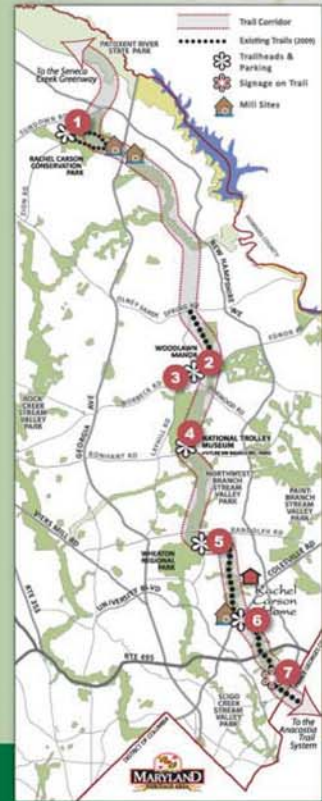


The Rachel Carson Greenway

In 2004, this trail corridor was named in honor of the mother of the modern environmental movement, Rachel Carson. When complete, the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail will be 25 miles long, connecting the Anacostia Trail System in Prince George's County to the Patuxent River State Park in the north. The Greenway will eventually connect to the Seneca Creek Greenway and the Potomac River, creating a 50-mile continuous trail system in Montgomery County. For more information and updates as this trail is built visit: www.MontgomeryTrails.org.



Cultural Resources

1 TRAILHEAD AT RACHEL CARSON CONSERVATION PARK

Our Agricultural Heritage - There has always been a rich tradition of agriculture in Montgomery County, now preserved in the Agricultural Reserve.

Mills in Montgomery County - Mills along the Hawlings River stream valley turned grain into flour, saved trees for lumber, and wove fleeces into wool.

2 LAYHILL ROAD & NORWOOD ROAD

The Holland Red Door Store - Located at the intersection of the toll roads to Baltimore and Olney, the store was at the heart of a community that became known as Holland's Corner.

3 WOODLAWN MANOR

African Americans and Quakers in Sandy Spring - Encouraged by their regional and national Religious Society, most Sandy Spring Quakers had freed their slaves by about 1820.

4 TROLLEY MUSEUM TRAILHEAD

The Magic of Meadows - Open meadows and hedgerows in this park provide habitat for plants and animals whose needs cannot be met in the forest.

5 KEMP MILL ROAD TRAILHEAD

Prefoliated Rock Shelters - Beginning about 10,000 B.C., local American Indians used these rock shelters as "prehistoric motels."

6 BURNT MILLS DAM TRAILHEAD

Burnt Mills - One of the county's earliest grist mills stood here starting in the 18th century. Originally called Beale's Mill, it ground grain into flour for nearby residents.

7 TRAIL KIOSK NEAR BROAD ACRES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Natural Treasures - The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail is the perfect place for children and adults to explore the natural world - take a hike and experience it for yourself.

Natural Resources

Forest Birds - A walk in these woods still affords a chance to see and hear forest interior birds, such as the Kentucky Warbler and Ovenbird. Many forest interior species are declining due to forest fragmentation.

The Night Sky - For those traveling the Underground Railroad darkness meant safety, and the stars helped guide the way north to freedom. For wildlife, night is an active time when predators and prey are engaged in a drama of life and death.

The Magic of Meadows - Open meadows and hedgerows in this park provide habitat for plants and animals whose needs cannot be met in the forest.

Vernal Pools - Low spots in the forest collect winter and spring rainwater into temporary pools that provide essential breeding habitats for frogs and salamanders.

The Northwest Branch - This stream has flowed here for millions of years, gradually changing its course to create a stream valley that supports a rich diversity of plants and animals.

Rachel Carson - The famed author and environmentalist lived along this beautiful stream valley while she wrote her book, *Silent Spring*.

The Fall Line and the Gorge - This rocky gorge marks the "Fall Line" where tough metamorphic rocks of the Piedmont, meaning "foot of the mountain," give way to the sandy sediments of the Coastal Plain.

Natural Treasures - The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail is the perfect place for children and adults to explore the natural world - take a hike and experience it for yourself.

