

## **Prince William Parkway Trail, Signal Hill Park**

Signal Hill is quite literally a hill used by Confederates for communication signals. The park by the same name contains a monument to the Confederates. It's visible right off Signal View Drive. The park today however is probably more recognized by youngsters who enjoy the aquatic park inside it. Also in the park are tennis and basketball courts. Though some paved trails exist in the park, they are very short.

In the 1970's and 1980's before the Prince William Parkway was built, the main way to and from Manassas was on Interstate 66. After building it however, those living south of Washington who wanted to drive west could avoid the infamous "mixing bowl" at the I-95/beltway interchange and take the Prince William Parkway. Built along with it was the Prince William Parkway Trail (PWP). It's probably used little for several reasons. First, there are few parking equipped access points to it. Second, the trail is very close to the highway. Sometimes, barely a guard rail separates them. The trail is sunny and occasionally has debris on it blown there from the road. It has several hills but is well graded. There are no facilities along it's entire length and no other public trails connect directly with it. Runners in-line skaters, and cyclists do use it however. I ran into a couple who like many marathoners in the area, couldn't, because of popularity, get into the Marine Corps Marathon. They were training for the Richmond Marathon instead.

### **Getting There**

#### From the Capital Beltway

Take Exit 9, for Interstate 66 headed west. Go less than 12 miles, then take Exit 53 for Centerville Rd., Rte. 28, headed south. Turn left 6.25 miles later onto Liberia Ave. Just over a mile later, turn left on Signal Hill Rd. Turn left again a quarter mile later onto Signal View Dr. After half a mile more, turn left into Signal Hill Park. Park and start at the first lot on your right.

### **Area Routes**

#### Occoquan (12.85 or 11.9 miles, X)

From Signal Hill Park, getting to the PWP is awkward. The safest way is going out to Liberia Ave. and using the shoulder. You'll go 1.5 miles before actually hitting the PWP trail that way. A shorter route involves using Signal Hill Rd. which has some blind curves and no shoulder—it might be more appropriate if you're going out on a mountain bike. Going via Signal Hill Road it is 1.65 miles before you hit the trail however the overall distance of the route is shortened. Once you are on the PWP, a generally downhill grade will take you to the Occoquan River. There are good views from the bridge. Go over the bridge and start up the long hill ahead. Before reaching the top however, turn left onto River Forest Dr. A loop on roads through the neighborhood (with one short dirt segment) takes you back to the PWP at the top of a hill. Descend back down to the Occoquan River and climb back up to Signal Hill Park.

## **Nearby and Connecting Zones**

Prince William Parkway Trail, Chinn Park  
Manassas National Battlefield Park  
Cub Run Stream Valley Park

## **What to do Afterward**

### Food and Drink

Chelsea's Restaurant - 703 335-9810  
Hunan of Manassas - 703 361-7172  
Little Portugal Restaurant - 703 368 7979  
Donuts Donuts - 703 330-9891  
Dairy Queen - 703 335-3875

### Entertainment and Edification

Confederate Monument - off Signal View Drive just south of the Signal Hill Park entrance  
Signal Hill Park - Signal Bay Waterpark - 703 361-4451  
Manassas Museum - 703 368-1873  
Bull Run Regional Park - 703 631-0550  
Prince William County Fair - Old Town Manassas in August - 703 368-0173

## Occoquan

Distance: 12.85 or 11.9 miles

Rating: X; long graded hills on mostly paved trails with some road shoulders; sunny

