



Assateague Island National Seashore © NPS

## FACT SHEET

### *National Parks in Maryland*

Antietam National Battlefield • Antietam National Cemetery  
• Appalachian National Scenic Trail • Assateague Island National Seashore • Baltimore-Washington Parkway • Catoclin Mountain Park • Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park • Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network • Clara Barton National Historic Site • Fort Foote Park • Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine • Fort Washington Park • Glen Echo Park • Greenbelt Park • Hampton National Historic Site • Harmony Hall • Harpers Ferry National Historical Park • Monocacy National Battlefield • Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm • Piscataway Park • Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail • Suitland Parkway • Thomas Stone National Historic Site

Maryland's substantial contribution to the National Park System overshadows by far its rather small geographic size. Mountains, rivers, seashore and everything in between have been incorporated into national parks that also interpret important parts of the country's history.

**Antietam National Battlefield** - The Battle of Antietam, on Sharpsburg, on September 17, 1862, was the tragic culmination of Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North. That one fateful day more than 23,110 men were killed, wounded, or listed as missing. The peaceful village of Sharpsburg turned

into a huge hospital and burial ground extending for miles in all directions.

**Antietam National Cemetery** - There are 4,766 Union remains (1,836 or 38% are unknown) buried here from the Battle of Antietam, South Mountain, Monocacy, and other action in Maryland. All of the unknowns are marked with small square stones. In addition, more than 200 non-Civil War dead are also buried here. Veterans and their wives from the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, and Korea were also buried here until the cemetery closed in 1953.

**Appalachian National Scenic Trail** - The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is a 2,167-mile footpath along the ridge crests and across the major valleys of the Appalachian Mountains from Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in north Georgia. The trail in Maryland follows along South Mountain from Pennsylvania to the Potomac River.

**Assateague Island National Seashore** - Storm tossed seas, as well as gentle breezes shape Assateague Island. This barrier island is a tale of constant movement and change. Human struggles are intertwined with this island at the ocean's edge. A herd of wild horses grace the island, giving visitors the opportunity to view the beautiful animals in a natural environment.



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**Baltimore-Washington Parkway** - Opened in 1954, the parkway is a 29-mile scenic highway that connects Baltimore, Maryland, with Washington, D.C. Although the first concept of parkway design was envisioned by Pierre L'Enfant in his 18th century plan, the concept of a parkway in Washington, D.C., was not approved until 1902. At that time, parkways were designed for use by bicyclists and horse-drawn carriages.

**Catoctin Mountain Park** - In the 1930s, after years of making charcoal to fuel the iron furnace, mountain farming, and harvesting of trees for timber, land was purchased to be transformed into a productive recreation area; helping to put people back to work during the great depression. Beginning in 1935, the Catoctin Recreational Demonstration Area was under construction by both the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Originally planned to provide recreational camps for federal employees, one of the camps eventually became the home of the presidential retreat Camp David.

**Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park** - Follows the route of the Potomac River for 184.5 miles from Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, MD. The canal operated from 1828-1924 as a transportation route, primarily hauling coal from western Maryland to the port of Georgetown in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of original structures, including locks, lockhouses, and aqueducts, serve as reminders of the canal's role as a transportation system during the Canal Era. In addition, the canal's towpath provides a nearly level, continuous trail through the spectacular scenery of the Potomac River Valley.

**Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network** - As the largest estuary in North America, the Chesapeake bay has touched and influenced much of the American story – early settlement, commerce, the military, transportation, recreation and more. The bay and its surrounding 64,000 square mile watershed hold a treasure trove of historic areas, natural wonders and recreational opportunities. The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network is a system of over 120 parks, refuges, museums, historic communities and water trails in the bay watershed.

**Clara Barton National Historic Site** - Commemorates the life of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. The home served as the headquarters and warehouse for the organization. From this house, Ms. Barton organized American Red Cross relief efforts for victims of natural disasters and war.

**Fort Foote Park** - The long oval earthwork was constructed on

Rozier's Bluff from 1863 to 1865 to strengthen the ring of fortifications that encircled Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. Fort Foote was designed to protect the river entrance to the ports of Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington and replace the aging Fort Washington as the primary river defense. The last in the ring of forts and batteries to be abandoned when peacetime returned, Fort Foote continued in active status until 1878. It was briefly reactivated as a training site during World War I.

**Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine** - The valiant defense of the star-shaped fort by 1,000 dedicated Americans during the Battle of Baltimore (September 13-14, 1814) inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner." Following the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, the fort never came under attack. However, it remained an active military post off and on for the next 100 years.

