

Seneca Creek State Park

Over 50 miles of trails are open for hiking, horseback riding and bicycling which wind through a variety of habitat in Seneca Creek State Park.

Clopper Lake Trail System

The Clopper Day-Use Area offers over a dozen miles of trails, wrapping around the lake, extending into park upland areas, and exploring the namesake creek.

Lake Shore Trail

Blue blaze

3.7 miles - moderate

Encircling the lake, this scenic trail offers continuous views across water from woodlands or open field settings. Several streams are bridged and shore locations offer good opportunities for wildlife observations of waterfowl, herons, fish and turtles, as well as access to fishing.

The Woodlands (Clopper Lake)

No blaze

0.15 miles - easier

A short self-guided trail located adjacent to the Park Office interprets life on the "The Woodlands," the former plantation home of the Clopper Family.

Old Pond Trail (Clopper Lake)

Red blaze

0.25 miles - moderate

Beginning near the Park Office, a short set of steps leads hikers to the Old Pond Trail. After crossing a small bridge, hikers can choose to walk left toward the park roads or right to continue through a marshy, wooded area and across a small creek. Connecting to the Great Seneca Trail from the Old Pond Trail can extend the hike.

Great Seneca Trail

Orange blaze

1.2 miles - moderate

From the parking lot near the park office,

follow the Great Seneca Trail along Great Seneca Creek for a relaxing walk to hear the babbling water. The trail wanders through fields and woods, eventually leading to Clopper Lake and Long Draught Creek.

Long Draught Trail

Yellow blaze

1 mile - moderate

After parking at Kingfisher Overlook, follow the Long Draught Trail along Long Draught Creek to observe signs of beaver activity. The trail continues to a bridge crossing, where hikers have the option of continuing onto the Greenway Trail, the Mink Hollow Trail, or hiking to the Wetland area for more wildlife observation.

Mink Hollow Trail

White blaze

1.5 miles - moderate

The Mink Hollow Trail is best accessed by parking at Quail Ridge. The trail skirts the edge of the Quail Ridge parking lot just to the right of the entrance to the Bobwhite Picnic Pavilion. The trail, designed to connect with the Lake Shore and the Long Draught Trails, wanders through woods to a steep descent before arriving at a boardwalk along the marshy area of Long Draught Creek.

Schaeffer Farm Trail System

Schaeffer Farm is the hub of a trail system unique in Maryland. The trails at Seneca Creek State Park provide the backbone of a network that extends into most of the upcounty area. Configured in a series of loops, you can enjoy as few as four miles

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or go for an all-day adventure. It is possible to do a trail loop stretching 60 miles or more when you leave the trailhead. Linking the Seneca, Muddy Branch, and Potomac watersheds, visitors can journey from Schaeffer to Damascus to the Potomac and back. One of these larger loops has been recognized by the International Mountain Bicycling Association as one of the best and most important routes in the country.

White Loop (Schaeffer Farm)

White blaze

3.3 miles - easier to moderate

The White Loop is the gateway trail to Schaeffer Farm; all the other area trails branch off of it. Fun in either direction, it is a flowing, rolling singletrack through forest and along farm field edges. There are numerous opportunities to branch off and explore deeper into Schaeffer. At the far side of the loop there is a spur trail leading to Black Rock Mill and the Seneca Ridge and Seneca Greenway Trails.

Longer

Hiking/Biking/Equestrian Trails

Seneca Greenway

Blue blaze

16.5 miles - moderate

Spanning from the C&O Canal and the Potomac River to MD-355, the Greenway provides the full panorama of Seneca Creek State Park. Due to its alignment in the floodplains of the creek, much of the Greenway is for foot-traffic only.

Exceptions include the segments from Black Rock Mill to MD-28 (for hiking, biking and horses) and MD-28 to Berryville Road (for hiking and horses).

The trail design allows for beautiful photography of the flowing creek waters as well as abundant wildlife observation.

Seneca Ridge Trail

Orange blaze

5.8 miles - moderate

Located in the upland areas on the south bank of Seneca Creek, the Seneca Ridge Trail provides a shared-use connection between Clopper Lake and Schaeffer Farm. Those willing to venture farther from the trailhead are rewarded by great unsullied vistas to Seneca Creek. So much fun for running and bicycling, this trail greatly increased interest in travelling-by-trail between Clopper and Schaeffer.

