



Forest Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Forests in North Carolina

Uwharrie National Forest

Uwharrie National Forest is a hidden gem in central North Carolina, known for its rolling hills, scenic trails, and rich history. Covering approximately 53,011 acres in Montgomery, Randolph, and Davidson Counties, it's one of the smallest national forests in the country but offers big opportunities for adventure—whether you're hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, or off-roading on the popular Badin Lake OHV Trail Complex. The forest is home to a wide variety of wildlife and is a great spot for camping, fishing, and paddling along the Uwharrie and Yadkin Rivers. With a landscape shaped by some of the oldest mountains in North America, Uwharrie is the perfect escape for nature lovers and outdoor explorers alike.

Active Alerts

- [!\[\]\(49aa2e1da5fe39294864e9598c593810_img.jpg\) Alcoholic Beverage Prohibition- Uwharrie National Forest](#)
- [!\[\]\(7d0a8d8b1031f74abe67b09fcf4a2322_img.jpg\) Alcoholic Beverage Prohibition- Uwharrie National Forest](#)
- [!\[\]\(6557fa7496e6a507d2326ea0bef061ee_img.jpg\) ATVs and Motorcycles](#)
- [!\[\]\(1fe0339452ba17bd8ae951d8509f80d6_img.jpg\) Seasonal Closure of Badin Lake OHV Trails- Uwharrie National Forest](#)
- [!\[\]\(3f7dbef097b87c46047901c2927193e7_img.jpg\) Metal Detectors Forest Order](#)
- [!\[\]\(f421354329041d30b231dbd0377dc4a4_img.jpg\) General Forest Order on Camping Limits](#)
- [!\[\]\(4557a7673fde5aee3dcfc3acbc13f50f_img.jpg\) Flintrock Valley Shooting Range Prohibitions- Uwharrie National Forest](#)

General Information

Contact us

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For hours and more info, please visit, [Uwharrie Ranger District Office](#).

Things to Do

Uwharrie National Forest offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, from quiet backcountry experiences to motorized trail riding. Whether you're hiking, biking, horseback riding, or exploring by vehicle, there are options for all experience levels.

Find more information about [recreation opportunities here](#). Visitors can view a list of all trails, campgrounds and recreation areas in the complexes section below.

Camping

Uwharrie National Forest has several camping options, including developed campgrounds and dispersed camping.

Some campgrounds offer amenities like restrooms and picnic tables, while others provide a more primitive experience.

Learn more about camping and how to reserve a site [here](#).

Forest Maps

[View Uwharrie National Forest maps](#) for roads, trails, and recreation areas.

Closures

Check [seasonal closures](#) before you go, especially for OHV trails and [temporary conditions on alerts](#).

Passes & Permits

Some recreation areas and activities require passes or fees. If you don't see what you need on recreation.gov, [check here for additional pass information](#).

Visit here for [information on permits](#) for foraging, special uses, firewood, mineral collection and much more.

Complexes

Birkhead Mountains Wilderness



Birkhead Mountains Wilderness



The Birkhead Mountains Wilderness was established by the 1984 North Carolina Wilderness Act.



Hannah's Creek Trail

Hannah's Creek Trail is 1.4 miles in length. It is located in the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness Area.



Robbins Branch Trail

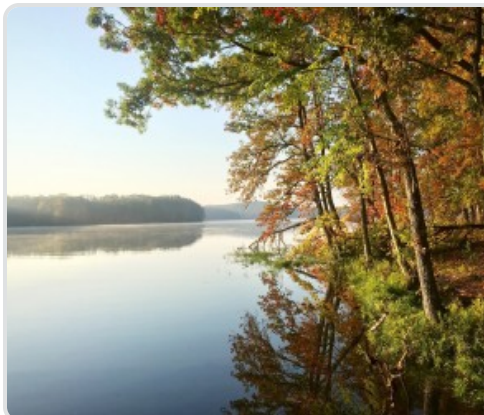
Robbins Branch Trail, located in the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness area, is 3.0 miles in length.



Thornburg Trail

Thornburg Trail is 1.8 miles in length.

