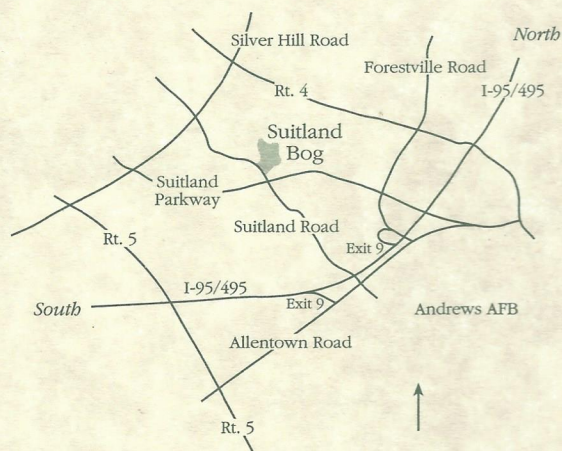


To Visit the Bog

The Suitland Bog Natural Area is open to the public, without a reservation, on selected Saturdays from May–September. Please call the Park Ranger Office for these dates each year. Guided Bog Hikes are available by advance reservation from April–September.



For more information or reservations,
please contact:

Suitland Bog Natural Area
Park Ranger Office
14955 Pennsylvania Avenue
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
301-627-7755 (TTY: 301-699-2544)
Fax: 301-627-4905

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities.

Please contact the facility two weeks in advance of the program start date to request an accommodation (i.e. sign language interpreter, support staff, etc.).



recycled paper



The Suitland Bog:

A
Unique
Habitat



The Maryland-National Capital
Park and Planning Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation
Prince George's County
Natural and Historical Resources Division
Park Ranger Office

Unique Flora

The Suitland Bog boasts over 300 species of plants. Over 40 species of plants recorded from the Bog since 1901 have been designated by the Maryland Natural Heritage Program as rare, threatened, or endangered. Today, more than 20 of these rare, threatened, and endangered plants remain.

Species considered very rare in Maryland—pop. of 1 to 5

Capitate Beakrush *Rhynchospora cephalantha* (1947)
 Clustered Beakrush *Rhynchospora glomerata* (1977)
 Coastal False Asphodel *Tofieldia racemosa* (1951)
 Cross-Leaved Milkwort *Polygala cruciata** Endangered
 Emory's Sedge *Carex emoryi**
 Fowl Bluegrass *Poa palustris* (1965)
 Grass-Pink *Calopogon pulchellus* (1918)
 Halberd-Leaved Greenbrier *Smilax pseudo-china**
 Low Rough Aster *Aster radula* (1924)
 Potato Dwarf-Dandelion *Krigia dandelion**
 Red Milkweed *Asclepias rubra** Endangered
 Swamp-Pink *Helonias bullata* (1918)
 Tall Nutrush *Scleria triglomerata* (1920)

*Indicates currently found at the Suitland Bog
 (year) Indicates year plant was last seen

Species considered rare in Maryland—pop. of 6 to 20

Bog Clubmoss *Lycopodium inundatum**
 Bog Fern *Thelypteris simulata**
 Long's Rush *Juncus longistylis**
 Northern Pitcher-Plant *Sarracenia purpurea** Threatened
 Reticulated Nutrush *Scleria reticularis* (1920)
 Twisted Spikerush *Eleocharis tortillis**

Species considered secure in Maryland, but monitoring due to declining or restricted populations—pop. of 21 to 100)

Balsam Ragwort *Senecio pauperculus**
 Bog Goldenrod *Solidago uliginosa**
 Branching Bur-Reed *Spartanium androcladum**
 Chinquapin *Castanea pumila**
 Collin's Sedge *Carex collinsii* (1977)
 Crested Yellow Orchis *Platanthera cristata* (1920)
 Curtiss' Milkwort *Polygala curtissii**
 Delicate Sedge *Carex leptalea**
 Dwarf Azalea *Rhododendron atlanticum**
 Dwarf Chestnut Oak *Quercus prinoides**
 Eastern Sedge *Carex atlantica* (1930)
 Fly-Poison *Amianthium muscaetoxicum* (1918)
 Purple Chokeberry *Aronia prunifolia**
 Rose Pogonia *Pogonia ophioglossoides**
 Round-Leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* (1984)
 Tawny Cottongrass *Eriophorum virginicum**
 Ten-Angled Pipewort *Eriocaulon decangulare**
 Virginia Bunchflower *Melanthium virginicum**
 Virginia Rose *Rosa virginiana* (1920)
 White Beakrush *Rhynchospora alba**
 White-Fringed Orchis *Platanthera blephariglottis* (1917)
 Yellow-Fringed Orchis *Platanthera ciliaris* (1920)
 Zigzag Bladderwort *Utricularia subulata* (1977)

