Unofficial Guide
to Fun Places in College Park and the Surrounding Areas
by University of Maryland grad students, faculty, and their friends

Use your trusty search engine to learn more!

1 On-campus and near-campus places of interest

The Union  The Stamp Student Union has an arcade and also an espresso/gelato bar.

Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  A place for drama, dance, music and comedy. approximately 1,000 performances every year!

On-Campus Recreation  The Campus Recreation Center (gym), on-campus fields, tennis courts, etc. offer nearly every imaginable sport as well as classes. There is a climbing wall and ropes course on campus as well.

Maryland Golf Course  Not only is this a great golf course, but there is also a great restaurant there for lunch.

Maryland Student Co-op  In the basement of the student union building, this co-op sells health food and veggie food and an assortment of other products.

University Dairy  The University of Maryland Dairy sells University of Maryland Ice Cream, among other things!

Grad Pub  Grad Pub is not a place, it is an event hosted by Graduate Student Government. It is held from 4 to 7 PM every Friday at R.J.Bentley’s in College Park. Food is free!! Meet people from as many as 20 other departments.

2 Religious activities on and near campus

There are MANY religious organizations on campus and nearby; check out http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/Diversity/Specific/Religion/Campus/UM/org.html for more information. Here are a few that have been mentioned specifically by our CS community:

Hillel  Check out marylandhillel.org for more information.

Catholic Student Center  Check out catholicterps.org for more info.

Yoga at the Shiva-Vishnu Temple  Free yoga classes are held at 7 AM on Saturday mornings at this temple in Lanham.

3 Sports

In addition to the Campus Recreation Center and the Maryland Golf Course (see On-Campus Places of Interest above), there are other nearby athletic opportunities.

Basketball  basketball@cs.umd.edu is a mailing list for people who like to play basketball.
Frisbee Golf  Paint Branch Parkway Community Park Disc Golf Course is an 18-hole disc golf course in College Park.

Racquetball  There is a Google group for racquetball: http://groups.google.com/group/cs-rball

Football  We have a department intramural football team.

Maryland Collegiate Athletics  Maryland is a Division-I ACC school with a tradition of great basketball! Tickets can usually be found at https://www.ticketreturn.com/umd/

4  Other things to do and places to go in College Park and nearby

See also Outdoorsy Things for an entry on Lake Artemesia.

Coffeehouses  College Perk is the neighborhood indie coffeehouse. Check out collegeperk.org.

Diners  Plato’s is a diner in College Park. a classic.

Pubs  Franklin’s is a brewpub in Hyattsville. Close to College Park!

Ice Skating  Herbert Wells Ice Skating Rink is open from October through March in College Park.

5  Outdoorsy things


Rock Creek Park  The “Central Park” of DC. Great for biking. Closed to cars on weekends. It’s beautiful!

Great Falls Park  Kayaking. Rock Climbing. Waterfalls!

6  Washington DC

DC is just a short metro (subway) ride from College Park! Here is just a small slice of all that DC has to offer.

6.1  U Street/Cardozo/Logan Circle Area

U Street is a hip neighborhood in DC that is a short Metro ride on the green line from College Park. This is just a small selection of what U Street has to offer!

6.1.1  Restaurants

Dukem  12th and U. The best ethiopian food in town!


Ben’s chilli bowl  13th and U. Historic grill that has served Michael Jordan, Chris Rock and Bill Cosby. All the celeb’s pics are on the walls. Low prices, and a good selection of veggie and non-veggie food.

Rice  14th and Q. Thai food. Their rice is indeed superb, and the veggie and non-veggie dishes are both good.
6.1.2  **Coffeehouses**

*Sparky’s*  14th and R. Sparky’s is an indie coffeehouse with espresso and pastries.

*Busboys and Poets*  13th and U. Very cheap, cool indie house. Food, coffee, and a bookstore with a tolerance theme.

6.1.3  **Bars and clubs**

*Cafe St Ex*  14th and T. Trendy restaurant upstairs, chill club downstairs. On the pricier side, but delicious. Great drink selection.

*Cobalt*  17th and R. Gay club, but open to all (especially before 2 AM). Tuesday is 70s and 80s night.

6.2  **Dupont Circle**

A little further west of Logan Circle, this DC neighborhood is on the red line of the Metro. There is a tremendous amount to do in Dupont Circle; here are just a few of our favorites:

*Kramerbooks*  Across the street from Dupont Circle Metro’s Q street exit. This bookstore, restaurant, and bar has absolutely excellent pies. A great place to go for dessert.

*Brickskeller*  22nd and P. This is a place of many beers. In fact, it has the world’s largest selection of beers.

6.3  **Gallery Place/Chinatown/Penn Quarter**

This neighborhood is also on the green line. Come here for Chinese food, shopping, and also...

*Lucky Strikes Lanes*  At Gallery Place. A swanky bowling alley.

*E Street Cinema*  Get your independent and foreign language films here.

*Zengo*  Latin/Spanish/Asian cuisine. Interesting!

*Matchbox*  New York-style brick oven pizza.

6.4  **Other DC stuff**


Almost everything is accessible by metro.