

DURING YOUR VISIT



Strawberry Hill connects our community with the natural world. As the area's only environmental education center, Strawberry Hill bustles year-round with people learning about and exploring the outdoors. Almost 7,000 students visit each year to learn about nature and become better stewards of the environment.

Trail Map and Watershed Guide

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve trails are open to the public, everyday, from dawn to dusk

A watershed is all the land that drains to a single body of water.

Strawberry Hill is located in the pristine 24-square-mile Middle Creek Watershed, which supplies drinking water for thousands of people while protecting sensitive plants and wildlife. We have some of the cleanest water in Pennsylvania. Our small section of the watershed is considered High-Quality and is home to the Brook Trout, the only native Pennsylvania trout species.

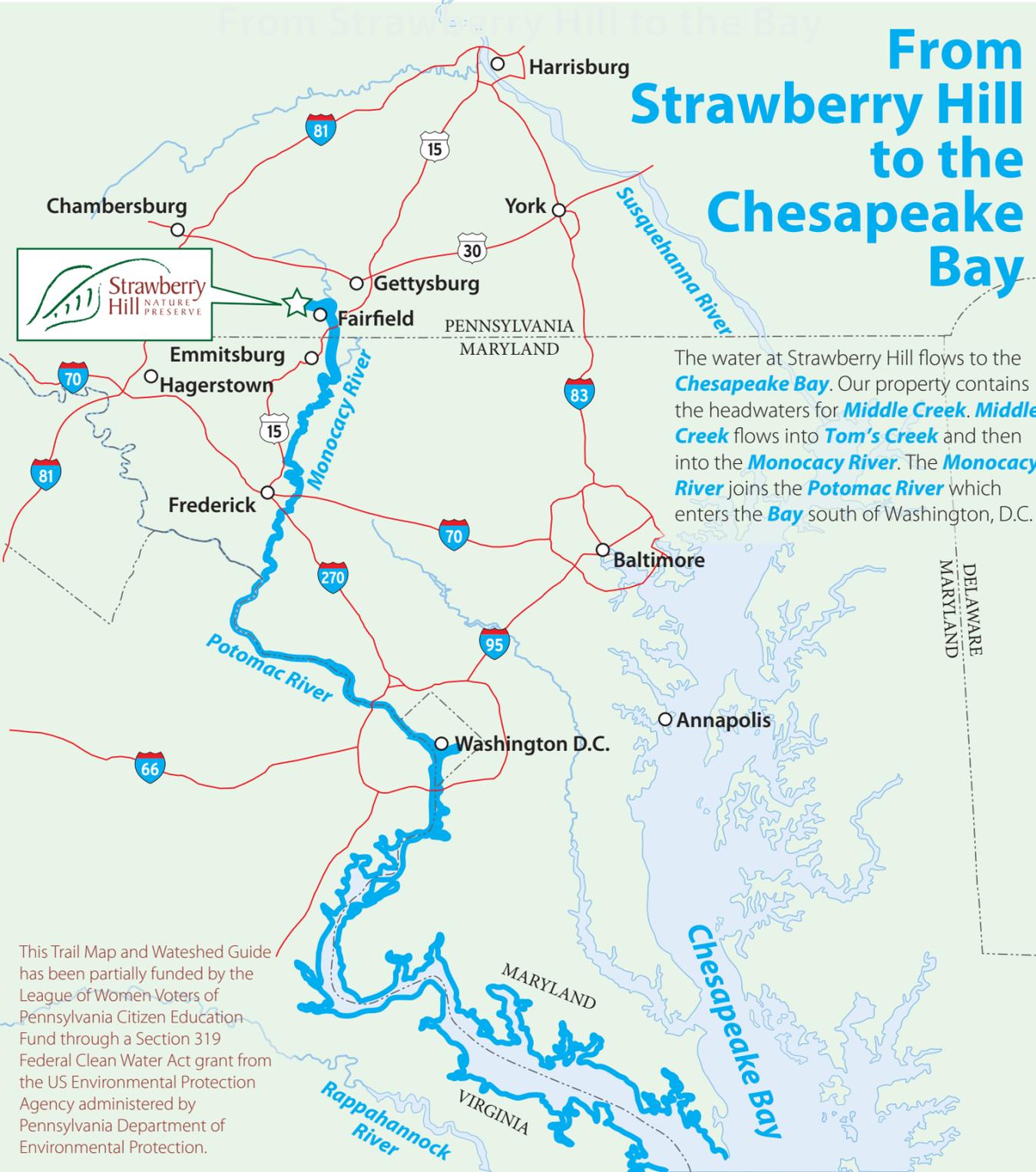
Follow our trails to experience this valuable environment.

1537 Mount Hope Road
Fairfield, PA, 17320
717-642-5840
www.strawberryhill.org

- Stay on the trails**
Please don't disturb sensitive wildlife habitat.
- Take only pictures**
Leave nothing behind.
- Be careful where you put your hands and feet**
Poison Ivy, ticks and snakes live at the Preserve.
- Wildlife at the Preserve is just that, WILD**
Please give wildlife plenty of space; if you want a closer look, use binoculars. ● Don't feed wildlife or fish. ● Don't try to catch wildlife. ● All animals on the preserve, including snakes, are protected. ● Collecting wildlife, leaves, plants, rocks, fossils from the grounds is prohibited.
- Remember, you are sharing the trails with other visitors and animals that live here.**
- BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND WATER!**



- Smoking
- Swimming
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Motorized vehicles, including ATVs and snowmobiles
- Possession or use of alcohol
- Possession of firearms



From Strawberry Hill to the Chesapeake Bay

The water at Strawberry Hill flows to the **Chesapeake Bay**. Our property contains the headwaters for **Middle Creek**. **Middle Creek** flows into **Tom's Creek** and then into the **Monocacy River**. The **Monocacy River** joins the **Potomac River** which enters the **Bay** south of Washington, D.C.

