HIKING TRAILS IN THE DAHLONEGA AREA

22 Trails in the North Georgia Mountains within 32 miles of Dahlonega

Provided by the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Visitors Center

Information compiled and produced by the Yahoola Trails Conservancy

May 2013

Hiking Trails in the Dahlonega Area

Key:
A)–Location on Map, **Lake Zwerner Trail**–Name, **3.1 miles**–trail length, **loop**–loop or one way, **(LCP)**–Managing Agency. Note that descriptions shown are for the more common hiking direction used, but there is no reason not to hike in the opposite direction.

LCP (Lumpkin County Parks and Rec); GASP (Georgia State Parks); USFS (US Forest Service)

A) Lake Zwerner Trail (Dahlonega Reservoir): 3.1 miles, loop (LCP). Trail leaves the parking lot going north beside Hwy 19. After Yahoola Creek bridge, turn into the gravel boat launch parking lot. The trail proceeds north out of this parking lot along the lakeshore. From here, until briefly running alongside Hwy 52 on east side of dam, the trail is a wide dirt track following the shore and then climbing into the surrounding hills to drop back to the lakeside after crossing Ward Creek on a concrete bridge. The trail finishes across the Zwerner Dam back to the parking lot. Two moderately strenuous short climbs.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 1.0 mile. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to the intersection with Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/19). Turn left. Pass the traffic light where Hwy 52 branches right, staying on Hwy 19. Parking is a gravel parking lot at the end of the dam 0.4 mile from Main Street.

B) Yahoola Creek Park: 1.5 miles, trail system, loops possible (LCP). Series of short interconnecting trails in forest on the east side of the park. Begin trails at the historic Captain McDonald house or at the community garden. Trails split and converge in many places on the hillside and behind the baseball fields. Some short strenuous climbs can be bypassed. Maps are posted at various locations.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 1.75 miles. Take Main Street east 3 blocks to the intersection with Memorial Drive. Turn right and go two blocks to the intersection with Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn right for 0.2 miles. Take the first left onto Mechanicsville Street. After entering the park, go 1 mile, take a left at bottom of hill, and cross bridge. Park in the gravel lot behind soccer field near Captain McDonald house. (To reach the community garden, continue ahead instead of turning at the bridge.)

C, D) Jake Mountain and Bull Mountain Trail System: 36 miles, trail system, loops possible (USFS). These two trails form a complex system of interconnecting trails within 4 square miles of the Chattahoochee NF. These trails are multiuse: hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian. There are numerous opportunities for selecting a new route by combining differing sections. The area is traversed by Jones Creek, a stream managed for brown trout, and by the headwaters of the Etowah River.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 11 miles to Jake Mountain Trailhead. Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and proceed 3.6 miles to the divergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9. Bear right onto Hwy 52. In 4.6 miles, turn right onto Nimblewill Church Road at the old Grizzle's Store. In 1.7 miles, turn right into Jake Mountain Trailhead (NF 299) parking at the sign. The trail leaves the road at the end of the driveable road.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 13 miles to Bull Mountain Trailhead. Follow directions to Jake Mountain Trailhead. After turning right at Grizzle's Store, go 2.3 miles on Nimblewill Church Road to Nimblewill Church. Turn right onto turn right onto FS 28-1 (Winding Stair Gap Road) for .4 miles. Turn left onto FS 83 which ends at the trailhead parking in .8 miles.

E) Dockery Lake: 0.5 mile, loop and 3.2 miles, one way (USFS)
Lakeshore Trail: 0.5 miles. Easy trail goes around Dockery Lake. The lake is stocked with trout.
Dockery Lake Trail: 3.5 miles. This trail follows a thickly forested stream valley until climbing up to the Appalachian Trail 3.2 miles north of Woody Gap. Hikers can go 3.2 miles southwest on the AT for a 6.7 mile hike from Dockery Lake to Woody Gap with parking. Very scenic.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 13 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 60 straight ahead 3.6 miles. The sign for Dockery Lake Recreation Area will be on the right side of Hwy 60. Go 1 mile on Dockery Lake Road to parking.

