SHENANDOAH
COUNTY

OUTDOOR RECREATION GUIDE

Dreamers Always Welcome



VIRGINIA



Sure, we all daydream.
But some of us have discovered

A PLACE WHERE THOSE DREAMS COME TRUE— IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED, WONDROUS WAYS.

A place where you can drift on rivers, even in the sky. Or find an undiscovered treasure on your plate, or in your glass. A place where waking up in the morning is the start of endless possibilities for adventure and celebration with friends or refreshing your spirit in solitude. Whatever you dream of, come find it in **Shenandoah County.**

DREAMERS ALWAYS WELCOME



SHENANDOAH COUNTY
TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS



On Land 6
In the Water 20
In the Air 26
Camping 28
Resources 30
Events 31

WELCOME

The Shenandoah Valley is as beautiful as its name has invoked for centuries. Its beauty has been written about in folklore, it is endlessly the subject of paintings and photography. Its mountains span the western border of Virginia and its lazy river meanders with no hurry as it bends and winds along the edge of the western face of the Blue Ridge.

This guide gives you an insider's view of where to go, how to get there, and what to expect in order to help you plan the best outdoor adventure possible. Take a look at Shenandoah County's Destination Guide for detailed information about places to stay, places to eat and other things to do while you're here.

ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

Trail Key

- Bike Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Interpretive Area
- Horse Trail
- ~ Partial
- Tent
- RV
- Cabin
- Accessible *see p. 9 for details*
- Easy
- Moderate
- Hard

Hiking Trailheads

1. Big Schloss
2. Buzzard Rock
3. Buzzard Rock North
4. Massanutten Mtn South to Bird Knob/ Emerald Pond
5. Tuscarora Doll Ridge
6. Gap Creek to Duncan Knob
7. Falls Ridge Hike
8. Kennedy Peak
9. Kepler Overlook Hike
10. Kerns Mountain Loop
11. Massanutten Mountain Trail (stretches approx. 70 miles)
12. Laurel Run
13. Lions Tale Trail
14. Tuscarora Little North Mountain
15. Little Passage Creek
16. Little Schloss
17. Little Sluice Mtn.
18. Meneka Peak
19. Mudhole Gap
20. Signal Knob Loop
21. Massanutten Story Book Trail
22. Strickler Knob via Crisman Hollow Rd
23. Sulphur Springs Gap
24. Three Top Mountain
25. Tibbett Knob
26. Veach Gap
27. Woodstock Tower Trail*

***Please Note:** Woodstock Tower Road is not accessible to trailers, motor homes or RVs due to sharp curves and steep grades. This road is also closed when weather conditions warrant.*

Campgrounds

1. Elizabeth Furnace Campground and Recreational Area
2. Wolf Gap Recreation Area
3. Camp Roosevelt
4. Creekside Campground
5. Little Fort Campgrounds
6. Shenandoah Valley Campgrounds LLC
7. Fort Valley Ranch Campground

Fishing

1. Harry Murray's Fly Shop
2. Orndorff's Trout Farm

Horseback Riding

1. Fort Valley Ranch
2. Hogback Mountain Pony Rides
3. Secret Passage Ranch

Golf/Mini Golf/Disc Golf

1. Bryce Resort
2. Putter's Sweets & Eats
3. Smiley's Kustard
4. Shenvalee Golf Resort
5. Limestone Ledges Disc Golf
6. Disc Golf Course at Swover Creek Farm

Winter Sports

1. Bryce Resort

Aerial Sports

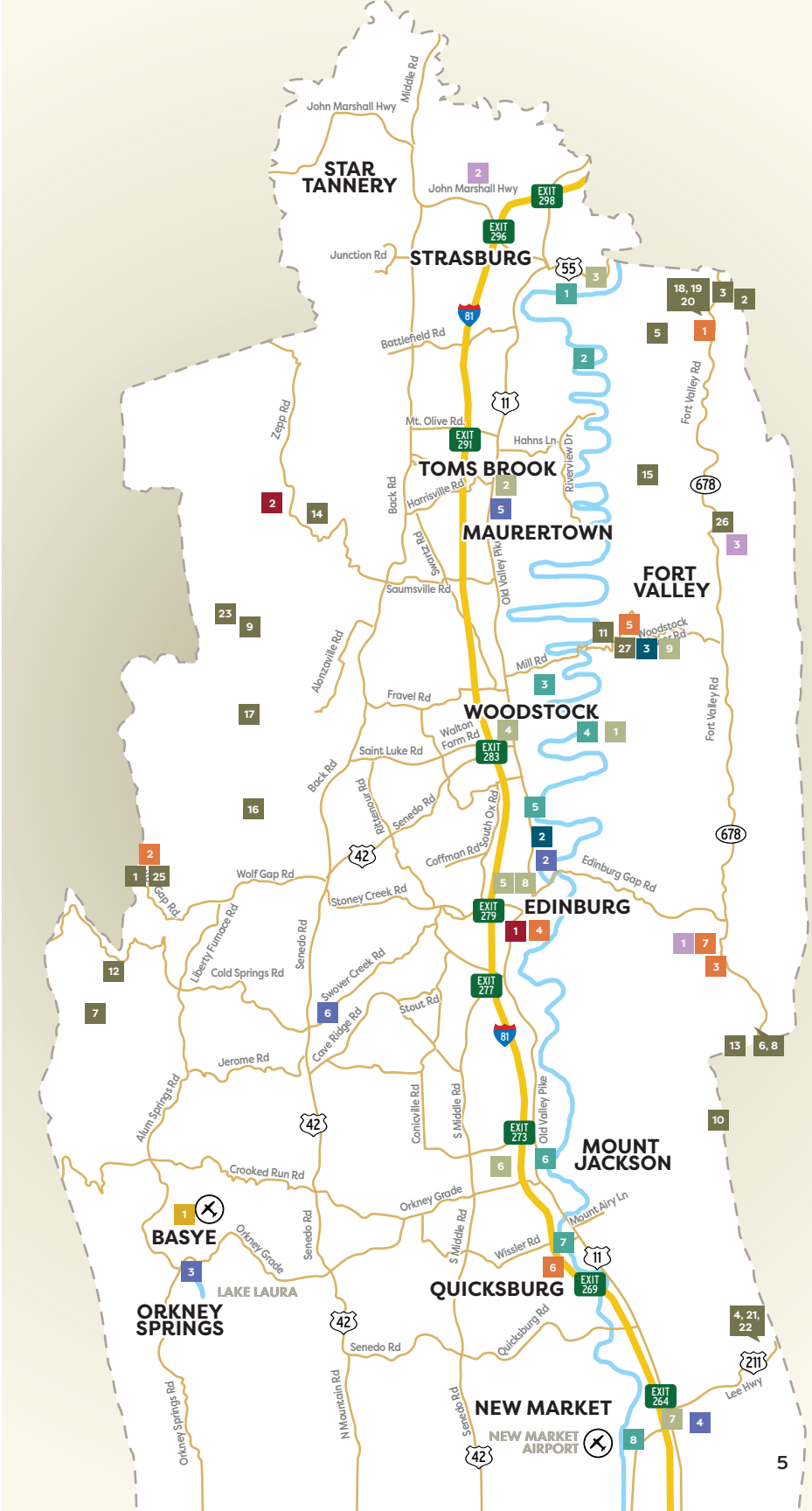
1. Bryce Resort Sky Lift
2. Valley Ballooning
3. Woodstock Hang Gliding Site

