

Appendix A
Key Heritage Resources

Key Heritage Resources

Key resources are divided into five categories: archeological, architectural, cultural, historical, and natural. They are listed by historical period to follow the timeline established in Section 2, Historical Perspective.

Key Archeological Resources

(Note: There are thousands of documented archeological sites in Southern Maryland: 490 sites in Charles County, 1,962 in Calvert County, and 4,236 sites in St. Mary's County.)

Key Archeological Resources (Pre-1634):

- Abells Wharf Archeological Site (St. Mary's County)
- Calvert Cliffs State Park (Calvert County)
- Patterson's Archeological District (Calvert County)
- Purse State Park (Charles County)

Key Archeological Resources (1634-1774)

- Sister's Freehold Archeological District (St. Mary's County)
- Mattapan-Sewall Archeological Site (St. Mary's County)

Key Archeological Resources (1775-1815)

- Chesapeake Flotilla (Patuxent River)

Key Archeological Resources (1815-1860)

- Susquehanna, site of Carroll family antebellum plantation (St. Mary's County)

Key Archeological Resources (1860-1865)

Key Archeological Resources (1865-1920)

- Mallow's Bay Historic Shipwreck Preserve (Potomac River)

Key Archeological Resources (1920-1941)

Key Archeological Resources (1941-Present)

- Black Panther Historic Shipwreck Preserve (Potomac River)

Key Architectural Resources

Key Architectural Resources (1634-1774):

- Acquinsicke (Charles County)
- All Saints Episcopal Church (Calvert County)
- Araby (Charles County)
- Cedar Hill (Calvert County)
- Christ Church (Charles County)
- Christ Episcopal Church (Calvert County)
- Christ Church (Charles County)
- Christ Church (Charles County)
- Cornehill (Calvert County)
- Friendship House (Charles County)
- Grahame House/Patuxent Manor (Calvert County)
- La Grange (Charles County)
- La Veille (Calvert County)
- Linden (Charles County)
- Maidstone (Calvert County)
- Marshall Hall (Charles County)
- Mattapany-Sewell Manor (St. Mary's County)
- Middleham Episcopal Chapel (Calvert County)
- Morgan Hill Farm (Calvert County)
- McPherson's Purchase (Charles County)
- Oakland (Charles County)
- Oldfields Chapel (Charles County)
- Pleasant Hill (Charles County)
- Preston-On-The-Patuxent (Calvert County)
- Retreat (Charles County)
- Rose Hill (Charles County)
- Sandgates on Cat Creek (St. Mary's County)
- Sarum (Charles County)
- Smallwood's Retreat (Charles County)
- Sommerville House (St. Mary's County)
- Sotterley Plantation (St. Mary's County)
- Spye Park (Charles County)
- St. Ignatius Church (Charles County)
- St. Joseph's Church (Charles County)
- St. Mary's Church (Charles County)
- St. Peter's Church (Charles County)
- Stagg Hall (Charles County)
- Summerseat (St. Mary's County)
- Thainston (Charles County)
- Timber Neck Farm (Charles County)

- Trinity Church Charles County)
- Truman's Place (Charles County)
- Tudor Hall (St. Mary's County)
- Waverley (Charles County)
- West St. Mary's Manor (St. Mary's County)

Key Architectural Resources (1775-1815):

- Cecil's Old Mill (St. Mary's County)
- Locust Grove (Charles County)
- Mount Aventine (Charles County)
- Oak Grove (Charles County)
- Sotterley Plantation outbuildings (St. Mary's County)
- St. Andrew's Church (St. Mary's County)
- Taney Place (Calvert County)
- Willow Glenn (Calvert County)

Key Architectural Resources (1815-1860):

