

# Pisgah National Forest

## Pisgah Ranger District

### Points of Interest

#### Pisgah Visitor Information Center:

A "must" stop for more information about the District. Located along US 276 in the Ranger Station. Accessible information desk, hands-on exhibits, educational film, gift shop and restrooms. Winter Hours: M-F 8-4:30 (closed holidays). Peak Season Hours: M-Sat 9-5 Sun. - limited hours Free. 828-877-3265.



**Cradle of Forestry in America:** Historic site of the first forestry school in America. Your experience begins with the **Forest Discovery Center's** interactive exhibits and the new film "There's Magic at the Cradle." From there, over 3 miles of paved accessible trails allow you to visit historic buildings, see an old logging locomotive, watch visiting local crafters, and more. Gift shop and café. Open mid-Apr. to early Nov. from 9-5 daily. Admission fee. Information or group rates: 828-877-3130.

**Sliding Rock :** Looking Glass Creek cascades 60ft over a broad, smooth rock into a 8ft deep pool. Visitors may slide down at their own risk. Observation deck available. Short 150-250 yds walk on a paved path from the parking area. Seasonal fee charged when life-guards, restrooms and changing rooms are available. Picnicking and drinking alcohol are prohibited.



#### Forest Heritage Nat'l Scenic Byway:

A 79-mile highway loop (US276, NC215, and US64) offers many views of the district's great scenery. Almost 18 miles of this route has been designated a National Scenic Byway. Guide pamphlet available at Visitor Center.

**Bent Creek Experimental Forest:** 5,500 acres designated for research conducted by the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station to develop strategies for healthy and sustainable forestry. Trail maps available at Visitor Center.

### Waterfalls

The District is home to a diversity of attractive waterfalls; those marked on the map (see inside) are described on the following page. **Waterfalls can be dangerous. Stay away from the top of falls and keep off wet rocks.**



### Trails

Approximately 120 designated and maintained recreation trails covering over 380 miles in the district offer a wide variety of difficulty and terrain, with many trails open to horses and non-motorized bikes.



### Hunting & Fishing

Hunting and fishing are allowed on National Forest lands in accordance with state regulations.



For more information on hunting safety tips visit [www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc) and search "Hunting Safety".

### Wilderness Areas

Shining Rock and Middle Prong are congressionally designated Wilderness Areas intended to offer a primitive outdoor experience. Trails **are not** signed or blazed, so use of map and compass are essential. To maintain wilderness quality, **no more than 10 people per group are allowed at any time. NO CAMPFIRES** are permitted (camp stoves are allowed). **Mountain bikes or wheeled carts may not be used.**



### Black Bears

Bears by nature are opportunists. Food odors and improperly stored garbage will attract bears to campgrounds and picnic sites. Although they are naturally afraid of humans, the animals lose this fear as they begin to associate human scents with the reward of food. Protect yourself and protect the black bears by storing trash and food in safe locations when you visit a national forest.

- Make noise to avoid surprising a bear.
- Keep a clean camp site by properly disposing of food scraps and garbage.
- Do not leave food or garbage inside fire rings, grills or around your site.
- Never leave food coolers unattended.
- If bear-proof containers are not available, store food and garbage inside a hard-top vehicle or trailer. Never store food inside of a tent.
- If necessary, attempt to scare the animal away with loud shouts, by banging pots together, or throwing rocks and sticks at it.
- Never run away from a bear—back away slowly and make lots of noise.

For more tips, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc](http://www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc), click on "Read about Bear Safety."

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**Lake Powhatan:** Open April-Oct. Offers 98 sites. A limited number with electricity. Trails accessible from campground. Accessible fishing pier. Swimming. Beach. Large picnic area. Day-use fee. Showers. Flush toilets. Dump station. Firewood available.

**North Mills River:** Open year-round. Offers 28 sites. Some sites on river. Fishing. Adjacent large picnic area. Day-use fee. Flush toilets (vault toilets in winter). Showers (not in winter). Dump station. No water or reservations available in winter.

**Sunburst:** Open April-Oct. Offers 10 sites. Fishing. Adjacent small picnic area. Day-use fee. Flush toilets. No showers. No dump station.

**Wolf Ford:** Open year-round. Offers 13 sites. First come, first-served. Vault toilets. Allows equestrian campers and regular campers.



### Roadside Camping

**Roadside Camping** is first come, first-served. Allowed **ONLY** on gravel roads where designated by camping sign. Leave No Trace rules apply.