Public River Access

1. Strasburg Town Park/Strasburg River Walk
2. Deer Rapids
3. Lupton Road
4. Hollingsworth Road
5. Chapman's Landing
6. Red Banks Road
7. Wissler Road/Meems Bottom
8. Plains Mill Road

Parks

1. Seven Bends State Park
2. Shenandoah County Park
3. Strasburg Town Park
4. Woodstock Town Park
5. Edinburg Town Park
6. Mount Jackson Town Park
7. New Market Town Park
8. George Washington National Forest/ Lee District Office Headquarters
9. Peters Mill Run & Taskers Gap OHV trails



GEORGE WASHINGTON
NATIONAL FOREST

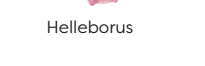
Scan for important informaton to enhance your outdoor experience

YEAR-ROUND
WILDFLOWERS

January & February ..... *March & April* ..... *May & June* .....


Snowdrops


Witch Hazel


Helleborus


Redbuds


Bloodroot


Crocus


Dame's Rocket


Azaleas


Mountain Laurel


Lady Slippers


Wild Lupine

With 26% of **Shenandoah County** made up of National Forest land, it is a haven for outdoor recreation. Take a leisurely stroll along the **North Fork of the Shenandoah River** or climb to the top of a mountain ridge for the incredible views. The beauty of Shenandoah County is what defines us, so immerse yourself on foot, float, horseback or bike. The best part is that wherever your outdoor adventures take you, you are always close to **great food**, **shopping**, **local attractions**, **wineries**, and **breweries** throughout the charming small towns and hamlets. Perfect for packing a picnic or kicking back to relax after a great day outside.



HUNTING

While most locals use private land for hunting, there are a few public places and times of year where visitors can hunt various game. For more information, visit **dwr.virginia.gov**

Check with proper authorities on where hunting is allowed on public lands and be sure to obtain necessary permits.

Scan for a link to obtain a hunting or fishing license

July & August ..... *September & October* ..... *November & December*



HIKING



DID YOU KNOW...

that there is a 100-mile race called the **Old Dominion Run** that courses through our mountain trails?

Runners traverse over pavement, gravel roads, single track trails, ATV trails, logging roads, rocks, streams, and mud, while climbing 14,000 feet in one day. Talk about extreme sports!

180+
MILES OF TRAILS

Shenandoah County offers more than 180 miles of hiking trails throughout the George Washington National Forest and in our State and local parks. What makes us proud is that we have trails to accommodate all skill levels, ages and abilities including handicap accessible and wheelchair-friendly trails.

"For me, hiking began as an outlet for restless energy and has become something quieter and deeper. It's still a way to encounter the breathtaking beauty of the Valley—the sweeping views, the shifting light, the endless variations of green. But it has also become a process of discovery, not only of the surrounding landscape, but of myself."

— CAITLIN GARVEY
Shenandoah County resident, avid hiker

Scan for a list of hiking trails in Shenandoah County



WOODSTOCK TOWER

Just a short (.15 mi) hike off of the Woodstock Tower Road, this historic lookout tower sits atop a mountain ridge and offers sweeping 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains, the winding "Seven Bends" of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and the Shenandoah Valley below.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Cell phone coverage can be spotty in some parts of the county, especially in Fort Valley or on the far western edge of the county, download your maps ahead of time
- Tell someone where you're going and when, even if you're going with a buddy
- Care for your natural surroundings. "Leave No Trace"
- Respect wildlife

ACCESSIBLE HIKES

see map on page 4-5 for trail accessiblilty info.

STRASBURG RIVER WALK

Along the river in Strasburg's municipal park is an easy access out-and-back trail that follows the river, perfect for watching heron, hawks, turtles and other wildlife.

SEVEN BENDS STATE PARK

Much of the 10 miles of hiking trails in Seven Bends State Park are flat, crushed gravel trails including Gokotta Trail and Bass Bight Trail which are good for motorized wheelchairs. *See page 13 for details.*

LIONS TALE TRAIL

Filled with sensory and interpretive activities this trail is perfect for children to learn about nature, and it is also very wheelchair friendly, allowing guests to get close to a stream and be fully immersed in nature.

STORYBOOK TRAIL*

One of the most popular trails in the county, a one mile out-and-back paved pathway rewards visitors with a beautiful overlook of the Page Valley below. *This trail is temporarily closed due to recent wildfires. We encourage you to check the US Forest Service Website for the latest updates.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY PARK

The Shenandoah County Park sits on 67.5 acres along Route 11 between Maurertown and Toms Brook. It features a mile-long paved walking trail, two restroom facilities, several picnic shelters and gazebos, softball fields, volleyball, tennis and basketball courts, and the recently redesigned Limestone Ledges Disc Golf Complex.

