

Overview

"Something for everyone" is the best way to describe the twenty-five miles of designated hiking and mountain biking trails on Beech Mountain. Enjoy an easy stroll through the woods, a brisk hike to sweeping vistas, or speed down an exhilarating, winding bike trail along Beech's highest ridge. The Town's trails can take you through old growth forest (Lower Pond Creek Trail), where small, stairstep waterfalls and pools abound, along an old logging road, adjacent to designated trout waters or beside a railroad grade that once carried the logs harvested on the slopes and in the coves of Beech (Upper Pond Creek Trail). There is also a one-quarter mile paved handicap-accessible trail around Lake Coffey and a one-third mile walking track around Buckeye Recreation Center.



Wild Iris



Birding on Beech



Buckeye Lake

"Beech Mountain: Premier Trail Adventures"

Safety and Etiquette

Hikers and bikers are urged to stay on the designated trails. Trail users should inform someone about trail exploration plans, and when they should be expected back. Water along the trails is not potable. Some trails are remote and away from populated areas. Others follow undeveloped roadways, and several follow some of the Town's roads. Hikers must be cautious of traffic and be aware of the type of trail they have chosen. Be prepared by wearing proper clothing and footwear, dressing in layers, and watching out for wildlife are recommended precautions when hiking or biking Beech Mountain's trails. Camping and campfires are not allowed on any trail. Many trails cross private land; respect private property and stay on the marked trail. Carry out all litter, including food and pet waste.

Ways to Explore

Seasonal activities and hobbies such as bird-watching and Snowshoeing can be done on several of the trails on Beech. Beech Mountain is part of the NC Birding Trail, with over 137 species across the mountain. Grosbeaks, owls, warblers, woodpeckers, hawks and cardinals are just some of the birds you'll see in our area. Some of the trails are NC Wildlife hatchery supported and you can trout fish along your hike. In the winter snowshoes are also available for rent at the Buckeye Recreation Center. Call 828-387-3003 for details on designated trails and conditions.

Picnicking

Picnic tables are located at various overlooks and neighborhood parks. A picnic shelter overlooks Buckeye Lake. Reservations for the shelter are made through the Buckeye Recreation Center. There is also a picnic shelter with tables at the Bark Park located across from town hall, picnic tables at Perry Park, and a picnic table at the EMO trailhead, and one at Sunset Park.

Mountain Biking

Many of the hiking trails are compatible with mountain biking. When on the trails that are both for hiking and riding, please observe caution. Some of the roads in the outlying areas are great for riding. Please do not ride on trails designated for hiking only. To avoid damaging newly constructed trails and to help maintain the trail system, please do not ride on rain-soaked trails or trails that have been closed due to maintenance or weather.

Pets

Dogs are welcome on all trails on our pet-friendly mountain. Leashes are required for the safety of your pet and our wildlife. Dogs are allowed off-leash in the fenced-in area of the Town's Bark Park, located at the top of the hill behind the Brick Oven Pizzeria. Please clean up after your pet at the dog park and on trails.

Camping

Tent camping is located at the Shane Outdoor Park, located beside Buckeye Lake. Call the Buckeye Recreation Center at 828-387-3003 to register and reserve your site. The campsite will include a tent pad, picnic table, charcoal grill, and a bear bin for your food. Other amenities include full bathhouse, multi-use trails and lake access with free canoe and kayak rentals. The staff at Buckeye will gladly get you ready for a great camping adventure.

Trails of Beech:

Upper Pond Creek: 1 mile

Beech Mountain's favorite hiking trail also designated as an education nature trail. Fifteen different stations are located along the trail with interesting information about creek life, trees. Easy. Hiking only.

Lower Pond Creek - 1 Mile

This trail follows trout waters, showcasing cascading waterfalls and tranquil pools. Stop for a break on the boardwalk and overlook Pond Creek below. There is great native trout fishing along this creek as well. Moderate to Strenuous. Hiking only.

Wild Iris - 2.5 miles

This open trail is full of wildflowers and butterflies in the summer. The path follows old roadbeds through the lush forests of Beech Mountain. See if you can find the small cave on the trail. As the site of Beech Mountain's annual Mud Run, there are several obstacles to try (or ignore) along the way. Easy to Moderate. Hiking/Biking, skiing, snowshoeing allowed.

Falls Trail - 1 mile

Located by Buckeye Recreation Center, this is a 1-mile loop to a wonderful waterfall. You may fish the stocked stream as well. This trail links with the Buckeye Lake Loop. Easy to Moderate. Hiking only.

Buckeye Lake Loop - 2 miles

Beech Mountain was awarded the North Carolina State Parks Recreation Trail Project grant in 2018, providing the funds to build this woodland trail around Buckeye Lake. It links hiker or mountain bikers to Buckeye Recreation Center and Shane Outdoor Park, and to the Falls Trail. Easy to Moderate. Hiking/Biking allowed.

Grassy Gap Creek - 2 miles

A woodland trail which follows Grassy Gap Creek downhill to Pine Ridge Road, near the Buckeye Rec Center. This trail has become a favorite for mountain bikers and hikers. It is rugged and provides great mountain scenery. There are a few gravel road crossings, so watch for trail signs. Moderate. Hiking/Biking allowed.