Badin Lake Recreation Area



Badin Lake Recreation Area

✓ Site Open

Badin Lake Recreation area offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

Arrowhead Campground

✓ Site Open



Arrowhead Campground has 48 sites for Tent/RV camping.



Art Lilley Campground

The Art Lilley Campground serves as an access trailhead to the Lakeview and Falls Dam OHV trails.



Badin Horse Camp

✓ Site Open

This is a primitive camping area where people camp in self contained RV/Horse Trailers. It is located in an open field with tie outs for the horses.



Badin Lake Campground

✓ Site Open

Bordering the lakeshore and under the shade of pines and hardwoods, Badin Lake Campground offers a year-round retreat for swimmers, boaters, and anglers.



Badin Lake Group Camp

✓ Site Open

Badin Group Camp was developed for use by clubs, families and other groups up to 50 people. The camp includes three separate areas to accommodate large groups.



Badin Lake Hiking Trail

The Badin Lake Hiking Trail is a loop trail that follows the shore of Badin Lake for half its distance, then loops back through hardwood forest to Cove Boat Ramp.



Badin Lake OHV Trail Complex

The Uwharrie National Forest provides the only public off-highway vehicle (OHV) or motorized trail system in the Piedmont Region of North Carolina.



Bates Trail

Bates Trail is 1.7 miles in length. It is blazed with yellow. It is rated as moderate.



Berner Trail

Berner trail is 0.6 miles long. It is blazed with red blazes. It is rated as an easy trail.

Big Rock Loop Trail

Big Rock Loop is 1.0 miles in length. It is blazed with Yellow blazes. It is rated as a moderate trail. You can also use this trail to get to the Nifty Rocks site.



Blackburn Trail

Blackburn trail is 2.2 miles in length. It is blazed with Green blazes. It is rated as easy.



Burl Tree Way Trail

Burl Tree Way is 1.5 miles in length. It is blazed with red blazes. It is rated as easy.



Buttermilk Trail

Buttermilk trail is 2 miles in length. It is blazed with blue blazes. It is rated as moderate.



Canebrake Horse Camp



Site Open

Canebrake Horse Camp has 28 sites.

Cove Boat Launch



Site Open



Cove Boat Ramp offers access to Badin Lake for both motorized and non-motorized craft.



Flintlock Valley Shooting Range

 **Site Open**

This shooting range provides 25-yard pistol and 100-yard rifle ranges. This range is managed in partnership with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and has Range Saf



Fraley Trail

Fraley Trail is 2.1 miles in length. It is rated as difficult. It is blazed with green blazes.



Greg's Loop Trail

Greg's Loop is 1.4 miles in length. It is rated as easy. It is blazed with blue blazes.



Helen's Loop Trail

Helen's Loop Trail is 2.2 miles in length. It is rated as easy. It is blazed red blazes.

Holt's Picnic Area



✓ Site Open

This is an excellent day-use site in an attractive setting along the shore of Badin Lake in the Badin Lake Recreation Area.



Home Trail

Home Trail is 2.1 miles in length. It is rated as easy. It is blazed with blue blazes.



Indian Trail

Indian Trail is 1.1 miles in length. It is blazed with green blazes. It is rated Easy.



Josh Trail

Josh Trail is 1.8 miles in length. It is blazed with yellow blazes and is rated easy. This trail is a part of the Badin Lake Recreation complex.



Kings Mountain Point Day Use Area

✓ Site Open

Kings Mountain Point Day Use Area is a perfect place for group outings.



Lake Trail

Lake Trail is 1.3 miles in length. It is blazed with blue blazes. It is rated easy.



Larry Trail

Larry Trail is 1.4 miles in length. It is blazed with Green blazes. It is rated as easy.



Leslie Trail

Leslie Trail is 1.2 miles in length. It is blazed with red blazes. It is rated as moderate.



Megan Trail

Megan Trail is 1.9 miles in length. It is blazed with red blazes. It is rated as easy.



Morgan Trail

Morgan Trail is 1.7 miles in length. It is blazed with green blazes. It is rated as easy.



Canebrake Overflow Horse Camp

 **Site Open**

Overflow Horse Camp is an open field with primitive camping available.



