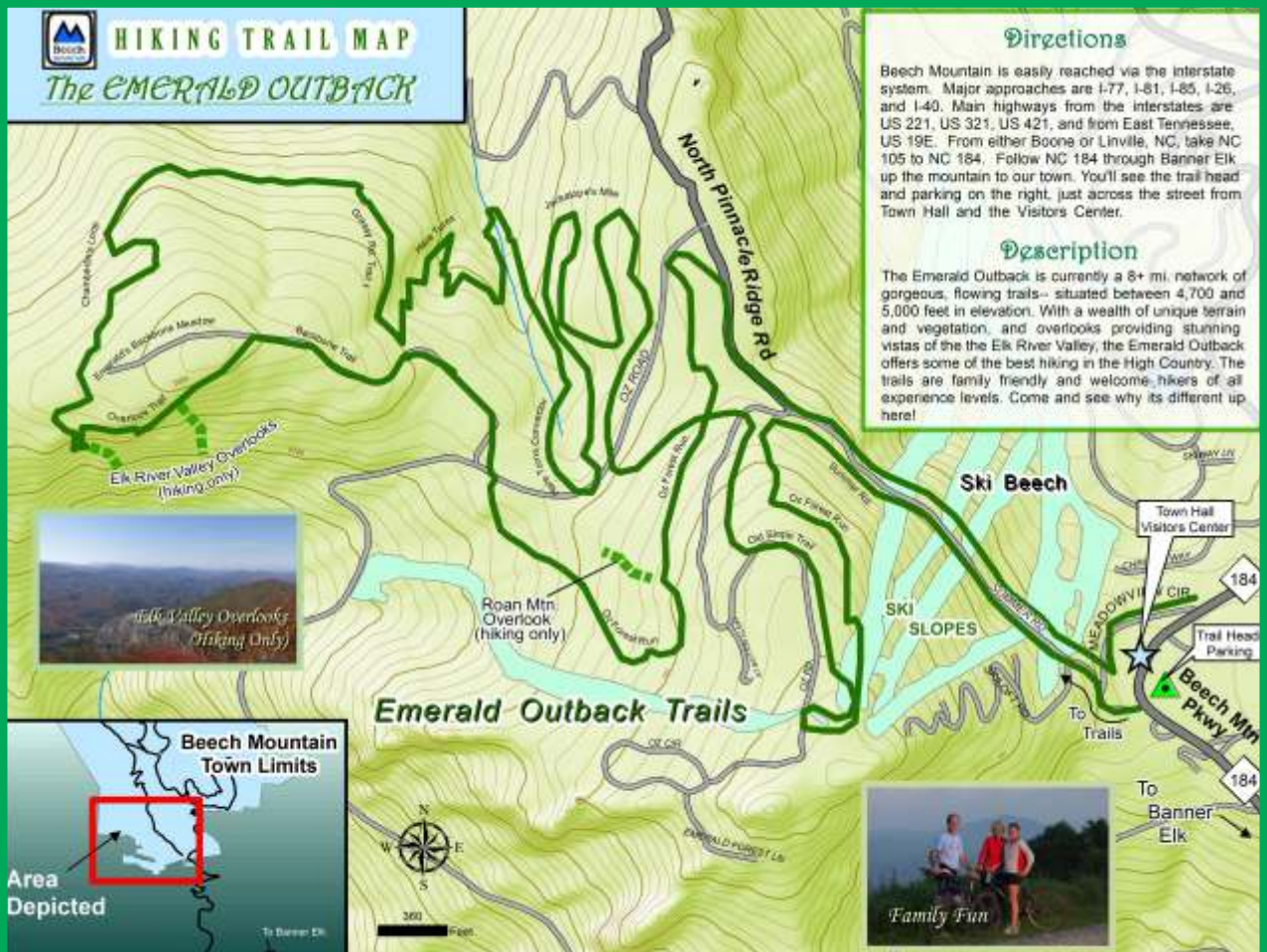




HIKING TRAIL MAP

The EMERALD OUTBACK



Directions

Beech Mountain is easily reached via the interstate system. Major approaches are I-77, I-81, I-85, I-26, and I-40. Main highways from the interstates are US 221, US 321, US 421, and from East Tennessee, US 19E. From either Boone or Linville, NC, take NC 105 to NC 184. Follow NC 184 through Banner Elk up the mountain to our town. You'll see the trail head and parking on the right, just across the street from Town Hall and the Visitors Center.