- Calverton Manor tobacco barn (Calvert County)
- Cedar Grove (Charles County)
- Cove Point Lighthouse (Calvert County)
- Green's Inheritance (Charles County)
- Hallowing Point Park tobacco barn (Calvert County)
- Linden (Calvert County)
- Johnstown (Charles County)
- Mount Air (Charles County)
- Mt. Hope United Methodist Church (Calvert County)
- Oakland (Charles County)
- Piney Point Lighthouse (St. Mary's County)
- Point Lookout Lighthouse (St. Mary's County)
- Rich Hill (Charles County)
- Rosedale Manor House (St. Mary's County)
- Rosemary Lawn (Charles County)
- Smallwood's Retreat tobacco barn (Charles County)
- Sotterley slave cabin (St. Mary's County)
- The Hermitage (Charles County)
- The Lindens (Charles County)
- Widow's Pleasure (Charles County)

Key Architectural Resources (1865-1920):

- Benedict Colored School (Charles County)
- Chesapeake Beach Railway Station (Calvert County)
- *Dee of St. Mary's* (Calvert County)

- Drayden African American Schoolhouse (St. Mary's County)
- Drum Point Lighthouse (Calvert County)
- Greenwell State Park tobacco barn (St. Mary's County)
- Joseph D. Lyons House (Calvert County)
- La Plata Railway Station (Charles County)
- Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church (Calvert County)
- Millbrook Grist Mill (Charles County)
- One Room Schoolhouse (Calvert County)
- Scotland African-American Schoolhouse (St. Mary's County)
- Steamboat wharves, terminals and landing sheds located along various Southern Maryland shorelines
- Sotterley Farm (St. Mary's County)
- *Wm. B. Tennison* (Calvert County)

Key Architectural Resources (1920-1941):

- Central School (Calvert County)
- Gov. Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge (Potomac River)
- J. C. Lore Oyster House (Calvert County)
- Kabin-On-A-Korner Tavern (Charles County)
- Oyster packing facility (St. Mary's County)
- Pearson Pavilion (St. Mary's County)
- Port Republic School No. 7 (Calvert County)
- St. Leonard Polling House (Calvert County)

Key Architectural Resources (1941-Present):

- Gov. Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge (Patuxent River)

Key Cultural Resources

Key Cultural Resources (Pre-1620)

- European exploration (personalities such as Captain John Smith) and areas of encounter with Native American tribes
- Indigenous Native American tribes (such as the Piscataways) and remnants of their culture along the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers

Key Cultural Resources (1634-1774)

- 17th and 18th century plantation life
- African American role in the voyage of *Ark* and *Dove* and the settlement of the colony (Mathias de Sousa)
- Catholic and Protestant influences on laws and social norms

- Commerce and Industry: shipping, innkeeping, and the growth of the “Merchant Class”
- Cultural folk beginnings with other religious immigrant groups, such as the Quakers
- Cultural conflicts stemming from religious intolerance, culminating in Ingle’s Rebellion in 1642 and the overthrow of the Catholic government in 1689
- English cultural influences on St. Mary’s City, Chaptico, Seymour Town (Leonardtown), and other early settlements
- Institution of slavery in Southern Maryland and its rapid expansion

Key Cultural Resources (1775-1815)

- The impact of siege on everyday life
- The sacrifices of war

Key Cultural Resources (1815-1860)

- Antebellum society
- Glamour of the steamboat era

Key Cultural Resources (1860-1865)

- African American slaves reborn as American soldiers
- Confederate culture in a Union state

Key Cultural Resources (1865-1920)

- African Americans building schools, seeking better quality of life, facing obstacles from government and white Southern Marylanders
- Indigenous Bay working crafts (shipbuilding, net knitting, crab pot making, crab picking)
- Unique culture of Southern Maryland watermen’s communities (shipbuilding/fishing villages - Solomons, Benedict, Piney Point, Cobb Island, St. George’s Island and Broome’s Island; fishing shanties at Flag Ponds Park)

Key Cultural Resources (1920-1941)

- Emergence of Amish and Mennonite traditions and cultures in Southern Maryland
- More mobile society (gasoline engines in boats, the automobile, paved roads)
- Resort lifestyles (bandstands, roller coasters, boardwalks, hotels and boarding houses, Southern Maryland cuisine)

Key Cultural Resources (1941-Present)