### Primitive Camping

**Primitive camping** is allowed at least ¼ mile away from any road or parking area open to public vehicle travel and outside of any developed recreation sites. Leave No Trace rules apply.

### Group Camping Areas

Group camping areas are by reservation only, year-round. Call 877-444-6777 (TDD 877-833-6777) or visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). All have water pumps and vault toilets. Campfires are permitted in designated fire rings only.

**White Pines:** Two walk-in areas, both on creek via footbridges. Max group size is 30 people per area.

**Kuykendall:** Vehicles cross creek to camping area; be cautious in high water. Max group size is 60 people.

**Cove Creek:** Vehicles cross creek to two areas; be cautious in high water. Max group size is 60 people per area.

**Wash Creek:** Area designed for equestrian use; max group size 30 people.



### Picnic Areas

**Sycamore Flats:** 40 picnic tables and a picnic shelter, which is available for reservation at 877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Fishing and access to Davidson River.



**Pink Beds:** 21 tables and 2 picnic shelters, one of which is reservable at 877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Trails and open grassy area for enjoyment.

**Coontree:** 10 tables. Fishing platform. River access.

\*Numerous picnic tables along US276 below the Blue Ridge Parkway.

**Looking Glass Falls:** Photogenic 30ft wide fall drops unbroken more than 60ft over a rock cliff, four miles north of Visitor Center alongside US276. Park along US276. Overlook and steps to base of falls.

**Moore Cove Falls:** 50ft waterfall that falls over a ledge, easy 0.7 mile hike from US276. Go north of Visitor Center (1 mile north of Looking Glass Falls). Approaching concrete bridge with adjoining wooden footbridge and nearby bulletin board, park on paved right shoulder. Cross footbridge, follow trail upstream.

**Courthouse Falls:** Courthouse Creek drops 45ft into a large pool in picturesque cove. Moderate 20 minute round trip hike from gravel road. From intersection of NC215 and FS140 (2.6 miles north of SR1328, Clinic Rd; or 5.3 miles south of Blue Ridge Parkway); Drive 3 miles to trailhead—small pull-off just beyond creek crossing. Walk 0.2 miles down trail, beyond falls to a narrow trail bearing sharply back to left; then to base of falls.

**Jackson Falls/Daniel Ridge Falls:** Multiple, nearly vertical cascades totaling about 100ft. Easy, 25-minute round trip hike from gravel road. Go 3.6 miles north from Visitor Ctr, make first left turn (FS475). Drive 3.9 miles to parking area at second gated road on right. Park without blocking gate. Falls are approx. 0.4 miles away, beyond gate and river, on logging road.

**Slick Rock Falls:** Attractive 30ft waterfall. Easy 200ft walk from gravel rd. Go 3.6 miles north from Visitor Ctr. to first left turn (FS475). Go 1½ miles to gravel road intersection just beyond Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education. Bear right on FS475B, travel 1.1 miles to small pull-off on right, at trailhead with bulletin board. Walk up steps and then about 40 yards up trail, from which point falls are visible to the right; short side trail leads about 25yds to falls.

**Waterfalls of Graveyard Fields:** 2 large cascades on Yellowstone Prong, near panoramic settings. Moderate hikes from Graveyard Fields parking area, Blue Ridge Parkway MP419. For Upper Falls, take trail from left end of parking lot for 1hr round trip hike. Go about 1 mile, crossing bridge; take spur trail to left, then about ½ mile to falls. For Second (Lower) Falls, take trail from right end of lot for 20-minute round trip hike. Follow paved trail to and across bridge; take spur trail to right, then 60-step wooden stairway to base of falls.

### Developed Campgrounds

Most sites at these four developed campgrounds are first-come, first-served; however, you can make reservations (with service fee) at all campgrounds, except Sunburst, by calling toll free 877-444-6777 (TDD 877-833-6777) or visiting [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).



