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HIKING / TRAIL RUNNING / MOUNTAIN BIKING

PAUL STATE FOREST

Located in western Rockingham County

Paul State Forest provides an oasis of forest amidst rolling farmland. The trail is great for walking in the summer when shade cools the path and offers a pleasant and easy course for trail runners. At the trailhead, a set of picnic tables provide a lovely spot for a picnic. The tables were donated by the Turner Ashby High School chapter of the Future Farmers of America (FFA).

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

GOOGLE: *Paul State Forest*

Driving: 15-20 minutes west of Harrisonburg



Signs and Marking: Minimal, but wide path is easy to follow



Parking: Public parking lot on Clover Hill Road, just north of the Ottobine junction (Routes 257/613/742)

PRACTICAL PLANNING INFORMATION



Services Along Trail: picnic tables and benches, no bathrooms at parking area



Food & Water: None, country store nearby in Ottobine



Phone Service: Good service along trail, although service may be poor at the Ottobine junction

MORE INFORMATION

FLORA AND FAUNA IN THE FOREST

Paul State Forest was designated as a state forest in 1962 after it was donated by Federal Circuit Judge John Paul. The 173-acre forest contains a variety of tree species, including a distinctive “cove hardwood” area with cucumber trees, American hornbeam, and black birch trees, as well as 192-year-old oaks. A variety of birds frequent the area. Keep your eyes peeled for raptors such as Cooper’s hawks and kestrels. An additional 154 acres of forest is used for timber and research.

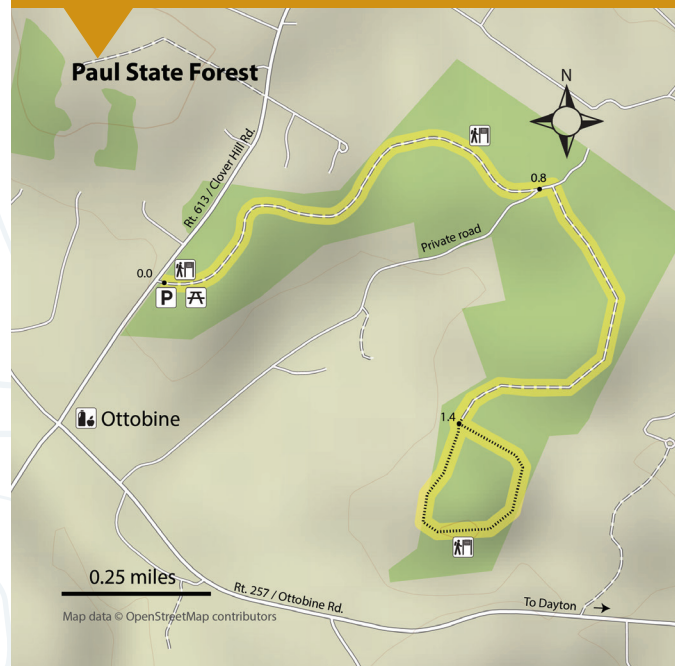


TRAIL INFORMATION



Time: 1-2 hours
Distance: 3.4 miles
Elevation: +/- 282 ft.

Terrain: Wide dirt/gravel path, with some more rugged sections toward the end
Preferred direction: Out and back



NAVIGATING THE TRAIL

This gentle path leads into a wooded area on a wide, mostly level trail. The trail is suitable for all-terrain strollers and ideal for an ambling stroll with good conversation. Benches are present at 0.7 miles and at the far end of the route (1.5 miles), where the trail loops around to return to the trailhead. Be mindful of private property signs and stick to the main path through the forest.