River Trail

River Trail is 3.6 miles in length. It is blazed with yellow blazes. It is rated as Moderate.



Robbins Trail

Robbins Trail is 1.9 miles in length. It is blazed with red blazes. It is rated as Easy.



Rudolph Trail

Rudolph Trail is 0.3 miles in length. It is blazed with yellow blazes. It is rated as Easy.



Tanager Trail

Tanager Trail is 0.7 miles in length. It is blazed with blue blazes. It is rated as Easy.



Todd Trail

Todd Trail is 2 miles in length. It is blazed with yellow blazes. It is rated as Moderate.



Tony Trail

Tony Trail is 1.7 miles in length. It is blazed with blue blazes. It is rated as Moderate.



Uwharrie Hunt Camp



Site Open

Uwharrie Hunt Camp has eight sites for tent camping.



Wren Trail

Wren Trail is 0.3 miles. It is blazed with green blazes. It is rated as Easy.

Uwharrie National Recreation Trail Area



Denson's Creek Trail Inner Loop

Denson's Creek Trail Inner Loop is rated easy to moderate, and is 1 mile long.



Denson's Creek Trail Outer Loop

Denson's Creek Trail Outer Loop is rated easy to moderate, and is 2.2 miles long.



Dutchman's Creek Trail

Dutchman's Creek Trail is 11.5 miles long and rated easy to moderate.



Uwharrie National Recreation Trail

The Uwharrie National Recreation Trail is 29 miles and is rated as easy to moderate. The trail offers a variety of scenery, streams and rocky terrain.



West Morris Mountain Campground

 **Site Open**

There are 14 individual campsites and 2 group campsites available at this location. These sites are suitable for either tents or RV's.

Wood Run Mountain Bike Trails



As of spring 1998, there are three main routes open to mountain bikes in the Wood Run Area of the Uwharrie National Forest.

1. Wood Run Road:

Yates Place

 **Site Open**

Yates Place Camp was an old home site, but now serves as an attractive destination for tent camping.

Recreation Sites

Search

Site Status

- Any -

Potable Water

- Any -

More Filters

Apply Filters

Showing: 1 - 10 of 50 results

Arrowhead Campground



Site Open



Arrowhead Campground has 48 sites for Tent/RV camping. Sites #46-#49 are tent only. A 0.75-mile paved bicycle/walking path loops around the campground. Check out the brochure.

Art Lilley Campground

OHV

The Art Lilley Campground serves as an access trailhead to the Lakeview and Falls Dam OHV trails. Dispersed camping is allowed around this area. RV's and campers are allowed in the area, however...

Badin Horse Camp



Site Open



This is a primitive camping area where people camp in self contained RV/Horse Trailers. It is located in an open field with tie outs for the horses. Campers must take their trash with them or take it...

Badin Lake Campground



Site Open



Bordering the lakeshore and under the shade of pines and hardwoods, Badin Lake Campground offers a year-round retreat for swimmers, boaters, and anglers. The campground has 35 non-electric sites...

Badin Lake Group Camp



Site Open



Badin Group Camp was developed for use by clubs, families and other groups up to 50 people. The camp includes three separate areas to accommodate large groups. Each site is limited to a group of no...

Badin Lake Hiking Trail



The Badin Lake Hiking Trail is a loop trail that follows the shore of Badin Lake for half its distance, then loops back through hardwood forest to Cove Boat Ramp. The trail is a 5.6 miles loop rated...

Badin Lake OHV Trail Complex



The Uwharrie National Forest provides the only public off-highway vehicle (OHV) or motorized trail system in the Piedmont Region of North Carolina. The motorized trails are located in the Badin Lake...

Badin Lake Recreation Area



Site Open



Badin Lake Recreation area offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities. From trails to campsites, boat launch to shooting range, find your niche all located within a convenient radius of one...

Bates Trail



Bates Trail is 1.7 miles in length. It is blazed with yellow. It is rated as moderate.

Berner Trail



Berner trail is 0.6 miles long. It is blazed with red blazes. It is rated as an easy trail.

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Last updated May 13, 2026