

Happy Trails

Hiking in and around Sky Valley

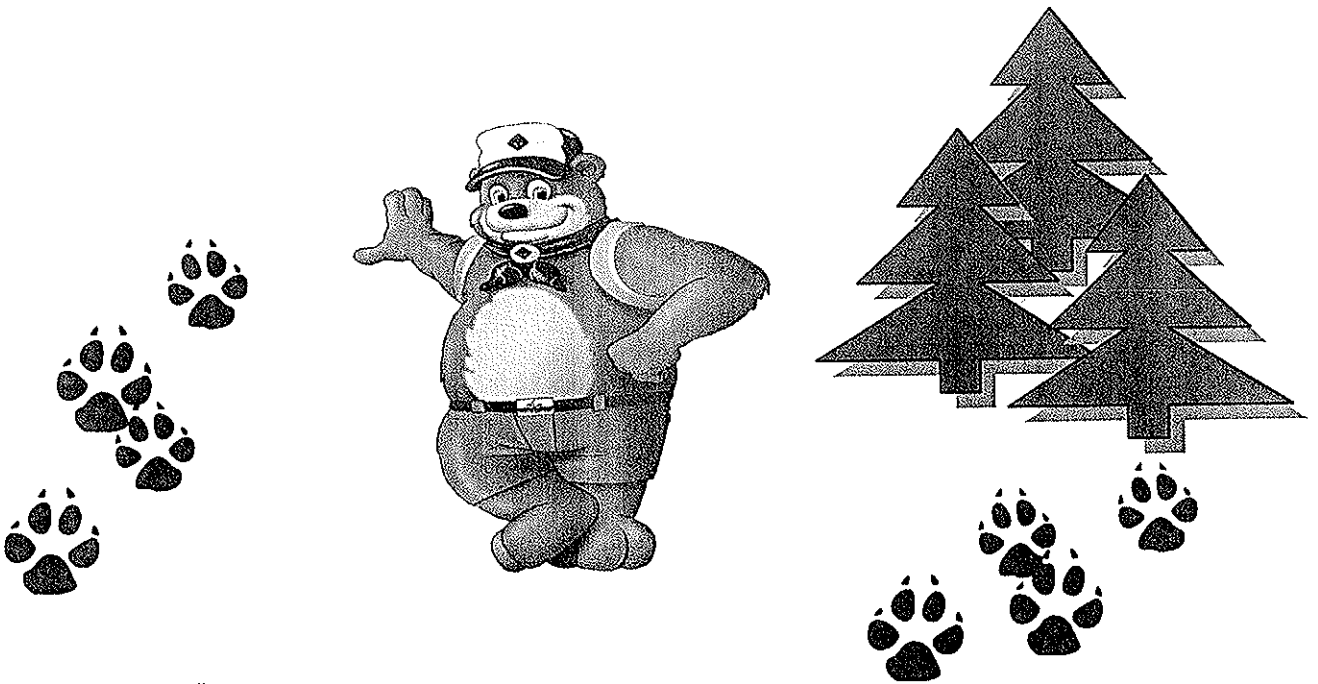


Forward

A Sky Valley trail guide was originally compiled by Janie Sue Yearwood, a true historian and enthusiast of these mountains and Sky Valley in particular. She personally had hiked all of the trails in the original version; with friends, family and guests of the resort over the years. In keeping with that tradition this 2010 version has many of Janie's original trails plus others that have become additional favorites. Happy Trails!

Tips for the Trip

- *ALWAYS* let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- *NEVER* hike alone... share the experience with others.
- *NEVER* climb around the waterfalls... admire them only. One step could be fatal.
- *ALWAYS* wear comfortable hiking boots/shoes with good tread as some trails are steep and slippery.
- *PREPARE* for the unexpected inclement weather which occurs frequently in the mountains.
- *ALWAYS* pack beverages and snacks for your trip.
- *PACK IT IN AND PACK IT OUT!* A litter free trail is enjoyed by all.
- *NEVER* leave the trail, as you may become disoriented.
- *NEVER* attempt to create a shortcut, especially in the areas of "switch-backs" as this will create unnecessary soil erosion.



