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Imagination Playgrounds

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Explore M-NCPPC’s exciting imagination playgrounds at parks throughout Prince George’s County. These amazing, themed playgrounds were designed with attractive, colorful, unique play equipment that promotes imagination play.

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Visit them all!
Imagination Playgrounds | 4 | Visit them all!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22</th>
<th>MELLWOOD HILLS PARK</th>
<th>Viking Ship Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7575 Dower House Rd., Upper Marlboro 20772</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23</th>
<th>MITCHELLVILLE SOUTH PARK</th>
<th>Little Critter Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15540 Peach Walker Dr., Bowie 20716</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>24</th>
<th>MT. RAINIER SOUTH PARK</th>
<th>Forest Village Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3711 37th St., Mt. Rainier 20712</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>25</th>
<th>MT. RAINIER UPSHUR PARK</th>
<th>Green Garden Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4229 34th St., Mt. Rainier 20712</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>26</th>
<th>PARK BERKSHIRE PARK</th>
<th>Carnival Fun Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6101 Surrey Square Ln., Forestville 20747</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>27</th>
<th>RIVERDALE HILLS PARK</th>
<th>White Water Adventure Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6200 Sheridan Ave., Riverdale Park 20737</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>28</th>
<th>SOUTH BOWIE COMMUNITY CENTER</th>
<th>Medieval Dragon Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie 20716</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>29</th>
<th>TUCKER ROAD ATHLETIC COMPLEX</th>
<th>Castaway Island Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1770 Tucker Rd., Fort Washington 20744</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>30</th>
<th>WALKER MILL REGIONAL PARK</th>
<th>Wonderful Wizard of Oz Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31</th>
<th>WATKINS REGIONAL PARK</th>
<th>Maryland Horse Racing Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32</th>
<th>WATKINS REGIONAL PARK #2</th>
<th>Safari Hut Playground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6100 Welshire Court, Upper Marlboro 20772</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere.”

ALBERT EINSTEIN
Explore this historic park with an existing water mill building. The imagination playground includes an oxen-drawn cart with flour sacks. The water mill play structure has cool water hues of blue on the overshot water wheel, similar to the water wheel that was actually used at the historic site.

This is a fun and exciting playground that has many places for climbing, sliding, hanging, and spinning. The site includes an area of large trees which blend into the creek.
Play alongside teepees and a totem pole, and enjoy climbing a dreamcatcher at the Indian Creek Playground! Located along the Indian Creek Trail, this area was once inhabited by Native Americans in the region.

Artifacts including arrowheads, have been discovered in this area. The playground elements represent tribe symbols and traditions throughout the United States.

Enjoy the imagination play elements mentioned above and also these: fallen log slides, maize talk tubes, a Navajo drum table, a thunderbird-shaped swing set, wooden jumping stumps, an Algonquin bark canoe, and unique, traceable art. As you enter the park, walk on the path that features leaves and twigs stamped into earth tone concrete.
Imagination Playgrounds

Visit them all!
Have you ever seen a King or Queen’s castle? This unique themed play area has two kingdoms divided by a moat. The two castle play structures have drawbridges, lion crest kingdom flags flying high above the castle walls, a play log which crosses the moat, music panels to announce the royalty arrivals, a king and queen crown graphically shown on the rubber safety play surface, and a large blue wavy moat area where a big whale swims and swings are located. There are even large green dragon themed slides! The playground is surrounded by a forest of trees, which serve as the setting for the castles.
ARCHAEOLOGY DIG PLAYGROUND

Discover and dig for hidden dinosaur bones and play on the huge boundless ramp structure where accessible play is fun for all. This playground has lots of sand where children can find hidden play fossils! Plenty of equipment and fun is provided for all ages from pre-school to school age. Parents have a place to rest while sitting on the seat wall near the large sand dig play area.
Fairwood Park is located on the site of an historic estate that was once the home of Maryland Governor Oden Bowie, from 1869-1872. The park design takes its cues from the great American manors of the colonial era, providing a modern interpretation of the traditional architecture and gardens of the late 1700s.

The unique playground provides plenty of play value for children of all ages; it also includes a new NEOS electronic gaming system that even adults will enjoy!

Wide open spaces for running and exercise are available at an open grass play field, along with soccer fields; the amphitheater offers a venue for residents to enjoy artistic performances. Picnic pavilions, restrooms, and a loop trail are the other amenities found at this park.
Visit them all!
GONE FISHING
PLAYGROUND

Do you like fishing? How about climbing rocks near streams? This play space is designed with the exciting character of an outdoor fishing world...complete with fish in the water, rocks, and logs. You can play by climbing the waterfall structure, jump from the logs to the rocks, or just have fun in the play spinner while your friends pretend to fish!

As you travel through the water play surface try to find all the variety of fish in the stream. There are four types of fish, such as a large 4-foot long bass, a 3-foot long catfish, and trout and perch as well. Fun playing elements include a rope climber across the water and a long clatter bridge. The giant play structure is complete with two large West Virginia-style cabin shacks, which overlook the large play surface water and fishing area. Spend a day playing and thinking about going fishing!
This community center playground was designed to provide sports fitness gym equipment outside on the playground. A coach-like figure entry sign states, “Have you had your 30 minutes of exercise today? Well, go play, have fun, and get fit!”

