



Get to Know Great Falls Scavenger Hunt

Welcome to Great Falls, VA! Put on your walking shoes, pack a picnic lunch, and start exploring your new neighborhood.

1. GREAT FALLS GRANGE AND OLD FORESTVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE PARK

Directions: 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA. Just east of the Great Falls Library

Hours of Operation: Playground is open dawn until dusk

The Great Falls Grange was built in 1928 and is the last standing grange hall in Virginia. The Forestville Schoolhouse (yellow building next door) was built in 1889. It was originally a 1-room schoolhouse, but in 1911 an unused 1-room school from Floris (Frying Pan Road area) was moved and joined to the original schoolhouse. That is what you see today. There is a beautiful playground out back with picnic pavilions, and sport fields. Children love this playground. It is definitely worth the visit.



Question: What is the name of the Chairman of the Building Commission on the Grange corner stone?
How many swings are there on the playground?

2. THE GREAT FALLS FREEDOM MEMORIAL PLAZA

Directions: Located behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike in the Great Falls Village Center. Follow the pathway to the right side of the library to the Memorial Plaza.

The Great Falls Freedom Memorial Plaza was created in 2004 to honor all who have served our country, in particular the 26 residents of Great Falls who died when Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The names of the fallen GF citizens are listed in the "Great Falls Freedom Memorial Honor Roll" book, which is on permanent display in the library. Names are being added when necessary. The Freedom Memorial hosts a 5K race on July 4th, as well as annual ceremonies on Memorial Day, September 11, and Veterans' Day. The center point of the Freedom Memorial Plaza is an engraved 16,050 pound indigenous stone from a neighbor's yard.



Question: How many inscribed stones compose the outer ring that surrounds the Freedom Memorial Plaza?

3. DIFFICULT RUN STREAM VALLEY PARK AND TRAIL (GREAT FALLS PARK SECTION)

Directions: 8801 Georgetown Pike, McLean VA. From Great Falls Village, travel east on Georgetown Pike past the Old Dominion Drive traffic light, turn right into the gravel parking lot just around the big curve. The trail head going into Great Falls National Park and towards the Potomac River is beyond the gate at the end of the parking lot after the creek crossing on the right. **NOTE:** In the parking lot with the creek on your right-side is the start of the "The Cross-County Trail", however, this trail is less scenic and travels many miles away from Great Falls National Park through Mclean and Reston.

The "Difficult Run" is a tributary stream of the Potomac River. The entire stream is about 16 miles long and drains right into the Potomac River. It was named by boatmen in the late 1700s after finding the two sharp bends of the Potomac near Difficult Run's mouth



treacherous. The most popular and scenic part of Difficult Run Trail runs 1.4 miles roundtrip from the Difficult Run Stream Valley Park gravel parking lot to the Potomac River. The trail is fairly narrow and often rocky, winding its way near small waterfalls and scenic woods. It is well worth exploring!

Question: When hiking along the Difficult Run Trail, towards the Potomac River, it ends and merges with another Trail going North towards the Park's visitor center. What is the name of that trail?

This scavenger hunt was designed in collaboration with *Celebrate Great Falls* as an Eagle project by a Boy Scout from Troop 673.

Check your answers on the celebrategreatfalls.org website.

4. COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

Directions: 10017 Colvin Run Road. Great Falls, VA. From the Great Falls Village Center, travel south on Walker Road to left on Colvin Run Road to the entrance on your right.

Hours of Operation: Park open daily from dawn to dusk. Mill open daily from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Grinding demonstrations on the first and third Sundays, April through October, noon -3 p.m.

Colvin Run Mill c. 1811 is the sole surviving operational 18th-century water-powered mill in the Washington D.C. area.

Besides the mill and the miller's house, the historic site also has a general store that used to be across the street from the mill. You can purchase grain ground at the mill here as well as "penny" candy and sundries. It is a beautiful place to just take a peaceful walk and relax.

Question: Burr stones (grinding stones) were imported from France and a major investment for a miller. A good set of burr stones would last up to 100 years. How many Burr stones can you find as you explore the site?



5. RIVERBEND PARK

Directions: 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls, VA. From the Great Falls Village Center, travel north on Walker Road to Right on Arnon Chapel to left on River Bend Road to right on Jeffery Road to right on Potomac Hills Street. The Visitor Center is at the bottom of the hill. No entrance fee required.

Hours of Operation: Park opens daily from 7:00 a.m. to dusk. Visitor Center open daily, closed on Tuesdays.

Riverbend Park has over 400 acres of forest, meadows, and ponds with spectacular wildflowers, birds, and Potomac River views. Visitors can hike the miles of trails, rent kayaks, canoes, fishing rods, or picnic. Check out the wonderful displays in the Visitor Center to learn about the history and geology of the area. Remember to Leave No Trace – obey the posted signs, stay on the trails at all times, don't pick the wild flowers, carry out your trash, respect wildlife, and be considerate of other visitors.



Question: How much does the boat ramp cost?

6. TURNER FARM PARK

Directions: From the Great Falls Village Center, travel west on Georgetown Pike to left on Springvale Road to left into the park.

Hours of Operation: Dawn until dusk. Observatory Park is open most Friday nights for viewing.

Turner Farm Park functions as both an equestrian facility and Observatory Park. This former dairy farm includes almost 40 acres of open fields enclosed by perimeter fencing and is open for general riding.



There is a small tot-lot and picnic pavilion. Observatory Park consists of a roll-top telescope and a remote-accessed telescope. It is open on Friday nights and you don't need a telescope to view the stars, planets, and galaxies on Friday nights. The Analemma Society members are more than glad to have you peek through their equipment.

Question: There are donor plaques that recognize the names of major donors and families near the equestrian course gate on the south side of the park. One of the donor plaques is unique and simply states, "Just _____". What name fills in this blank?

7. NIKE PARK

Directions: From the Great Falls Village Center, travel west on Georgetown Pike to left on Utterback Store Road to left just past Forestville Elementary School. Nike Park has a shared upper parking lot with the elementary school.

Hours of Operation: Dawn until Dusk, unless games are being held "under the lights."

Nike Park is home to softball, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse fields, as well as tennis courts and a perimeter walking trail. If your family joins any of the local Great Falls House sports leagues,



chances are you'll play on one of these fields. The park got its name from the Nike anti-aircraft missile complex that was active during the Cold War. There is a radome that sits on the launch facility berm, but was not part of the original site equipment. This is openly accessible to the public and young children have fun entering the radome and hearing their echoes.

Question: The radome is constructed of steel panels. How many of these panels are touching the ground?

Get to Know Great Falls Scavenger Hunt Answers

1. Great Falls Grange and Park
Name of the Building Commission Chairman – L.B. Morris
Number of swings - 9
2. Great Falls Freedom Memorial
Number of inscribed stones around the memorial – 31
3. Difficult Run Stream Valley Park & Trail
Name of the trail it merges with – the Ridge Trail
4. Colvin Run Mill Historic Site
Number of burr stones – 13
5. Riverbend Park
Cost of using the boat ramp - \$5.00
6. Turner Farm Park
Donor plaque name “Just Max”
7. Nike Park
Number of panels in the radome that touch the ground - 16