

## Garrett County, Maryland Briefing Sheets

**County Seat:** Oakland

**Government:** 3 Commissioners elected to 4-year terms. 3 new Commissioners re-elected in November 2018 (Paul Edwards, Larry Tichnell and Jim Hinebaugh)

**Elevation:** 960 to 3,360 feet above sea level

**Land Area:** 657 square miles, largest county in Maryland

**Population:** 30,097

**Annual Visitors**<sup>1</sup>: estimated 1.4 million

- \$314 million in Total Visitor Spending.
- \$360 million in Economic Impact.

**Yearly Average Snowfall:** 120 inches (nearly double that of Fairbanks, Alaska).

**Winter Average Temperature:** 29.1 degrees F

### **Garrett County is home to:**

- Deep Creek Lake, the state's largest freshwater lake
- Wisp Resort, Maryland's only ski resort (33 slopes & trails for skiing and snowboarding, snow tubing park, terrain parks, mountain coaster).
- Muddy Creek Falls, the state's highest free-falling waterfall (53') located at Swallow Falls State Park.
- Backbone Mountain, whose elevation of 3,360' is the highest point in Maryland.
- 90,000 acres of public land, more than any other county in Maryland
- 8 State Parks and 2 State Forests

### **Deep Creek Lake**

**Dimensions:** Extends 13 miles

**Surface Area:** 3,900 acres with 65 miles of shoreline

**Depths:** Maximum approximately 75 feet; average 25 feet

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<sup>1</sup> 2019 – 2020 Garrett County Market Survey conducted by West Virginia University.

### **Area Lakes**

Broadford Lake, Deep Creek Lake, Herrington Manor State Park, Jennings Randolph Lake, New Germany State Park, Savage River Reservoir, Youghiogheny River Lake

### **Area Rivers**

Casselman River, North Branch of the Potomac River, Savage River, Youghiogheny River

### **Activities & Attractions**

Amusements, Arcades, Area Towns, Arts, ATV, Aviation, Biking, Boating, Camps, Carriage/Sleigh Rides, Corn Maze, Cross Country Skiing, Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center, Farms, Fishing, Fly Fishing, Forests & State Parks, Go-Carts, Golf, Guide Services, Heritage Attractions, Hiking, Historic Sites, Horseback Riding, Hunting, Ice Fishing, Kayaking, Lakes, Learning Adventures, Live Theatre, Mini Golf, Mountain Biking, Mountain Coaster, Natural Attractions, Photography, Recreation,

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Rock Climbing, Rollerblading & Skateboarding, Sailing, Shopping, Skiing, Snowmobiles, Snowshoeing, Spas, Swimming, Tennis, Tours, Water Sports including Waterskiing, Wakeboarding, Canoeing, Touring, Whitewater Sports, among others.

### **Lodging Options**

Vacation Rental Home Companies, Vacation Rental Homes by Owner, Cabins & Lodges, Hotels & Motels, Bed & Breakfasts, Camping. View contact information for these accommodations at [visitdeepcreek.com](http://visitdeepcreek.com).

- Dogs are welcome at many lodgings and almost a third of rental homes allow dogs.

### **Winter**

#### **Wisp Resort**

**Elevation:** Summit 3,115 ft.; Base 2,415 ft.

**Trail System:** 34 slopes on 172 acres of skiable terrain, vertical drop: 700 ft.

**Slope Difficulty:** 35% beginner, 38% intermediate, 27% expert

**Grooming:** Beginner to expert, runs are groomed nightly

**Night Skiing:** Over 90% of skiable terrain is lit for night skiing & riding Lift System: Two quad chairlifts, five triple chairlifts, four conveyor carpets, one surface tow

**Snowfall:** The Deep Creek Lake area averages 120" annually, nearly double that of Fairbanks, Alaska

**Snowmaking:** Wisp has one of the world's most energy-efficient snowmaking systems with computerized weather and pumping stations that are world-renowned. 90% of all skiable terrain is equipped for snowmaking.

**Wisp Adventure Park:** Snow Tubing and Mountain Coaster

#### **Winter State Parks & Forests**

Offering groomed cross-country skiing trails (New Germany & Herrington Manor State Parks and Savage River State Forest)

Offering snowshoeing (Deep Creek Lake State Park, Swallow Falls State Park, Sang Run State Park, Wolf Den State Park, Herrington Manor State Park & Potomac-Garrett State Forest)

#### **Winter Activities & Attractions**

Cross Country Skiing, Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding, Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides, Snow Tubing, Snowmobiling (must bring your own), Snowshoeing, Mountain Coaster & Ice Fishing.

