



## **CROWDING AND PARKING CHALLENGES AT CROWDERS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

Parking areas fill quickly on weekends and holidays. Gates may close periodically to relieve traffic congestion, but will remain open otherwise. No parking or stopping is allowed in any roadway or on any road shoulder in or near the park. Parking in undesignated areas both inside and outside of the park may result in a citation or towing.

**Please exercise caution when in crowded parking lots or popular areas in the park.** As more and more people are embracing the recreational opportunities offered at the park, limited parking is making it difficult to enter and exit the park. Increased visitation is causing traffic, gridlock, and crowding at popular overlooks, which can be dangerous. Stay back from cliffs and ledges, stay on designated trails and follow all warning signs in the park.

**Come early or late in the day** if visiting on weekends to enjoy the park. Arriving between 10 and 3 pm on a weekend with good weather is likely to result in frustration due to traffic full parking lots.

**Try to visit the park on weekdays** as much as possible. Parking is plentiful on these days and the experience in the park with few visitors is extra special. Funds from the Connect NC Bond Project will be used to increase parking capacity within the park by Summer 2019.

If you choose to attempt to visit the park during peak days and hours, come prepared to wait in long lines for parking, and **have a back-up plan** for your day in case you are unable to be accommodated at the park.

**Shuttle not available:** The contract for the shuttle to Crowders Mountain offered by the City of Gastonia ended in December 2017. The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation is working with the city to determine whether the shuttle can be re-structured with a new pickup location and schedule to better alleviate traffic, parking, and safety challenges.