

VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION OWNED LANDS ACTIVITIES REPORT

Prepared for the September 2025 Board Meeting

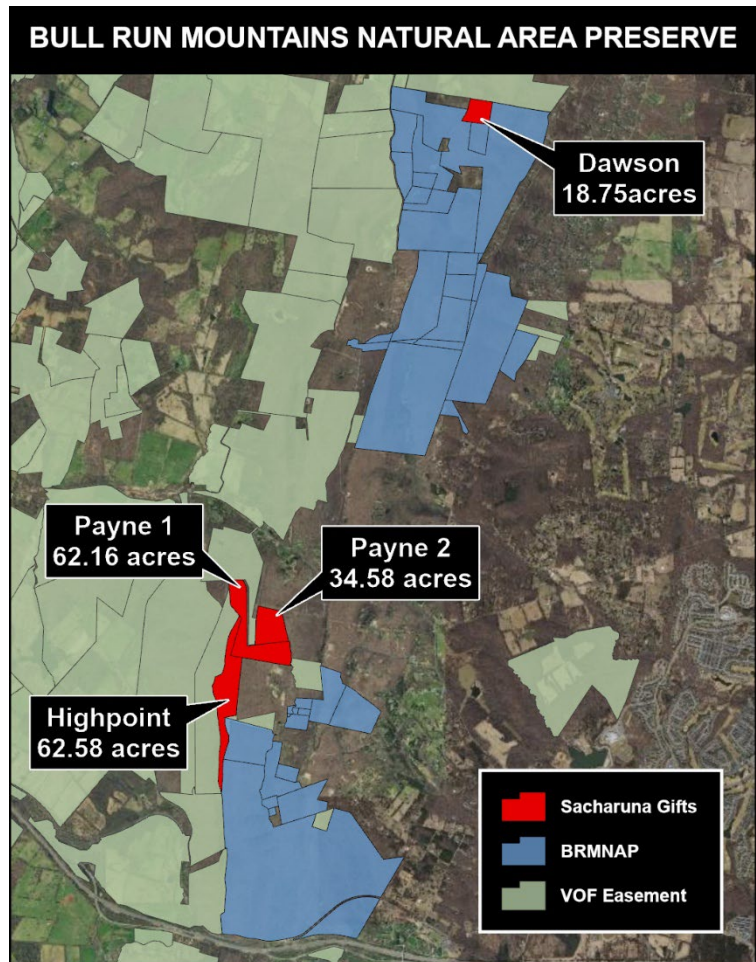
BULL RUN MOUNTAINS NATURAL AREA PRESERVE

2,350 acres (now 2,528) in Prince William and Fauquier Counties

178 Acres Added to VOF's Land Holdings at BRMNAP

We are thrilled to announce a significant expansion of the Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve, thanks to a generous gift from the Sacharuna Foundation. This gift, recorded in the Fauquier County Circuit Court Clerk's land records on June 3rd, marks a pivotal moment in the six-decade effort to protect this irreplaceable natural and cultural landscape.

These four newly acquired parcels will be integrated into the existing Bull Run Mountains Natural Area Preserve (Preserve), a 2,350-acre sanctuary owned and managed by VOF in accordance with deed restrictions and a management plan developed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Division of Natural Heritage (DNH). Recognized for its exceptional resources, the landholding was dedicated in 2002 and incorporated into the State Preserve system established to protect rare natural communities and habitats.



The addition of these 178 acres significantly strengthens the contiguous forest protection along the ridges and slopes of the Bull Run Mountains. This conservation work, begun in the 1960's by the Natural Areas Council with donations from Alice Mills and the Currier family and added to over the years by other donors and organizations, recognizes the Bull Run Mountains as an essential "green belt" and wildlife corridor in a rapidly developing region. The effort to complete the Preserve is still ongoing; VOF continues to work with interested landowners and seek opportunities to add key parcels to both north and south sections of the Preserve, and to link the two.

Long-awaited Welcome Area is Taking Shape at BRMNAP

VOF has planned for the development of a new parking lot and trailhead at the Bull Run Preserve for over 20 years. A 4-acre parcel that borders Beverley Mill Drive was set aside from preserve status for this purpose (dedicated as permanent open space, but not designated as Natural Area Preserve). The planned improvements will move our visitor parking lot from its current position along a VDOT right-of-way onto VOF land. This will provide a safer, more welcoming, user experience while improving site security, by placing parking and a maintenance area behind a lockable gate.



