This Guide
This guide is an attempt to consolidate information about rock climbing in Alapocas to make Alapocas more accessible. It is a work in progress. Please e-mail any feedback about this guide to: donnamichaelhartman@yahoo.com

Disclaimers
This guide is not affiliated with, nor endorsed by the Delaware State Parks.
Rock climbing and rappelling are dangerous activities and may result in severe injuries or death. Participants in these activities assume responsibility for their actions. The author has no liability for anyone who uses the information in this document. This document is a guide to climbing routes. It is not a climbing instruction manual. You should obtain proper training in climbing from qualified individuals before using the information in this guide. The information in this guide is believed to be accurate, but inaccuracies may exist.

History
The rock climbing walls in Alapocas are in a former quarry. The quarry operated in the late 1800s. The Wilmington blue rock was quarried on the north side of the river and transported by cable cars to the south side for processing and loading onto railroad cars. You can see the remnants of drill holes and blasting marks on many of the rock faces.
The majority of the park land was deeded to the City of Wilmington in 1910.
Many people think the blue rock is granite. However, the rock is gneiss. Some blue rock turns a rust color due to the iron in the rock.

Directions
The park has 2 parking lots. The Bancroft Mills lot provides the easiest access for climbing. See map on following page.
1. The parking lot at the ball fields. I-95 to Route 202 North exit. Exit right onto 141 South / 261 Foulk Rd before getting onto Route 202. Take left onto 141 South. The 3rd traffic light is Alapocas Drive, near the Dupont Experimental Station. Turn left onto Alapocas Drive. Take first right and enter the park. OR I-95 to Route 202 South. Right at first traffic light onto Broom Street. Right onto 18th Street. Right at traffic light onto Augustine Cut-off. Left into Alapocas on Alapocas Drive. Take Alapocas Drive past Wilmington Friends School and through the neighborhood into the woods. When emerging from the woods, turn left and proceed to the parking lot. Hike down to the river area and take the Greenway to the climbs.
2. The parking lot at the Bancroft Mills, which is south of the Brandywine river, near the pedestrian bridge over the river. Pick up Rockford Rd near Rockford Park and go north towards the river until Rockford Rd ends. Turn right and go past the townhouses on your left. The state parking lot is beyond the townhouses, behind a chain link fence, behind the old Bancroft Mills building. You will see dark brown signs designating the state park lot. Do not park outside of the fenced area or your vehicle may be towed. Exit the fenced area on foot the way you entered by car, immediately turn right, go between the townhouses and the Bancroft Mills building and cross the bridge to enter the park. A sign indicates the gate to the bridge is locked when the park closes at sunset. Follow the Greenway approximately a ¼ mile to a rock climbing sign. The climbs are on your left.

When at the base of the Main Wall, there is a path about 30 yards to the left (i.e. northwest) of the Main Wall that connects the base with the top.
Permits
Rock climbing in Alapocas requires a rock climbing permit from the Delaware State Parks office. There is no fee for the permit. The office can be contacted at:

Wilmington State Parks
1021 West 18th Street
Wilmington, DE 19802
(302) 577-7020 voice
(302) 577-7084 fax

You can also obtain a rock climbing permit at the Blue Ball Barn park office on Route 202 just north of I-95. The Blue Ball Barn office has weekend hours: Saturday & Sunday 8 am to 4 pm.

Ethics
Some routes are bolted. Some holds appear to be chipped. The current situation is that the state park does not want climbers to install bolts or modify the rock. The state park will contract to professionally install any bolts or anchors going forward. Please respect this policy.

If you find any issues with the anchor hardware on the Main Wall, please send an e-mail to DNREC_WilmingtonProg@state.de.us

Route Development
The Wilmington State Parks has been supportive of developing the rock climbing at Alapocas, as it is the only park with decent rock in Delaware and in the local area. In July 2008, the park contracted with Earth Treks of MD to have 6 bolt anchors installed at the top of the Main Wall climbs. The park had Earth Treks install additional anchors at the Main Wall in April 2010.

Climbing Rules
The park should provide you with a set of climbing rules when you receive your rock climbing permit. Please follow the park rules, so you do not jeopardize access. The state parks web site has rock climbing information and a PDF of climbing regulations at:

The following are key highlights of the rules that are believed to be accurate as of the date of this guide:

Only the Main Wall is open for climbing. Any routes depicted on other walls are not open. They are provided for historical reference. The park does not allow tying ropes around trees. Bouldering is not an approved activity.

Names
Area names, route names, and grades have been preserved when known. Names and grades have been made up when not known. Let me know if you are aware of different area names, route names, or grades.

Credits
Many thanks to my climbing buddies, especially Karl and Mark, for all the climbing at Alapocas with me.
MW - Main Wall (Right) Climbing Area
MW - Main Wall (Right) Routes

Latitude, Longitude: 39°46.132', -75°33.503'

There is a path that connects the top of the Main Wall with the bottom. From the base, the path is found approximately 30 yards to the left of the the climbs. The path enters the top of the wall near climb #1.

1. Junior Slab – 5.3 (30 ft) (a.k.a Very Sticky Babysteps Up From Pullin' Plastic on rockclimbing.com)
   Protection – top-rope (bolt anchor)
   An easy low angle slab climb. Good footwork practice. Same angle as Old Granddad.

Access routes 2 through 5 by rappelling down Dichotomy Corner or Old Granddad or by scrambling up from the bottom.

