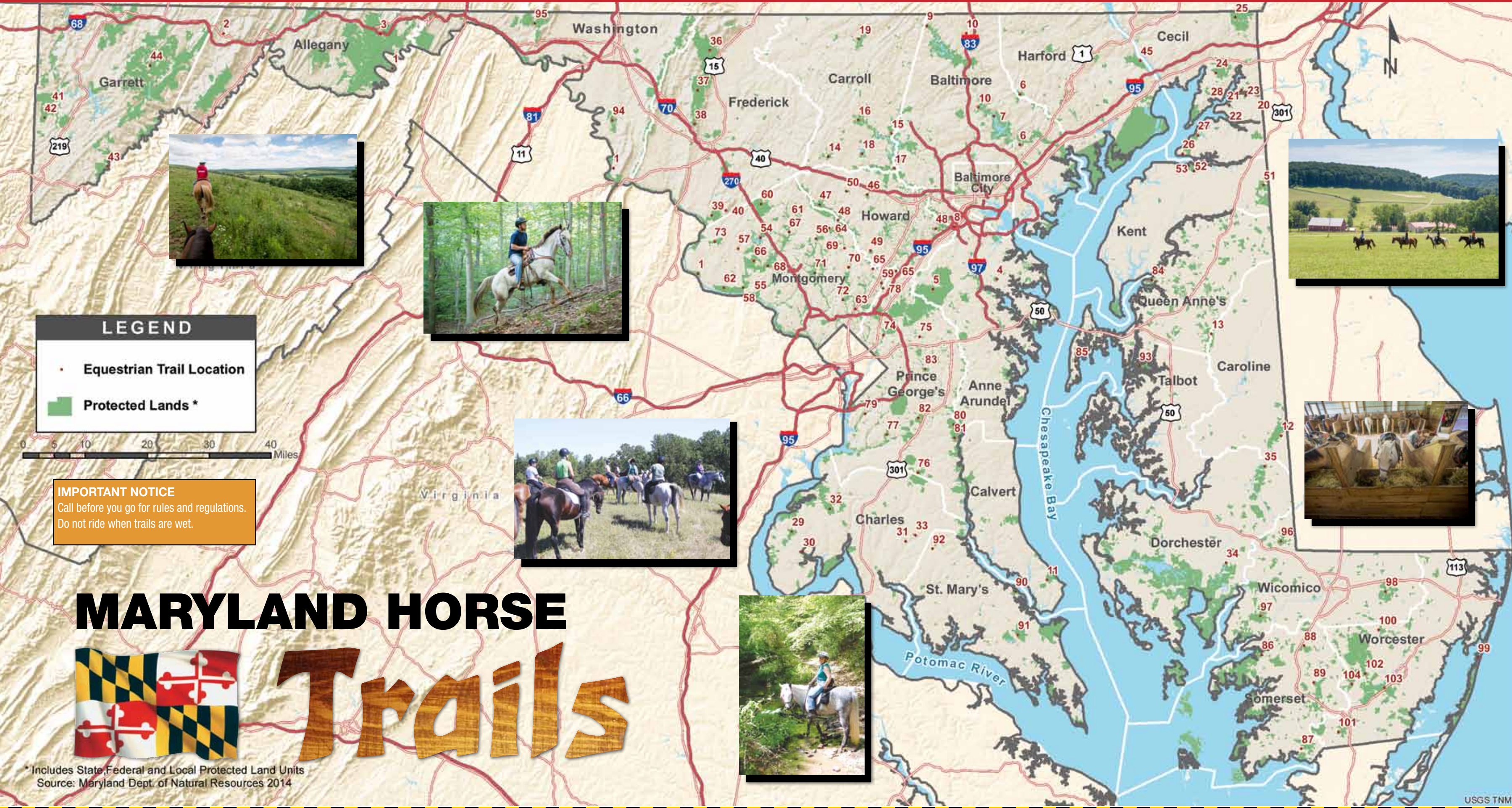


Find A Horse — Find A Friend — Find Fun.



