

# Yellow Branch Picnic Area and Nature Trail



Nestled in a mixed pine/hardwood stand, this picnic area is beautiful any time of year. Picnic tables are scattered about upper and lower loops. A Civilian Conservation Corps stone and wood shelter and a restroom are accessible by wheelchair from the lower loop parking lot. Yellow Branch Creek is located across from the picnic area and is easily experienced by a short-loop hiking trail.

From the road at the main picnic area, begin this rolling, and occasionally steep, 0.4-mile loop. Step across a crevice where a narrow creek flows through the flat rock to a sandy path under a canopy of tulip trees, oaks and hickories, then along a ridge knotted with rhododendron and mountain laurel. Watch your step as you descend to a rushing creek, where you will navigate stone steps and cross several rocky fords. Watch for pickerel frogs, salamanders, snakes and other wildlife in this area. About midway, you will see a sign that marks the 1.3-mile spur to Yellow Branch Falls if you want to extend your hike. To complete the 0.4-mile loop, turn left at the end of the trail and follow the road to the parking area.

## Surrounding Area:

The Stumphouse Ranger Station is 0.25 miles north of the picnic area where you can find maps, brochures, field guides, books and Smokey Bear items.

Between the picnic area and the ranger station on the right is Stumphouse Tunnel Park. Picnic tables, a small stream and Isaquena Falls are there for your enjoyment. The town of Walhalla is about six miles south of the picnic area.

# Sumter National Forest



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southern Region

February 2009

**Directions:** From Walhalla, SC drive about six miles north on Highway 28. The picnic area is on the left.

## Facilities:

- Picnic tables and shelter
- Pit toilet

**Safety:** In warm weather, yellow jackets frequent the area, especially trash cans.

**Season/Hours:** Year round, day use only

## For more information:

Andrew Pickens Ranger District  
112 Andrew Pickens Circle  
Mountain Rest, SC 29664  
Phone: (864) 638-9568  
Fax: (864) 638-2659  
Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.  
and 12:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

---

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Yellow Branch Picnic Area Sumter National Forest

This map displays the Yellow Branch Picnic Area within the Sumter National Forest. The area is characterized by a network of roads, including paved roads (solid lines) and unpaved roads (dashed lines). Streams are shown as thin, wavy lines. Land ownership is indicated by different shades of gray: dark gray for waterbodies, medium gray for towns or cities, and light gray for private ownership. The map includes a scale bar from 0 to 2 miles and a north arrow. A vicinity map of South Carolina is provided in the bottom right corner, showing the location of the picnic area relative to Clayton, Salem, Walhalla, and Seneca. The date October 2008 is noted in the bottom right corner.

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

**Features**

- 5 Yellow Branch Picnic Area
- Roads
- Streams
- Waterbody
- Town\City
- Private Ownership

Vicinity Map  
South Carolina

Clayton Salem Walhalla Seneca

October 2008

October 2008