



Howard County Conservancy

connecting people to nature

Welcome to the **Howard County Conservancy at Mt. Pleasant Farm**. Founded in 1990 as a non-profit land trust, today the Conservancy's mission has expanded to include educational programs for children and adults. Mt. Pleasant is a 300-year-old farm left for preservation in 1993 by retired Howard County school teachers Ruth and Frances Brown.

Located on 232 acres of rolling hills with a variety of habitats, the Conservancy is ideally suited for nature study and exploration. Home to more than 140 species of birds and wildlife, offering beautiful vistas of the Patapsco Valley, and all just 15 minutes from Columbia. Here, history and nature set the pace for your learning experience.

The mission of the Howard County Conservancy is to educate children and adults about our natural world, preserve the land and its legacy for future generations and model responsible stewardship of our environment.



Visitor Guide

When You Visit

At the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center you will find our nature center, trail maps, and information on upcoming programs. The gift shop offers an assortment of nature books for all ages, nature inspired arts, crafts and toys. Our resident animals include a barred owl, goats, chickens, terrapin, frog, and snake. Be sure to pick up the *Visit our Resident Animal* brochure for more information about the animals.



Educational Programs

More than 6,000 school children participate in programs at the Conservancy each year. The Conservancy has been educating Howard County youth since 1997, and is an Educational Partner with the Howard County Public School System. Our programs are aligned with HCPSS curriculum and provide an outdoor extension to classroom learning.

Events and Guided Hikes

Year round programs and events include the *Fall Festival*, *Earth Day Celebration*, *Wine in the Garden* and the *Natural Holiday Sale*. Free guided hikes are held on the second Saturday of each month. You are also welcome to hike our trails anytime using self-guided maps available at the Conservancy and on our website.

Conservancy Educational Programs

For Youth:

- Summer nature day camps
- Birthday parties
- Scout programs
- Festivals and events
- Field trips for school groups
- Pre-school programs

For Adults:

- Lectures and art shows
- Guided nature hikes
- Volunteer opportunities
- Native plant, pollinator and rain gardens
- Compost and solar energy demonstration areas

Our Grounds

Our grounds feature four miles of maintained trails and a variety of habitats from wooded stream valleys to warm season grasslands to gardens. The John L. Clark Honors Garden is a native plant garden with plantings in honor of loved ones. The Community Garden provides 60 garden plots for the surrounding community to

grow their own food and several garden clubs also maintain gardens on our grounds.

The Conservancy is home to the only historic farmstead open to the public in Howard County, and the only working blacksmith shop. See The Farmstead Outbuildings brochure for a walking tour and description of the historic buildings.

Historic **Montjoy Barn** was saved from demolition and relocated to the Conservancy in 2007. It dates from the 1700s and has a unique timber frame construction. When you visit the barn, look for the “marriage marks” on the hand-hewn oak timbers.



The Conservancy has many demonstration areas including rain gardens, composting and solar energy. Our grounds are also home to **Hodgepodge Lodge**, once a children's nature show on featured PBS. The lodge now houses hands-on nature activities for children.

Land Preservation

The Howard County Conservancy is the largest land trust in Howard County. The Conservancy works to conserve land by accepting donated easements, which can provide significant tax benefits to individuals. The Conservancy's efforts, in concert with the Maryland Environmental Trust, have resulted in the preservation of more than 2,000 acres of land in Howard County.





Gudelsky Center Rentals

The Gudelsky Environmental Education Center is available for conferences, meetings, and private parties. It can seat 135 banquet style, while the lower level can accommodate 40. The Conservancy's outdoor garden areas are available for events from mid-May until mid-October.

Volunteer Opportunities

From trail maintenance to hike leader to office assistance, volunteers are the backbone of the Conservancy. Call 410-465-8877 to learn more. Training is provided for all positions.

Donations

Help Support our Work!

As a local nonprofit organization, your contribution is tax-deductible—and critical to our operations. Your donation will directly impact our community, environmental education and preservation. Thank you for helping us connect people to nature.

Donations can be made online or sent to:

The Howard County Conservancy
PO Box 175, Woodstock, MD 21163

GROUNDS HOURS

Our grounds and trails are open dawn to dusk seven days a week

BUILDING HOURS

Wednesday – Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm
Closed Saturdays during the winter season

410-465-8877

www.hcconservancy.org

The Howard County Conservancy is located on Rt. 99 (Old Frederick Road) between Bethany Lane and Woodstock Road, across from Waverly Woods.