Welcome to Pleasant Grove Park

Pleasant Grove Park serves many purposes, one of which is to provide park visitors with access to nature. The Rivanna River and the adjacent forests and fields abound with wildlife, both plants and animals. The Rivanna River has many trails, the adjacent forests and fields, and the adjacent wildlife provide abundant opportunities to view wildlife in its natural setting.

Please use this Trail Guide as you enjoy your adventure to help enhance your nature experience while visiting.

Explore Pleasant Grove Park

A great adventure - for people and wildlife

Many of Pleasant Grove Park's trails go through multiple habitats. Here is a quick guide to these habitats and trails:

To view a mature hardwood forest habitat, walk the North Hill Trail starting at the large picnic shelter near the Museum. Also, Reds Trail after its descent into the bottom land from the pole barn offers a mixed hardwood forest habitat.

The Heritage, Burke Heights Loop and River Anne Trails provide excellent views of the Rivanna River.

The park also has a Butterfly Garden near the Pleasant Grove House Museum.

The county purchased 992 acres of farm land in 1994 when members of the Historical Society suggested that it would be an ideal location for a park and public trail system. From that notion, the Fluvanna, Heritage Trail Foundation was formed and created the first trails at the park.

The Foundation continues to work with Fluvanna County Parks and Recreation on the trails today which have grown to 22 miles of trails for everyone to enjoy.

Share Our Trails

The yield sequence on the trails is as follows: bikers yield to hikers and horses; hikers yield to horses; when passing others on trails, slow down and be courteous, offer a friendly greeting. Bikers, because they travel at higher speeds, have an extra responsibility to slow down and yield to slower moving visitors. Please share our trails.

Share Our Trails

We are the main catalyst in helping to create and design the Eastern Trailhead, Dog Park entrance, ADA accessible Julie Ring Sandy Beach Trail leading to the scenic Rivanna River.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

To view an untended grassy field habitat, take the Quail Meadow or Birding Trails from the Pleasant Grove House Museum through the front fields abutting Route 53. A small section of the River Anne Trail at the Rivanna River also has an untended grassy field.

For the shrubs and small trees habitat, see the first few hundred yards of Reds and Heritage Trails along the hill descent from the Pole Barn at Reds Trailhead. Also, take the portion of the River Anne Trail as it abuts the Rivanna River.

To view untended grassy field habitat, take the Quail Meadow or Birding Trails from the Pleasant Grove House Museum through the front fields abutting Route 53. A small section of the River Anne Trail at the Rivanna River also has an untended grassy field.

For the shrubs and small trees habitat, see the first few hundred yards of Reds and Heritage Trails along the hill descent from the Pole Barn at Reds Trailhead. Also, take the portion of the River Anne Trail as it abuts the Rivanna River.

Pine/Transition Forest habitats are the most prevalent habitats at Pleasant Grove Park. Reds Trail exhibits this habitat on the hill descent after the shrubs and small trees and before the mixed hardwoods at the bottom. Brush Arbor and Hadens Trails also offer good examples of the pine transition forest habitat. Near the Dog Park the Horseshoe Trail is your best bet for this habitat.

While at the Library, Beech Grove Trail leads to Rock Brook Trail that also provides an excellent example of a pine/transition forest habitat.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Keep wildlife wild by staying on trails and not approaching, harassing or feeding them.

Habitat and Wildlife You May See

Unintended Grassy Fields
- Cottontails
- Voles
- Quail
- Field Mice
- Hawks
- Turkey Vultures
- Foxes
- Song Birds (sparrows, indigo buntings, etc.)
- Shrubs and Small Trees
- Song Birds (catbirds, towhees, etc.)
- Quail
- Deer
- Pine/Transition Forest
- Deer
- Turkey
- Mature Hardwood Forest
- Squirrels
- Deer
- Turkeys
- Rivanna River
- River Otters
- Ducks
- Beaver
- Fish
- Osprey