*"If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life." — RACHEL CARSON, *Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)*

The Holland Red Door Store

In 1860 James Holland purchased this land and built the general store that still stands today. Located at the intersection of the toll roads to Baltimore and Olney, the store was at the heart of a community that became known as Holland's Corner.

In 1889, the intersection was renamed Norwood and issued a post office. James Holland was selected as the first postmaster. Holland's building was expanded to accommodate the store, post office, and a living area for Holland's family.

A former shopper recalled visits to the Holland Store in the early 1900s. Sugar was scooped from a barrel and sold for 54¢ per pound. Cheese was also sold by the pound. "Chunks" were cut from a cheese wheel stored in a wooden box.

The location of Holland's store on this 1865 map.



The store also had a set of wagon scales to weigh the goods of farmers traveling to market so that their tolls could be accurately assessed.



The Rachel Carson Greenway
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For more information and updates as this trail is built visit: www.MontgomeryTrails.org

*"Drink in the beauty ... and wonder at the meaning of what you see." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)*

Our Agricultural Heritage

Visit these beautiful Park-owned barns (below).

Until World War II, Montgomery County's economy and landscape were primarily agricultural. The American Indian tribes of the county grew corn, squash, and beans on their villages near streams. The earliest settlers from Europe grew tobacco for profit on small farms and large plantations, often with enslaved labor. In the 18th and 19th century, local agricultural reformers encouraged citizens of the county to diversify their crops from tobacco into grains, fruits, and vegetables. A new agricultural industry—dairy farming—was made possible in the county with the coming of the railroad in 1873. Trains delivered fresh milk from Montgomery County's creameries to nearby Washington D.C.

Development pressures on the county increased in the second half of the 20th century with growing suburbanization. In 1980, community organizers and county planners helped create the Agricultural Reserve. More than 90,000 acres of farmland in northern and western Montgomery County are protected—including the open fields that surround you now.



Scenes of Montgomery County's agricultural heritage from the days of animal power to modern tractors.

The Agricultural Reserve and Montgomery Parks are committed to preserving both land and the agricultural landscape.



American Cream draft horses cultivating young corn.



A team of mules, four abreast, discing a field after plowing.

*"One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?'" — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)*

Mills in the Upcounty

The streams of Montgomery County's Piedmont Region run faster and deeper than those of the Coastal Plain. Steam power fueled the early industrial age in Montgomery County in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Mills along the Hawlings River stream valley helped turned grain into flour, trees into lumber, and fleeces into wool.

Brookeville Woolen Mill, House, and Worker's House

The structures near this site on the Hawlings River—a mill and houses for the miller and mill workers—are rare surviving examples of a complex for milling wool for cloth and blankets.

Although the dates of the buildings are uncertain, many small woolen mills were built in the years before the War of 1812 when the U.S. stopped importing wool from Britain. The mill was certainly built by 1816, when an advertisement for the Brookeville Woolen Factory appeared in a Georgetown newspaper. The mill was operational here until the early 1900s.



Left: The mill site. The Miller's cottage is on the left and the woolen mill on the right. Photo courtesy of the Sandy Spring Museum, Sandy Spring, MD.



Greenwood Miller's Cottage and Dam Site

Also situated on the Hawlings River, the Greenwood Mill was built circa 1840 by Allen Bowie Davis. The saw and gristmill processed wood and grain for the local community. The miller's cottage may have been constructed about 1865 and was the residence of William Johnson, a former slave and longtime miller and blacksmith. Of frame construction, the miller's cottage was sided with stones taken from the mill when it was dismantled in 1926 for the widening of Georgia Avenue. A few stone remains of the mill dam are still visible below the cottage.

This early twentieth-century photo of the Greenwood Miller's Cottage was taken before the structure was covered in the stones from the mill. The house is still visible from Georgia Avenue. The Speck family, seen here in front of their home, operated the grist mill from 1903 to 1926.

*"Drink in the beauty ... and wonder at the meaning of what you see." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)*

The Fall Line and the Gorge

www.ParksNaturalResources.org



You are about to enter the most scenic and rugged section of Northwest Branch. This rocky gorge marks the "Fall Line," where the tough metamorphic rocks of the Piedmont, meaning "foot of the mountain," give way to the sandy sediments of the Coastal Plain. The rapid change in gradient creates a series of waterfalls, also referred to as the "Torrent and Gorge" section of the Northwest Branch. Below the Fall Line, the stream widens and slows down.