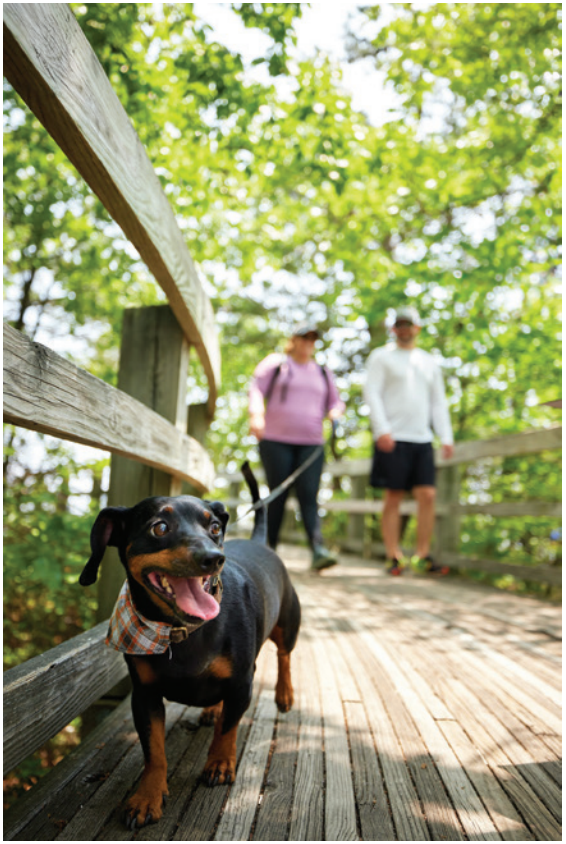


OUR PARKS





Parks are the BEST amenity for public access to the outdoors, whether you just need to stop and rest on a bench in a **pocket park** in town, or you want to take the kids to the playground at a town park. Does your dog need a **dog park** to run around safely in a fenced-in area? We have those too! **Shenandoah County Park** is great for a brisk walk, or a round of disc golf, and our **State Park** is perfect for a long hike or a float on the river and all of them offer a myriad of perfect spots to pitch a picnic with snacks from a local cafe or bakery!





PARKS & REC

Shenandoah County has a robust Parks and Recreation department which oversees a Wellness and Activity Center (WAC). Visitors may access a weight room and cardio equipment with a day pass or check out other Parks & Rec activities in their online catalogue like kayaking trips or Lester Zook's "WILDGUYde Adventures".



SKATEBOARDING

Located in Strasburg Community Park is the new **Tribute to Trent Skate Park** designed as a multi-use concrete pad that welcomes skateboards, scooters, and bikes, and offers an inclusive recreational space for youth and families alike.

Need a skate shop while you're here? **YOBBOS** is a family-owned skate, BMX, and Guitar shop in Strasburg.



SEVEN BENDS

STATE PARK

Located just east of Woodstock is one of the newer State Parks in the Commonwealth. Seven Bends State Park opened in the Spring of 2020 and has been a 1,052-acre dream of the community 20+ years in the making. The park itself adjoins the George Washington National Forest including the Massanutten Trail providing access to other trails within the National Forest.

Seven Bends State Park has two access points, One at **Lupton Road** and one at **Hollingsworth Road**. It is important to note which area you would like to visit. Upstream at the Hollingsworth entrance you'll find parking, kayak rentals, restrooms, hiking trails and an interpretive play area that is designed to be a mini seven bends of the Shenandoah River with activities and a 1/5-scale replica of the Woodstock Tower. Native flowers and plants attract pollinators and birds, and the boat launch on the river is the starting point for a float or boating experience that will take you to the Lupton side of the park.

The Lupton area of Seven Bends State Park also has restrooms, picnic areas, hiking trails along the river, pollinator plants and bluebird houses. In total, there are ten miles of hiking trails, and both sides of the park offer Universally Accessible Trails (UAT) where strollers and wheelchairs are appropriate.

COST: $5 for parking at either side of the park, Kayak rentals are available for $25/day on the dcr.virginia.gov

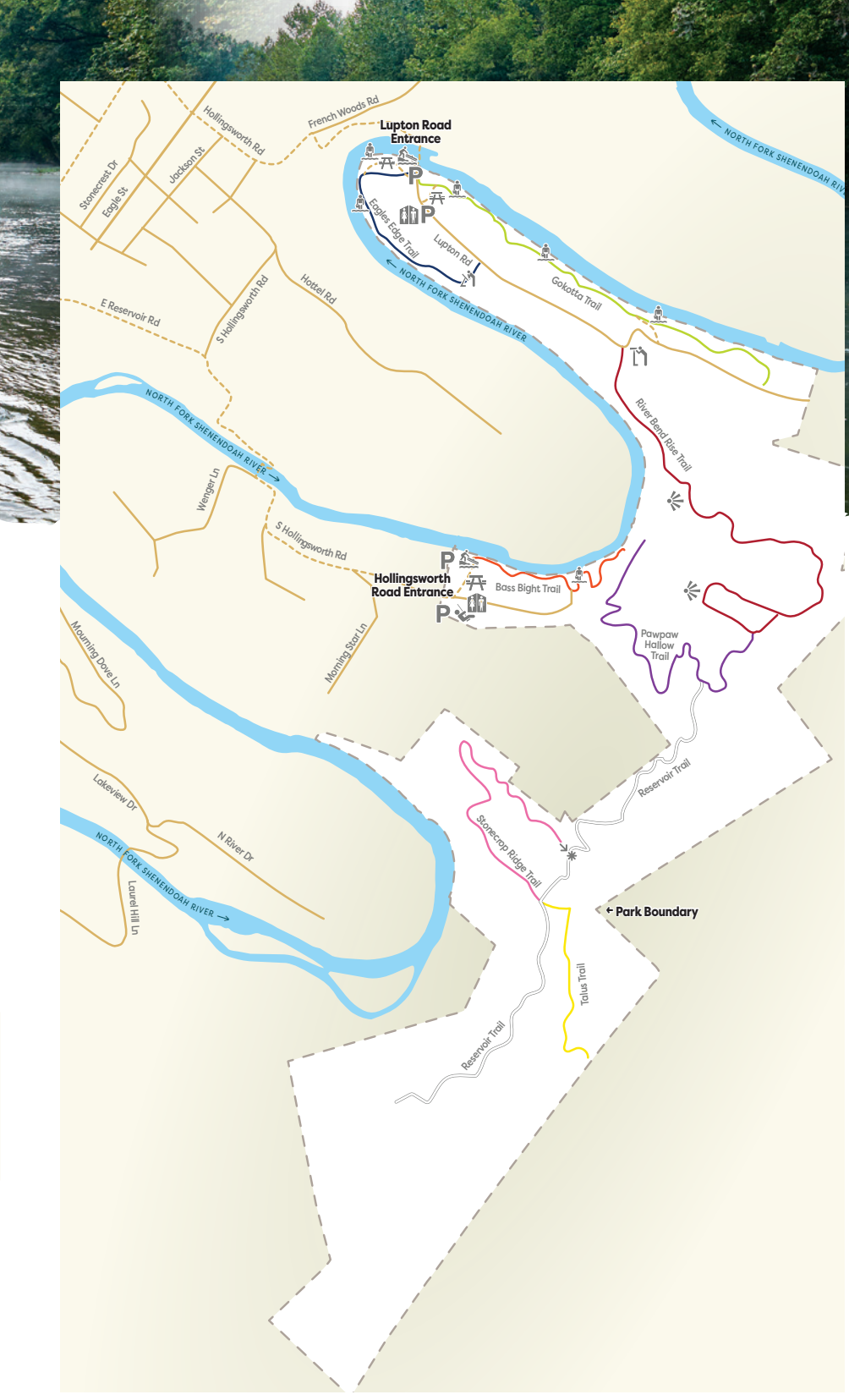
HOURS: 6 a.m. to dusk (30 minutes after sunset) there is no camping in Seven Bends State Park

