

# PENDERGRASS-MURRAY RECREATIONAL PRESERVE



The Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve (PMRP) is a 750-acre region owned and maintained by the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC). The PMRP contains more than 470 sport and traditional rock climbs from 5.6 to 5.14 with more climbs being developed each year. This is the largest direct land acquisition ever made by climbers and permanently secures access to a significant amount of the climbing in the Red.



Photo: Andrew Burr

The RRGCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring quality climbing opportunities for the recreating public by promoting responsible climbing. The historic PMRP purchase represents the RRGCC's dedication to ensuring quality climbing opportunities on public and private land. The purchase and maintenance of the PMRP is made possible solely through private donations and volunteer efforts. All donations made in support of the RRGCC and the PMRP are tax deductible; volunteer contributions in the form of trail work or pro-bono professional services are also welcome. You can make a donation and become an RRGCC member by visiting [rrgcc.org](http://rrgcc.org) where you will also find information about events and other activities. Contributions may also be mailed to RRGCC, PO Box 22156, Lexington, KY 40522-2156.

**History and Vision:** On March 28, 1908, Daniel Boone Pendergrass secured his first 530-acre parcel of land on Bald Rock Fork, which runs through the heart of the Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve. Pendergrass bought three more tracts, including the 325-acre Coal Bank Hollow, eventually totaling more than 1,000 acres. The land stayed in the Pendergrass family for three generations, being passed finally to the granddaughter of D.B. Pendergrass, Mattie Murray, and her husband, Lafayette. During the late 1990s, inspired by the discovery of the nearby Motherlode, climbers started exploring and developing the superb climbing potential of the many cliffs on this land. On January 20, 2004, the RRGCC officially purchased the surface rights to what is now the PMRP from the Murrays and secured climbing access for the future.

The vision of the PMRP is to create an outdoor recreational haven in Eastern Kentucky that encourages a love for the outdoors, facilitates human-powered recreation, and builds appreciation and a sense of stewardship for this unique and beautiful land. As a public-trust organization dedicated to responsibly ensuring open, public access to rock climbing and other outdoor recreational opportunities while encouraging conservation, the RRGCC is developing a variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking and mountain biking, with an emphasis on the "recreational experience" in this unique natural and geological environment.

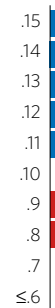


Zak Roper on Golden Boy 5.13b, Gold Coast (page 164). Photo Dan Brayack

# BOB MARLEY CRAG

☂ ☀ 🚗 🚶 📶 37.6524 N  
20 min 10 min -83.7232 W

29 routes



Once a ghost crag full of unfinished routes, hanging ropes, impossible projects, and a handful of short, awkward roof climbs, this crag has now matured into one of the Red's best for difficult climbs. The attention started with the 2007 Petzl Roc Trip, when the longstanding project *50 Words for Pump* was listed as the men's "Ultimate Route." Some of the world's best threw themselves at this beast, and Mickaël Fuselier ended up with the win at 5.14c. During the trip, surrounding routes including *No Redemption* 5.13b, *Ultra Perm* 5.13d, and *Sugar Magnolia* 5.13d received more ascents in a week than they usually see in a year. A project was sent (*MILF Money* 5.13b) and a tough new line was bolted by Daniel DuLac (*El Encuentro* 5.13b). In 2008, Joe Kinder established a route between *50 Words* and *Ultra Perm* named *Southern Smoke* 5.14c, and even left behind a direct start; in 2011 thanks to Adam Taylor, this became *Southern Smoke Direct* 5.14d.

The once "awkward" roof routes are now some of the most popular 5.11s and 5.12s around. *Dogleg* still stands as the Red's toughest 5.12a for the vertically challenged, now overshadowed by a better-quality line that branches left after the original novelty start (*Demon Seed* 5.12c). As for easy lines, there's still not much. However, you probably have a good shot at convincing your partner to belay you on *Ultra Perm* now that a new trail puts Drive-By Crag just a five-minute walk away.

**Approach:** From the Bald Rock Fork parking area (page 153), walk back out to the road. Cross the road and head straight up a gravel road 0.2 miles to reach a trail that cuts left and uphill to the wall.

