

Welcome to the Wincopin Trail

Legend:

- i** Information Kiosk
- P** Parking
- Wincopin Blue Trail - .2741 mi (natural)
- Wincopin Green Trail - 1.920 mi (natural)
- Wincopin Red Trail - 1.229 mi (natural)
- Wincopin Yellow Trail - .3028 mi (natural)
- Patuxent Branch Trail
- Park Boundary
- Roadway/Vehicle Access
- Streams

Updated: March 2016 Scale: 1" = 640'

Download our PARK APP
Search "HoCo Parks" on Google Play or iTunes
MAPS & DIRECTIONS - PARK INFO - AND MORE

Animal Control Law & Park Regulations

- All dogs, cats and ferrets must have current rabies vaccinations.
- All dogs and cats must be licensed by the County.
- Pet owners must pick up and properly dispose of their pet's waste. Mutt Mitt stations are in the park for your convenience.
- All pets must be on a leash. Never leave a pet unattended.
- Pets in heat are not allowed in the park.
- A person who injures or kills a domesticated animal while driving a vehicle should:
 - Stop and render assistance as practical.
 - Make a reasonable effort to locate the owner and inform the owner of the accident, or notify Animal Control (410-313-2780) or the Police Department (410-313-2929).
- All animal control laws apply. Violators of the Animal Control Laws may be subject to civil monetary penalties ranging from \$25 - \$1,000, criminal penalties, pet impoundment and/or mandatory appearances before the Animal Matters Hearing Board.

Wildlife at Wincopin

BEAVER (*Castor canadensis*): Beavers are second only to humans in their ability to manipulate and change their environment. It is the second largest rodent in the world, after the capybara.

SOUTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL (*Glaucomys volans*): Flying squirrels don't actually fly - but they can glide, up to 150ft! They have a special membrane between their front and hind legs that allows them to glide from tree to tree. You can differentiate the Southern Flying Squirrel from the Northern Flying Squirrel by its white underbelly.

RACCOON (*Procyon lotor*): The English word "raccoon" comes from a native Powhatan word that means "animal that scratches with its hands". During the winter, the raccoon does not hibernate, but can sleep in its den for weeks.

PILEATED WOODPECKER (*Hylatomus pileatus*): The Pileated woodpecker is one of the biggest birds on the continent! They dig rectangular holes in trees to find carpenter ants. Their nest holes offer important shelter to other species including owls, ducks, bats, swifts, and pine martens.

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*): Wood ducks nest in tree cavities. Unlike most waterfowl, Wood Ducks perch and nest in trees and are comfortable flying through the woods. They have adaptations such as their broad tail and short, broad wings that help them maneuver through the forest.

NORTHERN COPPERHEAD (*Agkistrodon contortrix*): One of Maryland's two venomous species of snake, the Northern Copperhead is a type of pit viper. Bites are painful, but very rarely fatal, and typically occur when a person steps on the snake. While they are social with other Copperheads, they avoid being around humans. Their bodies are distinctly patterned, with a series of dark, chestnut-brown or reddish crossbands, shaped like an hourglass.

SPRING PEEPER (*Pseudacris crucifer*): A small tree frog with shades of tan, brown, green, or gray, the Spring Peeper camouflages to look like tree bark. They typically hide during the day, and come out in the afternoon and evening, when their classic "peeping" can be heard in the early spring.

Car Break-in Prevention Tips

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Put your possessions in the trunk before you arrive at the park.
- Never leave items visible inside your vehicle.
- Take your possessions with you; leave them at home; or store them in your trunk before you get to the park. For example: GPS units, handbags, purses, wallets, gym bags, briefcases. High dollar items such as cell phones, laptops and tablets.
- Roll up your car windows, lock your doors, and engage your car alarm.

BE A GOOD WITNESS

- Call 911 if you witness a car break-in.
- Relay the following information to the operator:
 - Location
 - Physical description of suspect
 - Make/model, and license plate of suspect's car
 - Direction getaway car was going
 - Description of the victim's car

SUSPICIOUS EVENTS TO WATCH FOR AND REPORT

- Someone peering into parked cars.
- People in the park after hours (unless the park is designated for night-time activities).
- People loitering in the park.
- The sound of breaking glass/or broken glass on ground.

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A CAR BREAK-IN

- Call 911
- Call a Howard County Park Ranger, 410-245-1410.
- If safe to do so, remain by your car.
- Do not touch or enter your car. Please preserve the crime scene.