MARYLAND HORSE Trails

*Includes State Federal and Local Protected Land Units
Source: Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources 2014

LICENSED TRAIL RIDING STABLES/GUIDED TRAIL RIDES

WESTERN MARYLAND

Garrett County

BROKEN SPOKE STABLE • 301-616-4681 • OAKLAND • BROKENSPOKESTABLE.NET
CIRCLE R RANCH • 301-387-6890 • OAKLAND • DEEPCREEKLAKESTABLE.COM
WESTERN TRAILS • 301-387-6155 • OAKLAND • WESTERNTRAILS.NET

Washington County

ELK MOUNTAIN TRAILS • 301- 834-8882 • KNOXVILLE • ELKMOUNTAINTRAILS.COM
WINDY ROCK EQUINE • 240-357-6752 • CLEAR SPRING • WINDYROCKEQUINE.COM

CAPITAL REGION

Frederick County

SERENDIPITY HORSE MEADOWS • 301-514-5671 • WALKERSVILLE • SERENDIPITYHMF@YAHOO.COM

Montgomery County

HUNT VIEW FARM • 301-775-7051 • POOLSVILLE • HUNTVIEWFARM.COM
PARK OVERLOOK FARM • 301-943-9975 • BROOKVILLE
RIVER BOTTOM RANCH • 301-253-0999 • DAMASCUS • RIVERBOTTOMRANCHMD.COM
WAREDACA FARM • 301-570-4191 • LAYTONSVILLE • WAREDACA.COM
WHEATON PARK STABLES • 301-622-2424 • WHEATON • WHEATONPARKSTABLES.COM

Prince George's County

PISCATAWAY STABLE • 301-297-9808 • CLINTON • PISCATAWAYSTABLE.COM
NOTTINGHAM LANDING FARM • 410-610-7595 • UPPER MARLBORO • SEE FACEBOOK LISTING

CENTRAL MARYLAND

Anne Arundel

BEECH GROVE FARM • 410-320-3330 • GAMBRILLS • BEECHGROVEFARM.BIZ
EASY RIDER RANCH • 410-859-0098 • HANOVER • SEE FACEBOOK LISTING

Carroll County

HAPPY ON HOOVES • 443-507-6558 • HAMPSHIRE • HAPPYONHOOVES.COM
LIBERTY STABLES • 410-552-0606 • FINKSBURG • LIBERTYSTABLESMD.NET
MISTY MANOR • 410-781-4810 • MARIOTTSTOWN • MISTYMANOR.COM
RIVER VALLEY RANCH • 410-374-8295 • MANCHESTER • RIVERVALLEYRANCH.COM

Harford County

WINDSWEEP STABLES • 410-734-7740 • ABERDEEN • WINDSWEEPSTABLES.ORG

Howard County

PATAPSCO STABLES • 443-562-0571 • MARIOTTSTOWN • PATAPSCOSTABLES.COM

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Calvert County

CANAAN FARMS • 410-257-0706 • HUNTINGTOWN • CANAANFARMSCALVERT.COM

Charles County

SOUTHERN GRACE FARM • 240-298-3518 • BEL ALTON • SOUTHERNGRACEFARM.COM

EASTERN SHORE

Caroline County

JEWEL'S LANDING FARM • 410-634-1436 • RIDGELY • JEWELSLANDING.COM
RIVER'S EDGE RANCH • 443-262-6936 • GREENSBORO • RIVERS-EDGE-RANCH.COM
(MUST BRING OWN HORSE)

Cecil County

CLOVER RIDGE STABLE • 302-397-4412 • ELKTON • SEE FACEBOOK LISTING
FAIR HILL STABLES • 410-620-3883 • ELKTON • FAIRHILLSTABLES.COM
FAIRWINDS FARM & STABLES • 410-658-8187 • NORTH EAST • FAIRWINDSSTABLES.COM
GROVE POINT STABLES • 252-305-3421 • EARLEVILLE • GROVEPOINTSTABLES.COM
PAINTED HORSE RANCH • 831-801-7549 • ELKTON • SEE FACEBOOK LISTING
ROLLING HILLS RANCH • 410-378-3817 • PORT DEPOSIT • ROLLINGHILLSRANCH.ORG

Dorchester County

WINDY WAY HORSES • 443-205-3429 • HURLOCK • WINDYWAYHORSES.COM

Talbot County

COUNTRY COMFORT FARM • 410-253-7252 • ST. MICHAELS • COUNTRYCOMFORTFARM.COM

Wicomico County

HOLLY RIDGE FARM EQUESTRIAN CENTER • 410-835-2596 • WILLARDS • HOLLYRIDGEFARM.COM
HOOF PRINTS TRAIL RIDING CENTER • 410-835-8814 • PARSONSBURG • HOOFPRINTSTRAILRIDING.COM

Allegany County

- C&O Canal** | US Park Service / 301-739-4200 / 150 mi. / 12,000 acres / improved natural surface
- Great Allegheny Passage** | Allegany Trail Alliance / 7 mi. / natural surface
- Green Ridge State Forest** | Maryland DNR Allegany / 301-478-3124 / 20 mi. / 46,000 acres / improved natural surface / equestrian camping: primitive