- Towns made or reborn by the energetic industry of war (Indian Head, Solomons, Patuxent Naval Air Station)
- Legalized gambling brings casinos, nightclubs, celebrities, and fleeting fame to Southern Maryland
- Farm stands and Amish markets selling produce and local crafts
- New awareness and appreciation of Bay's and rivers' unique and fragile ecosystems and wildlife (Zekiah Swamp, Nanjemoy Creek, bald eagle populations)
- Agriculture at a crossroads: the tobacco debate

Key Historical Resources

Among the SMHA's important key historical resources are several local and National Register Historic Districts, and one National Historic Site, The Thomas Stone National Historic Site, in Charles County. Historic Districts include:

- Benedict Historic District; Charles County
- Bryantown Historic District; Charles County
- Cecil's Mill Historic District; St. Mary's County
- Charlotte Hall Historic District; St. Mary's County
- Lower Marlboro Historic District; Calvert County
- Port Tobacco Historic District; Charles County
- St. Clement's Island Historic District; St. Mary's County
- St. Mary's City Historic District; St. Mary's County

Key Historical Resources (Pre 1634)

- Native American villages and hamlets situated throughout the Southern Maryland region

Key Historical Resources (1634-1774)

- St. Clement's Island (St. Mary's County)
- *Maryland Dove* (St. Mary's County)
- The formation of St. Mary's City and surrounding areas (St. Mary's County)
- Father Andrew White's documentation of the voyage of *Ark* and *Dove* and the settlement of St. Mary's City (St. Mary's County)
- Early trade routes, ferry systems, town wharves, and ports of entry located along the Chesapeake Bay and the tributaries of Southern Maryland
- Churches:
 - All Saints Episcopal Church (Calvert County)
 - All Faith Episcopal Church (St. Mary's County)
 - Christ Church (Calvert County)
 - Christ Church Parish (Calvert County)
 - Durham Parish (Charles County)

- Middleham Chapel (Calvert County)
- Port Tobacco Parish (Charles County)
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church (St. Mary's County)
- St. Ignatius Church (Charles County)
- St. Ignatius Church (St. Mary's County)
- St. Mary's Chapel (St. Mary's County)
- Early Towns:
 - Benedict (Charles County)
 - Bryantown (Charles County)
 - Chaptico (St. Mary's County)
 - Charlotte Hall (St. Mary's County)
 - Lower Marlboro (Calvert County)
 - Port Tobacco (Charles County)
 - Seymour Town (St. Mary's County)
 - St. Mary's City (St. Mary's County)
- Early industries such as tobacco farming and shipping
- Tobacco barns
- Ordinaries and taverns, such as Farthing's Ordinary (St. Mary's County)
- Mattapany-Sewell Manor (St. Mary's County)
- Sotterley Plantation (St. Mary's County)
- Haberdeventure (Charles County)
- Charles' Gift (Calvert County)
- Tudor Hall (St. Mary's County)
- Preston-On-Patuxent (Calvert County)
- Friendship House (Charles County)
- Noted persons such as the 1st and 2nd Lords Baltimore, the Calvert family, the Plater family (Sotterley), Mathias de Sousa, Margaret Brent, and Father Andrew White

Key Historical Resources (1775-1815)

- The Chesapeake Bay and the tributaries of Southern Maryland as thoroughfares for troop movements and sites of numerous activities/battles during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812
- The troops of the Maryland "400"
- The Battle of Cedar Point (St. Mary's County)
- The 1st and 2nd Battles of St. Leonard's (Calvert County)
- The towns and farms on the Patuxent River between St. Leonard's and Lower Marlboro, where the British shelled the countryside after the 1st Battle of St. Leonard's (Calvert County)
- Community and town roles during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812
- The destruction of Calverton (War of 1812) (Calvert County)
- The Ships of the Chesapeake Flotilla (War of 1812)
- The British landing site at Benedict and the beginning of the march to Washington (War of 1812) (Charles County)