Trail Safety and Etiquette

- Stay on established trail for your safety and the protection of natural resources. Going off trail can damage park resources, accelerate erosion, and threaten other park users and wildlife.
- Respect park resources. Leave no trace.
- Parks are home to wildlife and you are a visitor. Do not approach wildlife, no matter how tame or calm they appear. Do not feed any animals. It harms them and it is illegal.
- Always tell a friend your travel plans, including destination and expected return time.
- Children should remain with adults. Establish rules for keeping together. If separated, the child should hug a tree near an open area and STAY PUT!
- Bicyclists should always wear a helmet, reflective material, and travel at a safe speed. Obey bike speed limits where posted, and lower speed in areas with poor visibility.
- Bicyclists should pull off the trail when stopping to avoid a possible accident.
- Bicyclists approaching pedestrians should make an advanced noise using voice, bell, or horn to avoid startling walkers.
- Carry the ten essentials listed to the right.

THE 10 ESSENTIALS

- Food: Carry high-energy snacks.
- Water: Carry plenty of water.
- Clothing: Weather can change in a moment. Dress for the seasonal weather, and, if you are going to be out all day, carry rain gear, and a hat.
- Navigation: Utilize park maps, the Howard County Parks app on a smartphone, or check kiosks before beginning a hike to familiarize yourself with the trails and plan your route.
- Light: If you are going to be out in the afternoon or evening, carry a flashlight or headlamp.
- Sun Protection: Sunglasses and sunscreen.
- First Aid: Make sure to include any special medications.
- Signal: Carry both an audible and visual signal, such as a whistle and reflective clothing.
- Cell phone.
- Identification: Carry your ID as well as pertinent medical information.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

HOURS: DAWN TO DUSK

- NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS**
- NO ALCOHOL**
The consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited unless a permit is obtained for the facility or designated area.
- NO LITTERING**
- NO FIRES**
Lighting and maintaining a fire, except in a charcoal grill in a designated area provided by the Department, is prohibited.
- WILDLIFE**
A person shall not:
 - Hunt on park property
 - Interfere or destroy wildlife or wildlife habitat
- TRAFFIC LAWS**
All traffic laws and parking regulations applicable on public roads are enforced on parkland. The speed limit within parks is 15 m.p.h. or the posted speed limit, whichever is less.
- LEASH LAWS**
All pets must be on a leash. Never leave a pet unattended.
- ORDER TO VACATE**
A user of park property, shall immediately vacate the premises if so instructed by Department officials.

Title 19 - Abbreviated Parkland Rules and Regulations. For a complete list visit our website at www.howardcountymd.gov/rap. All Howard County Title 19 Recreation and Parks Regulations apply. A person who violates any provision of these regulations is subject to criminal and civil penalties.

History

WINCOPIN TRAIL HISTORY

Historic Gabbro Bridge — At the south end of the blue trail, here on the Wincopin Trail, you will find the remaining, standing granite bridge bier that once supported the east end of the Gabbro Bridge. In 1888, The B&O extended a railroad spur from Savage Mill northward along the Little Patuxent River. A Gabbro bridge (A Pratt Truss Bridge) carried that spur across the Little Patuxent River here and continued northward along the west bank of the Little Patuxent River. This bridge was prefabricated in Baltimore and hauled to the site for assembly. This rail spur carried granite stones from Guilford Quarry and other private granite quarries and finishing operations along the B&O tracks in Wincopin, to the B&O mainline tracks at Savage Station. The rail spur was removed in 1925 after the Guilford Quarry flooded.

Quarry Finishing Plant Water Storage — In the eastern section of the Wincopin Trail, just before the green trail falls sharply toward the Little Patuxent River, a 24x10' high, round wooden water storage tower once stood. The tower provided the water source used in cutting and washing granite blocks at the large finishing plant along the Little Patuxent River. The water tower was made of tapered cypress and redwood timbers bound in a circular pattern with heavy steel straps and rods. It had a capacity of 47,000 gallons. Its design was similar to the water towers that were built along the B&O Railroad tracks in the middle 1800's and used to fill the water tanks of passing steam locomotives.

Stone Finishing Plant — Along the Little Patuxent River, on the Green trail, you'll encounter large stone and concrete walls, and a variety of concrete pillars; the remains of a large stone finishing plant that operated in the late 1800's until about 1925. Raw blocks of granite from local quarries were delivered here by rail. Stone finishers used special hand tools to cut the raw granite into measured stones to construct buildings, bridge abutments, and monuments.

Stone Crib Dam — Descending on the Green trail to the Little Patuxent River, you encounter the walls of a stone and earthen dam that was building between 1802-1804. This type of Crib Dam was typical of dam construction used in Maryland in the late 1700's and early 1800's. This dam provided water power for the Savage Grist Mill, located 0.4 miles downriver. Grist mills ground corn and wheat into flour products.