Anne Arundel

- Kinder Farm Park** | Anne Arundel / 410-222-6115 / 3 mi. / 288 acres / natural
- Patuxent Wildlife Research Center - North Track** | US Fish & Wildlife / 301-497-5770 / 20 mi. / 12,800 acres / improved natural surface

Baltimore County

- Gunpowder Falls SP** (Graham Equestrian Center) | Maryland DNR / 410-663-4445 / 20+ mi. / 18,000 acres / natural
- Loch Raven Reservoir** | City of Baltimore / 410-795-6151 / miles vary / 1,600 acres / natural
- Patapsco Valley SP (Avalon Area)** | Maryland DNR / 410-461-5005 / 20mi. / 16,043 acres / natural / links to Rockburn Branch Park
- Prettyboy Reservoir** | City of Baltimore / 410-795-6151 / miles vary / 773,080 acres / natural
- Torrey C Brown Trail** | Maryland DNR / 410-592-2897 / 21 mi. / 18,000 acres / improved natural surface

Calvert County

- Calvert Cliffs SP** | Maryland DNR / 301-743-7613 / 6 mi. / 1,313 acres / natural

Caroline County

- Idylwild WMA** | Maryland DNR / 410-376-3236 / 10 mi. / 3,800 acres / natural
- Tuckahoe SP** | Maryland DNR / 410-820-1668 / 20 mi. / 3,000 acres / natural

Carroll County

- Gillis Falls** | Carroll / 410-386-2103 / 4 mi. / 1,117 acres / natural
- Liberty Reservoir** | City of Baltimore / 410-887-5683 / 15+ mi. / 3,100 acres / natural
- Morgan Run NEA** | Maryland DNR / 410-461-5005 / 11 mi. / 1,400 acres / natural
- Patapsco Valley SP (McKeldin Area)** | Maryland DNR / 410-461-5005 / 80 mi. / 16,043 acres / natural
- Piney Run Reservoir** | Carroll | 410-795-3274 / 4 mi. / 550 acres / natural
- Union Mills Reservoir Trails** | Carroll / 410-386-2103 / 8 mi. / 1,044 acres / natural

Cecil County

- Bethel MHA** (free non-hunting permit required) | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / miles vary / 400 acres / natural
- C & D Canal Trail** (trailer parking in Del.) | Maryland DNR / 410-885-5622 / 16 mi. / 7,500 acres / improved natural surface
- Court House Point MHA** (free non-hunting permit required) | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / miles vary / 315 acres / natural
- Elk Forest MHA** (free non-hunting permit required) | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / miles vary / 242 acres / natural
- Elk Neck SF** | Maryland DNR / 410-287-5675 / 14 mi. / 3,300 acres / natural
- Fair Hill NRMA** | Maryland DNR / 410-398-1246 / 80 mi. / 5,656 acres / natural / equestrian camping: rest rooms, showers, electric
- Grove Neck MHA** (free non-hunting permit required) | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / miles vary / natural
- Stemmers Run MHA** (free non-hunting permit required) | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / miles vary / 750 acres / natural
- Welch Point MHA** (free non-hunting permit required) | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / miles vary / 77 acres / natural

Charles County

- Doncaster Demo SF** | Maryland DNR / 877-620-8367 / 13 mi. / 1,823 acres / natural
- Friendship Farm Park** | Charles / 301-932-3470 / 6 mi. / 382 acres / natural
- Maxwell Hall Park Equestrian Area** (permit required) | Charles / 301-932-3470 / 14 mi. / 692 acres / natural

Frederick County

- Myrtle Grove WMA** | Maryland DNR / 301-743-5161 / 10+ mi. / 1,723 acres / natural
- Oak Ridge Park** | Charles / 301-932-3470 / 7 mi. / 173 acres / natural

Dorchester County

- Lewis Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 1,594 acres / natural
- Marshyhope Complex** | Maryland DNR 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 3,408 acres / natural

Frederick County

- C&O Canal** | US Park Service / 301-739-4200 / 150 mi. / 12,000 acres / improved natural surface
- Catoctin Mountain National Park** | US Park Service / 301-663-9330 / 6 mi. / 5,770 acres / rocky / links to Frederick City Watershed CWMA
- Frederick City Watershed CWMA** | Maryland DNR / 301-842-2702 / 13mi. / 7,000 acres / rocky / links to Gambrill SP
- Gambrill State Park** | Maryland DNR 301-271-7574 / 16 mi. / 1,137 acres / natural / links to Frederick City Watershed CWMA
- Monocacy NRMA** | Maryland DNR 301-924-2127 / 9 mi. / 1,800 acres / natural / links to Sugarloaf Mountain
- Sugarloaf Mountain** | Stronghold Foundation / 301-869-7846 / 7 mi. / 3,300 acres / rocky / links to Monocacy NRMA

