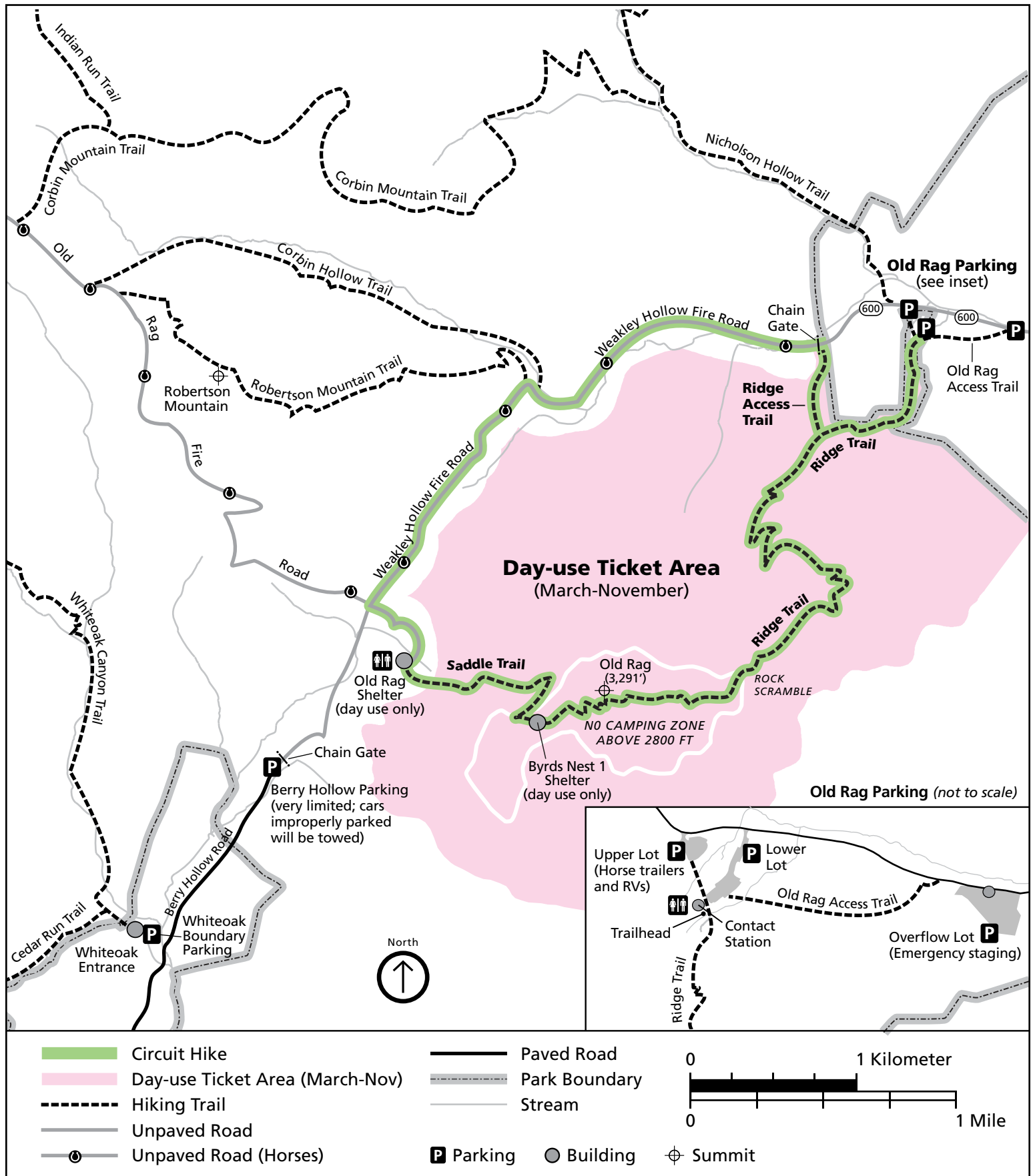


# Old Rag Area - Shenandoah National Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



07/2023



## Old Rag Circuit Hike

- 🔄 9.4-mile circuit      ⌚ 6-10 hours hiking time  
⚠️ Very Strenuous      ⚡ 2,348-foot elevation gain

From the Old Rag parking area, take the blue-blazed Ridge Trail. Continue along the Ridge Trail, across the rock scramble and descend on the Saddle Trail (blue-blazed), which becomes a fire road after you pass Old Rag Shelter. At the T-intersection\*, go right and immediately right again at the fork onto Weakley Hollow Fire Road (yellow-blazed). Turn right onto the Ridge



Access Trail and then left onto the Ridge Trail to return to your starting point. **Pets are prohibited on the Ridge, Saddle, Post Office Junction to Old Rag Shelter, and Ridge Access trails.**

\* Watch for this sign at the T-intersection. Be sure to go right at the fork onto Weakley Hollow Fire Road towards the Old Rag parking area.

