



Front Royal Golf Club ~ A Walk in the Park

By Nick Ciattei

Warren County's 108 golf holes make it Virginia's leader in golf holes per capita. The original nine-hole course at Front Royal Golf Club dates back to 1938 and was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the same people responsible for building nearby Skyline Drive. After a very successful run as a country club and gathering place from the 1950s through the early 90s, the course suffered several devastating floods, and the Warren County Parks and Recreation Department assumed operations in 2006.



Holes 2 & 11 Par 4s



Holes 5 & 14 Par 4s

Front Royal Golf Club has long been known for some of the most unique and best putting surfaces in the entire Shenandoah Valley. The links-style layout's 18 different tee boxes give the nine holes a different look and option of attack when playing them as a full eighteen. Being a great course for those who like to walk, the Parks Department routed a walking trail parallel to a couple of the holes. Playing to a par 70 and measuring in at just over 6000

yards, this course tests all aspects of the game. Holes one and ten, both par 4s, require an accurate tee shot to avoid out-of-bounds to the left and a crop of pines and willows to the right. The second shot plays uphill to one of the course's most challenging greens. The dogleg left on the par 4 second hole thwarts finding a flat lie making it almost impossible on your approach shot. The eleventh, which is 20 yards longer, along with this hole play uphill after your drive. You are at the highest point of the layout here amidst quite special views, including vistas of "the Drive." Holes three and twelve, par 3s, play to another one of FRGC's slick greens that slopes from back to front. Surrounded by as much myth and legend as Bigfoot, the fourth and thirteenth holes at Front Royal, notorious par 5s, ride along a roller coaster fairway to what has to be one of the most talked about greens in the region. Most commonly described as "the top of a Volkswagen," several members have even spread their ashes over this green. This writer believes they wanted a resting place where they can watch their friends agonize over putts not found anywhere else. The course shifts gears for what locals call the bottom four. The fifth and matching fourteenth par 4s play to a green perched 30 feet above the fairway. Holes six and fifteen may share the same green but play totally different. The former's straight away approach contradicts the latter's sharp



Holes 8 Par 4 & 17 Par 5

dogleg right. Number seven, one of the great short par 4s in the valley, yields scores from aces to eights. The second time through, this hole plays as a par 3. Both the eighth and seventeenth holes bring the river into play. You may not be aware that, as only a handful of tributaries do, the Shenandoah River flows from south to north. After playing as a dogleg right par 4 the first time, the par 5 on the back side measures just 486 yards, but the tee box hangs onto a ledge just up from the river. The drive must thread through a shoot of trees to the right and the water to the left. A great chance for birdie and even eagle await if you find dry land and avoid the trees. The par 3 finishing holes on each side play uphill to another sharply sloped putting surface.

Located a short drive off I-66 and bordering the deepest part of the Shenandoah River, FRGC also features a full service clubhouse, boating, and fishing. Front Royal Golf Club offers a fun and playable tract and with the other recreational sidebars allows affordable daily use and membership tariffs. While I don't play the course as often as I would like, I always enjoy a nice walk in the park when I do.

For more information visit frontroyalgolf.com

Top of Virginia
Golf Getaways

3 days / 2 nights
starting at **\$179*** weekends
\$209* weekdays

888-306-FORE (3673)
golfguideinc.com

Front Royal
Blue Ridge Shadows
Shenvalee
Shenandoah Valley
Rock Harbor
Bryce
Packsaddle Ridge
Jackson's Chase
Pleasant Valley
South Riding
and many more

*Per person, includes double occupancy accommodations with continental breakfast, greens & cart fees, taxes and service charges.

Ad Photo: Holes 7 Par 4 & 16 Par 3