



Friends of Mason Neck State Park Accessibility Project

Dogue Trail

The trail name references the Doeg [Dohg] people who lived in the coastal area associated with the Potomac and Occoquan rivers in the early 17th century. John Smith recorded their village in 1608 as Tauxenent on "Doggs Island," now Mason Neck. The English used many different spellings for the group including, Doeg, Doag, Toag, and Taux.

Trail type – loop

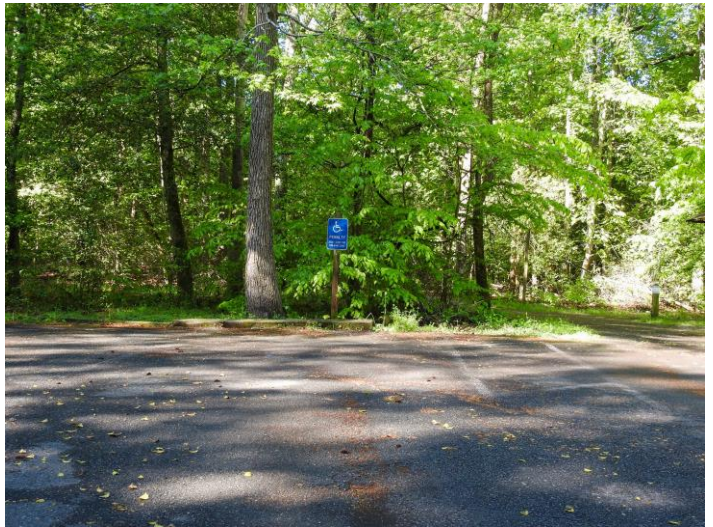
Trail length – .8 miles

Trail width – 6' in most places

Trail surface – packed stone dust

Trail blaze – orange

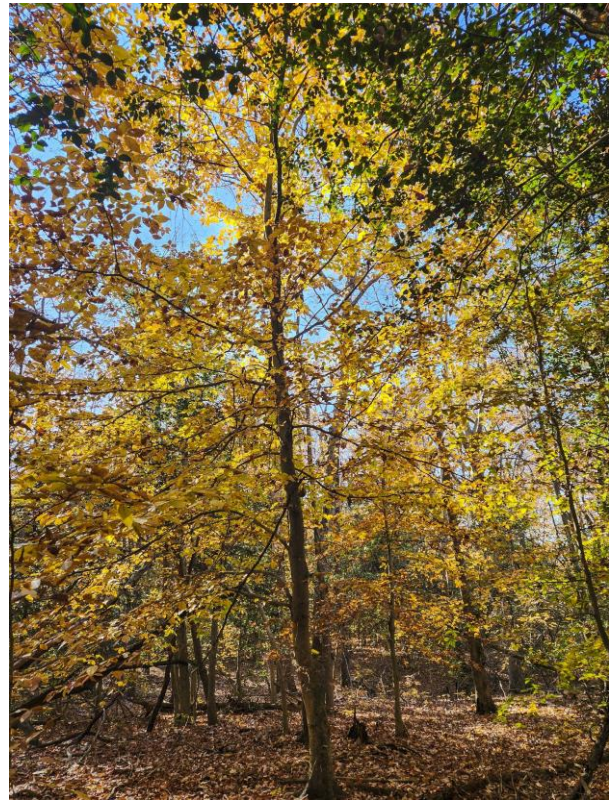
Dogue Trail is accessed from the Wilson Spring Trail parking lot. There is one space designated for handicapped parking in this paved lot. Five benches along the trail provide places for rest and contemplation.



From the parking lot, head toward the Wilson Spring Trail information kiosk, cross over the asphalt High Point Multi-use Trail, and continue on the stone path leading to the trail signs.



Dogue Trail offers a scenic hike through heavily wooded forest. It is shaded by mature Beech, Elm, Maple, and Oak trees. Each season brings a unique experience as the broadleaf trees undergo their annual transformation. The evergreen holly trees stand out as the broadleaves change color and shed their leaves. Many wild hollies growing in local forests are American Holly, a Virginia native.



Shortly after crossing the High Point Multi-use trail, Dogue Trail splits. Since the trail makes a loop, it can be traversed by going in either direction.