If you see a bear:

- Try to stay calm
- Don't run away. Make the bear aware of your presence speaking in an assertive voice, clap your hands, wave your arms above your head to try to make yourself look bigger and make a lot of noise.
- Back up and slowly walk away.
- Keep children nearby.
- Keep pets locked up.
- Don't approach a bear.
- Never surround or corner a bear.
- If you happen to meet a bear at close range, back away slowly and make lots of noise.
- Never feed bears or any wild animals, even if they look hungry or tame.
- Take extra precautions not to feed bears accidentally bears are attracted to garbage, food scraps, pet food and many other forms of human food. Keep such foods locked away from bears in strong, safe places.
- Bears that wander into a residential area are sometimes frightened by dogs or residents and climb trees. Keep people away from the scene and the bear will come down and leave when it no longer feels threatened (often after dark).

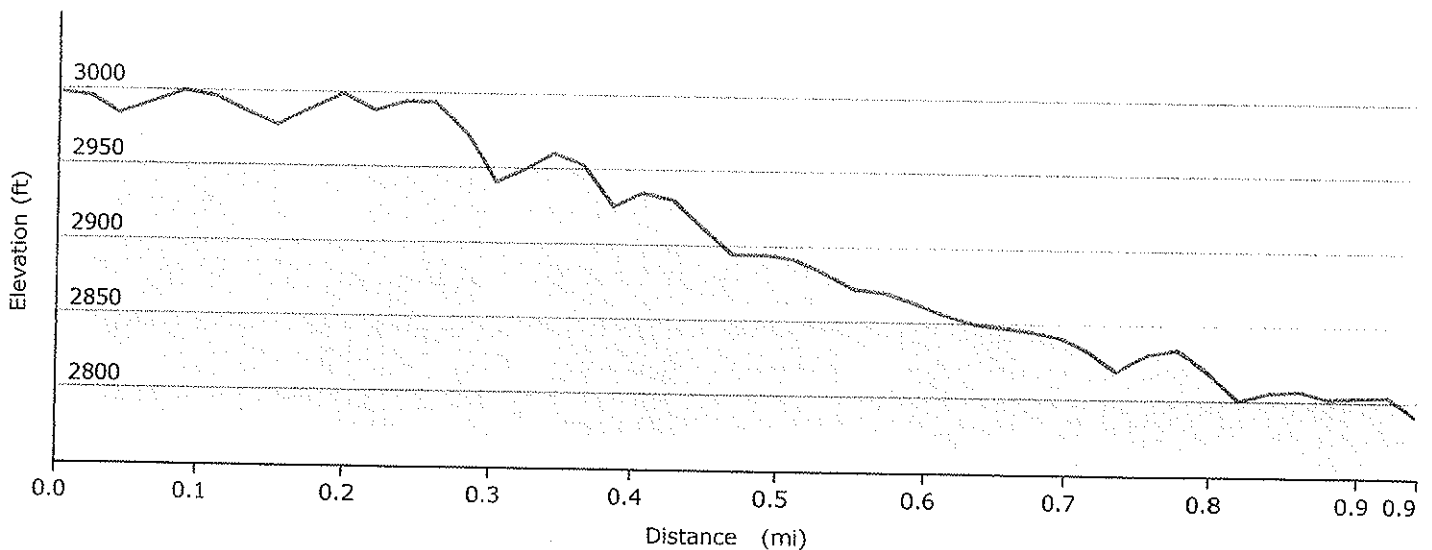
Mud Creek Falls in Sky Valley

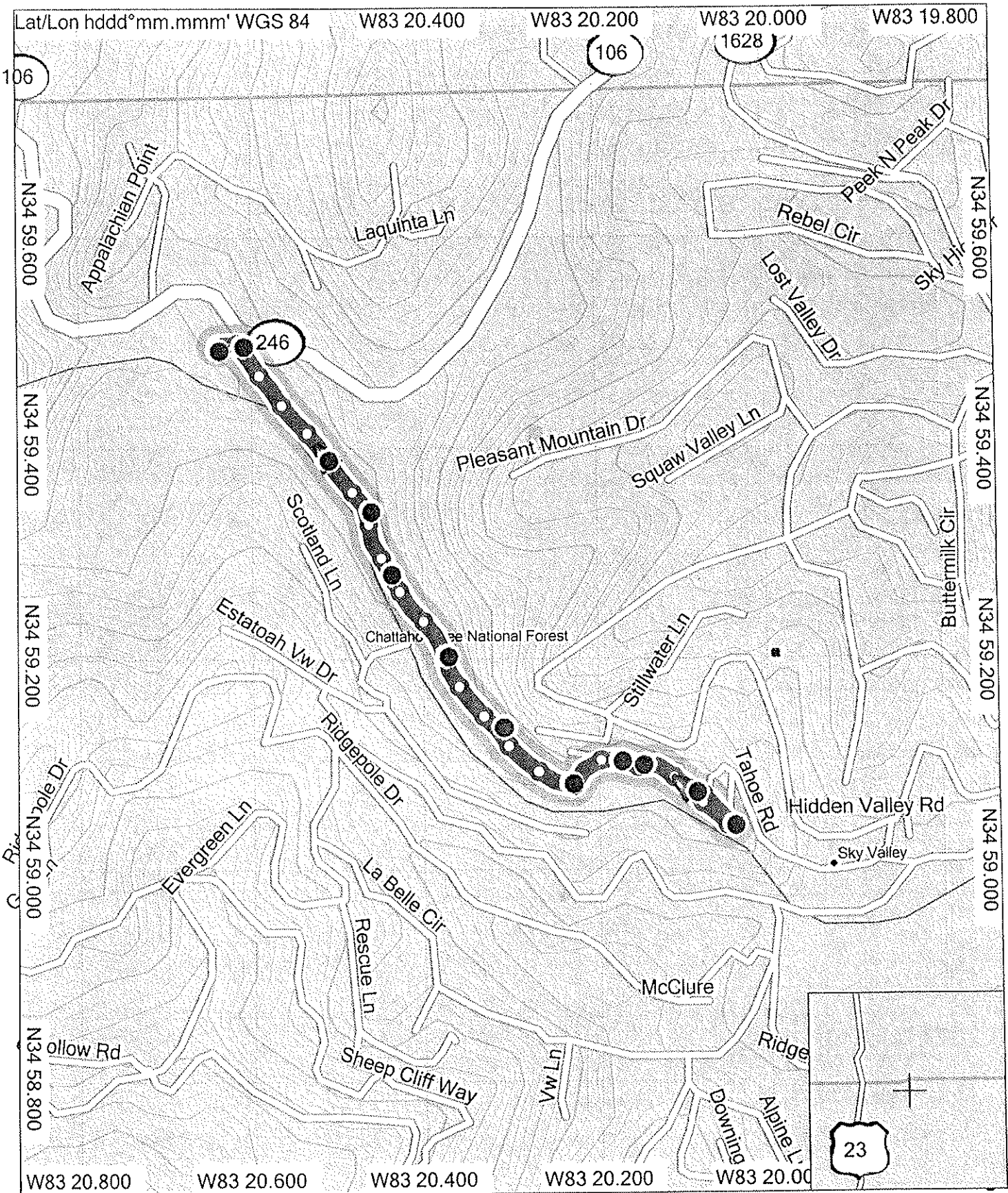
A drive or an easy walk.

1 mile easy (2 miles round trip)

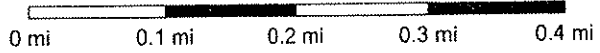
From the Time Share Office on Sky Valley Way take Tahoe Road past the lake to a parking area near the falls. These falls are directly below the fifteenth tee on the golf course. There is a mile trail that starts at the waterfall and follows the Mud Creek. The trail is mulched and has benches along the way. **Warning: do not try to return on GA 246. This mountain road is very dangerous to walk along.**

Elevation Profile





TOPO U.S. 100K
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Sky Valley Mud Creek Trail

