

Patuxent Research Refuge

North Tract



Welcome to Patuxent Research Refuge, the largest coastal plain forest in the greater Baltimore & D.C. metro area. Established in 1936, the refuge has been the site of many important wildlife related research projects. While exploring the trails, enjoy the refuge's diversity of migratory and resident song birds. During the warmer months the refuge is also known for its abundant amphibian life.

North Tract Hours:

8:00 am - 4:00 pm (Please exit the gate before closing.)

Phone:

Contact Station- 301-497-5770

Hunting Control- 301-317-3819

Recreation & Regulations:



Stay on marked trails for your safety and the safety of Patuxent's wildlife. As a former military training site, unexploded ordinances (UXO) are still present in the area.



While your pet may be very well behaved, please keep its leash in hand at all times, and remember to pick up its waste. This keeps visitors, pets, and wildlife safe and feeling welcomed.



Fishing is permitted in designated areas only. Please observe Maryland State regulations. Parking passes for fishing areas are available in person at North Tract Contact Station.



For recreation and habitat management, hunting is permitted seasonally. Please contact Meade Natural Heritage Association or refuge staff for details on hunting opportunities.



Horseback riding is permitted on trails designated as multi-use. Please contact refuge staff for available horse trailer parking.



No swimming or wading. Streams and other wet environments pose an increased risk of disturbing UXOs.



To protect habitat and people, fires are not permitted on the refuge.



Collecting wildlife, plants, or artifacts from the the refuge is prohibited. Introduction of wildlife or plants to the refuge is also prohibited.



Please do not fly drones on the refuge. The disturbance is detrimental to wildlife.



Use of non street-legal vehicles is not permitted on the refuge.



Consumption and the possession of alcohol is not permitted.

Trails:

Forest Trail- (2.5 mi.) Traversing through secondary growth hardwood forest, this trail provides a glimpse of life beneath the canopy of mature trees.

Little Patuxent River Trail- (0.75 mi) With several river overlooks, this trail is a favorite for first time visitors.

Merganser Pond Trail- (0.75 mi.) With a nearby water source, this trail is a favorite location to spot colorful dragonflies.

Pine Trail- (0.75 mi.) Connecting Wildlife Loop Road with the St. Peter's Church Cemetery, this trail takes the visitor into the refuge's rich history of homesteading.

Destinations:

Blue Heron Pond- Known as the best fishing hole on the refuge. Dedicated anglers may walk or bike to this location. (Those with handicap placards may access the site in personal vehicles.)

Lake Allen- Provides a scenic view of an ideal wetland habitat and is an excellent fishing location. (Typically open on weekends. Call for current schedule.)

Cattail Pond, Bailey Bridge Marsh, Lower Little Patuxent River- These areas have excellent opportunities to catch bluegill and panfish.

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- Visitor Contact Station
- Hunting Control Station
- Wildlife Viewing Area
- Restrooms
- Fishing
- Ponds
- River
- Walking Trail
- Walk, Bike, Horse
- Automobile Access
- Limited Access Area [Please inquire with refuge staff about scheduled openings.]

