Forest Recreation

The Conway Robinson State Forest is open from dawn to dusk and offers opportunities for education, volunteering, hiking, wildlife watching, mountain biking and horseback riding. Visitors are asked to adopt a "leave no trace" ethic when visiting the Forest, as there are no restrooms or trash cans on the Forest itself.

A State Forest Use Permit is required for bike riding and horse riding on Virginia State Forests. Permits are required for individuals age 16 and older, and can be purchased online for $15.00 at http://secure01.virginiainteractive.org/horf/ or where hunting licenses are sold.

About Your State Forests

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) manages 21 State Forests, totaling 67,580 acres. Virginia's State Forests are managed for multiple uses: water quality, recreation, forest products, wildlife and scenic beauty. The primary management goals of individual State Forests may vary, usually depending on the wishes of the donor of the land.

Conway Robinson State Forest Features:

Trails: 5.1 miles
Vehicle Roads: 0.2 miles
Gated Vehicle Trails: 1.4 miles
Ponds/Lakes: 0
Hunting: No Fishing: No
Picnic Shelter: 1 Restrooms: No

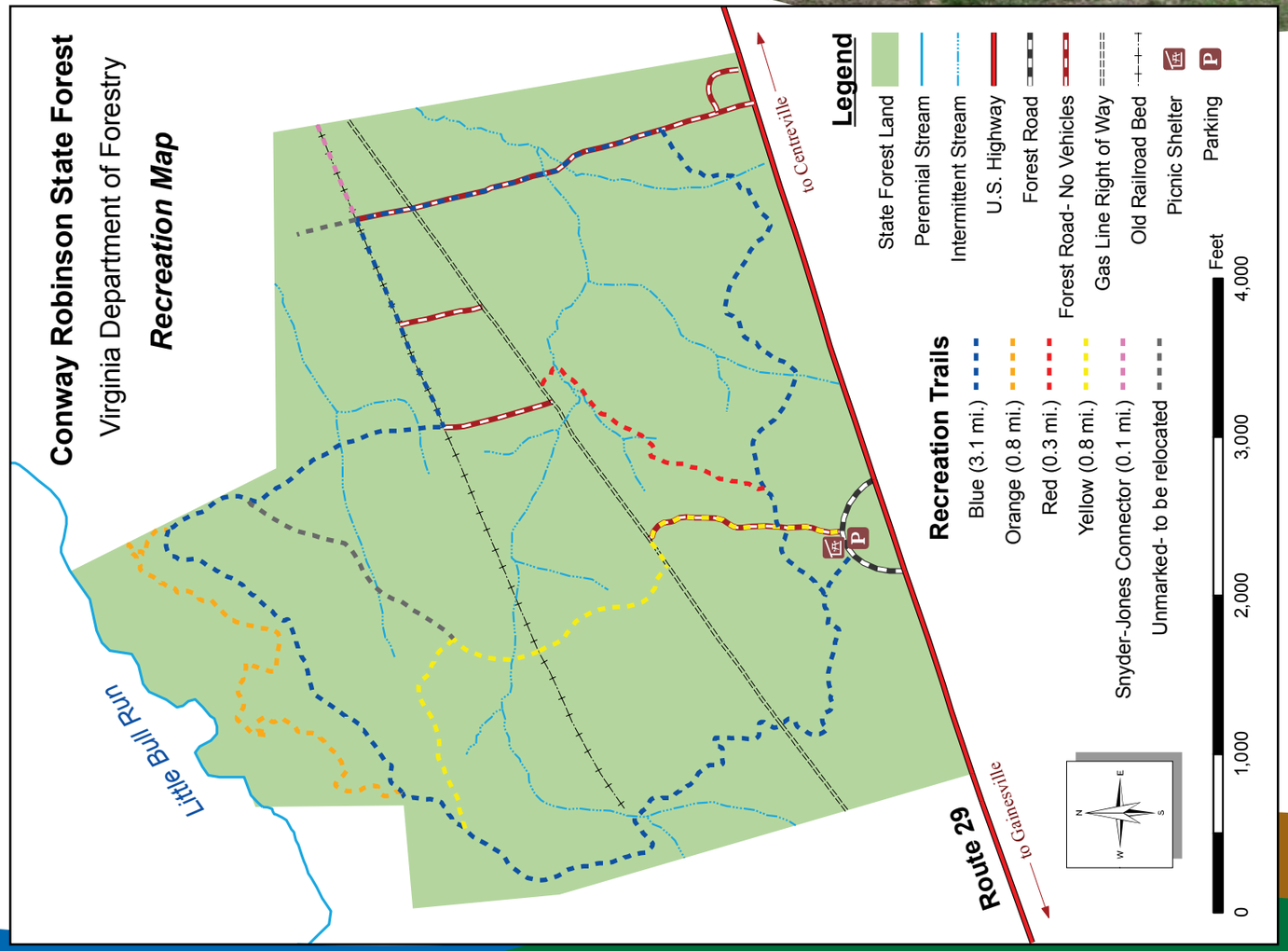
The State Forests of Virginia are self-supporting and receive no taxpayer funds for operation. Operating funds are generated from the sale of forest products. In addition, up to 25 percent of the revenue received from the sale of forest products is returned to the counties in which the forests are located. You can support educational programs on your State Forests by donating a portion of your state tax refund to Virginia's State Forests Fund.