**Fort Washington Park** - Picturesque Fort Washington sits on high ground overlooking the Potomac River and offers a grand view of Washington and the Virginia shoreline. The old fort is one of the few U.S. seacoast fortifications still in its original form. The 341 acre park offers an assortment of recreational opportunities. Picnic areas can be reserved for group activities and fishermen try their luck along the shore. There are also hiking and biking trails and a playground for children.

**Glen Echo Park** - Glen Echo began in 1891 as a National Chautauqua Assembly "to promote liberal and practical education, especially among the masses of the people; to teach the sciences, arts, languages, and literature; to prepare its patrons for their several pursuits and professions in life; and to fit them for the duties which devolve upon them as members of society". Since 1971, the National Park Service has been offering year-round activities in dance, theater, and the arts for the visitors to Glen Echo. There are concerts, demonstrations, work-shops, and festivals during the warm months as a part of the Chautauqua Summer season. In addition, the antique hand-carved and hand-painted Dentzel carousel, saved by community effort, operates four days a week from May through September.

**Greenbelt Park** - A retreat from the pressures of city life and a refuge for native plants and animals just twelve miles from Washington, D.C. Long before colonial settlers appeared here, trees and flowers covered these rolling hills and wildlife roamed the woodlands. Algonquin Indians hunted this land in competition with other smaller tribes. Then the colonists arrived and trees fell and forests gave way to farmland. Wild-



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life retreated to the frontier. The people did not give back to the land as much as they took. The land wore out, producing less each season and farming ceased. Since the early 1900s the land has been recovering. Today the mixed pine and deciduous forest testifies to the land's ability to recover.

**Hampton National Historic Site** - The park preserves a vast estate from the 1700s. Its centerpiece is an elegantly furnished Georgian mansion set amid formal gardens and shade trees. When it was finished in 1790, Hampton was the largest house in the United States.

**Harmony Hall** - Harmony Hall is in the Broad Creek Historic District, the first historic district formed under Prince George's County preservation law. The house is an 18th century Georgian country house that architecturally ranks as one of the great early plantation houses and an outstanding early colonial house of Maryland. The front of the house faces the Potomac River and remains much as it appeared in 1766, the estimated time of construction.

**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park** - Throughout its history, Harpers Ferry has been the backdrop for remarkable and unparalleled events. Here, in one setting, several themes in the American story converge: Native Americans, industry and transportation, African-Americans, John Brown, the Civil War, and the natural environment. The park includes more than 2,300 acres in the states of West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia.

**Monocacy National Battlefield** - Known as the "Battle That Saved Washington," the battle of Monocacy on July 9, 1864, between 18,000 Confederate forces under General Jubal Early, and 5,800 Union forces under General Lew Wallace, marked the last campaign of the Confederacy to carry the war into the north. One of the objectives of this campaign was to capture Washington, D.C. Although this battle was a military victory for the Confederates, it was also a defeat. Time spent for battle cost the Confederates a day's delay in marching on the federal capital. General Lew Wallace's defense along the Monocacy bought critical time to allow Washington to be reinforced.

**Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm** - The primary feature of Oxon Cove Park is Oxon Hill Farm which operates as an actual working farm, representative of the early 20th century. It exhibits basic farming principles and techniques as well as historical agricultural programs for urban people to develop an understanding of cropping and animal husbandry. From

the 1890's until the 1950's, Oxon Hill Farm was operated by patients from St. Elizabeth Hospital.

**Piscataway Park** - The tranquil view from Mount Vernon of the Maryland shore of the Potomac is preserved as a pilot project in the use of easements to protect parklands from obtrusive urban expansion. The project began in 1952 to preserve the river view as it was during George Washington's day. Piscataway Park stretches for six miles from Piscataway Creek to Marshall Hall on the Potomac River.

**Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail** - The designation of a Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail corridor in 1983, an amendment to the National Trails System Act, is being used by communities in Virginia, Maryland, the DC and Pennsylvania to make connections among trails, historic sites and a range of recreational and educational opportunities. Four trails are currently recognized as segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

**Suitland Parkway** - A limited access scenic roadway that was constructed during the early months of World War II by the Bureau of Public Roads to serve as a rapid transit road between Camp Springs in Prince George's County, Maryland, to Bolling Field Air Force Base, and ultimately the Pentagon and downtown Washington, D.C. In 1945, Camp Springs was renamed Andrews Field. Today the Parkway is a dual lane roadway used by visitors and commuters approaching the nation's capital from the east

**Thomas Stone National Historic Site** - In 1770, when Thomas Stone began the construction of his home, he was a modest family man with a promising career as a lawyer and local political figure. By 1776, Thomas Stone's world had changed, no longer just a country lawyer, by signing the Declaration of Independence he had literally written himself into American History. The house passed down through five generations of Stones until the property was sold in 1936. The property remained in private ownership until New Year's Day 1977 when a fire gutted the central brick section of the house and damaged the west wing. The restored house has been open to the public since 1997.