Scan for a link to get a park pass, and kayak rentals at Seven Bends State Park

> *"Nothing brings me more peace than observing the lives of backyard birds, a quiet witness to their small, unfolding moments."*
>
> **— TERRY THIELE**
> local bird photographer







Trail Key

- Interpretive Area
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- Hand Launch
- Play Area
- Point of Interest
- River Access
- Scenic View
- Observation Viewing Station
- Accessible
- Secondary Road
- Connecting Route
- Water
- Park Boundary

Trails

	MILEAGE	DIFFICULTY
Bass Bight Trail	0.6	●
Eagles Edge Trail	0.6	■
Gokotta Trail	1.2	●
Pawpaw Hollow Trail	1.0	◆
Reservoir Trail	1.7	■
River Bend Rise Trail	1.6	◆
Stonecrop Ridge Trail	1.1	◆
Talus Trail	0.5	◆

BIKING



Bicycling is quickly becoming one of the most popular activities in Shenandoah County whether you're into road cycling, mountain biking, or gravel biking. **Road cyclists** can find windy country back roads with rolling hills through farmland and mountain views in the distance. You may find opportunities to stop at a **farm stand** or a **country store** to fuel up along the way.

Gaining popularity with cyclists is **gravel cycling** or "gravel grinding". A **gravel bike** is designed with a low handlebar like a road bike but with heftier wheels and treads, making it well-suited for riding on gravel roads or other unpaved surfaces. It's ideal for riding in Shenandoah County because so many of the backroads shift from paved to gravel.

Many of the country roads are narrow with little to no shoulder. Use extreme caution and know that you may encounter farm equipment and machinery. Be alert, and share the road.

For **mountain biking**, check the hiking trails for bike-friendly symbols or use your preferred gps app like **Strava** or **Ride With GPS** to find the best routes. If you're a downhill cycling enthusiast, **Bryce Bike Park** at **Bryce Resort**, transforms their ski resort into thrilling downhill bike trails from early spring through the fall.



“The Shenandoah Valley is a wonderful place to ride! You have plenty of gravel trails, scenic road routes, and wonderful mountain bike trails for all different skill levels. I partake in all of these! While the exercise and sightseeing are great, I really love the community that develops around cycling and the bike shop. Our world can get pretty lonely. The cycling community is pretty great at remedying this. I meet people of all ages and backgrounds and really connect over the common fact that we really like two wheels underneath us.”

— JOHN NGUYEN
Valley Trail Bike and Run



VALLEY TRAIL BIKE & RUN

in Mount Jackson is a full-time maintenance shop for all types of bikes, including e-bikes. They also offer bike rentals and sell a variety of sporting supplies like running shoes, nutritional supplements and pickleball supplies!

Scan for a list of our favorite scenic routes

BEFORE YOU GO

Make yourself very visible with bright colors, lights and always wear a helmet.

Equipment like the Garmin Varia (rearview radar and light) can help you with traffic safety.

Check heat maps in bike route apps to see which routes are most active. Dark red means it’s used frequently so it’s probably a good place to ride.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Scan for horseback riding options and horse friendly trails

Horses are welcome on many of the trails throughout the George Washington National Forest. Look for the symbol that accompanies each trail on the map on page 5.

FORT VALLEY RANCH AND CAMPGROUND offers lodging for you and your horses with several cabins, RV hook-ups, and primitive camping on site. If you're new to horseback riding, they can take you on a guided trail ride through the George Washington National Forest.



“Secret Passage Ranch is a very special place. We strive to have every rider connect with their horse and take in the beautiful scenery of Shenandoah County. Every season offers its own wonderful views and picturesque landscapes. Time stops when you ride here and you can be present in the moment.”

— DASHA SWEIGART
Secret Passage Ranch



SECRET PASSAGE RANCH offers Equine Boarding and Equine Therapy as well as guided horseback trail rides. They take special care to pair horse and rider with personalities to match all levels of experience. In mid-May you can ride through fields of buttercups and in mid-August ride with 8ft tall wingstem flowers all around you.





HOGBACK MOUNTAIN PONY RIDES
hosts group rides for children ages 3+. Have a group? Reserve a time in advance or attend one of their fun themed events.

OHV

Passes may be purchased at the Fort Valley Country Store or scan here for a link to purchase online in advance.

> *"Peters Mill Run is one of the **Jeep Badge of Honor** trails. It is a big thing for some Jeep owners to collect as many of them as they can, and as far as I know, it is the only trail in Virginia with that designation!"*
>
> **— JENDRA RAMBHAROS**
> President of the Capital Off Road Enthusiasts (CORE) 4x4 full-size offroad club Inc.

