

FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE AT

# BLADENSBURG WATERFRONT PARK

4601 Annapolis Road  
Bladensburg, MD 20710  
301-779-0371 • MD Relay 711  
[www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com)

## FALL 2025

### Waterfront Art Festival

Saturday, October 25, 11 am – 4 pm

Enjoy an afternoon of creativity and entertainment.

*Fall  
is in the  
air*



- Outdoor Art Market  
Featuring Local Artists
- Live Music
- Food Vendors
- Demonstrations
- Community Art  
Projects
- Activities for Kids
- Free Admission
- Free Parking

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## PARK INFORMATION

### Website

[pgparks.com/bladensburgWaterfrontPark](http://pgparks.com/bladensburgWaterfrontPark)

### Park Hours

Daily, sunrise to sunset;  
The park closes at the posted time.

### Office Hours

9 am - 5 pm, Daily

### Boat Ramp

Open daily, sunrise to sunset. Please call 24 hours ahead if you need parking for a boat trailer.

### Fishing

Fishing is allowed in designated locations. Fishing pier, along the railing (do not block walkway), and Quincy Point. Fishing License required.

### Ropewalk Pavilion & The Waterfront Studio

Available for rent. Call 301-779-0371

### Parking

Free parking. Parking may be limited during high visitation days or large events. Please plan ahead.

### Schools, Camps or, Groups

We offer science, nature and social studies programs and activities. Email [BladensburgWP@pgparks.com](mailto:BladensburgWP@pgparks.com)

# Pontoon Boat Tours



**April 1 - October 31**  
**Thursday - Sunday; 12 noon**

### Public Boat Tours

- \$3/\$4 per person
- Please arrive 15 minutes before departure
- Saturday and Sunday tickets are available for online purchase. Up to five per family

### **Private Boat Tours**

- Tuesday - Friday
- \$75 minimum for up to 25 people
- Additional people - \$3/\$4 per person
- Email [BladensburgWP@pgparks.com](mailto:BladensburgWP@pgparks.com)

Boat tours are 45 minutes. The boat holds approximately 30 passengers. Six people are needed for departure. Weather and river conditions may affect departure. Please call ahead.



## The Battle of Baltimore Boat Tour

Thurs. Sept. 11; 12-12:45 pm; All Ages; \$3/\$4 #22643-508B

Enjoy a relaxing boat tour down the scenic Anacostia river while you explore the stories of the Battle of Baltimore and the writing of the poem that would become our national anthem. See turtles, birds and the beautiful colors of the season.

## Senior Lunch Bunch Boat Tour

Mon. Sept. 15; 11:30 am-12:30 pm; Ages 55 & Better; \$3/\$4; Free with Eagle Pass; #22643-508D

Seniors! Bring your lunch and enjoy a scenic boat ride down the Anacostia River on our passenger pontoon boat. Free with your Bladensburg Waterfront Park's Senior Eagle Pass membership.

## Anacostia River Evening Paddle Tour

Wed. Sept. 17; 6:00 - 7:30 pm; Ages 11 & up; \$25/\$33; #22640-508A

Go kayaking with a guide & explore the beautiful scenery of the Anacostia River. Tour will stop at sites along the river. This is a moderate pace paddle tour. Must have kayaking experience. Must stay with the group. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Life jackets, paddles and boats provided.



## She's Outdoors; Camping at Watkins Regional Park

Sat. Sept. 19, 4 pm through Sept. 20, 12 noon; Ages 18 & up; \$15/\$20; #22678-508A

Ladies, get ready for some outdoor fun. Whether you are new to camping or a seasoned pro, this adventure is for you. Learn camping skills, tent assembly, and more. Go on a nature hike, sit around a fire, play games or just relax under the stars. Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro is a beautiful primitive camping area with a bathhouse. Bring your own supplies. Details sent upon registration.

## Learn to Kayak!

Sat. Sept. 20; 10 am -1 pm; Ages 11 & up; \$30/\$39; #22628-508A

Learn kayaking skills from a certified instructor. Children ages 11-15 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Life jackets, paddles and boats provided. Bring a dry bag for your keys and phone, or rent one of ours.