Description

The Emerald Outback is currently a 8+ mi. network of gorgeous, flowing trails-- situated between 4,700 and 5,000 feet in elevation. With a wealth of unique terrain and vegetation, and overlooks providing stunning vistas of the Elk River Valley, the Emerald Outback offers some of the best hiking in the High Country. The trails are family friendly and welcome hikers of all experience levels. Come and see why its different up here!



Elk River Valley Overlooks (Hiking Only)



Area Depicted



Family Fun



Beech Mountain Adventure Trail Park

The EMERALD OUTBACK



Directions

Beech Mountain is easily reached via the interstate system. Major approaches are I-77, I-81, I-85, I-26, and I-40. Main highways from the interstates are US 221, US 321, US 421, and from East Tennessee, US 19E. From either Boone or Linville, NC, take NC 105 to NC 184. Follow NC 184 through Banner Elk up the mountain to our town. You'll see the trail head and parking on the right, just across the street from Town Hall and the Visitors Center.

Description

Emerald Outback is phase one of the Beech Mountain Adventure Trail Park. It is a gorgeous 8+ mile network of trails -- situated between 4,700 and 5,400 feet in elevation. With a wealth of unique terrain, obstacles, and gravel/ logging road bail outs, there is fun for everyone in the Emerald Outback. The park is free and open to the public 7 days a week.



Family Fun



Adventure



Elk River Valley Overlooks (Hiking Only)



Area Depicted

Trail Difficulty	
◆	Advanced
■	Intermediate
●	Beginner



Family Fun



Family Friendly

UPPER POND CREEK TRAIL

Directions

Take Beech Mountain Parkway to Tamarack Road. Parking is available across the street at Perry Park.

Description

Welcome to Beech Mountain's favorite hiking trail. Whether you are out for a little exercise or an enjoyable walk along a creek, this family friendly trail will take you through some of the most beautiful scenery on Beech Mountain. From its starting point at Perry Park, the trail travels through Charter Hills to Lake Coffey one mile away.

Upper Pond Creek Trail has been designated as a nature trail. Be sure to pick up a guide at the bottom of the stairs at the trail head. Different stations are located along the trail with interesting information about creek life, trees, animals and wildflowers. Each season brings change to the trail. Winter, when the ground is covered with snow, is a good time to look for animal tracks. Spring brings wildflowers, with the Trout Lilly among the first to bloom. During late July and early August the rhododendron blooms in the shaded sections of the trail. When the leaves begin to turn in the fall, a walk down the trail can often scare up a wild turkey, white tail deer, or grouse.

