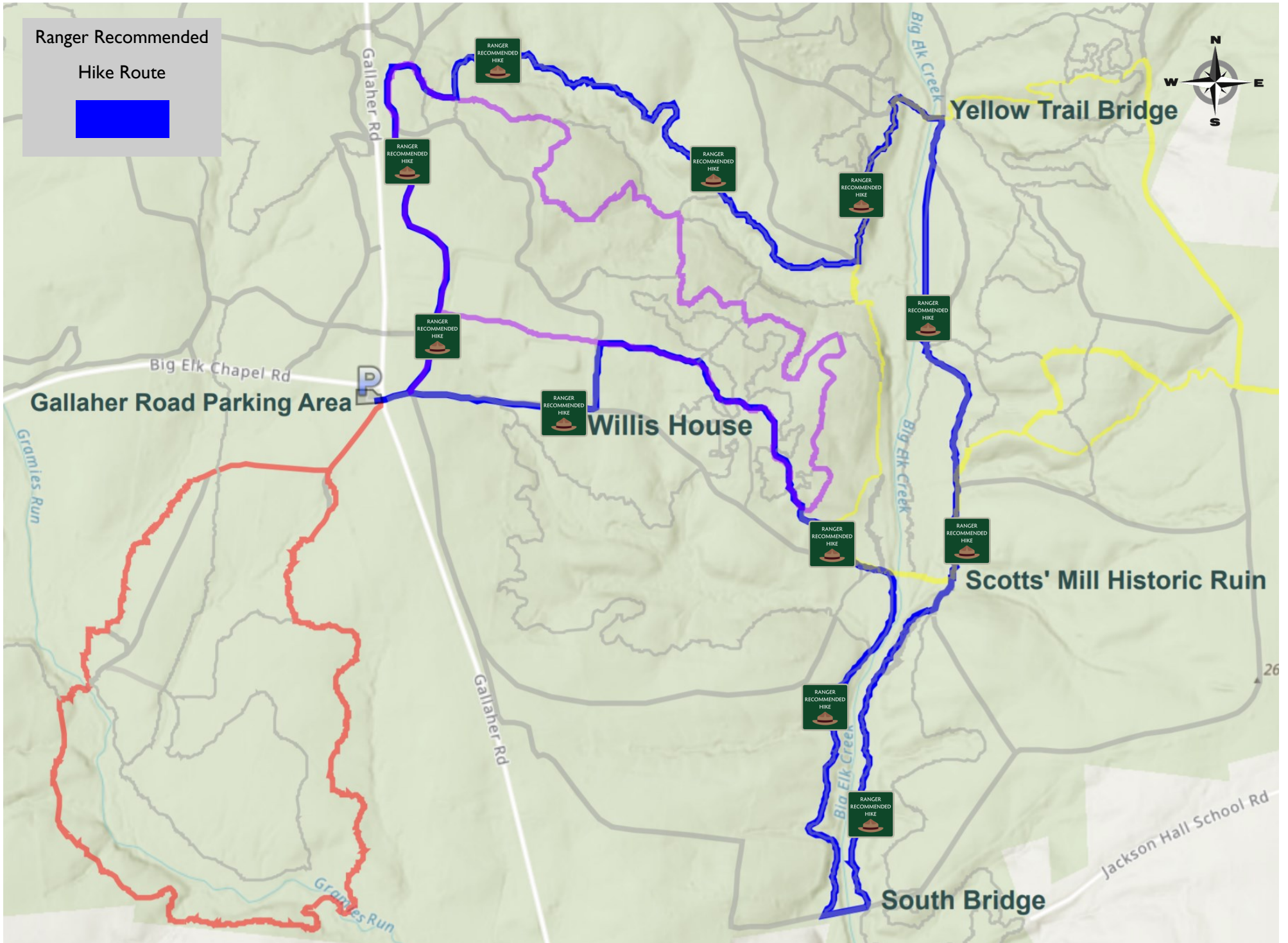


Ranger Recommended

Hike Route



Hike Details

Ranger Grieco's Field Notes:

This moderate 4.75 mile hike begins from the Gallaher Road Parking Lot (491 Gallaher Road, Elkton, MD 21921) and provides visitors with a glimpse of Fair Hill NRMA's varied terrain and habitats, while utilizing a mixture of trail types from double track gravel to natural surface single track paths.

Traveling clockwise and beginning north on the Purple Trail, hikers will explore the property's open grasslands and mixed hardwood forests which provide shelter for many common native species such as White-tailed deer, Red Fox, Eastern Gray Squirrel, and Red-tailed Hawk. However the observant and - perhaps lucky - hiker may catch a glimpse of other, less common species such as Pileated Woodpeckers, Belted Kingfishers, Wood Ducks, American Mink, Beaver, and Bald Eagle, a species that is becoming more and more commonly observed in Fair Hill.

I enjoy this hike throughout the calendar year as each season provides a different sensory experience, but favorite two seasons are spring and fall. The woodlands explode to life each spring with colorful pockets of ephemeral flowers and a raucous chorus of amphibians chirping in hidden vernal pools and woodland ponds. Although a highly invasive species, the blossoms from Autumn Olive emit a richly sweet fragrance that perfumes the air. For me, one of my favorite experiences is the sound, smell, and feel of crispy leaves crunching underneath my boots on a brisk fall morning, and no one can deny the natural beauty observed each year when hickory trees turn a vibrant shade of yellow and oaks, maples, and many others turn striking shades of red, scarlet, and burgundy.

I hope you take the time to share this route with the multi-use visitors that explore Fair Hill NRMA each day. Happy Hiking!

Friendly Trail Reminders

Share the Trail

Hikers, runners, and bikers should always yield to horses. Bikers should yield to hikers and runners. All trail users yield to our equestrian users. Horses are large flight animals, and when frightened may cause injury to themselves, rider, or others around them.

Also, when approaching another trail user from behind, it is good practice to let others know you are coming with a friendly greeting to make them aware of your location.

Pets on Trails

Pets are welcome at our park, but **MUST BE LEASHED**. While your dog may have great manners and love people and other dogs, not everyone feels comfortable around an animal off leash. Also, please remember to clean up after your pet!

Protect Our Trails

Trails are extremely vulnerable to damage when muddy or wet. If the trails are muddy please stick to our carriage trails (Blue Diamond is great!) and save the Ranger Recommended Hike for another day.

Fair Hill Duty Ranger
410-218-1698
Available: 7:00 am—Sunset

Maryland State Parks Emergency
410-260-8888

Fair Hill NRMA Headquarters
300 Tawes Drive, Elkton, MD 21921
Park Office: 410-398-1246
Internet: www.dnr.maryland.gov



*Larry Hogan, Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary*

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Ranger Grieco's Recommended Hike



Explore Our New Ranger Recommended Hike!

With more than 80+ miles of trails, we understand that exploring Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area can seem overwhelming at times. That's why we started our Ranger Recommended Hike series. Follow the 'Ranger Recommended Hike' decals to discover some of our park staff's favorite unmarked trails.



Ranger Christopher Grieco

Ranger Grieco began his Maryland Park Service career in 2008 as a member of the Maryland Conservation Corps, completing two years of service at the Tuckahoe State Park Complex where he gained valuable entry-level skills and training and decided to pursue a full-time career as a Maryland Park Ranger. From there, Ranger Grieco worked for three years as a field level Ranger at Rocks and Susquehanna State Park before being promoted to Fair Hill NRMA's Assistant Park Manager in 2014.

Ranger Grieco enjoys his current role as it affords him the opportunity to make impactful decisions at the park while continuing to serve in a field operation role. Just like most rangers, some of his favorite days at work are the shifts immediately following storm events. During these days our parks may seem a bit vulnerable and disorganized, the staff may be stressed out and overworked, but the transformative clean-up effort that ensues demonstrates the strength and resiliency of Maryland's State Parks. Additionally, Ranger Grieco thoroughly enjoys working with Fair Hill's Trail Crew to perform trail improvement and maintenance projects to ensure that the park's visitors are provided with a high quality experience.



Ranger Grieco enjoys living in the Fair Hill area with his wife and their son. The trio frequently hike, run, and recreate on the 80+ miles of trails just out their door. In his spare time, Ranger Grieco also enjoys baking, gardening, and woodworking. He hopes that you enjoy his recommended hike.