

*PRINCE WILLIAM
FOREST PARK*



VIRGINIA

THIRTY-TWO miles south of the Nation's Capital lies this beautiful haven of shade and quiet, named for the Virginia county in which it is located. The main park entrance is off Va. 619, one mile west of its intersection with U.S. 1 and 0.4 mile west of the intersection with Interstate 95. From Triangle and Dumfries on the east, the park's 12,290 acres extend northwestward 9 miles to Independent Hill.

NATURAL FEATURES

Beginning with the arrival of the area's first settlers in the late 17th century, the forests were cut and the land was plowed. Lumber and fur, tobacco and grain—products of virgin forests and fertile soils—were carried to distant countries from the then thriving port of Dumfries at the mouth of Quantico Creek. In this era of plenty, few conservation practices were observed, and the soil soon lost its fertility. Light and erodible, it was washed away by rains and carried downstream to silt up the Dumfries harbor. The decline of the port and of the local area it served was caused primarily by abuse of the land. By the start of the 20th century, the unproductive farmland had begun to revert to forest.

Only a few years ago, the area comprising the park was a patchwork of abandoned farms and woodlands in various stages of natural succession. These have since gradually given way to a beautiful forest that includes 89 known species of trees and shrubs, some of which measure over 5 feet in diameter. Included in the forest are pure stands of Virginia pine, a large variety of hardwoods, and a green understory of shrubs, including mountain laurel, holly, dogwood, and redbud. In most areas along streams the forest once again appears primeval. The watersheds of the North and South Branches of Quantico Creek lie almost entirely within the park. Erosion by this creek has removed many of the Coastal Plain sediments, exposing underlying ancient rocks of the Piedmont province. The Coastal Plain formations are of sand, gravel, and clay, while the Piedmont rocks are typically granite, schist, and quartzite. Before 1920, pyrite, containing iron and sulfur, was mined near the confluence of the North and South Branches of Quantico Creek.

The park's wildlife occupies a variety of habitats: stream valleys, old fields, borders of field and woodland, and ridges covered with evergreen or deciduous trees. Among the resident animals are white-tailed deer, red and gray foxes, beaver, raccoon, opossum, flying squirrel, gray squirrel, skunk, and woodchuck; wild turkey, ruffed grouse, red-tailed hawk, and numerous species of song birds; and many kinds of fishes, reptiles, and amphibians. Humans are visitors here, and nature is the host. Help protect the plants and animals and their environment.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICE

A park naturalist is on duty all year to help you enjoy and understand the park's forest and wildlife. He is available for conducted trips, illustrated talks, and other such programs. In addition, he maintains self-guiding nature trails and exhibits at Turkey Run Ridge Nature Museum. Groups are invited to contact him for appointments by calling park headquarters.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Tent camping. Oak Ridge Campground is designed for family camping. It has 120 campsites, each of which has a paved slip for parking a car or camping trailer and is equipped with a tent site, table, fireplace, and garbage receptacle. Small camping trailers are permitted, except those with bath or toilets. There are modern comfort stations, water, and a free wood supply. There is no charge for camping. This campground is operated on a "first come, first served" basis.

Turkey Run Ridge Campground is designed for group tent camping. It has 8 sites, each of which will accommodate from 15 to 100 campers. Each site is equipped with fireplaces and garbage receptacles only. It has central modern comfort stations, water, and wood supply. Group campers must make advance reservations. There is no charge for camping.

