
The Poor Farm Park trails system was one of the first trail systems developed with mountain bikes in mind in the Richmond area and remains a popular destination for a large number of mountain bikers.

The park is open year-round from dusk to dawn and offers a wide variety of trails from the novice friendly “flats” to the more advanced north side of the park. In addition to mountain bike trails the 254 acre park also offers a variety of other activities. There are playgrounds, picnic shelters, beach volleyball courts, soccer fields, an amphitheater, horseshoe pits, baseball and softball fields, a football field, restrooms, as well as seasonal concessions.

The trail system presents a challenge to map in a meaningful way. There are a large number of interconnected trails throughout the park that are difficult to make sense of from an overhead view. Instead of showing a “spaghetti bowl” of an overhead map the route shown here is a 6.3 mile loop that has been used for races held at the park. This will provide a good “tour” of the park. However, this will go through all sections of the park including the more advanced sections. For a beginner sticking to the southern half of the trail is often preferred. There are many offshoots from the path mapped here. Feel free to explore, but be aware of your surroundings as it is possible to get disoriented.

The trail system here is generally split up into two sections. The southern side, or left side from the road that leads in, is called “the flats.” As one could guess, this section is relatively flat and beginner friendly. As you move north, or to the right of the road that leads in, the terrain becomes much more varied. There are some short steep climbs and much more technical terrain including rock gardens, stream crossings, and narrow bridges. Be advised this area is considered to require more advanced skills.

History:

A common question regarding the park is where the name “Poor Farm” comes from. In the early part of the 20th century this area was a farm that offered housing and food to families in need in exchange for labor on the farm. This philanthropic farm stopped in the 70s and underwent a few other uses including rental property and fire department usage before settling into its current state.

Location:

The park is located in Ashland, VA. From I-95 take Exit 92 to Route 54 West (Ashland)

Follow Route 54 through the town of Ashland for 5 miles

Turn left at the signs for Poor Farm Park and Liberty Middle School

Follow the driveway in and parking will be on the right hand side.



Poor Farm Park

Mountain Bike Trails

For more maps and information please visit www.agees.com