## Birding Boat Tour on the Anacostia River

Thur. Sept. 25; 12-12:45 pm; \$3/\$4; All Ages; #22643-508C

During the Fall, the Anacostia is a destination for numerous migrating water-dependent birds such as the American Coot, Buffleheads and Hooded Mergansers. Learn more about migration patterns and behaviors of birds of the region. See other animals and plants as you enjoy the sites and sounds of nature as you cruise down the Anacostia River. Use our binoculars or bring your own.

## Senior Pedal Power! Paint and Sip Smoothies and Spin Art

Mon. Sept. 29; 10:30 am -12 pm; Ages 55 & Better; \$7/\$10;

Free with Eagle Pass Membership; #22605-508A

**ROCK THE BIKE**



Seniors, come paint and sip smoothies with us! Use your pedal power on our renewable energy stationary bikes to create delicious healthy smoothies. In addition, hop on one of our stationary bikes and have fun creating dazzling spin art.





## Throwback to the 90's Boat Tour

Fri. Oct. 3; 5:30 - 7:00 pm; (Pre-party and refreshments 5:30 - 6 pm. Boat departs at 6 pm. Ages 18 & up; \$10/\$13; #22643-508I

All aboard for a 90's throwback party! Get ready to cruise down the scenic Anacostia River with the hottest hits from the 90's —R&B, pop, rap and rock. Enjoy refreshments, dancing, and more in our courtyard. Bring the vibe in your favorite 90s outfit if you like and take pictures in front of the backdrops. Play trivia games and win prizes as you party on the boat and cruise down the Anacostia River.



### Autumn Sunset Boat Tour

Wed. Oct. 8; 6 - 7 pm; All Ages; \$4/\$6; #22643-508A

Enjoy a relaxing sunset boat tour down the Anacostia river to see the beautiful leaves of autumn. See beautiful colors, turtles, migrating birds and more. Bring binoculars or use one of ours. If it is a little chilly, bring a blanket, snuggle up and relax to the sights and sounds of nature.



### She's Outdoors; Fishing on the Boat at Bladensburg Waterfront Park

Sat. Oct. 11, 10 - 11:30 am; Ages 18 & up; \$5/\$7; #22626-508B

Ladies, get ready for some outdoor fun on our pontoon boat. Whether you are new to fishing or a seasoned pro, this adventure is for you. Learn basic fishing skills or help others. We will provide bait and rods.

### Anacostia River Evening Paddle Tour

Wed. Oct. 15; 17; 5:30 - 7 pm; Ages 11 & up; \$25/\$33; #22640-508B

Go kayaking with a guide & explore the beautiful scenery of the Anacostia River. Tour will stop at sites along the river. This is a moderate pace paddle tour. Must have kayaking experience. Must stay with the group. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Life jackets, paddles and boats provided.



### African Americans in The War of 1812- Boat Tour

Thur. Oct. 16; 12 - 12:45 pm; All Ages; \$3/\$4; 22643-508E

For many men of color—both free and enslaved—joining the American or British Army offered a rare opportunity to challenge the racial injustices of the time. But the contributions didn't stop there—African American women also played vital roles in the war effort. How did they serve? What risks did they take? Join us for a captivating river cruise along the Anacostia River, where history and nature meet. As you take in the scenic views, hear the powerful and often overlooked stories of African Americans who shaped the course of the War of 1812.

## **Sunday Stroll: Nature Discovery Walk**

Sun. Nov. 2; 2-3 pm; All Ages; Free; #22629-508A

Join a Park Naturalist on a nature walk through the park and along the paved Anacostia River trail. This is a slow to medium paced activity with occasional stops to enjoy nature.

## **Bicycle Tour: To Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens**

Sun. Nov. 9; 1 - 2:30 pm; Ages 8 & up; \$10/\$13; #22652-508A

Enjoy a guided bicycle tour down the Anacostia River Trail to the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. We may stop at various points to learn about the amazing wetland habitats that surround the river. Includes bike and helmet, or bring your own. This is a slow to medium pace casual ride. Must be able to ride two miles each way.

