

Wildcat Tract, Western Hiking Trail continued;

A kiosk sign is located here. There are six trails on the western side of the Wildcat area. These trails are rated as strenuous if you hike down any of the trails and loop back to the entrance point. The trails are not appropriate for the casual hiker or children. Part of the trails are located on the ridge area, and hikers can go in along the ridge and return before heading down the steep terrain. The ridge area is mostly at a constant elevation making it easy to hike. If you stay on the ridges, a round trip hike of two miles can be done at an easy moderate rating. The distance from Monument Road to various trails on the western side is between 1.7 and 5 miles.

6. Talking Rock Nature Preserve, Talking Rock, GA

– The Talking Rock Nature Preserve consists of 220 acres of forest land which will be open for free general public use during daylight hours for hiking and nature appreciation. Directions: From Atlanta, keep right onto I-75 N toward Marietta/Chattanooga. Take exit 268 toward GA-5 N/Canton onto I-575 N (Philip M Landrum Memorial Hwy). Continue on Hwy 515 (GA-5/GA-515). Keep left toward Carns Mill Rd. Turn slightly left onto Carns Mill Rd. Keep right onto Carns Mill Rd. Arrive at approximately 1617 Carns Mill Road, Talking Rock, GA



Latitude: N34° 32'32.091" Longitude: W84° 31'33.066"

Walking Trails

1. Doris Wigington City Park, Jasper, GA – This 60-acre park on Hood Road with entrances on Gennette Drive and Lumber Company Road features 3.5 miles of wooded walking trails.

Hours: Daylight to Dusk, No lighting on trails. Directions: From I-575N, continue on to GA-515E (signs for Georgia 515 N) for 6 miles; Take right onto Philadelphia Rd in .8 mi; Take right onto State Hwy 5 for .1 mi; Take Lumber Company Rd for .8 mi to Doris Wigington City Park on the right.

Latitude N 34° 29' 37.608" Longitude W 84° 27' 12.78"

2. Jasper City Park, Jasper, GA – The Jasper City Park,



affectionately known as the "Duck Pond", is located on Pioneer Road and features a pond, two playgrounds, obstacle course, grills,

tennis courts, bathrooms and paved walking trail. Hours: 6 am to 11 pm. Directions: From I-575 N, continue on to GA-515 E (signs for Georgia 515 N) for 6 miles; Turn right onto AW Lawson Blvd in 1.4 mi; Turn left onto Holly St in 361 ft.; Turn right onto W Spring St in .4 mi; Continue onto Burnt Mountain Rd in 489 ft.; Turn left onto Pioneer Rd in .1 mi to Jasper City Park on the right.

Latitude N 34° 28' 17.652" Longitude W 84° 25' 38.171"

3. Lee Newton Park, Jasper, GA – Lee Newton Park is located on Veterans Memorial Blvd and features a picnic area, creek, large open grass area walking trail (small loop is .3 miles and the large loop is .42 miles).



Hours: 6 am to 11 pm Directions: From I-575N, continue on to GA-515E (signs for Georgia 515 N) for 6 miles; Take left onto Hwy 53 (Church Street) for 1.1 miles; Turn left onto Maple Lane for 427 ft. mi; Turn right onto Veterans Memorial Blvd in 141ft, Lee Newton Park in on the left.

Latitude N 34° 28' 2.532" Longitude W 84° 26' 17.735"

4. Roper Park, Jasper, GA – Roper Park is located at 1301-1499 Camp Road and features a paved walking trail, playground, basketball court, numerous baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, a public pool, and pavilion that is available to rent. Directions: Head southeast on GA-5 S/GA-515 W for .2 mi; Make a U-turn; Turn right onto Mineral Springs Rd N in .3 mi; Turn right onto Camp Rd in .3 mi; Continue onto Donna Lynn St for .1 mi; Continue onto Camp Rd for .2 mi; Roper Park will be on the right in 1.1 mi.

