

Hanging Dog Recreation Area



Getting Here:

From Murphy, travel about 5 miles on SR 1326.

Contact Us:

Tusquitee Ranger District
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Get in the Water. Hanging Dog offers access to Hiwassee Lake, a popular place for fishing and boating. The area offers a fishing pier, but there are plenty of places along Hiwassee's 180 mile shore to relax and cast a line, and a boat launching ramp. Water skiing and swimming are popular activities on the Hiwassee Lake.

Be Safe. There are inherent risks associated with water recreation and sports. Many of the dangers linked to boating, water skiing, swimming, diving and water activities can be avoided by taking precautions. Remember, an estimated 60 percent of drownings are witnessed, and have the potential to be prevented.

- Learn to swim: Formal swimming lessons can prevent drowning. Teach children to swim at a young age. Constant and careful supervision around water is still necessary, even when children have completed swimming classes.
- Wear a life jacket: The U.S. Coast Guard estimates that life jackets could have saved the lives of more than 80 percent of victims who die in boating accidents. All occupants of a boat should wear a life jacket at all times when on or near the water. Air-filled toys and foam toys are not life jackets.
- Never go boating under the influence: Avoid drinking alcohol and using controlled substances when boating, water skiing and swimming. Do not drink alcohol while supervising children.
- Supervise children: Designate a responsible adult to watch young children. Caretakers of preschool children should provide touch supervision—be within an arm's reach of the child at all times. Adults should not be involved in any other distracting activity (such as reading, playing cards or talking on the phone) while supervising children.
- Don't swim alone: Always swim with a buddy. Select a swimming site that has a lifeguard when possible.
- Learn CPR: In the time it might take for paramedics to arrive, your CPR skills could save a life.
- Look before you leap: Check water depth before diving and only dive into familiar waters. It is never safe to dive from or jump off of rock cliffs, ledges and man-made structures.
- Learn safe boating practices: Operator error accounts for 70 percent of boating accidents. Take a boating safety course. Wear a helmet when navigating whitewater streams.

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Enjoy the Meal. Hanging Dog features a picnicking area complete with grills. Restrooms with vault toilets are also available for public use. Having a group outing? Hanging Dog has areas for group picnics as well.



Follow the Trail. Looking for a good hike? Hanging Dog offers several hiking and biking trails. Walk the 1-mile Shore Trail, which overlooks Hiwassee Lake. The area also offers an 8-mile mountain-bike trail system and the nearby Ramsey Bluff Mtn Biking System provides 10 more miles of trails.