Parking at Lake Coffey



Footbridge



Perry Park



Waterfall



Perry Park



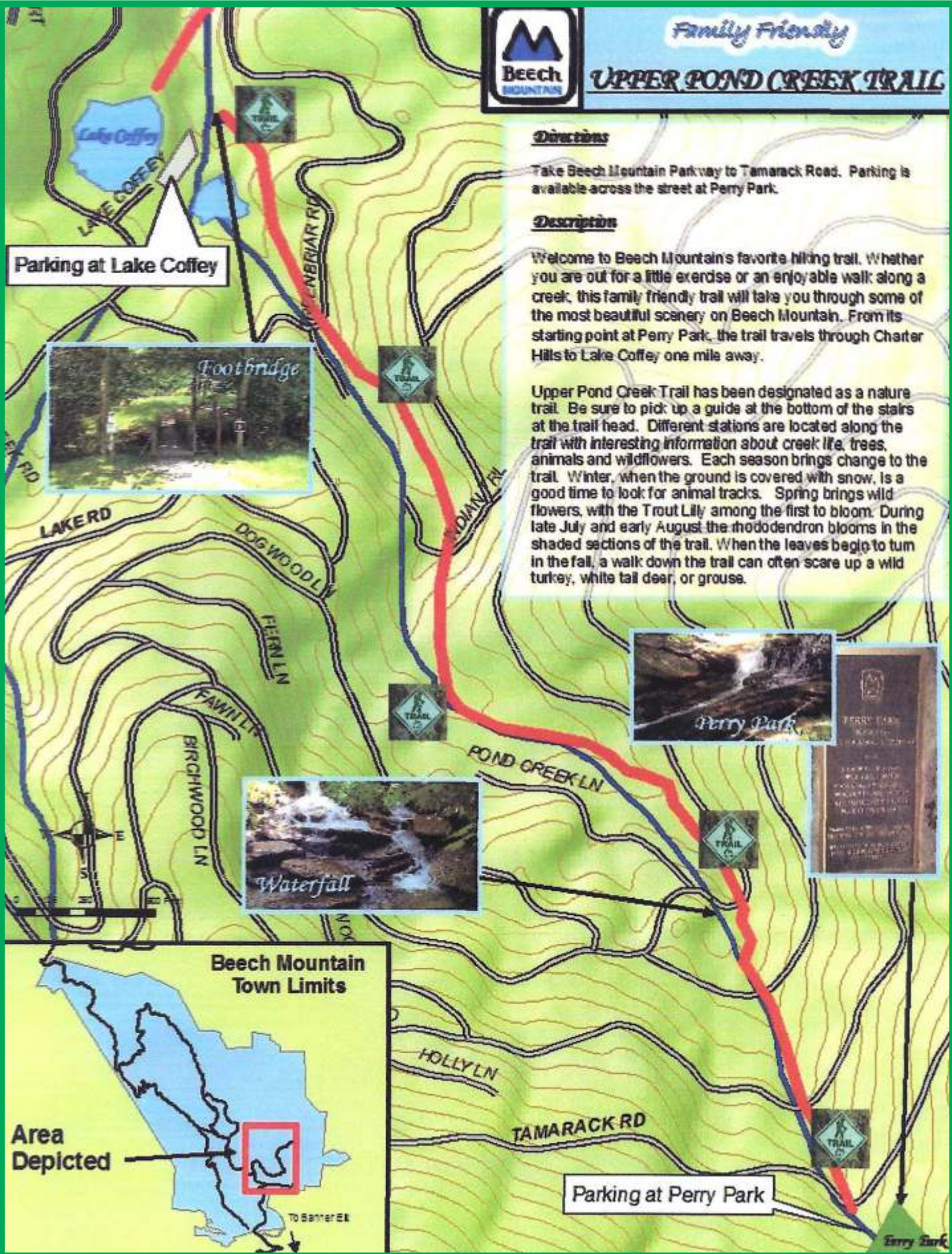
Beech Mountain Town Limits

Area Depicted

To Banner Elk

Parking at Perry Park

Perry Park





Moderately Strenuous

LOWER POND CREEK TRAIL

Directions

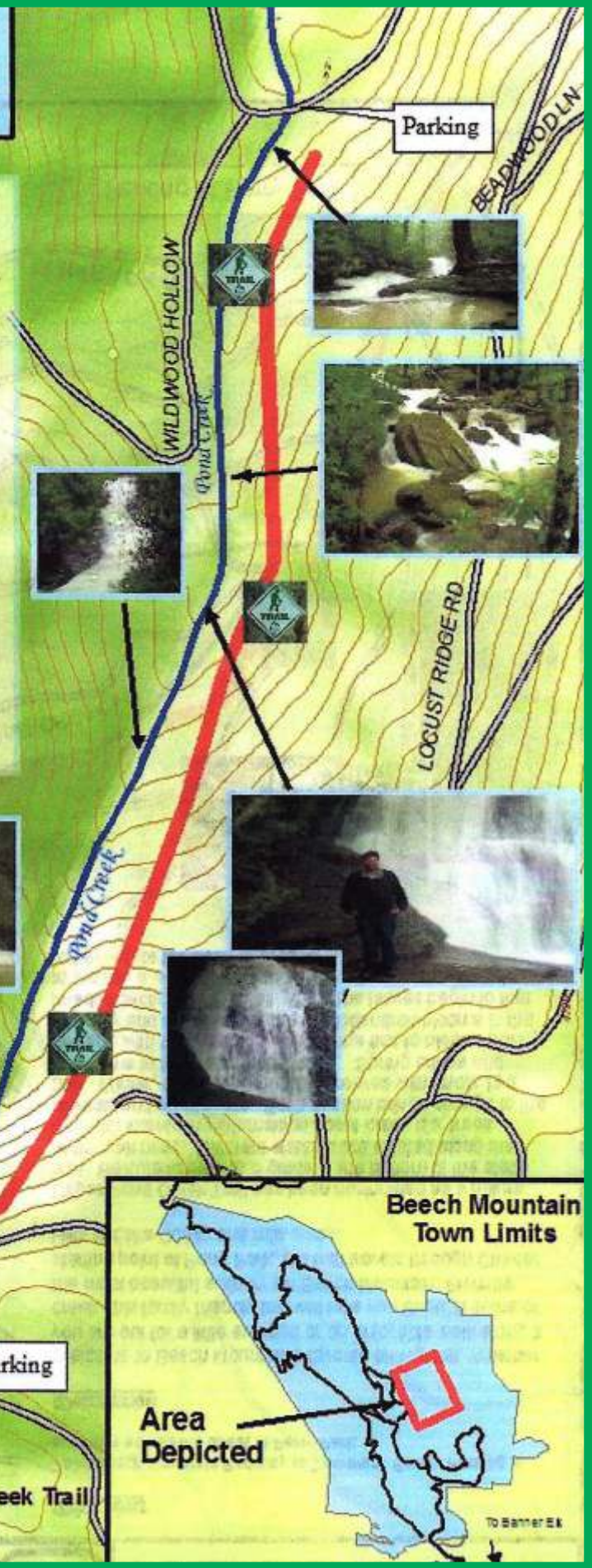
Lower Pond Creek Trail connects with Upper Pond Creek at Lake Coffey. Take Beech Mountain Parkway to Lake Road, which becomes Lakeledge. Parking is available at Lake Coffey.

Description

This is a single track strenuous hiking trail that follows Pond Creek to Locust Ridge Road. Lower Pond Creek is one mile, but the terrain is steep. On the trail you will see water cascading over rocks and many small and large waterfalls. The trail is strenuous but well worth the effort.

While this trail is somewhat rugged and a little difficult in places, most healthy individuals in moderate shape will find it very negotiable. An adult should always accompany children.

There are many great spots on the rocks along the way for a picnic or just sitting and enjoying nature at its very best. Native trout can be found in some of the pools along the creek. For those wanting to make a one-way hike, you can station a car at the bottom of this trail.



