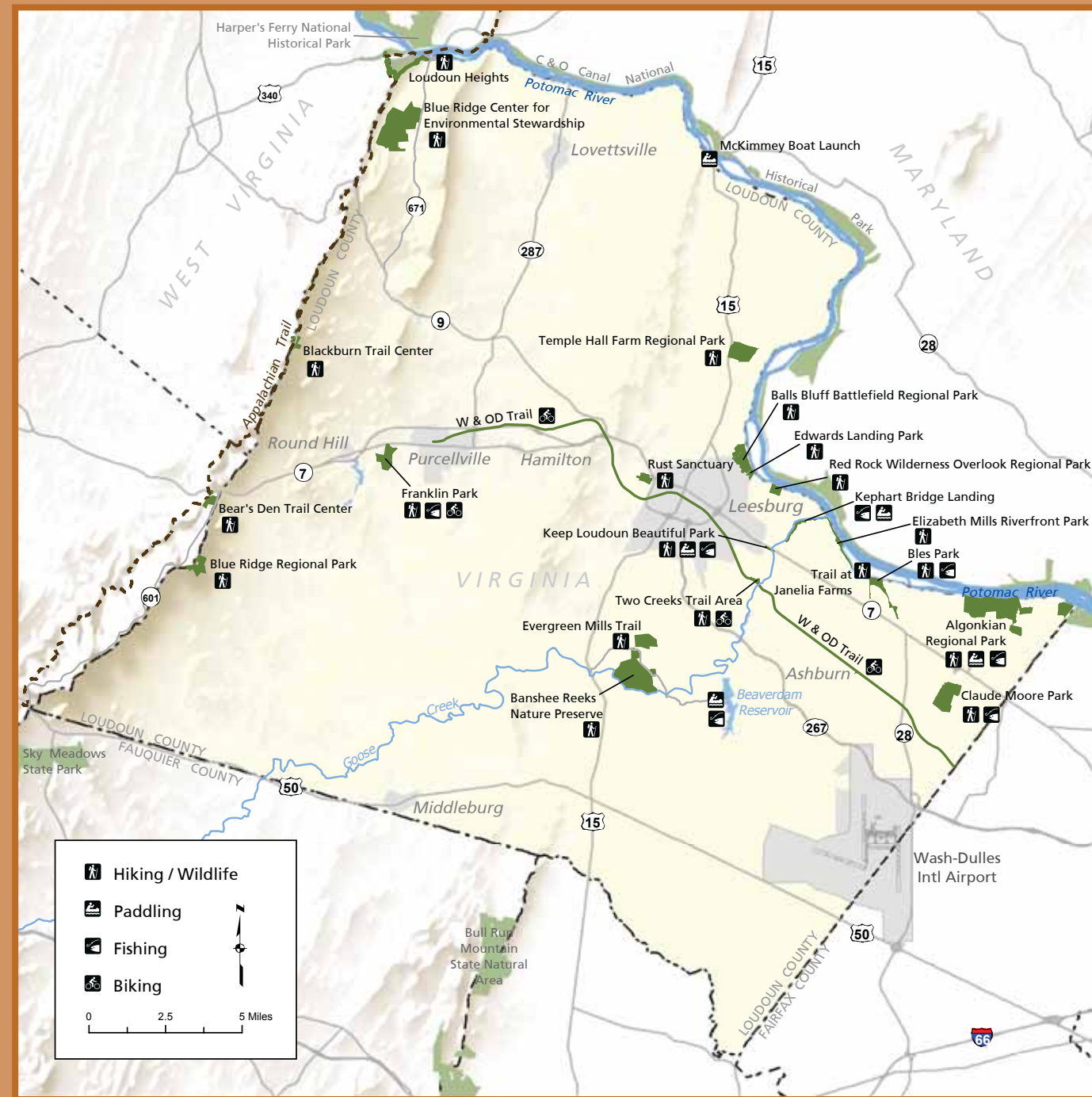




Loudoun's Great Outdoors

The Loudoun Outdoors Guide identifies 24 places in the county, stretching from eastern Loudoun County near Dulles Airport to the Blue Ridge Mountains in the west, to experience Loudoun's great outdoors.



