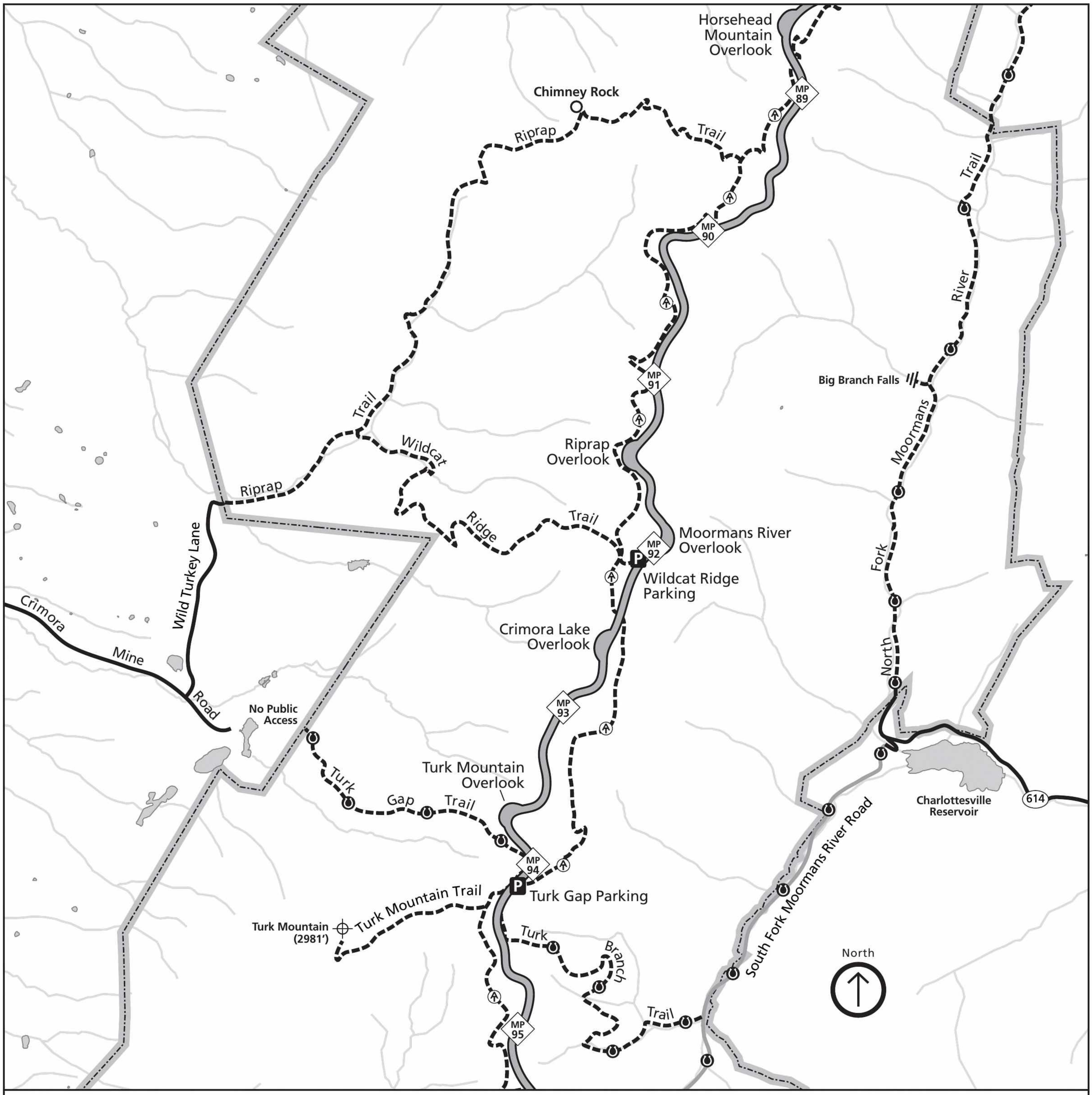
Riprap Area | Shenandoah National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

2017



Emergency 1-800-732-0911 • **Information** 540-999-3500 • **Online** www.nps.gov/shen

Riprap – Wildcat Ridge Hike

9.8-mile circuit
8¼-hrs hiking time
Very Strenuous
2,365-ft elevation gain

You can hike this loop from Riprap Parking at mile 90 or from Wildcat Ridge Parking at mile 92.1 using a combination of the Appalachian Trail, Riprap Trail, and Wildcat Ridge Trail. Near the junction of the Riprap and Wildcat Ridge Trails there's a popular swimming hole. There are several stream crossings and a small waterfall. Follow the map in whichever direction you choose, being careful at the intersections to take the appropriate trail.