State Forest Regulations

- Biking and horse riding in designated areas only with State Forest Use Permit.
- Pets must be restrained on a leash.
- State Forest Use Permits required only for anyone age 16 and older.
- No removal of any tree, plant or mineral.
- Remove all trash.
- No camping, ATVs or public display of alcohol.
- No fireworks, campfires or open air fires of any type.
- Vehicular traffic on established roads only; not permitted on gated roads.

For a complete listing of State Forest Regulations, go to www.dof.virginia.gov.

Map available at www.dof.virginia.gov.



Conway Robinson State Forest

Conway Robinson State Forest

Welcome

The Conway Robinson State Forest is "an urban oasis" – a beautiful forest in the midst of the most developed urban/suburban area in Virginia. In fact, the 444 acres of pine plantation, mixed pine and old-growth hardwoods that comprise the CRSF make it one of the largest tracts of undeveloped land owned by the Commonwealth in all of Northern Virginia. And with more than two million people living within 30 miles of this State Forest, its importance as a research and educational tool demonstrating the value of forests to the community is sure to increase. Many people come to walk, hike, mountain bike or ride horses on the Forest's trails. Others come to learn about forest management or observe the birds, animals and trees that thrive here.

Forest History

While the land became a State Forest in February 1938, its history is long and distinguished. It's important to note the role this land played in the turbulent Civil War years. Due to the strategic importance of the Manassas Gap Railroad, which linked the Shenandoah Valley to the rest of Virginia, Confederate soldiers were assigned to protect it. The presence of those soldiers attracted the attention of the Union Army in 1861 and led to the Battle of First Manassas (First Bull Run). While the Manassas Gap Railroad Independent Line was never completed, the unfinished roadbed was used by Stonewall Jackson's troops in 1862 during and after the Battle of Second Manassas (Second Bull Run).

Who is Conway Robinson?

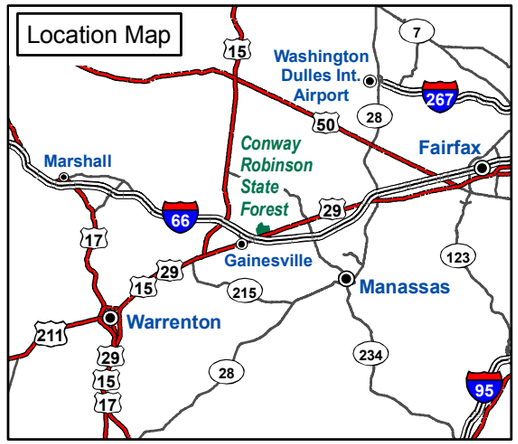
The Forest's namesake was a 19th century lawyer, historian and author who argued approximately 100 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Born in 1805, he became a court clerk apprentice at the age of 14; published his first book at 21; help found the Virginia Historical Society at 26; led the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad when he was 31; was elected to the Richmond City Council at 44, and served in the House of Delegates when he was 47. Robinson died in 1884 and is buried in Richmond's historic Hollywood Cemetery. The Conway Robinson Park Memorial Association sought to perpetuate the memory of this distinguished Virginian through the development of a state forest.

Forest Management

When the Conway Robinson State Forest was acquired in 1938, it was approximately 50 percent open land and 50 percent mixed upland hardwoods. Since that time, the upland hardwoods have been managed through passive silviculture techniques, and the open fields have been planted primarily with loblolly and white pine.

Our management regime is guided by terms of the original deed from 1938, which states, "land as is now woodland shall be preserved so far as possible in its natural state and that no trees or timber shall be cut there except such as it may be desirable to cut for the purposes of eliminating fire hazards, improving the growth and development of other nearby trees or vegetation, or elimination of dead, decayed or unsightly growth". We accomplish these goals through the implementation of management plans updated every 10 years.

Location



More Information

To learn more about what your state forests have to offer and to get directions to any state forest, visit **www.dof.virginia.gov**.

Contact Information

State Forest Main Office:

Phone: (804) 492-4121 ; FAX: (804) 492-9213
751 Oak Hill Road, Cumberland, VA 23040-2511

stateforest@dof.virginia.gov
(enter state forest name in the subject line)

Virginia Department of Forestry
900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
Phone: (434) 977-6555
www.dof.virginia.gov

VDOF P00157; 05/2011

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Conway Robinson State Forest

~ 444 Acres ~
Prince William County

Virginia Department of Forestry
www.dof.virginia.gov