

# Blooms Park, Manassas Park, VA Loop Trail

*This hike occurred on Saturday, March 6, 2021. There were six awesome hikers on this 3.4 mile moderate to strenuous loop hike: Tom O'Brien, Mary Gordon, Jessica Lowry, Randall Bartlett, Laura Bartlett and Mike Calabrese.*

The weather was predicted to be cold this weekend. I didn't receive any calls or emails during the week. I thought that if no one showed up, should I do this hike by myself? Anyway, I did get an email on Saturday morning and five additional people did show up. So the hike was on.

As usual, we met at the church in the rear parking lot and at 8:00 AM precisely, drove in separate vehicles to Blooms Park in Manassas Park, VA to begin the hike. Jessica met us at the park. This area was at one time a park, then became a golf course and was now and again a park.

The former club house for the former golf course was now a community library. The trail for this hike was the old golf cart path. It was all asphalt and was itself very easy to hike on. However, the terrain was 'rolling' and we would be going up a hill, then down a hill for most of the hike. As usual, I occupied the slowest hiker position. But the group would wait for me at intervals.

We didn't see any animals on this trip. But we did observe some of the tee off areas and greens of this former golf course. It had changed since Tom, Dave McIntyre and myself



*Group Pic @ .5 MI Mark.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Can you see the hikers?  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Map of where we hiked  
By Mike Calabrese*

reconned this hike over a year ago. One of the solar powered bathrooms was open, though we did not use it. There were some nice views of various portions of Manassas Park, VA from the summits of some of these hills. We saw the Amtrack train tracks on the north end of the park that connect Washington, DC to Richmond, VA.

Towards the end of the hike the ups got more pronounced. One had to really lean into them. And the weather was OK. It was right around the freezing mark at the beginning of the hike. But there was very little wind with the exception of some of the tops of the hills. It even got warm (upper 30's) by the end of the hike.

So we hiked the 3.4 miles in this loop in about an hour and a half. Not bad. This is a nice loop hike. However, be prepared for some pretty good ups and downs. You will definitely feel like you had good workout after this moderate to strenuous hike.

Mike C

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