Overlook Trail - .4 miles

The trail connects Perry Park and the Overlook area off the Beech Mountain Parkway. This is a great way to extend your hike from Upper Pond Creek and walk to the business district of Beech Mountain, by following the road behind the Beech Alpen Inn, 4 Seasons at Beech and the Top of the Beech hotel. Moderate. Hiking only.

Sassafras - 1 mile

An old roadbed gives hikers an easy hike on Beech Mountain.

Redfox/Arrowhead - 1.6 miles

This trail follows a graveled Town road. You can link to the top or bottom portion of Grassy Gap to extend your hike. Easy to Moderate. Hiking/Biking, skiing, snowshoeing allowed.

Smoketree - 1.8 miles

A nice grassy trail with a hidden treasure of a waterfall, this path runs from the Beech Mountain Parkway Extension to Pinnacle Ridge Road. Easy to Moderate. Hiking/Biking, skiing, snowshoeing allowed.

Westerly Hills - 4.5

This trail is great for snowshoeing, XC running and skiing. You will be immersed in the forest with nothing but the sounds of birds and the trees.



DINING

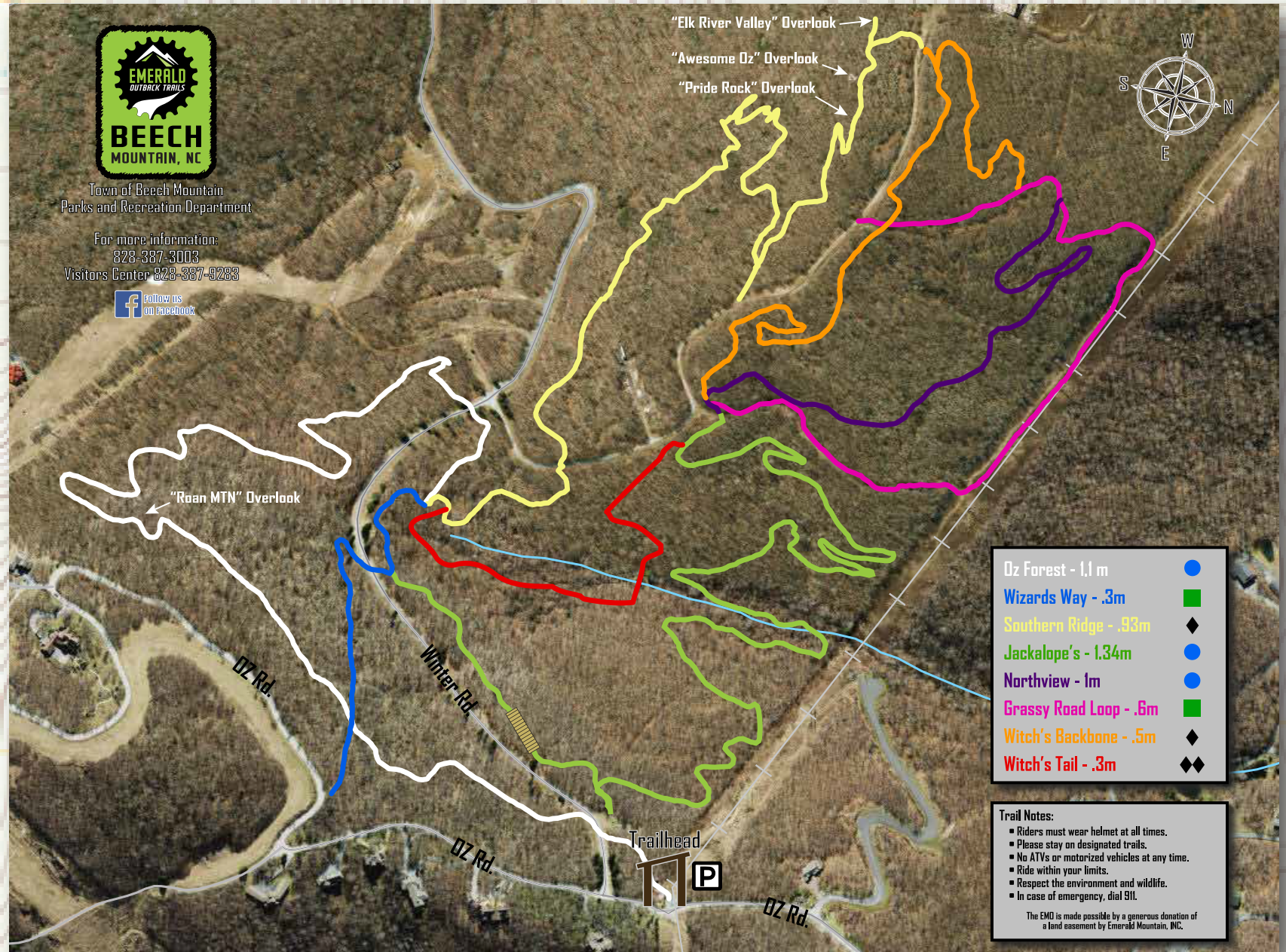
- A** Holy Smokes BBQ (White Wolf Inn) 828-387-4200
- B** Famous Brick Oven Pizzeria 828-387-4000
- C** Mad Batter (Coming Soon) 828-387-XXXX
- D** Fred's Backside Deli (Fred's Mercantile) 828-387-9331
- E** Bullwinkler's Sports Cafe (Top of Beech) 828-387-2354
- F** Mi Jalisco (4 Seasons at Beech) 828-387-4344
- G** Alpen Inn & Restaurant 828-387-2252
- H** Frazier's Tavern 828-504-8085
- I** Rascals 828-387-2888

