

# Savage River State Forest

With more than 54,000 acres of rugged terrain, Savage River State Forest features a myriad of challenges for every kind of outdoor enthusiast. It is the largest state forest in Maryland and hikers, anglers, hunters, mountain bikers and kayakers are all drawn to the area by the varied activities and striking natural beauty. Over 12,000 acres of the forest have been designated as Wildlands, ensuring this state treasure's unique resources will remain unspoiled.

The Forestry Board created the 50,000 acre Savage River State Forest in 1929. Named for 18th century surveyor John Savage, the Savage River is the first major tributary of the

North Branch Potomac River from its source. He surveyed as part of a boundary dispute between Lord Fairfax and the English Privy Council concerning the Northern Neck of the Potomac River. His party took on the difficult task of tracing the Potomac River to its headwaters in October 1736. The story goes that as winter closed in on the group they found themselves cold and hungry, camped along a raging river. Their desperate conditions caused them to consider killing and eating one of the weaker party members. The obvious choice was John Savage, whose eyesight was failing. His life was spared when provisions arrived in the nick of time. Feeling re-





morseful, the group named the nearby river after the man they had previously intended to be their supper.

Classified as a mixed hardwood forest, Savage River State Forest preserves a strategic watershed in Garrett County. Each season brings the forest to life with an ever changing display of colors and sounds. The serenity of the remote forest provides shade during warm months for native brook trout streams. Some of the best wild trout fishing in Maryland can be enjoyed on the Savage. Rhododendron and hickory and oak trees provide habitat to many wildlife species. The forest supports populations of black bear, white-tailed deer, bobcat, raccoon and other small mammals. Over one hundred species of birds are identified in the forest, including species of hawks, owls and songbirds.

Miles of trails are available to hikers, mountain bikers and cross country skiers. Snowmobile and off-road vehicle (ORV) operators can even enjoy several miles of scenic trails by purchasing a permit at State Forest headquarters. Keep in mind that Savage River State Forest is a natural that presents certain hazards. Overhanging branches, rocky and slippery trails and venomous snakes are a few of the hazards. When exploring this rugged area, trail users are responsible for having the necessary skills, knowledge and equipment for a safe and environmentally sensitive visit.

The Savage River Reservoir provides fishing and paddling opportunities in a tranquil, wilderness setting. Offering two boat launches (located at Dry Run and near the Reservoir dam), the reservoir's convenient access makes it easy for anglers to enjoy fishing for catfish,

trout, bass and tiger muskie. When exploring 350 acres reservoir, visitors may observe grouse, ducks, great blue herons, king fishers and minks, depending on what time of year they visit. State Forest headquarters can supply you with a schedule of guided canoe trips, which are offered throughout the summer by forest interpreters or private nature tourism vendors. Be sure to check the weather when planning a paddling trip on the Reservoir. Situated in a canyon, the area occasionally experiences high winds that can make paddling difficult and dangerous.

Two mountain rivers are located in the State Forest. The Savage and the Casselman are separated by the Eastern Continental Divide. The Savage River flows south into the Potomac River. Dropping 85 feet per mile, it's a favorite of advanced paddlers and anglers. The Savage is a destination for white-water paddling and slalom racing and has been used for the U.S. Olympic Trials. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains the Savage River Dam for flood control and recreation. Some paddlers may be surprised to learn that negotiations over recreational releases on the Savage River have been ongoing for years. The negotiations have finally come to fruition in 2007, resulting in the first scheduled boating releases on the legendary Savage River in more than ten years. The rarity in releases is in part due to the importance the river plays as a habitat for brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout and sometimes cutthroat trout. Untouched by man's breeding techniques, the river supports a strain of brook trout that are as genetically pure today as they were thousands of years ago. It is managed as a "Trophy Trout Area," with the

water nearest the dam designated for fly fishing only.

The forest's Casselman River flows north into the Youghiogheny River and then eventually into the Mississippi River. It is also popular with anglers, featuring stocked rainbow and brown trout. Be sure to consult your freshwater sport-fishing guide for detailed information on rules, regulations and creel limits, or visit [www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries) for trout stocking schedules.

Biking trails, boat launch, cross country ski-

ing, fishing, flat water canoeing, hiking trails, historic interest, hunting, picnicking, riding trails, snowmobiling, white water kayaking and canoeing – all of these activities combined with rugged beauty to make Savage River State Forest a unique and delightful place to experience the sights and sounds of nature.

For more information on trails, activities and regulations visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/savageriver> or call (301) 895-5759.



# state forests



Deep Creek State Park

## Garrett State Forest

301-334-2038

Mountains of forests, streams and valleys make up the 8,000 acres in Garrett State Forest.

### Historic Interest

In 1906 this forest was given to the state of Maryland and was the beginning of our present public lands system.

### Activities

Hiking, hunting, birdwatching, fishing, mountain biking, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

### Pets

Pets are allowed in all areas of the forest. No Leash is required as long as pets are under control except in Swallow Falls and Herrington Manor State Parks.

## Potomac State Forest

301-334-2038

This forest contains 12,400 acres of trees, streams and wildlife. Located near the headwaters of the historic Potomac River. The terrain is rugged with elevations ranging from 1,800 feet along the Potomac to 2,960 feet on Backbone Mountain (MD's highest point). This steep gradient has numerous fast falling brooks and streams which feed the river. Several larger streams are Schell, Laurel, Lostland Run and Crabtree Creek.

### Activities

*Activities are of a more primitive nature.* Scenic vistas, hunting, fishing, biking and nature appreciation.