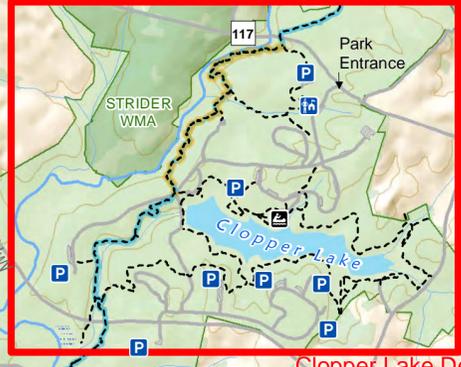
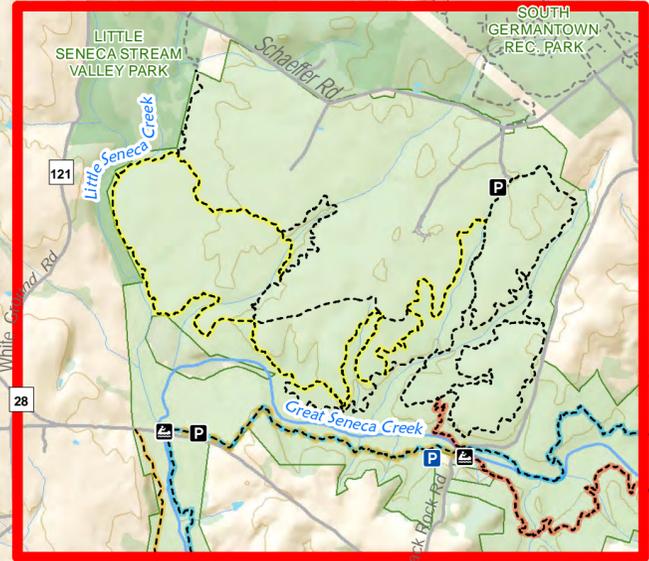
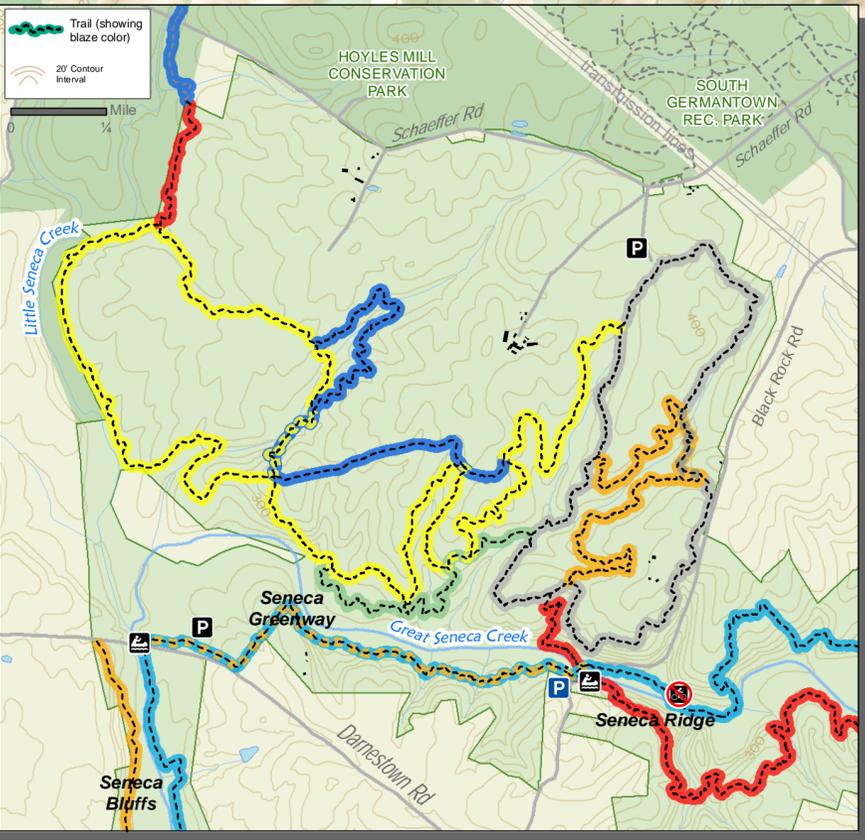
Seneca Bluffs Trail

Yellow blaze

7.5 miles - moderate

Sibling to the Seneca Ridge, the Bluffs Trail creates a shared use link between Black Rock Mill, MD-28, Poole's General Store, and the C&O Canal at Riley's Lock. True to its name, much of the trail hugs the rim of the river valley providing stunning views across Seneca Creek as it approaches the Potomac.