Known as the largest public OHV trail system in the state of Virginia, **Peters Mill Run** and **Taskers Gap** OHV Trail System provides 36 miles of rugged adventure. Advanced riders will find challenges in steep, rocky, and narrow trails, while others can enjoy trails that were once forest roads. All travelers will find mountain vistas, scenic rock outcroppings and the cool shade of deep forest. These trails have opportunities for Jeeps and other 4-wheeled drive vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes, and electronic mountain bikes.



BEFORE YOU GO

There are two main trails at Peters Mill Run and Taskers gap that are accessible to most stock 4x4 vehicles (think Jeeps, 4Runners, Broncos, etc) however much of the 36-mile trail system is only appropriate for four-wheelers, three-wheelers, dirt bikes, and trail bikes

Permits are required in advance to ride these trails

Trails may be closed due to weather, fire or season. Check the USDA/FS website for up-to-date information

GOLF



Shenandoah County is home to two 18-hole golf resorts. **Bryce Resort**'s 18-hole PGA Championship course in Basye and **Shenvalee Golf Resort** where you can tee off on pristine greens, unwind in elegant accommodations, and dine at the Miller Grille.



DISC GOLF



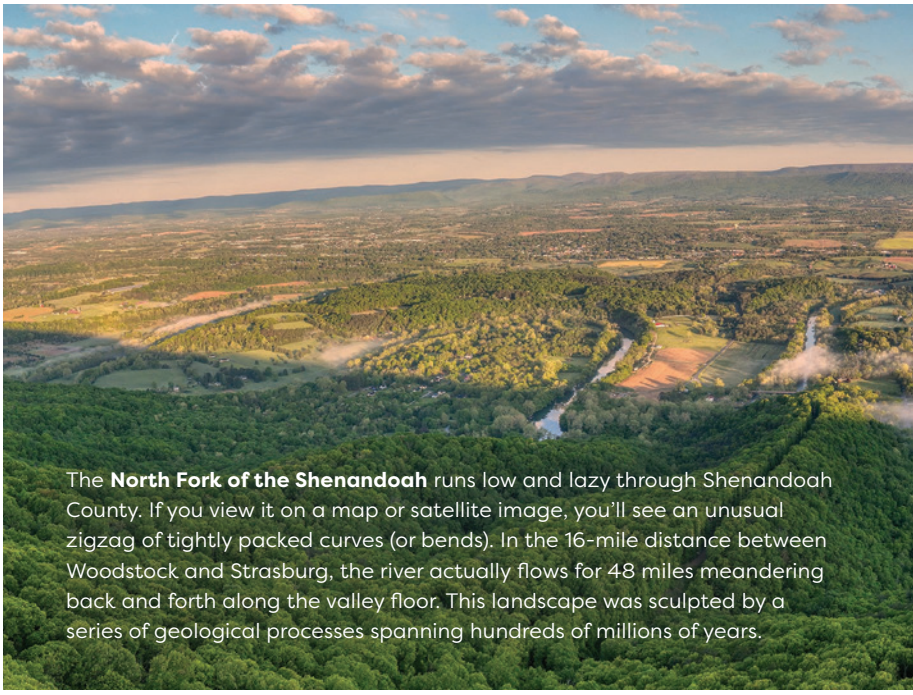
Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports and Shenandoah County has two 18-hole courses that are home to several PDGA tournaments each year. **Limestone Ledges** in Maurertown boasts an A+ rating on **DiscGolfScene.com** with three different courses for all skill levels including the "Massanutten Monster" a PDGA Gold-Level course designed to challenge every aspect of an expert player's game. **Swover Creek Farm Brewery** also has an 18-hole disc golf course. Enjoy a cold beverage as you play, along with their famous woodfired oven pizza and homemade sausages.

MINI GOLF

A great activity for the whole family or a date night. Stop in at **Putter's Sweets & Eats** in Edinburg or **Smiley's Kustard and Family Fun** for a round of mini- golf and soft serve ice cream, frozen yogurt, and root beer floats!

ON THE WATER

The storied Shenandoah River originates from tributaries on the East side of the Blue Ridge Mountains known as the South Fork of the Shenandoah and from the west side of the mountains known as the North Fork of the Shenandoah. The confluence of the two branches is located in the town of Front Royal, VA. From there, the Shenandoah River continues northward to meet the Potomac River in Harpers Ferry, WV.



The **North Fork of the Shenandoah** runs low and lazy through Shenandoah County. If you view it on a map or satellite image, you'll see an unusual zigzag of tightly packed curves (or bends). In the 16-mile distance between Woodstock and Strasburg, the river actually flows for 48 miles meandering back and forth along the valley floor. This landscape was sculpted by a series of geological processes spanning hundreds of millions of years.



KAYAKING

There are several public access points on the river for kayaking, and the water levels are usually high enough in early spring through early summer to paddle leisurely or float with an inner tube. Further into the summer you might expect to get out and walk a little bit as river levels drop.

Check in with Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River (FNFSR) for up-to-date river conditions **FriendsoftheNorthFork.org**. Use the map on page 13 to find the best public river access for your trip and note the following:

- There are several low water bridges and dams which are impassable on the river. Boats and floats will need to walk around them
- Most of the land adjacent to the river is private property. Be respectful of property and only use the public access put-ins and take-outs
- Use a dry bag to keep your cell phone and car keys
- Note that the distance by river between towns and other locations in the county is greater than the distance traveled by car due to the meandering bends of the North Fork.
- Note that cell phone signal may be spotty in some areas.



Come with friends and before you go, make sure you leave a vehicle at both the put-in AND the take-out. And most importantly, **keep the car keys with you!**



Scan to view the Shenandoah River from NASA's Earth Observatory

PHOTO BY SHENANDOAH VALLEY 360

DID YOU KNOW...

you can rent kayaks at Seven Bends State Park? The park offers "contactless" kayak rentals at the Hollingsworth Access. You can reserve a kayak online 24 hours before your float date to receive an access code. If your desired float is day-of, call a park ranger for your kayak access code at 540-630-4718.