## Berry Hollow Parking – Old Rag Summit Hike

- 🔄 5.4-mile round trip      ⌚ 5.5-6.5 hours hiking time  
⚠️ Moderately Strenuous      ⚡ 1,760-foot elevation gain

Parking is very limited and cars along the road or blocking gates or others will be ticketed/towed. This hike allows you to get to the summit without having to navigate the rock scramble. From Berry Hollow parking area, take the Berry Hollow Road 0.8-mile to the junction with Old Rag Fire Road. Turn right and continue 0.4-mile to the Old Rag Shelter. Turn left onto the Saddle Trail and continue the remaining 1.6 miles to the summit. Return by the same route to avoid the very strenuous and often crowded Ridge Trail rock scramble. **Pets are prohibited on the Ridge, Saddle, Post Office Junction to Old Rag Shelter, and Ridge Access trails.**

## Robertson Mountain Trail – Alternate Hike for Pets

- 🔄 7.8-mile round trip      ⌚ 7-9 hours hiking time  
⚠️ Strenuous      ⚡ 2,353-foot elevation gain

From Old Rag parking area, walk along Route 600. Pass the Nicholson Hollow Trailhead and continue straight on to the Weakley Hollow Fire Road. Take Weakley Hollow Fire Road to Robertson Mountain Trail. Follow to the summit and descend to the Old Rag Fire Road. Turn left and then another left onto Weakley Hollow Fire Road. Stay straight at the intersection with Route 600 back to the Old Rag parking area.

## Nicholson Hollow Trail – Alternate Hike for Pets

- 🔄 8-mile round trip      ⌚ 6-8 hours hiking time  
⚠️ Moderately Strenuous      ⚡ 1,240-foot elevation gain

From Old Rag parking area walk along Route 600. Look for the Nicholson Hollow Trail (concrete marker) on the right. Follow the Nicholson Hollow Trail to Corbin Cabin and return. You'll cross several streams along the way.

## Day-use Ticket Required (March-November)

### March-November

Due to overcrowding and damage to resources, Shenandoah National Park is limiting the number of visitors to the Old Rag area. In addition to your entrance fee or pass, **you must have a day-use ticket** to access the Ridge, Saddle and Ridge Access trails, as well as the highlighted area indicated on the map. Please get your tickets at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) in advance of your arrival. For more information, visit our website at [go.nps.gov/oldragticket](http://go.nps.gov/oldragticket)

### Need to Know

- **Pets are prohibited on the Ridge, Saddle, Post Office Junction to Old Rag Shelter, and Ridge Access trails.**
- Be prepared: bring sturdy footwear, flashlights, extra layers of clothing, and food. Bring plenty of drinking water. **No water is available at Old Rag.**
- Do not attempt this hike unless you are physically able.
- Be sure you know what time it gets dark and plan for extra time. There can be a significant wait to navigate certain portions of the trail. Plan for other delays and emergencies with overnight provisions. It happens more often than you think!
- Do not attempt to hike Old Rag when rocks are wet or icy.
- Cell and GPS services are unreliable.
- Even if you are hiking from the boundary, you must have an entrance permit or annual pass. Please be prepared to self-pay (correct change or credit card) at the Old Rag parking area. You can purchase all three at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). You can purchase your entrance fee or annual pass at the Old Rag entrance station, but not the day-use ticket.
- **As you hike, notice the blue numbers on the rocks. In an emergency, use those numbers to let responders know your location.**
- Backcountry camping sites are very limited in this area, and camping is prohibited above 2,800 feet. If you plan to camp, be sure you have a permit and that you understand the regulations, particularly those pertaining to site choice.
- Parking isn't permitted along the road or on private property.

### Directions to Parking Areas

**Sperryville to Old Rag Parking** - From Route 211, turn onto Route 522 and follow it south for 0.8 mile. Turn right on Route 231, follow 8 miles, turn right onto Route 601 and follow signs to the Old Rag parking area, approximately 3 miles.

**Madison to Old Rag Parking** - From Route 29 Business, turn onto Route 231 and follow it for 12.8 miles. Turn left onto Route 602. Follow signs for the parking area. Old Rag parking is approximately 3 miles from the turn onto Route 602.

**Sperryville to Berry Hollow Parking** - Start by taking Route 231 South past the turnoff for Nethers. From Madison, start from Route 29 Business, turning onto Route 231. Once on Route 231 (from either Sperryville or Madison), turn onto Route 670 near Banco. Turn right at Syria, then left onto Route 600. Go past the Whiteoak Canyon parking area to Berry Hollow parking area. Road is very narrow and parking is extremely limited.