



TREE TRUNK

Whitney State Forest



This box contains lesson plans and supplies for field study on the Whitney 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 Fauquier office at 540-347-6358, or by emailing stateforest@dof.virginia.gov with "Whitney" in the subject line.

General Forest Information

Mrs. Helen Whitney Gibson gave this property to the State in 1972 to be used as a public demonstration forest. The Virginia Department of Forestry manages this 148-acre forest for timber production, horseback riding, hiking, research and demonstration and as a wildlife sanctuary. The Whitney State Forest is primarily a natural hardwood forest with yellow poplar, northern red oak, white oak, pignut hickory, red maple, and Virginia pine. There are also two pine plantations on the site.

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 Fauquier County.

There are several walking trails on the forest, accessible from the parking lot. Be aware that horseback riders and mountain bikers 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 Whitney State Forest are as follows:

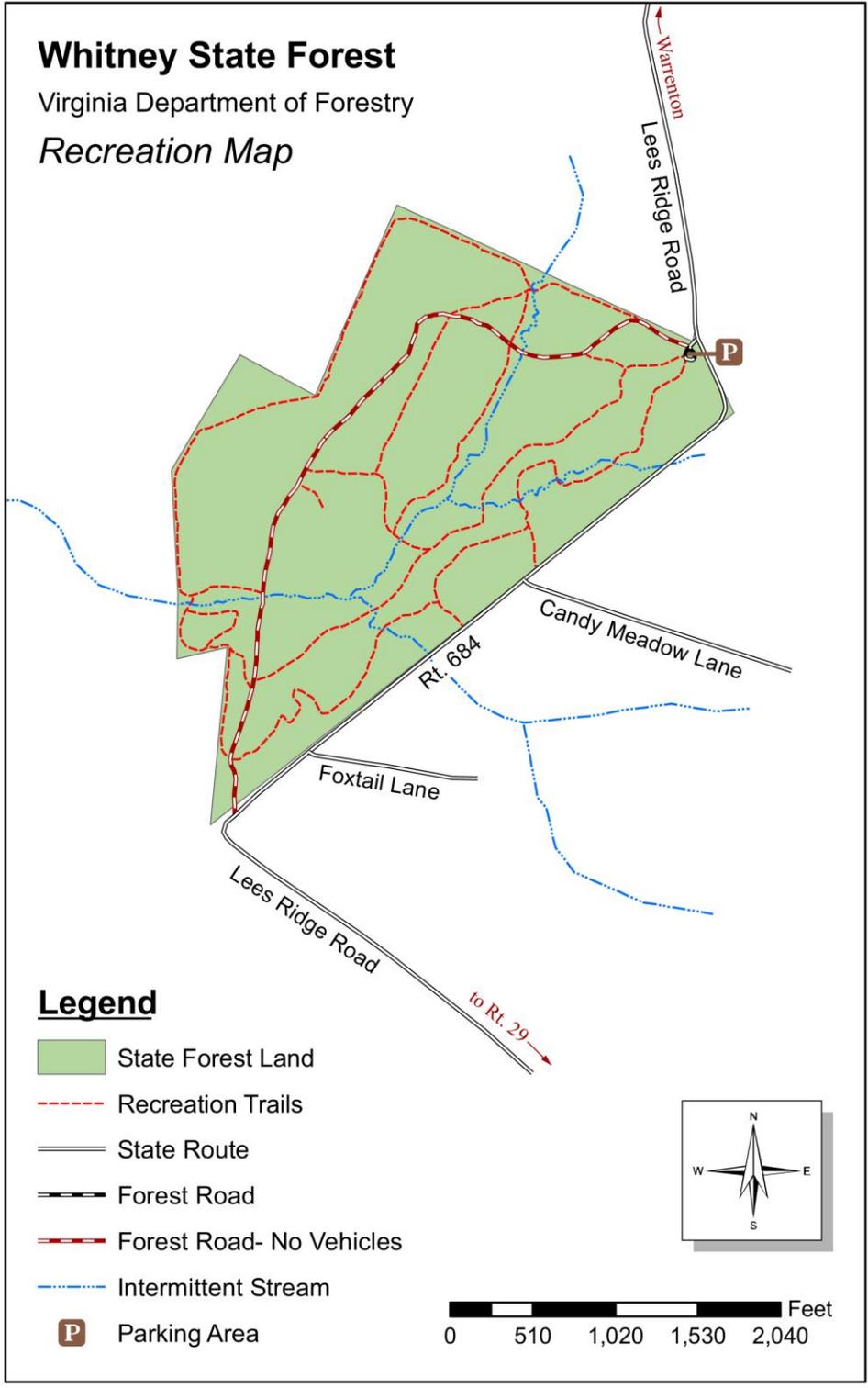
- Park only in the lot, not along the road. Vehicles are not permitted on forest roads or trails.
- Pack out all trash.
- Do not remove any plant, animal or mineral.
- **Prohibited** activities and items on this forest include camping, ATVs, alcoholic beverages, fireworks, open air fires, and hunting.
- Horseback riding and mountain biking are allowed with a State Forest Use Permit (required only for ages 16 and older).

Directions for Access:

Whitney State Forest is located at latitude N 38° 40' 20.1", longitude W 77° 48' 19.4". A small parking area is located off Lees Ridge Road (County Road 684), with room for approximately 10 cars or one school bus. (See map.) If you are bringing a group to the forest, please let the Va. Dept. of Forestry's Fauquier office know the date and approximate time of your visit. Call 540-347-6358, or email stateforest@dof.virginia.gov with "Whitney" in the subject line.

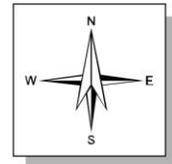
Whitney State Forest

Virginia Department of Forestry
Recreation Map



Legend

- State Forest Land
- Recreation Trails
- State Route
- Forest Road
- Forest Road- No Vehicles
- Intermittent Stream
- P Parking Area



0 510 1,020 1,530 2,040 Feet

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.