

Geological Trail

This half-hour, self-guided nature trail takes its name from the interesting rock formations and faults along its path. This trail allows hikers to go beneath what was once a waterline for a vast inland sea. Striations visible in the rock and other evidence offer many clues to the geological history of the area. The trail varies from smooth to rocky, and it changes grade frequently. But not to worry about working up a sweat on hot days – our veteran hikers report that the cool air along the rock face is quite refreshing. This trail can be combined with the Ridge Trail for a loop back to the Stateline Overlook.

- **Trail:** .35 mile, self-guided.
- **Degree of difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Blaze:** White.

Lake Trail

This easy walking trail, popular with wildlife watchers, takes hikers along the undeveloped side of Laurel Lake. This trail joins the Laurel Branch Trail and also connects with the pool and dock areas. Entry points are at Potter's Knoll, the Visitor Center, and the dam.

- **Trail:** .5 mile.
- **Degree of difficulty:** Easy.
- **Blaze:** Orange.

Laurel Branch Trail

Named for the stream it follows for the entire length, this trail extends from the lower end of Laurel Lake to Grassy Creek. From the lake to a rock formation called the Notches, the terrain is flat and easy. The last .5 mile through a mixed forest of hemlock and hardwoods, the climb becomes steep, rocky, and uneven. But nature provides the reward, particularly in June and July when the rhododendron thickets come alive with show-stopping pink blooms.

- **Trail:** 1.25 miles.
- **Degree of difficulty:** Easy at first, becoming difficult the last .5 mile.
- **Blaze:** Red.

Overlook Trail

Frequent grade changes characterize this scenic path that leads along the edge of cliffs to provide an almost continuous view of the canyon. The hike is spectacular in spring and fall. Care must be taken—some of the areas along the rock face are open.

- **Trail:** .75 mile.
- **Degree of difficulty:** Difficult.
- **Blaze:** Green.

Prospectors Trail

This trail lines the base of the cliffs about 350 feet beneath the major overlooks, following the contours of the land until it becomes rocky the last .5 mile. It offers a different perspective on the rock cliffs, overlooks above, and canyon below.

- **Trail:** 1.5 miles.
- **Degree of difficulty:** Moderate.
- **Blaze:** Orange.

Ridge Trail

Bird watchers favor this self-guided nature hike across the top of a ridge covered with hardwoods and mountain laurel. After an easy, level beginning, the trail becomes steep near the Notches.

- **Trail:** .5 mile, self-guided.
- **Degree of difficulty:** Easy at first, then difficult.
- **Blaze:** Blue.

River Trail

Hikers are advised to wear sturdy shoes, take water, and travel with a companion on this rigorous hike. It's an extremely steep and rugged trail with many switchbacks, descending to a gentler grade along the river. Again, nature provides the reward with outstanding views.

- **Trail:** 1 mile.
- **Degree of difficulty:** Difficult.
- **Blaze:** Blue.