- Smallwood's Retreat (Charles County)
- *Chesapeake* and *Surprise*, first steamboats on Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River
- Mount Carmel Monastery (Charles County)
- Early mills, such Millbrook Grist Mill (Charles County) and textile mills, such as Cecil's Old Mill (St. Mary's County)
- Noted persons such as Thomas Stone, Gen. William Smallwood, and Capt. Joshua Barney

Key Historical Resources (1815-1860)

- Steamboats and steamboat companies (Weems Steamboat Company, Washington Steamship Lines)
- Steamboat routes, terminals, piers, wharves and landings along Chesapeake Bay and tributaries in Southern Maryland
- Cove Point Lighthouse (Calvert County)
- Josiah Henson autobiography: "*Truth Stranger Than Fiction: Father Henson's Story of His Life*"
- Tobacco Barns, including Hallowing Point Park barn and Calverton Manor barn (Calvert County)
- Percy Howard Farm (Calvert County)
- Point Lookout Lighthouse (St. Mary's County)
- Piney Point Lighthouse (St. Mary's County)
- Noted persons such as Josiah Henson, Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Briscoe and Kane families (Sotterley Plantation)

Key Historical Resources (1860-1865)

- Substantial slave population in Southern Maryland, with largest concentrations on largest plantations
- Camp Stanton (Charles County)
- 19th and 30th Regiments of the U.S. Army Colored Infantry
- Point Lookout Confederate Prison (St. Mary's County)
- Hammond Hospital (St. Mary's County)
- Bryantown Tavern (Charles County)
- Mudd Farmhouse (Charles County)
- Booth's escape route through Southern Maryland to Potomac River (Charles County)
- Pennsylvania Railroad's La Plata train station (Charles County)
- Noted persons such as John Wilkes Booth, Dr. Samuel Mudd, and Mary Surratt

Key Historical Resources (1865-1920)

- Seafood processing houses and canneries
- Joseph Lore Oyster House (Calvert County)
- Emergence of indigenous Bay watercraft, including bugeyes and skipjacks
- Chesapeake Bay bugeye *Wm. B. Tennison* (Calvert County)
- Chesapeake Bay skipjack *Dee of St. Mary's* (Calvert County)

- Burgeoning shipbuilding industry (Calvert County)
- M.M. Davis Shipyard (Calvert County)
- Tobacco barns
- Waldorf and Huguesville tobacco auctions (Charles County)
- Lemuel Wallace Farm (Calvert County)
- Drayden African American Schoolhouse (St. Mary's County)
- Benedict Colored School (Charles County)
- One Room Schoolhouse (Calvert County)
- Saunders House (Calvert County)
- Linden (Calvert County)
- T. Rayner Wilson Blacksmith Shop (Calvert County)
- Washington and Chesapeake Beach Railway Company (Calvert County)
- Southern Maryland as summer resort, including Bay and riverside towns such as Chesapeake Beach, Solomon's, Piney Point, Fenwick, Benedict, and Colton's Point
- Locust Inn (Calvert County)
- Noted persons such as Matthew Henson

Key Historical Resources (1921-1941)

- Development of paved road system throughout Southern Maryland as a result of automobile boom
- New industry of small businesses catering to motoring public, including gas stations, stores and restaurants
- Pisgah gas station (Charles County)
- Leo C. Bowie's General Store (Charles County)
- Kabin-On-A-Korner Tavern (Charles County)
- Emergence of Bay watercraft converted from sail to power, including draketails, motorized skiffs, and skipjacks with push boats
- Central School (Calvert County)
- Bootlegging on Southern Maryland rivers and creeks
- Elmer C. Gott Cross-Gable - the Berry Patch (Calvert County)
- Indian Head Naval Powder Factory (Charles County)
- Patuxent Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County)
- Dowell Amphibious Training Station (Calvert County)

Key Historical Resources (1941-Present)

- Corner Tavern (Patuxent)
- The Navy's legacy in Southern Maryland
- Oral histories, such as the culture of fishing villages, life on a Southern Maryland plantation, etc.
- The construction of US I-95 and US Route 301
- Nightclubs and casinos along the 301 "strip" (Charles County)
- The Wigwam (Charles County)
- Stardust Motel and Lounge (Charles County)

