If found, please return to:
Anita C. Leight Estuary Center

Trail Brochure written by
Lauren Deaner, Silver Award Project

Updated and redesigned by
Laura Slemp, Gold Award Project Troop 690
Trail Posts installed by
Laura Slemp, Gold Award Project

Trail benches and posts installed by
Eric Woltz, Eagle Scout Project

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Discovery Trail
Interpretive Guide Book II

The Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
Otter Point Creek Component
Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine
Research Reserve – MD

Harford County Department of
Parks and Recreation

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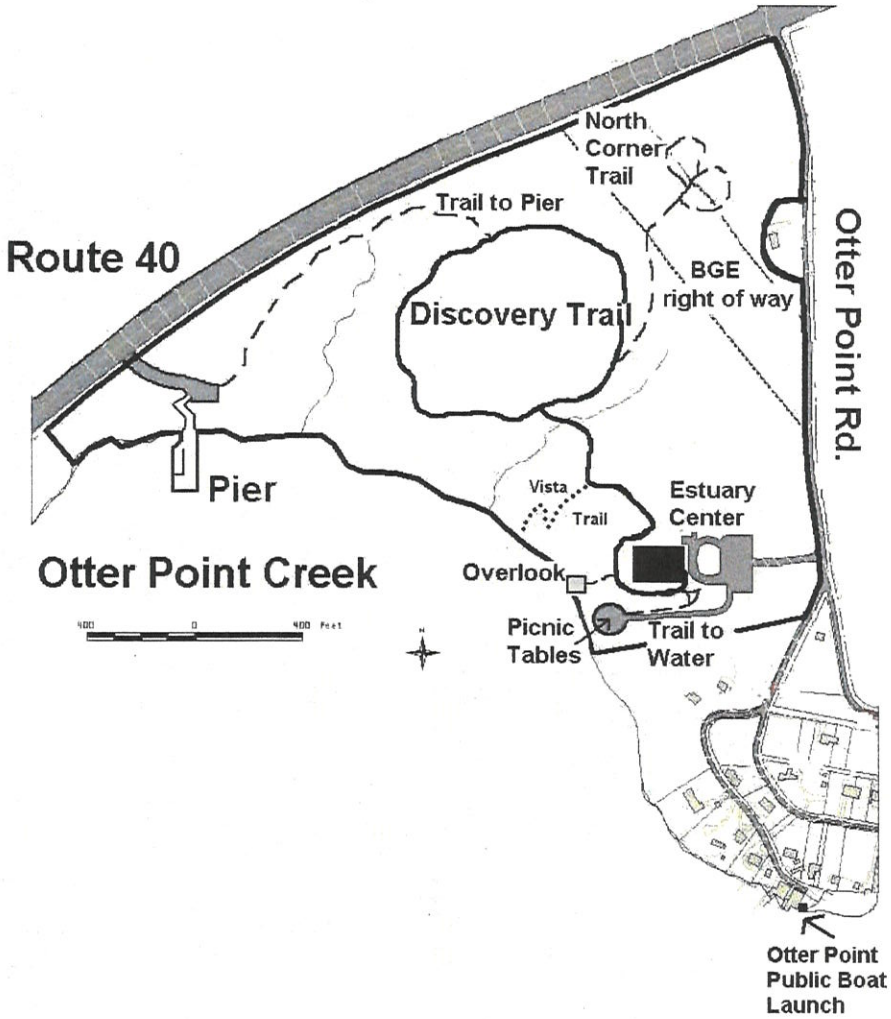


Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet

—— : Discovery Trail

- - - : Trail to Pier (picnic tables)

- **Lycopodium** powder is also used in physics experiments to make sound waves visible to measure.

- American Indians used the plant in tea to treat numerous different ailments.

Lycopodium Plant

11 Fun Facts!

- **Lycopodium** is a group of club mosses, also commonly referred to as **ground pine** or **creeping cedar**. There are approximately 950 species of **lycopodium**.

- This plant typically grows 3-10 inches tall, and is distinguished by its cone-like shape.

- **Lycopodium** stays green all winter, and is often used in Christmas decorations.

- The spores of the **lycopodium** plant have been harvested and used historically as flash powder and such things as fireworks, fingerprint powders, a covering for pills, and explosives.