This spectacular, scenic, steep-sided stream valley was a favorite of President Theodore Roosevelt. President Roosevelt wrote of the area to his son:



"Mother and I had a most lovely ride the other day, way up beyond Silver Spring Creek to what is called Northwest Branch, at Burna Mills, where is a beautiful gorge, deep and narrow, with great boulders and even cliffs.

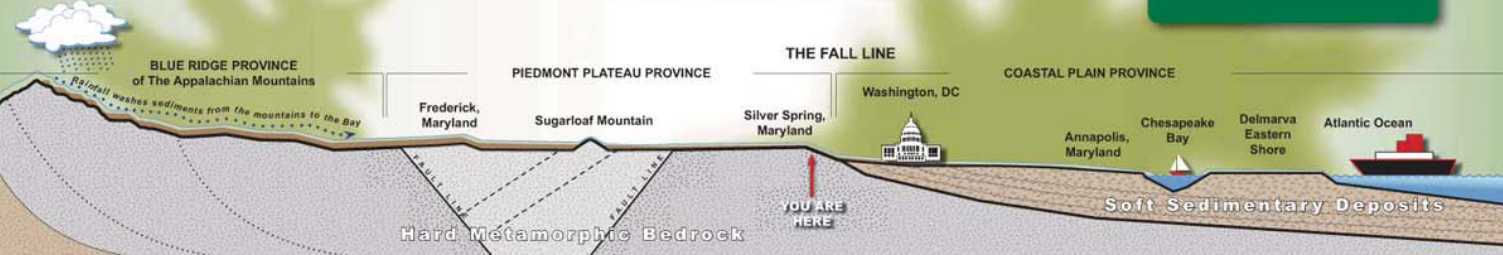
Excepting Great Falls it is the most beautiful place around here. Mother scrambled among the cliffs in her riding habit, very pretty and most interesting. The roads were good and some of the scenery really beautiful.

We were gone four hours, half an hour being occupied with the scrambling in the gorge."

(The White House, June 21, 1904)

Northwest Branch is a tributary of the Anacostia River. The rugged beauty of this area contributed significantly to the state of Maryland identifying the Anacostia as a state "Scenic and Wild River" in 1984 under the Maryland Scenic and Wild Rivers Act.

On larger streams and rivers, the Fall Line generally marks the limit of travel by ships. Many large cities like Washington, D.C. and Baltimore were established just below this geographical barrier where ports could be established.



"Hearing can be a source of ... exquisite pleasure ... Take time to listen and talk about the voices of the earth and what they mean—the majestic voice of thunder, the winds, the sound of surf or flowing streams." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Natural Treasures

ParksNaturalResources.org



Students from Broadcross Elementary School explore nature in their backyard with Park naturalists (above).



Student volunteers planting trees.

Pictured here is Rachel Carson exploring this stream valley with local children in the 1960s. Rachel Carson (1907-1964) was a scientist who had a remarkable talent for making complicated scientific information easy to understand. Her most important book, *Silent Spring*, helped ban the use of the poisonous pesticides across the nation and led to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970.

In her book, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965), Carson emphasizes the importance of adults sharing the wonders of nature with children to nurture and sustain their fascination with the environment throughout life. This mission has never been more important than it is today.

The Rachel Carson Greenway Trail is the perfect place for everyone to explore the natural world – take a hike and experience it for yourself.

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder ... he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)

No Child Left Inside



The Rachel Carson Greenway
In 2014, this trail corridor was named in honor of the mother of the modern environmental movement, Rachel Carson. Other corridors, the Rachel Carson Trail System in Prince George's County to the Potomac River State Park at the northern end. The Greenway will eventually connect to the General Creek Greenway and Potomac River creating a 50-mile continuous greenway trail system in Montgomery County.



The Northwest Branch

ParksNaturalResources.org



This stream has flowed here for millions of years, gradually changing its course and meandering back and forth across its floodplain to widen and level the valley floor. Regular floods after heavy rains deposit sediments creating rich soils that nourish a wide variety of trees, shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers. Many animals feed along the stream's banks and within its waters.

