

MARYLAND
BYWAYS

Lower Susquehanna

10



One mile wide in some points, the Susquehanna River is the largest, non-navigable river in the United States, every minute pouring 19 million gallons of fresh water into the Chesapeake Bay. It's a river with history, too, as European settlers established a prosperous fur trade here with the Susquehannock Indians, which was the most powerful tribe of the upper Chesapeake Bay at the time.

This byway begins west of the river where it meets the bay, runs north so that you can cross the Conowingo Dam, and then loops around to the mighty Susquehanna's eastern shore. As you follow historic transportation routes, hike along shaded trails or cast a line for American and hickory shad, your trip through the Lower

Susquehanna Heritage Area promises opportunities to learn about Native American and colonial life, as well as America's fight for independence, maritime traditions and industrial achievements.

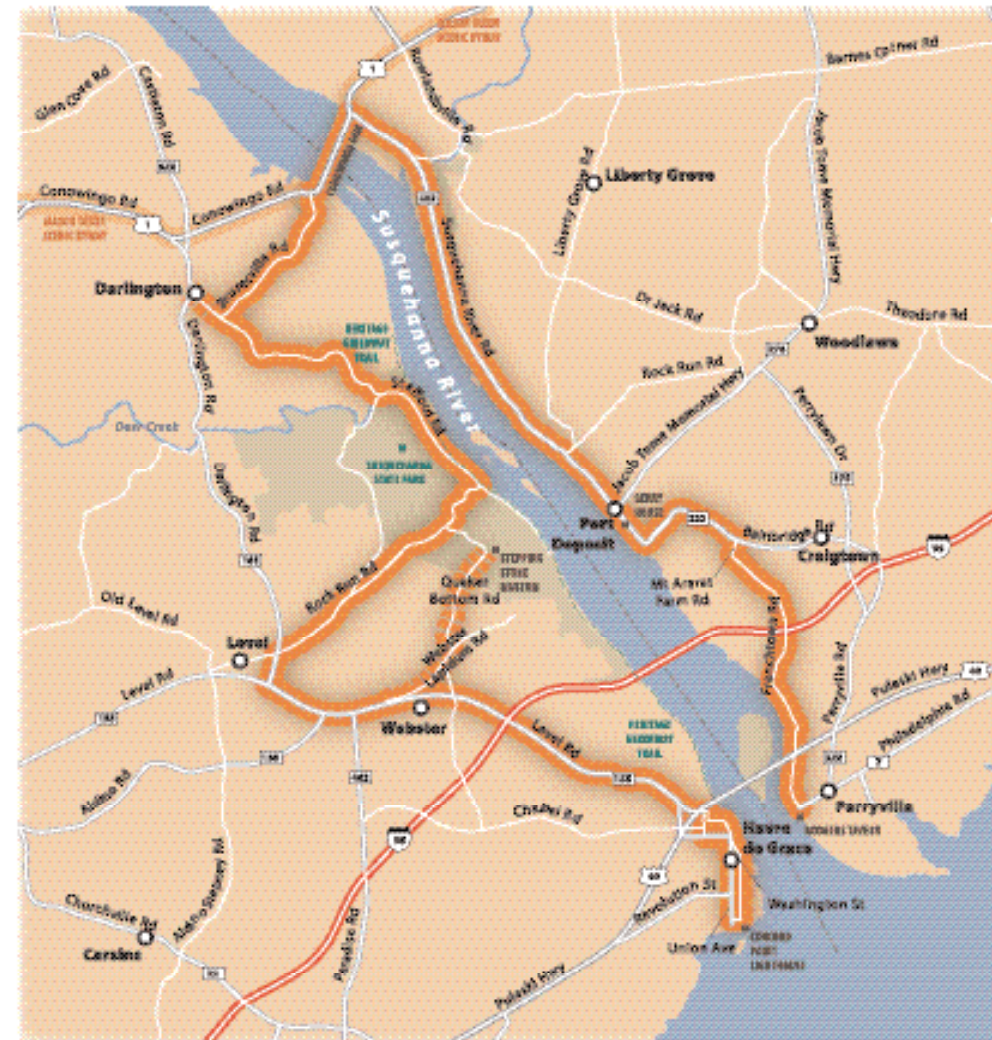
Havre de Grace to Conowingo Dam – MD 155, 161, Rock Run Rd, Stafford Rd, Shuresville Rd, US 1

The river port of Havre de Grace ("Harbor of Grace") was well known to colonial travelers for its quality inns and taverns. Even after most of the town's buildings were either damaged or destroyed by the British during the War of 1812, Havre de Grace bounced back as an important center for shipping and commerce. Today the town offers waterfront restaurants and antiques shops.



