

Rock Creek Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.



Boulder Bridge

ALL PHOTOS NPS EXCEPT AS NOTED

At Rock Creek Park you can relax and enjoy many activities. Some require permits or reservations, so please read the following information carefully to see what may be required for your activity.

Picnicking Rock Creek Park has 29 picnic areas, some with rain shelters. Picnic areas numbered in blue dots (see *map on the other side*) may be reserved for groups up to 75. Picnic areas numbered in black dots are first-come, first-served areas limited to 12 people. Reservations must be made in person at the D.C. Department of Recreation; call 202-673-7646 for information.

Playgrounds The large recreation field at 16th and Kennedy streets, NW, has room for many activities. Some of the fields, which are suitable for soccer, football, volleyball, and field hockey, may be reserved; call the D.C. Department of Recreation, 202-673-7449.

Tennis The 15 soft-surface and 10 hard-surface tennis courts at 16th and Kennedy streets, NW, must be reserved in person through Guest Services, Inc. The courts are open April through mid-November. A fee is charged. For the rest of the year, the 10 hard-surface courts are available free on a first-come, first-served basis. Four soft-surface courts are off Park Road, just east of Peirce Mill. Make reservations for them through Washington Area Tennis and Education Foundation

in person at the courts; open May through September (fee charged). The two courts at Montrose Park are free. When others are waiting, limit your play to one hour.

Trails An extensive system of trails and paths covers Rock Creek Park and outlying areas like Glover-Archbold Park. For the hiker, trails maintained by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) consist of a blue-blazed trail that follows the east side of the creek, a green-blazed trail that follows the western ridge of the park, and tan-blazed connector trails. For physical fitness enthusiasts, a 1.5-mile exercise course begins near Calvert Street and Connecticut Avenue. For the horse rider, 13 miles of wide, dirt and gravel bridle trails crisscross the northern section of the park. An Equitation Field is near picnic area 25. Horseback riding lessons and guided trail rides are available at the Rock Creek Park Horse Center.

Biking A signed bicycle route goes from the Lincoln Memorial through the park and into Maryland. Memorial Bridge connects it to the Mount Vernon Trail in Virginia. Beach Drive between Military and Broad Branch roads is closed to automotive vehicles from 7 a.m. Saturday to 7 p.m. Sunday, and on holidays. Bicycles may be ridden only on paved roads and trails. They are not allowed on unpaved foot or horse trails.

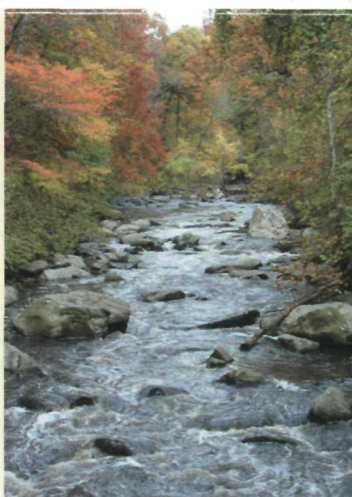


Cardinal flower



Raccoon

JESSIE M. HARRIS



Rock Creek



Children's cultural program

From Maryland to Military Road

Fort DeRussy, one of a ring of Civil War forts to protect Washington, D.C., is off the bike path at Oregon Avenue and Military Road.

Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium has information and activities related to the park's natural and cultural history. Exhibits present park wildlife and plant life. Programs interpreting the park's natural and cultural history are offered frequently. Contact the park for details. Two self-guiding nature trails start from the nature center. The Edge of the Woods Trail is accessible to wheelchairs and to blind or visually impaired persons. The nature center and all programs are accessible to wheelchairs. The planetari-

um features astronomy programs about the sky over Washington. The nature center encourages teachers and youth group leaders to use its facilities and staff during the week. Advance group reservations are required. Visit www.nps.gov/rocr for a list of activities. The nature center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. It is closed on all federal holidays.