Wild Plants and Flowers
- Black-eyed Susan
- Yarrow
- St John's Wart
- Common Milkweed
- Native Grass (switchgrass, little and big bluestem, indiangrass, etc.)
- Christmas Fern
- May Apple
- Skunk Cabbage
- Daisy Fleabane
- Bulbous Buttercup
- Sumac
- Tickseed
- American Beauty-tberry
- Small Bluet
- Chicory
- Wild Comfrey
- Johnny Jump-up
- Plantain
- Jimson Weed
- Wild Garlic
- Spring Beauty
- Ragweed
- Common Sneezeweed

Wild Plants and Flowers

Please note that many plants and flowers are seasonal, so to experience these fully you should schedule multiple visits.

Call Parks and Recreation: (434) 589-2016
Rivanna River Water Level: (757) 899-271 Pleasant Grove Drive Palmyra, VA 22963 Phone: 434-589-2016

Monday to Friday from 8 am - 4 pm
Saturday from 12 pm - 4 pm
Sunday from 12 pm - 4 pm

Parks and Recreation: (434) 589-2016 for more information or to schedule a group visit.

Explore Pleasant Grove Park

Trail Guide

www.flynn.org
LEAVE NO TRACE
Visitors to Pleasant Grove Park are fortunate to find such wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities close to home. Pleasant Grove Park is a gift we will pass on to future generations. You play a critical role in protecting this gift. Please pick up any trash or litter you see along your trails and dispose of it properly.

Please observe the 24/1 rule: Please wait 24 hours to use trails for every inch of rainfall. Riding or hiking a muddy trail causes unnecessary widening and erosion. Enjoy responsibly!

PARK RULES
- Park and Trails Open During Daylight Hours
- No Open Fires
- No Camping/O Stay overnight
- Horses Remain on Designated Equestrian Trails
- Hunting is Prohibited
- Fishing Permitted with Proper License
- No Vehicles Allowed on Trails or Open Spaces
- Dogs Must Remain on a Leash at all Times, Except in Designated Off Leash Areas. (DOLA)

STAY ON TRAILS
Staying on trails is a simple way to protect the park and trails. Shortcutting trails causes erosion and damages trailside plants. Walk and ride on designated trails, but not when muddy. If you MUST leave a trail, protect vegetation by stepping on rocks, gravel or other non-vegetated surfaces. Avoid hiking and riding on areas that are closed for vegetation or signed as sensitive.

TRAIL LENGTH in feet. 5,280 ft = 1 mile
- Beech Grove: 4,852
- Brush Arbor: 22,886
- Burke Heights Loop: 11,554
- Burke Ridge: 2,062
- Birding: 3,428
- Center Woods: 3,391
- Cross Hill: 2,898
- Deep Creek: 1,137
- Discovery: 2,687
- Hadens: 3,200
- Heritage Trail: 27,386
- Horseshoe: 2,648
- North Hill: 1,4576
- Quail Meadow: 3,005
- Rock Brook: 14,261
- Sandy Beach: 3,267
- Sandy Bluff: 934
- River Rock: 14,261
- Rivanna Overlook (RO): 1,389
- River Bluff: 3,677
- River Anne: 1,389
- River Anne: 3,677
- Rivanna Overlook (RO): 1,389
- River Bluff: 934
- Rock Brook: 14,261

TRAILS
- Beech Grove
- Birding
- Brush Arbor
- Burke Heights Loop
- Burke Ridge
- Cedar Creek
- Center Woods
- Trail Connector
- Cross Hill
- Deep Creek
- Discovery
- Hadens
- Heritage Trail
- Horseshoe
- North Hill
- Quail Meadow
- Reds Trail
- Rivanna Overlook (RO)
- River Anne
- River Bluff
- Park Access Road
- Rock Brook
- Sandy Beach

Map created by James Newman, Fluvanna County Planning Dept.

Map updated 6/20/17

LEAVE NO TRACE

Emergency - Dial 911
Look for closest trail marker.
Give dispatcher trail marker info.