GARMIN.

MN TN
 -5.4°
 1/1/2010

Rabun Bald Mountain

Trail Head N 34* 58.747' W083* 18.176'

4 Miles "Moderate"
Elevation – 4,696 Feet

From Sky Valley entrance turn right on Bald Mountain Road, traveling for 2 miles. Turn right (very sharp turn) onto Kelsey road. There is a Forest Service Trail Head sign at the turn. Go for approximately 1/2 mile. You will come to a large clearing for parking. Please do not block the private drives or Peacock Blvd. The first mile of the trail is an old abandoned logging road, which will lead to a clearing and an obvious camp site. The second mile of the trail enters behind boulders with a "hiker" sign. The highlight of this trip leads you to the top of a fire tower and a fabulous view of Sky Valley and beyond.

*Note make sure you take the same trail out that you came in on, as there are other trails which lead off the mountain.

Pack the camera and a nice lunch for this trip!

A SCENIC DRIVE TO THE COLUMNS

N34*59.511 W083*17.212

Imagine that you are exploring some the back roads of the North Carolina mountains, and suddenly you find yourself gazing in astonishment at what appears to be the standing remains of an old Grecian temple. Standing majestically alone, about the height of a two story building with a span of about that of a three lane highway. The work on the columns began in 1902 and were molded using the same method as the Romans used in 200 B.C. Around 1908, they were moved by railroad to the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Ga. to be used as the entrance to the church. A fire destroyed the church in 1906, however, the columns withstood the disaster.