Loudoun Outdoors Guide

Published by the Piedmont Environmental Council

LoudounOutdoors.org

Experiencing Loudoun's Great Outdoors

With over 10,000 acres of parks, public lands, and other natural areas, opportunities abound in Loudoun County for the outdoor enthusiast. Maybe you will want to try hiking the new trails along the Potomac River that are part of the Potomac Heritage Trail. Or biking along the 20 miles of the W&OD trail that crosses Loudoun County. Or bird watching at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship's 900 acre agricultural and nature preserve.

hike, bike, paddle, fish, or experience the county's diverse natural and historic landscapes.

All the places identified in the guide are open to the public on a regular basis, though not all are public parks or public lands. Regardless of ownership, please be mindful of the hours of operation and other rules that should guide your visit.

The Piedmont Environmental Council and REI hope you find the guide useful. We have collaborated on this guide to encourage residents and visitors to experience Loudoun County's rich history, diverse wildlife habitats, and spectacular natural beauty.

This guide highlights the best parks and publicly accessible natural areas in Loudoun County for the outdoor enthusiast, especially those new to the area or with a renewed interest in getting outdoors to

The Potomac Heritage Trail



Recognized in 2006 as a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, a network of linear parks in Loudoun County makes it possible to follow a 7 mile trail corridor stretching from Fairfax County to the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park on Goose Creek. Trailheads can be found at Algonkian Regional Park, Bles Park, Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park, Kephart Bridge Landing, and the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park. Check out the National Park Service's Potomac Heritage website (www.nps.gov/pohe) for a detailed map and trip planner.



Site	Hiking/Wildlife	Paddle	Fish	Bike	Site	Hiking/Wildlife	Paddle	Fish	Bike	Site	Hiking/Wildlife	Paddle	Fish	Bike
Algonkian Regional Park Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	X	X	X		Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship	X				McKimmy Boat Launch VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries		X		
Appalachian Trail / Bears Den Trail Center Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	X				Blue Ridge Regional Park Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	X				Red Rock Wilderness Overlook Regional Park Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	X			
Appalachian Trail / Blackburn Trail Center Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	X				Claude Moore Park Loudoun County	X		X		Rust Sanctuary Audubon Naturalist Society	X			
Appalachian Trail / Loudoun Heights Harpers Ferry National Historical Park	X				Edwards Landing Park Town of Leesburg Virginia	X				Temple Hall Farm Regional Park Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	X			
Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	X				Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park Loudoun County	X		X		Trail at Janelia Farms Loudoun County	X			
Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve Loudoun County	X				Evergreen Mills Equestrian and Hiking Trail Loudoun County	X				Two Creeks Trail Area Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority	X			X
Beaverdam Reservoir City of Fairfax, Virginia		X	X		Franklin Park Loudoun County	X		X	X	Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD Trail) Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority				X
Bles Park Loudoun County	X		X		Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park Loudoun County	X	X	X						
					Kephart Bridge Landing at Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park Loudoun County				X					



The Piedmont Environmental Council is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the Virginia Piedmont's vibrant communities, rural economy, natural resources, history, and beauty through programs such as this Loudoun Outdoors Guide. You can become a member at pecva.org

REI, founded in 1938 as a consumer co-op by a group of Pacific Northwest mountaineers, is a national multi-channel retailer of quality outdoor products. Each year, a portion of REI's profits is set aside to support conservation, outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship causes. In 2007, the Piedmont Environmental Council was awarded an REI grant to develop this brochure.



Piedmont Environmental Council
The Rust Sanctuary
802 Children's Center Road SW
Leesburg, VA 20175
pecva.org

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
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Warrenton, VA
Permit No 57

