



River Access Program Summer, 2018

Welcome to **Friends of the Middle River's** River Access Program!

2018 is the year FOMR is piloting this new program which guides our members in gaining access to put-in and take-out sites on private property along Middle River. Currently, Middle River has no access sites designated for public use—most all of its riverbanks are privately owned. Paddlers interested in participating in this program must first obtain an Authorized User Permit from FOMR.

FOMR is organizing a network of private landowners (hosts) who are willing to allow authorized FOMR users (guests) onto their private land for river access. Since these landowners are being so generous with their permissions, it is imperative that all FOMR guest users follow each landowner's preferences completely and communicate clearly and respectfully with landowners at all times. As you can imagine, if a landowner has a bad experience with an FOMR guest, they could deny future access for all of us.

We are grateful that our landowner hosts are willing to share their river access with us. We hope to expand the number of landowner hosts in the future. When revised River Access Site lists are available, permit holders will be notified.

Who owns the river? This is a complex legal question and the answer may vary in interpretation based on federal vs. state laws. Landowners own every bit of soil right up to the waters' edge. In some cases, landowners might even own the bed of the stream. In Virginia, rivers that have been used for commercial navigation purposes are considered public for recreational purposes. In everyday understanding, swimming, boating, and fishing on the surface of the water is generally thought of as public.

River Access Program

Rules & Regulations

Authorized User Permit holders agree to the following:

1. Please ***do not*** give your Authorized User Permit or this booklet to other people outside your household. Instead, please refer them to FOMR to get their own permit(s). This is a safety issue. Your permits have ***your*** contact info on them. Landowners need to be able to know who is using their land at any time and be able to contact someone if a problem arises—like if someone does not come back for their vehicle. If a permit were loaned out, confusion about who may be in trouble on the river could occur.
2. When requesting permission from a landowner to access a site, please follow the landowner's instructions carefully. Different landowners have different preferences for how they want to be contacted by guests—for example, some want you to leave a voice message while others want you to wait until they call you back. Please ***do not*** call a landowner while you are en route to your trip! Instead, make arrangements in advance.
3. Display your yellow “FOMR Authorized User” permit in your vehicle’s windshield so that landowner or caretaker can see it easily. For example, if you park down by the river and their house is way up the hill, try to park and display the card so the landowner can see it from their house and not have to walk all the way down to see whose vehicle is on their land.
4. Please leave everything at the access site as you find it ***or better***. For example, pick up all trash, close gates and minimize damage to grass and vegetation as much as possible. Practice “Leave No Trace” principles.
5. Please pick vehicles up no later than 1/2 hour after sunset. There is no overnight parking on access sites without advance permission from the landowner.
6. For groups of more than 4 persons, please contact the landowner ***well*** in advance with the number in the group and how many vehicles will be parked on the landowner’s property.

Enjoy your time on the river, be safe, and treat these access sites as if they were your own.

How to Plan a Middle River Trip

FOMR organizes its own float trips that cover a variety of stretches of Middle River. The goal of offering these trips is to familiarize participants with different boatable sections of the river and the available put-in and take-out sites that can be used in the future if they join FOMR's River Access Program. At normal water levels, the Middle River is a quiet river—great for beginners and kids.

The best way to plan a trip on Middle River is to become familiar with the highly searchable, detailed Middle River Mile Marker Map. It is available at <http://www.friendsofthemiddleriver.org/middle-river-mile-marker-map/> or on the FOMR website. This map makes it possible to create trips of any length using put-in and take-out mile markers to calculate distance. Once you download this map onto your computer, you will have the entire Middle River watershed at your fingertips! Since it's a PDF file, you will be able to zoom in and out as you please.

This map indicates all 71 river miles from where Middle River flows into North River (Mile Marker 0.0) all the way upstream to the headwaters of the river (Mile Marker 71.0). River mile markers may seem counter-intuitive, but they are very handy. As you float downstream, the river mile markers **decrease** towards zero. At the same time, they are decreasing in the direction you travel on the River thus making it easy to calculate the distance between put-ins and take-outs. "MM" in this booklet means mile marker.

River miles are different than road miles. Parts of Middle River are very serpentine, doubling back on itself. In some places, the put-in and take-out may only be 1-2 miles apart by road while you will have to boat 5-6 miles on the river between those same two points!

At normal water levels, a float trip with intermittent paddling and floating which makes a few stops and generally takes it easy, might cover 2 river miles per hour. If you want to fish, or plan to tube or swim a lot, it would take more time. If you were to paddle more vigorously for exercise, the trip would take less time.

