

Piscataway Park

The next time you stand at Mt. Vernon, Virginia and look out across the river, rest assured that the view won't be changed too much. Piscataway Park, maintained by the National Park Service is what you see. Behind the park is a vast scenic easement that requires the privately owned land to remain wooded even though there are houses built there. This portion of southern Maryland is different from other suburbs around Washington, D.C. The pace of life is slower, maybe nicer. You're more likely to run into someone here who will talk to you about fishing, barbeque or racing than you will find someone talking about e-investments, college placements, or mega-malls. The park is the also the location of the National Colonial Farm where guided tours are offered. When you're done with the run or hike, stand on the pier at Bryan Point in Piscataway Park. Look across the water and you'll see the best panoramic view there is of Mt. Vernon.

Getting There

From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take Indian Head Highway, Rte. 210, south. Turn right after 9.5 miles onto the exit ramp following the sign toward Bryan Point Rd. Bearing left at the next intersection, the road will turn right sharply and become Bryan Point Rd. Park after 3.6 miles at the end of the road.

Area Routes

Mockley Point (3.65 or 4.95 miles, II or III)

Soft flat and uncrowded trails along the Potomac River are the attraction for this route. The route initially follows Bryan Point Rd. the way you drive in. Turning left on a gravel road, come back to the Potomac River. A two-tenth of a mile long wooden bridge takes you over wetlands that empty into the river. Good views of the river and Mt. Vernon can be seen from the walkway. Make a small loop around a farm field at Mockley Point Rd. or extend the route with an out-and-back option that passes near Mockley Point. The return uses dirt trails (after rains this area is muddy) to pass around the wetlands. A short stretch on Bryan Point Rd. is finished at the turn-off for the Robert Ware Straus Ecosystem Farm. The farm serves as a demonstration area for low impact and organic farming. Solar cells are used to irrigate fields and crops are planted in combinations that naturally provide pest protection. The produce is sold locally. The sign at the turn-off for the farm from Bryan Point Rd. indicates that it is a service road only. Foot traffic is welcome however. Finally, the Pumpkin Ash Trail goes through a small patch of woods to the colonial farm and parking.

Nearby and Connecting Zones

Fort Washington Park
Cedarville State Forest

What to do Afterward

Food and Drink

Sam's Crab House - 301 868-4373
B&J Carry-Out - Dixie Style Bar-B-Q - 301 292-5631

