, park upgrades and enhancements in many of our parks have been completed, providing top-notch amenities for our residents and visitors to enjoy.

THURMONT COMMUNITY PARK is a popular spot for residents and visitors! Community Park is a hub of the annual Colorfest held every October. Community Park is also home of the annual Halloween in the Park, horse-and-carriage rides during Christmas in Thurmont, and holiday decorations which adorn the park every December. Park amenities include two picnic pavilions that can be reserved for all types of events. There are also rest rooms, tennis courts, basketball courts, and an exercise trail.

EAST END PARK is a one-of-a-kind facility that allows children of all abilities to be able to play without obstacles. Other amenities within East End Park include a second playground, baseball/softball fields, a picnic pavilion, and the East End Dog Park.

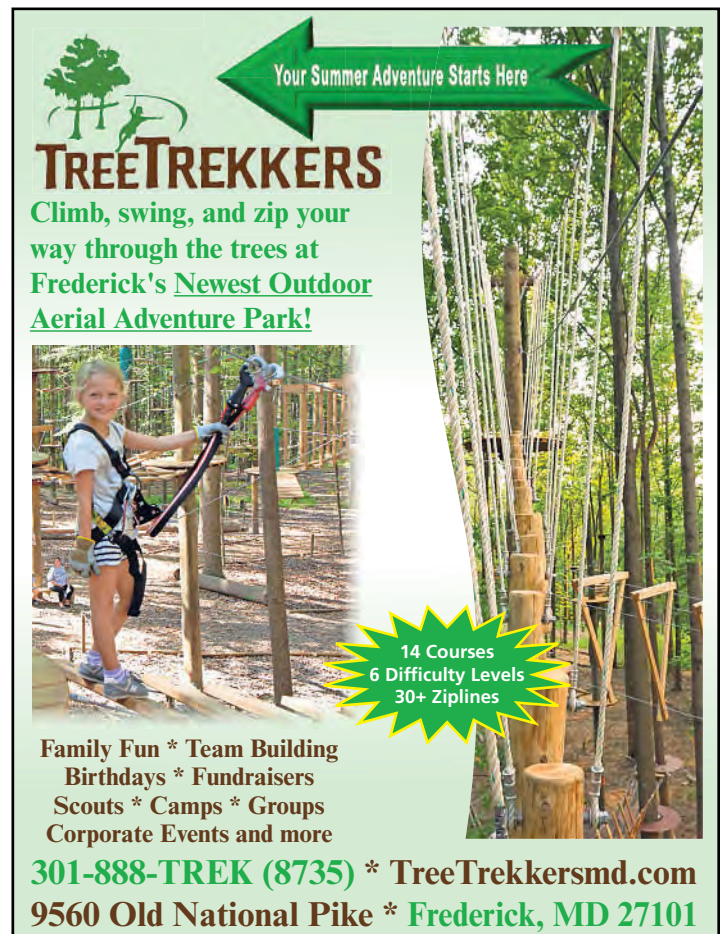
EYLER ROAD PARK is the largest of Thurmont's parks, and focuses mainly on sports and recreational activities, and is home to the Catoctin Youth Association. This park includes seven soccer fields and two football/lacrosse fields.

Many of the residential neighborhoods in Thurmont have parks located throughout to provide open space and recreational activities. **PLEASANT ACRES PARK** provides a half basketball court, a playground, and picnicking. **ORCHARD HILLS PARK** has a playground and open play areas. **WOODLAND PARK** has a large playground, picnicking, and a half basketball court. **CARROLL STREET PARK** is home to the Thurmont Community Gardens where residents can rent garden plots to create some home-grown veggies.

ICE PLANT PARK is adjacent to the Thurmont Carnival Grounds and has a nice playground, as well as open play areas. **MECHANICSTOWN SQUARE PARK** is located on the square and has a beautiful water fountain, and beautiful flower beds which come alive each summer. Tables in the park have checker boards for friendly games of checkers.

MEMORIAL PARK on East Main Street honors local veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice while representing the United States military. The park hosts events on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day. Summer concerts are also held during the town's Summer Concert Series.

