



TREE TRUNK

Conway Robinson State Forest



This box contains lesson plans and supplies for field study on the Conway Robinson State Forest. Please review the lessons you intend to use online before your trip, as some activities may require students to bring extra clipboards or notebooks. Teachers may arrange to borrow the trunk by contacting the Va. Dept. of Forestry's Loudoun office at 703-777-0457, or by emailing stateforest@dof.virginia.gov with "Conway Robinson" in the subject line.

General Forest Information

This 444-acre forest is a mixture of pine and old growth hardwood stands in Gainesville (Prince William County), adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield and Route 29. In addition to serving as a wildlife and wildflower sanctuary, the forest is used for environmental education, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, preservation of historic sites, watershed protection and timber production.

The State Forests of Virginia are self-supporting and receive no taxpayer funds for operations. Operating funds are generated from the sale of forest products, demonstrating the value of good forestry practices. Twenty-five percent of the revenue from the sale of forest products on this State Forest is returned to Prince William County.

There are about 7 miles of trails on the forest, accessible from the parking lot. Be aware that mountain bikers and equestrians also use the trails. There are NO restrooms or trash bins on the forest, so please take your trash with you.

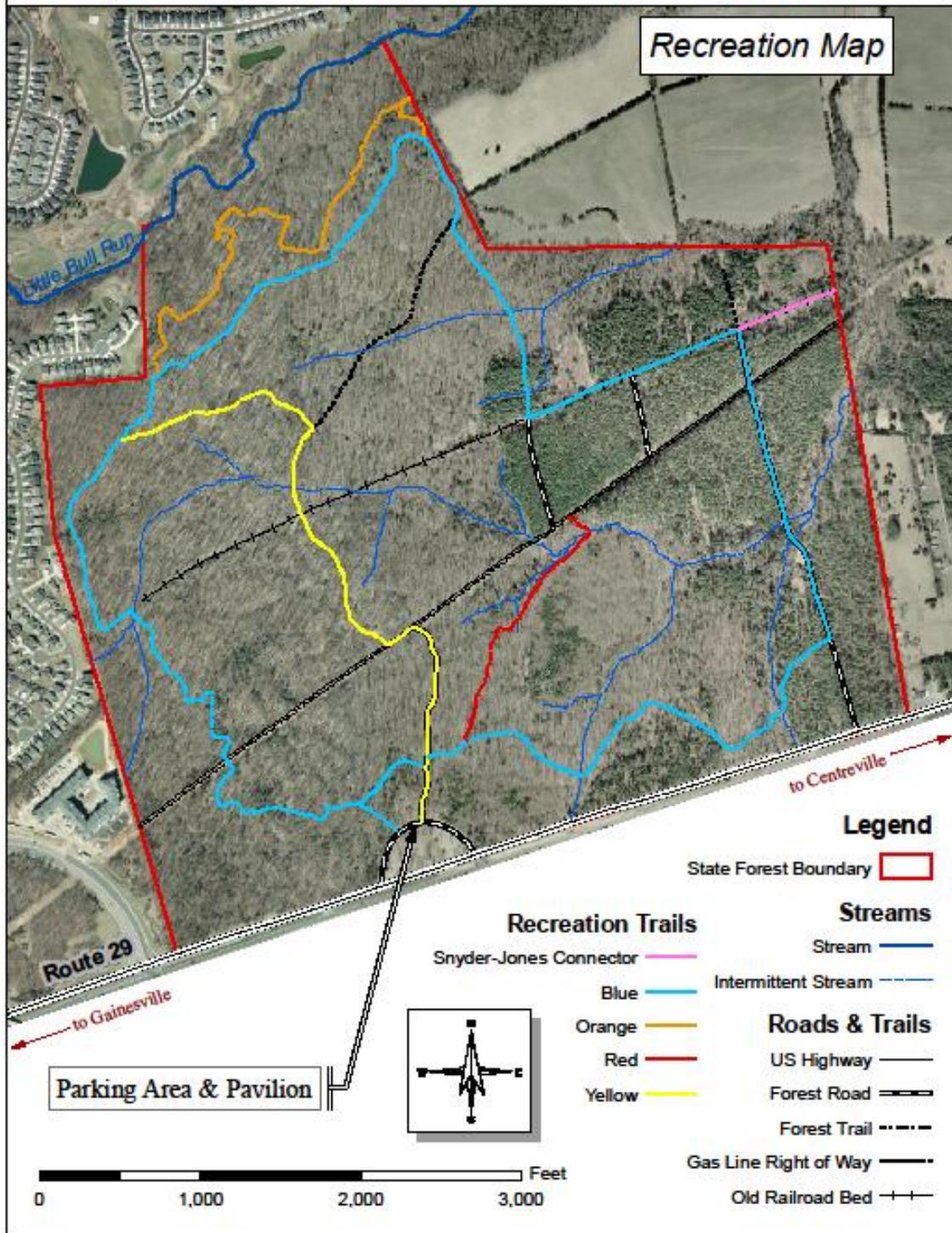
Regulations

A complete listing of State Forest regulations may be found at www.dof.virginia.gov, but basic rules for Conway Robinson State Forest are as follows:

- Vehicles are not permitted on forest roads or trails.
- Pack out all trash.
- Do not remove any plant, animal or mineral.
- **Prohibited** activities and items on this forest include camping, ATVs, alcoholic beverages, fireworks, open air fires, and hunting (except deer hunting during select days, by lottery only).
- Mountain biking and horseback riding are allowed with a State Forest Use Permit (required only for ages 16 and older).

Directions for Access:

Conway Robinson State Forest is located at latitude N 38° 48' 12.6", longitude W 77° 35' 16.7." A parking area adjacent Route 29-S can accommodate approximately 10 cars. Additional parking is permitted along the entrance/exit road unless it restricts through traffic. If you are bringing a group to the forest, please let the Va. Dept. of Forestry's Loudoun office know the date and approximate time of your visit. Call 703-777-0457, or email stateforest@dof.virginia.gov with "Conway Robinson" in the subject line.



