

MYRTLE POINT PARK

Patuxent River

Kingfisher Beach

North Point

"North Pond"

Mill Creek

Red Oak Pond

Sam Abell Cove

Thomas (Sandy) Point

Ghost Beach



viewpoint
viewpoint

viewpoint
viewpoint

Deep Woods Trail

Kingfisher Pond

Kingfisher Trail

pine grove

Tower

old water tower

Kingfisher Trail

Deep Woods Trail

Woods Trail

Mill Creek Lane

view & picnic area

Gene Piotrowski Memorial Grove

0.3 miles

old water tower

Lane

Lane

bench

old barn

parking

parking

Berry Lane

bench

Gasland

Lane

gasline valve

Beach

Access

Wet Sox Trail

stairs

overlook

old barn

Entrance station

Patuxent Blvd

MYRTLE POINT PARK DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Myrtle Point Park is located in St. Mary's County north of the Thomas Johnson Bridge on the Patuxent River. The 192 acres of the Park were purchased with Maryland Open Space Program funds in 1997.

The area contains numerous historic sites, some dating back more than 9,000 years. Chiggre-feld and Cuckold Manor, two 17th century residences on the point, are associated with Harveytown, one of the first settlements in the state. At least nine of 37 archeological sites identified in a 1986-88 study of the locale were determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The 192-acre park is a peninsula bounded by the Patuxent River, Mill Creek, and Sam Abel Cove. Forested areas with mature trees line the beaches forming the perimeter of the park. A portion is a designated FID (Forest Interior Dwelling) area. Myrtle Point offers the opportunity to view a great variety of wildlife; from river otters, mink, and cottontail rabbits to diamond-backed terrapins, salamanders and green frogs. There are hawks, herons, warblers, owls and eagles.

The property also has extensive waterfront and tidal ponds. Much of the property was used for agriculture for many years. The wooded areas are secondary growth. The flora has been studied and catalogued.

The Park's many beaches and saltwater ponds provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and migratory birds.

Portions of Myrtle Point Park were formerly a farm, an Italian embassy retreat, and a failed site for residential development. In these areas, damaged habitat has begun re-generation and is lush with myrtles, black cherries, and cedars. However, in sections where they must compete with nonnative invasive plants, recovery is slow.

Also recognized is the need to support the preservation of the Park's archeological sites.

In order to maintain this unique refuge, it is also necessary to preserve and restore the wilderness areas, the waterfront and the surrounding waters.

1200-1608 Late Woodland Period shellfish middens

<http://www.myrtlepoint.org/pdfdocs/2005summer.pdf>

1608-12 John Smith's Map of Virginia. First known depiction of neck of land now within Myrtle Point Park. No Native American village was shown in the park area.

1643 Nicholas Harvey 1000 acre tract named St. Joseph's Manor included what is now MPP.

1800-1900 Land changed hands many times and possibly was farmed.

1901 Farmhouse, near Thomas Point, at the end of a road. House disappeared before 1974 but the road is one of the lanes in the park.

1944 First appearance of the name "Myrtle Point" on a USGS topographic map, the Solomons Island 1967 Gordon Lindner and Oran Wilkerson sound alarm on development of Myrtle Point.

1968 The Potomac River Association (PRA) in partnership with David Sayre and local watermen file suit to block improper dredging.

1995 Sierra Club Southern Maryland Group (SC) starts leading hikes and clean-ups on MPP to acquaint public with the beauty of the land

1997 Myrtle Point Park dedicated as a St. Mary's County park.

2000 Citizens groups, affiliated with Friends of Myrtle Point Park, began creating trails and joining battle with invasive plants. <http://www.myrtlepoint.org/pdfdocs/no01.pdf>

2008 Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT) becomes more involved in the park, including invasive species control. (PTLT eventually absorbs Friends of MPP)

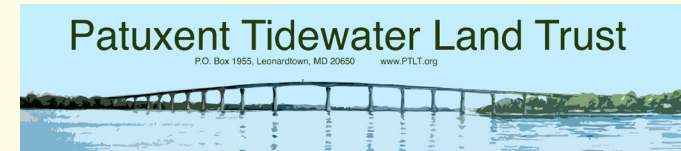
2013 Gene Piotrowski Memorial Grove created.

2019 In August the MD DNR chose Myrtle Point as a project recipient to design a living shoreline with climate-resilient and wetland enhancement features to address erosion and sea-level rise while preserving beach access within Myrtle Point Park.



Map created by Ronald Canter
for Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust (PTLT)

History by Dudley Lindsley,
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Published by PTLT www.ptlt.org
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Myrtle Point Park MAP and History