The Property which the columns grace was the estate of the late Brevard Williams, who was an artistic designer with a shop in Highlands. The concrete foundation for each column is four feet in thickness and five feet square, and are spaced apart exactly two and three quartet times their diameter at the base. Each of the columns is in three sections and are joined together without any cement and are so perfectly balanced that they can not only withstand the elements, but probably an earthquake. Erecting these magnificent columns upon this spacious location on a mountainside was a Herculean task of moving 100 tons of stone and a crane over the narrow rural road where they now stand. After the columns were erected in 1960, Williams was often asked his reason for wanting them. His answer was reported to have been, "well I didn't have any!"

The columns can be viewed by the road only, as they are on

PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Directions: From the entrance of Sky Valley, turn right on Bald Mt. Rd. Driving about 3.3 miles until you reach Hale Ridge Road turn right and proceed for .7 miles. Columns are on the right side of the road. Take the camera!

COLEMAN – TALLULAH RIVER

2 MILES EASY

Trailhead: N 34*55.835' W083*32.856

From Sky Valley – travel 441 South, to first traffic light in Clayton, turn right onto highway 76 west and travel for 8 miles. Turn right onto Persimmon Valley Rd. (Persimmon Valley fire dept. is on the right.) Travel for 4 miles then turn left on Tallulah River Road until you reach the first bridge. (approx. 2 miles). A small parking area with a trail sign is the entrance. There is a \$2 parking fee.

Driving time: Approx. 30 minutes.

Persimmon valley and trail: Scenic beauty, whitewater, trout fishing, and camping.

BULL SLUICE CHATTOOGA RIVER

1/2 MILE EASY

From Sky Valley, turn left on Bald Mountain Rd. to Hwy. 246. Turn left onto Hwy 441 south and proceed to second traffic light in Clayton. Turn left onto Hwy 76 East at McDonalds and travel 8.5 miles. As soon as you cross over the Chattooga River, turn left into paved parking area. The “Bull Sluice” trail begins at this point. This point is very popular for picnics and photo taking of the rafters running “Bull Sluice”, a class V rapid, and was also the site for much of the filming of “Deliverance”. A bit further left of the trail entrance is a beautiful sandy beach and is used as a launch site for the river outfitters.

BARTRAM TRAIL
(BLUE VALLEY SECTION)

TRAIL HEAD: On Hale Ridge Rd. approx. 3 miles from the Scaly Mtn. Post Office
TRAIL END: On NC 106 at the Osage Mountain Vista, southwest of Highlands
TRAIL LENGTH; 3.7 miles (6 km.)
AVERAGE HIKING TIME: 2-3 hours (one way)
USGA QUAD: Scaly Mountain, NC and Rabun Gap, GA

DIRECTIONS: From Highlands take NC 106 about 5½ miles to the second overlook on the left. The view is of Osage Mountain, Blue Valley, and Georgia. This section of the Bartram Trail descends from the parking area while another section ascends the bank across the highway. To get to the trailhead, follow NC 106 1½ miles further to the Scaly Mtn. Post Office. Turn left here and follow this road for 2 miles into Georgia. Bear left onto Hale Ridge Rd. and proceed for 1 mile. Look for a Bartram Trail sign on the left. This section begins here at an old road which turns into a footpath. Moderate difficulty.

DESCRIPTION: The Bartram Trail, named for 19th century botanist, William Bartram, is an extensive interstate hiking trail presently under construction. Sections have been completed in SC, NC, Tenn., and Ala. over country that Bartram once explored.

Terrain varies over ridge shoulders, creeks, and rocky places. It goes through hemlock-pine forests as well as a mixed hardwood type. There are views along the trail of Osage Mtn., the West Fork, and its tributaries. The trail lies on a rolling grade with some steep ascents and descents. The Bartram Trail is blazed with yellow paint. Moderate difficulty.

HURRAH RIDGE TRAIL

TRAIL HEAD: End of F.S. Road #79 (Blue Valley Road)
TRAIL END: Intersection with Bartram Trail in Blue Valley
TRAIL LENGTH: .6 mile (1 km.)
AVERAGE HIKING TIME: 15-30 minutes (one way)
USGS QUAD: Scaly Mountain NC

DIRECTIONS: From Highlands, take Hwy. 28 south approximately 6 miles. Look for Clear Creek Missionary Baptist Church sign. Turn right and follow for 6 miles to its end at a broken culvert in the West Fork of Overflow Creek. Cross the creek and look for the trail going up on the right. (The seeded road behind the gate leads to a clearing for wildlife).