- Martha Washington Hotel (Charles County)
- Heidelberg Hotel (Charles County)
- The Chesapeake Bay clean-up initiatives of the 1960's, 70's, 80's and 90's
- The Calvert Marine Museum (Calvert County)
- Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (Calvert County)
- The Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum (Calvert County)
- The Thomas Stone National Historic Site (Charles County)
- The Naval Air Test & Evaluation Museum (St. Mary's County)
- Point Lookout State Park (St. Mary's County)
- Piney Point Lighthouse Park and Museum (St. Mary's County)
- St. Clement's Island - Potomac River Museum (St. Mary's County)
- Thomas Stone National Historic Site (Charles County)
- Smallwood State Park (Charles County)

Key Natural Resources

The region's varied topography, characterized by gently rolling hills along the shores of the Potomac River in Charles County to the steep cliffs that border parts of Calvert County along the Chesapeake Bay, provides the SMHA with a stunning natural landscape. Notable among the region's many natural areas are the Zekiah Swamp, Nanjemoy Marsh, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, and the Calvert Cliffs.

Formed during the Miocene Epoch (10-25 million years ago), the Calvert Cliffs were once the bottom of a shallow warm sea that predated the Chesapeake Bay and covered most of the present land area of Southern Maryland. Gradual erosion over millions of years has exposed the cliffs, and now they stand over one hundred feet above the water in some places. The fossils of over 600 species of animals have been discovered in them, making Calvert Cliffs the most extensive collection of Miocene deposits in the eastern United States. Most of the shoreline containing the cliffs is privately owned, however a stretch of a little over one mile in length is accessible to the public and to researchers. It is part of the 1,400 acre Calvert Cliffs State Park, which also includes forests, ponds, creeks, and marshlands.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp contains the northern most stand of bald cypress trees in the United States. The swamp is estimated to be 10,000 years old; some of the cypress trees still standing in it today are over 1,000 years old. Now part of a 100-acre protected sanctuary, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp is accessible to the public through trails and the sanctuary's Nature Center exhibits.

Nanjemoy Marsh is home to one of the largest colonies of great blue herons on the East Coast and is an important overwintering site for waterfowl and Bald Eagles. The 1000-acre Nanjemoy Creek Great Blue Heron Sanctuary is open only to researchers and a small number of guided tours to prevent disturbing the fragile heron habitat.

The Zekiah Swamp contains wetlands that are considered by the Smithsonian Institution to be one of the most ecologically important areas on the East Coast. The headwaters of the swamp are located in the Cedarville State Forest; Zekiah Swamp Run forms the headwaters of the Wicomico, a State Scenic River. Access to the Zekiah is possible along Cedarville's Swamp Trail, however, large sections of the swamp are privately owned and are not open to the public. Canoeing or kayaking through the swamp is possible on Allens Fresh Run, which is accessible via a boat launch ramp at Allens Fresh.

The Potomac and Patuxent Rivers are the largest tributaries in the SMHA. The Wicomico, Port Tobacco, and St. Mary's rivers are also significant tributaries. There are also a number of bays in the SMHA; St. Clements Bay and Breton Bay are the two largest.

Key Natural Resources:

