

Description: The Bull Run Mountains Conservancy manages 800 acres on the southern end of Bull Run Mountains. Despite its small size this venue has a fairly interesting network of trails. I rate most of the trails as easy although segments of the trails that follow the ridge can provide a pretty good cardio-vascular workout. For this reason I rate the overall hike as moderate. The primary loop is only about 4.6 miles in length but additional out-and-backs to visit graveyards, mill and homestead ruins, quarry sites, a fantastic view of Fauquier County and a pretty unique trash dump puts the total mileage at about 7.4 miles. This was also the scene of a very important Civil War military engagement, the Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, the results of which had major implications for the Second Battle of Manassas. Visit <http://www.fobr.org> for more information.

Directions to Bull Run Mountain from the junction of I-66 (West) and US15:

1. Take I-66 to the Haymarket exit (Exit 40, US 15)
2. Go south on US 15 (Left turn at end of ramp), then turn west (right) at the stoplight onto Rt. 55
3. Travel 2½ miles and turn right onto Turner Rd.
4. Cross over I-66 and immediately turn left onto Beverly Mill Drive.
5. Go ¾ mile to the Bull Run Mountains Conservancy Mountain House, on the left.

Trail Notes: The conservancy uses a unique trail marking system designed and installed by Boy Scouts. Each trail intersection has a post with colored discs **Note that there are still blazes on the trees. These are from previous management and may not match the color on the post. Post color has priority! Also, as of 11/05 the color coding of some trails have been changed and some trails have been combined. Unofficial, unsigned or blazed trails are shown as orange on this map. The following description uses these changes.** Some, but not all, of the intersections have signs. What is there is correct. Also note that the section of Ridge Trail north of the BRMC boundary is not under the Conservancy's jurisdiction and is not blazed or maintained. Finally, the map shows an "un-named" trail that parallels the Old Quarry Trail (Blue) and follows the northern portion of Cattlet's Run. This is not an official trail but one worth exploring.

Starting at the trailhead kiosk cross the railroad tracks. Soon come to the intersection of Mountain Rd (white disc) and a boardwalk (Now the beginning of Fern Hollow Tr - Black Disc). Turn left onto the board walk. Follow the trail to the first information post. Here are the remains of the Chapman home and an old ice house. Behind you is a side trail with a green disc - The Chapman Tr. Follow this to visit the Chapman Graveyard. Proceed to the top of the hill to view the Quarry trench at the junction of the Quarry Tr - Brown Disc). This section was originally called the Quarry Trench Tr. (There may not be a trail post at this junction.) All of the rock used to build the structures in this area came from this trench. Turn left and follow the Quarry Trail back to the Fern Hollow Tr. From this junction you'll view what remains of Beverly Mill, constructed in the late 1700's and destroyed by arsonists in 1998.

Turn right at this junction and soon come to the ruins of another old mill as the Fern Hollow Trail (Black disc) turn right and begins a gradual ascent. At

0.52 miles from the last mill arrive at the Ridge Tr (Blue disc). Turn left on the Ridge trail and continue to climb, steeply at first. As you reach the ridge line the trail will bear right onto an old woods road. In 0.9 miles pass the junction of the Ridge loop Trail (Red disc but might look orange due to fading) on the right. The trail post is on the left. In another 0.16 miles you'll be off of Conservancy property. Continue to follow the old road for another 0.33 miles. You'll have to work your way around some fallen trees but keep bearing to the west to find the trail. Shortly after leaving the conservancy the trail splits, just behind a fallen tree. You want to bear to the left, staying in sight of the ridge. As you near the crest of the hill the trail and ridge line come closer together. At this point there is a great viewing platform called High Point to the left with an unobstructed view of Fauquier County and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Return to the junction of the Ridge Loop Tr (red disc) and turn left onto it. In 0.72 miles descend to a hollow and the junction of the Quarry Trail (Brown disc). Turn left, crossing Cattlet's Br, and follow the trail along a bench next to the stream until you reach an obvious trash dump on the right. Here you will find items of antiquity dating back beyond the 60's. The continuation of Old Quarry trail is on a hill on the north side of the pile and can be a bit hard to find. I prefer to stay on the streamside bench and follow it on an unofficial trail until you come to a small pile of branches and thin logs laying across the trail. Cross the stream here and turn right. The trail is usually obvious to follow. In more vague spots there will be some thin logs laying parallel to the intended path. At about 0.38 miles from the last trail junction you will see an old quarry area with stone seats on the opposite bank. I like to take a break here. There are supposed to be more stone ruins further north of this point but I've yet to explore that far up.

Retrace your steps to the junction of the Ridge Loop Tr and continue south on the Quarry Trail (Brown disc). In about 0.1 miles come to the junction of the Dawson Tr (yellow disc) on the left. Turn left. Pass Cattlet's Branch Trail (wine/purple disc) on the left, Staying on Dawson's Tr. Climb a slight hill. On the right will be the foundation of the old Dawson farm house. As you descend, a trail leading to the Dawson Graveyard is to the left. At 0.33 miles from the last trail junction arrive at the Mountain Rd (White disc). If you choose to end the hike early a right turn here will find you back at the car in about 0.4 miles. Otherwise, turn left, descend, pass Catlett's Br Tr on the left and cross Catlett's Br. Soon pass an old farm house on the left and turn right onto East End Trail (about 0.47 miles from the junction with Dawson Tr, It has a lime Green disc). Follow this back to Beverly Mill Rd, crossing the tracks as you go.

At 0.78 miles from the previous trail junction come to Beverly Mills Rd. Turn right here and walk 0.43 miles back to the car.