TRAIL DESCRIPTION: This segment is part of an historical trail used by Blue Valley residents to drive livestock up to grazing grounds in "the Flats" of Scaly Mountain. Private land boundaries now restrict trail access to its present location. This is a steep trail over dry terrain on the shoulder of Hurrah Ridge (which is mismarked on the map) until it intersects with the Bartram Trail. Moderate difficulty.

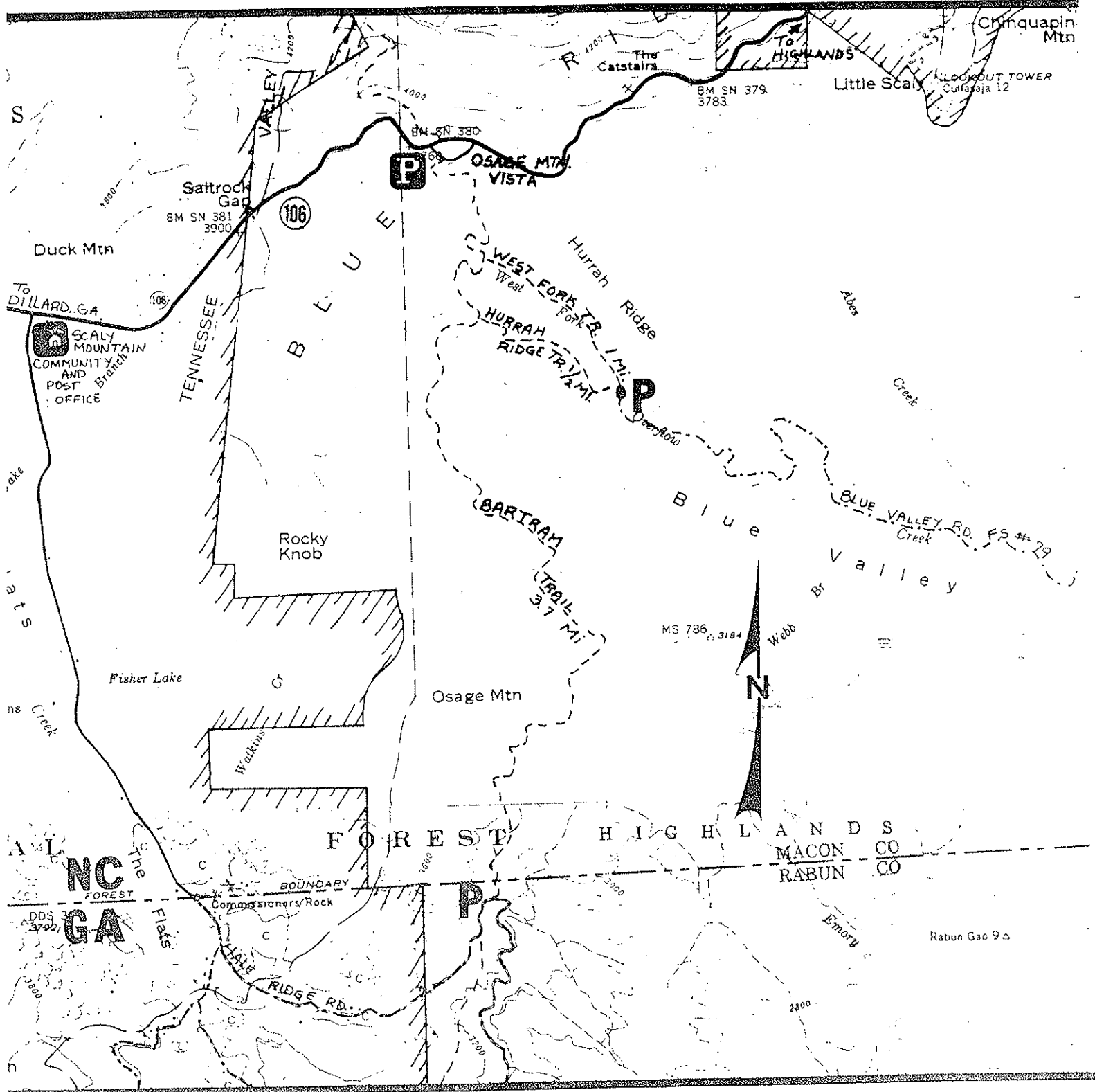
WEST FORK TRAIL

TRAIL HEAD: End of F.S. Road #79
TRAIL END: Intersection with the Bartram Trail in Blue Valley
TRAIL LENGTH: .9 mile (1.4 km.)
AVERAGE HIKING TIME: 30-45 minutes (one way)
USGS QUAD: Scaly Mountain, NC

DIRECTIONS: Follow directions to Hurrah Ridge Trail except don't cross the creek.

