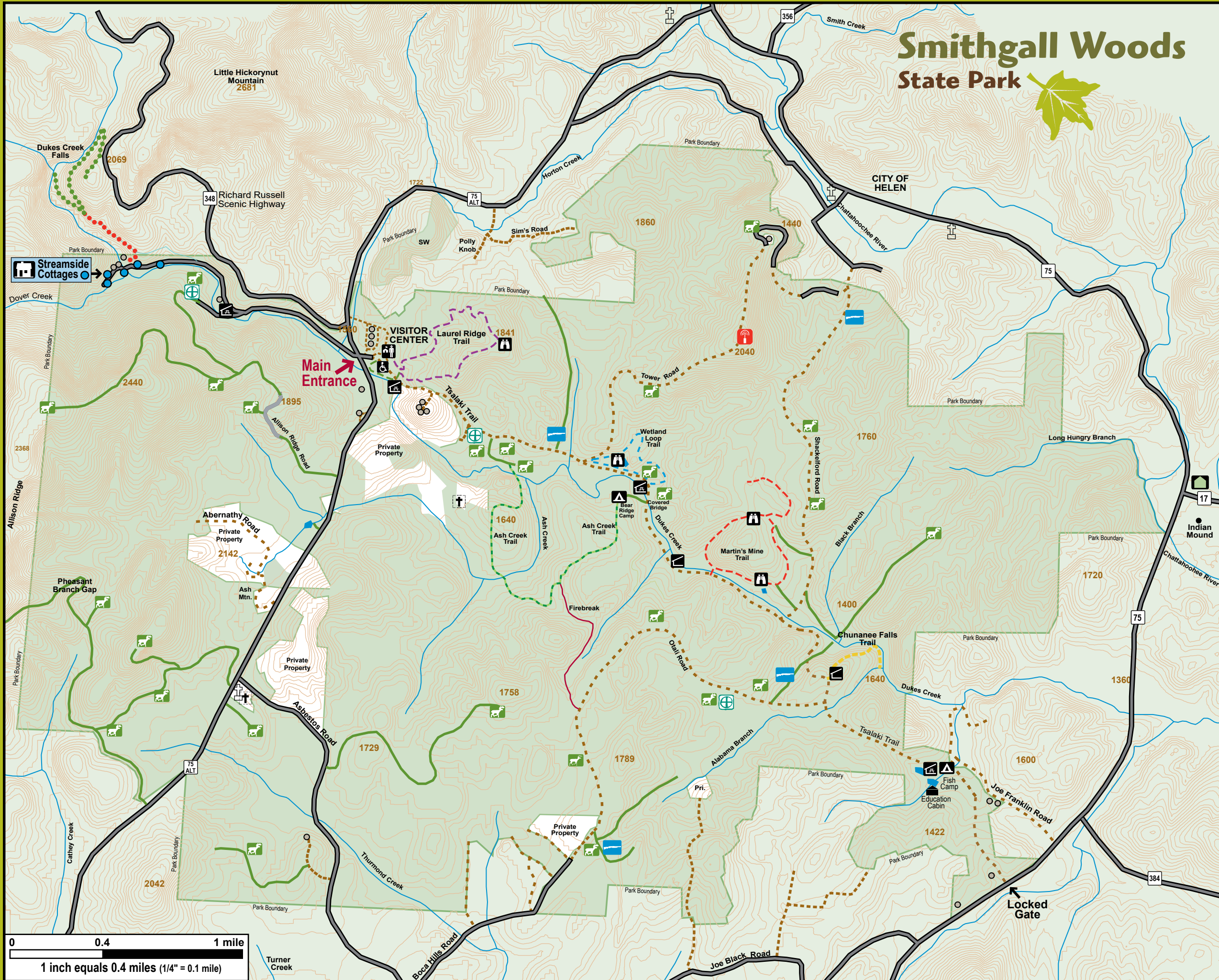
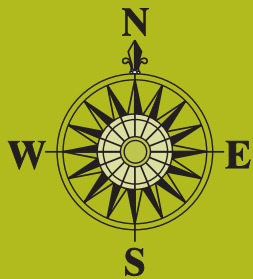