Garrett County

- Garrett SF** | Maryland DNR / 301-334-2038 / 25 mi. / 7,000 acres / improved natural surface / equestrian camping: primitive
- Herrington Manor SP** | Maryland DNR / 301-334-9180 / 8 mi. / 365 acres / natural
- Potomac SF** | Maryland DNR / 301-334-2038 / 25 mi. / 11,535 acres / improved natural surface
- Savage River SF** | Maryland DNR / 301-895-5759 / 20+ mi. / 54,000 acres / improved natural surface

Harford County

- Gunpowder Falls SP: Sweet Air** | Maryland DNR / 410-592-2897 / 18 mi. / 1,250 acres / natural
- Susquehanna SP** | Maryland DNR / 410-557-7994 / 15 mi. / 2,639 acres / natural

Howard County

- Living Farm Heritage Museum** | Howard / 410-489-2345 / 6 mi. / 400 acres / natural
- Patuxent River SP (Annapolis Rock Rd)** | Maryland DNR / 301-924-2127 / 25+ mi. / 6,700 acres / natural
- Rockburn Branch Park** | Howard / 410-313-4700 / 5+ mi. / 415 acres / links to Patapsco Valley SP (Avalon Area)
- Schooley Mill Park** | Howard / 410-313-4700 / 5 mi. / 192 acres / natural
- Western Regional Park** | Howard / 410-313-4700 / 2mi. / 190 acres / natural

Kent County

- Millington WMA** | Maryland DNR | 410-928-3650 / 10 mi. / 4,000 acres / natural
- Sassafras NRMA** | Maryland DNR | 410-820-1668 / 8 mi. / 1,000 acres / natural / links to Turner's Creek Park
- Turner's Creek Park** | Kent | 410-778-1948 / 2 mi. / 147 acres / natural / links to Sassafras NRMA

Montgomery County

- C&O Canal** | US Park Service / 301-739-4200 / 150 mi. / 12,000 acres / improved natural surface
- Patuxent River SP** | Route 97 | Maryland DNR / 301-924-2127 / 25+ mi. / 6,700 acres / natural
- Black Hill Regional Park** | Montgomery / 301-670-8080 / 10+ mi. / 1,800 acres / natural
- Blockhouse Point** | Montgomery / 301-670-8080 / 2 mi. / 630 acres / natural / links to C&O Canal
- Blue Mash Trail** | Montgomery / 301-948-5053 / 4 mi. / 550 acres / natural / links to Agricultural History Farm Park
- Breezy Loop Trail** | Equine Partners EPIC / 240-338-0072 / 6 mi. / natural
- Dry Seneca Trail** | Equine Partners EPIC / 240-338-0072 / 9 mi. / natural / links to Seneca Ridge Trail
- Fairland Recreational Park** | Montgomery / 301-670-8080 / 5 mi. / 322 acres / natural
- Little Bennett Regional Park** | Montgomery / 301-972-6501 / 20+ mi. / 3,700 acres / natural / equestrian camping: primitive, showers available offsite

- Magruder Branch Trail** | Montgomery / 301-972-6581 / 7 mi. / 404 acres / natural / pavement / links to Seneca Creek Greenway
- McKee Beshers WMA** | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / 10 mi. / 2,000 acres / natural / links to C&O Canal
- Northwest Branch Trail** | Montgomery / 301-625-7207 / 4 mi. / 700 acres / rocky / links to Wheaton Regional Park
- Rachael Carson Conservation Park** | Montgomery / 301-670-8080 / 6+ mi. / 650 acres / natural
- Rocky Gorge - Terry Ledley Trail** (WSSC permit required) | WSSC / 301-206-7485 / 18 mi. / 773 acres / natural
- Schaeffer Farm Park MHA** | Maryland DNR 410-356-9272 / 12 mi. / 850 acres / natural / links to Seneca Ridge Trail
- Seneca Creek Greenway Trail** | Maryland DNR / 301-972-6581 / 8 mi. / natural / links to Magruder Branch
- Seneca Ridge Trail** | Maryland DNR / 410-356-9272 / 6 mi. / natural / links to Schaeffer Farm MHA
- Tridelphia Trail** (WSSC permit required) | WSSC | 301-206-7485 / 4 mi. / 800 acres / natural
- Underground Railroad Trail** | Montgomery / 301-774-6255 / 2 mi. / natural
- Upper Rock Creek Trail** | Montgomery / 301-948-5053 / 3 mi. / natural / pavement
- Wheaton Regional Park** | Montgomery / 301495-2595 / 5 mi. / 536 acres / rocky
- Woodstock Equestrian Park** | Montgomery / 240-498-2412 / 14 mi. / 872 acres / natural