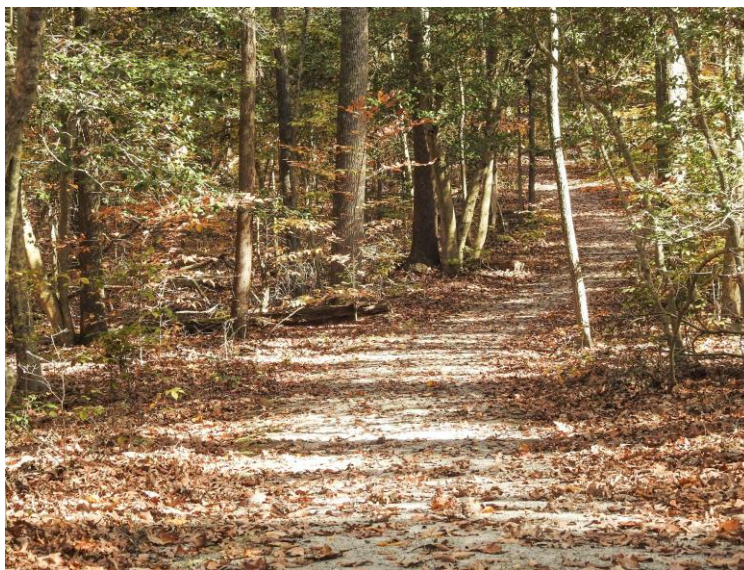


The trail's surface is hard, but loose stones, rocks, and exposed tree roots may make navigation difficult for those with impaired mobility.

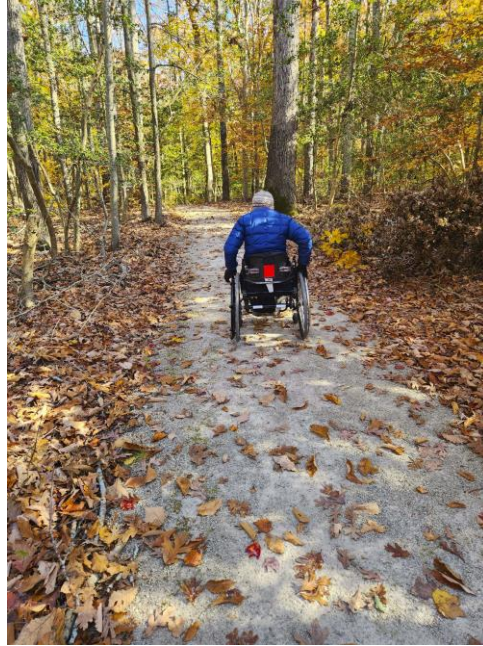
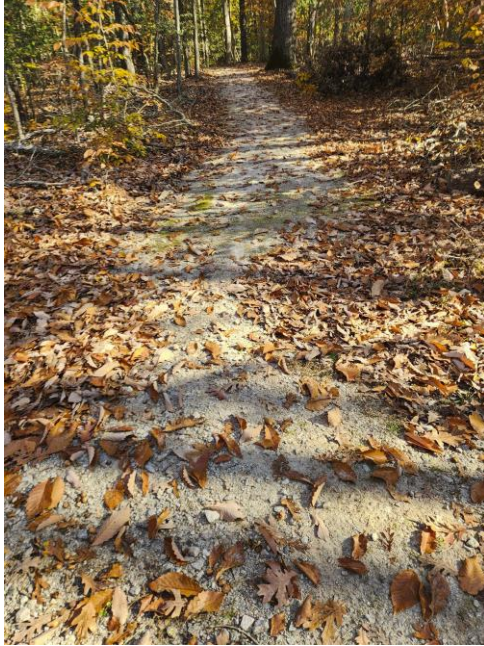




Although the trail is mostly flat, there are several short hills, some of which may exceed ADA guidelines. The steepest one is an uphill slope near the end of the loop if the trail is followed in a clockwise direction.



There are places where the functional width of the trail is reduced due to sloping edges or other debris or surface imperfections. The middle portion of the trail is wide enough for most standard wheelchairs.



Photos by Kris Gulden and Pam Cressey