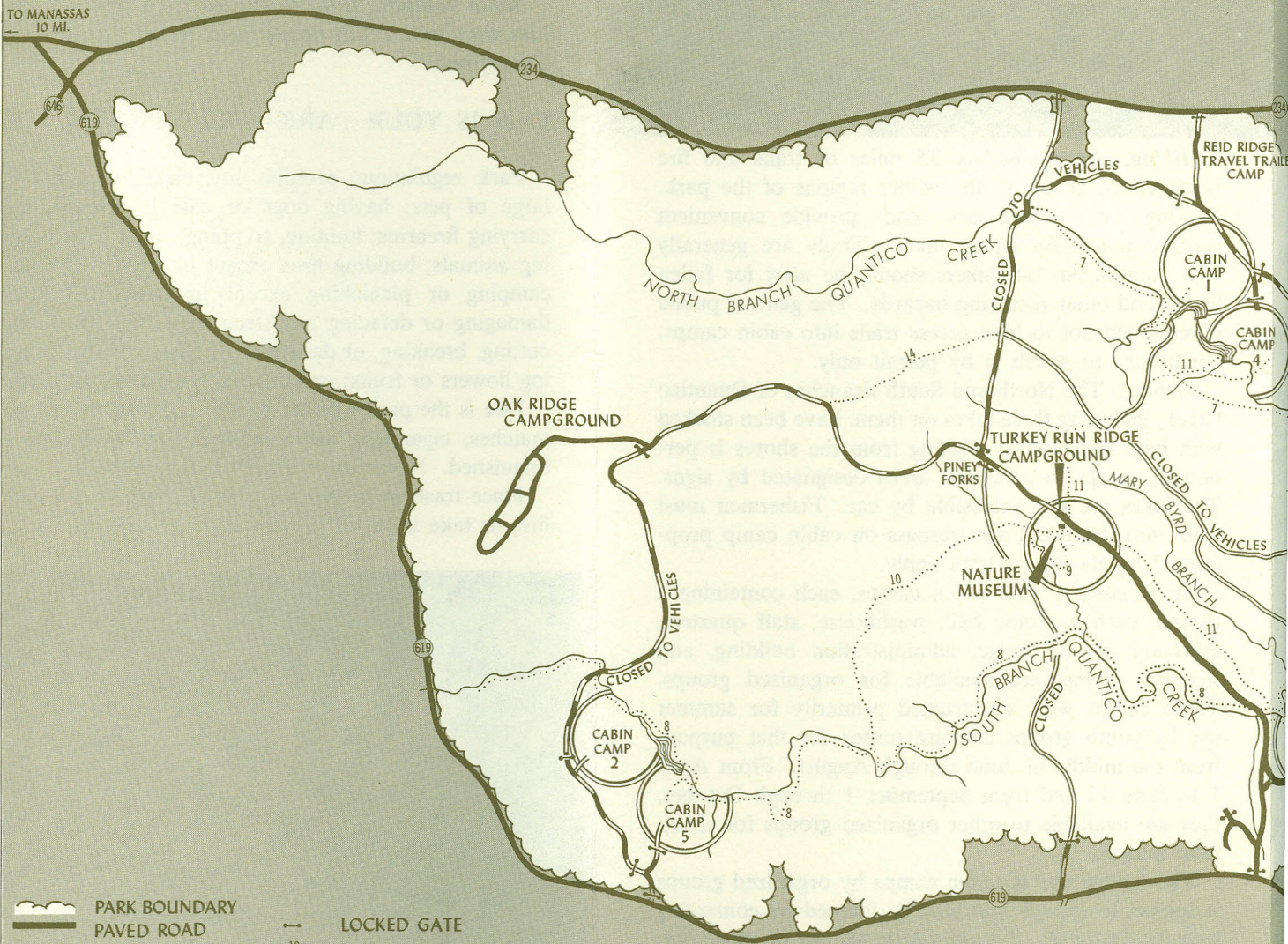
Picnicking. Pine Grove and Telegraph Road Picnic Grounds, near the main park entrance, are open all year. They will accommodate about 1,000 people. Tables, fireplaces, garbage receptacles, water, comfort stations, a playfield, and shelter are provided on a "first come, first served" basis. There is no charge. Self-guiding nature trails begin and end at each picnic ground.

PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK

TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA

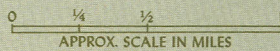
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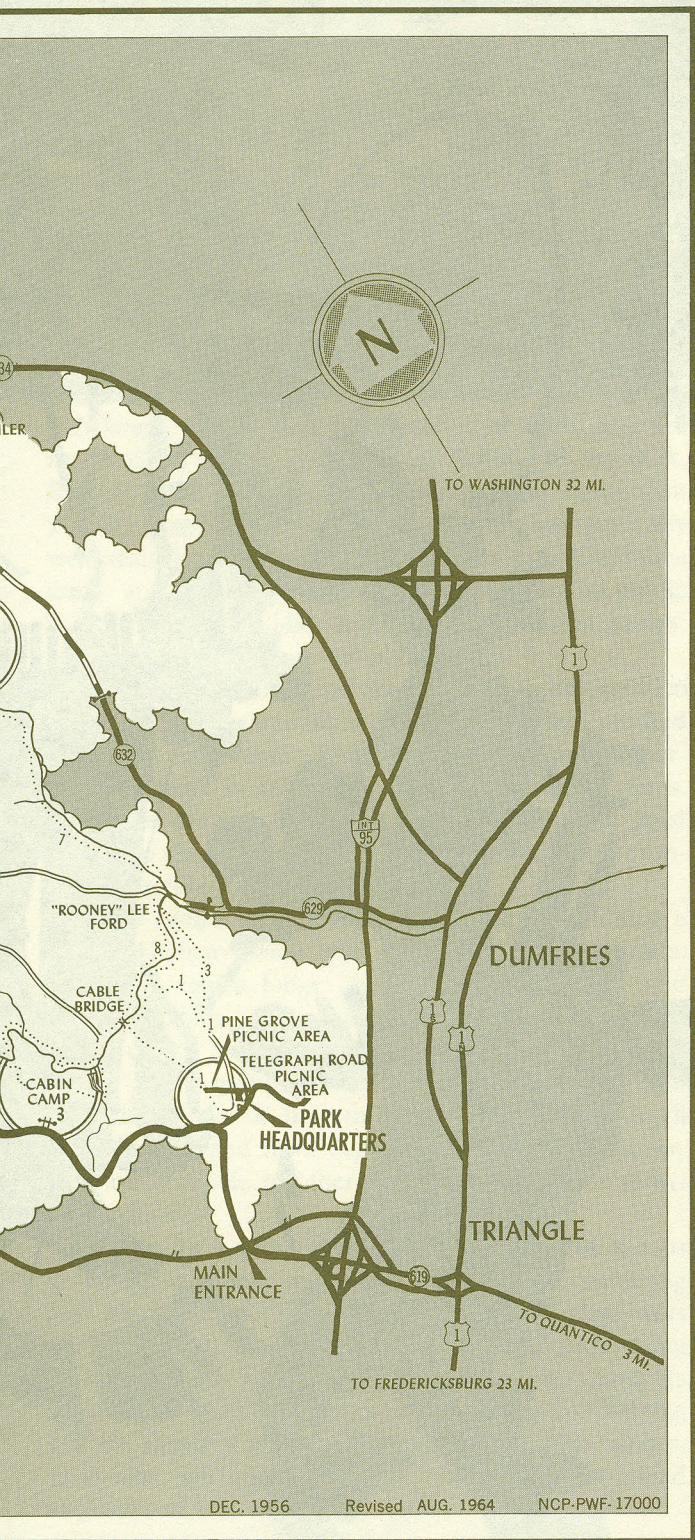