### *Key Issues Facing National Parks in Maryland*

Taking care of America's national parks should be a national priority. With the 100th birthday of the National Park System approaching in 2016, it is more important than ever to address the ongoing problems that our parks are facing.



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The National Park Service is suffering from an operations funding shortfall now estimated at \$750 million annually. In addition, several billion dollars are needed to protect archaeological sites and historic buildings, and repair the extensive backlog of maintenance projects. Many park friends in Congress have spent years highlighting the fiscal crisis in America's national parks. The Administration and Congress responded in fiscal year 2008 with a \$122 million increase in the budget for park operations. This is a strong first step in our parks and improving the experiences of visitors. The FY 2008 budget also launched the National Park Centennial Challenge, which will help restore the parks for their 100th birthday and for generations to come. In addition to the operational shortfall, the National Park Service has a \$1.9 billion land acquisition backlog consisting of over 11,000 tracts of land and covering more than 1.8 million acres. In many instances, failure to acquire these lands makes operating the parks more complex and costly. Unfortunately, funding for national park federal land acquisition has declined dramatically in recent years, from \$130 million five years ago, to only \$21 million in the fiscal year 2009 request.

- A financial analysis shows that the C&O Canal National Historical Park has only about 35 cents for every dollar it needs for day-to-day operations, including routine maintenance and visitor safety. Fewer than 200 of the park's almost 1,400 historic structures are in good condition. Preservation maintenance takes a back seat to emergency repairs.

- Under the proposed fiscal year 2008 budget, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network is threatened with elimination. This would severely hamper efforts to clean up the bay and to teach the public about its resources.
- The sands at Assateague National Seashore are constantly being shifted by passing storms. For the National Park Service, this has required relocating the visitor parking lot whenever there is a significant displacement of sand, which strains an already-limited maintenance budget.

### *Park Visitation in Maryland*

In 2006, the national parks in Maryland welcomed 3.25 million visitors.

### *Budget Information*

In fiscal year 2008, the operations funding for the national parks in Maryland is \$39.2 million. For fiscal year 2009, the Administration is proposing a 7 percent increase, which would bring operations funding to \$41.7 million.

### *Contact Information*

For more information on the national parks in Maryland, please contact NPCA Senior Regional Director Joy Oakes at 202-454-3386 or NPCA Legislative Director Blake Selzer at 202-223-6722, ext. 250.

NPS Unit	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Enacted	FY07 Enacted	FY08 Enacted	FY 09 Requested	% Change FY07-08	% Change FY08-09
Antietam NB	\$2,822	\$2,803	\$2,932	\$2,998	\$3,056	\$3,395	\$3,577	11	5
Appalachian NST	\$1,034	\$1,024	\$1,137	\$1,205	\$1,218	\$1,327	\$1,481	9	12
Assateague Island NS	\$3,335	\$3,385	\$3,815	\$4,226	\$4,281	\$4,753	\$5,334	11	12
Baltimore-Washington Parkway	\$1,281	\$1,273	\$1,307	\$1,327	\$1,445	\$1,572	\$1,617	9	3
Catoctin Mountain Park	\$2,335	\$2,325	\$2,572	\$2,616	\$2,656	\$3,092	\$3,537	16	14
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP	\$8,298	\$8,371	\$8,890	\$8,979	\$9,113	\$9,866	\$10,272	8	4
Clara Barton NHS	\$498	\$493	\$506	\$504	\$504	\$533	\$544	6	2
Fort McHenry NM & Historic Shrine	\$1,732	\$1,710	\$1,751	\$1,799	\$1,835	\$2,191	\$2,305	19	5
Fort Washington Park	\$880	\$876	\$899	\$921	\$939	\$990	\$1,017	5	3
Greenbelt Park	\$877	\$873	\$895	\$914	\$929	\$1,148	\$1,233	24	7
Hampton NHS	\$963	\$956	\$980	\$977	\$982	\$1,154	\$1,217	18	5
Harpers Ferry NHP	\$5,761	\$5,737	\$5,866	\$5,982	\$6,087	\$6,316	\$6,431	4	2
Monocacy NB	\$930	\$998	\$1,049	\$1,255	\$1,274	\$1,423	\$1,530	12	8
Piscataway Park	\$486	\$480	\$493	\$494	\$497	\$499	\$607	0	22
Potomac Heritage NST	\$197	\$216	\$250	\$276	\$279	\$278	\$397	0	43
Thomas Stone NHS	\$594	\$591	\$605	\$604	\$603	\$623	\$629	3	1
<b>All Maryland parks</b>						<b>\$35,698</b>	<b>\$39,160</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>7%</b>

All dollar amounts in thousands

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