#### **Basic Information**

Tourism Specialists are available at the Visitors Center (15 Visitors Center Drive in McHenry, 301.387.4386) to assist with your planning needs. In addition to an interactive version of the official Deep Creek Lake Area and Garrett County Visitors' Guide, [visitdeepcreek.com](http://visitdeepcreek.com) features a lodging section offering availability information for local vacation rental homes, bed & breakfasts, camping sites, hotels and motels and cabins & lodges, dining information organized by restaurants, wineries, specialty shops and nightlife, a hot deals listing of area discounts, a calendar of events, an area snow & ski report, and seasonal Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 promotions in the spring and fall.

**Location:** western-most county in Maryland



#### **Getting Here**

Direct highway access makes it an easy drive from anywhere!

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**Highway Distances to the Deep Creek Lake Area**

| <b>CITY</b>           | <b>MILEAGE</b> | <b>CITY</b>             | <b>MILEAGE</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Baltimore, MD</b>  | 180 miles      | <b>Philadelphia, PA</b> | 284 miles      |
| <b>Charleston, WV</b> | 214 miles      | <b>Pittsburgh, PA</b>   | 106 miles      |
| <b>Cincinnati, OH</b> | 326 miles      | <b>Richmond, VA</b>     | 244 miles      |
| <b>Cleveland, OH</b>  | 225 miles      | <b>Washington, DC</b>   | 174 miles      |
| <b>Hagerstown, MD</b> | 109 miles      | <b>Wilmington, DE</b>   | 253 miles      |
| <b>Morgantown, WV</b> | 41 miles       | <b>Winchester, VA</b>   | 100 miles      |

**From Baltimore, Washington & the East:**

Follow I-70 to I-68, take exit 14A onto Route 219 South. Follow Route 219 for approximately 13 miles. The Visitors Center is on the right.

**From Ohio, Pittsburgh, Morgantown & the West:**

Follow I-79 to I-68, take exit 4 onto Route 42 South. Follow Route 42 for approximately 8 miles. Route 42 merges into Route 219 South. Follow Route 219 for approximately 1 mile. The Visitors Center is on the right.

**Explore the Great Outdoors in Deep Creek Lake and Garrett County, Maryland**

With an abundance of recreational activities and beautiful natural scenery, Garrett County, Maryland offers four seasons to find your Deep Creek experience. Skiing, hiking, kayaking, camping or simply curling up by the fire – the area’s natural beauty is the perfect destination whether you seek days full of activities or just plain relaxing.

The largest and western-most county in Maryland, Garrett County is home to the state’s largest freshwater lake, Deep Creek Lake, a popular attraction for vacationers in the spring, summer and fall and the state’s only ski resort, Wisp Resort, a popular destination for skiers, snowboarders and snowtubers to head for their winter getaways. At 3,900 acres with 65 miles of shoreline, Deep Creek Lake offers a wide variety of water-based activities. From boating, fishing, kayaking and tubing to personal watercraft, wakeboarding, swimming and canoeing, Deep Creek Lake offers plenty of on-the-water fun for every member of the family. With 34 slopes and trails, terrain parks, a snow tubing park, and a slopeside Hotel, Wisp Resort offers visitors a complete winter experience.

Garrett County is also home to Adventure Sports Center International, the world’s only mountaintop recirculating whitewater course, Muddy Creek Falls, the state’s highest free-falling waterfall (53’) located at Swallow Falls State Park, 90,000 acres of public land, more than any other county in Maryland and Backbone Mountain, whose elevation of 3,360’ is the highest point in the state. Garrett County’s average temperature is approximately 10 – 15 degrees cooler than most metropolitan areas, making it a popular vacation destination for those in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, MD and Pittsburgh, PA.

With all of these unique features, the area’s mountains, rivers and lakes offer an abundance of activities in every vacation season! From hiking and biking or a horse-drawn sleigh rides to golfing at one of our area courses or grabbing your kayak or raft to take on the rapids on our natural rivers or at ASCI’s recirculating whitewater course, you’ll have a wide variety of activities to choose to plan your Deep Creek Experience in Garrett County.

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In fact, Budget Travel listed the Deep Creek Lake area and the town of Oakland as one of America's Best Summer Lake Towns in 2010.