Scan for more information about recreation on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River

BEFORE YOU GO

- Plan your route
- Sunscreen applied
- Extra sunscreen packed
- Water / hydration
- Weather checked
- PFD for everyone

FISHING



If you ask the local experts about fishing in the rivers and creeks in Shenandoah County, they'll tell you it's all about timing. For example, April through early June is prime time for wild native brook trout and Fall is the best time for fly fishing on the Shenandoah River for native brook trout and bass. A few popular spots for stocked rainbow trout from October to April are Big Stoney West and Passage Creek in Fort Valley.

MURRAY'S FLY SHOP in Edinburg is famous not only for its fishing supplies and instruction (they offer fly fishing and fly-tying workshops!) Its founder, Harry Murray has written several books about fly fishing specifically in this region. His books are the go-to resource for anyone wanting to fish in the Shenandoah Valley.

SHRINE MONT offers fly fishing classes throughout their season. Start by learning techniques along their ponds and graduate to nearby rivers and streams as the classes progress.

ORNDORFF'S TROUT FARM is a fishing spot in Star Tannery that is stocked with trout from March through September. They have hours on weekends from 8am-5pm and recommend making a reservation in advance.

Scan for a link to obtain a fishing or hunting license or buy one in-person at the following locations:

G & S Wild Country Outfitters
23987 Senedo Rd.
Woodstock
540-459-7787

K Stores LLC / Larkin Grocery
19004 Senedo Rd.
Edinburg
540-984-3354

DMV Woodstock CSC
714A N Main St.
Woodstock

Walmart
Sports & Outdoor Counter
461 W Reservoir Rd.
Woodstock
540-459-9229

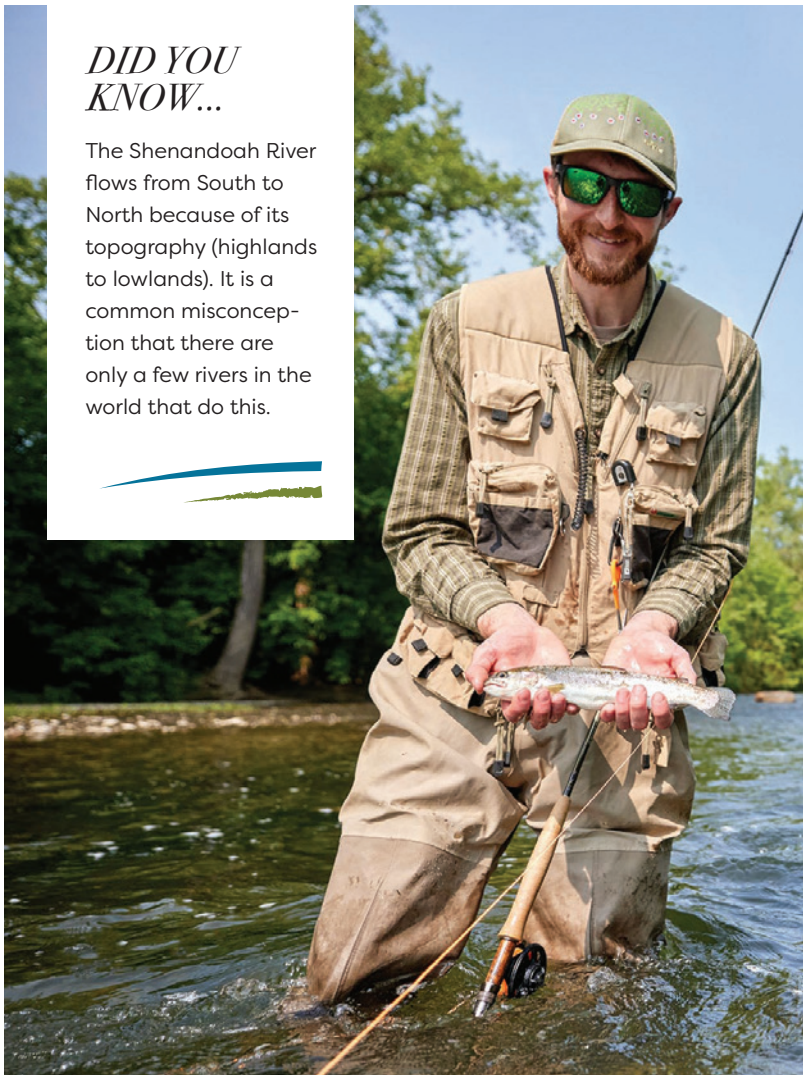


I've been fishing the river and creeks of Shenandoah County for more than thirty years and I still believe there's a quiet magic in these mountains. In the springtime, when the fog settles low in the valley and drifts along the river, the watershed comes to life. From the feeder streams that offer winter and early spring trout fishing, to the north fork of the Shenandoah with an abundance of fishing opportunities including the prized small mouth bass. This river country gives you room to wander, to fish, to float, and to sit a while and listen. Places like this are a gift.

— LUKE MORRISON,
Shenandoah County resident, avid fisherman

DID YOU KNOW...

The Shenandoah River flows from South to North because of its topography (highlands to lowlands). It is a common misconception that there are only a few rivers in the world that do this.





LAKE LAURA

Lake Laura is a 44-acre lake that is part of what visitors can enjoy while visiting Bryce Resort in the summertime, late May through Labor Day. There, guests can rent paddle boards, canoes and pedal boats to enjoy a relaxing time on the water or simply watch the ripples and take in the sunshine in a chair by the water on the grassy "beach". An easy 2.5-mile trail that is accessible year-round runs the perimeter of the lake for a brisk walk or trail run.
bryceresort.com/summer/lake-laura

BRYCE RESORT

Scan to visit Bryce Resort's website

Bryce Resort is one of only four resorts in the state that offers a full spectrum of winter fun from skiing and snowboarding to snow tubing and ice skating. The slopes have 3 high-speed quad lifts, 10 trails and 2 bunny slopes. For young skiers and first-timers, the acclaimed Horst Locher Snow Sports School is accredited through The Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA).

Bryce Resort is not just for winter! It is a 400-acre, four-season destination offering a wealth of activities in the spring, summer and fall such as downhill mountain biking for beginner to expert, an 18-hole PGA Championship golf course, a 42-acre lake for recreation, scenic lift rides, annual festivals and events, and more.