Appalachian Trail: 14 to 22 miles (USFS)
F) Woody Gap: Variable (USFS). Woody Gap has a paved parking lot on both sides of the road. There is a privy toilet on the east side. The hike to the west crosses FS 42 at Gooch Gap in 3.5 miles. At mile 1.5, the top of Ramrock Mountain affords views south as far as the Atlanta skyline and Stone Mountain on clear days. This is an easy section with one steep ascent of Ramrock Mountain. After Gooch Gap, the trail climbs past the Gooch Gap Shelter and goes to the next road crossing at Cooper Gap in 4.8 miles. The hike to the east is more strenuous, initially climbing steeply to a good view at Big Cedar Mountain in 1.0 mile. This section to Neels Gap is 11.3 miles with intersecting trails to Dockery Lake (at 3.2 miles), Jarrard Gap Trail to Lake Winfield Scott (at 5.6 miles), and Slaughter Creek Trail to Lake Winfield Scott (at 7.3 miles).
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 14 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 60 straight ahead 5.3 miles. Paved parking for Woody Gap is on both sides of road and is marked with AT crossing signs.
G) Cooper Gap: Variable (USFS). Located above the Camp Merrill US Army Ranger Training facility, this southbound section affords interesting views into the valley of the Ranger Camp and often training exercises can be viewed while hiking. From Cooper Gap, the AT goes south and west for 7.9 miles to Three Forks. This section is especially scenic, paralleling the Ranger Camp valley, passing the Hawk Mountain Shelter, and descending to Longs Falls and Three Forks (see Three Forks description below). For the section description to the north, see the Woody Gap west description above.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 15 miles. Take Main Street east two blocks to the first traffic light and turn left on Grove Street. After 2.2 miles, turn left on Camp Wahsega Road. In 8.5 miles, at the entrance to the Ranger Camp at concrete barricades, turn right on Cooper Gap Road (FS 80). After 2.9 miles, at the intersection with FS 42 at Cooper Gap, park in one of the dirt parking areas.
H) Three Forks: Variable (USFS). Three Forks is one of the scenic highlights of the AT in Georgia. The AT crosses Noontootla Creek on the west side of the road on a rustic footbridge at the parking area. Taking the trail to the east and north, the trail follows Long Creek and in 1 mile, a blue blazed trail leads a few hundred yards to Long Creek Falls, especially scenic. Hawk Mountain Shelter is 3.6 miles and Hightower Gap at the intersection of FS 42 and Rock Creek Road provides road access. For trail description, see Cooper Gap south above.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 21 miles. Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and follow to the divergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9 in 3.6 miles. Bear right onto Hwy 52. In 4.6 miles, turn right onto Nimblewill Church Road at the old Grizzle's Store. In 2.3 miles at Nimblewill Church, turn right onto FS 28-1. Follow this for 2.1 miles to the fork. Stay left on Winding Stair Gap Road (FS 77) and go another 5.0 miles. This is a Forest Service road and may be rough in spots, especially near the top of the gap. Any vehicle that can be driven on dirt roads should have no problems. (See the Springer Mountain description below for a much longer alternate route on less Forest Service roads. If using this route, go past the Springer Mountain parking lot for 2.6 miles to turn left on FS 58 and follow directions ahead.) At the top of the gap, at the junction with FS 42, go straight ahead

and down the north side of the mountain on FS 58 for 2.6 miles. The parking for Three Forks is on dirt areas at the crossing of the AT.

