

OVERVIEW – Maryland State Parks Passport at FCPL
Visit your Library, Checkout a Pass, Connect with Nature

Goals:

- Expand access and equity to open spaces in Maryland. The Maryland State Parks Passport provides free entry for one vehicle (up to 10 people) into any Maryland State Park. By removing the economic barrier of vehicle day-use fees and connecting communities with their libraries, more Frederick Countians will be able to enjoy the benefits of parks.
- Spark excitement and increase awareness of FCPL as a community hub that brings people together in unique ways.
- Brand recognition for Friends of Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks.

Timeline: May 2025 – May 2026 pilot program

Communication:

- Announcement in FCPL Newsletter, social media posts

Recommendation: FCPL will add one Maryland State Park Pass for customers to check out at each community branch in the system, including the Community Bookmobile, and two for each regional– 14 passes in total.

Background:

- Maryland State Park Pass entitles pass holder to unlimited day-use entry for everyone in a vehicle (up to 10 people) to all of Maryland's State Parks and facilities, unlimited boat launching at all state park facilities and a 10 percent discount on state-operated concession items and boat rentals. It is good for one year from date of purchase.
- 14 passes would be available – one for each community branch and the Community Bookmobile, 2 for each regional branch.
- Pass would check out for one week and would return to the owning branch when checked in. Replacement cost is \$75. (This item will be an Express Item, no holds placed)

Resources consulted (experts and stakeholders):

- Reviewed other states who offer a similar program (California Public Libraries, Georgia Public Libraries)
- Consulted with Maryland Park Service staff

Funding Partner Ask:

- \$75 per pass for a total of \$1050.
- \$40.50 for 1 case plastic hanging holders (shipping included) from Uline
- Total: \$1090.50

Potential Positive Outcomes:

- Increase in library card signup to access pass.
- People who have traditionally not visited a Frederick County Public Library may become customers; communities who have traditionally not had access to Maryland State Parks would experience these locations together.
- Wider reach of recognition for both organizations with over 18,000 people following FCPL social media, and 35,000 library customers subscribing to FCPL's newsletter.