



Photos: Matt Morrison

BIRDING

Hiwassee Scenic River State Park offers the chance to spot more than a hundred species throughout the park. Watch as great blue herons stalk the shallows among river rocks, or catch a glimpse of bald eagles diving boldly through the rapids in search of prey. You might even witness a conservation success story—the majestic sandhill crane, now thriving in this region.

Beyond the riverbanks, the surrounding grasslands and forest provide rich foraging grounds for woodland birds. Here, colorful songbirds flit among wildflowers, feeding on seeds, insects, and other invertebrates. Whether you are an avid birder or simply enjoy nature's beauty, the Hiwassee offers unforgettable opportunities to observe wildlife in its natural habitat.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Hiwassee Scenic River State Park offers a variety of interpretive programs throughout the year, designed to connect visitors with the natural beauty, wildlife, and history of the area. Whether you seek historical programs, guided hikes, educational programs, or seasonal celebrations, there's always something to enjoy at the park. To see upcoming events, visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/HiwasseeScenicRiverStatePark](https://www.facebook.com/HiwasseeScenicRiverStatePark). Or check out our official events calendar: [tnstateparks.com/parks/events/hiwassee-river](https://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/events/hiwassee-river). Plan ahead and join us for an unforgettable experience in the heart of Tennessee's scenic beauty!

GIFT SHOP

Take a reminder of the Hiwassee River home with you! Our gift shop offers a variety of souvenirs, including T-shirts, stickers, books, and more, perfect for remembering your adventure or sharing it with friends and family.

You'll find us at 404 Spring Creek Road in Delano, conveniently located at the entrance to the park. The shop is open daily from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., so stop by before or after your river adventure to browse our selection.

NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Ocoee River State Park: 14 miles
- Fort Loudon State Historic Park: 34 miles
- Red Clay State Park: 35 miles
- Harrison Bay State Park: 40 miles
- Booker T. Washington State Park: 52 miles

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers play a vital role in protecting and preserving the cultural and natural resources of the park. By sharing their time and talents, they help ensure the park's integrity for future generations to enjoy.

Show your support by joining one of the many volunteer opportunities offered throughout the year. Whether it's trail maintenance, habitat restoration, educational programs, or special events, your contribution makes a lasting impact.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities in your area, visit: [tnstateparks.com/parks/hiwassee-river](https://www.tnstateparks.com/parks/hiwassee-river).



HIWASSEE SCENIC RIVER STATE PARK

Park office and visitor center:
404 Spring Creek Road
Delano, TN 37325
Office: 423-263-0050
Reservations: 888-TN-PARKS

HOURS OF OPERATION

8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DIRECTIONS

From Chattanooga, TN: I-75 N to exit 20, Hwy 64 Bypass East, follow for approx. 7 miles. Take ramp to Hwy 64 E, follow for approx. 7 miles then take ramp to Hwy 411. Turn left onto Hwy 411 S and continue for approx. 15 miles. Turn right on Spring Creek Road. Continue for 1 mile and park visitor center will be on your right, campground is 0.2 miles past visitor center on right.

From Knoxville, TN: I-75 S to exit 36, Hwy 163 Calhoun, and turn left. Follow for 2.5 miles, turn right onto Hwy 11 S for 0.6 miles, turn left at stop light, Hwy 163. Follow for 13 miles, turn right on Hwy 411 S. Follow for 0.9 miles, turn left on Spring Creek Road. Continue for 1 mile. Park visitor center will be on your right, campground is 0.2 miles past visitor center on right.



T E N N E S S E E
State Parks

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HIWASSEE
SCENIC RIVER
STATE PARK
TENNESSEE

Photo: Angelo Giansante

[tnstateparks.com](https://www.tnstateparks.com)



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FISHING

Flowing along the backbone of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Hiwassee River is renowned as one of the region's premier trout streams. Anglers will find exceptional opportunities to reel in brown and rainbow trout, along with bass, yellow perch, and other native species. For those seeking a truly memorable experience, explore the river's three-mile trophy trout section—a pristine stretch reserved as a delayed harvest area from **Oct. 1 through the end of February**. This special zone begins at the Big Bend put-in and winds its way to Reliance, offering unmatched serenity and world-class fishing. Before you head out, be sure to review current rules and regulations on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) website to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip: tn.gov/twra/fishing-regs/trout-regulations.html.

HIKING

Adventure awaits on the trails of Hiwassee Scenic River State Park! Start with the loop trail around Gee Creek campground, a peaceful path that hugs the river's edge and offers beautiful views of the water. Surrounding the park is the Gee Creek Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest, where hikers of all ages and skill levels can find the perfect route. Stroll along a section of the John Muir State Scenic Trail in Reliance, or wander through lush forests to Gee Creek Falls, where trillium and rhododendron bloom in season.

BOATING

The Hiwassee River invites paddlers and boaters of all ages to experience its winding beauty and gentle adventure. From calm, easy-flowing waters and wide, clear channels to moderately challenging rapids, the river offers something for every skill level—whether you're seeking a relaxing float or a splash of excitement.

