



Cherokee National Forest

## Forest Service News Release

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### Cherokee National Forest announced recreation site schedule

**CLEVELAND, TENN., Feb. 7, 2024** — Cherokee National Forest officials announced the annual operating dates for recreation sites across the forest. Highly developed campgrounds and swim areas are routinely closed and winterized from late-fall through mid-spring in response to low visitation, reduced seasonal workforce, and freezing temperatures that damage water and wastewater systems.

Most developed day-use recreation sites provide visitor access to trails, rivers, lakes, remote backcountry, and target shooting areas. Several campgrounds without developed water systems or entrance gates, remain open throughout the year.

Many campsites in developed campgrounds are available on a first come-first served basis, but some can be reserved. National Forest visitors can go online to the [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) website and select the name of the facility they wish to reserve or call the reservation service at 1-877-444-6777.

As the Forest Service shifts to a more sustainable recreation program, it must meet the reality of increasing deferred maintenance (maintenance backlog) and operational costs. Visitors will see projects across the National Forest to reduce deferred maintenance, as well as investments to improve well-loved sites. Site operating schedules may change as projects move forward.

Following is the scheduled 2024 opening dates for Cherokee National Forest recreation sites. Shooting ranges and most boat launches are open year-round.

Due to unforeseen circumstances and conditions, the scheduled site openings and closings may change. To verify openings please contact the ranger district offices listed below.

#### **OCOEE RANGER DISTRICT: (423) 338-330**

##### **Starr Mountain**

Lost Corral Campground – Open year-round

##### **Hiwassee River**

Lost Creek Campground – Open year-round

Powerhouse Boat Launch – Open year-round

Towee Canoe Launch – Open year-round

Big Bend – Open year-round

Spring Creek Shooting Range – Open year-round

Quinn Spring Pavilion – Open year-round

Hiwassee Picnic – Open year-round

##### **Ocoee River**

Chilhowee Recreation Area:

- \*Campground Loop – Apr. 15 – Nov. 12, 2024
- \*Group Camp – Apr. 14 – Nov. 12, 2024

\*Parksville RV Campground – Feb. 23, 2024 – Jan. 20, 2025

Parksville Group Campground – Apr. 22, 2024 – Nov. 12, 2024

\*Thunder Rock Campground – Feb. 23, 2024 – Jan. 20, 2025

Tumbling Creek Campground – Open year-round

Mac Point Beach Day Use – May 1, 2024 – Sept. 30, 2024

Parksville Beach Day Use – Open year-round

Parksville Boat Ramp – Open year-round  
East Parksville Boat Ramp – Open year-round  
Kings Slough Boat Ramp – Open year-round

### **Big Frog**

Sylco Campground (No vehicle access) – Open year-round

*\*Indicates sites can be reserved on [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)*

## **TELLICO RANGER DISTRICT: (423) 397-8455**

### **Citico Creek**

Jake Best Campground – Mar. 6, 2024 – Nov. 19, 2024  
Young Branch Campground – Open year-round

### **Tellico River**

Big Oak Cove Campground – May 21, 2024 – Nov. 19, 2024  
Birch Branch Campground – Open year-round  
Dam Creek Campground – Open year-round  
Davis Branch Campground – Open year-round  
Donley Cabin – Closed – Closed until bridge is replaced  
Holder Cove Campground – Open year-round  
Holly Flats Campground – May 21, 2024 – Nov. 19, 2024  
Indian Boundary Campground – Apr. 18, 2024 – Nov. 5, 2024  
Indian Boundary Overflow Campground – Open year-round  
McNabb Group Campground – Closed – No portable pumping service  
North River Campground – Open year-round  
Rough Ridge Campground – Open year-round  
Spivey Cove Campground – May 21, 2024 – Nov. 19, 2024  
Stateline Campground – Open year-round  
Tellico River Checking Station – Mar. 27, 2024 – Jan. 9, 2025

## **UNAKA RANGER DISTRICT: (423) 638-4109**

### **Unicoi County**

Rock Creek Campground – May 1 – Oct. 24, 2024 – Reservations open Jan. 15, 2024  
Rock Creek Day Use Area – Open year-round  
Scioto Shooting Range – Open year-round  
Chestoa Recreation Area – Open year-round  
Limestone Cove Recreation Area – Mar. 15, 2024 – Dec. 15, 2024  
Unaka Mountain Road

- Beauty Spot – Mar. 15, 2024 – Dec. 15, 2024
- Unaka Mountain Overlook – Mar. 15, 2024 – Dec. 15, 2024

Pinnacle Mountain Trailhead – Open year-round

### **Washington County**

Katy Branch – May 1, 2024 – Oct. 24, 2024 – Reservations open Mar. 1, 2024  
Buffalo Mountain ATV – Mar. 15, 2024 – Dec. 15, 2024

### **Greene County**

Horse Creek Campground – May 1, 2024 – Oct. 24, 2024  
Horse Creek Pavilion – Closed indefinitely  
Old Forge Recreation Area – May 1, 2024 – Oct. 24, 2024  
Paint Creek Campground – May 1, 2024 – Oct. 24, 2024 – Reservations open Jan. 15, 2024  
Paint Creek Corridor – Open year-round  
Margarette Falls Trailhead – Open year-round  
Round Knob Pavilion – Open year-round

### **Cocke County**

Bubbling Springs Shooting Range – Open year-round  
Weaver's Bend – Mar. 15, 2024 – Dec. 15, 2024  
Sandbar River Access – Open year-round  
French Broad Boat Launch – Open year-round  
Round Mountain Recreation Area – May 1, 2024 – Oct. 24, 2024

**Holston Mountain**

Jacobs Creek

- Campground and Day Use – Apr. 29, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024
- Shooting Range – Open year-round

Little Oak Campground

- Hemlock/Poplar Loops – Apr. 29, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024
- Big Oak/Lone Pine Loops – Apr. 29, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024
- \*\*Big Oak/Lone Pine Loops (Primitive Camping only) – Apr. 1, 2024 – Apr. 29, 2024; Oct. 15, 2024 – Nov. 4, 2024

**Iron Mountains**

Backbone Rock

- \*Day Use – Mar. 18, 2024 – Nov. 18, 2024
- Campground – Apr. 29, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024

**Watauga Lake**

Cardens Bluff Campground – Apr. 29, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024

Dennis Cove Campground – Apr. 29, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024

Shook Branch Recreation Area – May 13, 2024 – Sept. 9, 2024

\*Watauga Point Picnic Area – Apr. 1, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024

Pond Mountain Shooting Range – Open year-round

Rat Branch Boat Ramp – Open year-round

Little Milligan Boat Ramp – Open year-round

Sink Mountain Boat Ramp – Closed

**Roan Highlands**

\*Carvers Gap – Mar. 18, 2024 – Nov. 18, 2024

**Unaka Mountains**

Laurels Picnic Area – Mar. 18, 2024 – Oct. 15, 2024

*\*Pertains to dates that restroom facilities are available. Site operational year-round.*

*\*\*Full-service restrooms closed during primitive camping season. Dry vault toilet facilities will remain open, and water will be available at outdoor hydrant locations if weather allows.*

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