Hiking & Wildlife

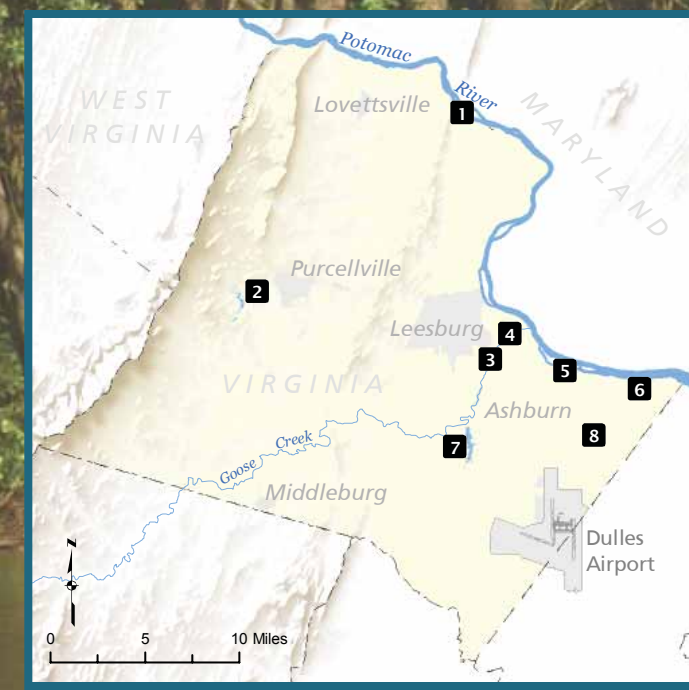
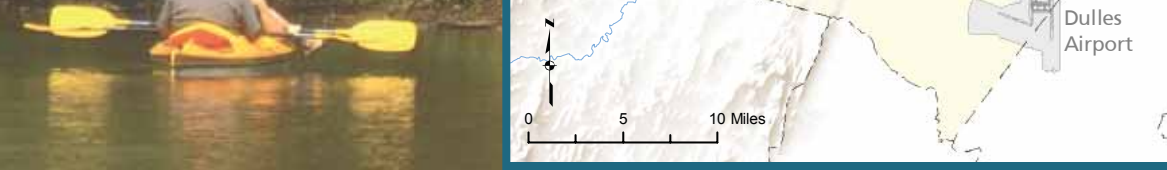
Whether you are looking for a leisurely stroll or a strenuous workout, great hiking places abound in Loudoun County. Check out the views of the Loudoun and Shenandoah Valleys from the Appalachian Trail or experience the abandoned Elizabeth Mills canal lock system from the forested trails connecting parks along Goose Creek and the Potomac River in eastern Loudoun County. There is something for everyone.



On the Water

Kayaking, Canoeing, and Fishing Parks and other public lands in Loudoun County provide a variety of opportunities to canoe, kayak, or fish. Recently opened parks along Goose Creek and the Potomac River provide more public access to the water, making it possible to fish or paddle long stretches of these waterways.

Please remember that fishing licenses are required for people aged 16 or over, with licenses available online at the DGIF website (www.dgif.virginia.gov).