Prince George's County

- Rocky Gorge - Terry Ledley Trail** (WSSC permit required) | WSSC / 301-206-7485 / 18 mi. / 773 acres / natural
- Anacostia Tributary Trail System** | Prince George's / 301-699-2255 / 10+ mi. / natural / pavement
- Baltimore Washington Annapolis Trail** (Prince George's section) | Prince George's / 301-699-2255 / 6 mi. / natural / pavement
- Cedarville SF** | Maryland DNR / 301-888-1410 / 20 mi. / 3,510 acres / natural / equestrian camping: restroom, showers
- Cosca Regional Park** | Prince George's / 301-868-1397 / 5 mi. / 690 acres / natural / pavement
- Fairland Recreational Park** | Prince George's / 301-953-0222 / 5 mi. / 150 acres / natural / pavement / links to Montgomery Fairland Recreational Park

- Henson Creek Trail** | Prince George's / 301-699-2255 / 6 mi. / natural / pavement
- Jug Bay Natural Area** | Prince George's / 301-627-6074 / 8 mi. / 2,000 acres / natural
- Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary** | Maryland DNR / 301-888-1377 / 7 mi. / 1670 acres / natural / pavement
- Rosaryville SP** | Maryland DNR / 301-856-9656 / 10 mi. / 982 acres / natural
- Watkins Regional Park** | Prince George's | 301-218-6700 / 8 mi. / 864 acres / natural / pavement

Queen Anne's County

- Conquest Preserve** | Queen Anne's / 410-758-0835 / 1.5 mi. / 300 acres / natural
- Price Creek Environmental Area (Nemo Trail)** | Queen Anne's / 410-604-2100 / 2+ mi. / 300 acres / natural

Somerset County

- E. Mace Smith Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 1,708 acres / natural
- Haislip Marumsc Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 1,379 acres / natural
- Peters McAllen Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 934 acres / natural
- Wells Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 1,915 acres / natural

St. Mary's County

- Greenwell SP** | Maryland DNR / 301-872-5688 / 5 mi. / 596 acres / natural
- St. Mary's River SP** | Maryland DNR / 301-743-5161 / 8 mi. / 2,200 acres / natural
- Three Notch Trail** | St. Mary's / 301-475-4200 / 28 mi. / natural / pavement

Talbot County

- Wye Island NRMA** | Maryland DNR / 410-827-7577 / 6 mi. / 2,450 acres / natural / pavement

Washington County

- C&O Canal** | US Park Service / 301-739-4200 / 150 mi. / 12,000 acres / improved natural surface
- Antietam National Battlefield** | US Park Service / 301-432-7648 / 8 mi. / 2,740 acres / natural / pavement
- Indian Springs WMA** | Maryland DNR / 301-842-2702 / miles vary / 6,400 acres / natural (closed April 15 to August 1)

Wicomico County

- Aughty Naughty Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 1,265 acres / natural
- Greenhill Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 3,312 acres / natural
- Wicomico Forest Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 3,503 acres / natural

Worcester County

- Assateague Island National Seashore** | US Park Service / 410-641-1441 / miles vary / 39,600 acres / sand / pavement / equestrian camping: rest rooms / showers
- Cordery Tract** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 1,154 acres / natural
- Dunn Swamp Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 1,154 acres / natural
- Johnson and Johnson Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 853 acres / natural
- Pocomoke River SF** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 13,036 acres / natural
- Tankard Farm Complex** | Maryland DNR / 410-632-3732 / miles vary / 461 acres / natural

CWMA - City Watershead Management Area
DNR - Department Natural Resources
EPIC - Equestrian Partners in Conservation
MHA - Managed Hunt Area
NEA - Natural Environment Area
NRMA - Natural Resources Management Area
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
WSSC - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission



Maryland Horse Industry Board
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Maryland Department of Natural Resources



SEE MARYLAND FROM HORSEBACK



Tips From Veteran Trail Riders

Organized trail rides can be a relaxing way to meet other riders and enjoy the natural beauty of open space, woods and park land. Whether you are riding your own horse, or one provided by a guide, awareness of safe and courteous trail practices is essential to having an enjoyable ride.

