

# GAMBRILL STATE PARK'S TEA ROOM



## Features of the Tea Room



The Tea Room has been a popular feature of Gambrill State Park for over 75 years. Constructed from native-stone, the building was built by the CCC in the mid-1930's. It was originally designed by the Civilian Conservation Corps for community events and gatherings. Today, the building continues this tradition as one of the areas most popular locations for weddings, family reunions, business meetings and other special events.

The Tea Room provides users with a kitchen, dining room and two restrooms. The kitchen allows for cooking, food preparation and serving, with a refrigerator, sink and both conventional and microwave ovens. Tables (both circular and rectangular), chairs and firewood are also provided. The building is available for rent from April through October, and can accommodate up to 55 people – with standing room only, or can seat 36 comfortably at 5 round tables.



The view from the stone balcony of the Middletown valley and Catoclin Mountains is one of the most photographed in the park. In clear weather it is possible to see as far as Virginia.

Please note that pets of any type (other than service animals) are not allowed in the Tea Room.

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Tea Room

- Can the balcony be covered with a tent?
  - Yes, while we do not provide the tent there is one that can be rented from Totally Tents in Frederick at 301-473-7004. Ted's Rent It Center in Hagerstown also offers a tent, though it is about half the size of the balcony.
- Can I put a tent up on the stone patio in front of the Tea Room?
  - Non permanent tents that do NOT require being staked to the ground and do not deface the stone work can be used with prior approval from the park staff.
- When can I get access to the Tea Room to set-up?
  - 10:00 am on the day of your rental.
- Am I responsible to clean-up after my event?
  - Yes, the Tea Room must be put back into the same condition as it was when you rented it. Also please remember that Gambrill is a trash free park and you must remove all trash, etc. when you depart the park.
- What time must I be out of the Tea Room the day of the event?
  - April & October:
    - 7 pm on weekdays (Monday through Friday)
    - 9 pm on weekends (Saturday and Sunday)

### RENTAL HOURS:

April & October: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm  
May through September: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

- May – September:  
9 pm weekdays (Monday-Friday) & weekends (Saturday & Sunday)
- Can I decorate the night prior?  
Yes, if you reserve the Tea Room for the day before and vacate by closing time.
- Can I place tables or chairs outside?  
Yes, but only on the stone decking at the front entrance and back of the building.
- Can I mark existing signposts on the roadway up to the Tea Room with balloons?  
No. Balloons have the potential to injure wildlife and can accumulate in the environment.
- Can I stake signs into the ground along the road with arrows/event name?  
Yes, but they must be removed following your event.

- How much decorating can I do in the Tea Room?
  - As much as you like, however you may not use tacks, nails, screws or other fasteners that will mark the walls, floors or beams. Use of clear tape is also not allowed –it leaves marks. If you are unsure check with park staff. Also decorating beyond the immediate area of the building is not permitted. Decorating of trees, rocks, statues and other park features is not permitted.
- Can I use an outside caterer?
  - Yes, please tell your caterer how to get to the Tea Room and let the park staff know so there will be no delays. The Tea Room Address is 8346 High Knob Road Frederick, MD 21702
- Can I serve alcohol at my event?
  - Yes, but you must obtain an alcohol permit for \$35 through the same online reservation system that you used to reserve the Tea Room. The staff of Gambrill State Park can NOT issue alcohol permits. Guest may not take alcohol into other parts of the park at any time. Call 1-888-432 CAMP for an alcohol permit.
- Can I amplify music outdoors at the Tea Room
  - No, your event's music should only be heard by those at the Tea Room. No one in the surrounding areas should be able to hear your music.
- Is it possible to use one of the shelters as well as the Tea Room for my event?
  - Yes, for \$43 but that is a separate rental agreement. Keep in mind that a separate alcohol permit must be purchased for each additional shelter.
- Can I use one of the overlooks for my wedding?
  - One of the major features of Gambrill State Park are the overlooks and many park visitors come just to see the views.
  - Currently, the South Frederick and Middletown Overlooks are open for reservations.
  - Reservations are for 1.5 hours. We suggest ½ hour for set up, ½ hour for your ceremony, and ½ hour for clean up.
  - The fee is \$25 and is non-refundable. Call our main office at 301-293-4170 to inquire.
  - Cash and checks are acceptable payments. We do not have a credit card machine. Checks should be made payable to 'Maryland DNR'
- Which overlook is closest to the Tea Room & has the best view?
  - The Middletown Overlook is the closest and has the best view, however it does not have space for large gatherings and the terrain is a bit rugged. The South Frederick Overlook is open and provides space for a more traditional set-up.
- What is the name/number of the pavilion closest to the Tea Room?
 