Hiking Trails

- Ash Creek Trail
- Chunanee Falls Trail
- Dukes Creek Falls Access Trail
- Laurel Ridge Trail
- Martin's Mine Trail
- USFS Dukes Creek Trail
- Visitor Center Loop Trail
- Wetland Loop Trail

Symbols

- Paved Road
- Gravel/Unpaved Road
- Stream
- Forest Management Road
- Firebreak
- Visitor Center
- Cottages
- Picnic Shelter
- Trail Shelter
- Observation Area
- Group Campsite
- Handicap Accessible
- Hardman Farm
- Wildlife Opening
- Hunting (Handicapped)
- Radio Tower
- Structures
- Cemetery
- Church
- Ally Bees Beehives



Smithgall Woods State Park



Cottages

Smithgall Woods offers six impressive cottages, all beautifully decorated inside and outside. Each cottage features well-equipped kitchens, comfortable beds, in-room telephones, wireless internet access and cable TV. An electric gate welcomes you to a one-mile drive along Dukes Creek to your cottage in the woods. Our upscale cottages are safe and secure and are available for individual rental as well as for groups. Guests may reserve the 1-bedroom to 5-bedroom cottages for an affordable getaway for two, an unforgettable family vacation, a corporate outing, a dream wedding or some other social event. (Private local caterers are available.) Together, these six cottages offer a total of 17 bedrooms (19 beds).

For reservations:
visit GeorgiaStateParks.org/SmithgallWoods/Cottages
or call 1-800-864-7275.

Fishing

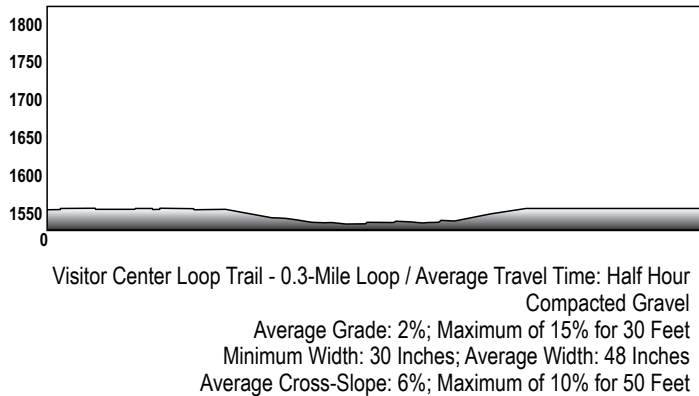
We offer seasonal trout fishing on one of Trout Unlimited’s “Top 100 Trout Streams in the US.” North Georgia’s premier trout stream, Dukes Creek, runs through this spectacular mountain property and is a favorite for catch-and-release fishing.

Cottage guests can fish any day of the week, and public fishing is available for day-use guests on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays with reservations.

Please call our Visitor Center, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 706-878-3087 for more information.

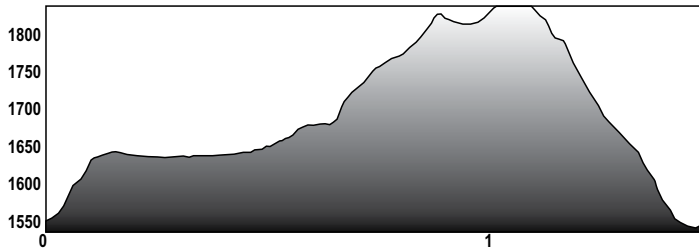
Visitor Center Loop Trail

This 0.3-mile ADA-accessible trail begins at our Visitor Center and winds around a large pasture along Dukes Creek. Just off the trail is a planting of Florida Torreya, considered to be one of North America’s most critically endangered trees. There are also several picnic tables and interpretive panels.



Laurel Ridge Trail

Located adjacent to our Visitor Center, this interpretive trail is a moderate 1.6-mile loop that climbs to Laurel Ridge and provides a view of Mt. Yonah. Ask for a free interpretive brochure from the Visitor Center to learn more about specific points of interest along the trail.

