



2026 Parade and Festival FAQs

October 3, 2026

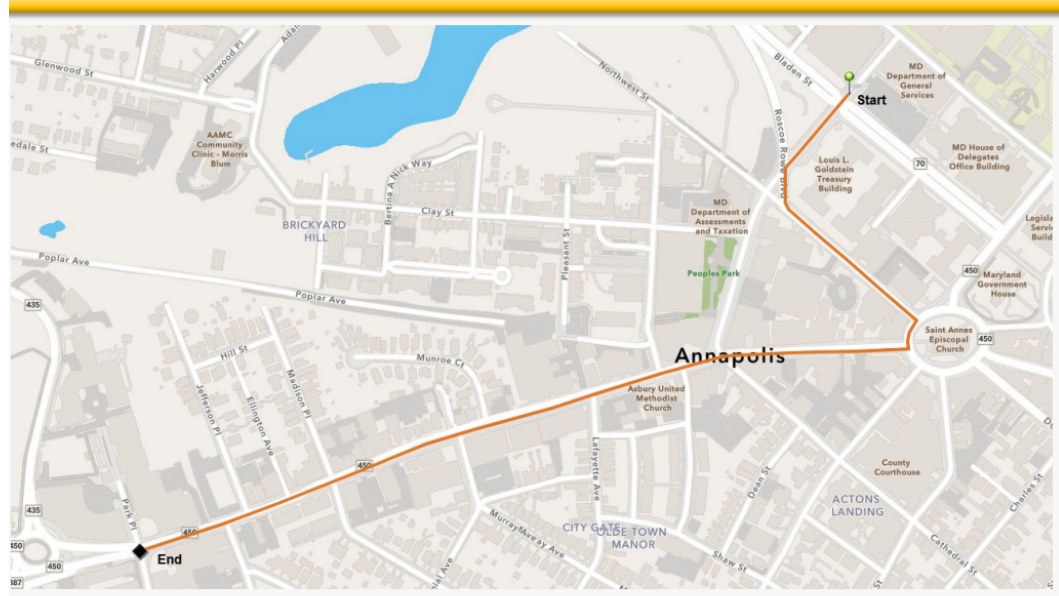
General Event FAQs

- **Where and when is the event? Saturday, October 3, 2026**
 - **PARADE START TIME: October 3 at 11:00 am.** The parade will begin promptly at 11:00 am and will last around 90 minutes. Check-in will start at 8:30 am, and participants will receive a reporting time one week before closer to the event.
 - **FESTIVAL LOCATION:** Bates Athletic Complex (935 Spa Rd.). 150+ Vendors, including many local food trucks!
 - **FESTIVAL TIME: October 3, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM - FREE** and open to the public.
- **Where should I park?**
 - Parking is **NOT** available at Maryland Hall or the Bates Field Complex for the general public attending the parade and festival. If you park at Maryland Hall, you will be ticketed and towed because another event is happening at the same time.
 - **Recommended:** USNAMC Stadium - USNAMC Stadium only accepts credit/debit cards for payment. **NO CASH.**
 - Navy Stadium parking is available for presale for \$20 + fees. Click [HERE](#) to purchase parking in advance. Parking will be a flat \$30 if purchased the day of the event.
 - Parking is available in the Blue Lot, Gate 5 at 550 Taylor Avenue. Attendants will be available to assist and direct you.
 - The nearest public garage to the festival is [Park Place Garage](#).
 - Other downtown parking options convenient to the parade and festival are: [Knighton Garage](#) and [Gotts Court Garage](#)
 - You can access these before the parade, but you will not be able to leave until after the parade has finished.

Annapolis Pride will provide free shuttle service from the parade route and festival to Navy Stadium and five stops along West St. convenient to all three garages. They will have Annapolis Pride-branded magnets on their sides. Shuttles will run from the stadium from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Scroll down to see the maps for the routes before and after the parade.

- Shuttle Stops will be located at:
- 80 West Street

- The Graduate Hotel
- The Hilton Garden Inn Hotel
- Park Place
- Navy Stadium- near the Blue Angel plane
- **Does it cost anything to attend?**
 - The event is FREE and open to the public.
- **Is it family-friendly?**
 - Yes! This family-friendly event is suitable for all ages. A designated Kids Zone will include bounce houses, arts & crafts stations, and face painting.
- **Where is the best place to watch the parade?**
 - You can watch the parade anywhere along the 1.2-mile route, with no parked cars or traffic.
 - The parade begins at St. John's College (Calvert Street), proceeding down Bladen Street, around part of Church Circle, and down West Street to Amos Garrett Boulevard.



- **Is the Parade and Festival Accessible for People with Disabilities?**
 - YES! Annapolis Pride works to be fully inclusive.
 - Free shuttles from the USNA stadium parking lot to the parade and festival will be ADA-accessible.
 - ADA accessible seating will be available under the shaded outdoor patio at The Graduate Hotel at 126 West St, Annapolis, MD 21401. The area will be marked with signage, and Pride volunteers will be posted there to assist. You can access the patio by approaching the hotel entrance and using the restaurant garage door to the patio or, for those with more mobility, from the sidewalk stairs.
 - A shuttle will pick up at The Graduate Hotel after the parade concludes and take attendees to the Bates Field parking lot, providing ground-level access to the festival.

