

From Pit to Perfect Shot



In the heart of Tuckahoe State Park, where nature's tranquility meets the thrill of the arrow, lies a testament to community spirit and passion for archery. What was once an overgrown gravel pit has been transformed into a premier archery range, thanks to the dedication of the Tuckahoe Bowmen.

Established on October 5, 1987, the range's inauguration was anything but ordinary. In a nod to their craft, the ceremonial ribbon wasn't cut with scissors but was precisely severed by a razor-sharp hunting arrow, symbolizing the club's commitment to the sport.



Today, Tuckahoe Bowmen stands as a non-profit, family-friendly archery club that welcomes enthusiasts of all skill levels. Throughout the season, the club hosts a variety of competitive shoots, fostering camaraderie and honing skills amidst the serene backdrop of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Whether you're a seasoned archer or a curious newcomer, the range offers an opportunity to connect with nature, challenge yourself, and become part of a vibrant community that shares a love for the bow and arrow.

Ready, Set, Launch!



Whether you're gliding quietly in a kayak, paddling a canoe, or cruising in an electric-powered boat, Tuckahoe Lake invites you to slow down and see the park from a whole new angle. The calm waters stretch across the lake and up the winding creek, offering peaceful views, wildlife sightings, and a sense of escape from the everyday.

In 2022, Tuckahoe made getting on the water easier than ever. Our accessible kayak launch provides a safe, stable, and easy way for paddlers of all ages and abilities to enter and exit the water—no balancing act required! Whether it's your first time or your hundredth, you can launch with confidence and comfort. So bring your boat, launch your adventure, and let the gentle rhythm of the water guide your day.



Where the Mill Once Ran



In colonial times, Crouse's Mill served as a busy grist mill along the banks of Tuckahoe Creek. For generations, it ground grain into flour that fed local families and communities.

The Crouse family operated the mill from 1903 until 1924, when a powerful flood washed out the dam. Without its water source, the mill fell silent, eventually crumbling into disrepair before being torn down.

The operation was an impressive feat of engineering. Two horizontal turbine water wheels harnessed a five-foot drop in water, powered by a 91-acre lake located half a mile upstream. A 30-foot-wide, hand-dug mill race—four to six feet deep and equipped with floodgates—channeled the flow. Even the massive millstones, imported all the way from England, spoke to the importance of this community hub.

Today, only stories and the land itself remain to tell the tale of Crouse's Mill.



Old
remnants of
the races
you can
still see
today



Easy Access, Wild Places



Tuckahoe is for Everyone!

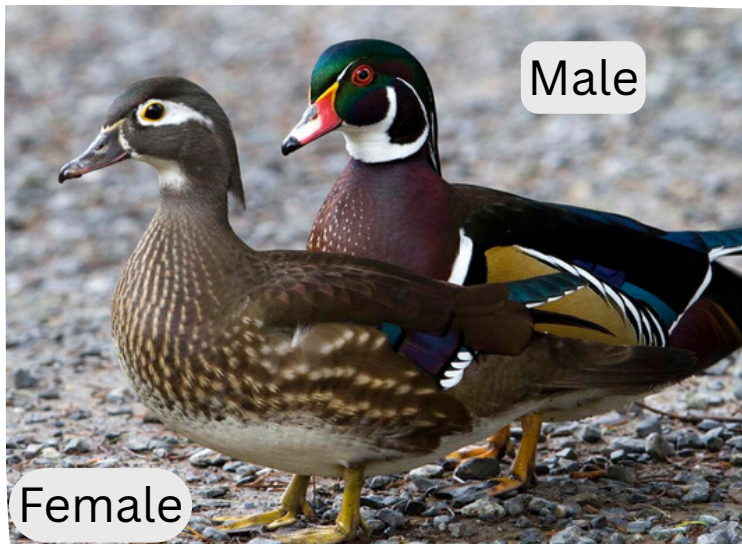
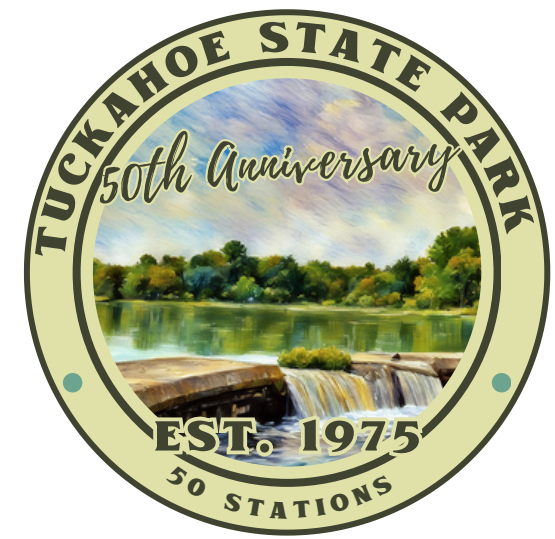
We're proud to offer accessible features so all visitors can experience the park:

- ADA floating dock for easy water access
- Disabled hunter areas (with Universal Disability Pass)
- Accessible birding spots across diverse habitats
- ADA parking in all day-use areas
- ADA campsites & cabins for comfortable overnight stays
- Lore of the Land Sensory Trail – a loop trail with a guiding blue rope and interactive stations



Nature belongs to all—explore Tuckahoe your way!

Build It and They'll Quack: Wood Duck Nest Boxes



Rangers monitor 12 nest boxes along the creek collecting data for the Maryland Wood Duck Initiative.



Among the most striking waterfowl, male Wood Ducks shine with iridescent chestnut and green feathers, while females are recognized by their graceful profile and white eye-ring.

This nesting box provides the wooded shelter they need to raise their young. After hatching, ducklings take a daring leap—sometimes from over 50 feet high! Guided only by their mother's call, they tumble safely to the ground and paddle off toward the water on their own.

Keep an eye along the creek—you may spot these remarkable birds and their families.

Rooted in Tuckahoe, Serving Maryland Sarah Crouse Milbourne



"Before it became Tuckahoe State Park, this land was part of my family's story. As a young adult, I worked hard to earn an internship and later a seasonal job here, carrying immense pride in both my surname and this place. Those early days instilled in me a lasting connection to the land, its rhythms, and its history.

Today, as part of the Maryland Park Service leadership team and a resident of Western Maryland, I still hold that same pride and sense of wonder rooted in this beautiful Eastern Shore tract. It is a privilege to serve as a park ranger and land manager, protecting this legacy—along with so many others across Maryland—and ensuring our public lands continue to inspire future generations."



Western Regional Manager
Ranger Milbourne



Fields of the Past, Trails of Today

Tuckahoe Equestrian Center



Daniel and Emma Crouse established this farm in the early 1900s. In 1924, their son Clifton and his wife Emma transformed it from a general farm into a thriving dairy operation. The barn, milkhouse, and silo you see today are reminders of their hard work.

In 1967, the Crouse family sold the land to the State of Maryland for the creation of Tuckahoe State Park, yet they continued to live and farm here into the 1980s.

Since 1992, the property has been home to the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, a nonprofit open to the public that celebrates horse culture through trail riding, jousting, game days, and shows.



Figure 2: The Crouse family, 1915. Circled, from left-to-right: Daniel K. Crouse, Emma D. Crouse and Clifton G. Crouse. Courtesy Susan Reinhold.

Tilling Time



1634-1785

Crop Changes

Grains became the primary crop in the 1780's, by supplying flour to the Continental Army, Maryland's Eastern Shore earned the title "Breadbasket of the Revolution".



1833

Enslaved Labor

It takes 250-300 hours to produce 100 bushels, 5 acres, of wheat using man, oxen, and horses for power.



