

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Patuxent

Research Refuge

*South Tract Trail Map
National Wildlife
Visitor Center*



Welcome



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Patuxent Research Refuge, established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936, is America's first and only refuge established to support wildlife research. Patuxent's mission is "to help protect and conserve the nation's wildlife and habitat through research on critical environmental problems and issues." Its 12,841 acres of forest, meadow, and wetland habitats are managed to promote biological diversity and the protection of native and migratory bird species. We encourage compatible public uses in designated areas. Besides the trails listed here, there are additional trails on the North Tract of the refuge located off of MD Route 198 between the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and MD Route 32.

Conservation Heritage Loop

0.5 km/0.3 mi
(wheel chair accessible)

This trail is the refuge's only paved trail. Signs highlight the lives of famous conservationists who have been inducted into the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame. Other signs along the trail tell about a power company's right-of-way management program, and constructed wetlands. This trail also provides views of Lake Redington and Cash Lake and then connects to other trails.

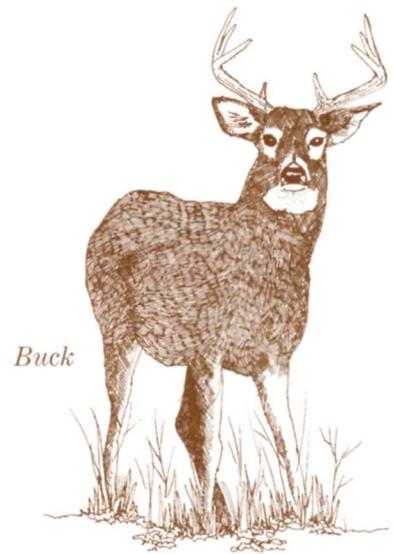
Goose Pond Trail

0.3 km/0.2 mi

This trail parallels the woods' edge as it wanders through a forested wetland to a pond where one may observe waterfowl and waterfowl management. An outdoor environmental area is available to educational groups. Access to the Cash Lake and Laurel trails begins here.



Male hooded
merganser



Buck

Cash Lake Trail

2.3 km/1.4 mi



Cash Lake trail loops around 53-acre Cash Lake, the refuge's largest water impoundment. This trail connects to Valley Trail. A floating walkway provides access to a grassy peninsula on the south side of Cash Lake. This south portion of the trail is closed seasonally to avoid disturbance to wintering waterfowl. Visitors have many opportunities to observe a variety of wildlife from this trail, including beaver, northern water snakes, fish, waterfowl and songbirds. Visitors may view waterbirds from an accessible wildlife viewing blind located near the lake's headwaters.

