

DNR info:

North Point & Hart Miller -State Parks

North Point State Park

is located in Baltimore County on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and is surrounded by beautiful and fascinating natural and historical resources. It consists of 1,310 acres off North Point Road in Edgemere.

North Point Park History

North Point has been continuously farmed for almost 350 years, with evidence of human occupation dating back almost 9,000 years. During the War of 1812, local militia skirmished with British troops seeking to invade Baltimore. The British route to Baltimore passed through the present-day park and is known today as the "Defenders Trail."

During the first half of the 20th-century, a small part of the park was the site of the Bay Shore Amusement Park. Built in 1906, Bay Shore was a bustling and attractive park offering recreation and relaxation in a setting of gardens, pathways and Edwardian architecture. The park included a dance hall, bowling alley, restaurant and a 1000-ft. pier jutting out into the Bay. Bay Shore Park was accessible by trolley from Baltimore.

Bay Shore Park was demolished in the late-1940s when Bethlehem Steel bought the land. The property was acquired by DNR in 1987 to provide resource protection and limited access to the Bay.

Service Charges

Park entrance fees are as follows:

Weekends and holidays, Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day: \$4 per-vehicle for Maryland residents, and \$6 per-vehicle for non-Maryland residents.

Summer weekdays and weekends after Labor Day and before Memorial Day weekend: \$3 per-vehicle service for Maryland residents, and \$5 per-vehicle for non-Maryland residents. *Service Charges are subject to change. Call 410-477-0757 to confirm.

Buses are \$10 and require a reservation.

Patrons who leave the park are required to pay again to re-enter.

Senior citizens aged 62 and older are eligible for a \$10 lifetime [Golden Age Pass](#).

Filled to Capacity

North Point is known to fill to capacity on summer weekends and especially holidays. All visitors will be turned away if the park fills to capacity. Patrons are encouraged to arrive early and carpool if possible. The main parking lot also fills to capacity often. Alternative parking near the park entrance is usually available, but be prepared to walk about 1.5 miles.

Water Access

North Point features an unguarded waterfront that is open to waders and swimmers. Waders and swimmers can enter the water at their own risk. There are no lifeguards at North Point State Park.

Picnicking

Picnic tables and grills are available on a first come-first serve basis. The Trolley Station and bay-front gazebo are also available for rent. See details below.

Trolley Station Pavilion:

The Trolley Station pavilion is available for rental May 1st through September 30th. Reservations will be taken through the statewide -reservation system Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. To make a reservation, please call 1-888-432-2267. Payment for the reservation will be made through the reservation system. Patrons renting the Trolley Station will be required to pay the park entrance fee.

Bay-Front Gazebo:

The North Point State Park Volunteers maintain and rent out a small bay-front gazebo. It seats up to 30 people, and can be rented for the day for \$40 by calling 410-477-0757. Patrons renting the gazebo will be required to pay the park entrance fee.

Takos Visitor Center

The Takos Visitor Center at North Point sits where the Bay Shore Park Restaurant once stood. Completed in 2002, this beautiful facility resembles the structures once found in Bay Shore Park and boasts nature and history-themed exhibits, a science classroom, a large conference room, and public restrooms. The building was named after Steve Takos, a volunteer who spearheaded the renovation efforts in the park. Hours are Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fishing

North Point features two fishing piers (including the 1,000 foot Crystal Pier) and a long shoreline that present good fishing opportunities. Anglers ages 16 and older are required to possess a Maryland Tidal Fishing License.

Black Marsh Wild lands

Over half of the park (667 acres) has received legislative protection as State Wild lands. Bicycles are prohibited in the Wild lands. The Wild lands (along with the park's Wetlands area) provide opportunities to observe local birds and wildlife including: muskrats, beavers, foxes, otters, osprey, great blue herons and bald eagles.

Hart-Miller Island:

is a 1,100-acre island located in Baltimore County on the Chesapeake Bay near the mouth of Middle River. It is accessible only by personal boat. The western shore of the island offers safe mooring, wading and access to a 3,000-foot sandy beach. Hart-Miller Island State Park also includes Hawk Cove and Pleasure Island, which also provide recreational opportunities and camping.

Recent History

Originally part of a peninsula that extended from Edgemere, the two islands, Hart and Miller were joined by the construction of a dike in 1981. Until 2012, the impoundment was filled with dredge material from the Baltimore Harbor and surrounding tributaries. In recent years, Hart-Miller Island has become a recreational haven for boaters in the northern Chesapeake Bay.

On May 7, 2016, the south cell of Hart-Miller Island officially opened for public access for the first time since construction began on the dike in 1981. The south cell will be open and staffed Thursdays through Mondays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The south cell contains over eight miles of trails that circle around a large, beautiful pond and include breathtaking views of the Chesapeake Bay. The 1.8 mile Long Trail Loop boasts interpretive signage about the various wildlife and different ecosystems that are a part of Hart-Miller Island and also provides history on this unique, one of a kind area.

Along with regular day use amenities, boaters and beach-goers can now rent bicycles to ride around the south cell. Visitors will be able to take binoculars and bird guides to explore the many species of birds that migrate to the island, which has become well known for its abundant bird population. There are also many other plant, insect and wildlife species to encounter. Staff on the island will also have light concessions for sale such as sodas and snacks. Hart-Miller Island is a must see for those who want to get away from it all.

Day-Use Opportunities

Hart-Miller Island, Hawk Cove and Pleasure Island are open year-round. Water supply and restrooms are available at the main camping area on Hart-Miller Island; however, these facilities are only available May through September. There are opportunities to hike, picnic, fish and bird-watch. More than half-a-mile of sandy beach invites swimming, beach-combing and sunbathing. An observation platform that provides great views of the marsh is open to the public from May through September. At the close of the day, the island is closed to everyone except registered campers. For your protection, glass containers are prohibited on the Island. Please note, the north cell of Hart-Miller Island is currently closed to the public. While the island is no longer receiving dredge material, until further notice only the south cell, the small portion on the west side of the island which includes the main camping area, restrooms, water supply and beach is open to the public. All of Hawk Cove and Pleasure Island are open to the public.

Camping

Camping is available from May 1-September 30. Hart-Miller Island State Park offers 22 campsites available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are 6 campsites at the main camping area on Hart-Miller Island, 11 sites at Hawk Cove, and 5 sites on Pleasure Island. All sites have a picnic table, lantern post and campfire grill. Water supply and restrooms are available only on Hart-Miller Island. A registration fee of \$6.00 per site/per night will be collected after you set up. Campfires may only be built in the fire rings provided.