



LAMAR ALEXANDER ROCKY FORK STATE PARK

With over 19 miles of trails, Rocky Fork State Park encompasses 2,256 acres of scenic wilderness in Unicoi County. Surrounded on three sides by the Cherokee National Forest, Rocky Fork boasts the highest elevations of any Tennessee State Park. This steep, rugged terrain is drained by numerous cool mountain streams including its namesake creek, Rocky Fork, which flows through the park. With large moss-covered boulders and deep pools and eddies, the cold, quickly flowing stream is noted for miles of excellent native trout fishing. A corridor of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the Sampson Mountain Wilderness Area is nearby.

Weather can change abruptly in the mountains, so be prepared. In the event that you see a black bear in the backcountry, do not approach it or throw food to the bear. Keep your pets leashed, for the safety of your pet and for the safety of park wildlife. It is recommended that hikers have familiarity with the area and experience with navigating backcountry terrain. Geo-referenced maps and other maps are available online.



CAMPING

Rocky Fork has three primitive backcountry campsites. Each site is limited to four people. Sites are wooded, and quite shady. Reservations are made online. Please visit the website for more info.

HIKING

There are nearly 14 miles of marked trails ranging from easy to strenuous. Trails offer stunning views of the southern Appalachian Forest, waterfalls and direct access to The Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

FISHING

Our swiftly moving waters surrounded by lush native vegetation are ideal for native brook and wild rainbow trout. The waters of Blockstand and Rocky Fork Creek are favored for fly fishing. The higher elevation streams in Rocky Fork are known as one of the top three brook trout fisheries in the state. The last mile of Rocky Fork (roadside section) is stocked seasonally and can be fished without special restrictions. TWRA regulations above the gate provide only for single hook, artificial fly/lure fishing.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Nearly 10 miles of marked mountain biking trails inside the state park boundary connect to 8,000 acres of remote, unmarked and unsigned logging roads in the Cherokee National Forest. These trails provide for scenic and challenging rides for the ambitious mountain biker. The primitive trails are shared with hikers and horseback riders on some trails. Expect rough terrain, stream crossings and outstanding views.

HORSEBACK RIDING

At this time, there is no horse access inside the park. The park must be accessed from the Cherokee National Forest's horse access trails: fs.usda.gov/cherokee. A new equine access trail in Rocky Fork is in the planning stage. Almost eight miles of marked horseback riding trails in the park connect to 8,000 acres of remote, unmarked and unsigned logging roads in the Cherokee National Forest. Expect rough terrain, stream crossings and picturesque vistas. Horse trailer parking is located at the old Morrill Motors Plant at 1503 Hwy 352, Flag Pond, TN, 37657.

EVENTS

- April: Annual Upper East Tennessee Fiddler's Convention
- May-June: Firefly Light Shows, Summer Ranger Programs
- October: Annual Haunted Hikes
- Ranger-led hikes are offered throughout the year.

For more, check out our Upcoming Events webpage: tnstateparks.com/parks/events/rocky-fork

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501 Rocky Fork Road, Flag Pond, TN 37657
800-250-8611 Camping reservations
423-271-1233 Ranger Station
423-271-1233 Park Office

HOURS OF OPERATION

Sunrise to Sunset


DIRECTIONS

From Johnson City, TN: I-26 E for approx. 16 miles. Take Exit 43 for US-19W toward TN-352/Temple Hill Rd. Turn left onto US-19W S. Turn right to stay on US-19W S for approx. 1 mile. Make a slight right onto TN-352 W for 4.8 miles. Turn right onto Rocky Fork Rd. and go approx. 1 mile to Rocky Fork main entrance gate.

From Asheville, NC: I-26 W/US-19 N/US-23 N/US-70 W for approx. 27 miles. Continue on I-26 W for approx. 4.3 miles and take Exit 50 toward Flag Pond Rd. Proceed for approx. 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Upper Higgins Creek Rd for 0.6 mile. Turn right onto Old Asheville Hwy for 2.3 mile. Turn left onto Rocky Fork Rd. for 1 mile to the Rocky Fork State Park main entrance gate.




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T E N N E S S E E

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RANGER STATION AND GIFT SHOP

T-shirts, stickers, books, and other souvenirs are available to purchase at the Ranger Station. Open to the public on Fridays & Saturdays, park maps, trail reports, and restrooms are available. The Ranger Station is located at 280 Jennie Moore Rd in Flag Pond.

GPS coordinates are 36.03624 N 82.55080 W

OTHER NEARBY STATE PARKS

- David Crockett Birthplace: 35 miles
- Roan Mountain: 42 miles

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers and the Friends of Rocky Fork State Park assist in protecting and preserving the cultural and natural resources of Rocky Fork. They do this by giving of their time and talents to ensure their park's integrity for future generations to enjoy. It's easy to show your support—join the Friends group or participate in one of the many volunteer opportunities offered.

For more information, visit www.rockyforkfriends.org

AREA DIRECTIONS

To Cherokee National Forest's Lower Higgins Creek Falls from our parking lot: Go South approx. 1 mile on Rocky Fork Rd. Turn left onto TN-353 E for approx. 4.8 miles. Slight left onto US-19W N for approx. 0.4 mile. Turn left onto Lower Higgins Creek Road [travel uphill approx. 1.6 miles]. At cul-de-sac, road turns to gravel/dirt. Travel approx. 0.3 mile to turn-around/parking area in front of a U.S. Forest service gate. Hike approx. 0.5 mile to Lower Higgins Creek Waterfalls, on the right.

To the Appalachian Trail crossing and parking lot at Devils Fork Gap from our parking lot: Head South for 1 mile on Rocky Fork Rd. Turn right onto TN-352 West. Travel for approx. 0.1 mile. Turn right to stay on TN-352 W. Travel uphill approx. 4.2 miles.

To Appalachian Trail/Devils Fork Gap: Leaving Rocky Fork Rd, turn right on Asheville Hwy. In 100 yards, make another right onto Devil Fork Rd [Hwy 352]. Continue up Devil Fork for 4.2 miles. There will be trail head parking on your left at the TN/NC state line.

To Ranger Station from Asheville Hwy and Rocky Fork Rd: Head south on Old Asheville Hwy. In 500 feet, take a slight right onto Devil Fork Rd. Turn left 100 ft up Devil Fork into the parking lot. From the entrance of the parking lot, our Ranger Station is 400 ft on the left.