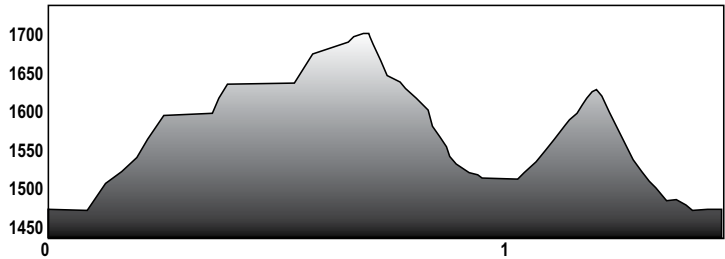


Laurel Ridge Trail - 1.6-Miles Loop / Average Travel Time: 1 Hour
Compacted Natural Soil Surface
Average Grade 10%; Maximum of 25% for 700 Feet
Minimum Width: 24 Inches; Average Width: 30 Inches
Average Cross-Slope: 10%; Maximum of 15% for 100 Feet

The trailheads below can be reached by hiking from the Visitor Center.
Remember to include the distance from the Visitor Center in your hiking plans.

Ash Creek Trail

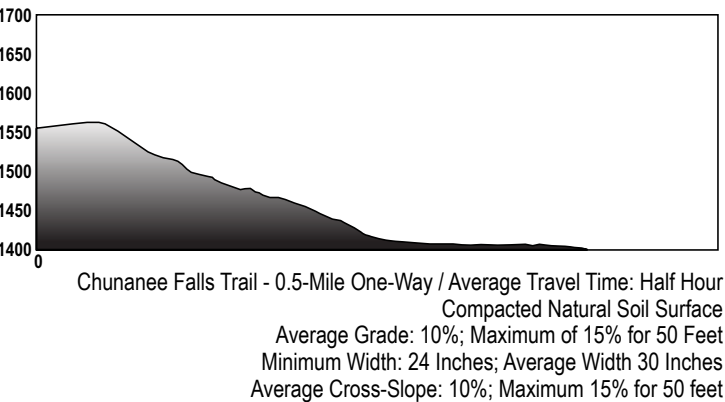
(0.6 miles from Visitor Center at the Western Terminus, 1.3 miles from Eastern Terminus) - This rugged trail requires fording/wading Dukes Creek near the Western Terminus. The beauty of the Dukes Creek area and the large expanse of Georgia woodlands make this a noteworthy hike. In cooler weather, or after a large rain, some guests start at the covered bridge, pass our group camp, hike all the way to Dukes Creek, and simply turn around and retrace their steps to avoid fording the creek.



Ash Creek Trail - 1.5 Mile One Way
Not rated for accessibility.
Requires crossing/fording Dukes Creek at western terminus, which is not possible in high water.

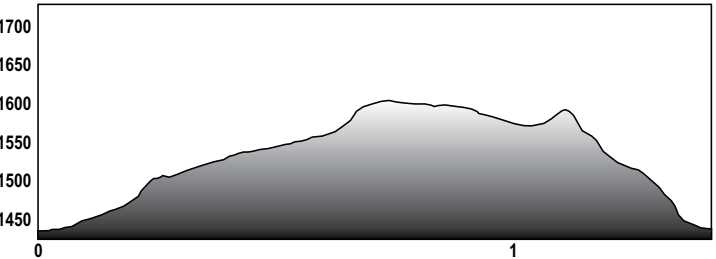
Chunabee Falls Trail

(2.8 miles from Visitor Center) - A plaque at the trailhead tells the historical significance of this 640-acre tract. A moderate half-mile hike (mostly downhill) leads to a beautiful waterfall on what is known as the Alabama Branch. A short wooden bridge crosses a section of a historic water ditch, part of the early gold mining history. Deeply shaded by rhododendron, the last 400 yards is alongside a noisy stretch of Dukes Creek and is a cool retreat in warm weather.



Martin’s Mine Loop Trail

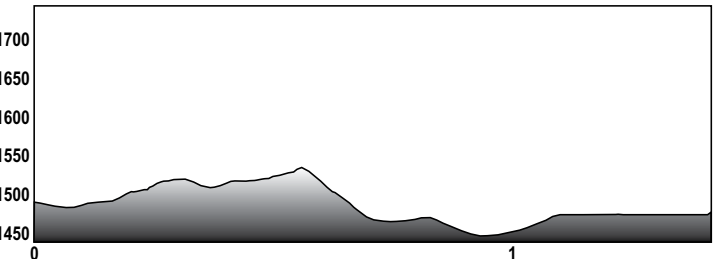
(2.1 miles from Visitor Center) - A wooden bridge across Dukes Creek begins this picturesque and historical trail. The 0.9-mile loop trail interprets the history of gold mining at this site. A vertical shaft of the earlier gold mining era is a focal point and provides a unique habitat for bats. A short extension from the main trail offers a view of a small, but soothing, waterfall.