I) Springer Mountain: Variable (USFS). The southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail is located on Springer Mountain. There are two plaques and a register and the first (or last for south-bound hikers) white blaze seen by AT hikers. From the parking lot, go south (across the road) for 0.9 miles to the top of Springer. Along the way, pass the side trail to the Springer Mountain Shelter and the junction with the beginning of the Benton MacKaye Trail. From the parking lot north to Three Forks at 4.1 miles, pass the Stover Creek Shelter and hike through a stand of very old hemlocks, an amazing sight considering the hemlock wooly adelgid that is wiping these stately trees out in the eastern US. The Benton MacKaye and the AT form a double figure 8 in this area affording several loop routes of varying lengths.

Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 21 miles. Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and follow to the divergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9 in 3.6 miles. Bear right onto Hwy 52. In 4.6 miles, turn right onto Nimblewill Church Road at the old Grizzle's Store. In 2.3 miles at Nimblewill Church, turn right onto FS 28-1. Follow this for 2.1 miles to the fork. Stay left on Winding Stair Gap Road (FS 77) and go another 5.0 miles. This is a Forest Service road and may be rough in spots, especially near the top of the gap. Any vehicle that can be driven on dirt roads should have no problems. (See the Springer Mountain description below for a much longer alternate route on less Forest Service roads.) At the top of the gap, at the junction with FS 42, turn left onto FS 42 for 2.6 miles. Turn right into the Springer Mountain parking area, a gravel parking lot with a kiosk. The alternate route utilizing less Forest Service road mileage (52 miles): Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and follow to the dinvergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9 in 3.6 miles. Bear right onto Hwy 52. Go west on Hwy 52 for 27 miles toward Ellijay. At the Chevron station, turn right onto Roy Road for 9.4 miles. Watch road signs to be sure and stay on Roy Road at various road junctions. Roy Road merges onto Doublehead Gap Road. Continue on Doublehead Gap Road for 2.1 miles to right turn onto FS 42. It is then 4.3 miles to the Springer Mountain parking lot.

J) Neels Gap: Variable (USFS). The parking for hikers is 200 yards past the AT crossing at Mountain Crossings Store. Pass the store; parking is on the left at the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking area. From here, if traveling west, take the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial Trail for 0.7 miles to intersect with the AT and Freeman Trail. Turn right. It is another 1.5 miles to the top of Blood Mountain (and 1,040 feet of elevation gain). Blood Mountain is the highest point on the AT in Georgia and the second highest peak in Georgia. On top is a stone hiker shelter build by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934. From here, the AT travels down the south side of the mountain and intersects the other end of the Freeman Trail and the Slaughter Gap Trail. From Neels Gap to Woody Gap, the next paved road and parking is 11.3 miles, but the trail intersects with the Slaughter Gap Trail, Jarrard Gap Trail, and Dockery Lake Trail. To the north, the AT passes through a stone archway at the Mountain Crossings store and hiker hostel (the only place on the entire AT that the trail goes through a building) then climbs steeply until reaching Tesnatee Gap in 5.7 miles. There is a dirt parking area here on the Richard Russell Parkway.

Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 22 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn left, remaining on Hwy 19 for 7.7 miles. After passing the AT and Mountain Crossings store, parking is 200 yards on the left at Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking lot.

K) DeSoto Falls Trail: 1.0 mile, one way (USFS). From the paved parking lot, a trail goes .25 mile downstream to Lower Falls and .75 mile upstream to Upper Falls. The total drop of all falls is 480 feet. The Recreation Area includes a toilet, campground, and paved parking.

Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 18 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners

Corner Restaurant, turn left remaining on Hwy 19 for 4.2 miles. The DeSoto Falls Recreation Area is located on the left of Hwy 19 and is marked by a Forest Service sign.