The parking lot development has been progressing on schedule and, with the storm water system now successfully installed, is taking shape (as seen in the photo above). Concurrent work on establishing electrical connections, a well, an automated access gate, a railroad crossing, and a stretch of new trail are underway and will become the primary focus of this effort, with the primary construction of the stormwater system and physical parking lot nearing completion.

Artistic Fellows Revive Bull Run Mountains Musical History

A fellowship program at VOF was created in 2019 to provide paid research and outreach opportunities for young professionals that would benefit BRMNAP and better connect it with the communities that we serve. Over the years, eight fellows have contributed to a greater understanding of the Preserve's natural and cultural resources and engaged the community with their newly discovered information via media content, public school field trips, and public programming. The funding for this fellowship program comes from a variety of "soft money" acquired via targeted fundraising, grant awards, and philanthropic donations.

We are happy to report that four songs have been recorded by our very first artistic fellow's, Herb and Hanson, that will connect people with this place and highlight the area's unique history. One of these songs brings to life a historic song from the Bull Run Mountains, as documented by Works

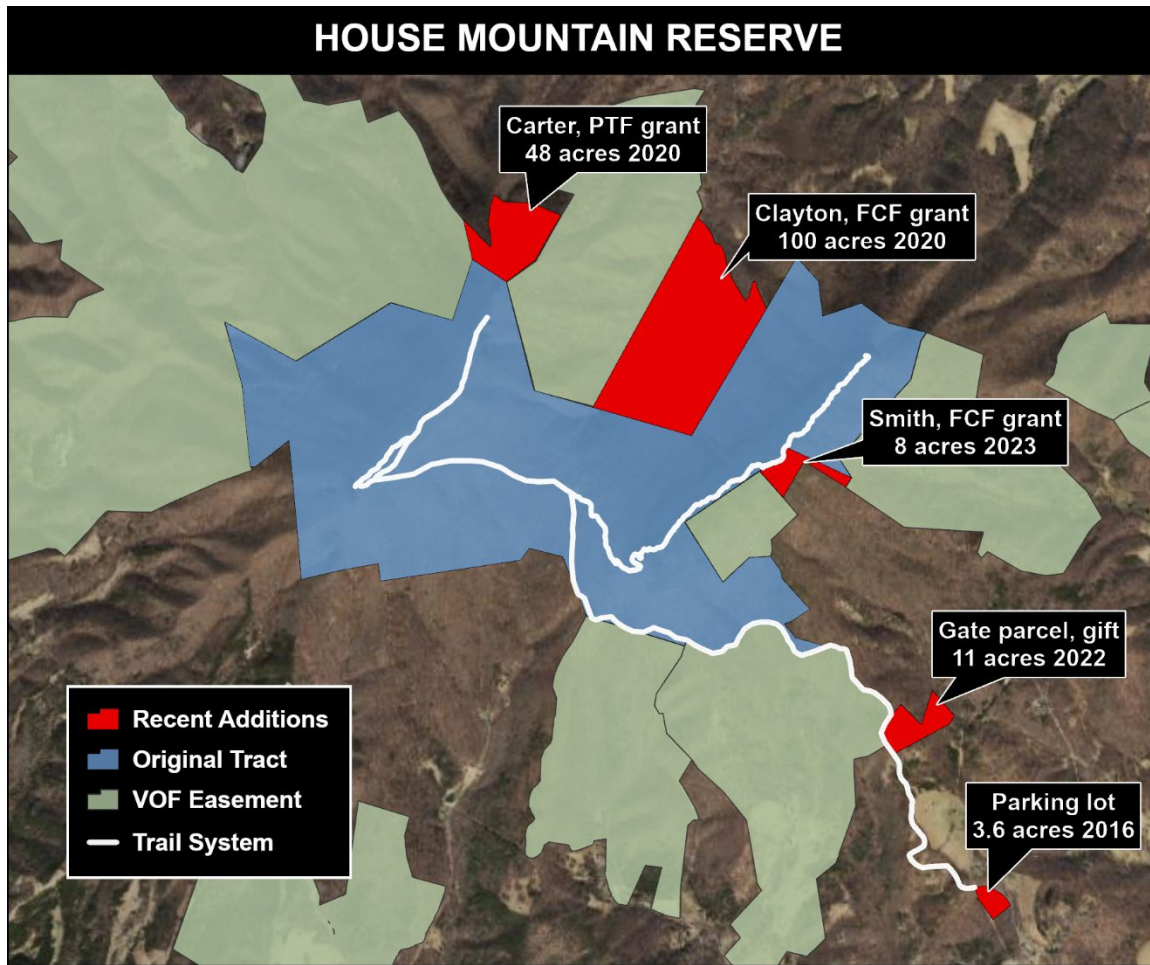
Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930's. While others were inspired by the folklore and history of the mountains, and the artist's time spent here at VOF's Preserve.