## **Night Vision Challenge Course**

Fri. Nov. 14; Ages 18 & up; \$10/\$13

6 pm - 6:45 pm; #22636 -508A

7 pm - 7:45 pm; #22636 -508B

8 pm - 8:45 pm; #22636 - 508C

Please arrive ten minutes before your scheduled time for Night Vision Goggle orientation.



Let's Go! Take the challenge in a one-hundred-foot course. Start with classroom instructions on how to use night vision goggles, then, head to the darkened pavilion for an exhilarating experience. Try to ride a trike, play games, set a table, find hidden items and so much more all while wearing night vision goggles. Work as a team or as an individual, either way, you will have some amazing fun with night vision. In addition, participants can sit around a warm campfire on the waterfront.

## **Sunday Stroll: Nature Discovery Walk**

Sun. Nov. 16; 2-3 pm; All Ages; Free; #22629-508B

Join a Park Naturalist on a nature walk through the park and along the paved Anacostia River trail. This is a slow to medium paced activity with occasional stops to enjoy nature.



## **She's Outdoors; Fishing on the Boat at Bladensburg Waterfront Park**

Sat. Nov. 21, 6:30 - 8 pm; Ages 18 & up; \$5/\$7; #22615-508A

Ladies, get ready for some outdoor fun around a warm campfire. Whether you are new at building a campfire for cooking or a seasoned pro, this is an experience just for you. Roast smores or bring your own hotdogs or smoked sausages and buns. We will provide smores ingredients, roasting sticks, toaster forks and set-up.

## **Insect Investigations!**

Sat. Nov. 22; 10 - 11 am; Ages 7 and up; \$4/\$6 #22645-508A

Step into the buzzing world of incredible insects and discover how these tiny creatures impact our environment! Explore their life cycles, body parts, communication, adaptations, and their amazing engineering skills. Plus, you'll get up close and personal with live and preserved insects using microscopes, magnifying glasses, and other awesome science tools. **Choose your team of bugs for exciting bug races. Get ready, get set... Go!**







By Dara M. Wilson



# Follow the Flyway:

## Fall Migration Along the Anacostia River

### GRAB YOUR GEAR AND GO BIRDING!

On the Anacostia River, **Bladensburg Waterfront Park** continues to shine as a fall birding hotspot, with eBird listing **197+ species** for the location.

Notably, this year has seen some eye-catchers: a **small flock of American Avocets** turned up—a rare visitor—and a **pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** made waves among local birders. They also attest to the continued improvement of water quality in the Anacostia River.

Stroll down the Anacostia River Trail, which passes through shrubby fields and the **Bladensburg Wetlands** – excellent habitat for migrating **songbirds, sparrows, and marshland birds**. As the Anacostia River is tidal at this point, there are usually **mud flats** visible at low tide, offering feeding and resting habitat for **gulls, terns, and shorebirds**. Late-summer into October brings pulses of migrating **warblers, swallows, thrushes, and raptors** riding cool fronts downriver. **Waterfowl** will show up as the season matures.

For birders and non-birders alike, Bladensburg Waterfront Park delivers as a place of unexpected adventures and experiences.

### MIGRATORY BIRDS OF THE ANACOSTIA RIVER CHECKLIST

#### Waterfowl & Grebes

- ☐ Wood Duck
- ☐ Mallard

#### Herons, Egrets & Ibis

- ☐ Great Blue Heron
- ☐ Great Egret
- ☐ Green Heron
- ☐ Black-crowned Night-Heron

#### Shorebirds & Terns

- ☐ Spotted Sandpiper
- ☐ Solitary Sandpiper
- ☐ Least/Semipalmated Sandpiper
- ☐ Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs
- ☐ Killdeer
- ☐ Forster's Tern (late)
- ☐ American Avocet (rare this year)

