

Prince William Forest Park

VIRGINIA

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ADMINISTRATION

Prince William Forest Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. For additional information, address Prince William Forest Park, Box 208, Triangle, VA 22172. Telephone (307) 221-7181.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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 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 is by permit only. Self-guiding nature trails begin and end at each picnic area and campground.

Picnicking. Pine Grove and Telegraph Road Picnic Grounds, near the main park entrance, are open all year and accommodate about 1,000 people. Tables, fireplaces, garbage receptacles, water, comfort stations, playfields, and a shelter are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tent camping for family and organized groups. Oak Ridge Campground has 120 family sites, each with a paved slip, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Turkey Run Ridge Campground has 12 group tent sites, for which reservations are required. Both campgrounds have water and modern comfort stations. Tables, fireplaces, and garbage receptacles are provided.

Travel trailer camping. Travel Trailer Village, operated by a concessioner, has 64 sites—29 with connections for electricity, water, and sewage; the remainder have electricity only. Showers and coin-operated laundry facilities are available for Travel Trailer Village only.

Cabin camps. Five cabin camps available for organized groups of 50 or more are reserved for youth groups for mid-June through August. Other organized groups may make reservations for April to June, or September 1 through October 31. Spring reservations for all groups are due by mid-February; autumn reservations by mid-June. Each camp has cabins, a central kitchen-dining hall, a washhouse, staff quarters, a nature lodge, and an administration building. Groups must provide their own bedding and cooking utensils.

NATURAL FEATURES

Beginning with the arrival of the area's first settlers in the late 17th century, 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.

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; several kinds of amphibians and warm-water fish; and numerous reptiles, including the copperhead snake. Humans are visitors here, and nature is the host. Help to protect the plants and animals and their environment.

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 of 89 known species of trees and shrubs. The forest includes pure stands of Virginia pine, a large variety of hardwoods, and a green understory of mountain laurel, holly, dogwood, redbud, and other shrubs and small trees. 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 the Coastal Plain sand, gravel, and clay, and exposed the ancient granite, schist, and quartzite of the Piedmont. Before 1920, pyrite, containing iron and sulfur, was mined near the confluence of the North and South Branches of Quantico Creek.

Park naturalists, on duty to help you enjoy and understand the park's forest and wildlife, are available for conducted trips, illustrated talks, and other programs. In addition, they maintain self-guiding nature trails and exhibits at Turkey Run Ridge Nature Center. Groups are invited to contact them for appointments by calling park headquarters.

HELP US PROTECT THIS PARK

We want you, and those who come after you, to enjoy your visit. You can help by leaving the park clean and by observing a few other regulations.

All vehicles must stay on established roads and may not park, stop, or drive on grassy areas or road shoulders.

Accidents must be reported as soon as possible to a park ranger or to park headquarters.

Picnicking is permitted only at Pine Grove and Telegraph Road Picnic areas. Drinking of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

Fires are permitted only at established picnic areas and campgrounds, and then only in fireplaces provided. Extinguish fires completely before leaving, even for a temporary absence.

Natural features. The destruction, injury, defacement, removal, or disturbance of any natural feature (such as trees, wildflowers, rocks, or wildlife) is prohibited.

Pets are permitted if they are kept under physical restraint at all times.

Firearms, archery equipment, slingshots, and fireworks are prohibited (unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use while in the park).

Lost and found items should be reported to park headquarters.

Fees are charged for the use of cabin camps, trailer sites, and campsites.

PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK

TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA



0 1/2 1
Scale in Miles

- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Rest Rooms
- Group Cabin Camp
- Group Tent Camp
- Campground
- Shelter
- Amphitheater
- Environmental Study Area
- Self-guiding Nature Trail
- Road - Locked Gate
- Foot Trail

To Manassas 10 Miles
INDEPENDENT HILL

646
619

234

OAK RIDGE

North Branch

TRAVEL
TRAILER
VILLAGE

ORENDA

PLEASANT

To Washington
32 Miles

234

95

PINEY FORKS

TURKEY RUN
RIDGE

NATURE
CENTER

Mary
Bird

CLOSED TO VEHICLES

MAWAVI

HAPPYLAND

South Branch

GOODWILL

Quantico
Creek

DUMFRIES

Headquarters Area Inset



PARK
HEADQUARTERS

MAIN
ENTRANCE

TRIANGLE

To Fredericksburg
23 Miles

To Quantico
3 Miles