

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary



Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (JBWS or Sanctuary) is located within the tidal reaches of the Patuxent River, in southern Anne Arundel County. It was established in 1985 and is operated by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. The Sanctuary protects about 1,700 acres of unique tidal freshwater marshes, forested wetlands, upland and riparian forest, creeks, meadows, pine and sand barrens, and fields along the Patuxent River. This protected land provides a safe haven for a high diversity of plants, insects, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and microbes, and to rich Native American cultural resources.

The Audubon Maryland-DC designated Jug Bay in 2016 as an Important Bird Area. Jug Bay is a site of statewide importance for bird conservation as its extensive tidal freshwater wetlands support important populations of freshwater marsh bird species such as least bittern, sora, and Virginia rail.

Vital Collaborators

The Friends of Jug Bay



Founded in 1986, the Friends of Jug Bay (FOJB) is a non-profit organization that supports the preservation and conservation of Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. With over 600 members the FOJB provide critical support to Sanctuary's programs, activities, and its long-term protection. Support from the FOJB comes in the form of volunteers, research internships, summer camp scholarships, staff development support, acquisition of research and education equipment and materials, etc

Patuxent River Park



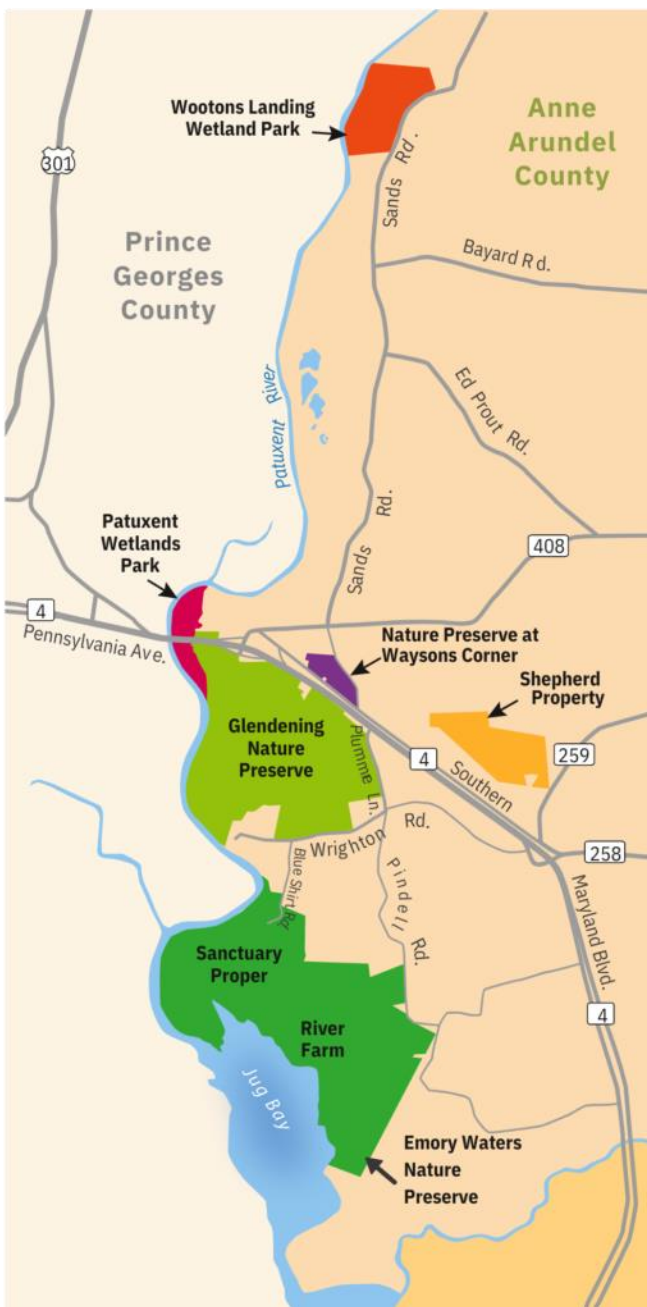
Patuxent River Park is part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. It was established in 1962 and comprises over 7,500 acres of riverside parkland in Prince George's County that protects the land's natural resources and preserve the scenic character of the park. Patuxent River Park is our "sister" organization across the Patuxent River and because nature knows no boundaries, we collaborate to protect this valuable natural resource by working together on outdoor education, research, and restoration efforts.

Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Site Cooperative



The Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Site Cooperative is one of five Cooperatives established by the NOAA Sentinel Site Program. These Cooperatives, with their unique geographic settings make them ideal places to study and address the effects of sea level change on coastal communities. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, as a component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, is a partner of the Chesapeake Bay Cooperative along with 20 more organizations. The goal of the cooperative is to provide information to Chesapeake Bay communities and managers who need to address challenges such as storm flooding, long term, local sea level rise, barrier island movement, degraded water quality, and wetland loss. The information will also be useful to federal and state restoration planners and living resource managers who are addressing these challenges.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Properties



Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (JBWS) is the largest of eight regional parks operated by Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks; it is also one of three sites that comprise the Maryland Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (CBNERR-MD). It contains 1,700 acres of tidal freshwater marshes, forested wetlands, upland and riparian forest, creeks, meadows, pine and sand barrens, and vernal pools.

The Sanctuary is located in the tidal reaches of the Patuxent River, and its large stand of tidal freshwater wetlands contains a high diversity of plants, which are home to many bird, fish, reptile, and mammal species. Audubon Maryland-DC designated JBWS as an Important Bird Area in 2016. Located in southern Anne Arundel County, 20 miles east of Washington, DC, and 18 miles south of Annapolis, the Sanctuary is a designated site on the Patuxent Water Trail.

JBWS is supported by the Friends of Jug Bay (FOJB), a non-profit organization that acts to preserve the Sanctuary and to support its education, stewardship, and research programs. Through financial contributions and active engagement, FOJB members provide critical support that greatly enhances Sanctuary programs and activities.