

FLORA

Great Laurel/Rosebay

- Flowers June through August
- Flowers are pinkish-white with a yellowish to greenish spot in the largest lobe
- One of the hardiest and largest evergreen rhododendrons



Wild Azalea/Pinxter Flower

- Flowers February through May
- Flowers are pink or white
- Most common native azalea in the Southeast



Flame Azalea/Orange Azalea

- Flowers February through April
- Flowers are yellow to orange to red
- Close in appearance to Pinxter Flower



Galax/Beetleweed

- Flowers May through July
- Green leaves turn red in the winter
- Food source for deer



Eastern Hemlock Tree

- Evergreen
- Bark used for source of tannin for leather goods
- Pioneers made tea from the leafy twigs and brooms from the branches



Contact SCDNR Diversity Outreach at
803-734-3729 en español al 803-734-9885 o en
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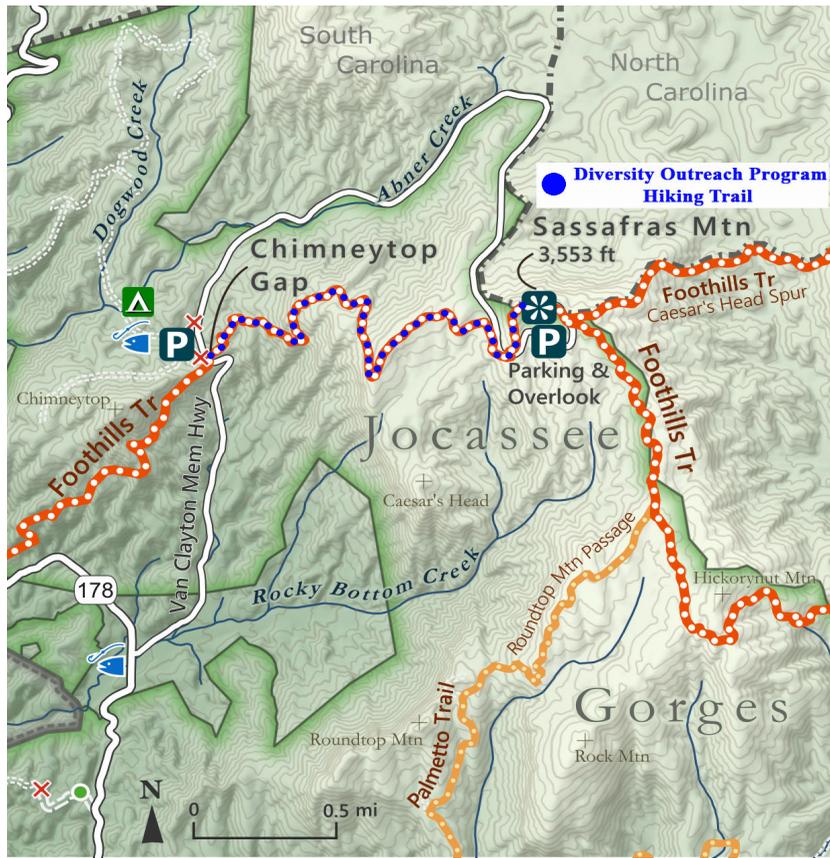
South Carolina Department
of Natural Resources

Foothills Trail at Sassafras Mountain



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Foothills Trail at Sassafras Mountain Map



About the Property

- Jocassee Gorges established in 1998
- 43,500-acre tract of land
- It represents a partnership among federal, state and private organizations
- The “Blue Wall” - is the area where the base of the mountains transitions into the piedmont
- Sassafras Mountain - highest point in SC at 3,553 ft
- Foothills Trail - 77 miles long between Table Rock and Oconee State Parks

History of the Property

- Historically occupied by Cherokee Indians
- Patches of Yucca, or “Spanish Bayonet” reveal potential sites once inhabited by the Cherokee

- Early settlers grew corn and sugar for moonshine distillation
- 1800s: Managed for commercial timber interests

Biological Diversity

- Oconee Bell is a rare flower of the southern Appalachian Mountains, found in the Lake Jocassee drainage
- There are several ferns and mosses in Jocassee that usually only grow in tropical habitats of Central America
- Jocassee’s extensive rainfall throughout the year and shaded habitats from the steep river gorges promote unique combinations of both animals and plants
- Currently still a site for wildlife and fisheries restoration projects involving white-tailed deer, peregrine falcons and brook trout



Along the Foothills Trail at Sassafras Mountain, history and nature come together. This area has many different animal (**fauna**) and plant (**flora**) species. Here we have just a few:

FAUNA

Eastern Spotted Skunk

- Color: black with 4 to 6 contrasting white stripes starting at the head and breaking into spots further down the body
- Diet: insects, mice, frogs, fruits
- Life span: 2-6 years
- Habitat: woodlands, open farmlands, old abandoned fields



Black Bear

- Color: blue-gray, blue-black, brown, black
- Diet: grasses, nuts, berries, fish
- Life span: 18 years
- Habitat: forests, mountains, swamps

Carolina Chickadee

- Color: white cheeks with a black cap and throat, gray back and buff-gray chest
- Diet: insects, seeds, berries
- Life span: 10 years
- Habitat: forested areas or urban and suburban yards



Pileated Woodpecker

- Color: black bodies with white neck stripes and a red crest
- Diet: insects, fruits, nuts
- Life span: 12 years
- Habitat: mixed deciduous-coniferous forests



Wild Turkey

- Color: Males: bronze-green with fan-like tail; Females: tan-brown
- Diet: nuts, seeds, fruits, insects
- Life span: 3 to 4 years
- Habitat: mature forest with oak, hickory and beech trees



Eastern Garter Snake

- Color: three yellow stripes lengthwise down a brown-green body, checkered pattern, pale yellow belly
- Diet: worms, frogs, fish, salamanders
- Life span: 2 years
- Habitat: grassy woodlands, meadows, marshes near water