Veteran Maryland trail riders have assembled these TIPS to help prepare both you and your horse by following these basic guidelines.



Planning Your Ride

- Tell someone where you plan to go and how long you expect to be.
- Check the weather the day before a ride and plan accordingly. Most parks have a “no riding” policy if the trails are wet.
- If you are riding in a public park that permits horses, check park regulations on their web site, if available.
- It's critical to know how quiet your horse is likely to be on a trail ride. If either you or your horse has never been on the trail, plan a few rides with one or two experienced riders before you ride with a larger group. Your horse may encounter pedestrians, bikes, ATVs, dirt bikes and dogs on the trails.
- Know how difficult the trail will be. Young, old, or inexperienced horses need a shorter, less challenging trail. Think about how much exercise your horse is used to.
- Learn something about the trail conditions. What is the trail surface? Hard? Soft? Are there muddy patches? Is the terrain hilly? Are there stream crossings or road crossings?
- Go with someone who is familiar with the trails.
- Determine who will lead the ride and agree if you will change positions during the ride so all horses get to experience being first, last and in the middle of the group. If riders have a variety of trail experience levels, put an experienced horse and rider at the beginning and the end of the ride.
- Establish clear expectations with the other riders. How fast do they want to go? How long do they want to ride? What condition are their horses in? It may be possible to divide into different groups if some want only to walk, and others to go at a faster pace.
- Know how much shade is available on the trail. Are you riding in woods or open fields?
- Fill up your trailer manger or hay bag.
- Choose trails with natural water crossings to provide water during the ride.

- Bring or have at least 5 gallons of water and a water bucket for your horse after the ride.
- Know how easily you can get on and off your horse without any mounting assistance such as a log or a mounting block.
- Be sure to have a halter or use a halter/bridle if you plan to tie up on the trail. Don't use the bridle to tie up a horse. Halters can be worn with a bridle for easy tie up.
- Check tack to be sure buckles, fasteners, girths, and leather are all in good working condition.
- When bridling up, keep the halter fastened around your horse's neck so you have something to grab if they get startled and move away quickly. Always have either the halter or reins around your horse's neck.
- Mounting and dismounting are two times when you have less control of your horse. If there is any question of safety while mounting, have someone hold your horse. Using a mounting block is easier for both horse and rider.
- If your horse has ever kicked out at another horse, tie a red ribbon on your horse's tail as a warning to other riders.
- Spray your horse with fly spray if bugs are out.
- Carry a fly whisk.
- Use a fly mask in summer that covers the horse's ears and is made with see-through fabric.
- Don't forget bug repellent on the rider!

During the Ride

- Always start out walking horses so both you and your horse can warm up.
- Keep the length of one horse between you and the horse in front.
- Check the tightness of your girth after about five minutes of riding. Call out if you need to stop and tighten your girth. Check again later during the ride.
- If you are leading, give a hand signal (put your hand in the air) to let

others know that you are slowing down. Other riders should also use the hand signal to alert riders behind them.

- At road crossings, wait until all horses can cross together. In Maryland, as in most states, there is no traffic rule requiring motorists to stop for horses. Use caution crossing any road surfaces. Larger groups should have someone stop traffic from horseback to allow all riders to cross.
- If the pace is too fast for your comfort, call out to the leader to slow down. The pace of the ride should always be geared to the least experienced horse or rider.
- At stream crossings, allow your horse to drink, then move forward so others can get to water. Wait until all horses have had a chance to drink before resuming the ride.
- Stay behind the ride leader.
- If you need to pass another horse, ask permission from the rider in front of you and pass to the left.
- Keep all horses together. If you are the last horse, don't hold back so that you can catch up at a canter. Many horses will spook at the sound of a horse cantering up behind them.
- The next to last rider should periodically check on the last rider.
- If you encounter a low branch, hole on the trail, or poisonous vines, call out to others to warn them. Each rider should quickly pass the message on to the riders behind them.
- Ride leaders should check with riders periodically to be sure they are comfortable at the pace.
- On hot days, sponge off your horse in a stream crossing.
- If you need to dismount during the ride, look for a log to use as a mounting block, or move the horse close to a hill and mount from the hill. Just a few inches can make the difference between a comfortable or awkward mounting.
- Walk the last ½ mile of the ride so that horses can cool down.
- If you have any concerns about safety while you are dismounting, ask for someone to hold your horse.