Parking



Beech Mountain Town Limits

Area Depicted

Parking

Upper Pond Creek Trail

0 125 250 500 Feet

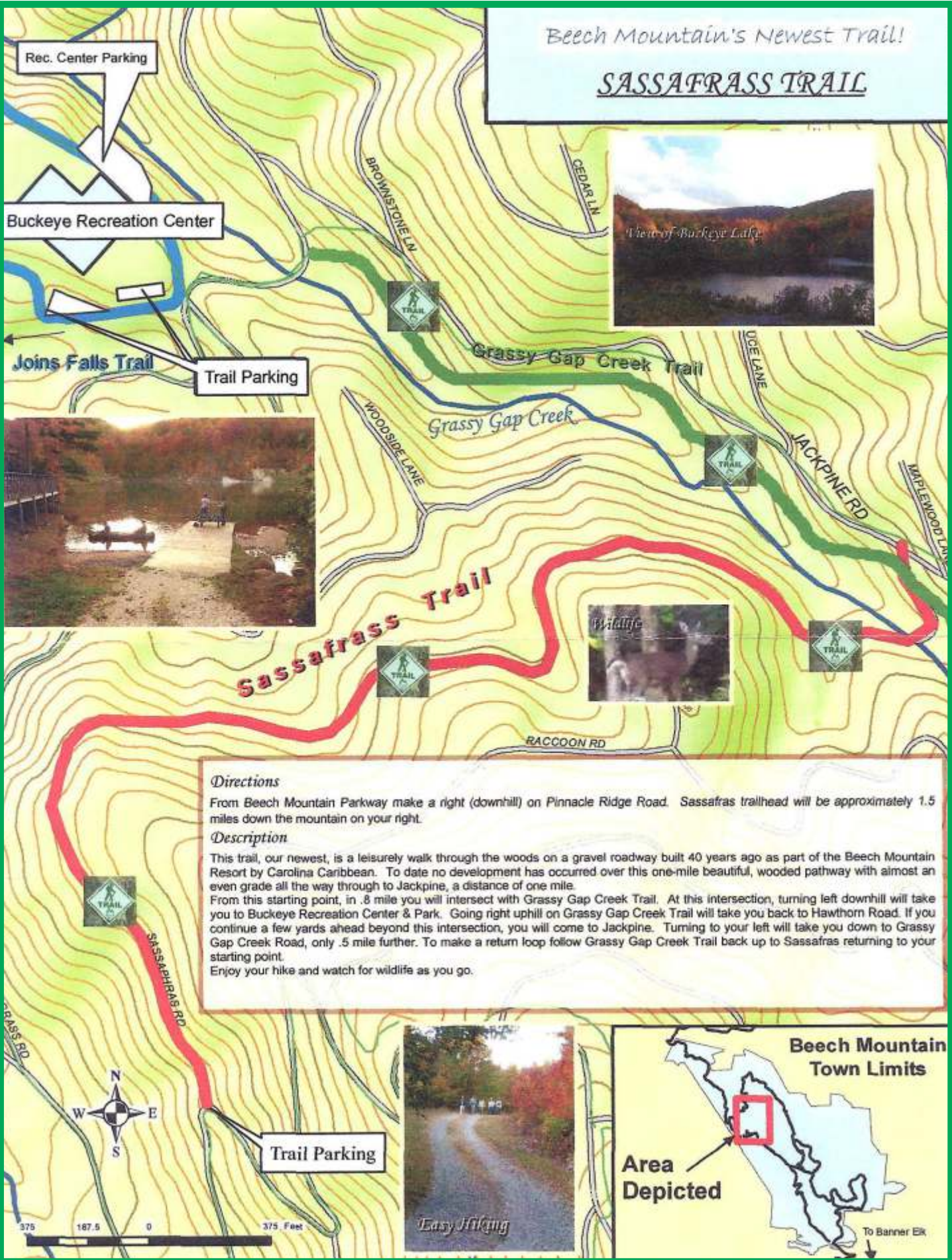
To Banner Elk

Beech Mountain's Newest Trail!

SASSAFRASS TRAIL



View of Buckeye Lake



Buckeye Recreation Center

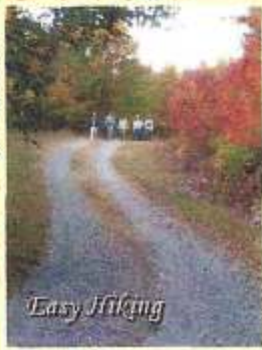
Joins Falls Trail

Trail Parking



Directions
From Beech Mountain Parkway make a right (downhill) on Pinnacle Ridge Road. Sasstrass trailhead will be approximately 1.5 miles down the mountain on your right.

