

## The Height of Baltimore By Emily Colyar



*The bottom of the stairs of Federal Hill park on a winter day*

The passing cars on Warren Ave, owners chasing their unleashed dogs, runners sprinting up the steps at the end of their workout—all views from the top of Federal Hill park. I spend most Sunday mornings running up or past Federal Hill. Coming into Loyola, I wanted to explore the city of Baltimore. I love the city aspect of this school that took awhile to adjust to. The city I grew up near always seemed intimidating, and my parents always warned me never to go alone. Suddenly, I was thrown into in a new city by myself that wasn't as scary as my parents made it seem. My friends and I love hanging out downtown in the city on Friday and Saturday nights, but when that's all over, I wake up Sunday morning to clear my mind and head down to the Inner Harbor to run. I stumbled upon Federal Hill after running through the Inner Harbor. I enjoy the city scenes as I run past Power Plant, the Aquarium and towering hotels like the Marriott and Four Seasons. While these city sites are a bliss, trudging up the steps of Federal Hill that feel endless gives the city a calming, peaceful aura. The effort to get to the top may be tiresome – the views and ambiance are worth it. You can see the city of Baltimore, the Harbor and a glimpse into lives of everyday people that reside in Baltimore. The surrounding neighborhoods are filled with restaurants, shops and historic sights to see.

### City Life Experiences

Federal Hill does not only consist of the hill top park, but a neighborhood of restaurants. The streets are lined with brick, filled with places to eat that bring people from all over. The neighborhood outlining Federal Hill gives a homey feeling to the city. The area surrounding “Fed Hill” – as most people refer to it – is safe and inviting. Restaurants such as [Nobles](#) and [Watershed](#) are filled with people from Loyola, Johns Hopkins, Towson and more. The demographic of people who go out in Federal Hill makes your experience there very casual; most people around your age and in school. There are always familiar faces and new smiles awaiting you. Federal Hill provides that homey atmosphere no matter where you are from by bringing family and friends together.

Federal Hill provides that homey atmosphere no matter where you are from. Fed Hill will make you feel like you never left home all while forming new relationships and having new experiences.



*Photo of boats in the Inner Harbor by [Irina Sitnikova](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

## Getting Around

While Federal Hill feels like an out-of-city experience, it is very important to travel with other people. There are a few ways to get to Federal Hill. You can ask a friend or upperclassmen who has a car on campus. One very popular way of getting around in college is Uber. In order to stay safe, it's crucial to travel with friends anywhere in the city.



*The view of the Inner Harbor from the top of Federal Hill*

## The History of Federal Hill

Federal Hill park not only includes a stairway to a view of the city, but it has a deep history in Baltimore. It is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Baltimore. During the 18th century, Federal Hill was at the height of industrial growth and home to hundreds to thousands of immigrants. Fed was known as a historic hub for ship building. You can find a shipyard just down the street of Warren Avenue. You will also recognize the cannons at the top of the hill. These cannons are pointed towards the Inner Harbor and represent a piece of the Civil War. In 1880, the city purchased the land and designated it as Federal Hill.

## A Birds - Eye View

Another great piece of Fed Hill is the park. The hill itself overlooks the Harbor of Baltimore. At the beginning of the semester when I first discovered Fed Hill, the warm weather was perfect for volleyball across from the [Maryland Science Center](#) or going for a run with my suitemate throughout the harbor. Sometimes my roommates and I would go to the [Rusty Scupper](#) for a high end dinner. If running isn't your thing, a long walk around the Hill to get to the top of the park encompasses the vibrance of Baltimore. When the trees are blossoming, the park is filled with oranges and greens. The park itself has a walkaround pavement to get to the top or a flight of stairs to race your friends to the top.

## Exactly What You're Looking For

So if you're ever looking for a place to eat, to meet people, to clear your head, or explore the city in a safe environment, Federal Hill has the opportunities for you. Federal Hill is a great way to connect with friends or meet new people—this place brings people together and helps college students adjust to the city of Baltimore. Fed Hill is filled with good food, people and views. If you are looking for more information, [federalhill.org](http://federalhill.org) offers recommendations, resources and advice on what to explore.

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