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
Leight Park Trail Map

Harford County Dept. of Parks & Recreation
702 N. Tollgate Road
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-3570
http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/parks_rec/

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
700 Otter Point Road
Abingdon, MD 21009
410-612-1688
http://www.otterpointcreek.org/

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
580 Taylor Avenue, Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
1-877-620-8DNR (8367)
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/index.asp
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/cbnerr/

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Room 5128
Washington, DC 2023
http://www.noaa.gov/index.html

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
Visitor Information

Hours of Operation

Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Contact Us

Phone: 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000
Fax: 410-612-1690
Email: aclec@harfordcountymd.gov
Address: 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009

What Can You Find?

- Look around and under the decaying log. What kinds of things do you see? Remember to roll the log back when you are done! Can you find...

1. **A Worm** - Earthworms play a huge role in breaking down organic matter into humus, which improves the level of soil fertility.

2. **An Ant** – Although Black Carpenter Ants do not eat wood, they tunnel through it and help break it down.

3. **A Pill Bug** – Known by many as the Roly-Poly Bug, this bug requires a moist habitat with limited light.

4. **A Beetle** - Plant-feeding beetles are very beneficial to the breakdown of things like this log.

10 Fun Facts!

- **Decomposition** is the natural decay or breakdown of organic materials.
- The **decomposition** of this log is carried out by fungi, bacteria, and many different species of insects.
- **Decomposition** is an important part of all ecosystems. As bacteria and insects break down a plant into compost, they help return nutrients to the soil and enable new growth to take place.
- If insects and bacteria did not help in **decomposition**, the forest floor would consist entirely of plant litter.

As you walk through the Discovery Trail and come to each numbered post, read and complete the corresponding pages in the Discovery Trail Guide!

Enjoy!

1 Fun Facts!

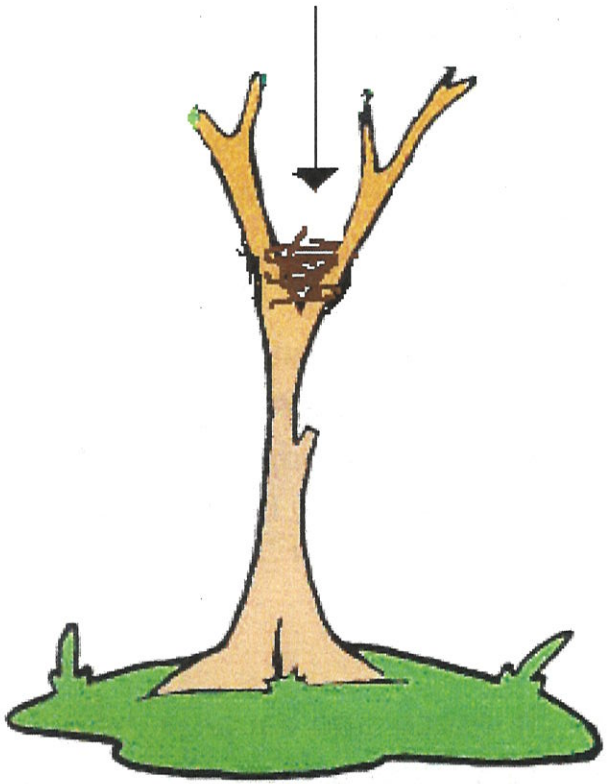
- Every forest is made up of 5 basic layers:

1st Layer: Canopy
Location: At the top of the trees
Description: Receives the most sunlight; produces food for all the animals and insects living there

2nd Layer: Understory
Location: Under the canopy
Description: A lot of shorter trees in the forest, home to birds, insects, and squirrels

3rd Layer: Shrub layer
Location: Middle layer
Description: Made of woody shrubs, such as the blueberry bush, also home to various birds

- Red-Tailed Hawks often build their nests in the V-Shaped part of trees. **Look in the tall trees around you. Can you spot any of these nests?**



This is where Red-Tailed Hawks often build their nests in trees.

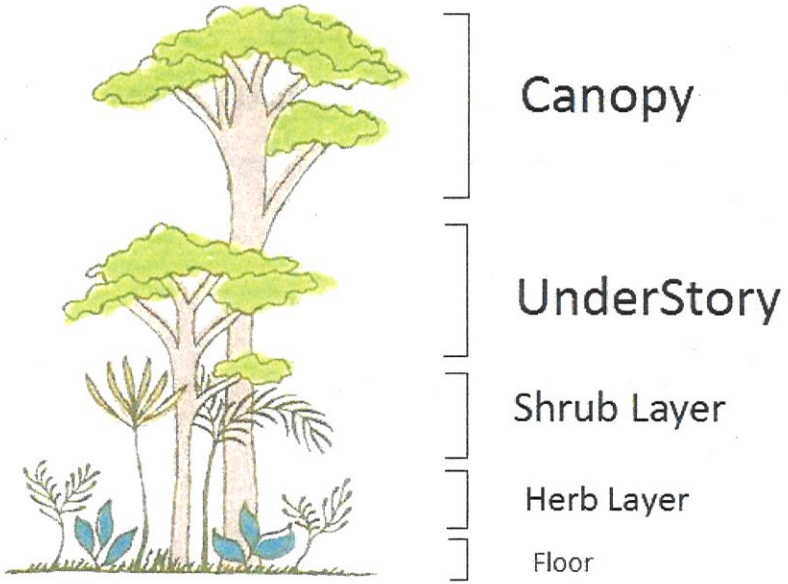
Fun Facts!

