

Directions and Trail Notes for Susquehanna SP

Description: This is an 8.7 mile circumnavigation of the park. The first 1.5 miles is along the old canal and railroad grade (The latter was constructed to deliver construction supplies to the Conowingo Hydro-electric dam further upriver.). You'll be able to view the river for this entire stretch. Then you'll climb up to a low plateau and walk through alternating woods and fields. Besides the river and canal you'll pass an old Flint Tower that remains from the Revolutionary War, an extremely old American Beech and, if you find the un-marked trail, a White Oak that also dates back to the revolution. Your starting and ending point is an operational Grist Mill that dates back to 1798. It is open, along with the Archer House and Jersey Toll House, on weekends starting in May through the end of September.

Directions from I-95 at Havre De Grace (Northbound):

1. Take exit 89 (Havre De Grace – MD Rt 155 East).
2. **This is a shortcut. Ignore any Susquehanna SP signs.** At the end of the ramp bear right onto Rt 155 toward Havre De Grace.
3. In 0.5 miles turn Left onto Lapidum Rd.
4. In 2.4 miles come to a stop sign. Turn left. This is Stafford Rd.
5. Continue on Stafford Road to the old Grist Mill on the right. Park on the wheel side.

Trail Notes: All trails except those shown as dotted lines on the map are blazed. Most are signed. The route described here was obtained with GPS. All other trails are approximations.

From the Grist Mill walk out to the railroad grade that parallels the river and turn left. In 0.51 miles cross Deer Creek on a bridge. Just before this point the Mason-Dixon Tr (blue blazes) comes in from the left. After crossing the bridge the trail veers away from the RR grade to the right and continues to follow the river bank. Watch for short fisherman's trails that will lead you out to good views up and downriver.

At 1.11 miles from the bridge turn left onto an un-blazed but wide and obvious woods road. Cross the old canal on a footbridge. In another 0.43 miles visit the old flint tower on the left then cross another bridge and arrive at Stafford Road. Turn left onto the road and cross Deer Creek again. Bear to the left on the road but soon bear right onto an unmarked spur trail. Climb a short hill and arrive at green blazed Deer Creek Tr.

Turn right onto Deer Creek Tr. You may catch glimpses of the creek or hear it but the trail always stays high above it. In 0.52 miles from the last trail junction pass another spur trail on the right that leads to Craig's Corner Rd. Begin a slight climb. It is along this stretch where you'll find the giant American Beech tree.

In about 0.77 miles from the last spur come to an un-marked but obvious path on the left. Take it to visit the grandfather of all White Oaks in the area! Return to the Deer Creek Tr and continue your original course. In a few steps arrive at a large unmarked 4X intersection. It really needs a sign. To the right is a campground loop. The Deer Creek Tr actually turns left here. At this point you want to continue straight on a short spur trail to the

blue blazed Old Farm Tr. Again signage is not clear. Turn left onto a short spur. Cross a small stream and then turn right onto the main Old Farm Road Tr.

Soon the woods will open up into a huge field. Initially the trail cuts right through the center but then bears to the left to follow the edge of the field. In 0.4 miles from the last junction pass a gray blazed spur trail on the left. Soon after this junction the Old Farm Road trail goes straight into the road while the Ivy Branch Tr continues to follow the edge of the field. The approximate location of this junction is marked with a question mark on the map. There are no trees for blazes along this stretch. Do not go into the woods here but continue to follow the trail that follows the edge of the field.

In 0.36 miles from where the last junction should be the trail joins a gravel road. Maintenance buildings are to the left. Continue on the gravel road for a few yards until you come to an obvious footpath on the left. Turn here and pass through a small stand of trees. One will have an orange blaze (The first sign that you are on the Ivy Branch Tr). Follow the edge of another field and come to the driveway for the maintenance buildings. Turn right and follow the driveway to Wilkinson Rd. Cross the road and join a footpath with orange blazes.

In 0.64 miles come to the junction of a spur trail that leads to Rock Run Rd. Make a hard left to stay on Ivy Branch Tr. Cross a small stream and in 0.54 miles rejoin the Old Farm Road Tr that comes in from the left. The two trails share the same tread for a bit before the Ivy Branch Tr veers off to the left. Stay straight on the Old Farm Road Tr.

Reach Rock Run Road again. Turn left down the road for a few steps and then pick up the trail on the other side of the road. Follow it to a stream crossing. After the crossing pick up the yellow blazed Rock Run "Y" Tr to the left and right. Turn right and gradually climb to the apex of the "Y" in another 0.23 miles. Turn left here.

In 0.24 miles arrive at the junction of gray blazed Land of Promise Tr. Turn right. In another 0.53 miles cross the driveway for the Steppingstone Museum. Follow the edge of another field before descending into the woods. In 0.51 miles from the museum driveway arrive at the junction of the (Susquehanna) Ridge Tr and Mason-Dixon Tr. Turn left here and follow the dual red and blue blazes back to Stafford Rd. Turn left onto the road and follow it a short distance back to the mill and your waiting car.