Overview of Activities and Materials in the Tree Trunk

1) Forest Sense – grades K-12

Use the senses to gather information about the forest in this quiet writing (or drawing) activity.

-- *Clipboard, paper, and pencil for each student

2) ID That Tree – grades 4-12

Use a scientific key to identify common trees of the State Forest.

-- Single-page keys to common trees of the State Forest, for younger students.

-- Laminated photo cards of the trees in key, for younger students

-- Tree ID books for older students

3) A Tree for Me – grades K-5

Get closely acquainted with a single tree by making detailed observations.

-- *Clipboards, pencils, worksheets for grades 2-5 students /plain paper for K-1 students

-- Peeled crayons

4) Plots and Plans – grades 6-12

Collect biotic and abiotic data from a 1/10 acre forest plot, and make management recommendations for the State Forest.

-- 37.2 ft. yarn pieces (red), attached to stakes

-- Set of marker flags

-- Clipboards, pencils, data sheets

-- Flash ID guides

5) Measuring Up – grades 6-12

Use a Biltmore stick to determine tree height and diameter and calculate the amount of wood in a tree.

-- Biltmore sticks

-- 66-foot yarn pieces (orange)

-- Clipboards, pencils, paper

6) Could I Live Here? – grades 3-7

Learn about native wildlife and decide whether particular species could live on this site.

-- Laminated animal photos with info on back

-- Clothespins

7) Trees in Trouble (from PLT) – grades 3-8

Search a section of forest for signs of tree damage or poor health.

-- Clipboards, pencils, paper

-- Tree-tective Trouble Guide and Reading Leaf Symptoms pages

8) The Future Forest? - Grades 6-12, advanced (best for those proficient in tree ID)

Assess tree regeneration and make predictions about the future makeup of the forest.

-- 23 ft, 4.9 in. yarn pieces (yellow)

-- Data sheets, clipboards, pencils

-- Rulers

-- Tree ID books

Over →

9) Pests Gone Wild – Grades 6-12

Learn about invasive species threatening Virginia's forests, brainstorm solutions, and search for invasive plants.

-- Pests Gone Wild card set

-- Laminated invasive plant photos

*Additional clipboards will be needed for starred activities, as there are only 5 in the trunk.