### 12.85 Mile Route

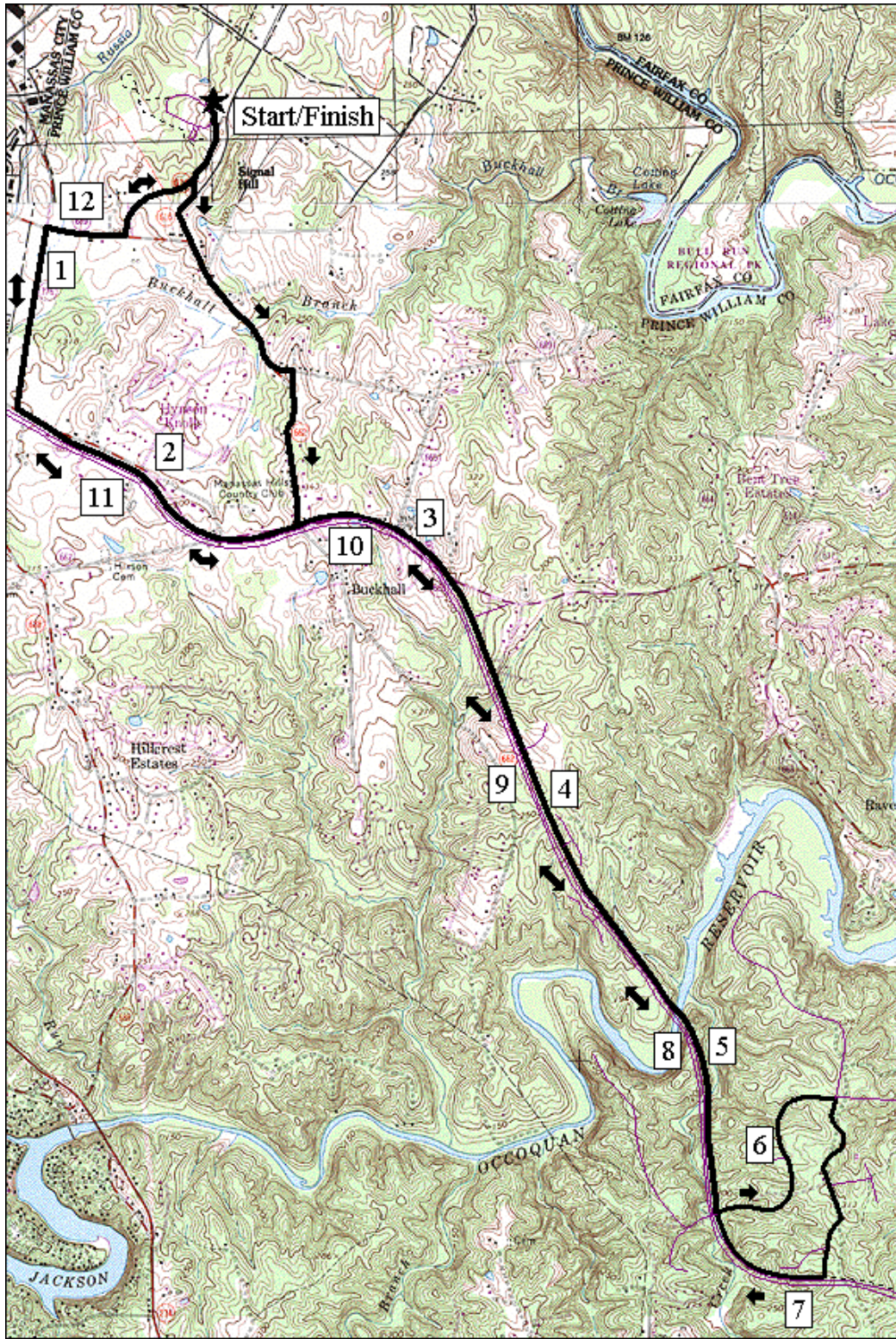
	R	6.25 Stonebrook Dr on R
L 0.0		from the parking lot
	S	6.65 trail head at end of Stonebrook Dr
		6.7 trail ends; Fingerlake Way
L/R 0.1		onto Signal View Dr (use shoulder)
	R	6.9 PWP Trail
0.15		Confederate Monument on L
<*		7.3 trail X on R; at Scenic Point Dr on L
		7.95 begin bridge over Occoquan River
0.3		grassy trail on L (unmarked) to Blooms Rd
		8.05 end bridge over Occoquan River
		8.7 Crooked Knoll Way
CR 0.65		Signal Hill Rd
		9.05 Larksong Ct
		9.55 Yates Ford Rd
L 0.9		Liberia Ave (! use shoulder)
		9.9 Ellis Rd
		10.25 Moore Dr
L 1.5		Prince William Pkwy Trail (PWP)
		10.9 Hynson Dr
		1.95 Hynson Dr
	R	11.35 Liberia Ave (! use shoulder)
2.6		Moore Dr
>*		
	R	11.9 Signal Hill Rd
2.9		Ellis Rd
	L	12.15 Signal View Dr/Linden Wood Rd
3.3		Yates Ford Rd
		12.5 grassy trail on R to Blooms Rd
3.8		Larksong Ct
		12.65 Confederate Monument on R
4.15		Crooked Knoll Way
4.75		begin bridge over Occoquan River
	L/R	2.75 into Signal Hill Park
4.85		end bridge over Occoquan River
L 5.5		trail X on L; at Scenic Point Dr on R
	R	12.85 parking on R
5.55		River Forest Dr (keep climbing)
5.95		Allendale Ct on L

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### \*11.9 Mile Route

- L/R 0.3 grassy trail on L goes over embankment (unmarked) to Blooms Rd; R on Blooms Rd
- S 0.55 onto Signal Hill Rd; no shoulders & limited sight distance (!)
- R 1.15 Moore Dr
- L 1.65 Prince William Pkwy Trail (PWP) (pickup cues from mile 2.9 of 12.85 mile route)

# Occoquan



MN ↗ TN  
10 1/2°

0 1/2 1 MILE  
0m 1000m

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