

Welcome to the

John G. Hayes Forest Preserve Trails

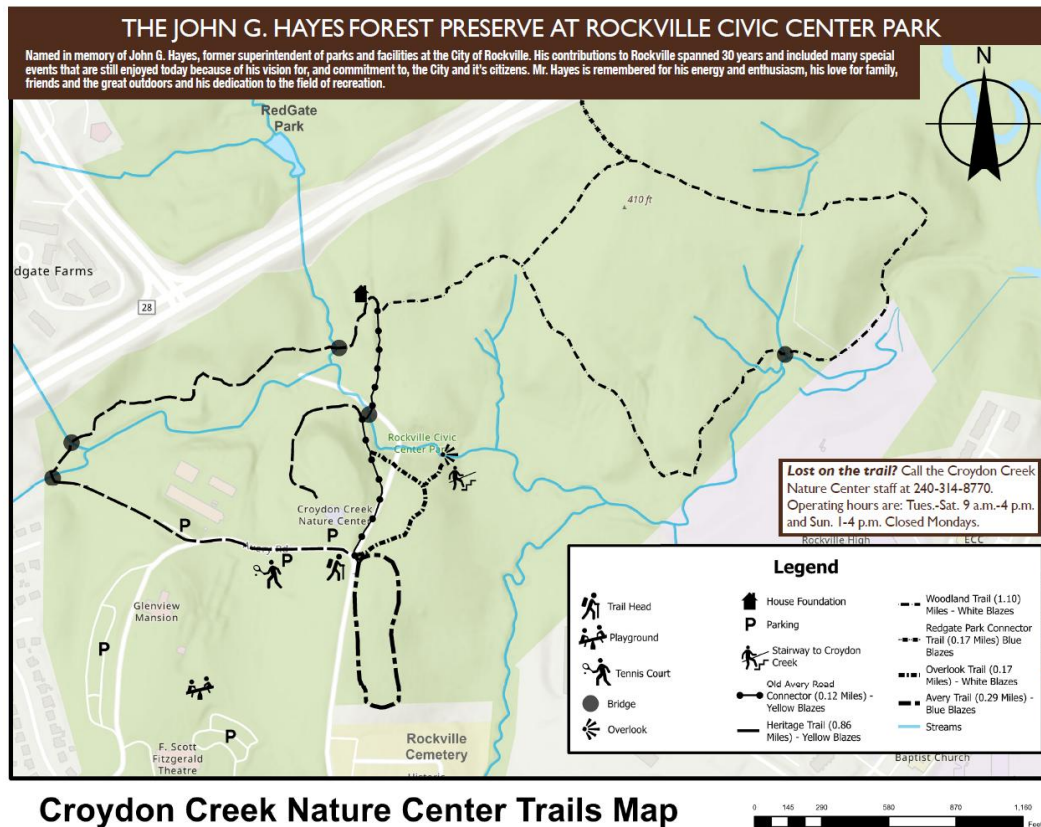


852 Avery Road
Rockville, MD 20581

Trails open daily from dawn until dusk

A Social Narrative
and Visual Tour

Located within the Civic Center Park and sitting on the edge of the Hayes Forest Preserve is Croydon Creek Nature Center. Within the forest preserve we have 6 marked trails that we welcome guests to explore, as well as a short loop around our meadow. To be prepared and know which trail is best for you, please read the descriptions below.



Our main trailhead is next to the gate blocking access to old Avery Road. If you are at the edge of the parking lot looking at the building, this location will be to the right. There is an informational bulletin board with the trail map and upcoming programs. From here, you can access Avery Trail and the Overlook Trail.



Avery Trail, or Avery Loop is unpaved, mostly level and 0.29 miles in length. It is not considered accessible based on ADA regulations but is the most accessible trail we have for those with mobility issues. This loop trail is great for little legs and trail-friendly strollers. It begins just behind the Hayes Forest Preserve dedication stone at the trailhead and is marked with blue blazes (■).

The Overlook Trail is the shortest trail that takes hikers to an outcropping of rock known to locals as Monkey Rock or Monkey Cliff. It provides a beautiful view of Croydon Creek. From this trail, visitors can access Little Falls and the creek by heading down the wooden steps to the right of the rocks. It is unpaved, on a slope and 0.17 miles in length. It begins just behind the Hayes Forest Preserve dedication stone at the trailhead and is marked with white blazes (□).

The Heritage, Woodland and Redgate Connector Trails can be accessed by either heading down the Overlook Trail to where it leads out at the bridge onto the Old Avery Road Connector, or by walking down Old Avery Road Connector from the trail head. This short connector is only 0.12 miles in length and marked with yellow blazes (■). This road was once paved but is being reclaimed by nature and has large chunks of asphalt missing. It can be quite treacherous for anyone with mobility issues.

Once down at the bridge, you can either head left to jump on the Heritage Trail or cross the bridge and climb a hill to find the junction of the Heritage and Woodland Trails.