- Red-Tailed Hawks make shallow nests made of sticks and twigs. They use the same nest every year.

- Red-Tailed Hawk nests are commonly mistaken for squirrel nests. Hawk nests are made of sticks and twigs, whereas squirrel nests are made of twigs and leaves.

4th Layer: Herb layer
Location: Below the shrub layer
Description: Small plants like wildflowers; home to animals like mice and opossums

5th Layer: Floor
Location: Below all layers of the forest
Description: Made of fallen leaves and animal droppings; insects break these down into rich soil



2 Fun Facts!

- The large rocks seen here were used in the past as property markers by the Leight family.
- These large rocks are what is called a **conglomerate**, which is one large rock made up of many small ones.
- **Look closely at the rocks to find some red areas. Can you guess what these red areas are?**

Can You Find the Hidden Words?

G	F	P	Y	N	G	H	Y	T	M	Z	S	P	U	T
W	N	F	A	F	E	G	R	I	U	B	W	C	A	I
N	A	N	Y	Y	X	N	A	S	N	R	B	N	Z	Q
Q	I	B	O	F	S	W	U	Z	A	S	T	A	X	K
O	H	W	K	R	Z	Y	T	K	U	R	E	L	F	I
D	T	B	Z	J	E	E	S	S	E	F	K	C	E	I
P	R	P	E	F	R	H	E	E	T	G	Z	V	T	Z
L	E	T	J	Z	Y	C	D	E	I	B	T	N	J	S
S	E	S	S	E	K	B	J	G	D	F	F	A	D	K
K	T	L	X	E	Z	D	X	E	Y	N	C	V	X	L
I	J	N	T	S	L	J	S	R	B	I	R	D	S	D
L	D	S	A	R	P	P	R	Y	O	L	J	N	W	K
F	A	T	C	L	H	S	R	A	M	C	J	B	H	Q
O	I	E	H	B	P	W	S	J	Y	F	K	W	J	S
S	J	L	D	U	F	W	I	B	I	C	A	S	A	Q

BIRDS
DEER
ESTUARY
HERON
MARSH
PLANTS
ROCKS
TREE
INSECTS
TURTLE

8 Fun Facts!

- The roots of an American Beech tree release chemicals that discourage other plants from growing underneath it.
- A Beech tree holds its leaves through the winter. Look for their dry, pale, gold leaves in the winter. **Can you think of any other trees that hold their leaves through the winter?**
- Carving into a tree is like cutting your skin. A tree will make a kind of 'scab' when it heals from a cut.
- Sometimes a cut can become infected which will hurt a tree's growth and maybe even kill it. This is why it's very important not to carve into trees.

I Spy with My Little Eye...

- As you walk through the trail, use the checklist to see how many of the following you can find:

1. Oak Tree Leaf

2. American Holly Leaf

3. White Ash Leaf

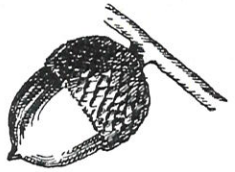
4. Beech Tree Leaf

5. Fern Leaf

6. Pinecone

7. Sweetgum Seed Pod

8. Acorn

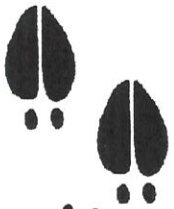


3 Fun Facts!

- The stream seen here is fed from a spring. The water from the spring comes out of the ground at 54°F.
- A spring is where an underground water table or groundwater intersects the surface, allowing water to seep out of the ground and downhill.
- This water will eventually form a stream and flow into larger streams or rivers.
- Numerous springs can be found in Leight Park.
- This particular stream that is formed by a spring flows into Otter Point Creek.

Can You Match the Animal to Their Footprint?

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

A. 

B. 

C. 

D.