Bring your own gear and set out on your own, or rent equipment from one of the friendly outfitters located along the river. However you choose to explore, make safety your top priority. **Always wear a life jacket, create a float plan, and respect the river's natural beauty.**

To help preserve this special place, remember that **glass bottles, aluminum cans, alcohol, and Styrofoam are prohibited on the river**. The Hiwassee is dam-controlled, and water levels can rise quickly without warning, so check current conditions before launching. For up-to-date flow information and safety guidelines, visit tva.com/environment/lake-levels/Apalachia.

HIWASSEE SCENIC RIVER STATE PARK

The Hiwassee River, included in the Tennessee Scenic River System, flows northward across the North Carolina state line and turns west, crossing into Tennessee. The water is controlled by TVA through a series of dams and powerhouses. The river, named after a Cherokee word meaning “a meadow place at the foot of the hills,” drains over 750,000 acres of mostly forested land, and is well-known for its scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.

CAMPING

Gee Creek campground is a favorite for many paddlers, boaters, and anglers. Campsites are more tent-friendly than most. Even though campsites are not on the edge of the river, you are close enough to be lulled to sleep each night by the sound of rushing water. An easy walk will lead you along the river's edge for fishing, nature walks, or a dip in the water.

Gee Creek primitive campground has 47 sites, each with a table, fire ring, and grill. There is a fee for their use, and the stay limit is two weeks. A climate-controlled bathhouse with modern amenities is open year-round and is available to campers at no additional charge. The campground has no hookups and cannot accommodate electrical needs. Since this is a primitive campground, the use of generators is not allowed. Gee Creek offers a Group Camp field with several separate group campsites.

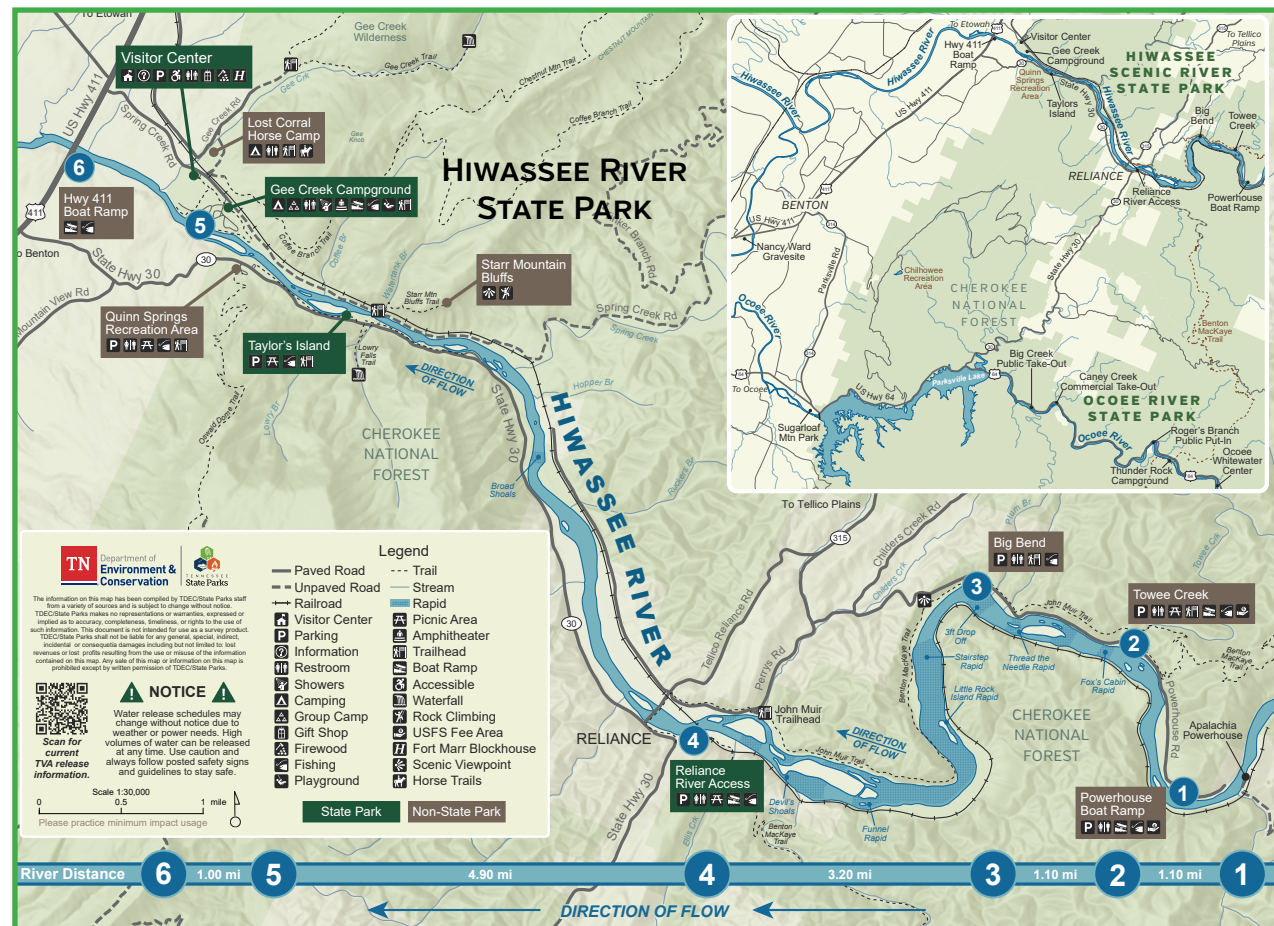


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