LODGING

- A** Emerald Realty & Rentals 828-387-2000
- B** White Wolf Lodge 828-387-4200
- C** Beech Mountain Realty & Rentals 800-945-6164
- D** Pinnacle Inn Condos 828-387-2231
- E** Beech Mountain Chalet Rentals 800-388-7404
- F** Accommodations Center 800-258-6188
- G** Top of the Beech 828-387-2252
- H** 4 Seasons at Beech 828-387-4211
- I** VCI Rentals 828-387-4211
- J** Beech Alpen Inn 828-387-2252
- K** Christie Village Condos 828-387-4217

Emerald Outback Trail System

This well-marked premier trail system is located at the top of Beech Mountain, accessible from the Summit Lot at the top of North Pinnacle Ridge Road. Enter the trail system on Oz Forest Run (1.1 mi, Easy), through the forest of Beech trees for which the mountain is named. An overlook with broad views to the west is located about ¾ of a mile in. At the 1.1-mile point, two other trails are accessed. Wizard's Way (.3 mi, Easy to Moderate) leads back down to Oz Forest Run, and Southern Ridge (.93 mi, Moderate to Strenuous) which leads to three other overlooks to the east/northeast. Bikers will love Witch's Backbone and Witch's Tail (.5/.3 mi, Strenuous, BIKE ONLY). Witch's Backbone leads to the Grassy Road Loop (1 mi, Moderate), and Northview (1 mi, Easy). Also leading off Grassy Road Loop is Jackalope's Trail (1.34 mi, Moderate), which connects back to Wizard's Way. Choose to walk or bike all or part of this system, as the interconnected trails are designed to provide a variety of hiking and biking experiences. Hiking/Biking allowed.



- Oz Forest - 1.1 m
- Wizard's Way - .3m
- Southern Ridge - .93m
- Jackalope's - 1.34m
- Northview - 1m
- Grassy Road Loop - .5m
- Witch's Backbone - .5m
- Witch's Tail - .3m

Trail Notes:

- Riders must wear helmet at all times.
- Please stay on designated trails.
- No ATVs or motorized vehicles at any time.
- Ride within your limits.
- Respect the environmental and wildlife.
- In case of emergency, dial 911.

The EMU is made possible by a generous donation of a land easement by Emerald Mountain, INC.

TRAIL IDENTIFIER	
A	Buckeye Lake Loop Trail
B	Falls Trail
C	Sassafras Trail
D	Grassy Gap Creek Trail
E	Upper Pond Creek Trail
F	Lower Pond Creek Trail
G	Wild Iris Trail
H	Red Fox/Arrowhead Trail
I	Smoketree Trail
J	Westerly Hills Hiking and Mountain Bike Area
K	Overlook Trail

ID	NAME	LENGTH	H-B-XC*	ELEVATION CHANGE	DIFFICULTY
A	Buckeye Lake Loop Trail	1.3 miles	H-B	265 feet	Moderate
B	Falls Trail	1.0 miles	H	250 feet	Moderate
C	Sassafras Trail	1.0 miles	H-B	84 feet	Easy
D	Grassy Gap Creek Trail	2.0 miles	H-B	891 feet	Easy to Moderate
E	Upper Pond Creek Trail	1.0 miles	H	371 feet	Easy
F	Lower Pond Creek Trail	0.6 miles	H	418 feet	Moderate to Strenuous
G	Wild Iris Trail	1.7 miles	H-B-XC	96 feet	Moderate
H	Red Fox/Arrowhead Trail	1.5 miles	H-B-XC	178 feet	Easy to Moderate
I	Smoketree Trail	1.8 miles	H-B-XC	270 feet	Easy To Moderate
J	Westerly Hills Trails	4.5 miles	H-B-XC	200 feet	Moderate
K	Overlook Trail	0.4 miles	H	320 feet	Moderate
--	Emerald Outback Trails	8+ miles	H-B	450 feet	Moderate to Strenuous

* H - Hiking B - Biking XC - Cross-Country Skiing



Elevation 5506'
 www.townofbeechmountain.com
 403 BEECH MOUNTAIN PARKWAY
 BEECH MOUNTAIN, NC 28604
 @BeechMountain
 @BuckeyeRecCenter

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SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR EMERALD OUTBACK MAP

LEGEND

- TOWN HALL, VISITOR'S CENTER, POLICE STATION
- FIRE STATION
- PARKS AND RECREATION
- PARKING AREA
- TRAIL HEAD LOCATION

