



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ALABAMA'S NATIONAL FORESTS GREAT ESCAPES

Conecuh National Forest "In the Heart of Longleaf Country"

Forest Service Southern Region / National Forests in Alabama
Informational Handout 0002 / Conecuh Ranger District (334) 222-2555
July 2023
www.fs.usda.gov/alabama

1. OPEN POND RECREATION AREA

Open Pond is the largest recreation area in the Conecuh National Forest. At 450 acres, the site offers developed camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, and boating and can serve as a base camp for exploring the forest. The natural sinkhole pond covers 30 acres and is managed for quality fishing. Boats with electric motors or paddles are welcome. The day use area provides picnicking under a historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) pavillion.

2. BLUE LAKE RECREATION AREA

Enjoy a swim in the azure blue water of Blue Lake, a spring-fed lake from underground limestone aquifers. It is a short 10-minute drive from Open Pond Recreation Area. Picnic sites and restrooms are available. Fishing is allowed, and a boat ramp provides access to the lake for boats with electric motors or paddles.

3. CONECUH TRAIL

The Conecuh Trail is a 20-mile easy to moderate hiking trail that visitors can enjoy all year. Hikers traverse open fire-maintained longleaf pine forests in the uplands and dark wet swamps and bays in the bottoms. Cypress ponds are especially scenic. Approximately 10 miles are open to mountain biking. Primitive camping along the trail is allowed with some restrictions during deer hunting season.

4. CONECUH SHOOTING RANGE

The shooting range is open to firearms users for practicing skills at distances of 25, 50, and 100 yards. Accessible shooting stations, parking, and sidewalks to target areas are available for people with disabilities. A valid Alabama Hunting License, Wildlife Management Area License, or Heritage License is required to use the range.

5. BLUE SPRING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The 23,000-acre Blue Spring Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is managed in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Active habitat management with tailored seasons and bag limits are designed to enhance game species such as whitetail deer, eastern wild turkey, bobwhite quail, and eastern gray squirrel. Visit <https://www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/wildlife-management-areas> for more details.



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6. LEON BROOKS HINES PUBLIC FISHING LAKE

In cooperation with the state of Alabama, the 184-acre lake is open to anglers and contains bass, bream, and catfish. Boat launch, boat rental, and bait shop are available. An Alabama fishing license and daily fee are required. Contact the Lake Manager at (251) 809-0068 for open dates.

7. SHILOH HILL PHYSICALLY DISABLED HUNTING AREA

This area was established in 2008 to provide disabled hunters with an opportunity to enjoy hunting. The area can be reserved through the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Visit <https://www.out-dooralabama.com/hunting/physically-disabled-hunting-and-fishing-trail> for more information.

8. BOGS

The Conecuh is known for its high quality examples of coastal plain seepage bogs, often called “pitcher plant bogs.” These sites support a variety of carnivorous plants, including several species of attractive pitcher plants. Parker Springs Bog is an excellent example on the west side of the Forest; Crawford Bog is a prime example on the east side.

9. PONDS

Buck and Ditch Ponds are natural sinkhole ponds close to Open Pond Recreation Area. They are managed for public fishing and provide easy access to the Conecuh Trail.

Sinkhole Ponds are a special natural habitat scattered across the forest. These ponds allow observing unusual wetland plants and animals, including many frogs, snakes, and salamanders. The forest is a national hotspot for reptiles and amphibians.

CONECUH DISTRICT OFFICE

The Conecuh National Forest District Office is open to the public Monday - Friday from 7:30 am until 4:00 pm, except for federal holidays, to provide forest information, sell maps and recreation passes, and issue permits.

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