Everyone lives in a watershed. Follow these tips and you can make a difference!

Keeping our water clean is important for the plants and wildlife that live at Strawberry Hill and all of the people that depend on this watershed for drinking water from here to the Chesapeake Bay.

How can you help take care of the watershed in your backyard?

Significant pollution comes from chemicals in the water originating from households.

- Do you fertilize your lawn?**
Before you do, get your soil tested to see what it needs. If you apply chemicals to your lawn, use sparingly and Read the Label! Fertilizer and Pesticides not used by plants will wash off into the streams. Use the correct amount, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- Do you have a garden?**
Plant species native to your area. Native plants adapted to your soil and climate require less water and energy (Check out our Butterfly Gardens to learn about our native plants).
- Do you have streams or ponds in your neighborhood?**
Plant tree and shrub "buffers". Buffers are plants along waterways that help prevent pollution from washing into the water while providing habitat for wildlife. Look at all of the plants along our streams and ponds. Our wildlife is thankful that we take such good care of their home!
- Make sure your septic system functions well and get it pumped every three years.**

This Trail Map and Watershed Guide has been partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 Federal Clean Water Act grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency administered by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.



Strawberry Hill NATURE PRESERVE

Trail Map

-  Strawberry Hill Office and Classroom
-  Handicapped accessible restroom (available only when the Center is open)
Chemical toilets available April-November
-  Information
-  Picnic table
-  Educational kiosk
-  Log Cabin
-  Bridge
-  Parking
-  Wetland

Please call ahead for winter office hours

Cell phone reception is very limited

Trails are open but not actively maintained
Thanksgiving to April

Strawberry Hill contains one of the Headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay

The Foothills Trail borders other properties, please be respectful

HIKE AT YOUR OWN RISK
Staff is not present on site at all times

To support Strawberry Hill, visit www.strawberryhill.org

Look for Interpretive signs along our Middle Creek and Nature Trails.

Look for blazes on the trees. All our trails are color coded.

-  Baker's Knob Trail
-  Foothills Trail
-  Middle Creek Trail
-  Nature Trail
-  Quarry Trail
-  Swamp Creek Trail



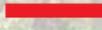
Explore Strawberry Hill on our trails

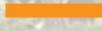
NATURE TRAIL 
(white blazes; 1 mile; 30 minutes, easy)
This trail, with its interpretive signs, is a good introduction to the special features of Strawberry Hill. The trail passes through woodlands and wetlands and features some close up glimpses of Swamp Creek. This is an easy loop trail with just one moderately steep uphill section. Trail begins and ends at our old log cabin.

SWAMP CREEK TRAIL 
(pink blazes; 2.25 miles; 1 hour, moderate)
Explore the stream valley at the heart of Strawberry Hill. This scenic loop trail takes one through forested groves of towering tulip poplars, beech and hemlock, and crosses an especially beautiful section of Swamp Creek. Hikers can spot various spring wildflowers, autumn mushrooms, and birds such as the pileated woodpecker, barred owl, and wild turkey. The trail also passes the schoolhouse spring, site of the first Mount Hope Village School.

BAKER'S KNOB TRAIL 
(blue blazes; 1.25 miles; 45 minutes, moderate)
Follow the blue blazes to one of the highest elevations at Strawberry Hill. As you ascend the slopes of Baker's Knob, you will enter an exceptional dry forest. At the summit, relax on a rock outcrop & enjoy the scenery. This trail has some steep uphill sections, but smooth and open trail. Look for remnants of charcoal hearths along the hillside. Trail access is from the Swamp Creek Trail.

FOOTHILLS TRAIL 
(green blazes; 3 miles; 2 hours, difficult)
For the more serious hiker, this trail provides access to some of the more remote areas of Strawberry Hill. As you hike up and down steep forested slopes & cross over branches of Swamp Creek, be alert for wildlife. Bobcat, coyote and copperhead snakes are all present in this area, but rarely seen. Trail access is from the Swamp Creek Trail. Some areas are wet and rocky.

QUARRY TRAIL 
(red blazes; .5 mile; 20 minutes, moderate)
Geology buffs will be thrilled with the outcrops of many varied rocks and minerals found in our restored quarry. The quarry is also a great area to observe ravens and raptors. The quarry pools, including a larger pond, are important amphibian mating spots filled with toads, frogs and newts. Trail access is from the Nature Trail.

MIDDLE CREEK TRAIL 
(orange blazes; .75 mile; 30 minutes, easy)
This picturesque trail meanders along the course of pristine Middle Creek and the adjacent woodland. Featuring close looks at both quiet pools and churning riffles, this easy to access trail enables the whole family to experience the beauty of a typical Blue Ridge Mountain stream. Trail begins behind the Strawberry Hill office. The looped section is rocky.