The play equipment includes physical activity, including a running track, overhead rings, climbing walls, and a rope course. The rubber safety surface has sports graphics of football, basketball, baseball, and tennis. Children can play and have fun getting fit.
Explore a unique frontier fort that has wooden posts and fort structures. Walk the long, wooden plank which runs between play equipment.
POW! ZIP! SPLAT! Do you enjoy action comic heroes? Visit this playground and experience being a superhero for a day. Slide down Batman’s cave pole, climb up Spiderman’s red wave panel, see Superman’s planet panel or slide fast down the metal slide for a quick escape!

If you want to, you can soar and swing high up over Captain America’s shield of honor for the USA he protects. Wonder Woman is there, too, since she is an action comic hero! You might want to play on the comic hopscotch game and have some fun as you enter or exit the park. If you need to have a fast escape you can always jump on the toy car for a get-a-way. Last, you can ride the fast swirl and spinning play element where the Flash keeps his fast skills energized – as seen by the lightning bolt graphics in the rubber play surface below.
Everyone enjoys a good game of tag, don’t they? This playground taps into the traditional chase of a cat and mouse. The classic cartoons of “Tom and Jerry” and the board game “Mouse Trap” influenced this playground design. Because they are classics, parents and kids alike will know about the silly antics depicted in these childhood favorites. Swiss cheese wedges have been playfully added to equipment. Larger-than-life cartoon cat and mouse characters appear in several places including scampering over one of the swing sets and playing on the slide. How many times can you find them in the playground?
Children will have tremendous fun exploring a ship from the sandy beach where the ship is anchored and run through numerous blue ocean waves. The back side of the ship—the aft—shows the dark colors of the ship’s engine room. Strong ropes are cast from the ship, which tie it to the shore by the anchor. There is a smaller ship with plenty of knobs and buttons for preschoolers to explore. They’ll enjoy steering the ship’s wheel for an adventure.

Children also can take a ride on the ocean octopus seesaw and feel the ocean breeze. The “busy” twirling seats are fun, but don’t get seasick! End your ocean voyage with a calm ride on the swing set and aim towards the sky over the ocean waves below your feet!
Bring a shipmate or two for some imaginative play at the Pirate Ship Playground! Children will have fun exploring the pirate island ship surrounded by palm tree features. The ship has two large yellow masts and an anchor motif.

The ship provides an exit slide for children to escape from imaginary pirates. The helm of the ship is located at ground level, giving children unable to climb an opportunity to play the role of “captain” and steer the ship. Be sure to enjoy the fun playground features including a spyglass and a crow’s nest.
Set in a wooded area amidst a group of large rock boulders, the Nature Climb Playground seamlessly blends with the environment. Its imaginative elements encompass nature themes with tree-shaped play structures, toadstools to climb over, and hollowed logs to climb through.

Intentionally designed as an extension of nature, the free-flowing playground provides children with a connection to nature and will create future environmental stewards.
MELLWOOD HILLS PARK
7575 Dower House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Viking Ship Playground

Make time to travel the high seas and visit the Viking Ship Playground! The large Viking ship features several large yellow masts and a giant fish. In addition, the ship provides ground level play activities for children of all abilities.
The Little Critter Playground is the first universally designed, fully accessible playground offered by M-NCPPC Parks and Recreation! Built adjacent to C. Elizabeth Rieg Regional School, it was designed with the special needs of these students in mind. From ramps and shade canopies to colorful and interactive soft surfacing, learning panels with animal sounds, and even a wheelchair-accessible double “SwayFun” swing, this park truly has it all!
Experience the tall, green tree play structure and the climbing webs, and listen to animal sound panels. The forest playground has large climbing walls and rocks as well as multiple play web structures for fun! If you are looking for sliding adventures, there are three tall slides which swiftly take a child down from playing in the tree top forest village. This small playground has lots of fun for everyone to enjoy.
MT. RAINIER UPSHUR PARK
4229 34th Street, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

Green Garden Playground

This environmentally sensitive park includes plantings native to Maryland, botanical signage, educational rain garden panels, a community flower garden, and children’s handprints set in the paving around the playground to symbolize “protecting the earth.”

A Green Garden storybook was produced with the help of local elementary school children to tell the story of the magic of the green garden. The story is as creative as the playground, and provides a conservation message of earth, environment, and education.
What fun to spend a day playing outside on the exciting red-white-blue carnival-themed playground! The play equipment is themed with carnival fun and includes a mini half-scale Ferris Wheel with four car rides, four tilt-a-whirl wobble sphere rides, two pretend electric bumper cars, and a fantastic huge carnival tent structure with a “ring the bell” strong hammer action event and a fortune teller booth complete with a magic purple ball and table. Numerous interactive play panels allow kids to explore the reflective mirrors, acrobatic jack hammer, music and drums as well as a fortuneteller panel. Come one, come all to enjoy a day at the park and explore the carnival that awaits kids (young and old).
Have you ever gone on a white water adventure? This fun playground is complete with a large raft seesaw, rock climbing wall, and weather station play panels. Take a ride down the many slides, and exit into a pretend water surface for lots of adventure play.