To learn about the area's seafaring heritage, visit the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and then walk out to a waterfront promenade that leads past the fully restored, 180-year-old Concord Point Lighthouse, one of the last beacons still in operation on the East Coast. Other attractions either in Havre de Grace or on the outskirts of town explore local agricultural traditions (Steppingstone Museum), the art of waterfowl decoy carving (Havre de Grace Decoy Museum), and life in a lock house on the former Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal (Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace).

MD 155 gives way to MD 161 and Rock Lodge Road and runs alongside Susquehanna State Park, with its many mountain biking trails, easy



river-kayaking access, and quiet spots for bass, perch and pike fishing. The 600-acre park is also home to historical sites such as the circa-1794 Rock Run grist mill, which features a 12-ton water wheel.

A sidetrack into the village of Darlington reveals dignified homes in a classic, small-town setting, complete with tranquil tree-shaded streets.

Conowingo Dam to Perryville – US 1, MD 222, Ararat Farm Rd, Frenchtown Rd, MD 7

Stop at the Conowingo Dam Overlook for a spectacular view of this 80-year-old engineering marvel, and then enjoy a scenic hiking or biking trip along the mostly flat, 2.2-mile Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Trail. After following US 1

over the dam, you can continue north to link into the Mason and Dixon Byway (page 63) or turn south on MD 222 toward Port Deposit, which flourished in the first half of the 19th century as a transit point for river freight. Built on a narrow bank between the river and granite cliffs, this one-street town prospered from its mills and quarries. Look for the Georgian-style Gerry House, which, in addition to being one of the oldest of the town's many 19th-century residences, is also known for entertaining Revolutionary War hero, Major General Lafayette, as a guest in 1824. On a nearby bluff farther south along Main Street is an imposing brick-and-stone stairway that climbs for 75 steps to provide a view of both the Susquehanna River and four bridges.



Follow Ararat Farm Road, and Frenchtown Road into Perryville to visit the local railway museum. Down the street is the early-18th-century Rodgers Tavern, which, due to its delicious fare and proximity to a ferry boat landing, was a favorite stopping place for George Washington, Lafayette and other Revolutionary figures. In addition to the history, Perryville has a 30-store, brand-name outlet center and 18-hole, bayside golf course. Finally, walk to Perry Point and look out across the Susquehanna River for a grand view of Havre de Grace.

OLD LINE LORE: *The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Trail, along a major hawk migration route in the autumn, passes near a blue heron rookery as it extends from the Conowingo Dam to Deer Creek. Birder's World*

magazine has recommended the area around the dam as a top-notch winter birding site.

Concord Point Lighthouse

Lafayette & Concord Sts
Havre de Grace, 21078
410-939-9040
www.decoymuseum.com

Conowingo Dam & Hydroelectric Plant

PO Box 327
Conowingo, 21918
(410) 457-5011
<http://esm.versar.com/pprp/power-plants-new/conowingo.htm>

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

215 Giles St
Havre de Grace, 21078
410-939-9739
www.decoymuseum.com



Havre de Grace Maritime Museum

100 Lafayette St
Havre de Grace, 21078
410-939-4800
www.hdgmartimemuseum.org

Perryville Railway Museum

Broad St. & Harford Ave.
650 Broad Street 21903
(410) 642-6429
www.perryvillemd.org/railroad.htm

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Trail

<http://brokenclaw.com/biking/susquehanna.html>

Rodgers Tavern

259 Broad St, Perryville 21903
410-642-6066

Steppingstone Museum

461 Quaker Bottom Rd
Havre de Grace
410-939-2299
www.steppingstonemuseum.org

Susquehanna Museum of Havre de Grace

Lock House, 817 Conestogo St
Havre de Grace, 21078
410-939-5780
www.lockhousemuseum.org

Susquehanna State Park

Off Rt 155
Havre de Grace, 21084
410-557-7994
www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/susquehanna.html

