

prince william forest park, virginia



help us protect this park 🌿 We want you and those who come after you to enjoy your visits. You can help by leaving the park clean for others to enjoy and by observing a few regulations. 🌿 **Automobiles** 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. 🌿 **Alcoholic beverages** are 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 tree, flower, vegetation, rock, or wildlife is prohibited. 🌿 **Pets** are permitted in the park if on a leash or under other physical control 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.** There is a fee charged for the use of trailer sites and campsites.

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 great natural, historic, and recreational places of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. 🌿 For additional information, address the Superintendent, Lynn Building, 1111 19th Street, N., Arlington, Va. 22209; telephone 381-7417; or stop at the park.

🌿 **THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**—The Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress and prosperity of the United States . . . now and in the future.

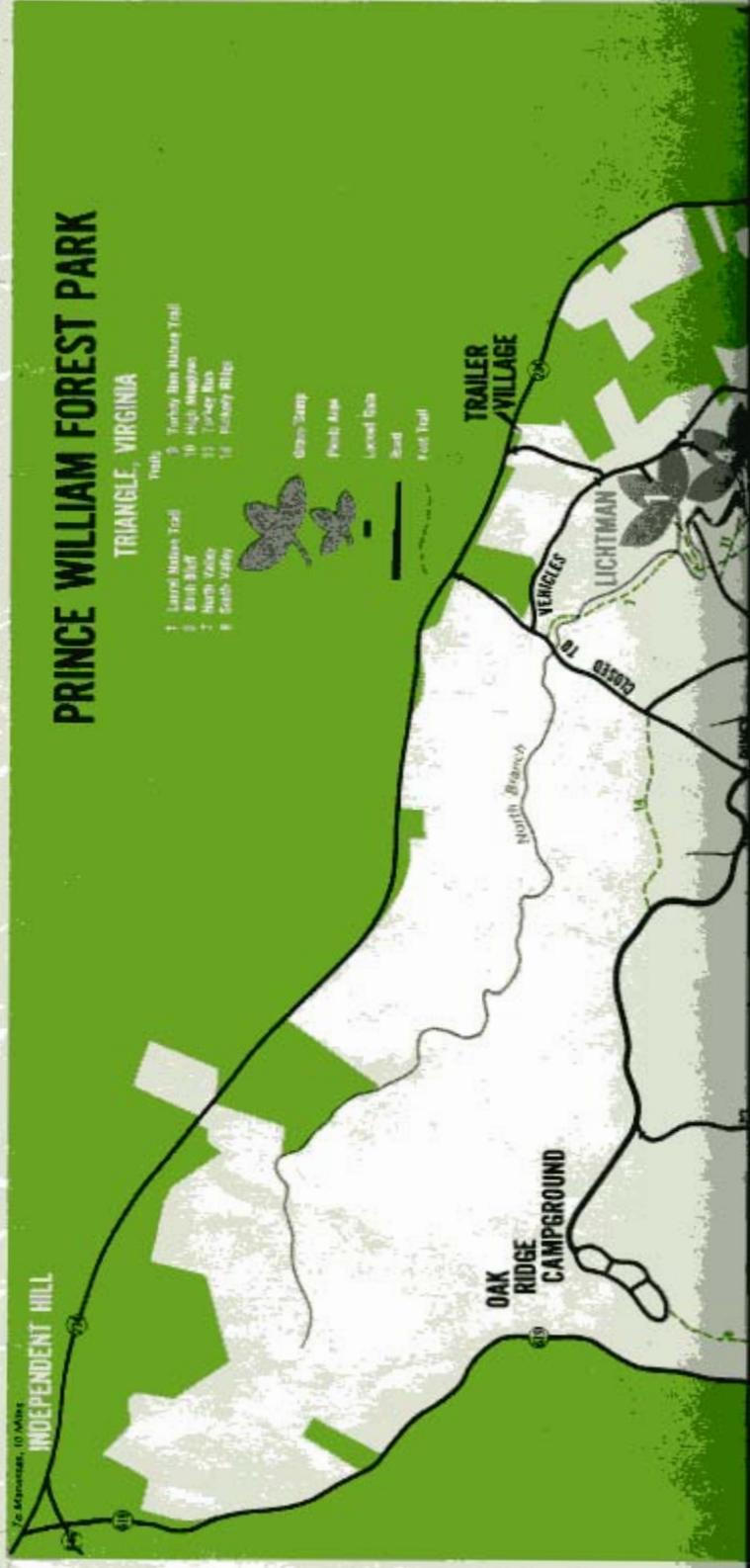
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service

