

## WELCOME TO FT. HALIFAX PARK

This 172-acre passive recreational area in northern Dauphin County, along PA Rt. 147 just north of Halifax, PA, is owned by Halifax Township. The land was formerly property of the Yeager Family who desired that it be preserved for public use. The Yeager farm was purchased in 2006 by the citizens of Halifax Township with matching funds from the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The original Switzer-style bank barn, circa. 1846, farm outbuildings and the family's residences remain standing at the Park.

Friends of Ft. Halifax Park, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with a Charter mission to assist the Township in the Park's development, maintenance and programming.

Halifax Park borders the Susquehanna River and contains rolling meadows, pristine woodlands, meandering Armstrong Creek, and the archaeological promise of locating the 1756 frontier fort, Ft. Halifax, constructed near the beginning of the French and Indian War.

## ACTIVITIES AT THE PARK

Park visitors are encouraged to explore nearly four miles of hiking trails winding through varied habitats. Gardens, meadows, woodlands and both stream and river ecosystems are available for public enjoyment in this biologically diverse area.

Popular activities include picnicking, walking, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, photography, and enjoying nature. Wildlife to be seen at the Park includes bald eagles, hawks, and a diverse population of water fowl and song birds. Deer, bear, fox, and a variety of other woodland, meadow, stream and river-dwelling creatures can also be observed.

## PARK HOURS AND INFORMATION

- Ft. Halifax Park is open dawn to dusk
- Portable toilets are provided at two locations
- Camping allowed at Riverside Campsite for small fee; secure permit from Halifax Township, 717-896-3035
- Trail maps, use guidelines and other information is available at Park kiosks
- All buildings are currently closed

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

- Ft. Halifax Festival: 1st Saturday in May
- Fireman's Fireworks: Middle of July

## HISTORY OF FT. HALIFAX

Both Ft. Halifax and Ft. Augusta at the Forks of the Susquehanna (now Sunbury, PA) were part of a line of forts constructed by the Provincial government during the early part of the French & Indian War (1752-1763). These forts were all strategically sited along what was then the Pennsylvania frontier.

On June 5, 1756, Pennsylvania Provincial officer Col. Wm. Clapham lead 400 recruits of the Augusta Regiment north up the east side of the Susquehanna River. They started out from Hunter's Mill at the mouth of Fishing Creek (now Fort Hunter), a few miles above Harris's Ferry (present day Harrisburg, PA). His initial consignment of supplies followed upriver in 20 bateaux and two canoes. The Regiment stopped overnight at Thomas McKee's lower trading post on the east bank of the Susquehanna opposite Sherman's Creek (just downstream from the current Clarks Ferry Bridge). They arrived at the mouth of Armstrong Creek the next afternoon, and there began constructing Ft. Halifax. The new fort was to serve as a temporary depot for supplies and give overnight refuge to wagon trains and bateaux moving supplies upriver to where Fort Augusta was to be built.

Col. Clapham picked the site for Ft. Halifax due to the proximity of a vast stand of pine timber suitable to construction of a fort. Also, very near the site was a dam and water-powered saw mill erected on Armstrong Creek by early pioneer John Armstrong. Once bivouacked, soldiers immediately commenced to cut and square 200 logs, each 30-foot long, and erected a traditional-style stockade fort, 160-foot square, with four bastions and a surrounding earthwork about 10-foot high, itself surrounded by a ditch of equal depth. While construction was underway, bateaux-men were busily engaged in moving supplies up the River past the difficult section of low-water rapids at the confluence of the Juniata River. At the same time carpenters at Harris's Ferry were constructing additional bateaux and cannon carriages. On July 11th, 1756, the Augusta Regiment continued its march upriver, leaving 30 men behind to finish construction and garrison Ft. Halifax.

Ft. Halifax continued to serve as a stop-over point for troops and supplies headed northward to aid in the construction and manning of Ft. Augusta. Late in 1757, however, the garrison at Ft. Halifax was transferred back to Ft. Hunter where they were considered better positioned for the defense of settlements south of Blue Mountain, the first mountain north of present-day Harrisburg, PA. Ft. Halifax then stood idle until the summer of 1763 when it was abandoned and dismantled.