#### Raptors

- ☐ Osprey (lingering)
- ☐ Bald Eagle
- ☐ Red-shouldered Hawk

#### Gulls & Kingfisher

- ☐ Ring-billed Gull
- ☐ Herring Gull
- ☐ Laughing Gull (early fall)
- ☐ Belted Kingfisher

#### Swallows & Swifts

- ☐ Chimney Swift
- ☐ Tree Swallow
- ☐ Barn Swallow
- ☐ Northern Rough-winged Swallow

#### Thrushes

- ☐ Hermit (late fall)
- ☐ American Robin

#### Warblers

- ☐ Yellow-rumped
- ☐ Yellow warbler
- ☐ Black-and-white
- ☐ Common Yellowthroat

#### Sparrows & Blackbirds

- ☐ White-throated sparrow
- ☐ Song sparrow
- ☐ Swamp sparrow
- ☐ Red-winged Blackbird
- ☐ Brown-headed Cowbird



# TRAIL CAMERA PROJECT

at Bladensburg Waterfront Park



Matthew Payne



Since 2022, Matthew Payne, a graduate student from the University of Maryland, has been serving as a Naturalist at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. In 2023, he initiated a project to document mammals in the park using motion-activated trail cameras. This project was designed to provide consistent, non-invasive data about the diversity of wildlife inhabiting the park's wetlands and surrounding woodlands.

Over the years, the trail cameras have revealed a surprising amount of wildlife. Among the animals recorded are beavers, white-tailed deer, and coyotes. Perhaps most striking were the appearances of river otters, a species that was once rare or absent from the region due to habitat loss and pollution. The appearance of these mammals demonstrates that the ecosystem of Bladensburg Waterfront Park is thriving.

The presence of top predators, such as coyotes, and sensitive species, like otters, indicates that water quality, food availability, and habitat suitability have improved significantly. This research is a testament to the resilience of nature and the impact of restoration efforts along the Anacostia River. This research also highlights the essential role of careful monitoring in understanding urban ecosystems and appreciating the wildlife that quietly shares our landscapes.



This program is brought to you by



## Boat Rentals

### Online Reservations

Book a Session: 9 am - 12 pm or 1 pm - 4 pm

- Residents: \$25/kayak; \$30/tandem kayak or canoe
- Non-Residents: \$33/kayak; \$39/tandem kayak or canoe
- Parks Direct account required

### Walk-in Rentals

3 hour rentals; Limited availability. Boats return by 4 pm  
Residents \$40 per boat; Non-Resident \$52 per boat



## RENT A BIKE

**Residents\* \$10/hour**  
**Non-Residents\* \$13/hour**

*Parks Direct Account Required*  
*Walk-ups allowed*  
*Bikes and styles vary based on availability*



**FOR RENT**

## Ropewalk Pavilion

- Waterfront View
- Picnic Tables
- Great for small and large events
- Free Parking
- Other Stipulations Apply
- Capacity: 25-500 people
- Located near playground, fishing dock, and trails
- Daily rates start at \$300 plus security deposit



**FOR RENT**

## Waterfront Studio

- Waterfront view
- Gated patio area
- Small fridge and microwave
- Rectangle tables, high top tables and chairs
- Great for small events
- Free parking
- Capacity: 50 people
- Located near playground, fishing dock, and trails
- Cost start at \$75 per hour plus security deposit
- \$50 or more per hour with pavilion rental

### Program Registration Information

In order to register for programs, you will need a Parks Direct account. Create your account today at:  
[pgparksdirect.com](http://pgparksdirect.com)



### Park Information & Rules

- No unpermitted group events or organized gatherings on the park grounds, under the pavilion, or inside gazebos.
- No amplified music in the park, from cars, in gazebos, or under pavilion unless permitted. No unpermitted grilling.
- Other Park Rules apply.
- Please keep your dogs on a leash and pick up pet waste.

### Connect with us!



- The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register a minimum of two weeks prior to the program start date to request and receive a disability modification.
- Customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, call Maryland Relay 7-1-1.
- Language interpretation is available at all facility front desks. Please ask for assistance.