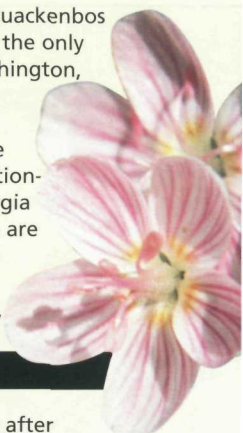
Rock Creek Golf Course, an 18-hole public course with clubhouse, can be reached from 16th and Rittenhouse streets, NW. Clubs and carts can be rented. The clubhouse has lockers and a snack bar. Open daily, except December 25, dawn to dusk. A fee is charged.

Rock Creek Park Horse Center rents horses for guided trail rides and lessons. A therapeutic riding program for persons with disabilities is available. Fees are charged.

Fort Stevens, at 13th and Quackenbos streets, NW, was the site of the only Confederate attack on Washington, D.C., during the Civil War.

Battleground Cemetery, the nation's second smallest national cemetery, is at 6625 Georgia Avenue, NW. Interred there are 41 soldiers killed defending the city at Fort Stevens.

Spring beauty



From Military Road to Tilden Street

Fort Reno, one of the ring of Civil War forts, was originally Fort Pennsylvania. Few traces remain of its site, west of Rock Creek Park at Belt Road and Chesapeake Street. From the heights of Tenleytown, the District of Columbia's highest point, it commanded three of the city's major roads: Wisconsin Avenue and River and Reno roads.

Fort Bayard was one of the 68 forts encircling Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. The site on River Road at Western Avenue, NW, offers picnicking and a ballfield.

Carter Barron Amphitheatre, a 3,700-seat outdoor theater in the woods, is home to the performing arts in summer. Information and tickets are available at its box office at 16th Street and Colorado Avenue, NW. Newspaper announcements also give performance times and ticket information.

Park Police Rock Creek Station offers maps and visitor assistance. Accessible for persons with disabilities, it is on Beach Drive south of the Military Road overpass.

Battery Kemble was named after Gouverneur Kemble, a former president of West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, N.Y., one of the nation's earliest foundries to cast good quality cannons. Today's Battery Kemble Park is bounded by Chain Bridge Road, MacArthur Boulevard, 49th Street, and Nebraska Avenue. Activities range from picnicking and games in summer to cross-country skiing and sledding in winter. In summer there is limited parking on site. In winter parking is permitted only on nearby streets.

From Tilden Street to the National Zoo

Park Headquarters houses the superintendent's office, which gives information and permits for special events. *You cannot get picnic permits here*—request them in person from the D.C. Department of Recreation. If you see a tree across a trail or something that needs attention, call the maintenance yard, 202-895-6060. Headquarters is open Monday through Friday 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and the maintenance yard is open 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Peirce Mill is the last of many mills serving local farmers from the late 18th to early 20th centuries. It is not wheelchair-accessible. All mill tours start at Peirce Barn, across the street. Many tours and programs begin at **Peirce Barn**, a visitor contact station, with exhibits on the Mills of the Rock Creek valley and information on the Peirce family and estate. Peirce Mill and Peirce Barn hours vary, and group tours may be arranged on request. Visit www.nps.gov/rocr or call 202-895-6070 for information.

National Zoological Park—the Zoo—run by the Smithsonian Institution, features natural environments for many of its 2,000 animals. Enter from Connecticut Avenue or Beach Drive (parking fees charged). It is open daily except December 25. For information call 202-673-4800.

For information on **Meridian Hill Park**, the **Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway**, and **Georgetown Waterfront Park**, please call 202-895-6000.

From the National Zoo to Memorial Bridge

Thompson Boat Center rents bicycles, kayaks, canoes, small sailboats, and rowing shells. Lessons are available. Weather permitting, it is open daily, (except December and January). The entrance is opposite Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway at Virginia Avenue. A few metered parking spaces are available.