- PARK BOUNDARY
- PAVED ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- DIRT ROAD
- LOCKED GATE
- FOOT TRAIL (NUMBERED)
- LAKE

DEVELOPED AREA



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVATION





Hiking. Approximately 35 miles of trails and fire roads afford access to the wilder regions of the park. Parking areas along park roads provide convenient starting points for many hikes. Trails are generally well maintained, but hikers should be alert for fallen limbs and other recurring hazards. The general public is requested not to hike access trails into cabin camps, admittance to which is by permit only.

Fishing. The North and South Branches of Quantico Creek, including three lakes on them, have been stocked with bass and bream. Fishing from the shores is permitted, except in restricted areas designated by signs. The lakes are not accessible by car. Fishermen must walk into them and not trespass on cabin camp property. Virginia fishing laws apply.

Cabin camps. Five cabin camps, each containing a central kitchen-dining hall, washhouse, staff quarters, infirmary, nature lodge, administration building, and sleeping cabins, are available for organized groups. These camps were constructed primarily for summer use by youth groups and are rented for that purpose from the middle of June through August. From April 1 to June 15 and from September 1 through October, they are available to other organized groups for short-term periods.

The fee for use of cabin camps by organized groups is subject to change and may be learned by contacting park headquarters. The fee covers the use of single cots and mattresses and other camp facilities, including central cooking and dining facilities. Cabin campers are charged extra for fuel used in cooking and heating and are required to provide bed linen, blankets, dishes, silverware, and cooking utensils. Permits are not issued to groups of less than 30 campers.

Spring reservations should be applied for by the middle of February, and autumn reservations by the middle of June.

Travel trailer camping. Reid Ridge Trailer Camp is designed for travel trailers that require utilities hook-ups and for self-contained units. It has 66 paved sites, 29 of which are equipped with electrical, water, and sewage connections and 37 with electrical connections only. Modern comfort stations, with showers and coin-operated laundry facilities, are provided. This trailer camp is operated by a concessioner who is under contract with the National Park Service and who charges a fee for camping. Reservations may be obtained.

Small camping trailers without bath or toilet facilities may be used at either Reid Ridge or Oak Ridge Campground.

THIS IS YOUR PARK—HELP PROTECT IT

Park regulations prohibit litterbugging; running at large of pets; having dogs or cats in campgrounds; carrying firearms; hunting, trapping, seining, or capturing animals; building fires except in designated places; camping or picnicking except in designated places; damaging or defacing any structure or natural feature; cutting, breaking, or destroying any tree or shrub; picking flowers or fruits; and exceeding posted speed limits.

Fire is the park's greatest peril. Be certain that your matches, cigarettes, and campfires are completely extinguished. Never leave a fire unattended.

Place trash in proper receptacles, burn it in a campfire, or take it out of the park.



ADMINISTRATION

PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which the National Capital Parks are a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

The development of this park is part of MISSION 66, a 10-year conservation program to unfold the full potential of the National Park System for the use and enjoyment of both present and future generations.

For additional information, address the Superintendent at Triangle, Va.; telephone (Area Code 703, 875-2470); or stop at park headquarters.

AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

