In partnership with the National Park Service, the Accokeek Foundation stewards 200 acres of Piscataway Park, where it demonstrates and educates about land conservation, historic preservation, sustainable agriculture, and environmental stewardship. This site is home to the National Colonial Farm, an outdoor living history museum that depicts life for an ordinary family in colonial Maryland. The park’s grounds and trails are open to the public year-round.

While enjoying the trails, please remember that these grounds are part of Piscataway Park, a public space and conservation area.

- The park is open to the public from dawn to dusk year-round. The park gate closes at dark.
- Stay on the trails and within designated areas at all times. Trails are designed to minimize human impacts on the surrounding environment.
- Please do not collect anything from the site (plants, animals, or cultural artifacts, etc.). This is prohibited by federal and state law.
- Please leave the park as you found it. Deposit your trash in a designated receptacle.
- Your leashed pet is welcome in all areas of the park with the exception of the National Colonial Farm.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails.
The Accokeek Foundation maintains a number of trails in Piscataway Park. Each trail varies in distance and in ease, although most are accessible to the beginning naturalist.

Discovery Packs and birding kits can be borrowed from the Visitor Center. These contain activities and information about the plants, insects, and animals that can be found here.

**PUMPKIN ASH TRAIL**

The Pumpkin Ash Trail follows the Potomac River from near the Visitor Center to the Ecosystem Farm, passing through a forest and a tidal wetland, and providing excellent views of Mount Vernon. The level of water present in the wetland changes with the tide. During high tide, fish and amphibians are abundant. During low tide, the tracks of animals like opossums or raccoons can often be seen in the mud. The trail is named for the pumpkin ash tree, which grows here in one of the northernmost groves known to exist in the United States. The Pumpkin Ash Trail connects with the Blackberry Trail.

- **Distance:** 0.25 mile one-way
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Markers:** Yellow blazing

**BLACKBERRY TRAIL**

The Blackberry Trail begins in a small hayfield near visitor parking and meanders through a floodplain forest. The water that gathers in this area feeds into a tidal wetland before emptying into the Potomac River. This environment provides excellent habitat for moisture-loving animals and plants – such as jack-in-the-pulpit, pokeweed, and pawpaw trees – as well as white-tailed deer, whose tracks are often visible on the trail. Boots are recommended, since portions of the trail are muddy.

- **Distance:** 0.5 mile one-way
- **Difficulty:** Easy, seasonally muddy
- **Markers:** Purple blazing

**RIVerview TRAIL**

The Riverview Trail follows the Potomac River from near the Visitor Center, providing some views of Mount Vernon along the way. It leads through a strip of land known as a riparian forest buffer, which reduces soil erosion, nutrient runoff, and other effects that agriculture and other inland land uses can have on waterways. Planted with more than 50 varieties of trees and shrubs native to Maryland, this buffer completes a two-mile stretch of continuous riparian forest. The Riverview Trail passes the Museum Gardens and connects with the Persimmon and Bluebird Trails.

- **Distance:** 0.6 mile one-way
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Markers:** Dark blue blazing

**PERSIMMON TRAIL**

The Persimmon Trail begins in the barnyard and circles the Conservation Pond. This pond collects runoff from our agricultural fields and controls the flow of sediment into the Potomac River. The pond also serves as valuable habitat for fish, frogs, turtles, ducks, geese, beavers, and other wildlife. Waterfowl often nest on the small island in the pond and a number of Canada geese have adopted the pond as their year ‘round home. The trail is named for the persimmon trees that grow along the pond’s north edge. The Persimmon Trail connects with the Riverview Trail.

- **Distance:** 0.4 mile loop
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Markers:** Orange blazing

**BLUEBIRD TRAIL**

The Bluebird Trail runs along the edge of the Native Tree Arboretum and around scattered chestnut groves down to the Potomac River. It crosses through current and former agricultural fields, some that are still in use for grazing and some that have grown into small stands of trees. A handful of nest boxes are visible along the trail, erected to provide nesting sites for Eastern bluebirds and monitored by a group of volunteers. These native cavity nesters are present in the park year ‘round. The Bluebird Trail connects to the Pawpaw and Riverview Trails.

- **Distance:** 0.9 mile one-way
- **Difficulty:** Easy
- **Markers:** Light blue blazing

**PAWPAw TRAIL**

The Pawpaw Trail begins at the Native Tree Arboretum and leads up the hillside through a mature forest, offering a glimpse of what the land was like before European settlers arrived. The hillside provides excellent wintertime views of Mount Vernon across the Potomac River. The trail is named for the pawpaw tree, which grows in abundance in the park and produces the green fruits that have given Accokeek its name. “Accokeek” is often translated to mean “place of the wild fruit,” referring to the pawpaw. The Pawpaw Trail ends in a grove of American chestnut trees, where it connects with the Bluebird Trail.

- **Distance:** 0.5 mile one-way
- **Difficulty:** Moderate; short, steep climbs
- **Markers:** White blazing