Water quality determines which fish and animals can survive here. Pollution and silt from roadways along with fertilizers and pesticides from lawns all get washed into the stream through storm drains. We must all do our part to keep our streams clean. Always follow directions when applying fertilizers and never dump oil, chemicals, or soapy water down storm drains – wash your car in the grass where any soap will be absorbed into the soil.

Barred Owl

Raccoon

Wood Thrush

Pickering Frog

Pumpkinseed Sunfish

Greenside Darter

White Sucker

Bluntnose Minnow

Smallmouth Bass

Tessellated Darter

Swallowtail Shiner

Longnose Dace

Spottail Shiner

Fantail Darter

Satinfin Shiner

Northwest Branch is stocked with trout each Spring by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Rachel Carson

ParksNaturalResources.org



Ms. Rachel Louise Carson was born on May 27, 1907 in Springdale, Pennsylvania, but spent most of her adult life in and around Montgomery County, Maryland. She was a renowned biologist and owed her love of nature to the encouragements of her mother, from whom young Rachel learned the lore and magic of birds and insects, streams and ponds. She lived along this stream valley while she wrote her book, *Silent Spring*.

Rachel Carson was a scientist who had a remarkable talent for making complicated scientific information accessible. Her 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, is widely acknowledged to have changed the way Americans think about the natural world, and is responsible for beginning the modern environmental movement.

Her warnings about the dangers of pesticides led to the banning of DDT and other pesticides across the nation, along with the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970. Her message about the need for everyone to become stewards of the environment is just as compelling today as it was when she wrote the book.



Right: Rachel Carson is pictured here writing by the stream near her home. This photograph was taken by Alfred Eisenstaedt in 1962 for Life magazine.



Left: The Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River gently meanders to the fall line at Colesville Road where it forms a rocky gorge and becomes an exciting, active stream to Bladensburg, Maryland where it joins the Northwest Branch to form the Anacostia River.

Left: Rachel Carson's favorite local bird was the veery, a member of the thrush family found in bottomland woods.

These birds migrate from Canada to eastern South America. This stream valley is one of the best places in Montgomery County to hear their beautiful spiraling songs.



Mountain Laurel Virginia Bluebells Round-lobed Hepatica

Rachel Carson designed and built her Silver Spring home in 1956. The unassuming, post-World War II ranch style house is footsteps away from the Rachel Carson Greenway and Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park. Carson was very fond of her flower garden, and loved to watch the birds that came to visit.

Much of the original landscaping is still there. The front yard contains: spruce, hemlock, and white pine trees, daffodils, and pink and white azaleas. Only a small part of the front yard has a formal lawn. She consciously worked to keep a "woody section" of native trees and to create a natural garden. The front yard retains the wooded area and much of the same appearance that it had when Carson lived there.

Now owned by the Rachel Carson Council, the house is open to the public periodically. Her house was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991.



A short walk up this trail offers an escape from suburbia into the natural world. This beautiful hidden valley supports a surprisingly rich diversity of wildlife and large trees, mountain laurel (far left), and lush spring wildflowers like bluebells (center) and round-lobed hepatica (left).

"The lasting pleasures of contact with the natural world are not reserved for scientists but are available to anyone who will place himself under the influence of earth, sea and sky and their amazing life." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Prehistoric Rock Shelters

ParksCulturalResources.org



Beginning about 1000 B.C., local American Indian tribes used these rock shelters as "prehistoric motels." Although the tribes had adopted agriculture by that time, they supplemented their diet with wild plants and animals. These shelters provided a place to stay while hunting and gathering food.

Discarded tools found near the shelters reflect food-related activities: hunting animals, butchering meat, and gathering edible plants, fruits, berries, nuts and seeds. Typical discarded bones include white-tailed deer, fox, woodchuck, rabbit, squirrel, turtle, snake, fish, turkey, duck, and passenger pigeon. Plant evidence suggests these peoples gathered wild seeds and nuts such as acorn and hickory, and a variety of tubers.

By A.D. 1607, all these peoples had been pushed out, leaving Montgomery County a "no mans' land," a buffer between southern Maryland Algonquians, northern Iroquois, and western Sioux and Shawnee Indians. Archaeologists have yet to solve the elusive mystery about their origins and fate.