**Conditions:** This crag is a dry, sandy beach, perfect if it's raining and you can climb 5.12 or above. The sun shines directly on the wall, but the steep nature of most routes puts you in the shade, your belayer in the sun.

## About 50 Words for Pump

How about 50 words for drama! A project for more than a decade, this high-quality pumpfest finally saw its FA during the 2007 Petzl Roc Trip. The route reportedly has a scary and tough clip in the crux section, which is how it was originally climbed. Shortly after the FA, Mike Doyle added two bolts slightly right of the original, which did away with the scary clip. Some climbers thought this new sequence a letter grade easier and also unnecessary, while others argued it now followed the line of least resistance — and that a route's crux should not be clipping. This is similar to what happened with *50 Bucks (Triple Sec)* at Muir Valley (what's up with the number 50?!).

Adam Taylor of Lexington, KY, added even more controversy by smashing the new hangers after his project draws were removed from and not replaced on the original bolts for a supposed photo shoot. The climbing blogs exploded and rap artist Odub even put out a song expressing his strong opinion. As Steve Petro once said, "Welcome to Ole Kentuck."



Brian Tutor on *Horn* 5.11d (page 238). Photo Dan Brayack

**10 Granny Panties 5.12c ★★** 

The bolted line just left of *Tony's Happy Christmas Crack*. Boulder through several bolts of quality moves, and finish on easier choss to the chains.

70 ft. 6 bolts. FA Kenny Barker, 2007.

**11 Tony's Happy Christmas Crack 5.8 ★★★** 

Just right of the previous line is an obvious hand crack in a dihedral. Climb the crack to a set of anchors 35 feet up, or continue over suspect rock and 5.11 climbing to the anchors on *Mas Choss*.

80 ft. FA Jack Hume, Tony Tramontin, Steve McFarland, Gene Hume, David Hume, 1994.

**12 Mas Choss 5.11c ★★★** 

About 15 feet right of *Tony's Happy Christmas Crack* is this slab route with striated holds. Climb some tough moves to a small roof. Move left at the roof and reach up to a large flake. Continue up the face to the anchors.

80 ft. 7 bolts. FA Kellyn Gorder, 1996.

**13 Route 22 5.12a ★★★** 

Move 15 feet right from *Mas Choss* to the next slab line. Climb the small edges and ledges up and right to a reasonable stance. Angle a little left to a small overhang, then power over thinning holds to the anchors.

80 ft. 7 bolts. FA Dave Hume, 1996.

**14 Fifty Words for Pump 5.14c ★★★★★** 

See introduction for the controversy surrounding this route. Hike down and around the corner from the previous lines and you'll be standing directly beneath this huge, intimidating, steep beast. Good luck.

90 ft. 10 bolts. FA Mickaël Fuselier, 2007. Equipped by Hugh Loeffler.

**15 Southern Smoke Direct 5.14d ★★★★★** 

Climbs straight up through a desperate v13 or v14 boulder problem to meet up with *Southern Smoke* for solid 5.14-level endurance. Adam Taylor suggested that the route could possibly be 5.15a due to how hard he worked it compared to *The Golden Ticket* which clocks in at 5.14d. However, the route was flashed by Adam Ondra in 2012, after which he suggested a grade of 5.14d.

100 ft. 11 bolts. FA Adam Taylor, 2012. Equipped by Joe Kinder.

**16 Southern Smoke 5.14c ★★★★★** 

This ultimate stamina route begins on the slab on which *Ultra Perm* starts, but immediately transitions left onto the face for 5.14a climbing up the relentlessly overhanging face to meet up with *Ultra Perm* just where its hard climbing begins.

90 ft. 10 bolts. FA Joe Kinder, 2008.

**17 Ultra Perm 5.13d ★★★★★** 

One of the best routes east of the Mississippi. Begin on a boulder 20 feet right of the previous line. Climb the initial face, then move left to an overhanging wall. Enjoy a few bolts of confidence-building moves on big holds to prepare for the smackdown that awaits. Dive into a tough boulder problem that doesn't seem to let up until you turn the lip. The size of your fingers may be the difference between you marking this "hard" or "soft" on your scorecard. Photo page 368-241.

