

# Directions

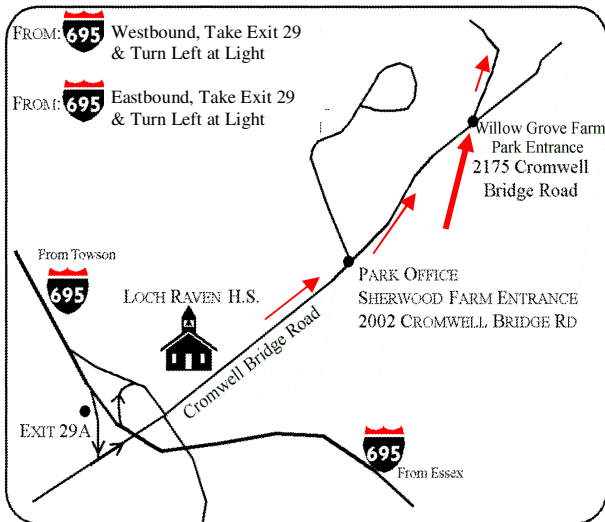
**Beltway, I-695 to Exit 29, Cromwell Bridge Rd.**  
At the traffic light at the end of the exit ramp, turn **LEFT** (East) onto **Cromwell Bridge Rd.**  
Continue on **Cromwell Bridge Rd** past Loch Raven High School.

**The 1st entrance to the Park is Sherwood Farm.**  
**Do Not turn into the Sherwood Farm entrance!**

Go ½ mile past the Sherwood Farm entrance to the **2<sup>nd</sup> entrance, Willow Grove Farm.**

Turn **LEFT** into the driveway and continue across the bridge to the gravel parking lot.

**Do not block the Emergency Access road on the West end of the parking lot.**



## Trip Information

1. We accept a maximum of 36 students.
2. Our programs are “hands-on” and you will mostly be outside. Programs are held rain or shine. Please dress for the weather & wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes.
3. Our fee is \$3 per student for all programs, except for Fall Harvest which is \$4 and includes a pumpkin for each student. We do not charge for teachers or parent-chaperones.
4. If any of your students have special needs, please tell us so we can accommodate them.
5. We have a few picnic tables if you want to eat lunch at the Park. Bring trash bags so you can carry out your trash.
6. Please do not bring siblings. They usually become restless and noisy.
7. We do not have indoor restrooms. We have port-a-potties in the Park.

# Cromwell Valley Park

Willow Grove Nature Education Center  
2175 Cromwell Bridge Road



Department of  
Recreation and Parks

## Teacher's Guide to Educational Programs

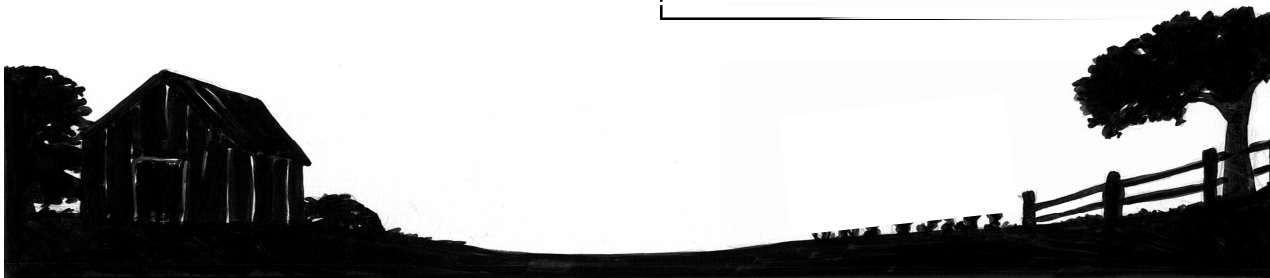
Pre-K through 5th Grade



2002 Cromwell Bridge RD  
Baltimore, MD 21234

Park Office: 410.887.2503  
School Programs: 410.887.3014

[www.cromwellvalleypark.org](http://www.cromwellvalleypark.org)



# About the Park

Cromwell Valley Park is 426 acres of natural beauty nestled between Towson and Parkville in Baltimore County, MD. The Park is a stream valley, with a mixture of wetlands, pasture, cultivated fields, orchards, gardens, and woodlands. Settled for farming in the late 1700s, the Park has a little something for everyone: Hiking, bird & wildlife watching, vegetable gardening, community service projects, and more. At our **Willow Grove Nature Education Center**, we offer naturalist-guided programs on nature, farming, local history, conservation awareness, and natural history.