### Pets

Pets are allowed in all areas of the forest. No Leash is required as long as pets are under control.

Offers handicapped accessible hunting areas, park office and 1 pavilion.

## Savage River State Forest

301-895-5759

This is the largest of Maryland's State Forests with over 53,000 acres of forestland, streams and wildlife habitat for your enjoyment. Contains New Germany and Big Run State Parks. Also, within the forest is the 360 acre Savage River Reservoir.

### Activities

Hiking, sightseeing, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, canoeing, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

### Pets

Pets are allowed in all areas of the forest with a leash.

**Big Run State Park**

301-895-5453

With 300 acres in Garrett County, Big Run State Park is situated at the mouth of the Savage River Reservoir. With boat launches nearby, Big Run is a popular base camp for outdoor lovers intent on fishing, hiking or hunting. Big Run is the trailhead for a six-mile hiking trail, known as Monroe Run.

**Activities**

Fishing, flatwater canoeing or kayaking, picnicking and hunting.

**Pets**

Pets are allowed in all areas with a leash.

There is a rental picnic pavilion which can accommodate 100 people available by reservation.

**Casselman River Bridge State Park**

301-895-5453

Spanning 4 acres, Casselman River Bridge State Park is east of Grantsville on U.S. Route 40. The beautiful, 80-foot stone arch bridge was part of the old National Road. When constructed in 1813, it was the largest of its kind in the world.

**Activities**

Picnicking, fishing and sight seeing

Not handicapped accessible.

**Deep Creek Lake State Park**

301-387-5563

Encompassing over 1,818 acres, Deep Creek Lake State Park is three miles southeast of McHenry, on the east side of Deep Creek Lake.

**Activities**

Swimming, picnicking, boat launching, interpretive programs, hiking, mountain biking, hunting and cross country skiing.

**Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center**

Interpretive environmental center offering guided hikes, hands on educational exhibits and on-site naturalists. The Discovery Center has summer hours of operation daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Weekday hours are limited between Labor Day and Memorial Day, for more information call 301-387-7067.

**Pets**

Pets are NOT permitted at the waterfront area of the park. Pets ARE permitted on hiking trails with a leash.

Lifeguard on Duty SUMMER ONLY- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Pets are NOT permitted in the day use area of the park.

**Day use Service Charges**

Memorial Day - Labor Day \$3/person

Labor Day - Memorial Day \$3/vehicle

*Out of state residents add \$1 to all service charges.*

## New Germany State Park



## Herrington Manor State Park

301-334-9180

Covering 365 acres, Herrington Manor State Park is located four miles northwest of Oakland.

### Activities

Features a 53-acre lake for swimming and non motorized boating, hiking, interpretive programs and groomed cross-country ski trails along with ski & snowshoe rentals.

### Pets

Pets are permitted on hiking trails with a leash, except between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Lifeguard on Duty - Friday - Tuesday 10a.m. - 6p.m. (SUMMER ONLY)

**Offers a handicapped accessible visitor's center, concession stand, picnic sites, path to the swimming beach and a fishing pier.**

### Day use Service Charges

Weekends & Holidays: Memorial Day - Labor Day \$2/person

Weekdays: Memorial Day - Labor Day \$2/vehicle

Weekends & Weekdays: Labor Day - Memorial Day \$2/vehicle

Ski Season Weekends & Holidays: \$3/person

*Out of state residents add \$1 to all service charges.*

## Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area

301-334-4255

Nestled in the mountains of Garrett County, Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area, a 2,000-acre tract of land, protects one of the most unique wetlands in Maryland - a red spruce bog. Bogs are more typically found in northern states and Canada, but Mt. Nebo's elevation has ideal conditions for this special wetland. Beaver ponds, alder thickets and sedge meadows along with 1,500 acres of forest and 40 acres of fields make a prime destination for outdoor sportsmen and nature lovers.

## New Germany State Park

301-895-5453

New Germany State Park's 455 acres are located about four miles south of Grantsville on New Germany Road. The park is built on the site of a once-prosperous milling center in Savage River State Forest.

Activities	13 acre lake offering boat launch, non-motorized boat rentals, swimming, fishing, flatwater canoeing, hiking, picnicking, shelters, nature center, and cross country skiing (rentals available).
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Pets	Pets are NOT permitted.
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Lifeguard on Duty - SUMMER ONLY - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Day use Service Charges

Weekends & Holidays: Memorial Day - Labor Day \$2/person

Ski Season Weekends & Holidays: \$3/person

*Out of state residents add \$1 to all service charges.*

## Swallow Falls State Park

301-334-9180

Swallow Falls State Park stretches 257 acres and is located about six miles north of Oakland on Swallow Falls Road. This mountainous park contains some of Maryland's most breathtaking scenery. Home to Maryland's tallest waterfall, Muddy Creek Falls.

Activities	Hiking, fishing, picnic area, playground and nature programs (summer).
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Pets	Pets are permitted on hiking trails with a leash, except between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
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### Day use Service Charges

## Youghiogheny Wild and Scenic River

301-387-5563

The section of the Youghiogheny River between Miller's Run and Friendsville was designated as Maryland's first wild river. The goal of the state of Maryland is to provide for the cooperative management, preservation and protection of the Youghiogheny River and its outstanding scenic, geologic, historic, ecological, recreational, agricultural, fish, wildlife, and cultural values. Approximately 2,500 acres of public lands are managed. Whitewater boating, trout fishing, hunting and hiking are predominant uses of the park. **Visitors must take precautions to avoid trespass and should only use designated public access points.**