2. Dichotomy – 5.8 (35 ft)
   Protection – top-rope (bolt anchor)
   Mostly 5.6 climbing with the crux (5.8) at the start of the second half of the climb. There are multiple ways to solve the crux. The bottom half of the climb is low angle, bad hands, and good feet. The upper half of the climb is more vertical with good hands.

2a. Variation on the start is 5.6.

3. Dichotomy Corner – 5.6 (35 ft)
   Protection – top-rope (bolt anchor)
   Same start as Dichotomy or start slightly more to the right. Then climb the dihedral to the right.

3a. Bend Over and Take It – same start as Dichotomy Corner, but traverse right under the roof and then finish on Scar Face.

4. Scar Face – 5.9 (35 ft) (a.k.a Self Domination on rockclimbing.com)
   Protection – top-rope (same bolt anchor as Dichotomy Corner)
   Start 8 feet to the right of Dichotomy / Dichotomy corner near a drill hole scar. Climb straight up to the right side of the large block. Climb over the block and finish in the dihedral. The crux is at the start. Your rope may get chewed up if it gets into a small V notch in the middle of the climb.

5. Old School – 5.7 (35 ft)
   Protection – top-rope (gear)
   Start 10 feet to the right of Scar Face. Climb straight up the first half. Then climb the crack up and to the right. There is an old piton a few feet left of the crack. Avoid setting up your rope such that both the belayer's rope and climber's rope are in the constriction at the top of the crack. If just the climber's rope is in the constriction, you should be ok.
6. **Old Grandmom** – 5.2 (? ft)
Protection – top-rope (bolt anchor)
Low angle easy climb.

7. **Old Granddad** – 5.2 (? ft) (a.k.a **Bob's Slab** on rockclimbing.com)
Protection – top-rope (bolt anchor)
Low angle easy climb.

Routes 8 and 9 can be accessed easily by rappel. These routes can also be accessed from the base of the wall by scrambling up the face to the left of Arena Arete. If you do not want to top out when finished climbing, rappel to the base of the wall (60M rope), or scramble up the ramp to the right of the climbs, or scramble down past Arena Arete.

8. **Chipper** – Greater than 5.10? (35 ft)
Protection – top-rope (bolt anchor)
Start below the drill hole scar. Climb straight up to the top. One hand hold and foot hold at the start appear to be chipped.

9. **Spanky** – Greater than 5.10? (35 ft)
Protection – top-rope (same bolt anchor as Chipper)
Start to the right of Chipper where the rock turns from gray to tan. Climb up and slightly to the right initially. After acquiring the nice ledge in the middle of the climb, go left a bit and then straight up. Lower half is 5.8. Upper half is ?
10. Arena Arete – 5.9/V0 (20 ft)
Protection – top-rope. Use large iron eyelet that is on top of the slab plus gear placements. Create a directional using the Rambo / Grey Streak bolt anchor to prevent the top rope anchor from sliding down the arete.
Climb the arete and face to the left of the two bolted lines (Rambo and Grey Streak).

11. Rambo – 5.12a/V4 (20 ft)
Protection – sport (2 bolts) or top-rope. For a top-rope anchor, either use the 2 bolt anchor and add your own gear (carabiners & webbing/cord) so you do not wear out the bolt loops or create an anchor using the large iron eyelet that is on top of the slab plus gear placements.
The left bolted line. Climb to tiny crimps, then dyno to the ledge to finish at the bolt anchor.

12. Grey Streak – 5.10b/V0+ (20 ft)
Protection – sport (2 bolts) or top-rope. For a top-rope anchor, see note on Rambo above.
The right bolted line. Finish at the same bolt anchor as Rambo.

13. Temptation – Greater than 5.10? (20 ft)
Protection – top rope (gear anchor). The anchor point hanging over the center of the large block above the climb works well.
The route between Grey Streak and the corner. Resist the urge to use the corner. The crux is the thin section about two-thirds the way up.

14. Chossy’s Corner – 5.6 (20 ft)
Protection – top rope. If top-roping from the bolt anchors at the very top, be very careful of rope stretch. If you fall you have a good chance of hitting something.
Climb the choss in the corner. The top-out move is a bit strenuous and is the crux.
MW - Main Wall (Left) Climbing Area
When hiking the path that connects to the top of the main wall, there is an anchor below the large tree that is adjacent to the path.

**15. Hungry For Me** – 5.5 (50 ft)
Latitude, Longitude: 39° 46.156', -75° 33.512'
Protection – top-rope (bolt anchor). Possible trad lead?
Climb the ledges right of the vertical crack. Then climb straight up to the anchor.
FA: Amanda McMillan – April 3, 2011
FC - Fertile Crescent Wall (Closed)
FC - Fertile Crescent Wall (Closed)

This wall is closed. Historically, there was 1 route on this wall, Fertile Crescent.

Latitude, Longitude: 39°46.258', -75°34.090'

1. Fertile Crescent – 5.6 (~40 ft)
IK - Info Kiosk Wall (Closed)

Latitude, Longitude: 39°46.171', -75°33.503'

This wall is closed. No historical routes are known on this wall.
X – XXX Wall (Closed)

Latitude, Longitude: TBD
This wall was assessed by the state park as having loose rock that is not suitable for climbing. Stay off this wall or you may kill yourself, or worse, someone else.