How to plan a trip:

1. Familiarize yourself with the Middle River Access Sites listed in this booklet.
2. Locate those sites on the Mile Marker Map.
3. Estimate how many hours/miles you want to be on the River. Determine the float distance by subtracting the mile marker at the take-out from the one at the put-in.
4. Read in this booklet about who you need to contact if either or both of your chosen put-in or take-out sites are on private property.

Note: When you are parking your vehicle at your take-out site, you may want to flag the take-out riverbank with some flagging tape so that you recognize your take-out site as you approach from the river. River mileage can be misleading to keep track of and landscapes can look different from the water. Just make sure to remove the flagging tape before you leave at the end of the day!

2018 ACCESS SITES

Landowner Instructions & Directions

MM 44.0 (Mile Marker 44.0)

Moore's Camp on Hundley Distillery Rd.

Permissions: You do not need to call first, but you must have an Authorized User Permit, and it must be displayed prominently in your vehicle's window.

Directions: Take Rt. 250 west from Staunton until you come to Franks Mill Road. Turn right on Franks Mill Road. Go 2 +/- miles, cross over Middle River and immediately turn left onto Hundley Distillery Road. In .25 miles the access site will be on your left. Look for the FOMR sign.

MM 33.4

Bald Rock Rd. near Verona

Permissions: Bald Rock Rd. and Middle River are only a few feet apart. You will be parking on the VDOT right-of-way, but you do not need to call anyone. This is a better put-in than take-out because of limited parking.

Directions: Heading north on Rt. 11 from Verona, cross the bridge over Middle River and immediately turn left onto Bald Rock Road. After 1.6+/- miles the road turns right and becomes a dirt road as it goes down the hill to Middle River. There are numerous places to access the River along the road.

MM 31.7

Shenandoah Campground on Bald Rock Rd.

Permissions: You do not have to call ahead, but you do have to:

1. Stop at the Campground office when they are open.
2. Take your Authorized User Permit to the office and explain that you are an FOMR authorized user.
3. Ask where they want you to park to access the River
4. Place your Authorized User Permit prominently in your vehicle window so it can be seen by campground staff.
5. When you return later to pick up the vehicle parked there, again stop at the Office and tell the staff that you are back to pick up your vehicle.
6. Don't forget to thank them for being in the program, and try some of their fabulous barbecue!

Directions: Heading north on Rt. 11 from Verona, cross the bridge over Middle River and immediately turn left onto Bald Rock Road. Go 1.2 +/- miles to the campground entrance on the left. Follow the road downhill to the campground complex, and then follow the signs to the office.

MM 29.5

Rt. 11 & Bald Rock Rd. in Verona

Permissions: You do not need to call first, but you must have an Authorized User Permit and it must be displayed prominently in your vehicle's window.

Directions: Heading north on Rt. 11 from Verona, cross the bridge over Middle River and immediately turn left onto Bald Rock Road. Immediately turn left again into the access site which is the open field marked with an FOMR sign at the entrance.

MM 26.2

Private property off Mill Race Rd in Verona

Permissions:

1. Call landowner several days before you want to access the river. If no answer, leave a message with the following info: your name, your Authorized User Permit number, the make of the vehicle that will be parked there, the day & time you want to access the river, the number in your group (if it is more than just you), and your phone number.
2. If there is any reason why it will not be OK, the landowner will call you back. If the landowner does not call you back, go ahead and access the site at the time and date you requested.
3. When you park there, put yellow Authorized User Permit in your window so that it can be easily seen by the landowner.
4. Contact persons to call: Randy & Mary Covington: 540-248-7419

Directions: Take Rt. 11 north out of Verona, cross Middle River, immediately turn right onto Mill Race Road. After Mill Race Road crosses I-81, continue straight at the Y intersection. In 1/2 +/- mile you will come to a sharp left hand curve in the road where there will be three mailboxes and two newspaper boxes. At that curve, continue straight onto a gravel farm road (do not take either of the other two gravel driveways that go uphill). Follow that road past a red barn on the left until you see the FOMR sign on the left designating the access site.

MM 22.1

Private property at Windswept Rd bridge

Permissions:

1. Call landowner several days before you want to access the river. If no answer, leave a message with the following info: your name, your Authorized User Permit number, the make of the vehicle that will be parked there, the day & time you want to access the river, the number in your group (if it is more than just you), and your phone number.
2. If there is any reason why it will not be OK, the landowner will call you back. If the landowner does not call you back, go ahead and access the site at the time and date you requested.
3. When you park there, put your Authorized User Permit in window so that it can be easily seen by the landowner.
4. Contact person to call: Bud & Linda Wiseman: 540-248-5850

Directions: take Rt. 11 north out of Verona, cross Middle River, immediately turn right onto Mill Race Road. After Mill Race Road crosses I-81, bear to the left onto Windswept Road at the Y intersection. Just before crossing Middle River, there will be an opening into a mowed area on the right. That is the access site— look for the FOMR sign.