Georgetown Waterfront Park is a grassy open space next to the Potomac River. Parking is available on K Street under the Whitehurst Freeway. The park closes at dark.

Glover-Archbold Park includes 183 forested acres from near the corner of Van Ness Street and Wisconsin Avenue south to the C&O Canal. A 3.1-mile trail traverses its length. Whitehaven and Dumbarton Oaks parks connect Glover-Archbold and Rock Creek parks.

Montrose Park and Dumbarton Oaks Park are on the northern edge of Georgetown, next to Dumbarton Oaks estate. Montrose Park has two tennis courts (first-come, first-served) and picnic open areas. Dumbarton Oaks Park contains the wildflower gardens and paths of the original Dumbarton Oaks estate. The parks are open daily.

Old Stone House at 3051 M Street, NW, predates the Revolutionary War. Programs tell about its occupants and life in the house and

Georgetown from colonial days to today. The hours vary; contact www.nps.gov/rocr or 202-895-6070 for information.

Regulations

For your safety and to protect the park, please observe these regulations: • The park is open only in daylight hours; traffic is permitted 24 hours a day. Trucks and buses are prohibited on park roads. • Overnight camping is not allowed. • Pets must be leashed at all times. • Use trash cans provided in picnic areas and help keep the park clean. • Fires are permitted only in grills or fireplaces in designated picnic areas; bring your own grill and fuel • All natural and cultural objects are protected by law. Do not collect or disturb rocks, animals, or plants. Let wildflowers grow. Do not remove trees, even dead ones, for firewood. • Hike only on marked trails to minimize erosion. • Bicycles are permitted only on paved bike trails and roads. • Park only in designated areas.

Rock Creek Park is one of more than 380 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Visit www.nps.gov to learn more about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities.

Information or reservations

Carter Barron Amphitheatre 202-426-0486
D.C. Dept. of Recreation (picnic areas) 202-673-7646

D.C. Dept. of Recreation (playing field reservations) 202-673-7449

Golf Course 202-882-7332

Guest Services, Inc. (tennis courts) 202-722-5949

Maintenance Yard 202-895-6060

National Zoological Park 202-673-4666

Nature Center 202-895-6070

Old Stone House 202-895-6070

Park Headquarters 202-895-6000

Park Police (for information, weekdays) 202-619-7310

Peirce Mill/Peirce Barn 202-895-6070

Rock Creek Park Horse Center 202-362-0117

Rock Creek Regional Park (Md.) 301-948-5053

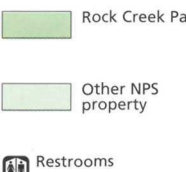
Thompson Boat Center 202-333-4861

Emergency call park police 202-619-7310 or 911

For More Information

Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207
202-895-6000
www.nps.gov/rocr

Rock Creek Park



Trails

Here are the main park trails; many more side trails connect with the main ones, so you can plan a circular route. The park has two self-guiding interpretive trails; check at the nature center for information. For your safety, use only designated trails. Hikers may use any trail. Bicyclists are limited to paved bicycle routes. Horses must stay on equestrian trails.

Name	Length/Route	Description	Name	Length/Route	Description
Valley (Hiking)	9.0 km/5.6 mi Maryland line to Bluff Bridge	Moderate Near stream; Blue Blazed	Glover-Archbold (Hiking)	5.0 km/3.1 mi Van Ness St. to C&O Canal	Easy Yellow Blazed
Western Ridge (Hiking)	7.4 km/4.6 mi Maryland line to Bluff Bridge	Moderate Green Blazed	Black Horse (Equestrian)	7.6 km/4.7 mi Maryland line to Broad Branch Rd.	Moderate
Bike Trail	15.8 km/9.8 mi Maryland line to Memorial Bridge	Easy southern part Moderate northern Both sections paved	White Horse (Equestrian)	8.7 km/5.4 mi Maryland line to Broad Branch Rd.	Moderate