To learn more:

Maryland Horse Industry Board

mda.maryland.gov/horseboard

Maryland Horse Council mdhorsecouncil.org

The Equiery equiery.com

Trail Riders of Today (TROT) trot-md.org

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

dnr2.maryland.gov

Carroll County Equestrian Council

carrollcountyequestriancouncil.org



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Design by **Jennifer Pfister** Photos by **Edwin Remsburg, Karen & Bryan Parker**. Map by **Rodney Vese Jr., Md.** Dept. of Natural Resources. Content produced by **Priscilla Huffman, Ron MacNab, Ross Peddicord and Karen Parker**.

After the Ride

- Thank your ride leader. Give them feedback that might be helpful.
- When you remove your bridle, keep the reins around your horse's neck until the halter has been put on so that you always have some means of control.
- Once the halter is on and the horse is tied up, remove your saddle and pad.
- If you feel your horse needs to be cooled down, walk out slowly until heart rate returns to normal.
- Have cool water available for your horse in a water bucket.
- In hot weather sponge down your horse with cool water and wipe mud off from legs and underbelly.
- Run your hands over your entire horse to check for ticks, cuts or scratches. Look carefully at legs.
- Clean hooves if shoes are on horse, or remove horse boots.
- Have hay available for your horse after the ride, especially if you plan to stay and have lunch with your ride partners.
- Until you are ready to load up and leave, keep your horse tied to the trailer. If you want your horse to graze, keep the lead rope in your hand.

What To Wear On The Ride

- Always wear an equestrian helmet.
- Riding gloves may protect hands on longer rides.
- Keep your cell phone in an ankle, belt or arm strap.
- Protect legs with full or half-chaps.
- Wear riding boots with a heel for safety.
- In colder weather, wear layers for warmth.



What To Take With You

Use a saddlebag in front or behind your saddle to carry these items:

- Bottled water to drink on the trail
- Light snack such as a granola bar or fruit
- Small first aid kit
- Insect bite cream
- Hand clippers
- Small folding saw
- Small plastic poncho
- Pocket knife
- Piece of baling twine in case your reins break
- Hoof pick
- Sponge for hot days clipped on saddle—should have cord long enough to reach to the water.
- Cell phone on YOU – not the horse! Tracking/GPS apps are available for smart phones.



Equipment For Your Horse

Light-weight trail saddles are designed for comfort of both horse and rider over long hours. Often treeless or flexible tree saddles are used by trail riders. The saddle must be comfortable for both horse and rider. Extra metal rings on the saddle are handy for carrying trail items such as a pack bag or sponge.

Wide cushioned stirrups can be more comfortable than metal stirrups over several hours.

A breast collar keeps your saddle in place if you are traveling over hilly or rough terrain.

Special combination halter/bridles with easily detachable reins enable you to tie up your horse on the trail. Horses can also be tied up with a bitless bridle or hackamore, but if you ride with a bit, be sure to carry a halter, or put on a halter over your bridle.

A saddle pack in front or behind your saddle gives you extra carrying space.

While some horses can travel barefoot, most horses require hoof protection for hard or rocky trails. For horses that are not shod, rubber protective hoof boots can be used. For cold or snowy climates, borium studs can be added to steel shoes.

A cotton or mesh fly mask can provide added protection against bugs.

Trail Courtesy On Multiuse Trails

Many trails are shared with hikers and bikers. Ensure that meetings on the trail are a positive experience for everyone.

Trail yield rules: Bikers and hikers should yield to horses. Bikers yield to hikers.

Thank bikers and hikers for yielding the trail.

If someone appears suddenly on the trail, politely ask them to call out so the horse realizes it is a human.

Ride on the right.

Walk past other trails users in single file.

Don't trot or canter unless you can see a clear trail well ahead.

Trail rules may vary concerning removal of manure from the trail. Be sure to honor the rules where you are riding. If you are riding a trail that is primarily used by hikers and bikers, kicking manure to the side of the trail (if you can safely dismount and mount again) would be perceived as good trail stewardship.

Trail Stewardship

Avoid riding when trails are wet.

Keep your muck in your trailer or dispose of it in a designated area. Clean up any scattered hay.

Pack in, pack out – take everything with you that you brought.

Stay on marked trails. If you encounter an obstacle that must be passed around, do so carefully and report the obstacle to park officials after the ride.

Cross water at designated crossings only.

Walk through any mud. Avoid muddy trails if you can choose another route.

If you can do so safely, clip (if permitted) back small branches and limbs from the trail.

Schedule a work day with your local parks agency, or sign up to join a “friends” group with the parks where you ride.