Valley Trail

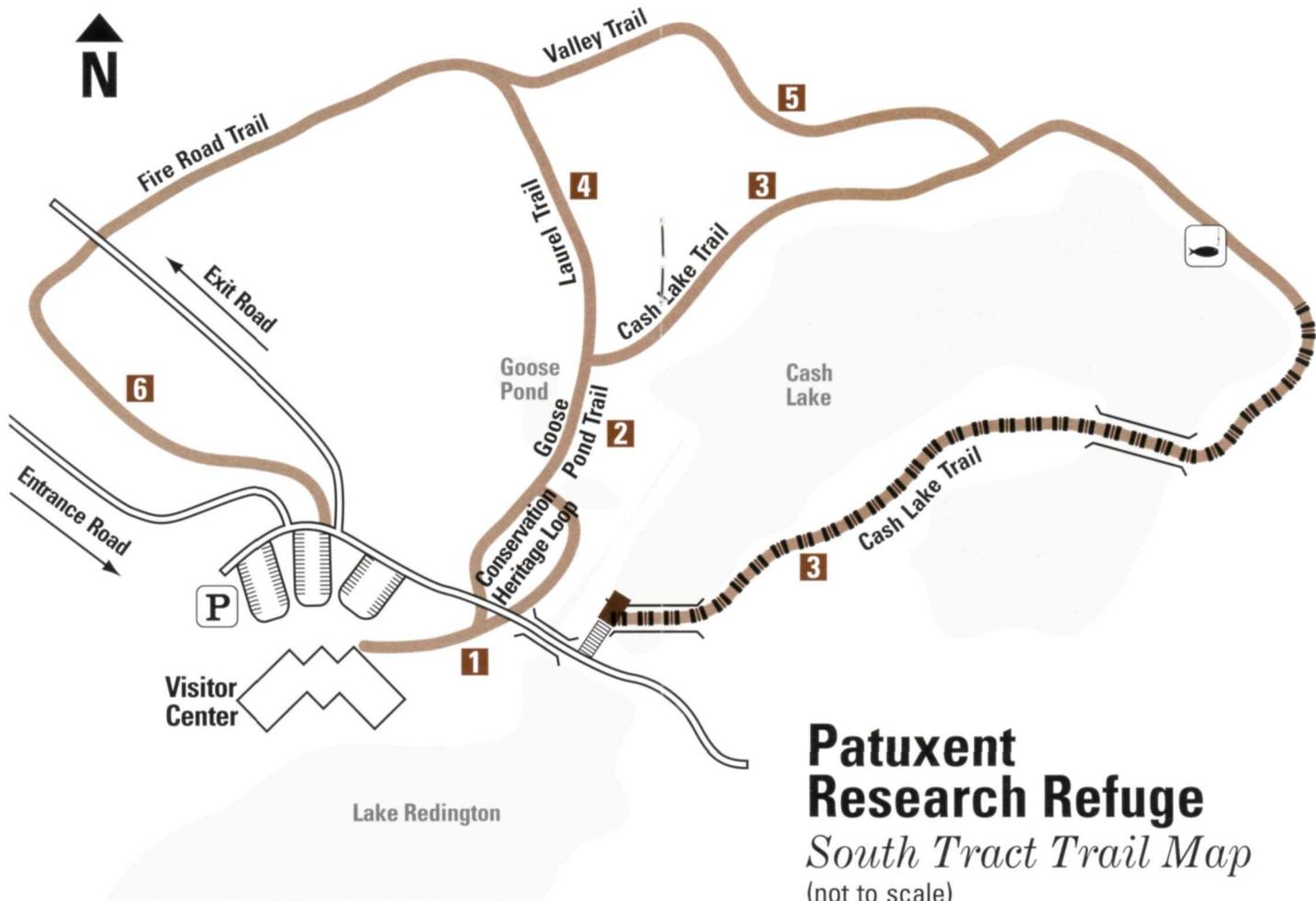
0.9 km/0.6 mi

This trail connects Cash Lake Trail and Laurel Trail. It follows a gully through a woodland valley. Along this trail, visitors will see features of a predominantly oak and beech hardwood forest.

Fire Road Trail

1.5 km/0.9 mi

This trail begins at the edge of the visitor center parking lot near the exit road and leads to the intersection of the Valley and Laurel trails. This trail follows an old fire road through a pine and hardwood forest that was formerly a forestry research area.



- Trail
- Floating Walkways
- Boardwalk
- Road bridge
- Parking
- Fishing pier (Permit only)

- 1** Conservation Heritage Loop .3 mi/.5 km
 - 2** Goose Pond Trail .2 mi/.3 km
 - 3** Cash Lake Trail 1.4 mi/2.3 km
 - 4** Laurel Trail .4 mi/.6 km
 - 5** Valley Trail .6 mi/.9 km
 - 6** Fire Road Trail .9 mi/1.5 km
- Closed seasonally
- Viewing blind



Wood ducks with nest box



Laurel Trail
0.6 km/0.4 mi

This woodland trail connects Goose Pond Trail to Valley Trail and Fire Road Trail. It is named for the mountain laurel lining the trail. This trail is dedicated to Chandler S. Robbins, a researcher at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center who has spent more than 60 years studying migratory birds and their environment.

Other wildlife viewing opportunities

Guided electric tram tours are offered seasonally through woodlands and wetland areas. A variety of wildlife and habitat management activities may be seen along the way. Tickets can be purchased in the bookstore. Hiking or driving on the tram route is not permitted.



Great blue heron
© Julien Beauregard

Regulations

To better protect our wildlife and its habitat and to prevent disturbance to ongoing research, we ask visitors to remain on marked trails and to respect posted signs and regulations.



Canada goose

Visitors should take appropriate precautions when hiking/exploring outside to avoid ticks and other biting insects and to avoid plants such as poison ivy. Lyme and other diseases have been known to occur on the refuge.

Removal of wildlife or plants from the refuge or introduction of new species is prohibited.

Non-wildlife related recreational activities such as picnicking, ball playing, camping and sunbathing are not permitted.

Possession of alcohol is not permitted.

The trails are designed for foot traffic only. Bicycles are not permitted. Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 10 feet and must be under control at all times. Pets are not allowed in refuge ponds or waterways.

Please do not litter. Take trash (including pet waste) with you and dispose of it properly.

If you have any questions, refuge staff and volunteers will be happy to assist you. Enjoy your National Wildlife Refuge System experience at Patuxent Research Refuge.

National Wildlife Visitor Center and all trails close at 4:30 pm unless otherwise posted.



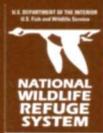
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Patuxent Research Refuge
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708-4027
301/497 5580
301/497 5765 FAX
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/>

Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing
1 800/877 8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

May 2012



Patuxent

Research Refuge

South Tract Trail Map

National Wildlife

Visitor Center

