

Native Meadows



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Equestrian Trails



Tobacco Barns



Native Trees

Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm
2695 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

For general information and reservations:
410-535-5327

For more information:
<http://www.co.cal.md.us/BiscoeGray>



Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

Calvert County Natural Resources Division

The Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm is rich in natural and cultural resources and is a living laboratory to explore, understand and experience Calvert County's agricultural practices and lifestyles throughout its history—from Native American settlements, small scale colonial farming, and farming practices through the centuries.

By offering experiences in how citizens have lived with the land throughout history the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm offers insights into how we can continue and improve good stewardship practices which sustain the quality of life of Calvert County and the larger Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.



Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm

The 196-acre Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm is part of the Calvert Creeks Rural Legacy Area and is predominated by beautiful, rolling agricultural fields that are edged by primarily hardwood forest—a fitting model of historic, bucolic Calvert County farm land.

The Heritage Farm has a well preserved rolling road, albeit with trees and other vegetation growing in most sections, leading from the entrance to Battle Creek. The road trace has existed since at least 1865 but likely was in use as early as ca. 1725 based on evidence of early historic occupations on the property. Over time farmers used many methods to transport their crops to market, including ox, mule, and horse drawn carts. The particularly Maryland term for a tobacco road of “Rolling Road” comes from the practice of rolling hogsheads (wooden barrels) of tobacco along these roads to local wharves.

The Rolling Road is a walking time-line leading visitors from the mid-20th century back to pre-colonial times and connects Battle Creek to the agricultural economics and lifestyle throughout the centuries.



George E. Rice

The property was a holding of John Laveille, a French Huguenot who arrived in Calvert County in the late-seventeenth or early-eighteenth century. In 1902 a portion of the site was sold to George E. Rice, an African-American farmer who lived on the property with his wife Mary until 1938. It likely that George E. Rice lived in the 19th century side entry house at the tip of the property called The Point.



Between 1915 and 1938, George E. Rice constructed a second dwelling on the property closer to Grays Road and to the farm's main agricultural fields. Accompanying the home are three outbuildings: a meat house, a chicken coop and a cow shed.



Prehistoric Shell Midden

This oyster shell midden is located on a narrow terrace overlooking the northern extent of Battle Creek. The shell is visibly eroding from the north of the site. Based on the recovery of a triangular Levanna-typed projectile point and several sherds of Townsend pottery, the midden dates to the Late Woodland period (Native American).