L) Logan Turnpike Trail: 1.9 miles, one way (USFS). The Logan Turnpike Trail follows the historic Logan Turnpike, the first road to run south from Union County. It was operated by Major Francis Logan, who built a home and tollgate at the lower trailhead. The first mile of the trail is very scenic and follows Town Creek to its headwaters. The second mile climbs steeply to the AT at Tesnatee Gap. Parking is on a dirt road and dirt parking area. A dirt parking area is located at the north end of the trail at Tesnatee Gap on the AT.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 19 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn right on Hwy 129 for 2.9 miles. Turn left onto Kellum Valley Road. After Kellum Valley Road becomes dirt at approximately 1.2 miles, proceed straight ahead another 0.9 mile to where the road splits just before the "Toll Gate" house on the right. Continue on the narrow dirt lane past the house to the dirt parking area at the end of the road.

M) Amicalola Falls State Park: 5.0 miles, one way, 8.7 miles, one way, and 10.3 miles, loop (GASP). Amicalola Falls is the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi River, is a popular beginning or end for AT hikers as the southern terminus of the Approach Trail that connects the park and public transportation with the AT, and is home to the Len Foote Hike Inn, Georgia's only backcountry lodge. An Appalachian Trail display at the park Visitor's Center includes equipment carried by Gene Espy, the second person to thru hike the AT in 1951 and a Georgia native. Hiking opportunities include the staircase trail which ascends the 729 foot waterfall.
Approach Trail: 8.7 miles (GASP and USFS). The Approach Trail connects Amicalola Falls State Park with the southern terminus of the AT on Springer Mountain. The trail climbs about 2,000 feet to Springer Mountain and passes through Nimblewill Gap and the Black Mountain Shelter.
Len Foote Hike Inn Trail: 5.0 miles (GASP). This trail leads from the lodge at Amicalola Falls State Park to the Len Foote Hike Inn then 1.0 mile on to join the Approach Trail. A loop can be followed by turning left on the Approach Trail for 4.3 miles back to the parking lot.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 19 miles. Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and follow to the divergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9 in 3.6 miles. Bear right onto Hwy 52 for 14 miles. Turn right into Amicalola Falls State Park entrance. There is a fee for entry. The Visitor's Center is located at the bottom of the falls and parking for the Approach Trail and Len Foote Hike Inn are at the top of the falls.

Benton MacKaye Trail: Variable (USFS). The Benton MacKaye Trail is named for the Massachusetts forester who conceived the idea of the Appalachian Trail. The trail begins on Springer Mountain and ends in the Smoky Mountain National Park, a distance of nearly 300 miles. A 521 mile loop can be followed from Springer Mountain to Big Creek in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park using the AT and BMT. The BMT intersects several other trails and affords many varying routes and loops.
I) Springer Mountain: 6.2 miles, one way (USFS). The BMT begins at Springer Mountain and goes 6.2 miles to Three Forks. Between these two points, the trail crosses the AT twice, affording three loops and combinations of routes to vary distance or scenery. Both trails are relatively easy in this section and the scenery is notable. From the Springer Mountain parking lot, go south 0.7 miles on the AT to the terminus of the BMT.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 21 miles. Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and follow to the divergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9 in 3.6 miles. Bear right onto Hwy 52. In 4.6 miles, turn right onto Nimblewill Church Road at the old Grizzle's Store. In 2.3 miles at Nimblewill Church, turn right onto FS 28-1. Follow this for 2.1 miles to the fork. Stay left on

Winding Stair Gap Road (FS 77) and go another 5.0 miles. This is a Forest Service road and may be rough in spots, especially near the top of the gap. Any vehicle that can be driven on dirt roads should have no problems. (See the Springer Mountain description below for a much longer alternate route on less Forest Service roads.) At the top of the gap, at the junction with FS 42, turn left onto FS 42 for 2.6 miles. Turn right into the Springer Mountain parking area, a gravel parking lot with a kiosk. The alternate route utilizing less Forest Service road mileage (52 miles): Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and follow to the divergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9 in 3.6 miles. Bear right onto Hwy 52. Go west on Hwy 52 for 27 miles toward Ellijay. At the Chevron station, turn right onto Roy Road for 9.4 miles. Watch road signs to be sure and stay on Roy Road at various road junctions. Roy Road merges onto Doublehead Gap Road. Continue on Doublehead Gap Road for 2.1 miles to right turn onto FS 42. It is 4.3 miles to the Springer Mountain parking lot.