Martin’s Mine Trail - 0.9-Mile Loop / Average Travel Time: 1 Hour
Compacted Natural Soil Surface
Average Grade 10%; Maximum of 25% for 400 Feet
Minimum Width: 24 Inches; Average Width: 30 Inches
Average Cross-Slope: 5%; Maximum of 15% for 75 Feet

Wetland Loop Trail

(1.2 miles from Visitor Center) - This easy 1/2-mile loop passes a beaver pond and wetland area. A boardwalk and large deck provide a great spot for birding on the pond. Waterfowl and frogs are residents that hikers may see or hear. “The Frogs of Smithgall Woods” brochure makes it possible to identify frogs by their call.



Wetland Loop Trail - 0.55-Mile Loop / Average Travel Time: Half Hour
Compacted Natural Soil Surface
Average Grade: 5%; Maximum of 15% for 150 Feet
Minimum Width: 36 Inches; Average Width: 60 Inches
Average Cross-Slope 2%; Maximum of 5% for 100 Feet

Hiking & Biking at Smithgall Woods

Our hiking trails, coupled with our road system, comprise almost 20 miles of woodland beauty, available to hikers and bikers. From a gentle half-mile hike on level ground near the Visitor Center to a strenuous five-mile climb up Tower Road, there is something for everyone. Hikers and bikers share our road system, and only hikers can access our trails. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash at all times.

As a conservation park, only staff vehicles, hikers and bicyclists are allowed on our road system. All vehicles must stop at the Visitor Center parking lot and purchase a ParkPass. Annual ParkPasses are available. All guests must register at the Visitor Center. Bicycles are limited to the improved roads, and trails are for hikers only. It is permissible to ride your bike to a trailhead, park off the roadway, and access the trail on foot.

When planning hikes, the mileage from the Visitor Center to the trail must be considered. Marked trails accessible to all guests are listed with the mileage from the Visitor Center. Dover Trail and the Dukes Creek Falls Access Trail are accessible to overnight guests only. There is public access to Dukes Creek Falls from the Richard Russell Scenic Highway (Hwy 348). Because hiking is limited during hunting season, visitors should call in advance to check hunt dates. In some areas, cell phones are not operable. Make sure you know the correct time and closing schedule for the site.

Our Visitor Center (open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) staff can help orient you on the property and answer questions. Be sure to ask about guided tours or fishing shuttle schedules that offer transportation through the park. Please help keep Smithgall Woods in its pristine condition. Remove all litter that you might have brought with you, or perhaps, found along the way. This is “your” park. Please help us take care of it. Have a great time by planning for a safe outing.

Safety Tips & Etiquette

- Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time.
- Be prepared for unexpected weather changes by dressing in layers and carrying rain gear.
- Take a map, water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight and whistle. Three short blasts on a whistle are known as a call for help.
- Do not stray from trails. If you become lost, stay in one location and wait for help. This will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Don't count on cell phones to work in the wilderness. A public telephone is available at the Visitor Center for local calls and 911.
- Invest in good hiking socks such as those found at sporting goods stores. Avoid blisters by carrying “moleskin” and applying it as soon as you feel a hot spot on your feet. Available in the foot care section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Be prepared for unexpected rain and wind which can lead to hypothermia. Always carry quality rain gear and turn back in bad weather. If you become wet or cold, it is important to get dry and warm as quickly as possible.
- Dress in layers and avoid cotton. Luckily, today’s hikers can choose from numerous fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly or conserve heat. Many experienced hikers wear a lightweight shirt that wicks moisture, while carrying a fleece pullover and rain jacket.
- Pack out all trash.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Do not pick flowers or disturb wildlife.
- Protect the landscape by staying on trails.