#3, it is located between the Middletown Overlook and the Tea Room
- Can my guests smoke in the Tea Room.
  - No, smoking is not permitted in any state own building.

- Do my guests have to pay to enter the park?
  - Yes, we require you to pay after your event to avoid overpaying. You may mail a check to the park office at 8602 Gambrill Park Road, Frederick, MD 21702 or place your payment in the High Knob honor box (located at the stop sign in High Knob). \$3 per car in state, and \$5 per car for out of state cars.
  
- Can my guests make use of the other amenities of the Park?
  - Of course. Many of the kids attending events at the Tea Room spend much of their time at the nearby Natural Playground. However, please keep in mind that Gambrill State Park is a public park and other visitors have as much right to the park as you and your guests.
  
- I am concerned that some of my guests may not be able to find the Tea Room. Can I put up signs or decorations to help guide them to the Tea Room?
  - Signs along the roadway are controlled by the county or state highway departments. They should be consulted prior to placing signs. Because Gambrill is a public park the use of signs, balloons, etc in the park to direct guest is NOT allowed. We will be happy to provide a physical address for the Tea Room to place on your invitations. The park office address is not the Tea Room address.
  - The Tea Room address is 8346 High Knob Road Frederick, MD 21702
  
- I am expecting a large number of cars at my event, will there be enough parking?
  - Parking is on a first come first serve basis, though the High Knob parking lot rarely fills to capacity. There is ample parking when using the spaces that line the High Knob day use area. Parking on the grass or along side the road is NOT permitted at any time and parking tickets may be issued by police.

**TEA ROOM INFORMATION**

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL 1-888-432-2267

**SERVICE CHARGES:**

\$128 per day on non-holiday weekdays  
 \$228 per day on holidays and weekends  
 \$35 per day optional alcohol permit

ALL INSTATE VEHICLES ENTERING THE PARK WILL BE CHARGED A \$3.00 SERVICE FEE. OUT OF STATE VEHICLES WILL BE CHARGED \$5.00.

**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE:**

55 people

The main heating source is the large stone fireplace in the great room. Firewood is included in the price of the rental. There is no air conditioning. The use of portable heaters or air conditioning is prohibited due to the limitations of the buildings electrical system. Please allow fire to die down at least 1 hour before departure. Do not put water on fire. Due to the potential threat of the emerald ash borer, the Maryland Department Natural Resources has prohibited the importation of personal firewood into all DNR owned and managed properties. DO NOT BRING FIREWOOD WITH YOU.

### **CHAIRS AND TABLES:**

Rental of the Tea Room includes use of the chairs and tables inside the Tea Room. The size and quantity of tables and chairs are on the bottom of Tea Room diagram. Tables and chairs must remain inside the Tea Room or on the balcony; they may NOT be taken from the Tea Room for any reason. Renter must provide separate chairs for ceremonies held at the overlooks. Renter is responsible for table & chair set up and removal.

### **CLEANING:**

Please leave Tea Room in the same condition that you found it in. Sweep & mop floor; cleaning supplies are provided. Due to recent problems involving damage to the Tea Room & excessive cleaning needs, the park will charge the registered occupant cost of damages or substantial cleaning. A letter will be sent from the manager to the registered occupant with documentation of damage and/or excessive cleaning needs. All Maryland State Parks are trash free, renter is responsible for removing trash from the premises.

### **DECORATIONS:**

Due to the historical nature of the facility, decorations can only be put up with masking or vinyl tape, no nails or tacks. If you wish to come into the Tea Room prior to your scheduled rental date to decorate, you must rent the Tea Room to do so.

### **ALCOHOL POLICY:**

Alcohol permits will only be issued when you make a reservation. A \$35 fee will be charged for each alcohol permit. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in all other areas of the park including the trails, campground, camper cabins, overlooks and parking areas. Permits may be revoked for cause by park manager, their designee or a Natural Resources Police Officer.

### **DOOR CODE:**

THE RENTER MUST CALL (301) 514-7840 (MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM TO 4:00PM) NO SOONER THAN 2 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE RESERVATION FOR THE COMBINATION TO THE TEA ROOM.

### **PETS:**

Pets are not permitted in the Tea Room.

## Facilities/ Amenities Included with Rental:

- 55 folding chairs
  - 8 round tables (5' diameter)
  - 6 rectangular tables (30" x 8')
  - 2 rectangular tables (30" x 6')
  - Full kitchen (sink, stove/ oven, refrigerator/ freezer, microwave)
  - Restrooms (men's and women's)
  - Fireplace and firewood
  - Trash bags
  - Cleaning supplies
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## Tea Room Diagram