H) Three Forks: Variable (USFS). To the south, the BMT goes 6.2 miles to its terminus on Springer Mountain. To the north, the trail first follows Long Creek, passing Long Creek Falls, a notable waterfall, and proceeds 12.2 miles to Hwy 60. This section is isolated, but affords excellent views and interesting forest. 3.6 miles from the north end, the trail crosses the Toccoa River on a 260 foot suspension bridge. Here the Toccoa River affords a section of Class II–III rapids.

Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 21 miles. Take Main Street west 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway (Hwy 52/9). Turn right and follow to the divergence of Hwy 52 and Hwy 9 in 3.6 miles. Bear right onto Hwy 52. In 4.6 miles, turn right onto Nimblewill Church Road at the old Grizzle's Store. In 2.3 miles at Nimblewill Church, turn right onto FS 28-1. Follow this for 2.1 miles to the fork. Stay left on Winding Stair Gap Road (FS 77) and go another 5.0 miles. This is a Forest Service road and may be rough in spots, especially near the top of the gap. Any vehicle that can be driven on dirt roads should have no problems. (See the Springer Mountain description below for a much longer alternate route on less Forest Service roads. If using this route, go past the Springer Mountain parking lot for 2.6 miles to turn left on FS 58 and follow directions ahead.) At the top of the gap, at the junction with FS 42, go straight ahead and down the north side of the mountain on FS 58 for 2.6 miles. The parking for Three Forks is on dirt areas at the crossing of the AT/BMT.

N) Hwy 60/Little Skeenah Creek: Variable (USFS). From the Hwy 60 parking area, the BMT goes south 3.6 miles to the Toccoa River suspension bridge and then on to Three Forks for a total of 12.2 miles. See Three Forks section for description. To the north, the trail goes 5.7 miles to Skeenah Gap Road parking. This section has some very steep sections, both uphill and down.

Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 30 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 60 straight ahead for 21.7 miles. The dirt parking area is on the right 0.3 mile past a country store.

O) Lake Winfield Scott: Variable (USFS). Lake Winfield Scott was named for US General Winfield Scott of the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War. The lake was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and completed in 1942.

Lake Winfield Scott Trail: 0.4 miles, loop (USFS). Easy trail follows the lakeshore.

Jarrard Gap Trail: 1.2 miles, one way (USFS). Trail runs from the lake parking area to Jarrard Gap on the AT. Combined with the AT and the Slaughter Creek Trail, a 6.0 mile loop can be hiked from the lake. Combined with the AT and Dockery Lake Trail, a very scenic hike of 7.4 miles can be accomplished with a vehicle shuttle.

Slaughter Creek Trail: 2.7 miles, one way (USFS). Trail climbs 1,000 feet to Slaughter Gap on the AT, 1.4 miles from Blood Mountain summit. Scenic path follows Slaughter Creek most of the way to the gap. Can be combined with AT and Jarrard Gap Trail for a 6 mile loop.

Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 21 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 60 straight ahead for 7.3 miles. In Suches, turn right on Hwy

180 and go 5 miles. Lake Winfield Scott is on the right at the bridge over Cooper Creek and the dam for the lake.