Our fellows shared that their songs, "Molly Pops" and "Captain Kidd", are their attempt at recreating the old-time sound of the place and era. "Father's Only Son" is their best recreation of the historic song, noted by WPA researcher, Susan Morton, as being heard here in 1934. And "Love & Blood" is an original telling of the infamous incident of Simon Kenton that sent him out of the Bull Run Mountains to join Daniel Boone and his men on the frontier of the time.



HOUSE MOUNTAIN RESERVE **884 acres in Rockbridge County**

VOF continues to manage and maintain the property with a focus on public access and natural and cultural resource protection. An updated map is being developed for the parking area kiosk and saddle area trailhead that will include the additions to the Reserve acquired through gifts and grants over the last nine years.



Trail improvements and maintenance are a constant activity and greatly aided by the dedicated work of our stewardship volunteer and neighbor Brian McCannon.

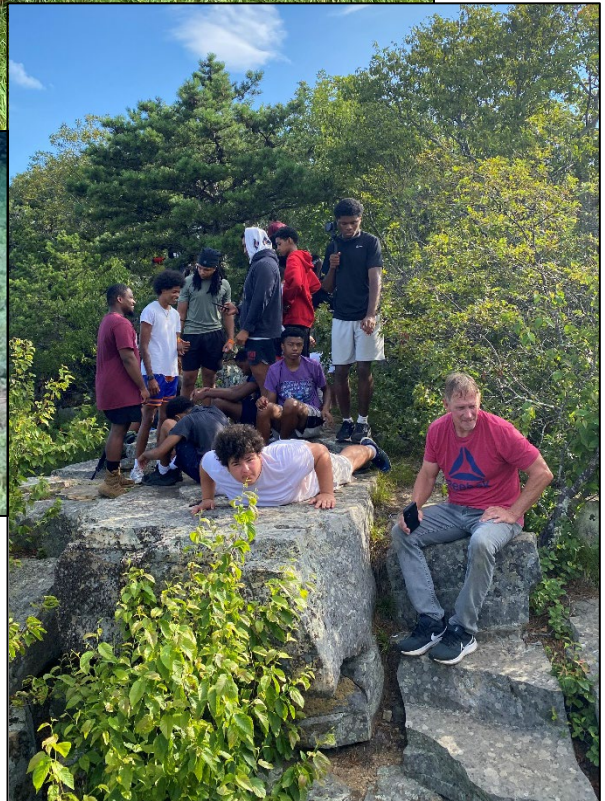
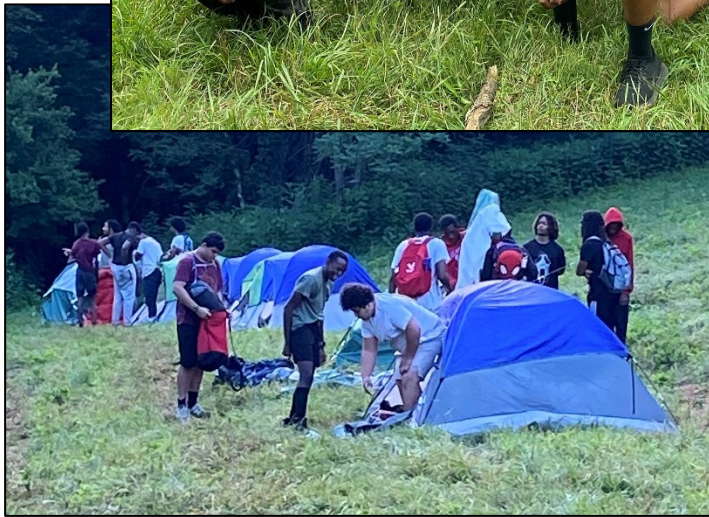


House Mountain Trail July 26th BEFORE

House Mountain Trail July 26th AFTER

The Reserve is enjoyed regularly by hikers and utilized for organized events such as the overnight campout described below.

VMI led a College Orientation Workshop (COW) overnight visit to the Mountain!



