LEAVE NO TRACE

- Always wear a properly-fitted, U.S. Coast Guard approved, lifejacket while on the water. (See Maryland Boating Regulations www.dnr.state.md.us/boating)
- Boating safety increases with numbers. Boat with others and leave a trip plan with others before launching.
- Know your route and review maps, navigation aids before you go. Be aware of hazards and obstacles you may encounter in the water such as sandbars and debris.
- Dress appropriately for weather and/or water conditions, including air and water temperature.
- Carry a supply of food and water adequate for the length of your trip. Stay well-hydrated and protected from the sun year-round to minimize the danger of dehydration and heat exhaustion.
- Be alert to possible weather changes. Squalls and thunderstorms are common during the warm months, usually accompanied by temperature drops, increased winds and dark clouds. Get off the water immediately if you see lightning.

PUBLIC LANDING REGULATIONS

- Landings are closed between sunset and sunrise; with the exception of loading and unloading boats
- Do not block ramps, parked vehicles, bulkheads or access to piers
- No overnight parking, camping, Night fishing or open fires
- Obey “No Fishing or Crabbing” signs where posted
- Do not leave boats or equipment at landing
- Do not leave residential trash in trash cans
- No alcohol consumption at landings
- No glass bottles or containers; no littering

BOAT SAFE - BOAT SMART

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- Be alert to possible weather changes. Squalls and thunderstorms are common during the warm months, usually accompanied by temperature drops, increased winds and dark clouds. Get off the water immediately if you see lightning.

BOATING COURTESY

Take the time to practice some common boat ramp courtesy. You will be much happier, and those around you will thank you for it.

- Use common courtesy. Don’t park your boat on the ramp while retrieving your tow vehicle. Park at a dock, or beach it off the ramp.
- Be Prepared. Make sure you have everything that goes in the boat before you get to the ramp. Don’t wait until you back the boat down to the water to unstrap and untie.
- Watch your wake! - When overtaking a slower vessel in open water, leave as much room as depth conditions allow and slow your speed, to avoid rocking the other vessel.
- Be especially cautious of smaller vessels such as canoes or kayaks which may be less stable and have a tendency to tip due to large wakes.
- Avoid creating an excessive wake in narrow confined areas where your wake may cause erosion of the shoreline.
- Operate slowly at all times when in the vicinity of marinas and launch ramps.

The information in this brochure is provided for general information purposes only. The rules and regulations are required for public safety and enjoyment.

For questions regarding operations or maintenance at any of the County-owned access sites contact the Parks Division at 301-863-8400 ext. 3570.
St. Mary’s County has access to a variety of waterways that are suitable for many kinds of recreational boating. There are fifteen County-operated launches that can be used for motorized and non-motorized vessels, depending on the individual site.

## COUNTY BOAT RAMPS
(for motorized and non-motorized vessels)

1. Abell’s Wharf
   Rt. 5 to Rt. 244 to Abell’s Wharf Road, Leonardtown.

2. Clarke’s Landing
   Rt. 235 to end of Clarke’s Landing Road, Hollywood. Boat ramp only; limited parking

3. Bushwood Wharf
   Rt. 242 to end of Rt. 239, Bushwood

4. Chaptico Wharf
   Rt. 234 to Rt. 238 to end of Chaptico Wharf Road, Maddox

5. Forest Landing
   Rt. 235 to Sotterley Road to Forest Landing Road, Hollywood

6. Piney Point Landing
   Rt. 5 to Rt. 249, before St. George’s Island Bridge, Piney Point

7. St. Inigoes Landing
   Rt. 5 to end of Beachville Road, St. Inigoes

8. Wicomico Shores Landing
   Rt. 234 to Aviation Yacht Club Rd., turn right onto Army Navy Drive

## SOFT LAUNCH SITES
(non-motorized vessels only)

9. Camp Calvert Landing
   Rt. 5, end of Camp Calvert Road, Leonardtown
   Limited parking

10. Great Mills Canoe/Kayak Launch
    Rt. 5, Great Mills

11. Elms Beach Park
    Rt. 235, Bay Forest Road, Dameron
    Soft access at beach

12. Myrtle Point Park
    Rt. 4, Patuxent Boulevard, California
    Soft access at beach

13. Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Park
    Rt. 5 to Rt. 249, Lighthouse Road, Piney Point
    Soft access, visitor pier, no fishing or crabbing

## SITES MANAGED BY LEONARDTOWN

14. Port of Leonardtown Canoe/Kayak Launch
    Rt. 5 in Leonardtown, next to KFC & Exxon. Call 301-475-9791 for more information.

15. Leonardtown Wharf Park
    Rt. 5 to end of Washington St. Leonardtown 301-475-9791

## PIER ACCESS
(no ramp or beach access)

16. Fox Harbor Landing
    Rt. 5 to Rt. 252 to Fox Harbor Road to End of Dunbar Lane, Wynne
    Minimal parking, No fishing/crabbing

17. Paul Ellis Landing
    Rt. 242, end of Paul Ellis Road, Avenue
    Minimal parking

18. River Springs Landing
    Rt. 242, end of River Springs Road, Avenue
    Minimal parking

19. St. George Island Landing
    Rt. 5, Thomas Road, St. George Island
    Minimal parking

20. Tall Timbers Landing
    Rt. 5 to Rt. 249, end of Tall Timbers Road, Tall Timbers
    Minimal parking

## ACCESS AT STATE PARKS

21. Point Lookout State Park
    Rt. 5 Point Lookout, Scotland
    boat ramps, soft launch and fishing pier

22. St. Clement’s Island State Park
    Rt. 242 to Coltons Point
    Only accessible by boat and water taxi, transient docking, soft launch, and pier

23. St. Mary’s River State Park
    Rt. 5, Camp Cosoma Road, Leonardtown
    Boat ramp (electric motors only), soft launch, and fishing pier

24. Greenwell State Park
    Rt. 235 to Sotterley Road to Steer Horn Neck Road, Hollywood
    Soft launch, fishing pier

25. Newtowne Neck State Park
    Rt. 5 to Rt. 243
    Soft launch

For more information boating in Maryland State Parks visit [www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/).