

Welcome

Patuxent Research Refuge is 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.

South Tract Hours

Sunrise to Sunset, (Closed on federal holidays.)

Contact the Refuge

South Tract: 301-497-5772 (Tues. - Sat.)

North Tract: 301-497-5770 (Sun. - Sat.)

Recreation & Regulations



Stay on trails while visiting. Be mindful that all trails at this location are for foot traffic only.



Please keep your pets leashed at all times and remember to pick up waste.



Fishing is only permitted on Cash Lake April through September. All other areas are closed to fishing. Please see Patuxent Research Refuge Fishing Guide for additional information.



No swimming or wading.



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



Please do not fly drones on the refuge.



Consumption and the possession of alcohol is not permitted.

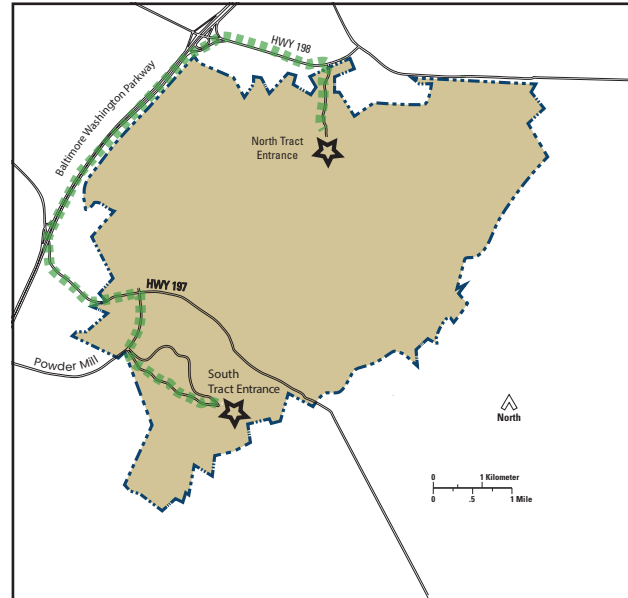


Campfires are not permitted

Other Recreational Opportunities

New adventures await at the refuge's northern property of North Tract. Over 20 miles of forested trails provide a scenic departure from the normal transit of city streets.

Because some paths on North Tract approach active gun range areas, please check in and register at the visitor information station.

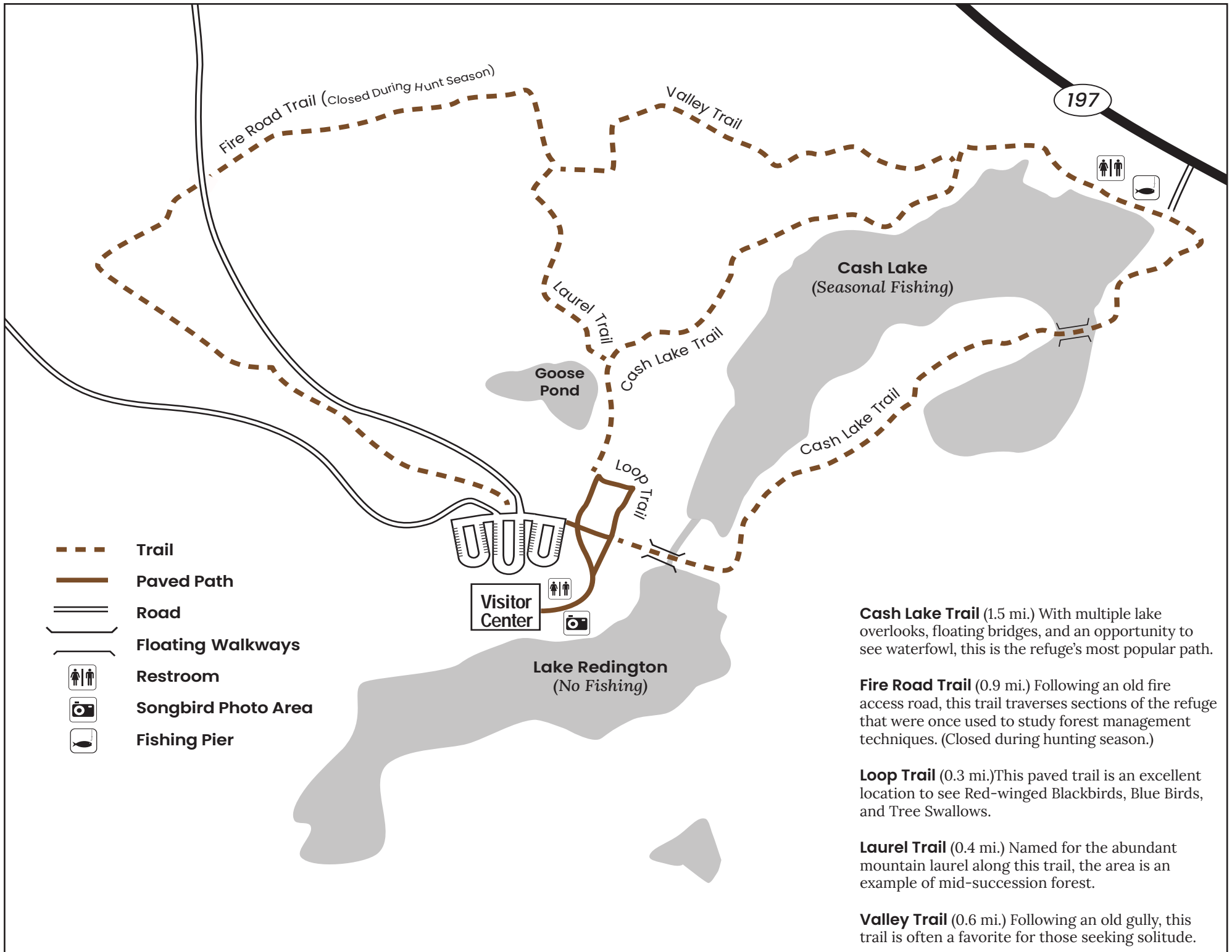


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Patuxent Research Refuge

South Tract Trails





-  Trail
-  Paved Path
-  Road
-  Floating Walkways
-  Restroom
-  Songbird Photo Area
-  Fishing Pier

Cash Lake Trail (1.5 mi.) With multiple lake overlooks, floating bridges, and an opportunity to see waterfowl, this is the refuge's most popular path.

Fire Road Trail (0.9 mi.) Following an old fire access road, this trail traverses sections of the refuge that were once used to study forest management techniques. (Closed during hunting season.)

Loop Trail (0.3 mi.) This paved trail is an excellent location to see Red-winged Blackbirds, Blue Birds, and Tree Swallows.

Laurel Trail (0.4 mi.) Named for the abundant mountain laurel along this trail, the area is an example of mid-succession forest.

Valley Trail (0.6 mi.) Following an old gully, this trail is often a favorite for those seeking solitude.