



# Good things to know before you arrive



If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, Please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before event. TTY 703-803-3354



Huntley Meadows Park is a wildlife sanctuary, 1,500+ acres of protected land.



It is a wildlife sanctuary containing diverse habitats including...

## Impressive Forests



# Wildflower-speckled meadows...



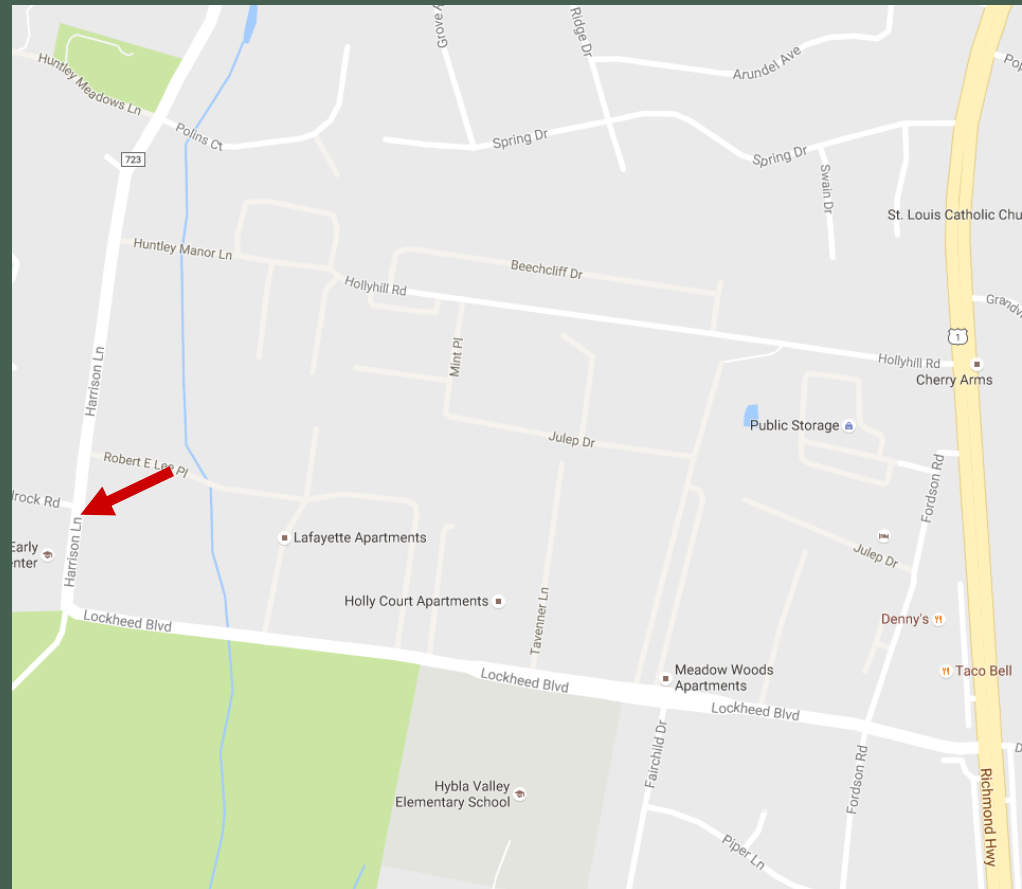
...and a freshwater wetland.



# Getting to Huntley Meadows Park

The Park entrance is at the corner of Harrison and Lockheed.

GPS has been known to be unreliable in giving proper directions. Driving directions can be located at the top right of the following page:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/fieldtrips.htm>



For Self-Guided groups **please note** it is advisable to call ahead to reserve a visit, ensuring adequate space for you group. The Self-Guided Field Trip Group Admission Fee is \$30 for groups of 12-60 people. For groups over 60, add \$1 for each additional person.

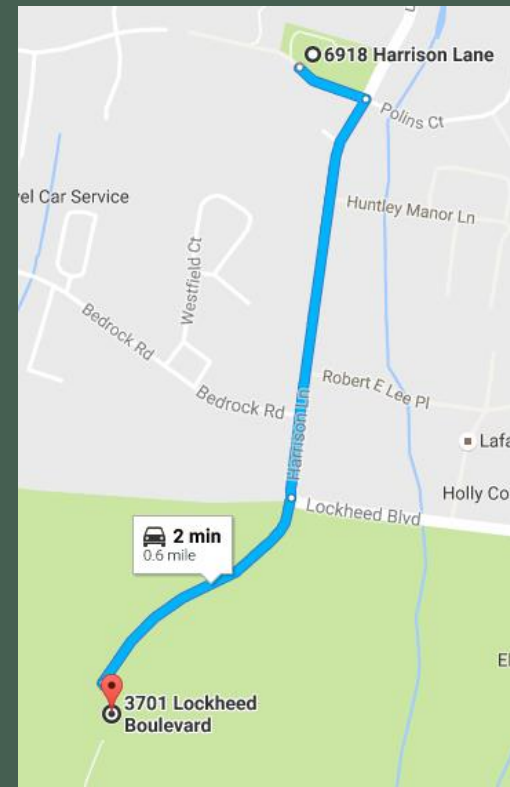
# Historic Huntley



Historic Huntley was built in 1825 by the Mason Family. The house is open for tours every Saturday morning. Other programs, including school programs, can be scheduled on the Huntley Meadows Park website.