Latitude N 34° 26' 43.51" Longitude W 84° 25' 30.164"

5. Holy Family Church, Jasper, GA – The 40 acre-campus of the Holy Family Church located at 100 Griffith Ave in Jasper is open to the public as a place for spiritual reflection, quiet solitude and the enjoyment of nature in an in-town setting. There are four walking trails: the Lake Trail is .4 mile; the Stations Trail is .6 mile; the Ball Ground Trail is .5 mile; and the Griffith Trail is 1.25 miles. Directions: The Holy Family campus is located off of Cove Road near Grandview Road. Take GA 515 to Bus GA 53 thru downtown Jasper to Burnt Mt. Road. Then turn on Burnt Mt. Road to Cove Road and then Cove Road to Giffith Road just past Grandview Road.

Latitude N 34° 27' 11.189" Longitude W 84° 25' 36.163"

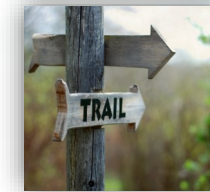
6. City of Nelson Park, Nelson, GA – There are two playgrounds at the City Park in Nelson, one on Blue Ridge Avenue and one on School Street. A 1.25-mile-long walking trail is located next to the School Street playground. Hours: Dawn to Dusk. Directions: Head southeast on GA-5 S/GA-515 W toward Bill Hasty Blvd for 5.7 mi; Turn left onto GA-372 S in 1.6 mi; Turn left onto GA-372 N/Ball Ground Hwy; Continue to follow Ball Ground Hwy for 0.6 mi; Continue onto Canton Rd for 0.2 mi; Slight right onto Kennesaw Ave in 0.1 mi; Turn right onto School St in 285 ft.

Latitude N 34° 22' 48.924" Longitude W 84° 22' 17.97"

Walking and Hiking Trails in and around Pickens County, Georgia

Walking Trails:

- Doris Wigington City Park, Jasper, GA
- Jasper City Park, Jasper, GA
- Lee Newton Park, Jasper, GA
- Roper Park, Jasper, GA
- Holy Family Church, Jasper, GA
- City of Nelson Park, Nelson, GA



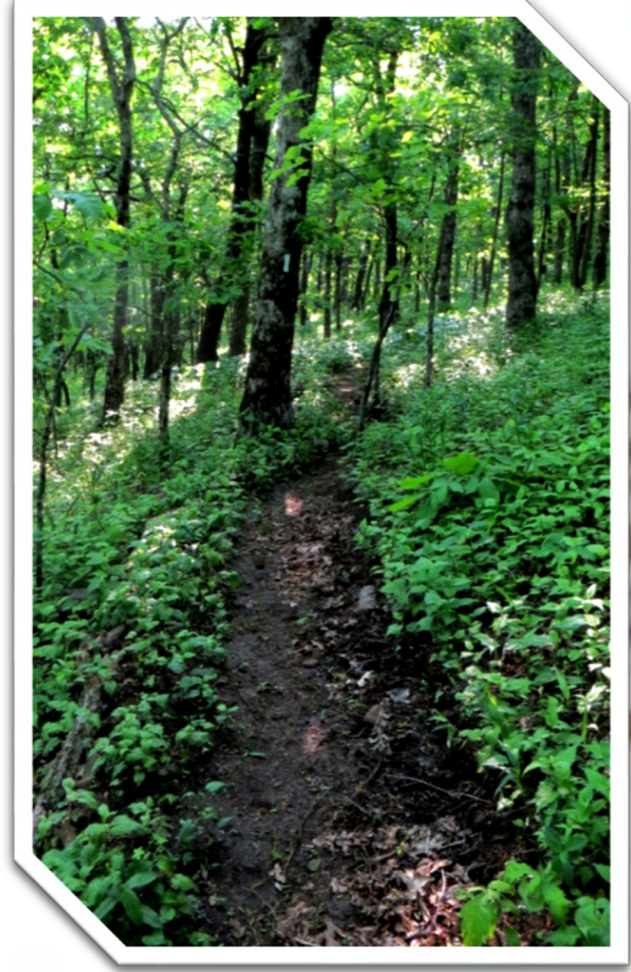
Hiking Trails:

- Burnt Mountain Preserve, Jasper, GA
- Eagles Rest Park on Mt. Oglethorpe, Jasper, GA
- Amicalola River Trail, Dawsonville, GA
- Amicalola Falls Trails and Approach Trail to the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye Trails, Dawsonville, GA
- Wildcat Tract, Dawsonville, GA
- Talking Rock Nature Preserve, Talking Rock, GA



For additional information, please contact the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center
500 Veterans Memorial Blvd
Jasper, GA 30143
706-692-5600

georgiamarblefestival@pickenschamber.com
www.VisitPickensGa.com

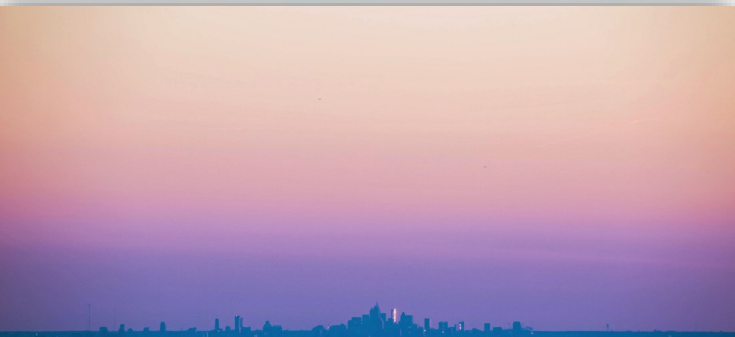


Walking and Hiking Trails in Pickens County and Surrounding North Georgia Mountain Area

Hiking Trails



1. Burnt Mountain Preserve, Jasper, GA – The Burnt Mountain Preserve is nature at its best with trails for the novice and experienced hiker. The Preserve is under a Conservation Easement to protect this wonderful nature area. The 772-acre Preserve has many wildflowers, pristine creeks, streams, and wildlife. There are currently three trails: Crest Trail (Orange Blazes) - .3 miles; Preserve Trail (Yellow Blazes) - 1.0 miles; and Champion Creek Trail (White Blazes) - 2.0 miles. A partnership between the Pickens County Government and the Mountain Conservation Trust has led to the recent acquisition and conservation of an additional 282 acres added to Burnt Mountain Preserve for future hiking and public recreation development. **Directions:** The Burnt Mountain Preserve Trail located off of Rt. 136 heading east in Pickens County just before you get to the first overlook. Take Hwy 575 N to 515 N turn right onto Rt. 53 E for 1.5 miles. Turn Left on Burnt Mountain/Hwy 136E and travel 8 miles. There is a graveled road leading into the trail entrance and a small parking area. You can see the Kiosk sign off to the right as you approach the trail entrance. Latitude N 34° 29' 32.588" Longitude W 84° 25' 35.268"

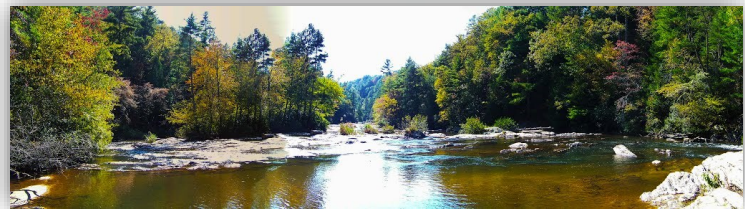


*Downtown Atlanta from Eagles Rest on Mt. Oglethorpe, Jasper, GA
Photo courtesy of David Akoubian*

2. Eagles Rest Park on Mt. Oglethorpe, Jasper, GA – Eagles Rest is a public park with trails and four observation decks on Mt. Oglethorpe. Mt. Oglethorpe was originally the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, but the trail had to be relocated due to development in the area. The southern terminus is now on Springer Mountain, about ten miles northeast of Mt. Oglethorpe. Previously, a statue of James Oglethorpe, founder of the colony of Georgia, existed on his namesake mountain, however it was removed because of damage. The restored monument now resides in Jasper, Georgia. Two hiking trails have been developed by Mountain Stewards: Eagles Rest Trail is relatively level with minor elevation changes) and is a ½ mile easy walk around the summit. Follow the white blazes. Oglethorpe Mountain Trail is 2 miles with a 500-foot elevation change down and back up. The trail is rated moderate to

strenuous. Follow the yellow blazes. **Directions:** From Jasper, Georgia follow Rt.136 to Burnt Mountain Road and turn south on Monument Road. Follow Monument Road to the very end (about 5 miles) and enter the Eagle’s Rest site. Drive up the hill to the parking location on the side road off the main access road. The trails begin off of the parking area. Latitude N 34° 32' 17.655" Longitude W 84° 20' 40.308"

