

Howard County is the green in between Baltimore & Washington D.C. and the perfect starting location for any trip to the Capital Region. Hidden gems and outdoor oases abound. Here are a few destination ideas to get you started.



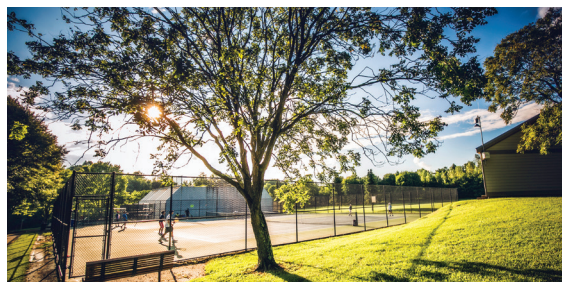
FARMER'S MARKETS & FARMS

Howard County is home to several farms and farmers markets such as Larriland Farm, open seasonally for an opportunity to pick your own produce! Explore the farm from the first ripe strawberry in late May, to the end of the apple harvest in early November. Or, if you'd prefer to pick your produce from the farmers market, we've got you covered as well.



OUTDOOR GETAWAYS

Howard County is an outdoor lover's paradise—home to Maryland's first state park, miles of trails, award-winning parks, waterfalls, and more. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of city life without wandering too far from world-class dining, shopping, wineries, and breweries.



SEAFOOD SPOTS

Maryland is best known for three things: a unique state flag, stunning landscapes sprawling from ocean to mountains, and delicious seafood. Howard County claims all of those accolades, but we especially love the local restaurants that take great pride in that third point—bringing fresh, local seafood to guests' plates.



HOCO HISTORY

Throughout Howard County, you'll discover landmarks, museums, and heritage sites showcasing Black culture, history, and the road to freedom. From the Underground Railroad and the Network to Freedom, to Civil War Trail Sites and The Simpsonville Freetown Legacy Trail, there are many ways to learn about Black history in Howard County.



MUST-SEE ART

With so many arts attractions in Howard County, it can be hard to see and do it all. Dive into DIY with art classes offered year-round, or soak up the sun at an outdoor performance at Merriweather Post Pavilion. The opportunity to experience live theater, musical performances, and visual arts never end.



SERVICES OFFERED TO JOURNALISTS

Phone or email consultations

Story ideas

Press kits

Press releases

Images

Group press trips

Itinerary planning

Fact checking

On-air interviews

Connection to local experts

AWARDS & RECOGNITION FOR HOWARD COUNTY

Columbia

Ranked #2 as **Happiest City** in America according to *WalletHub* 2022

Ranked #1 as the "**Safest city in the U.S.**" according to *WalletHub* 2021

Ranked 2021 **Top 100 Best Places to Live** by *Livability.com*

Ellicott City

Ranked #1 **Best Place to Live in Maryland 2019** by *MONEY*

Recognized as one of the **Cooldest Suburbs in America** in 2019 by *Apartment Therapy*

Howard County

Best Educated (Adults Over 25)

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey - 2007

Advanced Degree (27%) ranked **9th in nation**

Bachelor's Degree (56%) ranked **8th in the nation**

Recognized as one of *U.S. News* **Healthiest Communities**

FestivALL BY THE SEASON

Howard County has a calendar full of reasons to visit! Join us throughout the year for seasonal festivals and events celebrating everything from food and wine to arts and music, and endless opportunities to honor the many unique cultures that make up our great community—where all are welcome!

SPRING

Wine in the Woods

Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods | 3rd weekend in May

Local wine, beer, food, musicians, and artists come together at Symphony Woods



Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival

Howard County Fairgrounds | First Full Weekend in May

One of the largest festivals of its kind celebrating all things sheep, from hoof to handwoven

SUMMER/FALL

Howard County Fair

Howard County Fairgrounds | August

A celebration of local agriculture with exhibits, competitions, rides, food, and more



Hops & Harvest

Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods | October

Hang out during this lively outdoor celebration of local beer, wine, and spirits from all across the state of Maryland

WINTER

Merriweather Symphony of Lights

Merriweather Post Pavilion | Thanksgiving–January 1

A dazzling display of animated and stationary holiday light creations

Midnight Madness

Ellicott City Historic District | First Friday in December

Festive outdoor entertainment while one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants stay open until midnight

Discover your moment
by downloading the FREE
2023 Visitor Guide



VISIT HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM

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