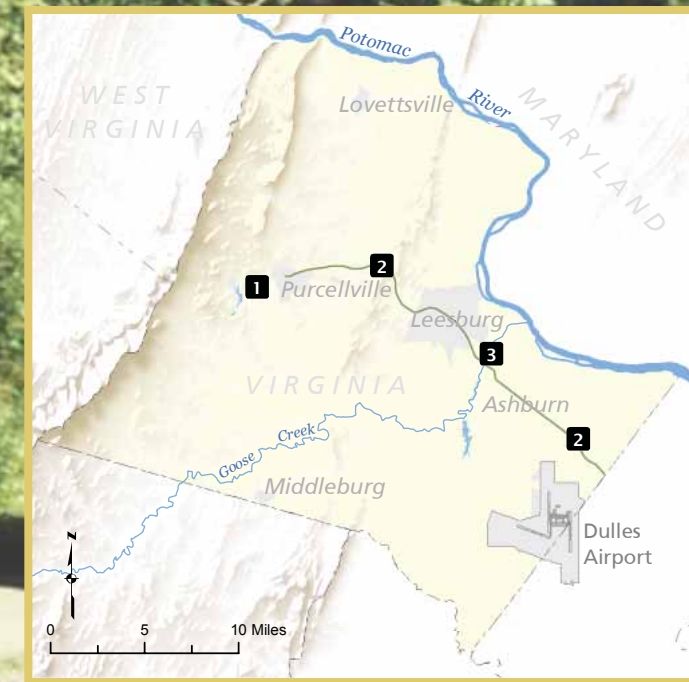


Map #	Site	Description	Facilities	Hours of Operation	Connections
1	Appalachian Trail / Loudoun Heights Harpers Ferry National Historical Park 304-535-6029	Site of an important Civil War skirmish resulting in the Confederate occupation of Harpers Ferry in 1862. Today, Loudoun Heights is part of the Appalachian Trail, offering panoramic views of Harpers Ferry and the Shenandoah Valley. Difficulty: Hard	None	Open daily from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.	Connects to the Appalachian Trail
2	Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship 11661 Harpers Ferry Road 540-668-7640	The Blue Ridge Center's 900 acres of farm and forest land provide many opportunities to experience the Center's innovative approach to land stewardship. Miles of hiking trails, some connecting to the Appalachian Trail, offer a chance to spot one of the 130 bird species identified at the Center. Difficulty: Easy to moderate	Restrooms, water, internet, camping, conference room	Dawn to dusk daily. Call ahead to schedule overnight stays, group stays, or facility rentals	VA Piedmont Birding and Wildlife Trail; connects to the Appalachian Trail
3	Appalachian Trail / Blackburn Trail Center 34899 Appalachian Road (VA 713) 540-338-9028	Blackburn provides overnight accommodations to hikers and a trailhead to the Appalachian Trail. A strenuous 8 mile hike to the south will take you to the noted Devil's Racecourse and back. Difficulty: Moderate to hard	Restrooms, water	Caretakers are in residence April to October. There is a trailhead parking lot.	Connects to the Appalachian Trail
4	Franklin Park 17501 Franklin Park Drive 540-338-7603	This 203 acre multi-use County park provides majestic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. A 3.5 mile perimeter trail is used for horseback riding, hiking, biking, walking, cross-country training, and dog walking. Difficulty: Easy	Restrooms, water	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	
5	Appalachian Trail / Bears Den Trail Center 18393 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 540-554-8708	Bears Den is 66 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains offering overnight accommodations and access to the Appalachian Trail. Three trails allow you to explore the grounds, including overlooks providing great views of the Shenandoah Valley. Difficulty: Moderate	Restrooms, water	Open daily from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM.	Connects to the Appalachian Trail
6	Blue Ridge Regional Park 19178 Blue Ridge Mountain Drive 703-352-5900	Located on the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, this 168 acre park offers the ideal setting for an escape to the mountains for organized youth group tent camping. Three primitive camping areas can accommodate 30 campers each. Difficulty: Moderate	Parking, fire rings, picnic tables, and portable toilets.	Access to the park is limited to registered campers only.	
7	Temple Hall Farm Regional Park 15789 Temple Hall Lane 703-779-9372	Temple Hall Farm Regional Park preserves the agricultural, cultural and natural resources of the 286-acre farm. There is a one-mile trail that winds through the wooded areas of the farm. There are benches located along the trail to enjoy the wildlife. Difficulty: Easy	Portable toilets	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	
8	Rust Sanctuary 802 Children's Center Road 703-669-0000	The Sanctuary's 68 acres has meadows, forests, ponds, and wetlands. See songbirds from the tropics in the oak hickory forest, a fox hunting in the meadow, or dragonflies darting above the pond. Naturalist-led programs available for schools and groups. Difficulty: Easy	Restrooms, water during regular business hours	Open dawn to dusk, seven days a week	VA Piedmont Birding and Wildlife Trail
9	Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park Ball's Bluff Road 703-737-7800	Interpretative signs along the wooded trails at this park on the Potomac River tell the story of the October 21, 1861 Battle of Ball's Bluff, the largest Civil War engagement to take place in Loudoun County. Difficulty: Moderate	Portable toilets	Open dawn to dusk, seven days a week	VA Piedmont Birding and Wildlife Trail, Edwards Landing Park
10	Edwards Landing Park 901 Powhatten Court 703-777-1262	This 32 acre park located along the Potomac River connects to Balls Bluff Regional Park. A 1/2 mile walking trail goes down to the Potomac River. Difficulty: Easy	Picnic pavilion, portable toilets, no water	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Direct connection to Balls Bluff Park
11	Red Rock Wilderness Overlook Regional Park 43098 Edwards Ferry Road 703-737-7800	The 1.4 mile Pine Loop Trail takes you down to the river and up to overlooks of the Potomac River. Connecting trails allow you to vary your hike with each visit or create shorter circuits. Difficulty: Moderate	None	Open dawn to dusk, seven days a week	VA Piedmont Birding and Wildlife Trail
12	Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park 43513 Squirrel Ridge Place 703-777-0343	Hike the 122 acres of forested natural area along the Potomac River, then follow the trail up Goose Creek all the way to the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park at Route 7. See the stone ruins of the historic Elizabeth Mills canal lock system on Goose Creek. The Kephart Bridge Landing is located on Goose Creek within the park. Difficulty: Moderate	None	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Trailhead for Potomac Heritage Trail, connects the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park and Janelia Farms trail
13	Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park 43055 Golf Club Drive	Located east of Leesburg at the historic Goose Creek truss bridge along Route 7, this three acre park serves as a trailhead for the trail along Goose Creek that connects to Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park. Difficulty: Easy to moderate	Picnic area and boat launch	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Trailhead for the Potomac Heritage Trail
14	Trail at Janelia Farms 43513 Squirrel Ridge Place 703-777-0343	The 8/10 of a mile hiking trail along the Potomac River at Janelia Farms provides a connection from Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park to Potomac Drive and on to Loudoun County's Bles Park. Trail head at Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park. Difficulty: Moderate	None	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Trailhead fro Potomac Heritage Trail
15	Bles Park 44830 Riverside Parkway 703-777-0343	Within the 124-acre park, there is a 94-acre natural area that includes walking trails along Broad Run and the Potomac River. Connects to hiking trail at Janelia Farms. Difficulty: Easy	Seasonal restrooms, water	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Potomac Heritage Trail
16	Algonkian Regional Park 47001 Fairway Drive 703-450-4655	The park's 2-mile loop trail runs through more than 30 acres of wetlands on Lowe's Island along the Potomac River. These wetlands support a variety of flora and fauna, and allow trail users to observe wildlife, including Bald Eagles. Difficulty: Easy	Water and restrooms available at the pro shop.	Open dawn to dusk, seven days a week	VA Piedmont Birding and Wildlife Trail; trailhead for Potomac Heritage Trail
17	Two Creeks Trail Area Part of the W&OD Trail 703-729-0597	This 19-acre site is located at mile marker 30 of the W&OD Trail between Goose and Sycolin creeks. A one-mile walking and equestrian trail winds around the park's perimeter, providing views of Goose Creek's largely untouched forested banks. Difficulty: Moderate	Portable toilets	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Connection to the W&OD Trail
18	Evergreen Mills Equestrian and Hiking Trail 21332 The Woods Road 703-669-0316	This bucolic trail goes around Loudoun County's landfill, but you would never guess from the trail and area's peaceful beauty. The trail is used for horseback riding, but you can also hike on it. The trail is marked by colored ribbons. Difficulty: Moderate	None	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Connects to Banshee Reeks Reserve
19	Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve 21085 The Woods Road 703-669-0316	This preserve exemplifies the beauty of Virginia's rolling countryside and the wildlife that calls it home. The preserve consists of 722-acres of forests, successional fields, ponds and streams. Goose Creek flows for over 2-miles along the border of the property. There are approximately 21 miles of trails. Difficulty: Moderate	Visitors Center, restrooms, and water	Open on weekends from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	VA Piedmont Birding and Wildlife Trail; connects to Evergreen Mills Trail
20	Claude Moore Park 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road 703-444-1275	The 357 acre park includes the Lanesville Heritage Area, the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, and 11 total miles of hiking trails. Trails explore a variety of natural habitats. Maps and guides are available at the Visitor Center. Difficulty: Easy	Visitor center with interpretative room, restrooms, water	Park open dawn to dusk. Visitor Center open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily	VA Piedmont Birding and Wildlife Trail