3. Amicalola River Trail, Dawsonville, GA – The Amicalola River is one of the more scenic in North Georgia. The Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 28,000-acre wildlife and natural resource preserve. The Amicalola Tract is about 10,000 acres. It provides a conservation buffer for the scenic Amicalola River. The Amicalola River Trail/The Edge of the



World/ Fern City goes by many names. In addition to hiking, a large outcrop of rocks makes the perfect picnic place, complete with swimming hole, and rock slides. The trail is 2.9 miles long. From the parking lot, head down the stairs to the trailhead. In addition to hiking, a large outcrop of rocks makes the perfect picnic place, complete with swimming hole, and rock slides. The trail is 2.9 miles long. From the parking lot, head down the stairs to the trailhead. You’ll follow the new ADA-compliant boardwalk for about a half-mile. When the boardwalk ends, you can catch a spectacular view of the rapids from a small observation deck. Follow the rough-terrain trail for a few hundred more feet. It will split, with the Amicalola River Trail following the top split to the left. Take the fork to the right in order to head to the boulders. Note: Since 2012, the Amicalola River Trail is a fee area. However, there is no fee station on site. You must purchase a pass before you go. A day-pass is \$3.50, or you can purchase an annual pass. **Directions:** Hwy 53 West, Dawsonville, Georgia. From 575 drive north to Route 108. Turn right (east) on 108. Continue straight at the four way stop. This is now GA. 53. This scenic drive winds past the historic Tate House, which sits on the site of the first courthouse in Cherokee Georgia (1830). Shortly after you cross the county line the road begins to drop down to the Amicalola River.

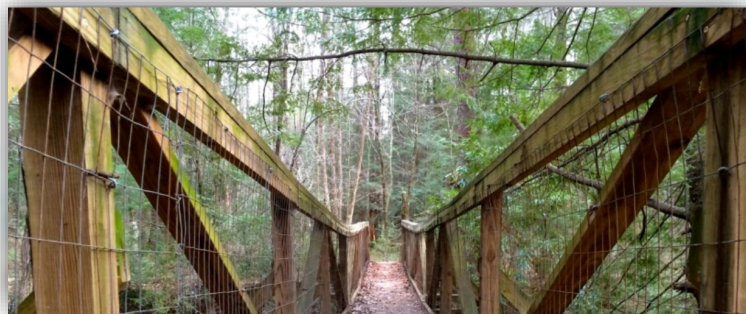
4. Amicalola Falls Trails and Approach Trail to the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye Trails, Dawsonville, GA – Spectacular scenery and hiking trails make this one of Georgia’s most popular state parks. At 729 feet, Amicalola Falls is the tallest cascading waterfall in the Southeast. Visitors have choices on how to best view the tumbling waters, ranging from an accessible pathway to a challenging trail with staircases. Numerous other trails provide shorter day hikes. An 8.5-mile approach trail leads from the park to Springer Mountain, the southern end of the famous 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail (AT) and the 300 mile Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT). **Directions:** 280 Amicalola Falls State Park Road – From Jasper, Georgia take Burnt Mountain Rd and GA-136 to Amicalola Falls State Park Rd in Dawson County. Continue on Amicalola Falls State Park Rd. Drive to Amicalola Falls Lodge Rd to Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge, 418 Ami-

calola Falls Lodge Road, Dawsonville, GA.

5. Wildcat Tract, Dawsonville, GA – Wildcat Creek Trail is a 6.4 mile in and out trail. Water is always near, ending at a very quaint waterfall. It is an easy to moderate hike with a few uphill climbs. There are several other trails of the Wildcat Tract from easy to strenuous. Almost all with are flowing water and or falls. All trails in the Wildcat Section on DNR property.