Discarded tools reflect food-related activities: hunting, gathering, and butchering. Stone spears and arrow points and tempered pottery, typical tools of prehistoric people, have been found in our parks.



Park volunteers help unearth and categorize archaeological treasures at a rock shelter.



"One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?'" — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Burnt Mills

ParksCulturalResources.org



This turbulent stream was the location of one of the county's earliest grist mills, which stood here starting in the 1700s. Originally called Bealle's Mill, it ground grain into flour for nearby residents.

Far left: Burnt Mill c. 1900

Left: Looking upstream at the dam before Route 29 was built



The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission built the Burnt Mills water filtration facility in 1929 to meet increasing demand for clean water in the rapidly-growing Washington, D.C. suburbs.

The two brick Colonial Revival buildings housed offices and pumping equipment. The structures reflect a design that was popular for houses in the late 1920s, and are an interesting adaptation of a domestic look for a municipal structure.



Above: The dam under construction c. 1929

Right: The dam today



The filtration plant during its production years.



Robert B. Morse
Engineer

The Robert B. Morse Filtration Plant
This site represents the revolutionary move from one era to another—from the use of water in order to power simple machines for local production, to the multi-million dollar industry of protecting the public water supply for a large region. This small site helped make possible the enormous growth that suburbanization brought to our region.

"One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?'" — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



African Americans and Quakers in Sandy Spring

ParksCulturalResources.org



Sandy Spring has had large Quaker and African American populations since its founding in the 1720s. Encouraged by their regional and national Religious Society, most Sandy Spring Quakers had freed their slaves by about 1820, creating a significant free black population in the area. African Americans in Sandy Spring owned and worked on farms, and ran schools, churches, and fraternal organizations such as the Sharp Street United Methodist Church and the Odd Fellows Lodge.

In the years before the Civil War, the Underground Railroad was active in Montgomery County, and escapees knew they would be aided by free blacks and Quakers of Sandy Spring as they headed north.



Caleb Bentley came from Pennsylvania to Sandy Spring, and co-founded the Sandy Spring Store. This portrait was made around 1850, when Bentley was in his late 80s.



Ramus Hill was a farm worker, carpenter, and a trustee of the Sharp Street Church. This photo was taken around 1870.



Friends' Meeting-House, Sandy Spring, Md.



Today the Underground Railroad Experience Trail recreates the environment of fields and forests in which runaways would have sought safety on their way north.

After meeting for years in a tobacco barn, the Quakers of Sandy Spring built a Meeting House in 1817. This woodcut of the structure, which still stands today, was done in 1833.

"One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?'" — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Mica Mine Ruins

ParksCulturalResources.org



The Gilmore Mica Mining Company placed this advertisement in the Washington Post in 1883. The mine owners were searching for people to invest money in the company to help finance its operations.

The mine was located in a wooded area on the western bank of the Northwest Branch, which is now adjacent to the Springbrook Forest subdivision.

Mica is a silver-colored, heat-resistant rock that can be split into thin transparent sheets. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, mica was used to make windows in cast-iron heating stoves. Mica was also used for lamp shades, electrical equipment, and cosmetics.

When workable quantities of mica were found here, the Gilmore Mica Mines began operations at this site in 1882. The mine, with a 50-foot vertical shaft, ceased operation in the 1920s, and had largely disappeared by the time the subdivision was built. Look closely at the ground, however, and you might still be able to see traces of shiny mica rock.



Samples of mica rocks.



Available for purchase from the 1902 Sears, Roebuck & Company catalog, this ornate stove featured mica windows. The windows allowed light to shine through from the interior of the stove, but would not break under intense heat.

"Drink in the beauty ... and wonder at the meaning of what you see." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



The Night Sky and Nature

www.ParksNaturalResources.org



This trail is a very different place at night. For those traveling the Underground Railroad, darkness meant safety, and the stars helped lead the way north to freedom.

Could you find the North Star if you had to? The Big Dipper is the key to finding it.

The Big Dipper, Ursa Major

The Little Dipper, Ursa Minor

The North Star, Polaris

Many species of wildlife are "nocturnal" meaning (active at night). As the sun goes down this forest comes alive with activity. Mice, crickets, rabbits, moths and many other small herbivores (plant-eating animals) begin to search for food under the cover of darkness. They must be constantly alert for predators. Carnivores (meat-eating animals) are also using the darkness and their stealth to catch unwary prey.