College Orientation Workshop (COW) is a 4-week challenging summer educational enrichment program at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), which prepares male minority high school rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors to achieve success during the remainder of their high school careers and beyond. This is done by cultivating confidence, greater self-esteem, a stronger work ethic, and a commitment to achieving success in spite of the many challenges facing them. Students are also encouraged to seek higher education at the college of their choice, and the program helps prepare them for the varied demands of the college experience. Being integrated into the college environment and associating with college professors and students exposes these young men to a world of new possibilities. (cow4life.org)

HAYFIELDS STATE PARK

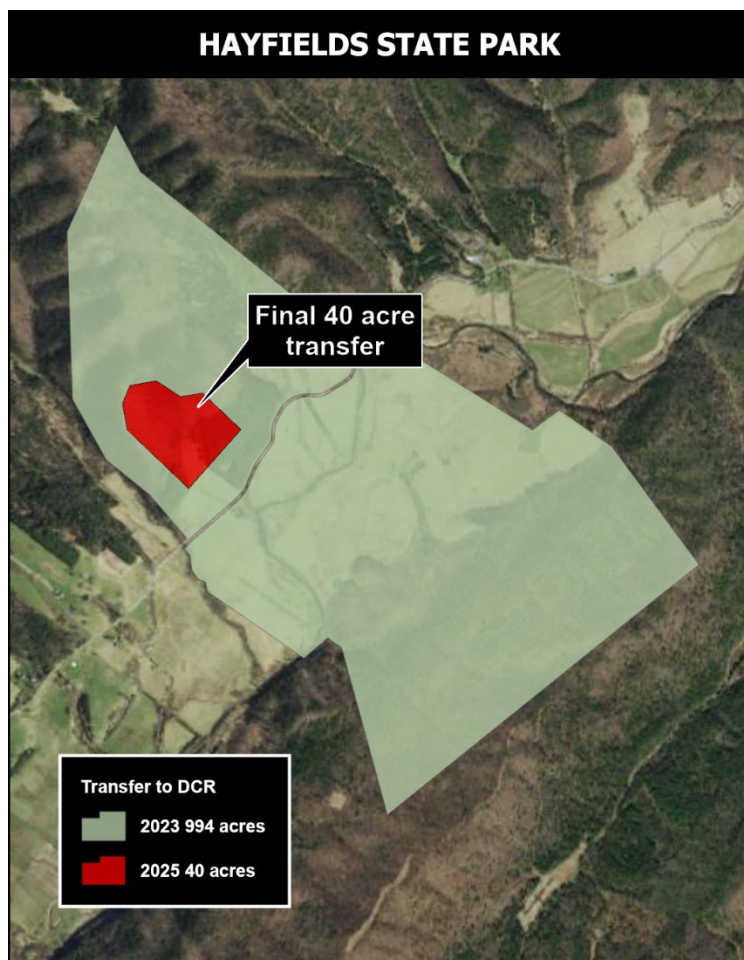
1,034 acres in Highland County

- Transfer of the remaining 40 acres from VOF to DCR went to record on August 25th.
- This final parcel completes the transfer of all VOF landholdings related to this project.
- The following press release will be issued by DCR.

RICHMOND, Va. - The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has finalized the acquisition of the remaining parcels needed for the creation of the future state park at Hayfields in Highland County.

This milestone marks a major step toward establishing Virginia's newest state park, which will provide expanded outdoor recreation opportunities and preserve an area rich in history, natural beauty and biodiversity. The 1,034-acre property, previously known as Hayfields Reserve, was acquired by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in 2017 with the assistance of The Conservation Fund. In 2023, 994 acres were transferred to DCR, with the remaining 40 acres transferred in August 2025.

"Completing the land acquisitions is a significant achievement in making the future Hayfields State Park a reality," said DCR Director Matt Wells. "This property represents the best of Virginia's natural and cultural heritage, and we're committed to ensuring it will be enjoyed by residents and visitors for generations to come."



The future state park is located between Bullpasture and Jack Mountains at an elevation ranging from 1,800 to 2,400 feet. It features a mix of heavily-wood mountain land, valley pastures and several structures, including an 1800s farmhouse. The Bullpasture River flows through the property for about a mile and is home to numerous threatened and endangered species.

"Hayfields is a gem of a property, located in one of the most beautiful parts of the state," said VOF Executive Director Brett Glymph. "We are excited that it will open to the public in the future for recreation, to spend time with their families and friends and to enjoy all of the natural beauty that Highland County has to offer."

The creation of the Hayfields State Park builds on DCR's mission to conserve Virginia's natural resources and provide access to the outdoors