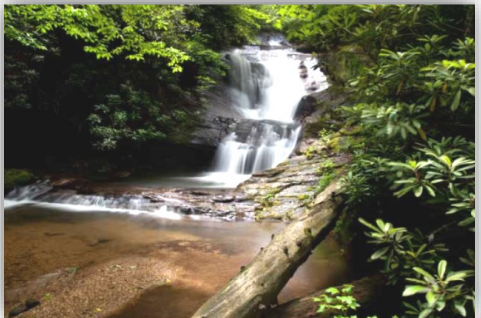
However, some of these are connected to trails that lead on are marked with signage to make it easy to stay on the DNR rail. Anyone using the DNR property is cautioned to stay off of private property which is trespassing and punishable under DNR or local law. Some of the trails are wilderness trails. Do not attempt to hike them unless you are very experienced at hiking in a wilderness. Wilderness trails are not suitable for children or casual hikers. The entire 4,500-acre area is under the DNR fee use so hikers will need a day or annual pass to enter the area. Also, this area is used for deer hunting in the Oct - Jan time frame so hikers should be cautioned to avoid the area during these times or to wear orange vests. Further, the DNR has a policy to limit the number of hikers in the area to groups no larger than 8. For groups larger than 8, they have to get a permit from the DNR headquarters in Gainesville, 770-575-5700. **Directions:** From I75 to I-575/515 north to Jasper, Georgia, past the large QuikTrip gas station, on left, traveling uphill, look for sign for 108/53 on the right side of the road. Turn right onto Hwy 53 East. Go on Hwy 53, a little past 11 miles to Steve Tate Road (marked by Foothills Shopping Center on left just before road). Turn left and travel 7.2 miles (just past Pleasant Union Baptist Church) and turn left at Wildcat Camp Road, travel less than a mile on graveled road to campground. Directions to the Eastern and Western Trails are broken out separately as they are



generally hiked separately (see below). They are typically not thru-hiked

Eastern Side Trails – There is a kiosk sign located in the campground with information about the trails. There are three trails on the eastern side of the Wildcat area. These trails are rated as easy to low moderate. These trails connect with the trails on the western side of the Wildcat Section of the Dawson Forest. Total round trip for hiking the three trails (Turner Trail to the Windy

Ridge Trail to the Rocky Ford Trail) and back to the campground is 4.0 miles. **Directions:** For the Eastern entrance off of Wildcat Campground Road, the hiker can access four trails: Wildcat Creek, Turner, Windy Ridge, and Rocky Ford. Wildcat Creek and Turner start at the campground and can be connected to form a 3-mile hike. Windy Ridge and Rock Ford are further into the forest and are accessed off of the Turner Trail. The Rocky Ford Trail can be followed west all the way to near the top of the mountain where it connects to the Tobacco Pouch trail and eventually Monument Road at the Western entrance. Windy Ridge is accessed off of Rocky Ford and Turner Trails. The Wildcat Creek Trail connects to the Fall Creek Trail after 1.4 miles and you can then follow the Fall Creek Trail westward toward Monument Road if the hiker chooses but there is 1600-foot elevation climb to Monument Road. The Fall Creek Trail also connects to Tobacco Pouch which follows westward to the Monument Road entrance. The directions to the Eastern Entrance should use Steve Tate Road. The eastern trails entrance leads to the Wildcat Campground where there are seven rustic camp sites on both sides of the Amicalola River.



Western Side Trails – The Western Section of the Wildcat Area begins at the 3000-foot elevation along the Southern Appalachian Mountain ridge line that defines the border between Dawson and Pickens Counties and descends steeply to the east and south into the Wildcat, Fall, and Rocky Ford Creek coves which are at about 1600 feet of elevation. The higher elevations are broken up into ridges and ravines with the headwaters of the creeks forming in the higher elevations and cascading downhill into the cove areas with several spectacular waterfalls occurring at various elevations. **Directions:** Access to the western trails is off of Monument Road. Follow Georgia Highway 136 to the Dawson/Pickens County line and turn south on Monument Road. Go approximately 3 miles to the trail entrance on the left side of the road.

(continued on back)