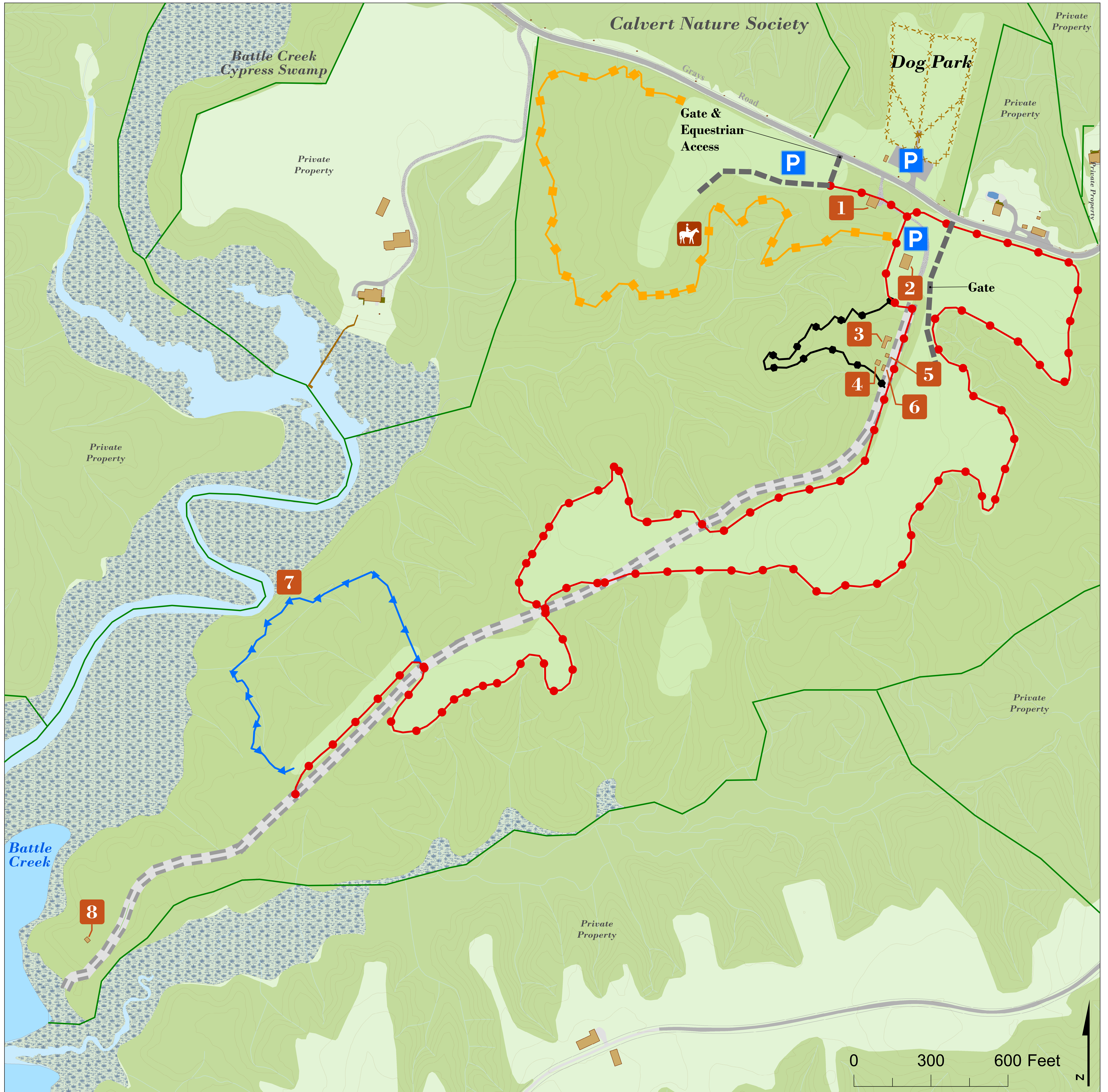
18th Century Domestic Scatter

Archaeological investigations suggest that a domestic structure and an outbuilding such as a barn were on the farm ca. 1720 to 1775. The artifact collection, both from the archaeological investigation and from previous collections by local resident and Gray descendent Carter Gray consist of small earthenware sherds, glass pieces, tobacco pipe pipes and stems, nails, gunflint flakes and chunks, musket balls and shot. Future archaeological investigations and interpretive programs are being planned.

Significant Natural Features

- A long and restful vista along the site's northeast-southwest spine
- A gentle hillock along Grays Road
- A beautiful knoll that both forms a focal point and deflects the eye at the edge of one of the outdoor hayfield rooms
- The Rolling Road that is both a cultural and natural resource
- Water views, particularly at The Point and at Cat Hole
- Extensive, healthy, and varied wetlands along creeks
- A well-developed forest unimpeded by invasive species





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| P Parking | 1 Tobacco Barn |
| Horse Trailer Parking | 2 Plumer-Cranford Barn |
| Structure | 3 George E. Rice House |
| Property Boundary | 4 Cow Barn |
| Red - Farm Trail | 5 Meat House |
| Blue - Cathole Trail | 6 Corn Crib |
| Orange - Forest Loop | 7 Shell Midden |
| Black - Spring Overlook Trail | 8 The Point & 19th Century House |
| Money Crop Trail (Rolling Road) | |

SOME RULES TO ENJOY AND PROTECT CALVERT COUNTY'S NATURAL PLACES

- Dogs must remain on leash
- Stay on established trails and boardwalks
- Equestrian use requires a permit (free)
- No overnight camping, except by permit
- No fires, except in fire rings and grills provided at the parks
 - Unless posted otherwise, park hours are dawn to dusk
 - Do not collect plants or animals
- Limited hunting with a valid Maryland State Hunting Permit