



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Prince William Forest Park News Release

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### Prince William Forest Park Plants American Chestnut Trees

Triangle, VA – At 10:00 a.m. on November 5, 2013, managers at Prince William Forest Park, a unit of the National Park Service, in partnership with the Virginia American Chestnut Foundation, will conduct a demonstration planting of five blight-resistant American chestnut trees near the park's visitor center.

Prince William Forest Park, a 15,000 acres forested National Park unit straddles the piedmont and coastal plain ecosystems, and is home to a variety of flora and fauna. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, American chestnuts were a common tree in the area that is now Prince William Forest Park. However, because of the introduction of chestnut blight in 1904, chestnut trees throughout the eastern United States were all but decimated. Today, a few remaining native chestnut tree specimens exist in Prince William Forest Park, but they usually succumb to the blight before reaching maturity. Prince William Forest Park has entered into a partnership with the Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation to initiate a demonstration planting of five blight-resistant American chestnut tree. The purpose of this demonstration planting is to educate the public on the history and plight of the American chestnut tree, and engage in a public conversation on whether a blight-resistant strain of the American chestnut tree should be introduced into our nation's forests.

More information on the Virginia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation can be found at [www.vatacf.org](http://www.vatacf.org).

For more information on Prince William Forest Park, visit [www.nps.gov/prwi](http://www.nps.gov/prwi).

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*About the National Park Service. National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.*