## Program Days & Times

Mondays, 1 PM-3 PM  
 Tuesdays, 10 AM-12 PM and 1 PM-3 PM  
 Wednesdays, 1 PM-3 PM  
 Thursdays, 10 AM-12 PM and 1 PM-3 PM  
 Fridays, 10 AM-12 PM

## Schedule a Program

Email: [maureen@cromwellvalleypark.org](mailto:maureen@cromwellvalleypark.org)  
 Phone: 410.887.3014.

We accept reservations after January 1st for any program during that calendar year.



# PreK–5th Grade Programs

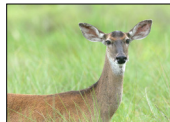
(Key: F=Fall, W=Winter, S=Spring)

- **Signs of Animals (FWS).** Hike the Park to look for animal tracks, trails, droppings, fur, feathers, and other signs. We will explore trails, examine plants for evidence of wildlife activity, and learn how to identify “who’s been here.”



- **Come to Your Senses (FWS).** Explore with your senses! Hike through the Park’s habitats to learn how to identify, observe, and appreciate nature’s sights, sounds, smells, textures, and more.
- **Habitat Explorers (FWS).** All living things need food, water, shelter, and space to thrive. How are animals adapted to live in their habitats? We will explore the Park’s meadow, forest, and stream habitats to discover the animals, plants, and elements that make each one unique.
- **Geology Rocks! (FWS).** Learn about the geologic processes that formed the Cromwell Valley. Discover how geology shaped the history of the valley for farming and for the production of agricultural lime. Learn to identify Cockeysville marble, hike to the old marble quarry, and explore our historic lime kilns.

- **Deer Tales (FWS).** Hike the Park to look for signs of white-tailed deer. Why do bucks grow antlers? Why are fawns spotted? We will learn about deer behavior, make a cast of a deer track, and play “white-tailed deer” games.



- **Stream Strollers (FWS).** How does the condition of our stream affect the health of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean? Explore Minebank Run to discover what animals live in our Park’s stream. We will collect macroinvertebrates and learn how to tell if a stream is healthy.

- **Discovering Insects (S, EarlyF).** Insects rule the world! Explore the diverse insect life of the Park’s meadows, stream, and forest. We will collect and observe insects, learn about their life cycles, learn the differences between insects and spiders, and learn how insects are uniquely adapted to survive in their specific habitats.



- **Tremendous Trees (FS).** All living things — including humans — depend on trees for survival. How do trees provide food, shelter, and oxygen for animals? We will hike the Park and identify trees by their location, bark, leaves, and seeds.
- **Spring Planting (S).** We will visit the Children’s Garden to explore the growing cycle from seed to plant and learn what plants need to grow. We will plant sunflower seeds to take home, as well as a row of vegetables that can be harvested in the fall. Students will learn the parts of the plant and which parts are edible.
- **Fall Harvest (F).** Learn how crops were harvested 150 years ago at Willow Grove Farm. We will shell and grind corn into cornmeal, press apples to make sweet cider, and harvest pumpkins. Teachers may choose to either have their students crack and taste walnuts or to make pumpkin pudding.
- **Seed to Harvest (SF).** We will combine the Spring Planting and Fall Harvest programs: Students will plant a vegetable in the Spring and then return the following Fall to harvest their crop. Learn about life cycles, the value of healthy soil, and the importance of farms and gardens to our food supply.
- **Birds of a Feather (FS).** What makes birds different from other animals? Did you know that most birds have hollow bones? How do feathers help them fly? Why do birds sing? How are their beaks specially adapted for feeding and nest building? We will hike the Park and learn about diversity, food webs, adaptations, and conservation.
- **Native American Life in the Valley (FWS).** The traditional Native American lifestyle and culture is closely tied to the land. What was life like before Europeans settled here? How did Native Americans provide food and shelter for their families? How did they treat illnesses? What did they do for fun? What can Native Americans teach us about honoring and preserving nature?