Map #	Site	Description	Facilities	Hours of Operation	Connections
1	McKimmy Boat Launch Lovettsville Road (VA 672) & US Route 15 at Point of Rocks Bridge	The Potomac River in this area is undeveloped and very scenic. The river is relatively shallow but rocky in places, with a moderate current. Most float downstream, but a fit paddler can go upstream. Requires a basic ability to read a river and pick the proper line. Life jackets are required.	None	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	
2	Franklin Park 17501 Franklin Park Drive 540-338-7603	The park has a catch-and-release fishing pond.	Restrooms, water	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	
3	Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park 43055 Golf Club Drive	Located east of Leesburg at the historic Goose Creek truss bridge along Route 7, this three acre park has a boat launch, allowing users to paddle up or down Goose Creek. Paddling is better with high water. Park is a trailhead for the trail along Goose Creek leading to Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park.	Picnic area and boat launch	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Paddling connections to parks on the Potomac River and lower Goose Creek; trailhead for the Potomac Heritage Trail
4	Kephart Bridge Landing at Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park 43942 Riverpoint Drive 703-777-0343	Paddle on the Potomac or Goose Creek by using the non-motorized boat landing at Kephart Bridge Landing at Elizabeth Mills Riverfront Park in Lansdowne. Canoes and kayaks must be carried to the landing. The landing is part of Loudoun County's 122 acres of parkland along the Potomac River and Goose Creek.	Boat launch	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Paddling connections to parks on the Potomac River and lower Goose Creek; trailhead for the Potomac Heritage Trail
5	Bles Park 44830 Riverside Parkway 703-777-0343	In addition to walking trails and sports fields, this 124-acre park provides access for fishing on the Potomac River and Broad Run.	Restrooms, water	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	
6	Algonkian Regional Park 47001 Fairway Drive 703-450-4655	Located on the Potomac River below Goose Creek and above Great Falls. An ideal spot for a day canoe or kayaking trip. Enjoy the wildlife while you share the river with beavers, Bald Eagles, Blue Herons, and Egrets.	Water and restrooms available at the pro shop.	Open dawn to dusk, seven days a week	
7	Beaverdam Reservoir West side of reservoir at the end of Reservoir Road (The non-motorized boat launch is located about two miles off Evergreen Mills Road at the end of Reservoir Road)	Paddle the flat water of the 275 acre Beaverdam Reservoir west of Brambleton. The City of Fairfax operates the reservoir, providing drinking water to residents in the City as well as eastern Loudoun County. According to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the reservoir has largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and redear sunfish.	None	Open dawn to dusk, seven days a week	
8	Claude Moore Park 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road 703-444-1275	The park has two fishing ponds, with large-mouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill the primary fish species. The ponds are stocked by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult.	Restrooms, water	Park open dawn to dusk. Visitor Center open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily	