P) Smithgall Woods: Dukes Creek Conservation Area, variable (GASP). This area is managed for trophy trout and was heavily mined for gold in the past. Remnants of the mining can be seen on the trails through the park. The paved road through the park is for park vehicles only and access to most hiking is by walking on the paved road to the trailheads.
Laural Ridge Trail: 1.6 miles, loop (GASP). This loop trail starts at the Visitor Center parking lot and ascends Laurel Ridge through oak forest.
Wetland Loop Trail: 0.5 miles, loop + 1.2 mile hike to trailhead, one way (GASP). Trail explores a wetland originally created by a beaverdam on Dukes Creek.
Ash Creek Trail: 1.5 miles, loop + 1.3 mile hike to trailhead, one way (GASP). Loop trail crosses Ash Creek and Dukes Creek.
Martin's Mine Trail: 1.0 mile, loop + 2.0 mile hike to trailhead, one way (GASP). This loop trail features gold mine relics and mine shafts from the 19th and 20th centuries.
Cathy Ellis Trail: 0.5 mile, one way + 2.5 mile hike to trailhead, one way (GASP). This one way trail traverses a mountain slope, crosses Dukes Creek, and ends at a cascade on Alabama Branch.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 22 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 miles to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn right on Hwy 129 for 7.0 miles. Turn left onto Hwy 75 ALT. Smithgall Woods is on the right of Hwy 75 ALT after 5.7 miles.

J) Byron Herbert Reece Memorial Trail: 0.7 miles, one way (USFS). This trail begins in the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking lot and is a connector to the AT from the parking lot off of Hwy 19 just past Neels Gap. The trail is very steep and joins the AT and the Freeman Trail at its southern end.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 22 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn left, remaining on Hwy 19 for 7.7 miles. After passing the AT and Mountain Crossings store, parking is 200 yards on the left at Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking lot.

J) Freeman Trail: 1.8 miles, one way (USFS). The Freeman Trail runs from the AT on the north side of Blood Mountain to the AT on the southern side of Blood Mountain at Bird Gap. It is essentially level passing over several scenic rocky streambeds. It makes a convenient 6.2 mile loop when combined with the Byron Reece Trail, AT over Blood Mountain, and the Freeman Trail back to the BR Trail.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 22 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn left, remaining on Hwy 19 for 7.7 miles. After passing the AT and Mountain Crossings store, parking is 200 yards on the left at Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking lot.

J, N) Duncan Ridge Trail: 35.5 miles, one way (USFS). The Duncan Ridge Trail is considered by some to be one of the most difficult trails east of the Mississippi. It includes near–vertical rock scrambles and long climbs. Because of this, it also affords a true wilderness experience with few human encounters. The trail terminates at the Benton MacKaye Trail on the west and at Blood Mountain at the AT on the east. The trail sometimes runs concurrently with the BMT and with the Coosa Backcountry Trail.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 22 miles or 30 miles. The trailheads for this trail are the same as for the Benton MacKaye Trail at Hwy 60/Little Skeenah Creek on the west and the Appalachian Trail at Neels Gap on the east. See directions for these trailheads above.

Q) Vogel State Park: 0.8 miles to 12.9 miles (GASP). Vogel State Park is one of the first two Georgia State Parks built in 1931 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It includes a 233 acre lake, a Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, and 4 hiking trails. There is a fee to enter the park.
Byron Herbert Reece Nature Trail: 0.8 miles, loop (GASP). The trail loop starts at the Backcountry Trailhead near the campground.
Trahlyta Lake Loop Trail: 1.0 mile, loop (GASP). This trail is a loop around the 233 acre lake with an observation deck below the dam's spillway. It affords great views of the summit of Blood Mountain and Slaughter Mountain.
Bear Hair Gap Trail: 4.1 miles, loop when combined with access trail (GASP/USFS). Access to this trail is from the Backcountry Trailhead and ends on the south side on the Coosa Backcountry Trail. The trail climbs above the park and affords long–distance vistas and a Vogel Overlook spur.
Coosa Backcountry Trail: 12.9 miles, loop (GASP/USFS). This trail is a loop trail that shares some tread with the Duncan Ridge Trail. It ascends and descends over a mile in elevation over its length. It is recommended that this loop be hiked over at least two days. It has campsites.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 24 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn left, remaining on Hwy 19 for 10.5 miles. After passing the AT and Mountain Crossings store, the left turn into Vogel State Park is 5.2 miles just before the intersection with Hwy 180.