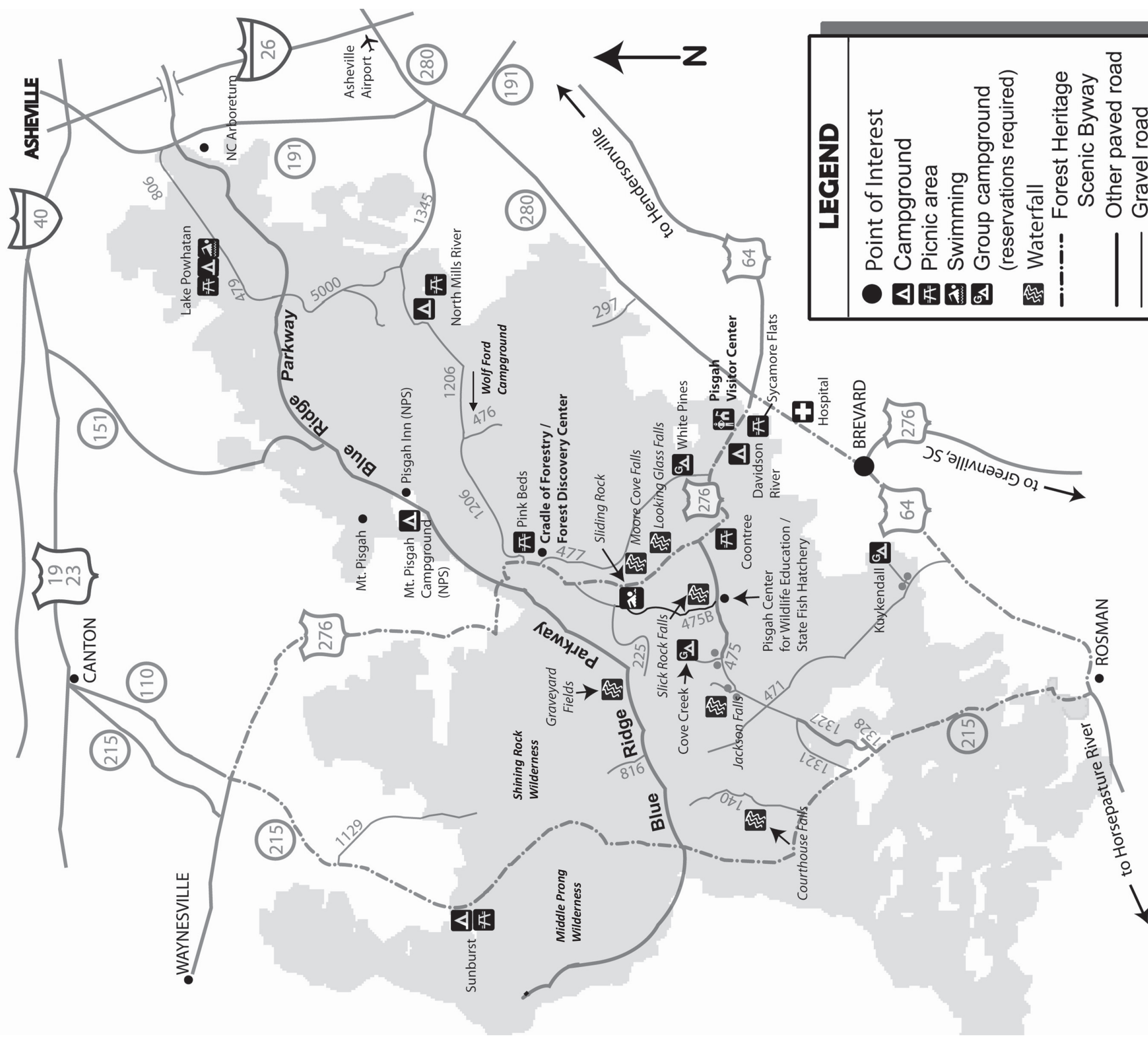
#### Davidson River:

Open all year. Offers 161 sites, some are reservable and some have electricity. Trails accessible from campground. Numerous sites on river. Fishing. Showers. Flush toilets. Dump station. Firewood available.



# Pisgah Ranger District

The Pisgah Ranger District's breathtaking scenery and natural attractions offer many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Major district landmarks and points of interest are shown on the map below.



### District Fun Facts:

- Managed acres: ~162,241
- Miles of trails: ~380
- Acres of wilderness: ~25,943
- Miles of open roads: 91
- Highest elevation: Richland Balsam—6,410 ft
- Lowest elevation: 2,000 ft, near the NC Arboretum

**Did you know?** The Pisgah Ranger District is managed to provide multiple uses of the land. In addition to recreation, district lands are managed for ecosystem health, water quality protection, wildlife habitat, timber production and more.

### From waterfall to water glass:

The abundance of water on the district does more than create waterfalls—it serves as the source of drinking water for several nearby communities.