- Shuttles will also be available at several spots along the parade route that will run to Bates Field and back to the USNA parking lot. Scroll down this document to see the routes.
- Other forms of accessibility include ASL interpreters at the Festival main stage and a Sensory tent, for anyone who is feeling overwhelmed or overstimulated at the festival. The tent is new in 2026 and will provide a place that is somewhat removed and includes fidgets, coloring, tactile elements like sand and putty, etc. This is a great place for kids and adults!
- **What happens if it rains?**
 - The Annapolis Pride Parade & Festival is a rain-or-shine event. If the weather is extreme, we will communicate appropriately.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Text PRIDE26 to 38276 to receive event alerts and essential updates on the day of the event. Please [join our email list](#) and follow us on social media (@annapolispride) to receive additional updates and alerts.
- **Are there other events happening on Pride weekend?**
 - Yes! Join in the fun at the Pride After Party starting at 6 pm at The Graduate Hotel, 126 West Street. Shuttles will be available to take you from the Festival to the Graduate Hotel, and DJ Dave O will be performing from 6:30-8:30 pm.
- **Will there be food trucks?**
 - We have many food trucks offering a diverse range of food, including vegetarian and vegan options.
- **What kinds of beverages will be available?**
 - No alcohol may be sold or consumed at the festival this year.
 - Vendors will offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages and water.
- **Annapolis Pride Merch**
 - Annapolis Pride will be selling T-shirts and other branded merchandise at its tent. We will accept only cash or credit card payments.
 - We will have many other branded items like car magnets, bracelets, key chains, and stickers to give away to attendees- so please stop by!
- **How will I know where different vendors/organizations are?**
 - General maps of the festival grounds will be available via QR code, on the Annapolis Pride website, and on printed maps at the festival.
 - Specific vendor locations will not be available in advance, as placement is determined when they arrive at the festival grounds.
 - A list of vendors is available [here](#) (subject to change).
- **What are the organizers doing to ensure this is a safe event?**
 - Annapolis Pride board members have been meeting with city and county officials, and safety is a top priority for everyone.
 - City police officers will be present on-site for both the parade and festival to ensure the safety of attendees, volunteers, and participants.

- Annapolis Pride also hires private security personnel who will be helping throughout the festival location.
 - The road to Bates Field will be blocked from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM to prevent vehicles from entering the area.
 - Remember, if you see something, say something - tell one of the Annapolis Pride volunteers or security if you see anything suspicious. They are connected by radios to the police if emergencies arise.
- **Other important information:**
 - Stay hydrated and wear sunscreen! Water will be available to purchase. Given it is October, you may also need a jacket!
 - **Leave your pets at home.** Trained service dogs are welcome, but we recommend leaving your pets at home since there will be large crowds, loud noises, and other things that may scare pets.
- **How do I find First Aid?**
 - The Annapolis Pride tent will have a First Aid kit for simple injuries.
 - If more care is needed, the Fire Department will have personnel on site at their tent to provide additional first aid, and bicycle responders will be available throughout the festival area.

Detailed Parade & Festival Parking Information

The recommended parking location for the parade and festival is at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (NMCMS). Local garages fill up quickly, and visitors are strongly discouraged from parking in residential areas with restricted parking. *The City of Annapolis strictly enforces parking regulations and issues tickets and tows vehicles.*

Location:

Enter the parking lot at NMCMS from Taylor Ave (550 Taylor Ave) at Gate 5 in the Blue Lot.

Cost:

Navy Stadium parking is available for presale for \$20 + fees. Click [HERE](#) to purchase parking in advance. Parking will be a flat \$30 if purchased the day of the event, payable by CREDIT/DEBIT only.

TIMING: Gates open for parking at 7:30 am

.FREE Shuttle 7:30 am - 6:30 pm:

Annapolis Pride & Chesapeake Charter, Inc. provide a free shuttle to transport you to the parade and festival location and back to the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium. The shuttles will have branded magnets on the sides. Some of the shuttles are accessible to people with disabilities.



From Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium to the Parade (Downtown) from 7:30 am to 11 am)

For parade viewing:

- Parade Start (St. John's)
- 80 West Street
- The Graduate (accessible seating)
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Park Place
- Amos Garrett/Parade End
- Bates Field Parking Lot
- Return to Stadium



Immediate Post-Parade Routes from 12:30 pm Until Crowds on West Street Reduce

Two routes will take people directly to Bates Field for the festival. Some buses will go directly from Navy Stadium to Bates Field, while others will pick up parade watchers along West Street and bring them to Maryland Hall.

Route 1:

- From Navy Stadium
- 80 West Street
- The Graduate Hotel
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Park Place
- Amos Garrett/Parade End
- Bates Fields Parking Lot
- Return to Stadium.

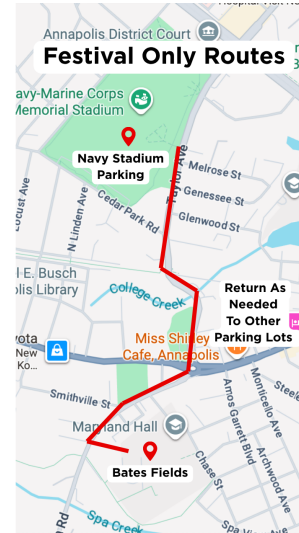
Route 2:

- From Navy Stadium
- Bates Fields Parking Lot
- Return to Stadium.



Festival Only After West Street clears until 7:30 pm.

- From Navy Stadium
- To Bates Fields
- Return to Stadium.
- Buses will also return to West St. as needed.



Annapolis Public Transport to the Festival

After the streets reopen following the parade, Annapolis City buses will operate on their usual Saturday schedule. The green route will run from downtown to Westgate Circle. See this [map](#).

The City of Annapolis runs FREE [magenta downtown](#) shuttles that will also run from [City Dock to Westin Circle](#), in case you want to have lunch downtown before going to the festival.

Annapolis Pride Shuttle buses will be present to take you to the festival or Navy Stadium from this location.

DO NOT PARK AT THE FUEL PUMPS ON SPA ROAD or MARYLAND HALL. YOU WILL BE TOWED!