



1 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOHN R. LEOPOLD

Rick Anthony, Director

MAYO BEACH PARK MAYO WIND LAUNCH

WATER TRAILS by Darald G. Lofgren

There are scores of destinations from Mayo Beach Park to surrounding historical and recreational points of interest. Seven water trails of various lengths are outlined in the following descriptions. Access to these water trails at Mayo Beach Park is available seven days a week from dusk to sundown with a seasonal launch permit. Check the Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks Web page then to *Mayo Beach Park* and then to *Mayo Wind* for an application and current fee. Water trails routes and descriptions may be followed on the attached map or *ADC, Anne Arundel County* or *Mariner's Atlas* as referenced. The later two references are a larger scale and the marine map indicates markers and water depth.

COMMODORE ISAAC MAYO WATER TRAIL

This trail is one mile north from the Mayo Beach Park car top launch at Latitude 38° 53.613 North and Longitude 76° 29.486 West. The entire peninsula between South River and Rhode River was named after Commodore Isaac Mayo who purchased 39 acres of Mayo Beach in 1856 as an addition to his plantation estate. The Commodore's home dates from 1686 and is located down river from Mayo Beach Park above Selby Bay after traveling north around Turkey Point. A shortcut exists by entering Ramsey Lake and passing under the bridge at Little Island. Commodore Isaac Mayo owned the entire 3-mile shoreline between Mayo Point and Mayo Beach. (ADC, Map 25; Mariner's Atlas Map 8)

LONDON TOWN HOUSE AND GARDEN WATER TRAIL

Continuing the Commodore Mayo water trail off Mayo Point, the trail passes Limehouse Cove and Brewer Point, Brewer Creek, Cedar Point to Larramore Point to the historic London Town House and Gardens Park. This trail is 2.25 miles from Mayo Beach Park. Canoes and Kayaks may tie up at the wharf below the historic Alms House and Tavern. This historic site is an active archeological site with reproduced structures, a museum, gift shop, and garden. (ADC, Map 25; Mariner's Atlas Map 8)

STATE ROUTE 2 AND RIVA ROAD BRIDGES WATER TRAIL

Continuing the Commodore Isaac Mayo Water Trail and the London Town House Water Trail, proceed north past Almshouse Creek and Warehouse Creek, ½ mile, to the Route 2 Bridge. This trail is 2 ¾ miles from Mayo Beach Park. There are four Marinas and Three restaurants on both sides of the bridge. Continue ½ mile to the Riva Road Bridge. Mike's Restaurant and Marina is located on the west shore. (ADC, Map 24 and 25; Mariner's Atlas Map 8)

THOMAS POINT SHOAL AND LIGHTHOUSE WATER TRAIL

Northeast across the South River from Mayo Beach Park, 1.5 miles, is the Thomas Point Shoal and Lighthouse. The famous Thomas Point Lighthouse is now a visited signature landmark, and was an important navigational aid. This Chesapeake Bay lighthouse was first constructed in 1824. A second lighthouse was constructed a decade later. The present screwpile lighthouse was erected in 1875. It is the only screwpile lighthouse that remains on its original bay location. (ADC, Map 25 and 26; Mariner's Atlas Map 8)

HIGHLAND BEACH/ANNAPOLIS WATER TRAIL

Continuing north past Thomas Point and Fishing Creek is the community of Highland Beach, between Oyster Creek and Blackwalnut Creek. The summerhouse of Frederick Douglas was built for the famous abolitionist in 1894. The community of Highland Beach was developed in 1893 as a summer resort for elite Washington, DC black families.

A short distance north is the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Headquarters Environmental Center. You may land on the beach and tour this famous green building. Advance registration and fee is required. Continuing north around Tolly Point, ½ mile, into the Severn River, you enter the shoreline of Annapolis and the U.S. Naval Academy with scores of historic and cultural visitor opportunities. (ADC, Map 21, 25 and 26; Mariner's Atlas Map 8)

TRITON BEACH, BEVERLY BEACH, AND RHODE RIVER WATER TRAIL

This trail is one mile south along the Mayo Peninsula past 350 acres of shoreline that encompassed two famous private beaches that were popular from the 1940s until the 1960s. This property is now Anne Arundel County parkland. Dutchman Point is at the mouth of the beautiful Rhode River. The northeast shore of this one-mile river completes the shoreline of the Mayo Peninsula. Three Islands are described on current maps, although, High Island has eroded into a shoal at low tide. Camp Letts, YMCA Camp, is located at the northern end of the River. The western shore is primarily owned by the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. This natural river is a popular anchorage and a protected "hurricane hole." (ADC, Map 25 and 30; Mariner's Atlas Map 8)

WEST RIVER WATER TRAIL

Paddling past Cheston Point on the western point of Rhode River traveling south, you pass Cheston Creek, Scaffold Creek, Popham Creek, and Cox Creek progressing down the West River to Galesville. This popular river is another one-mile paddle and contains nine creeks with six marinas. Pirates Cove Restaurant is a popular marina with a private dock and lodging, and welcomes all boaters.

Shady Side is on the east and north sides of the West River. Passing Cedar Point, Deadwood Cove, and McKinley Point, the ante-bellum Captain Salem Avery House Museum is on the banks of the West River. This house is dedicated to the watermen of the Chesapeake Bay and is between McKinley Point and Neman Point, which is off Parish Creek. (ADC, Map 30; Mariner's Atlas Map 8)

References:

ADC The Map People, *Street Map Book*, 25th Edition, Anne Arundel County, Maryland
Balder, A.P., *Mariner's Atlas*, Chesapeake Bay Map 8, p. 18.