MD. Trail Riding Organizations

Among the major trail riding organizations are:

Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club • cpwhclub.wordpress.com

League of Maryland Horsemen • lomh.net

Old People's Riding Club • oldpeoplesridingclub.org

Southern Maryland Trail Riders Association • smtr.org

Trail Riders of Today (TROT) • trot-md.org

Tuckahoe Equestrian Center • tuckahoequestriancenter.net



In Case of Emergency

In all emergencies call 911.

To report non-emergencies (vandalism, potential problems, etc.) on DNR Land call DNR Police at 410-398-1246; on Montgomery County Parkland call Park Police 301-949-8010, on WSSC Land call WSSC Police 301-206-8888. For emergency horse rescue and transport call Da Vinci Emergency Transport at 301-335-2340.

Other Types of Trail Riding

If you are seeking a more competitive approach to trail riding, you may be interested in learning about these disciplines.

Judged Pleasure Riding

A Judged Pleasure Ride (JPR) is a planned course averaging 6 to 10 miles. Riders and horses are judged on their ability to navigate several obstacles along the trail, such as water, bridges, and gates. For more information, contact The American Competitive Trail Horse Association at actha.us/aboutus

Endurance Riding

An Endurance Ride is a long-distance competitive speed event over natural terrain covering 25, 50 or 100 miles in one day. It is a test of a well-conditioned horse's stamina and fitness, as well as the horsemanship and management of the rider. For more information, contact The American Endurance Ride Conference at aerc.org

Competitive Trail Riding

Competitive trail riding (CTR) is a timed distance ride, usually between 15 and 30 miles per ride. Unlike an Endurance Ride in which the fastest horse wins, factors other than speed are considered, and horses must be paced by the rider to complete the ride within a certain time period. For more information, contact The Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association at <http://ectra.org/cms/>

Camping With Horses

Maryland State Parks and Forests that permit camping with horses: (*Name – Accommodations*)

Cedarville State Forest – showers and restrooms

Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area – showers, restrooms, electric

Garrett State Forest – primitive

Green Ridge State Forest – primitive

Patapsco Valley State Park – yes, if a member League of Md. Horsemen

Tuckahoe State Park – yes, if a member of Tuckahoe Equestrian Club

County Park:

Little Bennett – primitive, showers available off site

National Park:

Assateague Island National Seashore – October through March only

Private Campgrounds:

Little Orleans Campground (Little Orleans-Allegany Co.)

– littleorleanscampground.com

Happy Hills Campground (Hancock-Allegany Co.)

– happyhillscampground-md.net

Stables Permitting Overnight Horse Boarding

Western Maryland

Poor Boy Stables, Sharpsburg—Raymond Ramsey, 16419 Woburn Rd., 301-223-9089

Capital Region

Paradise Stables LLC, New Market—Elizabeth Winters,

12302 Lime Plant Rd. 301-865-4800

Windsong Arabians, Mt. Airy—Sue Doll, 13134 A

Old Annapolis Rd., 301-831-5083

Central Maryland

Anchor and Hope Farm, Port Deposit—Edwin Meryman, PO Box 342, 410-378-4081

Fairwinds Farm & Stables, North East—JoAnn Dawson,

41 Tailwinds Lane, Rt. 272, 410-658-8187 • fairwindsstables.com

Flying K Farm, Joppa—Kevin & Kim Bearsch, 3200 Clayton Rd., 410-676-1658

Eastern Shore

Caper Lea, Easton—Carey Miller, PO Box 2107, 410-822-9438

• caperlea.com

Recreational Carriage Driving Trails

The American Driving Society recommends recreational carriage driving on these trails:

Fair Hill NRMA - *Cecil County*

Sassafras River NRMA - *Kent County*

Tuckahoe State Park - *Queen Anne's and Caroline Counties*

Woodstock Equestrian Park - *Montgomery County*

Wye Island NRMA- *Talbot County*

TAKE A STAYCATION—With Your Horse!

Here's how Bryan and Karen Parker of Bowie took a 4-day local staycation at 4 parks with their horses Peso and Flint:

Day 1 The first day of a great equestrian staycation at Maryland parks. Today we had a wonderful ride at Schooley Mill Park in Howard County. Just gorgeous out there!!



Day 2 Today we rode the Underground Railroad Trail at Woodlawn in Montgomery County. First time we had been there. Very nice trails!



Day 3 Today we bought a day pass and rode the WSSC Rocky Gorge Reservoir in Prince George's County. What a beautiful ride with scenic overlooks of the reservoir!

Day 4 Rachel Carson Conservation Park in Montgomery County. What a fabulous park! Back to work now, but looking forward to another trail riding staycation!