The large play structure has plenty of play elements to explore by climbing up the large log structures, passing through a log tunnel, standing on rocks near the pretend river or escaping over the pathway bridge to the rock climbing wall. Pre-school children can sway on the dragonfly seesaw which is sitting in the pond with large, orange fish.
Prepare to defend the castle and fight the dragon at this medieval theme playground. Scale the sides of the brilliantly colored castle with boulders and see the large dragon’s nest egg. Hunt the dragon across the play surface which mimics a green meadow with stream and then head back to the castle across the drawbridge.
Explore a shipwreck stranded on an island at the Castaway Island Playground! Be sure to check out the amenities including a talking seahorse, sand castle with sounds, and the cargo climber. Based on the popular television series, *Gilligan’s Island*, this playground is designed to take you to that island.

The playground also has a treasure chest, cargo climber, telescope, and interactive sounds. Don’t forget to check out the raft slide and sandcastle. There also are island coconuts, palm shade structures, a grass hut roof, and a radio. The equipment has an accessible, wood-like plank entry.
Children enter this playground through an arched gateway, which connects to a leaf-printed footpath. Rock boulders line the edge of the path leading to the creative play space on top of a knoll. Talking gnomes tell jokes as you stroll up the pathway to the playground. The Woodland Wonderland has many exciting characters, like squirrels, bears, and snakes! The knoll playground has a large tree house, giant ants and anthill with large winding red slide, mushroom shaped picnic shelters, spider web climbers and large actual working windmill with slide feature.
If you’ve read the story of the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, you’ll love the imagination playground at Watkins Regional Park! Follow the yellow brick road under a rainbow arch as the Scarecrow shows you the way to a magical experience at the Wonderful Wizard of Oz Playground.

Once inside the playground, children of all ages can discover imaginative play equipment in six fun areas: Dorothy’s Farm House, Munchkin Land, the Emerald Forest, the Emerald City of Oz, the Balloon Escape, the Ruby Red Shoes.

Musical play elements are also provided near the rainbow running track. Children can enjoy playing music chimes in an outdoor woodland setting. Dorothy’s picture hangs in the crooked cyclone farmhouse...look carefully to find the Wicked Witch shoes outside the farmhouse! You have to see Toto’s doghouse, too. It has a roof full of colorful dog bones, which serve as climbing grips... and have rainbow color names.

Farming can be fun, so take time to talk into the corn talk tubes, ride the spring baby farm animals, or roller slide among the garden flowers. Then, go check out the large barn and silo with...
Imagination Playgrounds

Visit them all!
Imagination Playgrounds | Visit them all!
large red slide, chicken coop, and big green play tractor! Make your way to the Emerald Forest to see a flying monkey as you climb on the ropes under the tree-like forest play area. Next, the Emerald City of Oz castle is where you can climb the towers, walk on the balcony, look out the bubble window, or play on the many gizmo panels, which the Wizard used to find a way home for Dorothy. Three big balloons await you for a ride home to Kansas. The balloon baskets have hidden word search games, alphabet learning fun, and slides.

Last, but most important, are the pair of Ruby Red Shoes! The shoes are actual slides that can take you to Kansas, but you have to find the magic wand located near the shoes that the Good Witch uses to give them powers.

Before you leave Oz, make sure you find the 14 hidden tree faces hanging on the real woodland edge of the playground, and ride on the swings that soar high above the clouds on the play surface under your feet. Bring your family and friends and experience The Wonderful Wizard of Oz playground!
Maryland Horse Racing Playground

A horse race is always exciting to watch as much as it is to see the horse adorned with flowers after the winning race! A unique barn will provide a unique play space, which is modeled after the Maryland Preakness grandstand and barns. A starting gate is part of the play structure where kids can pretend to be the horse jockey ready to race! The Maryland flag colors of red, black, white and gold are represented in the colorful play equipment.
Up for a safari experience? Visit the colorful Safari Hut Playground, where you’ll have plenty of opportunities to slide! This playground was designed with three large safari hut decks that can be accessed from rock-like climbers and ropes.

Enter the hut from below to feel like you’re climbing a tree. Once a child reaches the top of the hut deck, there are nine opportunities to slide down an escape route to the ground!

Cross the long, rope bridge that connects you from one deck to another; it will give you a sense of adventure! Bask in the beautiful colors that create a tropical environment for play.
In 2015, M-NCPPC’s Department of Parks and Recreation won an unprecedented SIXTH national Gold Medal for excellence in parks and recreation management. Eligible agencies must be CAPRA accredited, meeting more than 160 standards. Prince George’s County has the best parks and recreation agency in the country!