But, if you're looking to simply relax on your next getaway, Garrett County offers numerous spas – including ones that offer in-home massages, pontoon boat tours, horse-drawn carriage rides or nature walks at our eight state parks and two state forests. And the area's spacious lakefront homes, luxurious slope-side chalets, charming bed-and-breakfasts, rustic cottages and historic inns offer a welcome respite from the hectic pace of the city.

With museums, antiques, specialty shopping amusement centers, arcades, the Deep Creek Lake State Park Discovery Center, there's plenty to do indoors as well. Shopping is concentrated in three main areas: Grantsville, McHenry and Oakland but be sure to keep your eyes open beyond the main streets to find local treasures! The area's numerous small towns offer a glimpse into the county's history. Spruce Forest Artisan Village in Grantsville offers you the unique opportunity to visit with artisans creating pottery, metal sculpture, stained glass and more in historic structures. Visit the county's oldest residence, the Drane House, in the town of Accident or head to one of the area's 4 museums to learn the history of Garrett County or stop into the Garrett County Arts Council to view the work of local artists and pick up a few pieces to take home with you!

With all that there is to do in Garrett County, you're going to work up an appetite. So find a pub, grab some pizza or settle down for a gourmet meal and get a taste of Garrett County. You can even dock your boat at several while you eat! Deep Creek also feeds the fun-loving part of your soul with music and cocktails at lively late-night spots that also serve light fare.

There are also plenty of events to enjoy throughout the year in the Deep Creek Lake area. From the Fire on the Mountain July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks display overlooking Deep Creek Lake, the Deep Creek Dunk for Maryland Special Olympics and the Deep Creek Lake Art & Wine Festival to the Little Yough Summer Music Festival in downtown Oakland, Christmas in the Village at Spruce Forest Artisan Village and Art in the Park along the shores of Deep Creek Lake, there's an annual event for everyone! And our annual Autumn Glory Festival, held each October to celebrate our spectacular Fall foliage, even garnered national attention when it was listed the #1 Festival in the world by MSN.com in 2007. Travel & Leisure Magazine selected Oakland, MD as one of [Best Small Towns in the U.S. to See Fall Foliage](#) and included a mention of our annual Autumn Glory Festival. The travelchannel.com has listed the Autumn Glory Festival & Garrett County as one of America's 3 Best Autumn Road Trips from 2008 – 2014 and, in 2008, the baltimoresun.com listed Garrett County as one of the top 5 locales for Fall Foliage. In 2013, the Travel Channel listed Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County's annual Autumn Glory Festival and our two Fall Foliage Driving Tours as one of the top ten best Fall Foliage Road Trips in America. In 2015, Good Housekeeping included our Oakland, MD among the [Top 50 Small Towns with the Best Fall Foliage](#). For more information about the Annual Autumn Glory Festival, please log onto [visitdeepcreek.com/autumnglory](http://visitdeepcreek.com/autumnglory). To get the latest dates and information on area events prior to booking your trip, be sure to check our Calendar of Events at [visitdeepcreek.com](http://visitdeepcreek.com).

In addition to an interactive version of the official Deep Creek Lake Area and Garrett County Visitors' Guide, [visitdeepcreek.com](http://visitdeepcreek.com) features a lodging section offering availability information for local vacation rental homes, bed & breakfasts, camping sites, hotels and motels and cabins & lodges, dining information organized by

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restaurants, wineries, specialty shops and nightlife, a hot deals listing of area discounts, a calendar of events, an area snow & ski report, and seasonal Stay 3 nights for the price of 2 promotions in the spring and fall.

Garrett County is less than a three-hour drive from the metropolitan areas of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., less than a two-hour drive from Pittsburgh, PA, Winchester, VA and Hagerstown, MD and Morgantown, WV and Cumberland, MD are just 45 minutes away. For more information about Garrett County and Deep Creek Lake, please head to [visitdeepcreek.com](http://visitdeepcreek.com) or stop into the Visitors Center in McHenry.

The Garrett County Chamber of Commerce is the largest professional business association in the region with 500 members representing every industry in the community. The mission of the Chamber is to organize, support and represent Garrett County's business community in advancing common interests and additionally to promote Garrett County's hospitality and recreation industry by attracting visitors to the county through comprehensive marketing. The Garrett County Chamber also serves as the Destination Marketing Organization and Heritage Area Management entity for the County.

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Garrett County Chamber of Commerce  
15 Visitors Center Drive  
McHenry, MD 21541  
301.387.4386  
[visitdeepcreek.com](http://visitdeepcreek.com)