Most nocturnal species are well adapted to the dark. Some have exceptional vision to see in dim light, while others use keen senses of smell, touch, and hearing to find food and avoid danger.

Here are some of the animals that might prowl this area at night.



Striped Skunk



Opossum



Barred Owl



Southern Flying Squirrel



Raccoon



Grey Fox



Red Fox

"My companion and I were alone with the stars; the misty river of the Milky Way flowing across the sky, the patterns of the constellations standing out bright and clear, a blazing planet low on the horizon." — RACHEL CARSON, *The Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Vernal Pools

www.ParksNaturalResources.org



The level area around you is the floodplain of the Northwest Branch. Scattered throughout the floodplain are depressions that collect water in winter and spring. These dynamic areas are called "vernal pools" if they hold water for at least two consecutive months during the growing season, and are free of adult fish populations.

Vernal pools provide essential breeding habitat for species of frogs and salamanders. In the early spring, amphibians mate, lay jelly-like egg masses in the pools. These hatch into tadpoles, that must quickly grow into mature adults before the pool dries. Tiny fingernail clams, fairy shrimp, isopods, certain snails, and a variety of insect larvae are totally dependent on these unique wetlands and are adapted to their seasonal cycles. Other larger animals like snakes and turtles also use vernal pools at times of the year for subsistence.



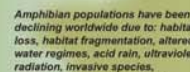
Spotted Turtle



Marbled Salamander larvae



Adult Marbled Salamander



Freshwater Snail



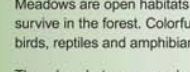
Spring Peeper



Fairy Shrimp



Wood Frog eggs



Young Wood Frog



Spotted Salamander egg mass



Spotted Salamander larvae



Spotted Salamander



Wood Frog



Amphibian populations have been declining worldwide due to: habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, altered water regimes, acid rain, ultraviolet radiation, invasive species, viruses, fungus, and pollution.



"Some of nature's most exquisite handiwork is on a miniature scale ... [with] a magnifying [lens] ... we can escape the limitations of the human size scale." — RACHEL CARSON, *Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Forest Birds

www.ParksNaturalResources.org



Large tracts of contiguous forest in Rachel Carson Conservation Park provide habitat for many animals including Forest Interior Dwelling Birds (FIDS). These specialized birds require large forest areas to breed successfully. This diverse group includes colorful species like tanagers, warblers and vireos that breed in North America and migrate to Central and South America in the winter. Other FIDS include residents like woodpeckers, hawks and owls. As land development fragments forests into smaller and smaller pieces, many FIDS are declining rapidly. A walk in these woods still affords the careful observer a chance to see and hear some of these beautiful birds.



Worm-eating Warbler



Yellow-throated Vireo



Scarlet Tanager



Louisiana Waterthrush



Red Shouldered Hawk



Barred Owl



Hairy Woodpecker



Pileated Woodpecker

"And the voices of living things: No child should grow up unaware of the dawn chorus of the birds in the spring." — RACHEL CARSON, *Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)



Magic of Meadows

www.ParksNaturalResources.org



Meadows are open habitats dominated by grasses and wildflowers. These sun-drenched areas support a wide variety of plants and animals that can't survive in the forest. Colorful wildflowers provide nectar and hiding places for butterflies, bees and scores of other insects and spiders. Many mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians also depend on these special areas for food, shelter, laying eggs and raising young.

The edges between meadows and forest, sometimes called "ecotones," are exceptionally rich habitats supporting a high diversity of species. Watch carefully as you walk... here are a few of the animals you might see.



Eastern Bluebird



Widow Skimmer Dragonfly



Honey Bee



Without regular management, meadows become overgrown with shrubs and eventually become forest. The great variety of species that depend on them, and the edges (ecotones) they create, are lost. Meadows are disappearing faster than any other habitat in the eastern United States.



Cottontail Rabbit



Meadow Vole

DeKay Snake

Red Admiral Butterfly



American Kestrel



Baltimore Oriole



Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly



Monarch Butterfly

"Many children ... delight in the small and inconspicuous." — RACHEL CARSON, *Sense of Wonder* (posthumously 1965)