1876-1924

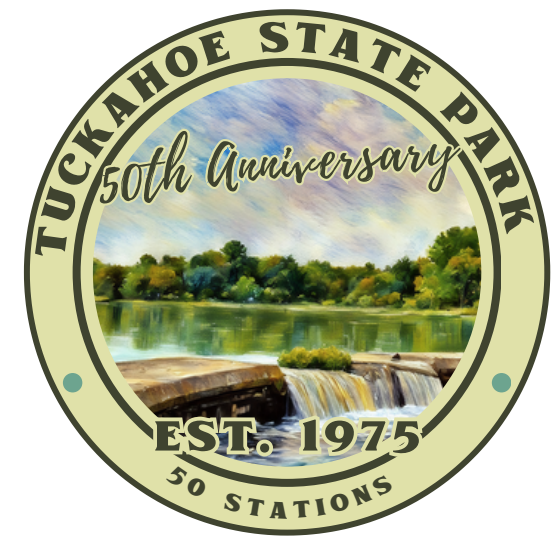
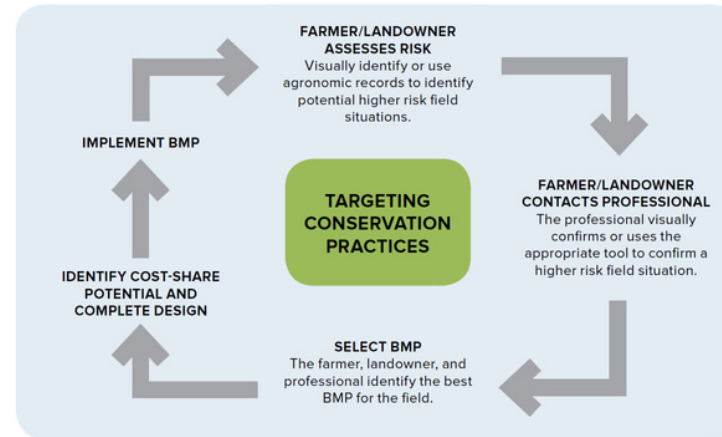
Crouse Gristmill;

Mills, like Crouse Mill, played an important role with the farming industry grounding up the produced grains.



Present Day

In 1970, it took 3 3/4 hours to produce 100 bushels, 3 acres, of wheat and 1 farmer could feed 47.7 people. By 1990 one farmer could feed 100 people.



Farming isn't what it used to be—and that's a good thing! As technology has advanced and farmers have learned more about their environmental impact, they've adopted smarter, more sustainable ways to work the land. Today, many farmers use Conservation Practices —also known as Best Management Practices (BMPs)—to care for both their farms and the environment. These techniques help reduce soil erosion and fertilizer runoff, manage animal waste responsibly, and protect the water we drink and the air we breathe. By using BMPs, farmers are also helping fight climate change by cutting down on greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. And they're keeping excess nitrogen out of local waterways—including the Chesapeake Bay —supporting cleaner water for people and wildlife alike. Modern farming is more than growing food—it's about growing it right.

A Tapestry of Trees

The Eastern Shore of Maryland features a variety of forest types, with loblolly pine and mixed pine-hardwood forests being the most prevalent. As you make your way down the Tuckahoe Valley Trail, notice the way the forest changes. From Loblolly Pines at the Lake Picnic Area to Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests to Bottomland Hardwood Forests.



Loblolly Pine Forests:

These are the most common forest type on the Eastern Shore, often found in young stands that have grown up since the early 1980s.



Bottomland Hardwood Forests:

Found in low-lying areas prone to flooding, these forests feature a mix of hardwood species adapted to wet conditions.



Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests:

These forests contain a mix of pine and hardwood trees, with some stands being mature forests, especially in riparian areas and floodplains

Engineering the Wild: The Beaver Lodge Revealed

Do beavers live in a dam? Not quite!

Beavers build dams to create a safe pond where they can construct their true home—a lodge.

A beaver lodge is made of twigs, sticks, rocks, and mud, with a secret underwater entrance. The dome-shaped structure in front of you has a large interior chamber above the waterline.

Lodges can range in size from 6 to 40 feet, depending on the colony's size. Inside, beavers show just how clever they are: one area is for drying off and eating, while a higher sleeping chamber—insulated with shredded wood and grass—keeps them warm and dry.

