

RIVERS, TRAILS AND PARKS

Yes! I want to join the Dan River Basin Association and help preserve the region's rivers, streams and special heritage.

	<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$40
	<input type="checkbox"/> FRIEND	\$50-\$99
	<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION*	\$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE**	\$100
	<input type="checkbox"/> STEWARD	\$100-\$249
	<input type="checkbox"/> PROTECTOR	\$250-\$449
	<input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR	\$500-\$999
	<input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR	\$1000+

*Nonprofit organization or corporation having 10 or fewer members
**Corporate members join as Steward (or higher) and Organization members join as Friend (or higher). Each membership in any category is entitled to one vote.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 Date _____ Check # _____

FREE DRBA vinyl sticker (check one)
 Large sticker (6.5" x 4) Small sticker No sticker
 My name may be printed in the newsletter in my membership category
 I would like to make a **Donation** \$ _____
 I would like to give a gift of \$ _____ in memory/honor of _____
 I would like to volunteer

Please make application and payment to
 Dan River Basin Association
 413 Church Street, Suite 401, Eden, NC 27288-3243
 Phone: 276.634.2545 danriver.org

The Dan River Basin Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations, memberships and gifts are tax deductible to the extent provided by law

TRAIL SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

- Please do not remove plants, animals, or artifacts.
- Please dispose of waste properly.
- Use the trail with a friend.
- Pass other trail users on the left.
- Please keep all pets on a leash.
- Please always clean up after pets.
- Report all dangerous trail situations or maintenance needs.
- Restroom facilities are located next to the outdoor classroom.
- Hunting, horses, and ATVs are not permitted on the property.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday Morning Strolls – Enjoy a guided tour of the preserve hosted by Henry County Parks & Recreation and the Dan River Basin Association. Walks are offered several times per year.

Children's Programs – Designed for youth ages 4-12, these programs on nature and exploring the outdoors are offered several times per year.

Volunteer Workdays – Join our crew of volunteers as we spruce up the park!

Contact the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA) for more information on these special events by calling 276-634-2545.



BURGESS CEMETERY

Approximately 20 members of the family of plantation owner, John Henry Burgess (1831-1914), are known to be buried here.

A row of small headstones marks the graves of young children. The cemetery of the plantation's former house servant, John and his wife Jane Burgess, is located 1/3 mile south of this location on Old Mill Road. John Henry Burgess's grandfather, Davis Burgess (1765-1828), also has a separate cemetery to the east off Eggleston Falls Road. Tours of these locations are available upon request.

ABOUT RICHARD P. GRAVELY

Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. was a local businessman, naturalist, and amateur archaeologist whose will stipulated that the property be maintained and preserved as "a wildlife habitat and nature conservancy." Henry County purchased the property from the Virginia Museum of Natural History Foundation in July 2006. The Dan River Basin Association, with funding from the Harvest Foundation, developed the property in accordance with Mr. Gravelly's wishes as a nature preserve open to the public for recreational and educational purposes.

*Walk, Photograph, Watch Wildlife
 Explore! ... It's all here!*



MAKE A DIFFERENCE ADOPT-A-TRAIL!

The Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. Nature Preserve is maintained by the Henry County Department of Parks & Recreation and volunteers. Individuals and groups may adopt a section of trail to enhance the trail's beauty and safety by picking up litter, trimming stray branches, and reporting maintenance problems.

For more information about this program call Dan River Basin Association at 276-634-2545.
www.danriver.org

RESERVATIONS

Henry County Parks & Recreation 276-634-4640

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Business 220 in Ridgeway, turn southeast onto Old Sand Road. Take a left onto Eggleston Falls Road. The preserve will be on your left at the intersection of Eggleston Falls Road and Old Mill Road.



The Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. NATURE PRESERVE Tour & Trail Guide



Smith River Trail System



The Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. NATURE PRESERVE

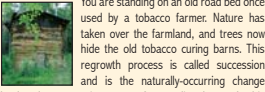
This 75-acre natural area is located on a forested ridge along the Smith River in Ridgeway, Virginia. Almost three miles of walking trails will take you through mature hardwood forests and tunnels of rhododendron and mountain laurel. This park has been nominated for inclusion on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail and is a beautiful spot to spend a day. The north-facing slopes feature an outstanding array of ferns. Trail signs tell the stories of land and the people who once lived and worked here. Follow the signs and use this guide to discover native plants and ferns, a cemetery, depression-era tobacco barns and many other natural and cultural features.

Thick stands of rhododendron and mountain laurel are reminiscent of higher elevation areas in the western regions of Virginia. Watch for wild turkey, deer and the occasional box turtle. Smaller pools and streams are homes to salamanders.

