

Living Above or Below the Fall Line

The Fall Line runs from New Jersey to Georgia. This imaginary line separates the Piedmont Plateau from the Coastal Plain. The Piedmont Plateau is a region composed of hard metamorphic rocks and forms the foot of the Appalachian Mountain chain. The Coastal Plain is made up of soft sedimentary rocks washed down from the mountains and deposited along the coast.

The Fall Line is the break in slope where the rivers flow off the plateau and down onto the plain through a series of waterfalls. The Fall Line was one of the factors in determining the location of the East Coast's major cities. The waterfalls acted both as physical barriers and logical locations for water-wheel powered industries. Cities including Baltimore, Philadelphia, Richmond, and Washington, D.C. are located along the Fall Line. Cecil County is split by the Fall Line, roughly along I-95, with the hilly woodlands of the Piedmont Plateau to the northwest and the flat farmlands and wetlands of the Coastal Plain to the southeast.



Image credit: The Fall Line <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3009/images/>

Where To Get Help for Fall Line information

- Cecil County Orthophotography, Topography, and Planimetrics Data <http://www.ccgov.org/government/land-use-development-services/gis>
- Fall Line Information <http://www.mgs.md.gov/geology/>