

## New River Trail State Park (Foster Falls)

### Shot Tower to Foster Falls Map - Blaze Color:



1. GPS: Lat. 36° 52.193, Lon. -80° 52.217

Shot Tower Historical State Park: From I-77 in southeastern Wythe County, take Exit 24 and go east .2 mile on VA 69 to VA 52. Go left and travel 1.5 miles on VA 52 to Shot Tower entrance, on left.

2. GPS: Lat. 36° 52.237, Lon. -80° 52.083

MP 25.0: As you pass over the 340 foot long railroad bridge over Short's Creek, one cannot help but be intrigued by the multi-faceted view. From here you can see the 140 foot high, 1,800 foot long, I-77 double bridge. Just below the railroad bridge is State Route 52 which crosses the river via another bridge that replaced Jackson's Ferry in 1930. Prior to the three bridges the route across the river was by way of the ferry which operated here from 1758 until 1930.

3. GPS: Lat. 36° 53.034, Lon. -80° 51.376

MP 24.0: Foster Falls is the headquarters for the New River Trail State Park and a central recreation resource. The historic Foster Falls village includes restored buildings such as barns, sheds, mills, a store, and a former railroad depot that is now a gift shop. There is also a large stone pig iron furnace, which stands as a symbol of the important industry that used to dominate the area. The Foster Falls Depot next to the trail and the abandoned Foster Falls Hotel off the trail are visible reminders of the once booming community and Hematite Iron Company that depended upon the railroad. Hematite is an important iron ore. In fact, the small mountain across the river from the trail is named Hematite Mountain and is an extension of the Iron Mountains to the west. The mountain on the east side of the river is Foster Falls Mountain, named for the impressive rapids here and for the early landholder William Foster.

4. GPS: Lat. 36° 53.086, Lon. -80° 51.351

Foster Falls Parking Area (Park Headquarters): Follow directions to Shot Tower, above. From VA 52, turn right on VA 608 and follow signs 2 miles to park.

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