# FORT HALIFAX PARK

570 North River Rd, Halifax, PA 17032  
FortHalifaxPark.org



### Halifax Township Board of Supervisors

Ken Bechtel, Chairman | Brad Bruner, Vice Chairman  
Scott McBurney | Randy Paul | Steve Schreffler

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*Compliments of Friends of Fort Halifax, Inc.*

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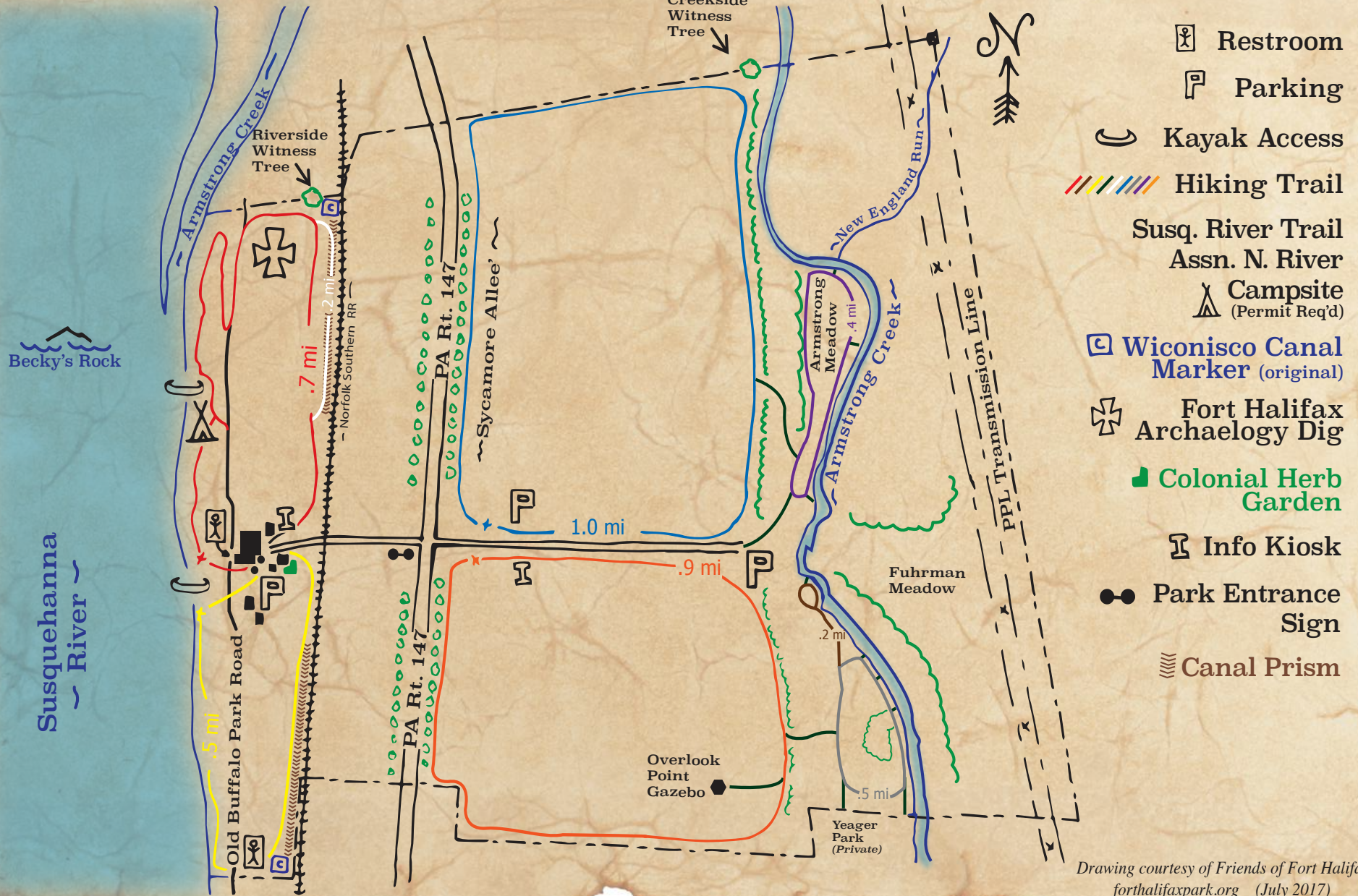




# MAP OF FORT HALIFAX PARK\*

(172 ac.)

\*Not drawn to scale



-  Restroom
-  Parking
-  Kayak Access
-  Hiking Trail
-  Susq. River Trail Assn. N. River
-  Campsite (Permit Req'd)
-  Wiconisco Canal Marker (original)
-  Fort Halifax Archaeology Dig
-  Colonial Herb Garden
-  Info Kiosk
-  Park Entrance Sign
-  Canal Prism

Drawing courtesy of Friends of Fort Halifax, Inc.  
 forthalifaxpark.org (July 2017)