MM 20.1

Private property off Bailey Rd. near Ft Defiance

Permissions:

1. Call landowner several days before you want to access the river. If no answer, leave a message with the following info: your name, your Authorized User Permit number, the make of the vehicle that will be parked there, the day & time you want to access the river, the number in your group (if it is more than just you), and your phone number.
2. This landowner will call you back. **Do not proceed** to access the river until landowner calls you back giving you permission.
3. After receiving permission, when you park, put you Authorized User Permit in window so that it can be easily seen by the landowner.
4. Contact person to call: Roger Robinson: 540-480-1304

Directions: Take Rt. 11 north from Verona. In approximately 2 miles, turn right onto Toll Gate Road. In .3 miles bear left onto Bailey Rd. In 1.3 miles turn right at the mailbox that says 535 onto a farm road. Follow that farm road for .5 miles, and turn left down a short hill toward the river. Follow the path along the river until you get to the FOMR sign.

Bridges, Creek Confluences, and Middle River Access Sites by Mile Marker (Access sites are underlined and in bold type)

Middle River Headwaters 71.0
Summerdean Road Bridge at Shemariah 69.2
2nd Summerdean Road Bridge 68.2
Cales Springs Road Bridge 67.5
3rd Summerdean Road Bridge 66.8
Shuey Road Bridge 61.6
Trimble's Mill Road Bridge 61.1
North Mountain Road Bridge 60.7
Cattleman Road Bridge 59.2
Back Creek enters Middle River 57.7
Hewitt Road Bridge 57.4
Parkersburg Turnpike (Rt. 254) Bridge 54.6
Eidson Creek enters Middle River 52.9
Morris Mill Road Bridge 51.4
Tribbetts Mill Road Bridge 50.1
River at Green Hills Lane 48.9
Eagle Rock Lane Bridge 48.0
Churchville Ave (Rt. 250) Bridge 46.2
Jennings Branch enters Middle River 46.0
Gardiner Springs 44.2
MM 44.0 Access Site on Hundley Distillery Road 44.0
Bells Creek enters Middle River 43.8
Bridge on Hundley Distillery Road 43.8
Low water bridge at Honeysuckle Hill 42.3
Moffett Creek enters Middle River 41.2
Springhill Road Bridge 37.7
Lebanon Church Road Bridge 36.1
Limestone Road Bridge 34.4
MM 33.4 Access Site at Bald Rock 33.4
MM 31.7 Access Site at Shenandoah Valley Campground 31.7
MM 29.5 Access Site at Verona Bridge 29.5
Lewis Creek enters Middle River 27.0
MM 26.2 Access Site on Mill Race Road 26.2
MM 22.1 Access Site at Windswept Road Bridge 22.1
MM 20.1 Access Site on Bailey Road 20.1
Christians Creek enters Middle River 18.1
New Hope Dam 16.2
Dam Town Road Bridge 16.1
Knightly Mill Road Bridge 13.8
Cline River Road Bridge 9.1
MM 5.5 Access Site at Craig Shop Road Bridge 5.5
Old Snowflake Mill Road Bridge 2.0
Weyers Cave Road Bridge 1.4
Confluence with North River 0.0

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Authorized User**..... participant in the River Access Program
- Authorized User Permit**...the yellow, numbered, laminated cards for your vehicle window that read “FOMR Authorized User”
- FOMR** Friends of the Middle River, a non-profit organization that promotes stewardship and enjoyment of the Middle River
- MM**..... mile marker
- Middle River Mile Marker Map**..... <http://www.friendsofthemiddleriver.org/middle-river-mile-marker-map/> - a map showing each mile of Middle River
- Private access**.....any riverfront land that is owned by a private landowner
- Public access**..... any riverfront land where anyone from the public can go to get in the River
- Put-In**.....place on the River where you put your boat in the River to start your trip.
- River Access Program**... FOMR’s program that coordinates access on private property for FOMR members
- River Access Site**..... indicates a place you can put-in or take-out of the River
- Take-Out** place on the River where you end your trip and take your boat out of the River

Contact FOMR

Phone: Kate Guenther: 540-609-8267; Joe McCue 540-430-8713
Email: info@friendsofthemiddleriver.org
P.O. Box 131, Verona VA 24482

*Friends of the Middle River is a Paddle America Club.
We partner with the American Canoe Association for our group river activities.*

