

South Mountains STATE PARK



South Mountains State Park
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Connelly Springs, NC 28612
828-433-4772
south.mountains@ncparks.gov
GPS: 35.5963, -81.600

Fun Facts

- The park was established in 1975
- South Mountains is the largest N.C. state park at 20,871 acres
- The park offers over 400 educational programs and hikes annually
- The park is composed of two main access areas, Jacob Fork Access, the main area of the park and the Clear Creek Access, an independent day-use area for fishing, hiking and horseback riding
- The South Mountains are a belt of metamorphosed granite, called gneiss, carved away by erosion and formed when rocks undergo heat, pressure and chemical changes
- The area acted as a buffer zone between the Cherokee and Catawba native Americans when the Catawba Valley was a major travel route
- Most streams are considered "wild trout waters" and about 2 miles are delayed harvest streams, making it the perfect place to cast a line
- In the 1930's, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps began establishing trails, cleaning stream beds and constructing an observation tower

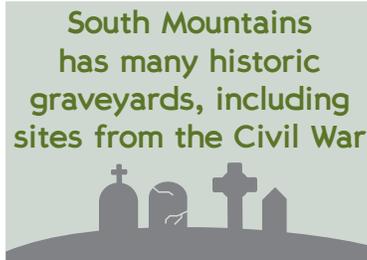
Activities



Located in the foothills of North Carolina, at the crossroads of the mountains and the piedmont, the South Mountains are a transition zone between the Appalachian Mountains and the Foothills. This rugged terrain boasts elevations of up to 3,000 feet at its highest peak, Buzzard's Roost. With rich examples of forest communities such as pure conifer, mixed conifer, hardwood and climax hardwood forests, an abundance of wildlife thrives within its boundaries. Visitors can experience 49 miles of these unique communities.

Experience the Park!

49 miles of
hiking, biking and
bridle trails



FLORA

- Jack-in-the-pulpit
- Lady slipper
- Foam flower
- Mountain laurel
- Rhododendron

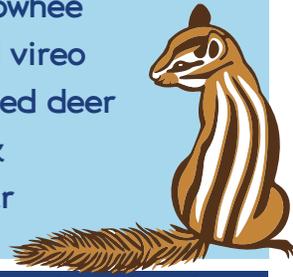


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FAUNA

- Gray-cheeked salamander
- Eastern fence lizard
- Rose-breasted grosbeak
- Ruffed grouse
- Eastern towhee
- Red-eyed vireo
- White-tailed deer
- Chipmunk
- Black bear



Offers equestrian camping
with a 33-stall barn



In 1828 to the
20th century,
the mountains
experienced a
small gold rush