R) Dukes Creek Falls Trail: 1.25 miles, one way (USFS). Trail descends from the parking lot with toilets to observation decks at the foot of the 150 foot falls. The trail is in a narrow canyon with numerous large trees.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 24 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn right on Hwy 129 for 7 miles. Turn left onto Hwy 75 ALT. Smithgall Woods is on the right of Hwy 75 ALT after 5.7 miles. Just past Smithgall Woods (0.15 mile), turn left on Hwy 348, the Richard B Russell Scenic Highway. After 1.7 miles, the paved parking area is on the left.

S) Raven Cliffs Falls: 2.5 miles, one way (USFS). This trail is very popular due to its mild gradient and the magnificence of the falls themselves. Raven Cliff Falls totals 100 feet in three drops. The trail follows Dodd Creek from the parking lot to the falls.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 25 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn right on Hwy 129 for 7 miles. Turn left onto Hwy 75 ALT. Smithgall Woods is on the right of Hwy 75 ALT after 5.7 miles. Just past Smithgall Woods (0.15 mile), turn left on Hwy 348, the Richard B Russell Scenic Highway. After 2.7 miles, the paved parking area is on the left. It is about a mile past the Dukes Creek Falls Trail parking lot.

T) Helton Creek Falls: 0.2 miles, one way (USFS). This short trail leads to the double drops of Upper and Lower Helton Creek Falls, 40 and 50 feet high, respectively.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 25 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn left, remaining on Hwy 19 for 9.3 miles. Turn right onto Helton Creek Road and go 2.2 miles to the parking area.

U) Sosebee Cove Scenic Area: 0.3 miles, loop (USFS). This special cove is dedicated to Ranger Woody, who was a USFS Ranger and helped secure the area. It is a north-facing cove and as such harbors flora and fauna unlike other local areas. This trail is a haven for those interested in wildflowers and birds.
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 25 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 19 to the right for 5.3 miles. At the intersection at Turners Corner Restaurant, turn left, remaining on Hwy 19 for 10.9 miles. Turn left on Hwy 180. Parking for Sosebee Cove Scenic Area is 2 miles on the right.

V) Cooper Creek Recreation Area: Variable (USFS). These trails all start in or near the Cooper Creek Campground. They are all interconnected and offer choices of loops and alternate routes. The Cooper Creek area is very scenic and traversed by Cooper Creek and Mulky Creek.
Connector Trail: 0.4 miles
Shope Gap Trail: 0.6 miles
Mill Shoals Trail: 0.9 miles
Cooper Creek Trail: 1.7 miles
Yellow Mtn. Trail: 3.2 miles
Getting there from Dahlonega Square: 32 miles. Take Main Street east 0.6 mile to Morrison Moore Parkway. Turn left and remain on Morrison Moore/Hwy 19/60 to Stonepile Gap in 7.3 miles. At the split in the road at the pile of stones, take Hwy 60 straight ahead for 17.4 miles. At the Cooper Creek store on the left, turn right on Cooper Creek Road (FS 4). Campground and trailheads are 6.0 miles ahead.

For more information:
Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Department, call: 706–867–1664.
Amicalola Falls State Park, call: 706–265–4703. Website: http://www.gastateparks.org/AmicalolaFalls
Vogel State Park, call: 706–745–2628. Website: http://www.gastateparks.org/Vogel
Chattahoochee National Forest, call: 770–297–3000. Website: http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/conf/recreation
USFS Blue Ridge District office: 2042 Highway 515 West, Blairsville, GA 30512, Phone: 706–745–6928
Lumpkin County Sheriff's office: 706–864–0412

Medical Facilities: Chestatee Regional Hospital, 227 Mountain Dr, Dahlonega, GA 30533
Union General Hospital, 35 Hospital Road, Blairsville, GA 30512

This information compiled and prepared for
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