

How to Quest:

You are holding a treasure map! Follow the movement clues (italicized) between stops (numbered) and discover the natural and cultural treasures within our park. At your final stop you will find your **Quest Clue**, this is the "key" to your prize (see below for your next step)! Have fun, be safe, and stay on marked trails on this adventure. If you have any questions about this quest or about the park, a Ranger will be happy to help.

Once You've Finished Your Quest:

Once you have completed the quest, return to the Visitor Center and give your **Quest Clue** to the Ranger. They will then present you with a Ranger Badge. If the Visitor Center is closed or if you are unable to return to the Visitor Center, you can email the **Quest Clue** to stauntonriver@dcr.virginia.gov and we can mail you a Ranger Badge.

Tips to Remember:

- Leave no trace—As you explore, please place any trash that you bring to the park or find on the trails in a designated trash can.
- Be courteous to wildlife—The park is their home and if you do find a critter, you may take pictures but don't touch!
- And of course, have fun!

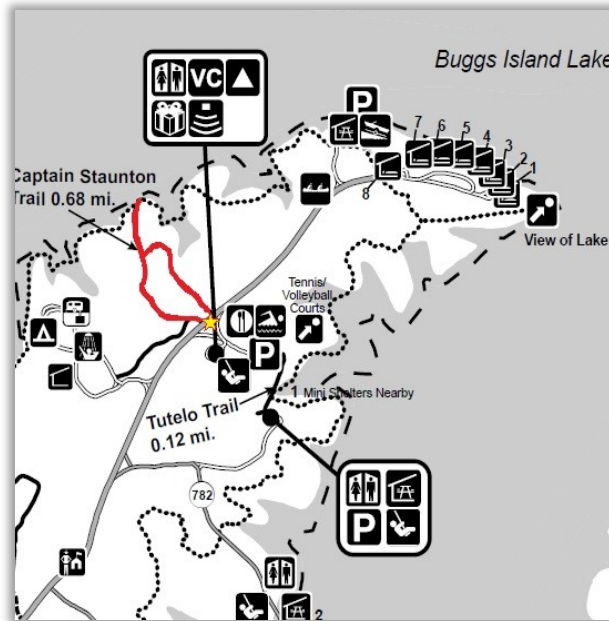
Quest Trail Stats:

Start: Captain Staunton trailhead

Contact: Visitor Center 434-572-4623

Quest Trail Names: Captain Staunton Trail and Fitness Trail

Total Length: 0.6 miles (about 30 minutes)



Staunton River State Park
1170 Staunton Trail
Scottsburg, VA 24589
Phone: 434-572-4623

Virginia State Parks

Staunton River State Park

RANGER QUEST



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Begin this Quest at the
Captain Staunton Trailhead.



**The park is the place to be to discover
nature, recreation, and history!**

1 Before you begin your journey, turn around. What buildings and features can be found? In 1936, the **Civilian Conservation Corp** built the cabins, Visitor Center and picnic shelters. Though the park has evolved over time, many of the older features remain just fine. So now you know how the park began, let's explore!

3 High in the trees and low on the ground, many critters can be found. The park has rivers, fields, forests, and streams which are perfect homes for a variety of things. Rabbits dig a den and birds build a nest. Deer lay in grass beds while tree cavities suit squirrels best. Salamanders prefer slippery soils and turtles like the forest floor. Insects are found all around the fields, woods, and the river shore.

5 Explore the Fitness Trail and change up your exercise routine with stations that have you climb, jump, and balance on a beam. Recreational activities can be found all around the park like swimming in the pool or playing a round of disc golf. Play a match of tennis or volleyball or you can try them all!



Facing the kiosk, head straight down the trail. As you walk on the path, do you notice a difference in the trees? What could cause this? People, storms, or disease? Stop on the path here.



Take a minute and use your senses—what do you smell, hear, and see? If you do spot wildlife, make sure to leave them be, but take pictures if you wish for a cool memory! Walk on the path until it intersects with River Bank trail and then peer beyond the overlook rail.



Try the Fitness Trail stations and get your body moving. You'll find exercising in nature is quite soothing. Continue on and you'll find yourself back where you began. Stop at the kiosk.

2 In 2011 a tornado barreled through the park leaving debris everywhere including leaves, branches, and bark. Staff and volunteers cleaned up the scene and then let Mother Nature be. **Succession** begins with grasses, shrubs and small trees like Tulip Poplar, Virginia Pine, and Sweet Gum. Then steadily larger trees begin to grow like American Beech and Mockernut Hickory. So even after a natural disaster there can be a happily ever after. The new growth and clearings make ideal habitats for animals. Let's look around for tracks and maybe you'll spot one!

4 The **Staunton River** is a park boundary and is home to a variety of critters including the slippery and scaly. Catfish, bluegill, and largemouth bass too, swim the waters of the river—maybe you can catch one or two! But fish are not the only ones that call the river home. A variety of birds use the water and banks to roam. Look up in the tall trees and high in the sky –you may see an eagle, osprey, or vulture fly!

6 Congratulations! You've returned to the start. But wait—there's one more part. Search around the kiosk. Look for a hidden word, then the **Quest Clue** you will find!

Write down your **clue** and bring it to the Visitor Center Rangers. We hope you enjoyed your quest, come see us again soon, don't be a stranger!

Continue down the trail slow and steady for a critter to flutter, scatter, or scurry. Be ready! Stop and look down at the path. Do you see any tracks? What animals may live around here?

Turn around and head back down the trail, then take the first left onto the Fitness Trail.

Bald Eagle



Bobcat



Deer



Rabbit

Channel Catfish



WRITE YOUR QUEST CLUE HERE: