



Smallwood State Park Features



Smallwood State Park takes its name from General William Smallwood, a native born Charles County man. He was the highest ranked Marylander who served in the American Revolutionary War. His house, called Smallwood's Retreat, has been restored and is open to visitors seasonally. Besides the restored house, the 628-acre park offers a marina, boat launching ramps, a picnic area, camping area, pavilions, a recycled tire playground and nature trails. On occasion, there are craft demonstrations, military exhibitions and other special events.

History

Smallwood State Park was dedicated in September 1958, as a historic park. At the time, the park consisted of 30 acres of land which included the Retreat House and the grave site of General William Smallwood. Smallwood reached the rank of major general for his service as a patriot leader during the Revolutionary War. He was elected Governor of Maryland in 1785, and later served in the Maryland Senate. During his term as the 4th Governor of Maryland, Maryland ratified the Federal Constitution. The plantation house reflects Smallwood's lifestyle as a gentleman planter.

Sweden Point Marina was not always known as Sweden Point. At one time it was referred to as Sweet Man's Landing. The area that is referred to as Grinder's Wharf (which is only a few exposed pilings today) was built on a naturally deep water channel in the Mattawoman Creek. The Grinder family was one of the areas major brick manufacturers in the Chicamuxen area. They in turn used Grinders Wharf to ship their brick out to the wholesalers. In the mid 1800's the wharf was used by the Washington Steamship Lines on the Potomac. The steamers would pick up water on their journey south to the Chesapeake Bay. A park map is available from the park office.

Sweden Point Marina

Sweden Point is located on the Mattawoman Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. It is approximately one mile from the marina to the Potomac River. Sweden Point Marina has 50 slips and excellent access for fishing on the Potomac River.

The marina can accommodate boats up to 36 feet in length (one slip can accommodate 42-foot length) and includes a bathhouse, electric and non-potable water hook-ups. Dock-side fresh water fill station and pump-out station are available. Wet slip renters have 24 hours' access to the facility. Rates are based on the length of the boat and the duration of stay. We offer five month and annual leases. For those traveling the tidal Potomac, transient berthing is also available.

Vessels arriving by water may reserve slips in advance by calling 301-743-7613. The area around the marina is dredged to a depth of 6 feet.

Sweden Point Marina is currently renting boat slips. Sweden Point is a secured marina with restrooms and showers. Potable water and electric service is provided for every slip. Seasonal (5 month) rates start at only \$417. For more information, call 301-743-7613.

A dry storage area is available for trailer able vessels. Dry storage has up to 50 spaces in a secure lighted area. Monthly rates are available for dry storage with owners having access to their vessels from sunrise to sunset.

Six boat launch ramps are available. A launch service charge of \$10 per day for in-state visitors and \$12 per day for out-of-state visitors is in effect year round. Golden Age Passes are not accepted for launching services. Boat ramps are only open during park hours. Visitors wishing to stay out on their boats overnight are required to fill out a "Float Plan" form, available on the bulletin board by the boat ramps.

Concessions - Sweden Point Marina features a small store which provides dock-side fuel (gas, no diesel), ice, bait and tackle, snack foods and souvenirs. The concession is open seasonally, call in advance for current hours of operation (301) 743-7336.

Features

Fishing -- One can fish from the shore or from several stationary piers located at Sweden Point Marina. Fish that could be caught include: largemouth bass, catfish, white and yellow perch, and carp. A Chesapeake Bay Sport fishing License is required. For more information on how to purchase a fishing license visit :<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/service/license.asp>.

Recycled Tire Playground -- Children ages 5-12 can enjoy climbing walls, a ten-tire bouncer, tire swings, a fish music wall and much more. Through a cooperative project between the Maryland Department of Environment, Maryland Environmental Service, and DNR, funding was made available for the construction of a community built tire playground at Smallwood. In a four-day period, a playground with the theme of fish and history was created. The playground entrance features art murals by Mattawoman Creek Art Center artists Bob Kenyon and Gene McCandless, and the fishing theme can be seen throughout the playground as over 65 hand-painted fish dot every piece of equipment. More than half of the structures are accessible to children with disabilities.

Picnicking -- Picnic tables and grills are available at the Sweden Point Concession area and at various points in the historic area of the park. Three pavilions are available by reservation.

Hiking -- The trails at Smallwood meander through the hardwood forest, passing many natural and historical points of interest. The entire trail system is approximately 2 miles in length with several marked exit points if the walk becomes too strenuous.

Camping -- Fifteen family campsites with electric hook-ups are available under the canopy of a hardwood forest. Four camper cabins sleep four and two cabins sleep six and have heat and air conditioning. Cabins #17 and #18 overlook Mattawoman Creek. Cabins #16 and #19 are close to the creek, but do not have a water view. Cabins #20 and #21 are located as you first enter the campground area. A picnic table, lantern post and fire ring are provided on each site. Bath house facilities with hot showers are also provided. See the Park's Camping Regulations.

Due to the potential threat of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and other invasive beetles, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has prohibited the importation of personal firewood into all DNR owned and managed properties. Firewood is available in the campground at the Camp Hose site for \$5/crate. You are also welcome to gather any sticks and limbs that are on the ground around your site.

Youth Group Camping -- There are two youth group camping sites available, reservations are required. Youth Group passes are honored. Each youth group site can accommodate approximately 25 people. Access to restroom facilities, fire ring, and one 12-foot picnic table are provided with each site. (Available April-October) You can make reservations through the Reservation Service or by calling 1-888-432-2267.

Reservations -- Reservations can be made in advance for family campsites, camper cabins, and pavilions by calling 1-888-432-CAMP (2267). Reservations are not required, but are recommended especially between Memorial Day and Labor Day. charges. Walk-in campers should report to headquarters upon arrival in order to register for a site. If headquarters is closed, a Ranger can be reached on the duty phone at 240-743-8475 for assistance.

Bass Tournaments -- The Potomac River is one of the premier Bass Fishing areas on the East Coast. Smallwood hosts many tournaments throughout the year. All tournaments are required to be registered at Smallwood, and there is a small tournament permit service charge to cover administrative costs. Tournaments can be booked a year in advance. For a current tournament listing, tournament rules, weigh station guidelines or to book a tournament please contact the park office at 301-743-7613.

Important Information -- Day use service charges are \$3 per person on weekends and holidays, April through October; \$3/vehicle all other times (honor system system in effect when toll booth is not staffed). Out-of-state residents add \$2 to all day use service charges. Smallwood State Park is open year-round. The park is open from 5 a.m. to sunset during the season (April-October) and 7 a.m. to sunset during the off season (November-March). Our headquarters is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during the season (April-October) and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the off season (November-March).

Pets -- Pets are allowed in all day use areas and in the campground. Pets must remain on a leash at all times.

Sweden Point Discovery Center -- The Sweden Discovery Center offers many opportunities for children of all ages to explore their natural surroundings. The discovery center features live animal displays including snakes, toads and turtles, interactive learning stations such as a fossil dig sandbox, and more. It also offers many programs year-round such as nature hikes, campfire programs, and Junior Rangers. For more information on the current program schedule or to request a special group program (school field trips, scout groups) please call the Discovery Center at 301-743-2041.

Contact the Park Service

- To Report Violations of Park Rules: 1-800-825-7275 (Park Watch) or 1-410-260-8888 (Communications Center)
- General Information: 1-800-830-3974 (Annapolis Office)
- Reservations: 1-888-432-2267