The Heritage Trail is one of our moderate activity level trails. It is unpaved, has several sections of steep slopes, some very narrow parts, goes over 5 bridges, crosses a grassy field, has a few stairs, has the potential to become muddy and water-logged in low areas and contains one section that travels along the edge of a drop-off into the creek. This trail meanders through historic sites and through a variety of habitats. This trail can be walked as a continuous loop starting at either the large bridge below the nature center or by the campfire ring outside the nature center. It forms a continuous loop, 0.86 miles in length and is marked with yellow blazes (■).

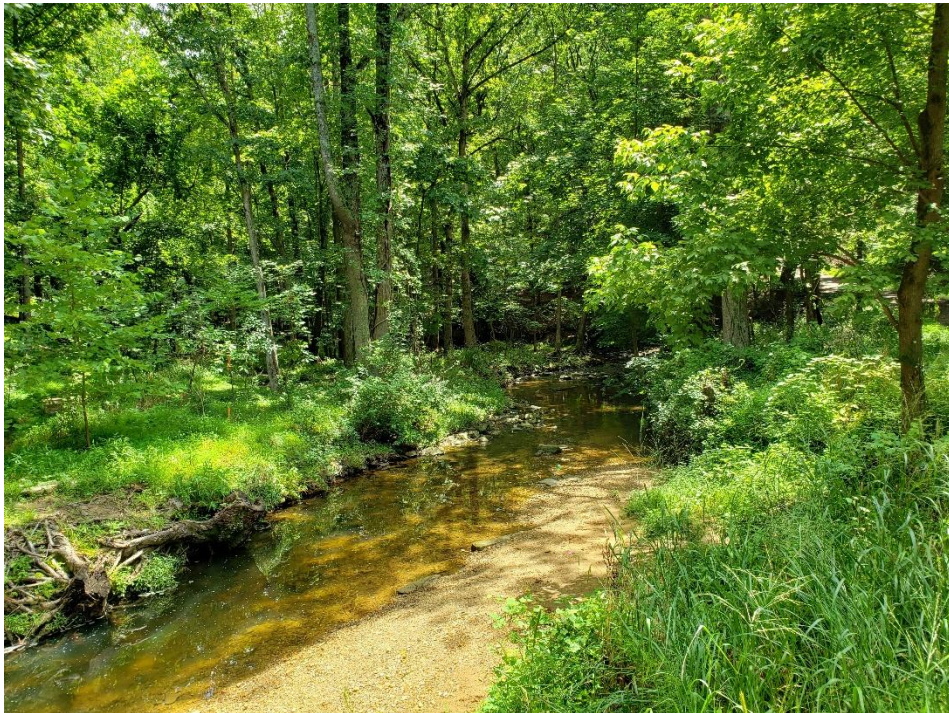
The Woodland Trail, or Woodland Loop, is the longest trail through the Hayes Forest Preserve and travels through some of the highest and lowest elevation points in the park, making it moderate activity level. It is unpaved, has several sections of steep slopes, some very narrow parts, goes over 1 bridge, has a number of stairs, has the potential to become muddy and water-logged in low areas and contains some sections that travel along the edge of a drop-off into the creek. This trail will take you through some gorgeous sections of mixed forest habitat and along Croydon Creek. It is 1.10 miles in length and is marked with white blazes (□). This trail can be walked as a continuous loop. Be sure to stay on the trail with blazes as there are many other trails down by the creek that people have created on their own and it is easy to get lost.

Finally, the Redgate Connector Trail is a short, unpaved, fairly level trail that connects the Hayes Forest Preserve to Redgate Park across Norbeck Road. There are several stairs that take you down to the road and adjacent bus stop. It can be accessed from either the Woodland Trail or Redgate Park. It is 0.1 miles in length and is marked with purple blazes (■).

On our trails, you can expect to encounter other hikers, dogs, and all sorts of wildlife. It is a full sensory experience with interesting sights, sounds, smells and textures. As with any natural area, there are some inherent risks such as stinging/biting insects, venomous snakes, poison ivy, poisonous plants/fungi, etc. Be prepared for your walk, stay on the trails and be aware of your surroundings to minimize any risk.



You are welcome to explore the creek as well, but please know that broken glass is common, and we advise visitors to wear closed-toed shoes in the water.



Our trails are open from dawn to dusk. Bathrooms and water fountains are located inside the nature center and can only be accessed during open hours. Dogs and other pets are welcome on our trails but must be on a leash. This is for their safety as well as others. Pet owners must clean up after their pets. Visitors are not permitted to cut, remove, injure, or deface any plants, animals, structures, signs, or other property unless given permission by nature center staff. We encourage No Trace Principles which you can find out more information about here: <https://Int.org/>

Nature Center open hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. The building is closed on Mondays.

For any additional questions regarding your hike, please contact us at: ccnc@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8770

Happy hiking!