Entertainment and Edification

National Colonial Farm
- 301 283-4201
Fort Washington - 301 763-4600

Mockley Point

Distance: 3.65 or 4.95 miles

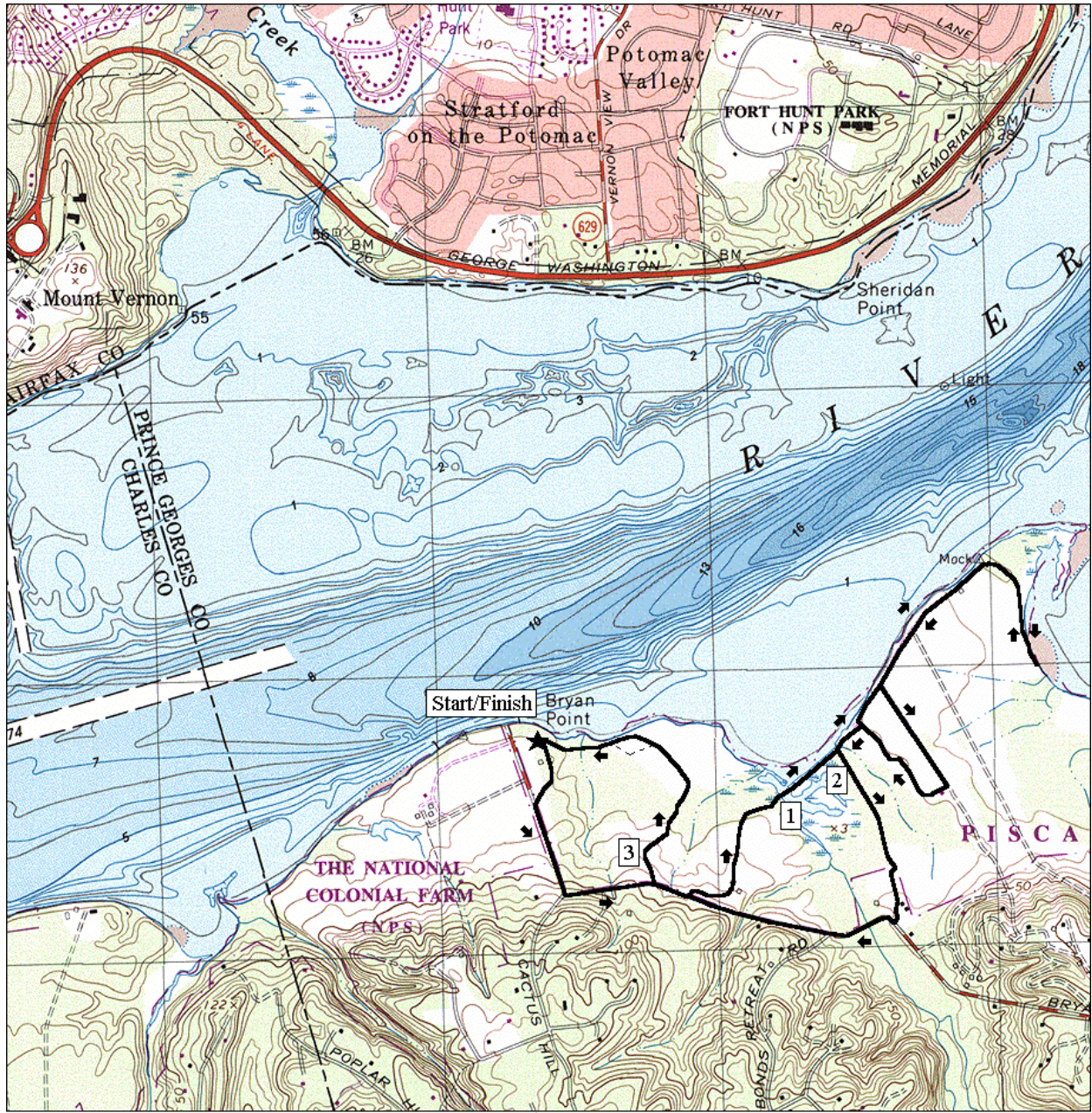
Rating: II or III; flat, mostly gravel and dirt roads with some wooded trails

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|-----|--|-----|---|
| 0.0 | from the parking lot, go toward Bryan Point Rd (the way you came in) | L | 1.95 trail X on L (view to Mt Vernon) |
| | | | 2.0 wooden bridge ends |
| | | BR | 2.15 trail splits |
| BL | 0.1 Bryan Point Rd (unmarked) | R/L | 2.25 R at 1 st field; L at soccer field; |
| | | | 2.35 go around Moyaone Pool to road |
| BL | 0.35 at Cactus Hill Rd on R | R | 2.4 Bryan Point Rd (unmarked) |
| | 0.5 gravel road on L (service vehicles) | | 2.85 gravel road on R (TAYAC, Piscataway Park) |
| L | 0.65 gravel road on L (TAYAC, Piscataway Park) | | |
| | 0.9 trail head at parking lot | | |
| | 1.0 begin wooden bridge | R | 2.95 gravel road on R (service vehicles) |
| | 1.15 trail X on R (view to Mt Vernon to L) | | 3.25 Robert Ware Straus Ecosystem Farm |
| | | S | 3.4 through fence (open & close); trail becomes Pumpkin Ash Trail |
| L | 1.2 end wooden bridge & L at T | | 3.45 Blackberry Trail on L |
| >* | | | 3.5 wooden bridge |
| R | 1.3 Mockley Point Rd on R (unmarked) | | 3.6 TR X |
| <* | | | |
| R | 1.6 Rd X on R goes around field | | |
| | | L | 3.65 at gravel road and to parking |
| L | 1.9 trail X on L & begin wooden bridge | | |

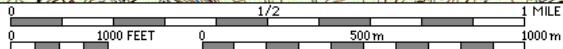
4.95 Mile Route*

- 1.3 Mockley Point Rd on R (unmarked)
- 1.7 trail X on L to river
- U 1.95 road ends (view across water to Ft. Washington Park)
- 2.25 trail X on L to river
- L 2.6 Mockley Point Rd on L (unmarked) (pickup cues at mile 1.6 on 3.65 mile route)

Mockley Point



MN TN
10 1/2°



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