Biking

Loudoun County has countless miles of quiet rural roads suitable for bicycling. But for those that want to stay off the public roads, other opportunities also exist. The most notable is the **W&OD Regional Park's 20 miles of paved trails stretching from Sterling to Purcellville.**



Map #	Site	Description	Facilities	Hours of Operation	Connections
1	Franklin Park 17501 Franklin Park Drive 540-338-7603	This 203 acre multi-use County park provides majestic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Bike the park's 3.5 mile multi-use trail that traverses the perimeter of the park.	Restrooms, water	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	
2	Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD Trail) Park Office: 21293 Smiths Switch Road 703-729-0596	Over 20 miles of the Washington region's longest bike trail, the W&OD Trail, crosses Loudoun County from Sterling to the Town of Purcellville. Loudoun County features some of the most scenic—and rural—sections of the W&OD Trail's 44 miles. The entire section in Loudoun features a paved trail and an adjacent gravel trail.	Numerous service stops available along the trail. Go to www.wodfriends.org for details.	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Multiple access points with parking available in Loudoun County. Go to www.wodfriends.org for locations and directions.
3	Two Creeks Trail Area Part of the W&OD Trail 703-729-0597	The Two Creeks Trail Area is a 19-acre site located at mile marker 30, on the north side of the W&OD Trail between Goose and Sycolin creeks. In addition to a walking and equestrian trail, the park has a mountain bike trail that loops through the center of the property.	Portable toilets	Open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week.	Connection to the W&OD Trail