

Prince William Forest Park

Triangle, Virginia

Like an island, Prince William Forest Park contains a wealth of wilderness. Northern Virginia's rising tide of population stops at the park's edge and in 17,000 acres of eastern deciduous forest nature still holds its own.

The park lies within a half-hour's drive for more than three million people and welcomes those who seek renewal and refreshment from the outdoors. Here the National Park Service aims to preserve the increasingly rare example of piedmont forest and to protect the Quantico Creek watershed. Endangered species

survive in this community of native plants and wildlife. Beavers have made a comeback along the creek, and visitors may catch a glimpse of squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, white-tailed deer, even the elusive turkey and fox.

The park offers a broad choice of recreational features. Camping experiences range from primitive backcountry to cabin camps. More than 35 miles of trails await hikers. Bicyclists tour the paved scenic loop through the park or ride unpaved roads. Orienteering is popular, as is fishing. Picnic areas and open spaces offer family fun.

Native Americans once hunted along the Quantico. Hardy Scotsmen settled here and tilled the land for tobacco to be shipped from the port at Dumfries. But poor farming practices depleted the soil and silted in the harbor. Today, old wagon roads and shadowed cellarholes of early farmsteads are clues from the past along the park's

trails. One trail leads to a pyrite mine, a source of sulphur in the 19th century. Another trail shows how the forest has reclaimed the land. Rustic cabins and bridges built by the Civilian Conservation Corps are landmarks from the 1930s when the federal government began converting this land to recreation.

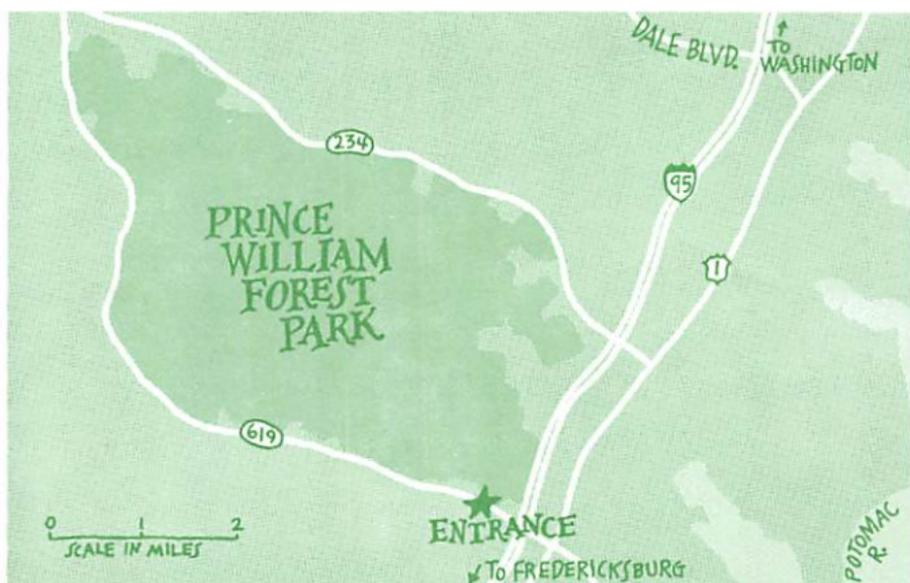
For its historical and natural interest, its recreational offerings, or a getaway from the city, visit nearby Prince William Forest Park.



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How to Get There



The park lies 31 miles south of Washington, D.C., just off I-95. Take the exit for Route 619 West. Go one-quarter mile to park entrance.
FEES: \$3 per car; \$1 per person (if no vehicle); annual pass \$10; ages 16 and under and persons with National Park Golden Age or Golden Access Passports admitted free.

Hours

Dawn to dusk (Campers may enter/exit at any time.)
Visitor Center: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Christmas and New Year's Day

Features

- Visitor Center—information, exhibits, nature films on request, and bookshop
- Wayside markers
- Picnic areas
- Trails
- Family campground (no reservations); group camping (permits required in advance)
- Ranger-conducted walks and talks
- ♿ Forest trail near Visitor Center and other facilities accessible to wheelchairs

Information

Call 703-221-7181 (V/TDD) or write:
Superintendent
Prince William Forest Park
Box 209
Triangle, VA 22172



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