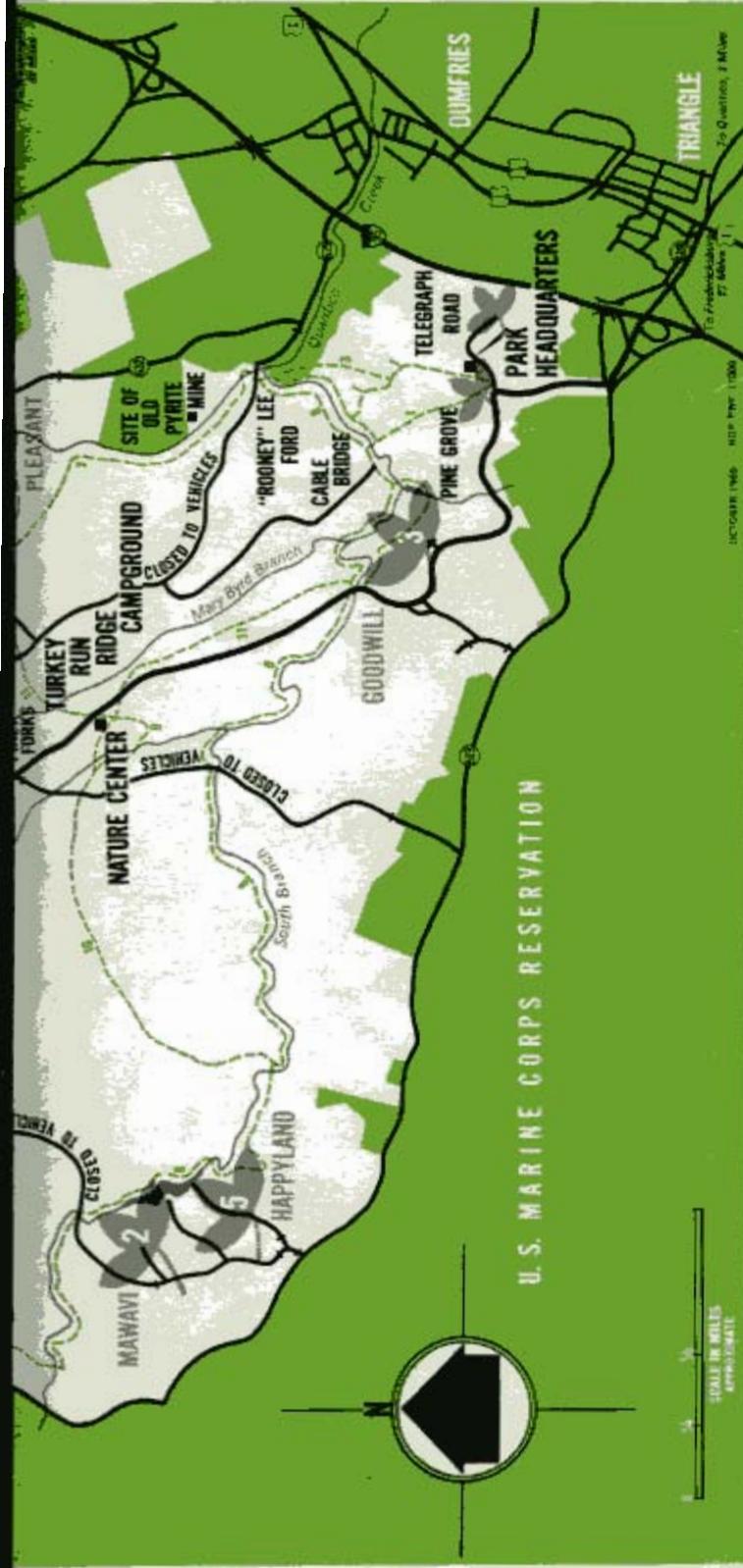
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Thirty-two miles south of the Nation's Capital lies a beautiful haven of shade and quiet, named for the Virginia county in which it is located. The main park entrance is off Va. 619, one mile west of its intersection with U.S. 1 and 0.4 mile west of the intersection with I. 95. From Triangle and Dumfries on the east, the park's 12,290 acres extend northward 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 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; 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. 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 understorey of mountain laurel, holly, dogwood, redbud, and other shrubs. 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. 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 programs. In addition, he maintains self-guiding nature trails and exhibits at Turkey Run Ridge Nature Center. Groups are invited to contact him for appointments by calling park headquarters.





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. 🍃 *Fishing.* The North and South Branches of Quantico Creek, including three lakes, 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 not trespass on cabin camp property. Virginia fishing laws apply. 🍃 *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. Self-guiding nature trails begin and end at each picnic ground. 🍃 *Camping.* Prince William Forest Park has facilities for family

and group tent camping, travel trailers—both self-contained and requiring utility hook-ups—and cabin camping for organized groups. Oak Ridge Campground has 120 family sites, each with paved slip, table, fireplace, and garbage disposal. Turkey Run Ridge Campground has group sites, each with fireplace and disposal. Both have water and wood available; reservations are necessary for Turkey Run Ridge. Trailer Village has 64 sites—29 with electrical, water, and sewage connections; the remainder with electrical only. Showers and coin laundry facilities are available. 🍃 All campgrounds have modern comfort stations. 🍃 The five cabin camps are for groups of 30 or more, and are reserved for youth groups from mid-June through August. Others may make reservations for early April to early June, or September 1 through October 31. Spring reservations for all groups are due by mid-February; fall reservations by mid-June. 🍃 There is a central kitchen-dining hall, washhouse, staff quarters, infirmary, nature lodge, and administration building for each camp. Fuel for cooking and heating is extra; groups must provide bedding and utensils.