Blooming Dates (By Week)	MAY			JUNE				JULY				AUGUST		
	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
Northern Pitcher Plant	x	..	x	..	x	.....		.....				.....
Rose Pogonia Orchid	x		x	..	x	..	.....				.....
Thread-Leaved Sundew	x	..	x	..	x	.....		.....
Red Milkweed			x	x	..	x	.....	.....
Spatulate-Leaved Sundew			x	x	..	x	..	x	..	x
Ten-Angled Pipewort	x	..	x	x	..	x
Tawny Cottongrass	x	..	x	x	..	x
Virginia Bunchflower			x	x	..	x
Cross-Leaved Milkwort				x	..	x

Historical Background

The first mention of sphagnum bogs and swamps near Suitland was in 1901. During the next 20 years, a flurry of activity occurred as botanists collected extensively in the bog. Their collections gave us the earliest plant records for the bog. In the late 1940's, an additional Botanical study resulted in the publication of the "Floristic Variation in the Suitland Bog" (Marlowe 1950).

During the 1960's, the area surrounding the bog was mined for sand and gravel. Many citizens, teachers, and civic groups brought attention to the bog's plight and importance. In August 1975, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission purchased 20 acres now known as the Suitland Bog Natural Area. A small section of the bog was fenced in 1976, to protect rare plants and the fragile wetland area. A botanical inventory was completed in 1977 by the University of Maryland (Fischler 1977). A hydrology study, providing valuable information on the bog's water supply, was completed in 1978.

A boardwalk was constructed and interpretive programs and hikes began in 1980. Officially dedicated on June 6, 1987, today the Suitland Bog provides an excellent opportunity to explore a unique wetland habitat.

Why So Unique?

The Suitland Bog is an example of a Maryland coastal plain bog in Prince George's County. Historically, many bogs were reported in the county, but commercial and residential development have destroyed or drastically altered all but the Suitland Bog.

This bog is an unique wetland within the Washington Metropolitan Area. It hosts a variety of carnivorous plants as well as many plants that are on the Maryland Natural Heritages' "Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of Maryland" list.



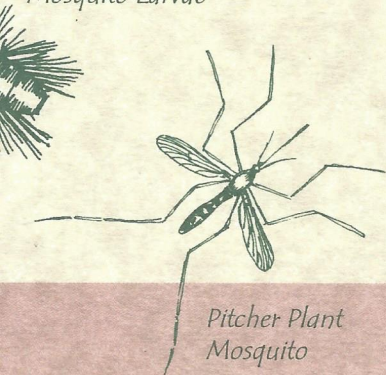
Northern
Pitcher Plant

Carnivorous Plants of the Suitland Bog

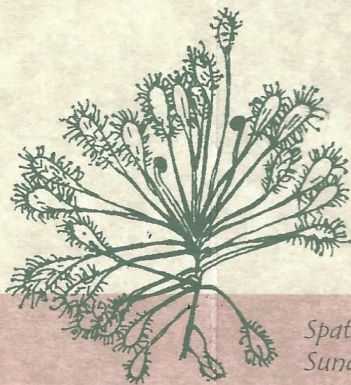
The Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) is named for its pitcher-like leaves that hold rain water. The leaves form a trap for drowning and digesting insects and spiders, providing the plant with additional nutrients.

The two types of sundews in the Suitland Bog, the Thread-leaved Sundew (*Drosera filiformis*) and the Spatulate-leaved Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), trap their insect prey by means of the flypaper method. Each leaf of the sundew has tiny red hair-like glands with a sticky dew-like substance on the tip. Small insects, attracted to the leaves, are hopelessly stuck. The plant then begins to digest the insects by secreting dissolving enzymes.

*Pitcher Plant
Mosquito Larvae*



*Pitcher Plant
Mosquito*



*Spatulate-leaved
Sundew*

Bog Fauna

One of the most interesting residents of the bog is an insect—the nonbiting Common Pitcher Plant Mosquito (*Wyeomyia smithii*)—which lives within the Pitcher Plant’s “pitchers.”

The destructive enzymes released by the plant to digest its prey do not affect the mosquito larvae. The small wiggly larvae can be easily seen in the Pitcher’s water. The larvae live in the upper water column of the leaves, where they feed on detritus.

Another insect found living in our Pitcher Plants is a midge (*Metriocnemus knabi*). Ask the Ranger to “scoop some soup” from the Pitcher Plant and behold our interesting insect residents.

As you walk the bog property you may also see a fox, turtles, songbirds, and a hawk or two.

*Thread-leaved
Sundew*

