



Falls Ridge Preserve - Blacksburg, VA

Length	Difficulty	Streams	Views	Solitude	Camping
3.3 mls	2	3	N/A	4	N/A
Hiking Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes with 10 minutes of breaks Elev. Gain: 610 ft Parking: Park at the end of North Fork Rd. at the preserve. 37.194892, -80.323465 NOTE: These coordinates are where Google Maps marks the end of North Fork Rd. Continue on the gravel road to the Falls Ridge Preserve Parking area.					

[Click Here For Detailed Location](#)

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Falls Ridge Preserve is located in the North Fork Roanoke River Valley close to Blacksburg, VA. This small preserve is held by The Nature Conservancy and protects a spring-fed travertine waterfall. Travertine describes limestone created by the build-up of spring water with high mineral concentrations. Over thousands of years the rocks grow in size, calcifying plants and other organic materials in the process. This waterfall was formed by the process, and has an

interesting array of bulbous rocks at each cascade. It is clearly evident where moss and plants have calcified because there are many shades of green streaks in the rocks. The total height of the cascades is roughly 50-60 feet high and the upper cascades are particularly delightful. You can also add some mileage by taking the Chamberlain Trail loop along the ridges above the valley. On the way back be sure to check out the caves at the base of the limestone cliffs, another feature of travertine formations.

Finding the parking lot – The road to the parking lot is hidden behind the railroad tracks and is easy to miss because the end of North Fork Rd. road isn't shown on Google Maps. When you cross the railroad tracks you need to make an immediate left turn on gravel North Fork Rd., and continue to its end and parking area for the Falls Ridge Preserve.

- ▶ **Mile 0.0** – From the parking area follow the access trail through the field.
- ▶ **Mile 0.25** – Reach the Bradley Trail loop (*silver blaze*) and turn right heading to the waterfall.
- ▶ **Mile 0.3** – Stairs on the left lead down to an overlook for the base of the travertine waterfall. The primary flow is on the right side while travertine buildup is more evident on the left side of the falls.
- ▶ **Mile 0.5** – The Bradley Trail crosses a bridge above the main waterfall with beautiful, colorful cascades upstream. The color of the water and the rock formations are striking.
- ▶ **Mile 0.6** – Trail curves left with a side trail continuing straight to private property.
- ▶ **Mile 0.65** – After descending a set of stairs turn right at a Y-junction with the Chamberlain Trail (*red blaze*). The Chamberlain Trail ascends an unnamed knob above the valley through mixed pine and hardwood forests.
- ▶ **Mile 1.5** – Turn right at the Y-junction for the upper Chamberlain Trail loop.
- ▶ **Mile 2.8** – Return to the parking area by turning right on the Bradley Trail, passing by limestone cliffs with caves before crossing a footbridge to finish the Bradley Trail loop.
- ▶ **Mile 3.3** – Hike ends at the parking lot.