

HIKING: 26 miles



All trails are hiking only. Sturdy footwear is recommended due to the rocky footing on most trails. Trails are marked, but taking a trail map on your hike is strongly recommended. Distances listed are one way.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY RATINGS:

Easiest: Grade is gentle with few obstacles.
More Difficult: Grade is steeper and trails narrower with embedded rocks or roots on the trail surface.
Most Difficult: Grade is steep and provides a definite physical challenge. Elevation gain or loss is severe.

Black Gum Trail: 0.8 mile
More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Yellow squares
This linear trail between Forest Heritage Loop and Scenic Vista Trail follows the southwestern contour of the mountainside and has an abundance of black gum trees.

Buck Ridge Trail: 1.8 miles in the park, 6 miles total
Most difficult hiking | Point-to-point trail | Yellow squares
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms in Mansion Area
Beginning in the Mansion Area, this challenging, rocky trail tackles two hills before entering Michaux State Forest. The trail then follows a network of foot paths and old logging roads leading to Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

Cold Spring Overlook Trail: 1.3 miles
Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Red circles
Splitting off Buck Ridge Trail, this trail travels toward and along the park's eastern boundary, providing views of Cold Springs Hollow before linking with Maple Hollow Trail.

East Watershed Trail: 0.8 mile
Easiest hiking | Out-and-back trail | Yellow squares
From the Pond Parking Area, the trail wanders along a bubbling creek toward Old Boundary Trail.

Firebreak Trail: 0.5 mile
Most difficult hiking | Out-and-back trail | Red circles
From Kings Gap Hollow Area, this trail offers a more direct, uphill route to Old Boundary Trail.

Forest Heritage Loop: 1.8 miles
More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Red circles
This trail reveals another part of the area's rich history, passing several charcoal hearths that have been unused for over 100 years. Maple Hollow and Rock Scree trails provide access to this trail.

Forest Pools Loop: 1.2 miles
Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Yellow squares
This trail meanders through mixed forest and past several vernal pools.
Irish Gap Hollow Trail: 2.3 miles
Easiest hiking | Point-to-point trail | Yellow squares
Following along Irish Gap Hollow Run, this trail connects Irish Gap and Pinebrook access areas. It has many wooden bridges and natural stone crossings, as well as the remains of an old rock dam.

Kings Gap Hollow Trail: 1.5 miles
More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Blue triangles
Connecting Pump House Parking with the Mansion Area, this trail wanders along the pristine Kings Gap Hollow Run, past a small pond, and climbs in elevation through an oak forest.

Locust Point Trail: 1.0 mile
Most difficult hiking | Connector trail | Yellow squares
Connecting Old Boundary and Two Hollows trails, this route travels through woods to an opening among fallen locust trees.

Maple Hollow Trail: 1.3 miles
More difficult hiking | Loop trail | Blue triangles
This trail traverses a hollow with rich soils, plentiful water, and resulting maple forest.

Nature Trail: 0.2 mile
Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Blue triangles
Trailhead amenities: modern restrooms
This short trail loops around the Education Building, guiding walkers on a mostly level path through open forest.

Old Boundary Trail: 2.0 miles
Most difficult hiking | Connector trail | Blue triangles
Between Two Hollows and Buck Ridge trails, enjoy the solitude of the forest while following the original boundary of the park. This is one of the park's most challenging trails.

Pines Loop: 0.8 mile
Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Red circles
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms
Soft pine needles cover this trail taking hikers through the heart of a coniferous forest grove which was planted in the 1950s.

Pools Connector Trail: 0.3 mile
Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Blue triangles
This trail connects the Forest Pools Area to the Pines Area, creating a picturesque link to enjoy both habitats.

Ridge Overlook Trail: 0.8 mile
Most difficult hiking | Connector trail | Yellow squares
Accessed from Rock Scree or Kings Gap Hollow trails, this ridge-top trail has boulder outcrops and offers a view of the valley below.

Rock Scree Trail: 1.9 miles
More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Blue triangles
Connecting the Pines and Mansion areas, the trail has a 600-foot elevation change over the ridge and rocky outcrop where Antietam quartzite was quarried for the mansion's construction.

Scenic Vista Trail: 2.3 miles
More difficult hiking | Point-to-point trail | Red circles
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms at Kings Gap Hollow Area
Traveling between the Mansion and Kings Gap Hollow areas, this trail meanders through the forest and boasts a scenic vista mid-way, providing an excellent resting point.

Tadpole Trail: 0.8 mile
Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Red circles
This connector provides a shortcut through the Forest Pools Area and allows more flat hiking opportunities for visitors.

Two Hollows Trail: 1.3 miles
More difficult hiking | Connector trail | Red circles
This trail links Irish Gap Hollow Trail to the rest of the park, ending at Pump House Parking.

West Watershed Trail: 0.6 mile
Easiest hiking | Connector trail | Red circles
Breaking off East Watershed Trail, West Watershed travels near a rippling creek ending at Old Boundary Trail.

Whispering Pines Loop: 0.3 mile
Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Yellow squares
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms, picnic tables
This paved, ADA-accessible path takes hikers on a self-guided experience. Signs along the trail educate about the history of the forest and the trees that grow there.
White Oaks Loop: 0.3 mile
Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Blue triangles
Trailhead amenities: non-flush restrooms
This paved trail has educational signs about the ecology of the forest.

Woodland Ecology Trail: 0.6 mile
Easiest hiking | Loop trail | Red circles
Accessed from Maple Hollow Parking, this trail connects with Maple Hollow Trail at the halfway point of the loop. Signs placed along this mossy trail help hikers to interpret forest ecology and identify plants. Hikers can enjoy wild azalea and mountain laurel blooming in May.



Trail Tips

- Be Prepared**
- Let someone know your plans and check the weather forecast before your adventure.
 - Wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers. Wear orange during hunting seasons.
 - Bring drinking water and a snack. Do not drink from streams, springs, or ponds without properly treating the water first.
 - Take a park map – many areas of the park do not have cell reception.
- Protect and Preserve Our Parks**
- Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.
 - Park hours are sunrise to sunset. Overnight camping is prohibited along trails.
 - All trails are foot traffic only – No bikes, horses, or vehicles.
 - Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be physically controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash.
 - Stay on blazed trails – each trail is marked with either red circles, blue triangles, or yellow squares. Utility lines and service routes may intersect hiking trails. These are not trails and do not have blazing.
 - Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
 - Leave no trace – Do not litter, pick flowers, stack stones, or leave logs overturned.
 - Be courteous of other trail users. Pass on the right or yield to other hikers.

- Enjoy Your Hike**
- When possible, begin your hike uphill and return downhill.
 - Establish a steady, comfortable hiking pace.
 - Don't forget to stop and breathe – Take a few moments to enjoy your surroundings and rejuvenate.
 - Leave your music behind and enjoy the sounds of the forest.
 - Stay quiet to observe more wildlife.

