

SIGHTS TO SEE



URBAN WILDLIFE

Masonville Cove

Come learn more about birds, wetlands, and the Chesapeake Bay at this 124-acre wildlife refuge.



HISTORY

Fort McHenry

Built in 1798, Fort McHenry is best known for its role in the War of 1812 defending the Baltimore Harbor from the British Navy.



RECREATION

West Covington Park

The trail touches six city parks, including Middle Branch, Broening, Cherry Hill, Ferry Bar, Reed Bird Island, and West Covington.



ARCHITECTURE

South Hanover Street Bridge

Don't miss out on seeing both the South Hanover Street Bridge and the CSX Swing Bridge!

Photography Credit:

Masonville Cove Picture: Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center

Fort McHenry Picture: Tom Darden

West Covington Park Picture: Ayers Saint Gross Architecture

South Hanover Street Bridge Picture: Maryland State Highway Administration

COME JOIN THE ADVENTURE ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY!

Smith and his crew sailed from a struggling English outpost into a world they knew little about. They traveled an enormous web of waterways and encountered American Indians who already lived along many of the shorelines. Based on these travels, Smith created a detailed map of the Chesapeake Bay region. His map and writings influenced the exploration and settlement of eastern North America for many generations. Today, you can follow Smith's travels on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, learn the traditions of descendant American Indian tribes who still live here, and experience the richness of the Chesapeake and its rivers. By land and by water, you'll make discoveries of your own.

JOHN SMITH IN THE PATAPSCO

Captain John Smith and his crew spent only two and a half days on the Patapsco River, but he managed to map it with amazing accuracy. On June 12, 1608, they anchored the **Discovery Barge** for the night off Bodkin Point. They saw no one on land. Some historians believe this part of the western shore was a buffer area between the Indian tribes of the region. The next day, Smith explored the river up to modern-day Elkridge. They spent the afternoon exploring and mapping the Gwynns Falls, the Jones Falls, and Old Road Bay, where they spent the night. The crew begged Smith to turn south to restock supplies. He responded with an inspiring speech that revived their spirits, but the weather shut in on them in Old Road Bay. After a day and a half of rain and wind endured in their open boat, Smith relented, and they headed south on June 15.

Paddler's Checklist:

- ☐ Finished float plan left with a friend (bit.ly/BaltimoreFP)
- ☐ Personal flotation device
- ☐ Spare paddle
- ☐ Clothes you can get wet
- ☐ Whistle or other sound signaling device
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Drinking water & snacks
- ☐ Proper footwear
- ☐ UV eye protection

Temperature Check Hypothermia Awareness

Hypothermia is a large risk with any water-based activity. **If the water is 60°F or below, the risk for hypothermia is higher and paddling should be postponed to another day!** Check out NOAA's Patapsco River buoy for up-to-the-minute readings at: bit.ly/NOAABaltimore

Stay Aware!

This paddling trail does intersect with an active shipping channel. Stay alert for in-the-moment hazards, and make sure to check the weather in advance for any small craft advisories.

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





MIDDLE BRANCH PADDLE GUIDE



CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL (MIDDLE BRANCH)



PUBLIC LAUNCH SITES







-  1 Middle Branch Park (R)
-  2 Insulator Drive (Food**, Parking)
-  3 Ferry Bar Park (Parking)
-  4 Broening Park (Parking, Boat Ramp)

*Open 9am–5pm **Open 11am–9pm

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911 AND
ASK FOR BALTIMORE CITY POLICE, MARINE UNIT

LEGEND

Points of Interest

-  a CSX Swing Bridge
-  b West Covington Park
-  c Hanover Street Bridge
-  d Fort McHenry
-  e Fort McHenry Wetlands
-  f Cherry Hill Park
-  NOAA Buoy
-  g Masonville Cove¹
-  h Harbor Hospital
-  Emergency Exit

Areas to Note

-  Ridgley's Cove²
-  Cruise Maryland Terminal
-  Shipping Channel
-  Private Property

1. Masonville Cove hours of operation are:
Monday–Friday: 9am–4pm,
Saturday: 9am–1pm, Sunday: CLOSED

2. Ridgley's Cove becomes less accessible for inexperienced paddlers as the tide lowers. For daily tidal information to help plan accordingly, please visit the Department of Natural Resources Tide Finder at: bit.ly/MDTideFinder