Parks in Thurmont are maintained in the highest quality by the Town of Thurmont Streets and Parks Department. We hope to see everyone get outside and enjoy the wonderful parks that Thurmont has to offer! It's a destination for relaxation!



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6 Difficulty Levels
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301-888-TREK (8735) * TreeTrekksmd.com
9560 Old National Pike * Frederick, MD 27101



LEAVE NO TRACE

Enjoy the outdoors and Maryland State Parks responsibly

Enjoying the outdoors is something everyone should have the opportunity to do, but recreation always disturbs natural conditions. In order to help preserve the natural beauty along the trails and in park wildlands for your own enjoyment and for generations to come, please minimize your impact by following Leave No Trace outdoor ethics:

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know the rules and regulations. Call the Park at 301-271-7574 if you have questions.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies. Call 410-260-8888 or 911 if you have an emergency.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use, or user conflicts.
- Be aware of hunters. Hunting is heaviest from late September through December, and April through May. Wear bright-colored clothing during hunting seasons.
- Travel in small groups. Avoid groups larger than 15 participants.

- Use a map. Trail maps are available in this guide. Rangers will gladly answer specific questions at Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Park headquarters.
- Cunningham Falls State Park trails are for hiking only except for limited access to horseback riders. Gambrill State Park trails are open to hiking and mountain biking, with several available for horseback riding, as well.
- Follow official blazes. Avoid bushwhacking your own trail or following abandoned roads.

CAMP AT DESIGNATED CAMPSITES

- It is illegal to camp in undesignated campsites in Maryland.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- Pack-it-in, pack-it-out. There are no trash cans in Maryland State Parks Day Use Areas.
- Remember to "go" before you go. Use the restroom facilities provided in the park.
- Dish washing stations are available next to the bath houses

- A dump station is available at the Houck Campground and the Rock Run Campground for trailers and recreational vehicles. Contact park staff for assistance.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Pick up after your pets and deposit waste in an approved receptacle.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historical structures or artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing and/or transporting non-native species.
- Avoid building structures, furniture or digging trenches.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Use established fire rings at designated campsites.
- Keep fires small.
- Use only timber found on the ground. Do not cut live vegetation. Pre-packaged firewood is available for sale. Contact park staff for assistance.

- Burn all wood or coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow, approach or feed. Stay on the trail to reduce surprise encounters.
- Store food and trash securely. Black bears frequent Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks.
- Control pets. Dogs must be leashed.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Avoid climbing on the falls. It is dangerous and disturbs other visitors.
- Be courteous. Yield to other trail users.
- Avoid loud voices and noises, especially during quiet hours in the campgrounds. Quiet hours begin at 10 p.m. in all camping areas.

Learn more at Int.org.

DEPARTMENT BUILDS FISH HABITAT AT CUNNINGHAM FALLS

Reused Materials Restore Spawning and Feeding Areas

Courtesy of Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Crews from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources this winter helped expand fish habitat in Cunningham Falls State Park's Hunting Creek Lake.

Staff joined with the Maryland Conservation Corps to help construct the artificial habitat using upcycling debris and recycled materials found around the park, including PVC tubing, rubber garden hoses, wooden pallets, and five-gallon buckets filled with cement.

"These habitat structures attract baitfish, which in turn attract larger fish," Ranger

Travis Watts said. "They can be very productive locations for anglers."

Last fall, construction crews had to draw down the water level in order to re-grade the lake's sandy beach area and remove a berm. Once the water levels were reduced, park staff noticed an absence of structure along the edges of the lake which means the fish had no areas to spawn, hide, or feed.

By providing artificial habitat along the perimeter of the lake, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources can ensure that the fish have what they need to thrive.



Staff deploy fish habitat made from recycled materials into Hunting Creek Lake.

The park plans to provide GPS coordinates of the new structures for park visitors so anglers can map where fish will more likely be located. It

will also provide a reference for boaters.

Habitat construction and installation is expected to continue into the spring.



THURMONT, MD

GETAWAY TO THE GATEWAY!



Wineries



Historic Main Street



Covered Bridges



Colorfest



Farmers Market June-Sept.