- The Chesapeake Bay
- The Potomac River
- The Patuxent River
- The Wicomico River, a designated State Scenic River
- Numerous large creeks, including the Port Tobacco and St. Mary's rivers, Nanjemoy Creek, Mattawoman Creek, Chicamuxen Creek, St. Leonard's Creek, Back Creek, Mill Creek, St. John's Creek, St. George Creek, Piney Point Creek, St. Jerome Creek, Jutland Creek, Smith Creek, and Herring Creek
- Numerous small bays, including St. Clements Bay, Breton Bay, Chaptico Bay, Herring Bay, Wades Bay, Mallows Bay, and Jack Bay
- Zekiah Swamp
- Nanjemoy Marsh
- Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- American Chestnut Land Trust
- Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve
- Academy of Natural Sciences' Estuarine Research Center (St. Leonard)
- Topography, such as the Calvert Cliffs and the high bluffs along the Potomac River and its tributaries in Charles County
- Flora, such as forested areas and wetlands, and fauna, including the blue heron and bald eagle
- Unspoiled farmlands and agricultural landscapes, such as original farmlands, property lines, and woodland edges
- Indian Head, Leonardtown, Solomons, Chesapeake Beach, and North Beach waterfront areas
- Protected public lands and natural heritage areas such as Cedarville State Forest, Doncaster State Forest, Smallwood State Park, Purse State Park, Chapel Point State Park, Piscataway Park, St. Mary's State Park, Myrtle Point Park, St. Mary's River Watershed Park, Greenwell State Park, St. Clements Island State Park, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Chancellors Point Natural Historic Area, Jefferson Patterson Park, King's Landing Park, Flag Ponds Park and Thomas Stone National Historic Site

- Scenic road networks
- Waterfront and landscape vistas from high grounds and bridges
- Natural Environment, Natural Resource Management, and Wildlife Management Areas, including Mattawoman Natural Environment Area, Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area, Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area, Patuxent Vista and Patuxent River Natural Resource Management Area, Zekiah Swamp Natural Environment Area, and Elms Wildlife Management Area

Recreation Resources

Recreational land use includes municipal, county, and state parks, trails, and open spaces. Some recreational resources are available to the public and some are private. In addition to park and open space land there are 30 public boat launches located in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area.

State Parks

In St. Mary's County, Point Lookout State Park (1,036 acres) offers a visitors' center and museum, as well as 143 campsites, three fishing areas (one of which is a 710 foot pier over the Chesapeake Bay), picnic areas, swimming areas, 200 acres for deer hunting, and a boat launch facility. St. Mary's River State Park (2,176 acres) is separated into two areas, Sites 1 and 2. Site 1 area includes St. Mary's Lake (250 acres), a designated trophy bass lake popular for freshwater fishing. An 11.5 mile trail runs around the lake so fishing is possible from shore or by boat. The trail is also used for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Site 1 also includes boat launch ramps and picnic areas. Site 2 covers approximately 2,200 acres and is primarily undeveloped. It is a wildlands area and hunting for small game such as rabbit, squirrel, and white-tailed deer is permitted. Greenwell State Park (596 acres), located on the Patuxent River, provides ten miles of marked hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, as well as a fishing pier, hunting areas, picnic areas, and a public beach. St. Clement Island State Park (40 acres) is the county's smallest state park and is accessible only by boat. Boat tours to the Island are offered on a weekend schedule by the Potomac River Museum. The park offers fishing, hiking trails, hunting, picnicking, and open-air pavilions.

In Calvert County, Calvert Cliffs State Park (1,313 acres) offers camping, a one-acre freshwater pond for fishing, hiking trails, picnicking, and fossil hunting along the cliffs/beach area. Visitors may hunt for fossils on the open beach area and keep what they find. Also in Calvert County is The Southern Maryland Recreational Complex (930 acres), located within the Patuxent River Natural Resource Management Area, is undeveloped but accessible for hiking, bird watching, fishing and hunting, including a special area for handicapped hunters.

In Charles County, Cedarville State Forest (3,510 acres) is the largest state park. The Piscataway Indian tribe wintered here because of the mild climate and abundance of game, and the

headwaters of the Zekiah Swamp are located here. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps, under the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, developed roads and trails through the forest. Today, a network of 19.5 miles of marked trails are used for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The park also features a freshwater fishery facility with display tanks that contain a variety of fish and turtles. Smallwood State Park (629 acres) offers fishing from the shore of Mattawoman Creek or from several stationary piers located at Sweden Point Marina. The park also features camping and picnic areas, a 2-mile long trail system, the historic Smallwood Retreat House, a 19th century tobacco barn, and self-guided birding tours. Purse State Park is located on the Potomac River on Wades Bay. The park is a wooded, undeveloped area primarily used for hunting, birdwatching, fishing and fossil hunting. Fossilized sharks teeth, bones and shell fragments are often found at low tide in the rocks and sand along the waters edge. Chapel Point State Park (600 acres) is an undeveloped, multi-use park located on the Port Tobacco River. A waterfront area offers fishing, and has a sand launch area for small boats, canoes and kayaks, and personal watercraft. Hunting for quail, squirrels, doves, rabbits, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and waterfowl is also permitted in the park. There are four permanent waterfowl blinds available for use, as well as has a small handicap hunting area. Chapel Point also has a new paddle-in campsite available by permit only.