SCHAEFFER FARM AREA



SENECA CREEK

Seneca Creek State Park

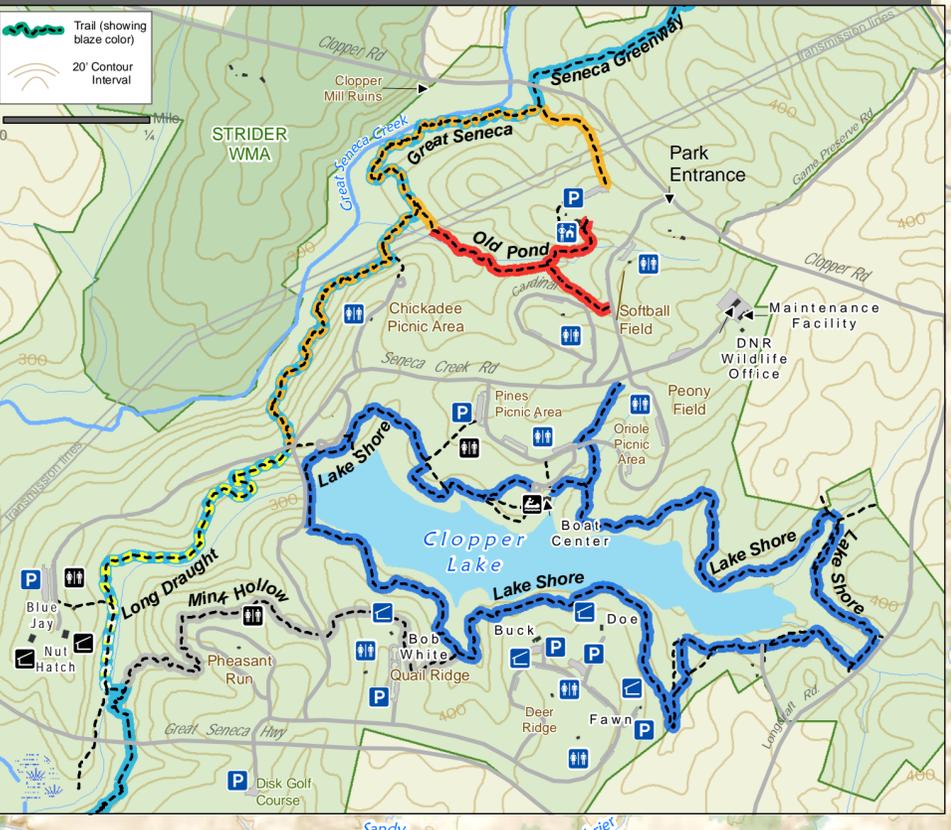
Park Address:
11950 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Contact: 301-924-2127 **Emergencies:** 410-260-8888

- Parking
- Boat Launch
- Restroom
- Soft Launch
- Office
- No Biking
- Pavillion
- Playground
- Scenic
- ADA Accessible Features
- Trail (color indicates blaze)
- State Park Boundary (Approx.)
- Other Protected Lands
- 100' Contour Interval

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Last Updated Sep 2016
Seneca Creek State Park website:
dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/seneca.aspx



CLOPPER LAKE AREA





STRIDER WMA

Great Seneca Creek

Clopper Lake

Seneca Creek State Park

Park Address:
11950 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Contact: 301-924-2127
Emergencies: 410-260-8888

- Parking
- Boat Launch
- Restroom
- Playground
- Office
- Pavilion
- Accessible Features

- Trail (color indicates blaze)
- Park Boundary (Approx.)
- Other Public Lands
- 20' Contour Interval

Last Updated Jul 2015

Blue Jay
Nut Hatch

Long Draught Trail

Mink Hollow Trail

Pheasant Run

Great Seneca Hwy

Disc Golf Course

Pines Picnic Area

Expo Field

Boat Center

Quail Ridge

Bob White

Lake Shore Trail

Buck

Deer Ridge

Doe

Fawn

Cardinal

Peony Field

Oriole Picnic Area

Softball Field

DNR Wildlife Office

Maintenance Facility

Park Entrance

Clopper Mill Ruins

Old Pond Trail

Chickadee Picnic Area

Seneca Creek Rd

transmission line

Clopper Rd

Game Preserve Rd

Clopper Rd

Longdraft Rd