90 ft. 9 bolts. FA Dave Hume, 1997. Equipped by Chris Martin.

**18 Skinny Love 5.12d ★★★** 

Starts 30 feet right of *Ultra Perm*. Overhanging jug-swimming leads to a rest. Rest up, then take on a short section of poor crimps and pinches leading to the anchors. This may become the *Tuna Town* of Bob Marley Crag, as the cave-dwellers to the left discover it's a good, pumpy 5.11 for the first three-quarters of the route.

90 ft. 10 bolts. FA Andrew Wheatley, 2011.

**19 Horn 5.11d ★★★★★** 

Walk 30 feet around the corner to the next set of steep lines in a large overhang. This is the first route encountered and begins on a boulder. Grab pockets on the heavily featured face and move left. Continue up the face to anchors above the lip of a small roof. Photo page 235.

50 ft. 5 bolts. FA Chris Martin, 1997.

**20 Flush 5.11d ★★★** 

Start the same as the previous line but head straight up and over the lip.

50 ft. 4 bolts. FA Chris Martin, 1997.

**21 Velvet 5.11d ★★★★★** 

Ten more feet right is another steep line of pockets with anchors just past the lip.

50 ft. 5 bolts. FA Chris Martin, 1997.

**22 Tacit 5.12a ★★★★★** 

This route climbs a lot better than it looks. Move five feet right of *Velvet* to the next line, which begins near a crack above a boulder. Crank up the steep, pocketed face to a roof. Creep out the roof on large holds and pull past the lip to a good horizontal. Continue up past a bulge to the anchors.

50 ft. 6 bolts. FA Porter Jarrard, 1997.

**23 Reticent 5.12d ★★★** 

Five feet right of *Tacit* is the start to another pocketed line leading to the large roof. Begin on a boulder and climb through slightly sharp holds to the roof. Power through a sequence of pockets in the roof to great holds just over the lip. Move up the face on small edges to the anchors.

50 ft. 6 bolts. FA Porter Jarrard, 1997.



Tony's Happy Christmas Crack



50 Words for Pump



Horn to ... Beef

**24 Blood Bath 5.12c ★★★★★** 

Step 10 feet right from the previous climb to some small boulders marking the beginning of this climb. Grab pockets and head up the steep wall to a horizontal just below the roof. Shake out and move through the roof to good holds just past the lip. Continue up over a bulge on the headwall to the anchors.  
50 ft. 5 bolts. FA Chris Martin, 1997.

**25 Where's the Beef? 5.12c ★★★★★** 

Start 10 feet right of the previous route. Climb through steep pockets and crimps to a horizontal roof. Pull the roof, making use of sharp pockets, then crank over the lip to a jug. Continue up easier face to the anchors.  
50 ft. 5 bolts. FA Chris Martin, 1998.

**26 Bettavul Pipeline 5.12a ★★★** 

Next route right of *Where's the Beef?*. Begin near a pipeline that was drilled from the top of the crag and missed by a couple of feet at the bottom. Race up the steep wall on jugs.  
55 ft. 5 bolts. FA Mark Johnson, Drew Cronan, 2006.

**27 Eyeball Chaw 5.12a ★★★** 

Just when you think there's no more room for another route... Begin right of *Bettavul Pipeline* and jug out and up to the headwall where a difficult move awaits.  
60 ft. 8 bolts. FA Brendan Leader, 2012.

**28 El Encuentro 5.13b ★★** 

If only it weren't a water streak. Hike right about 150 feet from last route listed on the main wall. You'll drop down into the lowest part of the valley and up the other side a bit until you see this gorgeous, slightly overhanging bolted face. Often wet. Bolted and climbed during the 2007 Petzl Roc Trip.  
90 ft. 11 bolts. FA Daniel Du Lac, 2007.

**29 The Rube Goldberg Experiment 5.9+ ★★★★★** 

Hike right about 150 feet from the last route listed on the main wall. You'll drop down into the lowest part of the valley and up the other side a bit until you see the first reasonable crack. Climb the crack and face to the lip of the wall.  
90 ft. FA Hume brothers, 1998.