WELLNESS

It is widely known that sunlight and fresh air is good for the body and soul. Here in Shenandoah County, a simple drive through farmland on backroads with the windows down can be rejuvenating but there are places that focus specifically on health through connection with the outdoors.

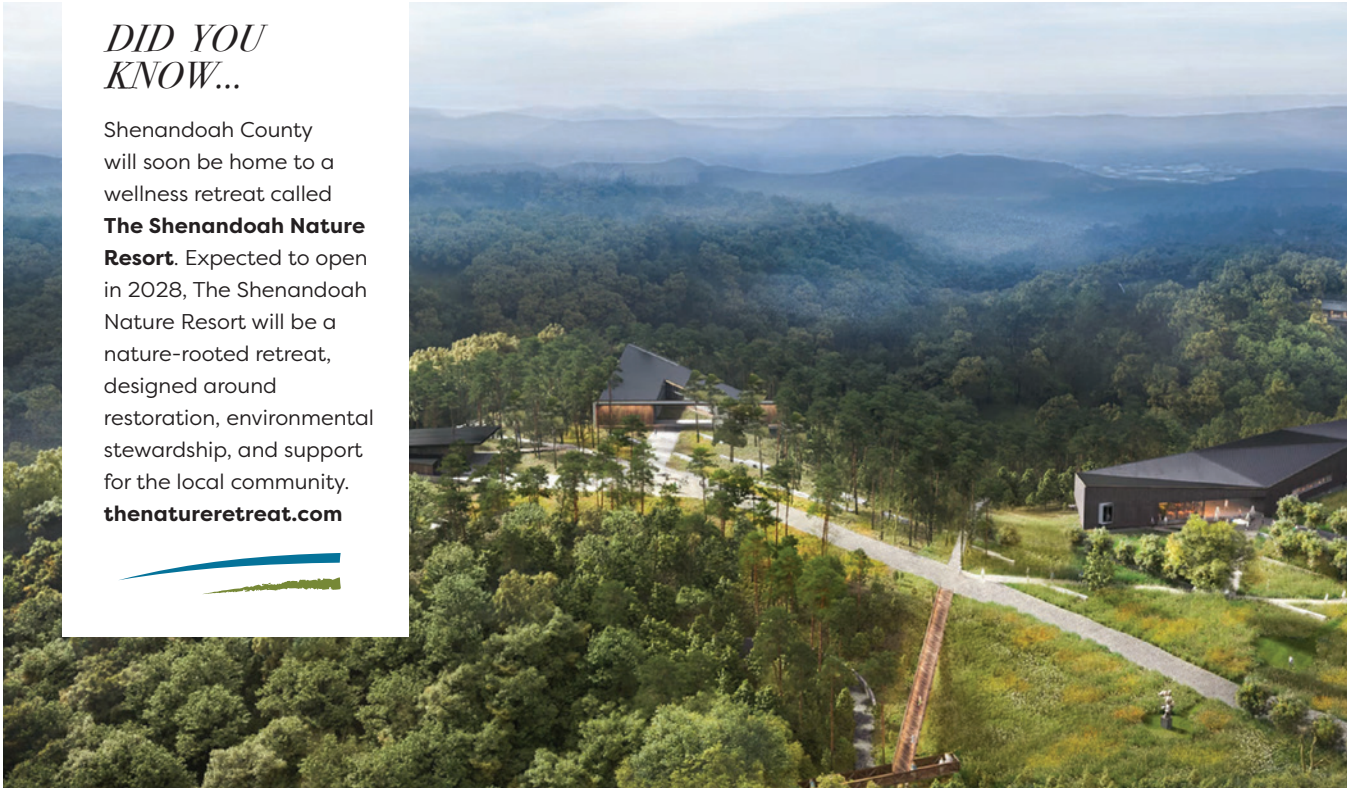
ORKNEY SPRINGS was once a place where people from the cities would come just to bathe in the mineral springs for health benefits. While the springs and pools still exist, the property there, called **Shrine Mont,** offers programming such as yoga and nature photography, and encourages visitors to unplug and listen to the rustling leaves and birdsongs.



Equine Therapy is a unique, peaceful experience at **Secret Passage Ranch**. Led by a resident social worker, equine therapy is designed to encourage healing through horse and human relationships. Serving special needs children & adults, single adults & couples, families, children & teenagers. Visit **SecretPassageRanch.net** for more details.

DID YOU KNOW...

Shenandoah County will soon be home to a wellness retreat called **The Shenandoah Nature Resort**. Expected to open in 2028, The Shenandoah Nature Resort will be a nature-rooted retreat, designed around restoration, environmental stewardship, and support for the local community. **thenatureretreat.com**



IN THE AIR





HOT AIR BALLOON

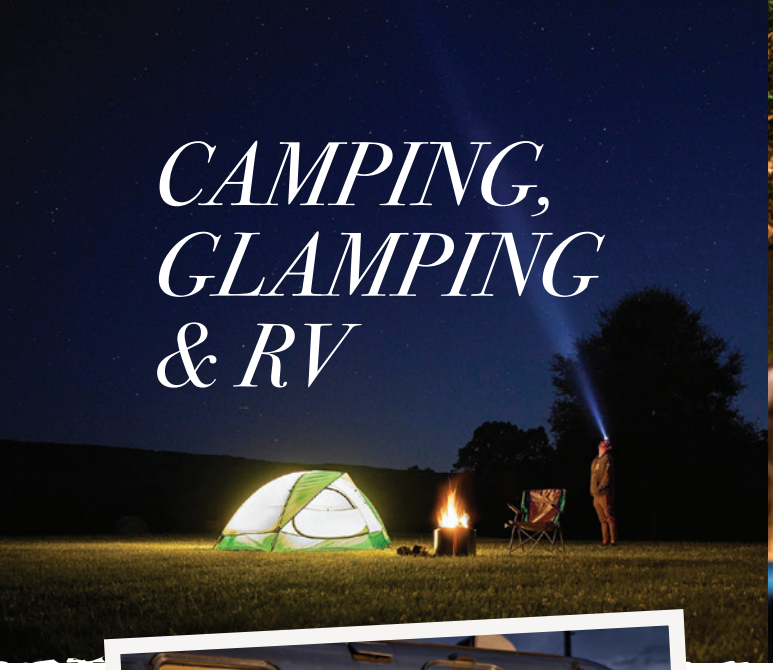
Located near Woodstock, VA, **Valley Ballooning** offers flights over the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. Flying over the Shenandoah is truly rewarding and offers spectacular views of the mountains, farmland, vineyards and wildlife.