DESCRIPTION: This is a wet, rocky, and steep trail which was once a logging road. It is wet and mucky during the rainy season and has steep ascents. Numerous small waterfalls are visible along the West Fork since the trail closely parallels the river. Moderate difficulty.


WEST BLUE VALLEY




LEGEND

Trails -----

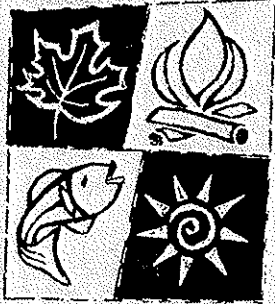
Roads -----

Developed Parking 

Full-Off Parking 

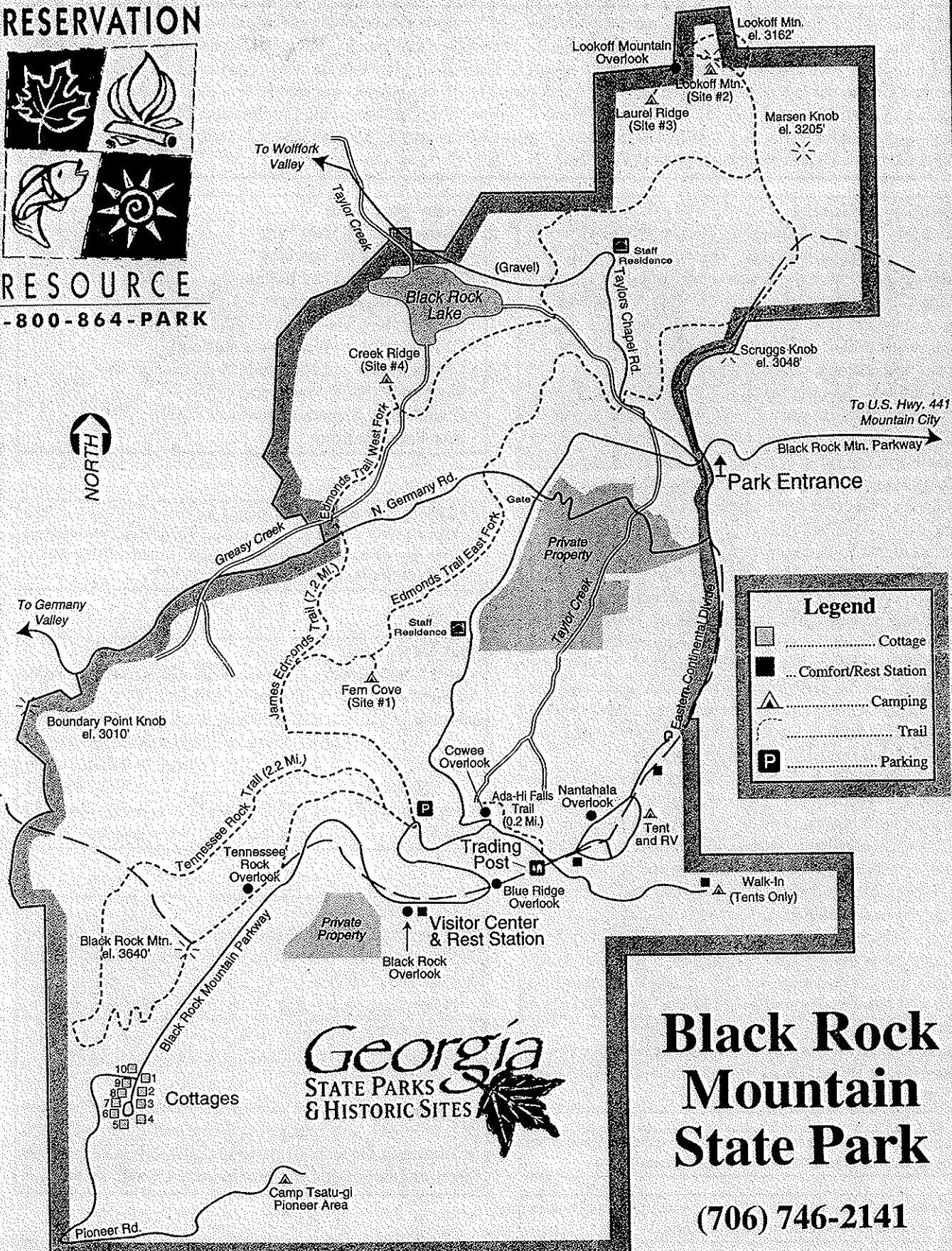
Scale: 2 1/2" = 1 Mile

RESERVATION



RESOURCE

1-800-864-PARK



Legend

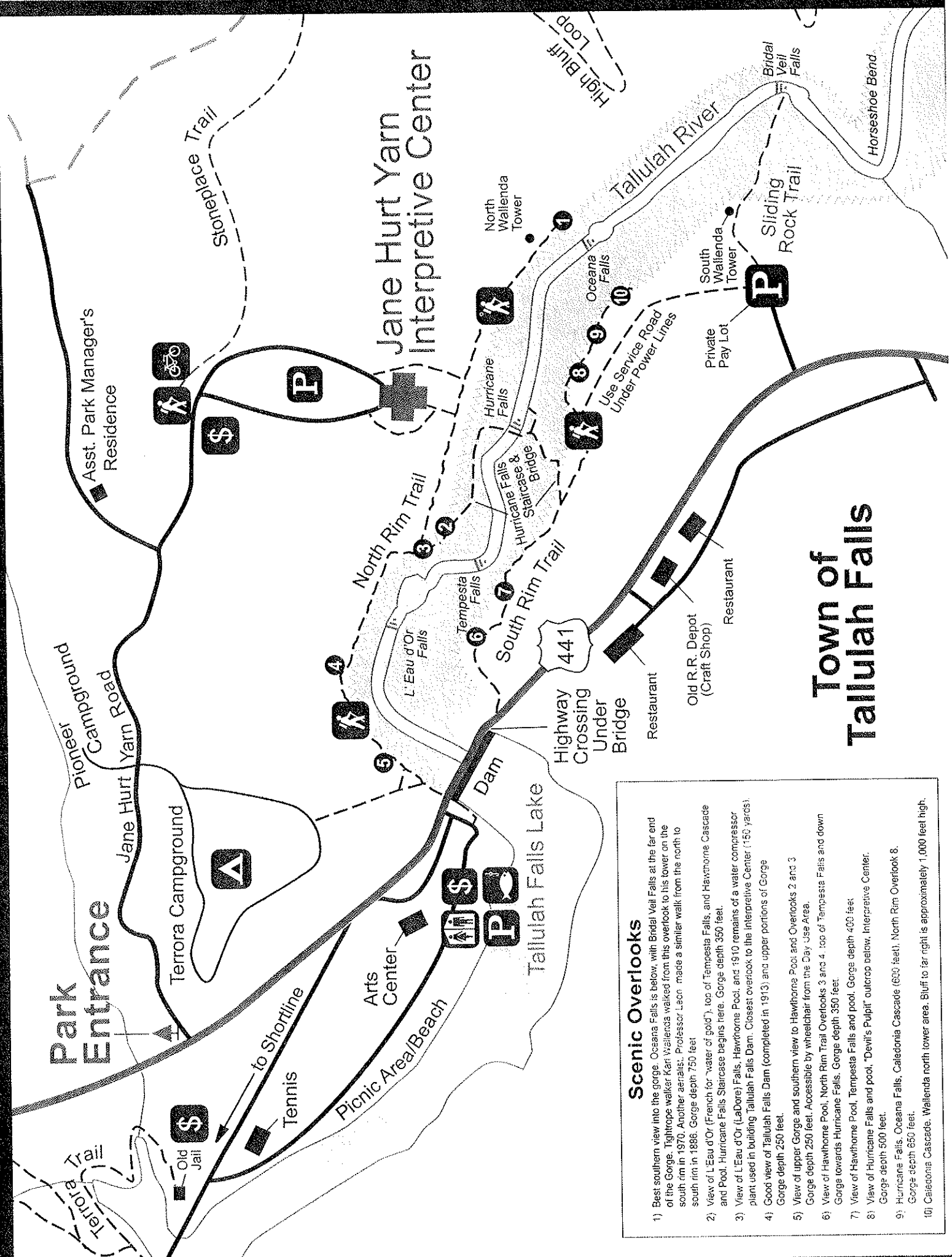
- Cottage
- Comfort/Rest Station
- Camping
- Trail
- Parking