Wildlife can also be viewed from the river by launching at the nearby Marrowbone Creek access. Watch for river otter, kingfishers and songbirds like warblers and flycatchers. The 3.4-mile section of the Smith River from Marrowbone Creek to Mitchell Road bridge is rated class I-II.

1 Virginia's Farming Past
Please see display on trail in park.

2 Land of Many Changes

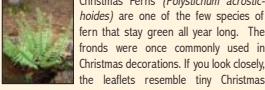


You are standing on an old road bed once used by a tobacco farmer. Nature has taken over the farmland, and trees now hide the old tobacco curing barns. This regrowth process is called succession and is the naturally-occurring change land undergoes as it recovers from a disturbance. In this case the disturbance was clearing and plowing to create a tobacco field. When the land was no longer used for crops, weeds and native grasses began to grow in the exposed soil, later to be followed by small shrubs and trees. Heat tolerant plants grow first, followed by hardwoods, such as oak trees.

3 Hardwood Ridge

Look around you; do you notice anything different about the forest here? You are now standing in a climax hardwood forest. Think about your last stop on the trail. There were more shrubs and small plants on the ground in the pine forest than there are here in the hardwood forest. Many factors cause that difference, such as acidity of the soil, minerals, and light. The canopy of a hardwood forest is much denser than a pine forest; therefore, plants needing large amounts of sunlight cannot survive here. As trees die and open up spaces in a pine forest, succession begins again. This never-ending cycle of growth continues each time a disturbance occurs in the forest, whether the disturbance is natural or caused by man.

4 Christmas All Year-Round



Christmas Ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) are one of the few species of fern that stay green all year long. The fronds were once commonly used in Christmas decorations. If you look closely, the leaflets resemble tiny Christmas stockings. In early April, small whitish spirals called fiddleheads will sprout out of the ground and open up to become new Christmas ferns.

5 Run, Cedar, Run!



No, running cedar (*Lycopodium digitatum*) doesn't actually run, but it does get its name from the way it slowly spreads across an area of land. The plants, which are related to ferns, grow in large groups. They can typically be found in forests where the soil is dry and plenty of dead leaves are on the ground. Running cedar spreads because of stems called rhizomes that grow sideways under dead leaves.

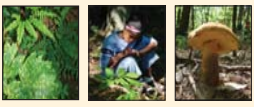
6 Burgess Trail Intersection

Before continuing on Jones Cliff Trail, take a short side trip down Burgess Loop Trail. In the mid 1980s, Gravelly used this ridge as a base camp as he studied the plants and flowers growing on the property. He planted a row of holly bushes alongside the trail that can still be seen today!

7 Mountain Plants



In front of you are two beautiful evergreen plants: rhododendron and mountain laurel. Rhododendron, which is Greek for "rose" (rhodos-) and "tree" (-dendron), has large leathery leaves. The plant features colorful rose-like flowers that bloom in spring. Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), typically the smaller of the two plants, has flowers resembling tiny umbrellas that bloom in late spring. Both the rhododendron and the mountain laurel are important to the Smith River Valley. Not only do they provide habitat and travel corridors for wildlife, but the plants benefit the river too. Roots from these plants help to hold the soil in place on the hillside, preventing erosion. Plants closer to the river banks provide shade to lower the water temperatures for trout and other cool-water fish.



8 Burgess Cemetery



Please see display on trail in park. This cemetery was the burial place for occupants of this land for more than half a century.

9 Edge Habitat for Wildlife

The 30-foot wide clearing here is an easement for a petroleum pipeline. The forest was cleared to prevent tree roots from damaging the pipe. This clearing provides light for sun-loving plants and edge habitat for birds and other animals. Because the pipe is buried beneath the ground, the pipeline right of way needs to remain clear of shrubs and trees. Please do not cross the safety barrier; the hillside is very steep. A better view of the river can be seen from Rhododendron Trail.

10 Balancing Nature

Please see display on trail in park.

11 A Moment to Listen



We hope that you have enjoyed your visit to Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. Nature Preserve. Before continuing on to the end of the trail, pause to take a look around you. Look up to see the trees reaching for the sky. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds of the forest. Think about the stories this land can tell. Now that your journey is complete, we hope that you have found something special about Gravelly Nature Preserve to cherish as Richard P. Gravelly, Jr. himself did.

For more information contact:
276-634-2545 or
drba.va@danriver.org

GRAVELLY NATURE PRESERVE TRAILS & SELF-GUIDED TOUR



---	JONES CLIFF TRAIL	1.0 MILE *
---	RHODODENDRON TRAIL	1.0 MILE ***
---	BURGESS LOOP	0.4 MILE **
---	RIVER VIEW TRAIL	0.1 MILE **
---	BURGESS CEMETERY	