WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD

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resources. The Department also has a major re-

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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, write to
Prince William Forest Park, Box 208, Triangle, VA
22172. Telephone (703) 221-7181.

A FOREST RETURNS

Beginning with the arrival of the area's first set-
tlers in the late 17th century, forests were cut and
the land was cleared. 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 Quan-
tico 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 where it settled
up the Dumfries harbor. Thus, abuse of the land
causd the port and the local area to decline. Most
of the farming had stopped by the start of the
20th century. Soon the unproductive soil began
to revert to forest, and the area comprising the
park became a patchwork of abandoned farms
and of woodlands in various stages of natural
succession. These have since gradually given
way to a beautiful forest where man comes and
goas a visitor.

The park, named for the Virginia county in which it
lies, now harbors 89 known species of trees and
shrubs. It includes pure stands of Virginia pine, a
large variety of hardwoods, and a green under-
story of mountain laurel, holly, dogwood, redbud,
and other shrubs and small trees. Among the resi-
dent animals are white-tailed deer, red and gray
foxes, beaver, raccoon, opossum, flying squirrel,
grey squirrel, skunk, and woodchuck; wild turkey,
ruffed grouse, red-tailed hawk, and numerous
species of songbirds; several kinds of amphibians
and warm-water fish; and numerous reptiles, in-
cluding the copperhead snake.

Erosion by the North and South Branches of
Quantico 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 two creek
branches.

A beaver pond is a perfect place for a patient observer
to catch glimpses of the park's year-round residents. The
two turtles, a land reptile, may be seen as it feeds upon berries,
leaves, earthworms, and mushrooms. Don't mistake
the semi-aquatic northern water snake for the poisonous water
moccasin, which doesn't live this far north. With luck you'll
see beavers at work creating new wildlife habitats by building
dams that flood stream valleys.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

A long history of exploitation with little regard for
conservation makes Prince William Forest Park
especially suited for learning about the delicate
ballece in our natural environment. The conse-
quences of drastic human demands upon the
soil can still be seen here as a new forest takes
time to mature.

The visitor who wants to piece together this story of
chang will find additional printed information
at park headquarters and the Turkey Run Ridge
Nature Center. Here park rangers maintain self-
guiding nature trails and exhibits. They also con-
duct trips and give illustrated talks on natural
history. The center is open daily during summer:
weekends during winter.

An Environmental Study Area (ESA) on a long-
abandoned farm site in the park is reserved for
field trips by school classes and organized groups.
Teaching materials adapted to the ESA can be
obtained in advance by calling park headquarters.

HELP PROTECT THIS PARK AND YOURSELF

Man's present intrusion on this landscape is far
less upsetting than it once was. You can help pro-
tect the park further by remembering to leave
plants and animals undisturbed. You, and those
who come after you, will enjoy the park more if
everyone leaves camping and picnic areas the way
they would like to find them. Please observe these
regulations and tips for a safe, comfortable stay.
Remember, safety is no accident.

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

Motor vehicles should not be driven or parked on
grassy areas or road shoulders. Please observe
posted speed limits.

Fires are permitted only at established picnic
areas and campgrounds; and then only in fire
places provided. Extinguish fires completely be-
fore leaving, even for a temporary absence.

Hunting is prohibited. Firearms, fireworks, knives
with blades more than 7.6 centimeters (3 inches)
long, archery equipment, and slingshots are not
allowed in the park unless adequately cased,
broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their
use.

Natural features are strictly protected. The de-
struction, injury, defacement, removal, or dis-
turbance of any natural feature, such as trees,
wildflowers, rocks, or wildlife, is prohibited.

Pets must be kept on a leash.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Lost and found items should be reported to park
headquarters.

Climbing trees and park structures is considered
dangerous and is not permitted.
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Whether you plan a day trip or overnight outing, you can enjoy many activities here.

Hiking. Approximately 56 kilometers (35 miles) of trails and fire roads reach into the wilder regions of the park. Parking areas along park roads provide convenient starting points for many hikes. Each major trail is marked at intervals with a number; those numbers appear on the map. Self-guiding nature trails begin and end at each picnic area and campground. Trails are well maintained, but hikers should be alert for such obstructions as fallen limbs. Please do not hike access trails into cabin camps; admittance is by permit only.

Biking. Bicycle riding is permitted on all roads and fire roads in the park. Motorists and bicyclists have equal rights and equal responsibilities for safety. Remember, steep hills can be dangerous.

Fishing. Bass, bluegill, perch, and catfish are native here; North and South Branches of Quantico Creek are stocked yearly with trout. Virginia fishing regulations apply in the park; a State license to fish any of the park streams and lakes is required. Ask a ranger for further information.

Picnicking. Pine Grove and Telegraph Road Picnic Grounds, near the main entrance, are open all year. Each area has tables, fireplaces, trash receptacles, water, comfort stations, playfields, and a shelter for use on a first-come, first-served basis. Carter's Day Camp is for use by groups on a reservation basis.

Tent camping for family use. Oak Ridge Campground, for use on a first-come, first-served basis, has 120 family sites with a paved parking slip for each one. Also provided are water, comfort stations, tables, fireplaces, and trash receptacles.

Trailer camping. Travel Trailer Village, operated by a concessioner, has 89 sites divided into three types of service—hookups for electricity, water, and sewage; hookups for electricity and water; and hookups for electricity only. Showers and coin-operated laundry facilities are also provided.

Primitive camping. Chopawamsic is the park's first back-pack camping area. Campsites are from .8 to 2.4 kilometers (½ to 1½) miles from the trailhead. The only facilities are pit toilets and fireplaces. The camper carries everything, including water, in and out. Please take your trash with you and dump it in containers outside the camping area. Use-permits must be obtained at park headquarters. Litter bags can be obtained there, too.

Tent camping for organized groups. Turkey Run Ridge Campground has water, comfort stations, tables, fireplaces, and trash receptacles for use by organized groups. Reservations must be made.

Cabin camps for groups. Five cabin camps are reserved for youth groups from mid-June through August. Other organized groups of 50 or more can 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.