Land and Water Trails

Land and water trails are another recreation resource in the SMHA. The Potomac River Water Trail winds its way around the shorelines of Southern Maryland, providing boaters a tour of the region from a unique, waterside perspective. Visitors wishing to see bald eagles can paddle portions of the Zekiah Swamp along Allens Fresh Run, and the Nanjemoy Marsh, along Nanjemoy Creek. Hiking and/or biking trails are available at Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Jefferson Patterson Park, Greenwell State Park, Point Lookout State Park, Smallwood State Park, St. Clement's Island State Park, St. Mary's River State Park. In addition to park trails, there are a number of hiking and equestrian trails in other protected lands, including Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area, Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area, and Doncaster Forest.

There are a number of large county parks with excellent facilities within the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, such as Friendship Farm Park in Charles County, which offers kayak and canoe launch facilities and is a major nesting site for bald eagles, and Flag Ponds Park, in Calvert County, which offers a nature center, long boardwalks through woods and wetlands, a sandy beach, and exhibits on Flag Pond's history as a shanty village for pound-net fishermen. The SMHA also contains numerous municipal, community, and neighborhood parks as well, which offer playgrounds, picnic areas, and athletic fields.

Listed below are additional key recreational resources located in the SMHA:

Key Recreation Resources

- Municipal and County Park and Recreation Facilities in Calvert County:

Fourth Street Park
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and Nature Center
BGE Field
Breezy Point Park
Calvert Cliffs State Park
Cove Point Park
Dunkirk District Park
Flag Ponds Park
Friendship Pond Park
Hallowing Point Park
Holland Point Park
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
Kings Landing Park
Lynwood Kellam Memorial Recreational Park
Marley Run Park
Saint Leonard Recreation Area
Solomons Island Park

- Municipal and County Park and Recreation Facilities in Charles County:

Autumn Festival Park
Clark Run Nature Area
Friendship Farm Park
Gilbert Run Park
Girl Scouts of America Camp
Hughesville Pond Recreation Area
Laurel Springs Regional Park
Mattingly Park
Meekins Park
Oak Ridge Park
Pinefield Community Park
Piscataway Park
Ruth B. Swann Memorial Park
Southern Park
Tilghman Park
White Plains Regional Park
Woodland Village Park

- Municipal and County Park and Recreation Facilities in St. Mary's County

Chancellor's Run Regional Park
Fifth District Park
First District Park

George B. Cecil Memorial Park
James W. Henderson Park
Judge P.H. Dorsey Memorial Park
Laurel Grove Park
Seventh District Community Park
St. Clement Shores Park
St. Inigoes Recreation Area
St. Mary's City Park
St. Mary's Recreation and Parks Annex
Town Creek Park

- Campgrounds
- Charterboat fishing tours
- Fishing piers
- Hiking and biking trails
- Marinas
- Public beaches (North Beach, Chesapeake Beach Calvert Cliffs State Park in Calvert County; Elms's Beach and Point Lookout State Park in St. Mary's County)
- Public golf courses and sports complexes
- Public hunting lands
- Scenic road networks and vistas
- Water cruises and tours
- Breezy Point Beach and Campground (Calvert County)
- Bay Front Park (Calvert County)
- Battle Creek Nature Center (Calvert County)
- Black Panther shipwreck dive site (St. Mary's County)
- Chesapeake Beach Waterpark (Calvert County)
- Cornfield Maze (St. Mary's County)
- Maryland Int'l. Raceway, Potomac Speedway, Pro Nation Motocross (St. Mary's County)