



Forest Service
Cherokee National Forest
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/cherokee/>

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Update: September 28, 2020

Following are the developed recreation site opening dates by Ranger District. Projected opening dates may vary depending on circumstances, and it may be necessary to not open or to close areas if conditions change.

WATAUGA RANGER DISTRICT: 423-735-1500

Recreation Site	Dates Open
Holston Mountain Area	
Little Oak Campground *:	
Hemlock Loop	June 1 – Oct 12
Poplar Loop	June 1 – Oct 12
Big Oak Loop	June 1 – Oct 12
Lone Pine Loop	June 1 – Oct 12
Boat Ramp	June 1 – Nov 16
Primitive Camping Only (no flush toilets) Big Oak and Hemlock Loops ONLY	Oct 12 – Nov 16
Jacobs Creek Campground	June 1 – Oct 12
Jacobs Creek Day Use Area	June 1 – Oct 12
Iron Mountains	
Backbone Rock Recreation Area:	
Day use area (Pavilions *)	May 15 – Nov 23
Backbone Rock Campground *	June 1 - Oct 12
Watauga Lake Area	
Cardens Bluff Campground *	June 1 - Oct 12
Dennis Cove Campground *	June 1 - Oct 12
Shook Branch Swim Area	May 15 – Sept 14
Watauga Point Recreation Area *	May 15 – Oct 12
Roan Highlands	
Carvers Gap Trailhead (Vault Toilet)	May 15 – Nov 23
Unaka Mountains	
Laurels Picnic Area (Pavilions *)	May 15 – Oct 12
Shooting Ranges	
Pond Mountain and Jacobs Creek	May 15

*Indicates some sites can be reserved: [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

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UNAKA RANGER DISTRICT: 423-638-4109

Recreation Site	Dates Open
Unaka Mountains	
Buffalo Mtn. ATV Trail	May 15 – Jan 4, 2021
Limestone Cove Day Use Area*	May 15 – Jan 4, 2021
Rock Creek Campground	June 1 – Nov 1
Lower Day Use Area*	May 15 – Open year round
Chestoa Day Use Area*	Open year round
Bald Mountains	
Horse Creek Campground	July 10– Nov 1
Pavilion & Day Use Area	May 15 – Nov 30
Katy Branch Group Site*	June 1 – Nov 1
Old Forge Campground	May 29 – Dec 21
Round Knob Pavilion*	June 1 – Open year round
French Broad River Area	
Paint Creek Corridor Day Use *	May 15 – Nov 1
Paint Creek Campground	June 1 – Nov 1
Houston Valley Recreation Area	Closed for season due to storm damage
Round Mountain Campground	June 1 – Oct 22
Shooting Ranges	
Scioto and Bubbling Springs	May 15 – Open year round

Indicates some sites can be reserved: recreation.gov

*Bathrooms and trash receptacles may open at a later date.

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TELLICO RANGER DISTRICT: 423-253-8400

Recreation Site	Dates Open
Citico Creek Area	
Jake Best Campground	May 15 – Nov 30
Young Branch Campground	May 15 – Open year round
Tellico River Area	
Big Oak Cove Campground	June 4 – Nov 30
Donley Cabin *	Closed due to storm damage
Holly Flats Campground	June 4 – Nov 30
Indian Boundary Campground *	June 4 – Nov 3
Indian Boundary Swimming & Picnic Area	June 4 – Nov 3
Indian Boundary Overflow Campground	June 4 – Open year round
North River Campground	May 15 – Open year round
Spivey Cove Campground	June 4 – Nov 30
Birch Branch, Davis Branch, Holder Cove, Rough Ridge, State Line, & Sourwood campgrounds	May 15 – Open year round
McNabb Group *	June 4 – Open year round
Walnut Grove, Pheasant Fields, and Dam Creek Picnic Areas	June 4 – Open year round
Baby Falls Day Use	June 4 – Open year round

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OCOEE RANGER DISTRICT: 423-338-3300

Recreation Site	Dates Open
Starr Mountain Area	
Lost Corral Campground	June 1- Open year round
Hiwassee River Area	
Lost Creek Campground	June 1-Open year round
Powerhouse Boat Launch	May 22 Open year round
Towee Canoe Launch	May 22 - Open year round
Big Bend	May 22 - Open year round
Spring Creek Shooting Range	May 22 - Open year round
Quinn Spring Pavilion	May 22- Open year round
Hiwassee Picnic	May 22 - Open year round
Ocoee River Area	
Ocoee Whitewater Center Building	To be determined
OWC lower day use area	May 22
Chilhowee Recreation Area:	June 1 – Oct 31
* Campground Loop A-F	June 1 – Oct 31
*Group Camp	May 22-- Open year round
Chilhowee Day Use	
*Parksville RV Campground	May 22 – January 3, 2021
Parksville Group Campground	July 1 – Oct 31 (tentative opening date due to water system maintenance)
*Thunder Rock Campground	May 22 – Oct 31
Tumbling Creek Campground	Open year round
Mac Point Beach Day Use	May 22 – Sept 30
Parksville Beach Day Use	May 22- Sept 30
Parksville Boat Ramp	May 22 - Open year round
East Parksville Boat Ramp	May 22 - Open year round
King Slough Boat Ramp	May 22- Open year round
Big Frog Area	
Sylco Campground (No vehicle access)	Open year round

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