Valley Ballooning operates year-round and offers flights seven days a week weather-permitting. Guests should expect to be flexible with trip planning as the conditions need to be just right for a balloon flight.

HANG GLIDING/PARAGLIDING LAUNCH SITES

The Woodstock Hang Gliding Site, located on the western slope of Massanutten Mountain near the Woodstock Tower Trail offers a challenging launch for experienced pilots, providing panoramic views of the Valley. It is managed through the Capital Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (CHGPA) and requires H2/P2 rating or higher. Visit **chgpa.com** for more information.

CAMPING, GLAMPING & RV







Get the full outdoor experience in Shenandoah County by choosing your camping style. There is plenty of primitive camping in the George Washington National Forest, so bring your camping gear and be sure to leave no trace as you pack out. Other options for camping or "Glamping" include yurts, cabins and domes, all of which can be found on our website or through popular vacation rental sites.

There are plenty of designated campsites like Elizabeth Furnace and Wolf Gap Recreation areas along with places with RV hook-ups or nearby cabin rentals as well.

Scan for a list of all of our lodging options



KNOW THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF

"LEAVE NO TRACE"

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Use a map and compass and let people know where you are and where you are going.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.

Leave What You Find

- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely.

Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Scan to learn more about fire safety in our National Forest

Scan to learn more about "Leave No Trace" and how you can help keep the outdoors beautiful for future generations

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SHENANDOAH RIVER



PLEASE NOTE: Most of the land adjacent to the North Fork of the Shenandoah River is privately-owned. You may enter and exit the river ONLY at public access sites. *See the map on page 5 for all Public River access points.*

There are several North Fork Shenandoah River access points open to the public. Launch your hand-carry boat or float from Seven Bends State Park or various locations across Shenandoah County such as New Market, Edinburg, Woodstock, and Strasburg.

Each point adds its own touch of magic to your journey, promising an experience that's as diverse as the river's flow itself.

Following is a list of public river access locations by town:

NEW MARKET

North Fork at New Market

The parking for this access is at the corner New Market Depot Rd and Plains Mill Rd. Follow the path under the bridge to the river. This is hand launch only; good for wading and swimming.

EDINBURG

Red Banks Road

Parking is on the corner between the river and Rte 11 off north of the bridge on Red Banks Rd between Edinburg and Mount Jackson.

Chapman Landing Road

Located just downstream of Edinburg. A popular access point for wade-fishermen and boaters. This site offers parking in a flat gravel lot along with a concrete boat ramp.

WOODSTOCK

Hollingsworth Road

Located east of the Town of Woodstock, there is a small gravel lot at the elbow in the road just before Rte 609 (Hollingsworth Road) turns to cross the North Fork.

Seven Bends State Park

There are two entrances to Seven Bends State Park, one at Hollingsworth Road and one at Lupton Road. (see map on page 13) At the **Hollingsworth** side of the park, there is a boat ramp at the end of the parking lot near the entrance to the park. This is a great place to put in for an (approximately) two-hour float to the **Lupton** side of the park which is an ideal take-out point.
It is not advised to put in at the Lupton side as there is not a take-out point downstream before the dam.

STRASBURG

Deer Rapids

Located 3 miles south of Strasburg off Rte 644 (Funk Road). This low water bridge provides an easy put-in or take-out via a gravel boat ramp. A great launch point to float to the Strasburg Town Park just 5.6 miles downstream.

Strasburg Town Park

Concrete boat launch suitable for kayaks, canoes and shallow aluminum boats. This is a very family friendly access point for people with children. Huge gravel parking lot with port-a-johns next to the river. Also an excellent location for redbreast sunfish and smallmouth bass fishing.

OUTDOOR RECREATION EVENTS



Shenandoah County draws athletes and outdoor enthusiasts year-round with a calendar of events as varied as the landscape. Enjoy a New Year's Day hike along the river or anything from competitive disc golf to endurance runs, and multi-sport adventure races. There's always something to sign up for or cheer on. Check each event's website for current schedules.



Scan for all of the events on the calendar in Shenandoah County

January 1
FIRST DAY HIKE AT SEVEN BENDS STATE PARK
Ring in the New Year on the trails with park-guided hikes and snacks. **dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/seven-bends**

Early February
ICE BOWL AT LIMESTONE LEDGES
All skill levels are welcome at this winter charity disc golf tournament benefiting area food pantries. **icebowl.org**

Late February
SWOVER CREEK SHOWDOWN
Sanctioned PDGA tournament at Swover Creek Farm Brewery's free public course. **discgolfscene.com**

Mid-March
BRYCE RESORT WINTERFEST
Pond skimming, polar plunge, DJ, and slope festivities to close out ski season. **bryceresort.com/events-and-activities/events**

Spring–Fall
ODEEO ENDURANCE RIDES
Multi-distance rides on horseback, plus virtual events open to all movement types. **olddominionrides.com/calendar**

Early June
OLD DOMINION 100-MILE ENDURANCE RUN
A 100-mile ultra through Massanutten Mountain with 14,000 feet of gain. **olddominionrun.com**

Early July
SEVEN BENDS ADVENTURE RACE
Bike, trek, and paddle Seven Bends State Park in this beginner-friendly multi-sport race. **gritadventureracing.com/races**

Late August–Early September
I81DGS MAURERTOWN FLY
Sanctioned PDGA tournament on the challenging terrain of Limestone Ledges Disc Golf Complex. **discgolfscene.com**

Periodic
FARM TO FORK FITNESS ADVENTURE FONDO
A scenic cycling event with farm stops showcasing the region's fresh, local flavors. **farmtoforkfitness.com**

See website for dates
BRYCE BIKE PARK RACE SERIES
Challenging lift-accessed downhill mountain bike races on Bryce Resort's signature trails. **bryceresort.com/events-and-activities/races**


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