NOTE:

Historic Huntley is off-site, just ½ mile up Harrison Lane!



As you walk, follow the trail from the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center into the forest.





# Look for many different tree species...

**Sweet Gum**



**Oak**



**Maple**





*Spring leaf color.*

## vines....

**Wild Grape** vines attach to trees and have flaky bark. Many animals enjoy the fruit found at the very top of the tree canopy.

A **Poison Ivy** vine is hairy and the plant has three leaves. It runs along the ground AND climbs trees. Touching any part of the plant can give humans an itchy rash. Animals such as deer, rabbits, and birds eat its leaves and berries.



*Fall leaf color.*

# ...and other life growing on the trees.

## Lichens



## Fungi



## Moss



# The trees provide homes for animals in the **tree canopy**...

What animal might make their nest in a hole in a tree?



It could be a **Pileated Woodpecker**.

This is a squirrel nest, called a **drey**. →



# ...and on the ground.



**Fallen trees, decaying logs, and brush piles** on the forest floor provide shelter for many animals, including insects, rodents, and birds.



**Red-bellied  
Woodpecker**



**Animals of the Forest**

**Northern Cardinal**



**White-tailed Deer**



**Eastern Grey Squirrel**

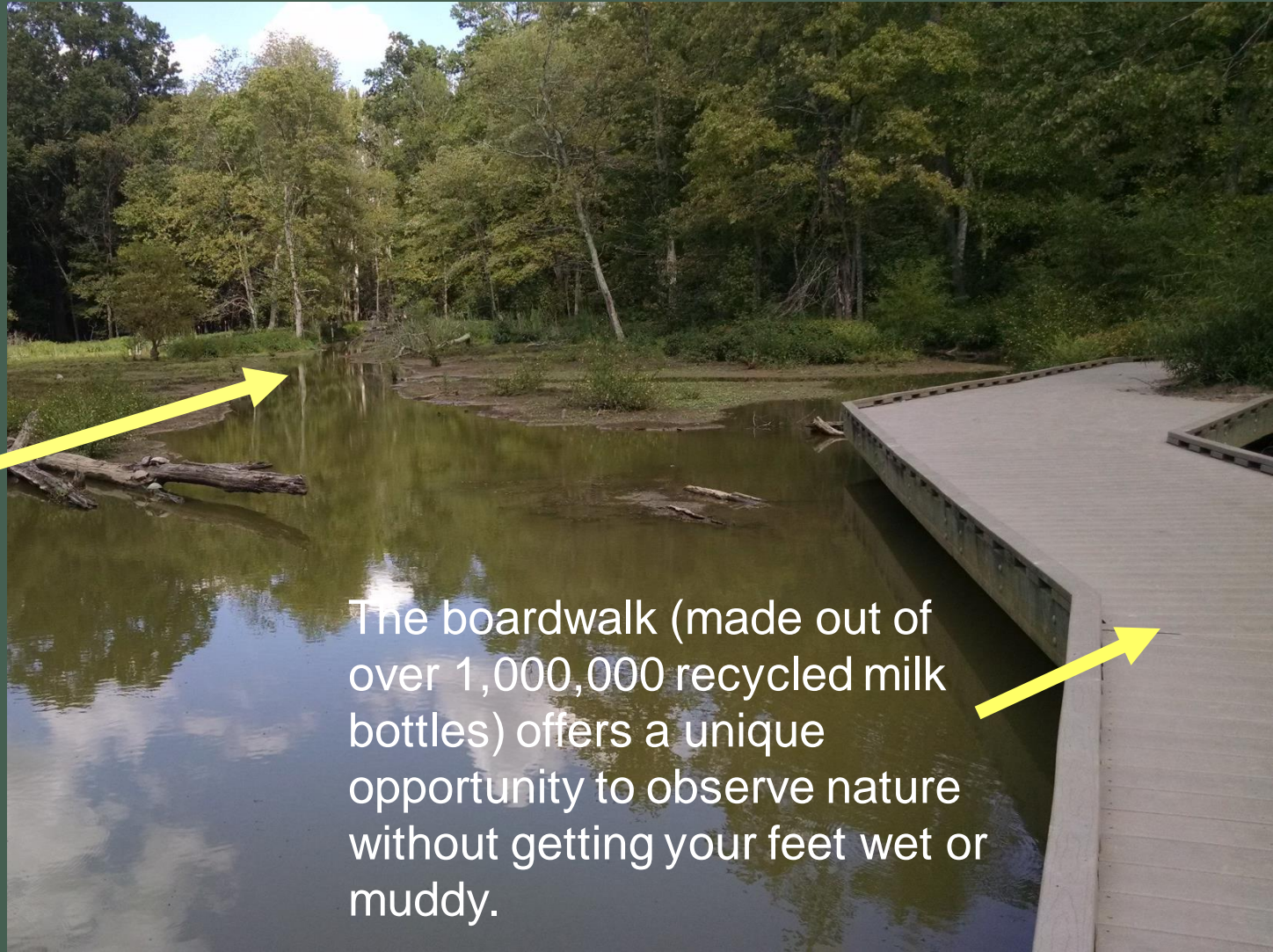


**Red Fox**



# The forest trail leads to our freshwater wetland.

Upon exiting the woods and entering the wetlands, Barnyard Run is the first stream you see. This stream is the main source of water for the wetlands.



The boardwalk (made out of over 1,000,000 recycled milk bottles) offers a unique opportunity to observe nature without getting your feet wet or muddy.

# Huntley Meadows Wetlands

Beavers helped create this unique freshwater habitat in 1978 by building a **dam** to hold in the water and continue to build dams to this day.



As seen in Fall

Try to spot this **beaver dam** when you first enter the wetlands.

A **hemi marsh** is 50% water and 50% plants.



A berm was built in 2014 so that humans would be able to control the wetland water levels and maintain it as a **hemi marsh**.



# Wetland Plants

**Cattails**



**Pennywort**



**Arrowhead**



**Spike Rush**



**Crimson-Eyed  
Rose-Mallow**



**Turtle Head**



*These are the seed heads left behind after blooming.*