Main Street Center



Thurmont Trolley Trail



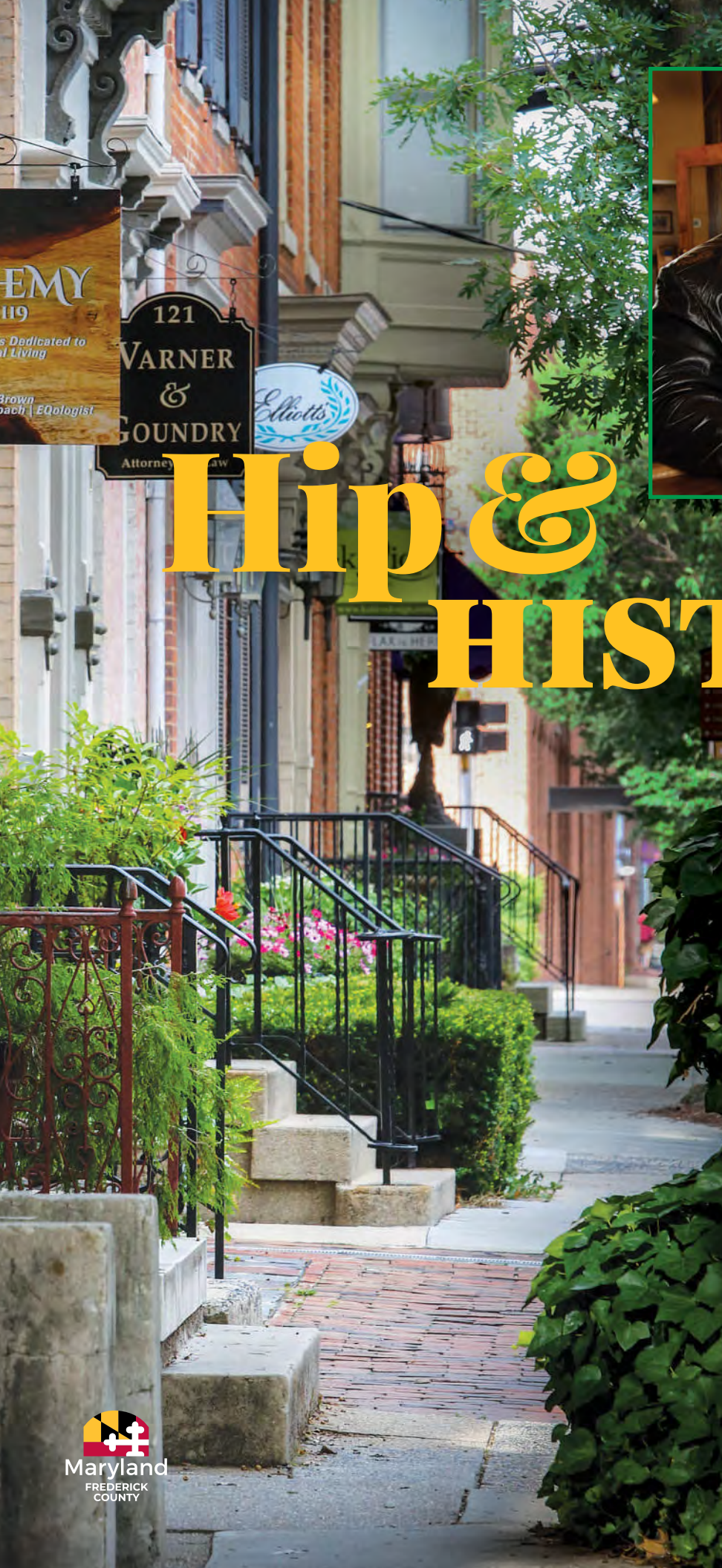
Orchards

HISTORY | DINING | SHOPPING | ARTS

For more information please visit

ThurmontMainStreet.com

11 WATER STREET | THURMONT, MD 21788



Hip & HISTORIC

Stroll along charming streets where vintage buildings house contemporary uses. You'll want to stay awhile in Frederick, Maryland.

Embrace the lively and diverse art scene, buy local at dozens of specialty shops, then indulge in restaurants that will surprise and satisfy.

Escape to picturesque national and state parks in our countryside, experience our storied past at Civil War battlefields, and unwind at our wineries, breweries, and distilleries.

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