



North Point State Park

Location: Edgemere, Maryland

Address: 8400 N Point Rd, Edgemere, Maryland · (410) 592-2897

URL: <http://northpointstatepark.homestead.com/>

eBird Info Link: <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L452844>

Rating:



Upside: Beautiful natural setting; various environments to bird and encounter wildlife; large beautiful visitor center; swimming and wading beach; fishing pier; multiple hiking trails through various ecosystems; picnic pavilions for enjoying the park. The park is easy to locate via GPS and located near main highways.

Downside: Trails are mostly natural materials – no paving - so hiking can be tedious for those with disabilities and accessibility issues. The swimming area is small and there is no lifeguard. There is a small parking lot near the visitor center but it appears to be used only by the workers – there is no public access to the visitor center except via the walking trails.



Visitor Center

The park includes a nice visitor center staffed with volunteers who

are knowledgeable and helpful. A nature museum is included. Trail maps are available and easy to understand.



Hiking Trails

Hiking trails are more natural, rustic, and unimproved but flat and easy to walk. Care should be taken on uneven terrain. The trails cover several different ecosystems to include wetlands and woods and meadows which are excellent for viewing birds and wildlife.



Restrooms

Indoor bathrooms are available at the visitor center. They can be accessed from the outside as well as from the inside museum area. According to the website, the bathrooms are “seasonal” so may be closed during winter months. I did not see any porta-potties near the hiking trails.



Parking

There is ample parking at the main area of the park near the fishing pier and gazebos. There are smaller parking areas near trail heads but this could be a problem on weekends and during the summer when things are very crowded. Parking is gravel and not paved.



Picnic Area

There are several picnic tables near the beach and fishing pier area. Also, there is a gazebo and pavilion that are available for picnics for an additional fee.



Marsh Wetlands

The Black Marsh Wildlands have been designated as a state protected wildlands. The wildlands include about 667 acres of the overall park. The wildlands include marsh and wetlands.



Canoe Launch

The park does provide water access although I did not see any particular signs or notices related to canoeing or kayaking.



Scenic View

The park sits on the Chesapeake Bay which offers expansive water views.



Snack Bar

The communities located closest to the park were small and did not appear to offer much. There was a small café offering subs and sandwiches.



Access

The webpage for the park indicates that it is accessible but this would be only at the main fishing pier and visitor center. Trails are unimproved and would be difficult to traverse with a cane or with a wheelchair.



Historical Site

The “Defenders Trail” associated with the War of 1812 runs through part of the park. Also, the park includes the old Trolley Station and Fountain from the Bay Shore Amusement Park from 1906-1947.



Fishing

There are ample opportunities for fishing off the pier or offshore in the park. There are no stores to purchase fishing supplies once you are in the park.



Fee

There is a small fee of \$4 per vehicle (more for buses) during summer and \$3 during winter months. If you leave the park, you must re-pay to re-enter. Seniors can purchase a lifetime pass for a minimal amount.

NEAR BY: Fort Howard Park is very close and offers additional birding in a waterfront area. However, Fort Howard is a little harder to find and might not be as safe for hiking alone. Fort Howard also lies on the Defenders Trail and has historical significance.

See also the blog about North Point Park at BirdingBoomers.Com -