**Jewelweed**



**Great Egret**



# Wetland Birds

**Great Blue Heron**



**Mallard Duck**



**Red-winged Blackbird**



**Canada Goose**



# Look in the water, you might see...

**Snails** on the bottom of the wetland.



**Water Striders**



But be careful! Some things that are not the same animal look very similar...

**Fish**

vs.

**Tadpole**



Fish swim through the water and the entire body is narrow.



Tadpoles sit at the bottom of the wetland and have a **FAT** head with a **NARROW** tail.

Fish look the same throughout their life. **Tadpoles** turn into...

# Frogs & Toads



**American Toad**



**Green Frog**



**Southern Leopard Frog**



**Bull Frog**



Reptiles can often be found **basking** in the sun. Basking is the way turtles regulate their body temperature.

# Reptiles

## Northern Water Snake



## Snapping Turtle



## Five-lined Skink



Turtles basking on a log

*There are no venomous snakes in Huntley Meadows Park.*

# Wetland Insects and Spiders

Fritillary

Black & Yellow Argiope

Grasshopper



Tiger Swallowtail

Dragonfly & Damselfly



*This is the  
Virginia  
state  
insect!*

# Mammals of the Wetland

**Beaver**

vs.

**Muskrat**

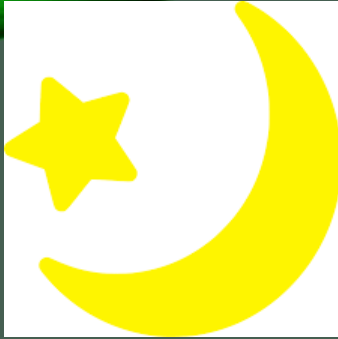


Beaver tails are flat.

Muskrat tails are thin and round.

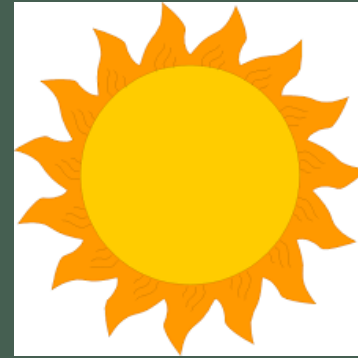


Beavers are **nocturnal**



Look around the edge of the wetland and see if you can find evidence of beaver activity.

Muskrats are **diurnal**



Muskrats are often seen munching on roots among the tall plants.





Beavers build **dams** out of mud and sticks to hold back water and make it deeper so they can more easily swim and build their homes.



Muskrats do not build dams.



A beaver's home is called a **lodge**. They are built out of MUD and STICKS, and have underwater entrances.



A muskrat's home is also called a **lodge**. They are built out of CATTAILS and MUD, and have entrances half underwater.



# Weather Station



# Man Made Structures




# Nest Boxes



**Brush Piles** are made with sticks and NO mud.





Like any wildlife sanctuary, animal activity, plant growth, and plant bloom at Huntley Meadow Park **VARIES** by the season and the time of day.

A visit to Huntley Meadows is **NEVER PREDICTABLE**, but always interesting.

## Things to remember during your visit:

- ❑ Please be respectful and do not touch or disturb the plants and wildlife that live in the park.
- ❑ You will see more animals **if your group is quiet.**
- ❑ Please stay on the trails and boardwalk at all times.
- ❑ More tips and trail etiquette are [online](#).