Chimney Rock Hike

3.4-mile round trip
2½-hrs hiking time
Moderate
830-ft elevation gain

From the Riprap parking area at mile 90, take the Appalachian Trail north. Turn left onto Riprap Trail. After a series of switchbacks, you'll see a viewpoint on your right. Further on, you'll see Calvary Rocks on left, and then, where the trail makes a sharp left Chimney Rock stands alone on the right across a gorge. Retrace your steps.

Turk Mountain Hike

2.2-mile round trip
2¼-hrs hiking time
Easiest
690-ft elevation gain

From the Turk Mountain parking area at mile 94.1, cross Skyline Drive and take the Appalachian Trail south to the trailpost. Go right onto the Turk Mountain Trail and follow it to the summit for a wonderful view to the west.

Hiking Difficulty Scale

Easiest: Generally suitable for anyone who enjoys walking. Mostly level or with a slight incline. Generally less than 3 miles.

Moderate: Generally suitable for novice hikers seeking a bit of a challenge. The terrain will involve a moderate incline and may have some steeper sections. Generally 3 to 5 miles.

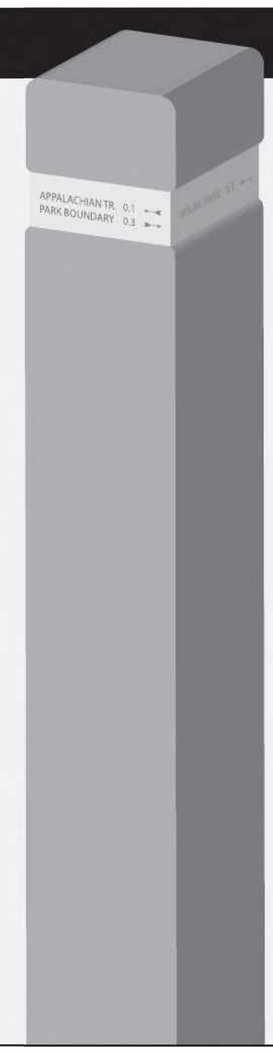
Moderately Strenuous: Generally challenging for an unconditioned person. The terrain will involve a steady and often steep incline. Generally 5 to 8 miles.

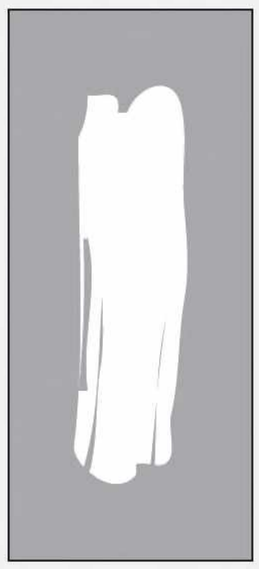
Strenuous: Will challenge most hikers. The hike will generally be longer and steeper, but may be deemed strenuous because of the elevation gain. Generally 7 to 10 miles.

Very Strenuous: Only well conditioned and well prepared hikers should attempt. Generally long and steep, and may include rock scrambling, stream crossings, and other challenging terrain. Generally 8 miles and over.

Markers & Blazes

Trail markers are at trailheads and intersections. The metal bands are stamped with directional and mileage information.





Trail blazes are found on trees and rocks throughout the Park. The color identifies the trail type:

Blue - Hiking trail
White - Appalachian Trail
Yellow - Open to horses

Need to Know

- Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6' at all times.
- Do not attempt to cross streams during icy conditions or flooding.
- Be sure you are physically able to complete the hike you've chosen.
- Take plenty of water—at least a quart per hour.
- When you return from your hike, check for ticks.
- Be sure someone knows where you are and when to expect your return.
- Filter or treat water from streams before drinking.
- Be aware that you are in snake habitat.

Good to Know

These hikes all take you to a very special place in Shenandoah: federally designated Wilderness. About 40% of the Park has been given this extra protection by Congress. What makes it special is what's not there: mechanized equipment and development. What you should find is solitude and wildness. To learn more about this designation visit Shenandoah's webpage.

Leave No Trace

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Leave what you find.
- Respect wildlife.
- Be considerate of other visitors.

Trail maintenance and map funded by recreation fee dollars.