Loudoun's Great Outdoors

The Loudoun Outdoors Guide identifies 24 places in the county, stretching from eastern Loudoun County near Dulles Airport to the Blue Ridge Mountains in the west, to experience Loudoun's great outdoors.

Expanding Loudoun's Great Outdoors

With over 10,000 acres of parks, public lands, and other natural areas, opportunities abound in Loudoun County for the outdoor enthusiast. Maybe you will want to try hiking the new trails along the Potomac River that are part of the Potomac Heritage Trail. Or biking along the 20 miles of the W&OD trail that crosses Loudoun County. Or bird watching at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship’s 900 acre agricultural and nature preserve.

This guide highlights the best parks and publicly accessible natural areas in Loudoun County for the outdoor enthusiast, especially those new to the area or with a renewed interest in getting outdoors to hike, bike, paddle, fish, or experience the county’s diverse natural and historic landscapes.

All the places identified in the guide are open to the public on a regular basis, though not all are public parks or public lands. Regardless of ownership, please be mindful of the hours of operation and other rules that should guide your visit.

The Piedmont Environmental Council and REI hope you find the guide useful. We have collaborated on this guide to encourage residents and visitors to experience Loudoun County’s rich history, diverse wildlife habitats, and spectacular natural beauty.

The Potomac Heritage Trail

Recognized in 2006 as a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, a network of linear parks in Loudoun County makes it possible to follow a 7 mile trail corridor stretching from Fairfax County to the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park. Check out the National Park Service’s Potomac Heritage website (www.nps.gov/pohe) for a detailed map and trip planner.

The Piedmont Environmental Council is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the Virginia Piedmont's vibrant communities, rural economy, natural resources, history, and beauty through programs such as this Loudoun Outdoors Guide. You can become a member at pecva.org.

REI, founded in 1958 as a consumer co-op by a group of Pacific Northwest mountaineers, is a national multi-channel retailer of quality outdoor products. Each year, a portion of REI’s profits is set aside to support conservation, outdoor recreation, and environmental stewardship causes. In 2007, the Piedmont Environmental Council was awarded an REI grant to develop this brochure.
Whether you are looking for a leisurely stroll along the Potomac River or an adventurous rafting trip down the Shenandoah, Loudoun County offers a variety of opportunities to explore the natural beauty of the region. The Convenience Store offers a wide range of products, including fishing licenses, maps, and equipment. With its scenic views and diverse landscapes, Loudoun County is the perfect destination for outdoor enthusiasts. So pack your gear and get ready for an unforgettable adventure in the great outdoors! Make the most of your trip with the help of our convenient guide and enjoy the beauty of Loudoun County.