Black Rock Mountain State Park

(706) 746-2141



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Town of Tallulah Falls

- Scenic Overlooks**
- 1) Best southern view into the gorge. Oceana Falls is below, with Bridal Veil Falls at the far end of the Gorge. Tighrope walker Karl Wallenda walked from this overlook to his tower on the south rim in 1970. Another aerialist, Professor Laco, made a similar walk from the north to south rim in 1886. Gorge depth 750 feet
 - 2) View of L'Eau d'Or (French for "water of gold"), top of Tempesta Falls, and Hawthorne Cascade and Pool. Hurricane Falls Staircase begins here. Gorge depth 350 feet.
 - 3) View of L'Eau d'Or (LaDore) Falls, Hawthorne Pool, and 1910 remains of a water compressor plant used in building Tallulah Falls Dam. Closest overlook to the Interpretive Center (150 yards).
 - 4) Good view of Tallulah Falls Dam (completed in 1913) and upper portions of Gorge. Gorge depth 250 feet.
 - 5) View of upper Gorge and southern view to Hawthorne Pool and Overlooks 2 and 3. Gorge depth 250 feet. Accessible by wheelchair from the Day Use Area.
 - 6) View of Hawthorne Pool, North Rim Trail Overlooks 3 and 4. Top of Tempesta Falls and down Gorge towards Hurricane Falls. Gorge depth 350 feet.
 - 7) View of Hawthorne Pool, Tempesta Falls and pool. Gorge depth 400 feet.
 - 8) View of Hurricane Falls and pool. "Devil's Pulpit" outcrop below. Interpretive Center. Gorge depth 500 feet.
 - 9) Hurricane Falls, Oceana Falls, Caledonia Cascade (600 feet), North Rim Overlook 8. Gorge depth 650 feet.
 - 10) Caledonia Cascade. Wallenda north lower area. Bluff to far right is approximately 1,000 feet high.



by Golden Ink

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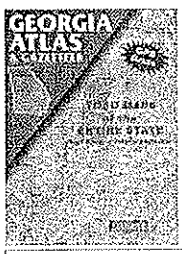
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- [Cohutta Panther Creek Trail](#)
- [Tribble Mill Park Trail](#)
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- [More new trails...](#)

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Hiking Trails in Rabun County, GA

[AT Hoqpen Gap to Unicoi Gap](#) - Takes hikers from Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway to Georgia 75.

[Bartram Trail](#) - Climbs to the top of Rabun Bald, descends into Warwoman Dell, then parallels, but does not run next to, the Chattooga River to SR28

[Becky Branch Falls](#) - Combines a portion of the Bartram Trail with the Becky Branch Falls trail to form a short loop to the Falls

[Coleman River Trail](#) - This is a quick, good trail, but watch out for the bridges.

[Denton Branch Trail](#) - Quick in and out to Denton Branch Falls in a remote area of Towns County.

[Dick's Creek Falls](#) - Walk alongside Dick's Creek to the Chattooga River and Dicks Creek Falls.

[Hemlock Falls Trail](#) - Great hike alongside a gurgling stream to a pretty waterfall.

[Minnehaha Falls](#) - Short hike to 60 foot falls

[Tallulah Gorge Loop Trail](#) - Exciting hike into the 600 ft deep gorge. Kayaking and in-gorge hiking are allowed with permit

Google Search

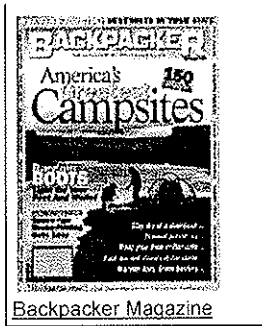
Georgia Trails

Web

[Duluth Massage](#)

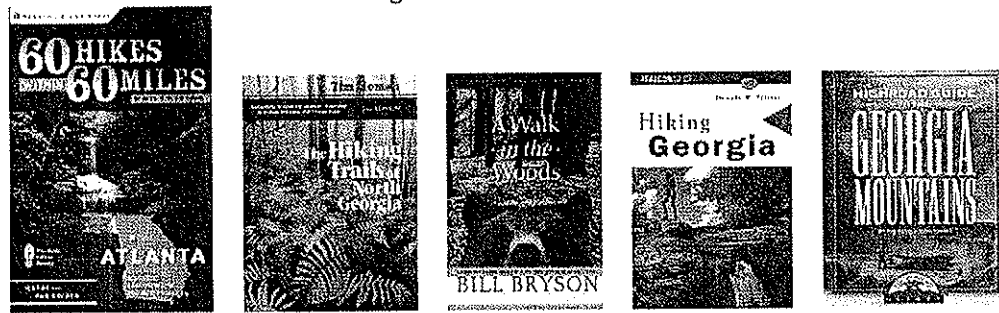


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