Description
This trail, our newest, is a leisurely walk through the woods on a gravel roadway built 40 years ago as part of the Beech Mountain Resort by Carolina Caribbean. To date no development has occurred over this one-mile beautiful, wooded pathway with almost an even grade all the way through to Jackpine, a distance of one mile.
From this starting point, in .8 mile you will intersect with Grassy Gap Creek Trail. At this intersection, turning left downhill will take you to Buckeye Recreation Center & Park. Going right uphill on Grassy Gap Creek Trail will take you back to Hawthorn Road. If you continue a few yards ahead beyond this intersection, you will come to Jackpine. Turning to your left will take you down to Grassy Gap Creek Road, only .5 mile further. To make a return loop follow Grassy Gap Creek Trail back up to Sasstrass returning to your starting point.
Enjoy your hike and watch for wildlife as you go.



Easy Hiking



Beech Mountain Town Limits

Area Depicted

Trail Parking

375 187.5 0 375 Feet



Family Friendly

FALLS TRAIL

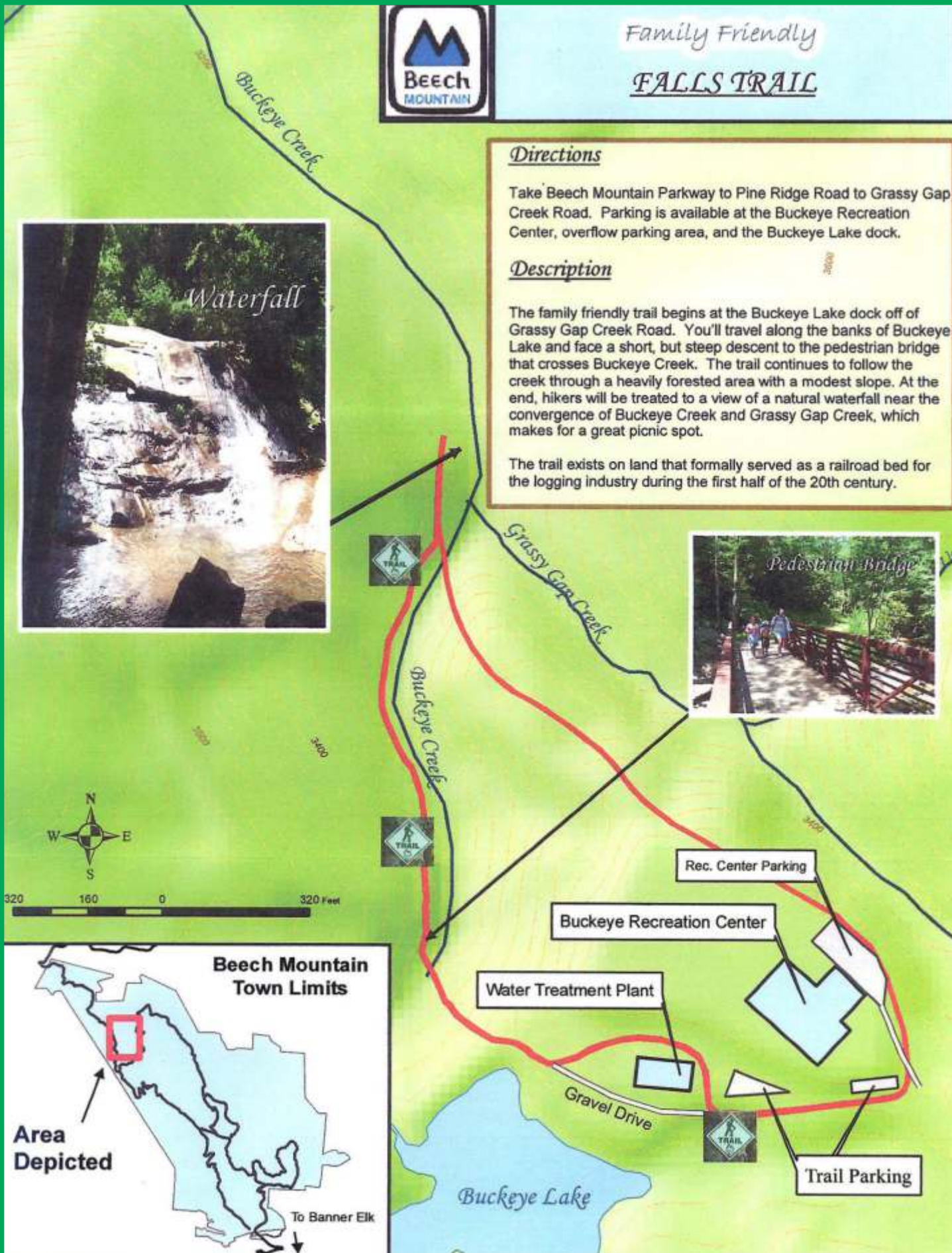
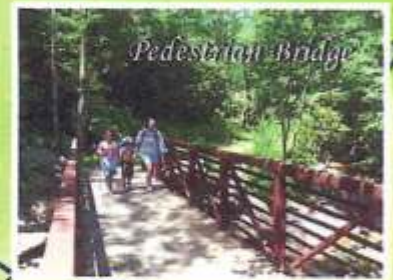
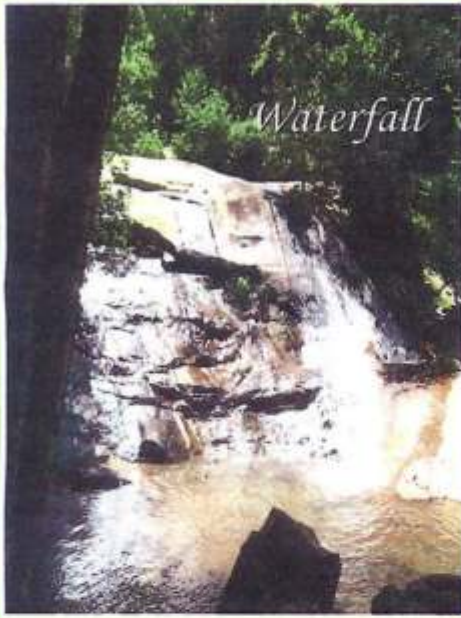
Directions

Take Beech Mountain Parkway to Pine Ridge Road to Grassy Gap Creek Road. Parking is available at the Buckeye Recreation Center, overflow parking area, and the Buckeye Lake dock.

Description

The family friendly trail begins at the Buckeye Lake dock off of Grassy Gap Creek Road. You'll travel along the banks of Buckeye Lake and face a short, but steep descent to the pedestrian bridge that crosses Buckeye Creek. The trail continues to follow the creek through a heavily forested area with a modest slope. At the end, hikers will be treated to a view of a natural waterfall near the convergence of Buckeye Creek and Grassy Gap Creek, which makes for a great picnic spot.

The trail exists on land that formally served as a railroad bed for the logging industry during the first half of the 20th century.





Family Friendly
WILD IRIS TRAIL

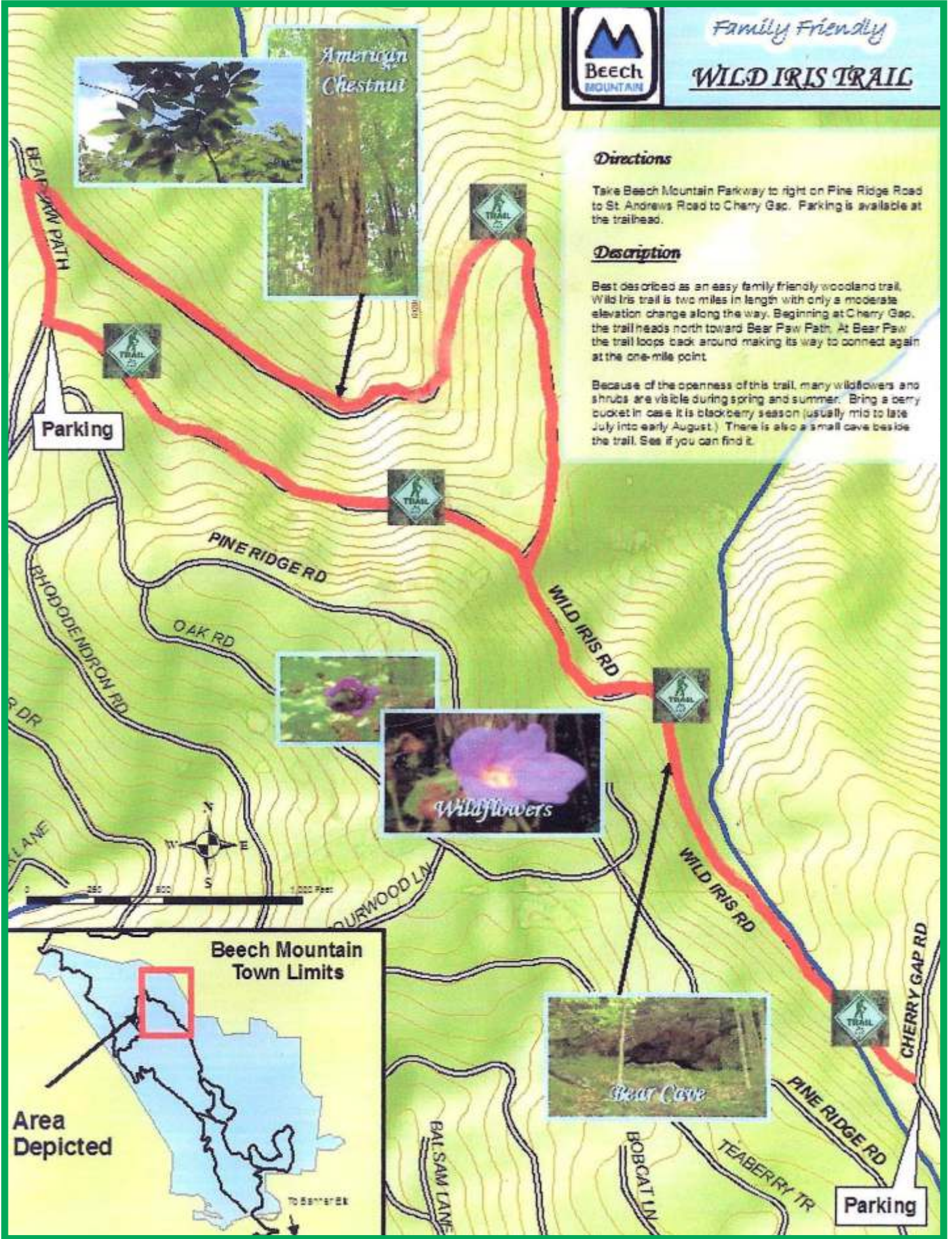
Directions

Take Beech Mountain Parkway to right on Pine Ridge Road to St. Andrews Road to Cherry Gap. Parking is available at the trailhead.

Description

Best described as an easy family friendly woodland trail, Wild Iris trail is two miles in length with only a moderate elevation change along the way. Beginning at Cherry Gap, the trail heads north toward Bear Paw Path. At Bear Paw the trail loops back around making its way to connect again at the one-mile point.

Because of the openness of this trail, many wildflowers and shrubs are visible during spring and summer. Bring a berry bucket in case it is blackberry season (usually mid to late July into early August). There is also a small cave beside the trail. See if you can find it.



Parking

Parking

**Beech Mountain
Town Limits**

**Area
Depicted**

