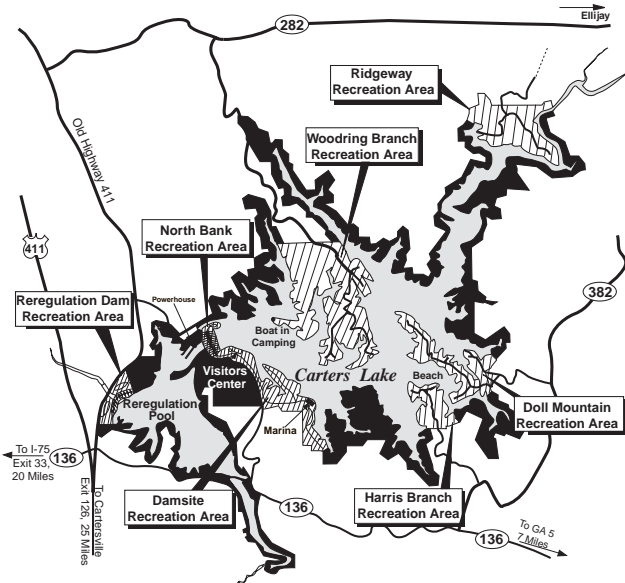


Carters Lake Hiking Trails

This list is made in the order of increasing trail length. Trails are marked with blue blazes and arrows as needed.

Location Map



Big Acorn Trail

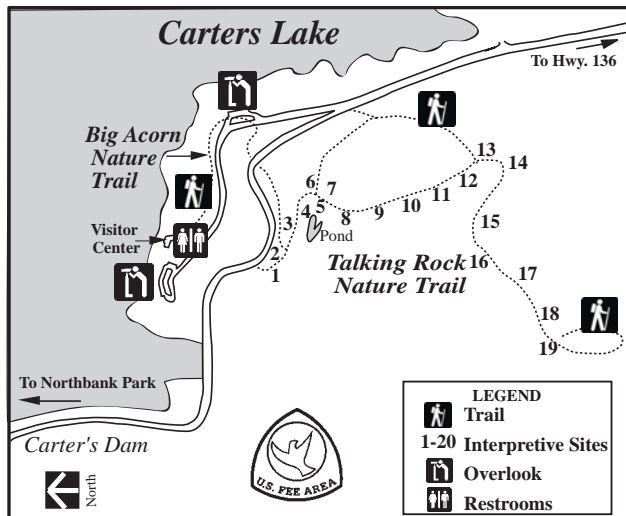
(difficulty rating: easy)

This trail, the shortest one that Carters Lake offers, is 2/3 mile in length, round trip. It begins at the Carters Lake Visitor Center and winds gently uphill from a cove of the lake and ends at a lake-view overlook. The trail itself meanders along the hillside and offers an easy hike around a hardwood ridge. Carters Lake can be seen from all points along the trail with a wide expanse of lake viewed clearly from the trail's ending overlook. It takes about thirty minutes to enjoy this trail, and its informative postings. As noted on the map, the Big Acorn Trail is connected to the Talking Rock Natural Trail.

Talking Rock Nature Trail

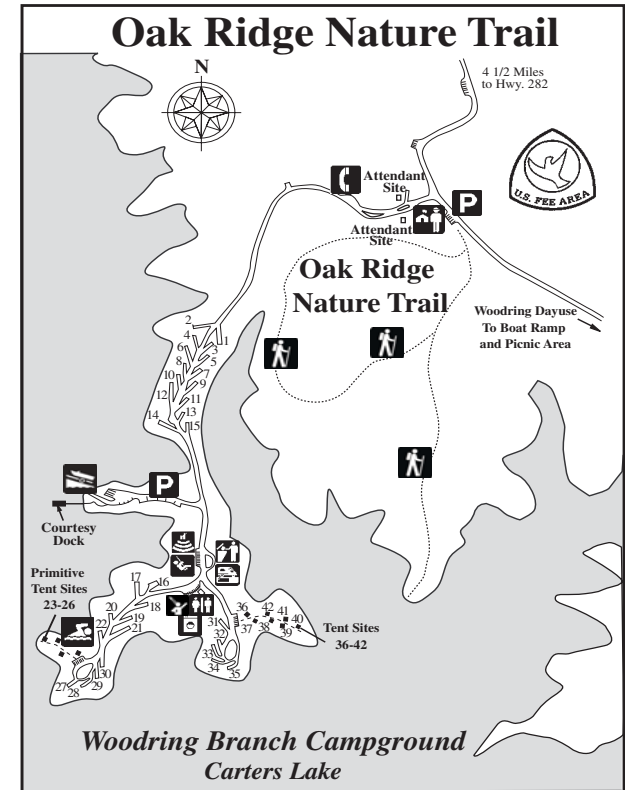
(difficulty rating: moderate)

This trail is both the longest and most strenuous hiking trail that Carters Lake offers. It is located just beyond the entrance of Northbank Park. The trail involves 20 sites of interest, including interpretive signs. It is two miles, round trip, and the hike can be completed in about two hours. This trail boasts a variety of settings including a small pond, both hardwood and pine ridges, a wet-weather streambed spotted with ferns, and a view of the Carters Lake Reregulation Lake and Dam.



Oak Ridge Nature Trail

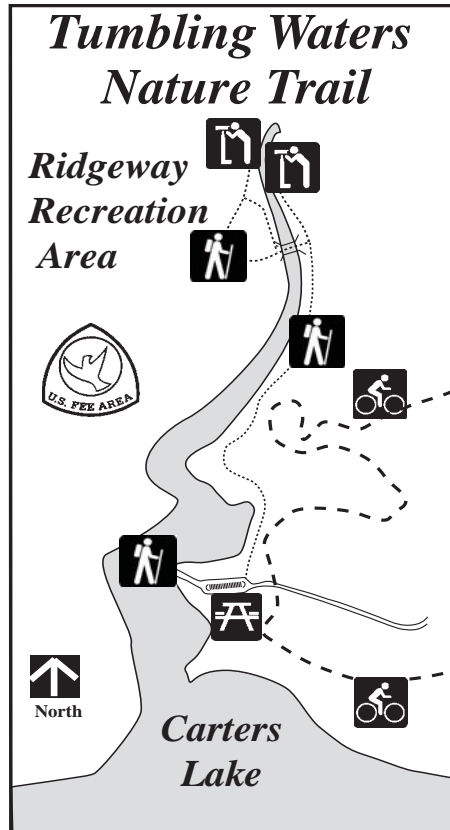
(difficulty rating: moderate)



This nature trail is located in Woodring Branch Park and begins near the campground gatehouse. This trail splits at .2 miles into either a loop (right) or a one-way trail (left), each one measuring about 1/2 of a mile. The one-way trail and the first portion of the loop involve a ridge-top walk through a mix of hardwoods and pines. The second half of the loop borders along a cove of Carters Lake and then along a small streambed back to the trail's origin. This trail has a variety of plant life and scenic views.

Tumbling Waters Nature Trail

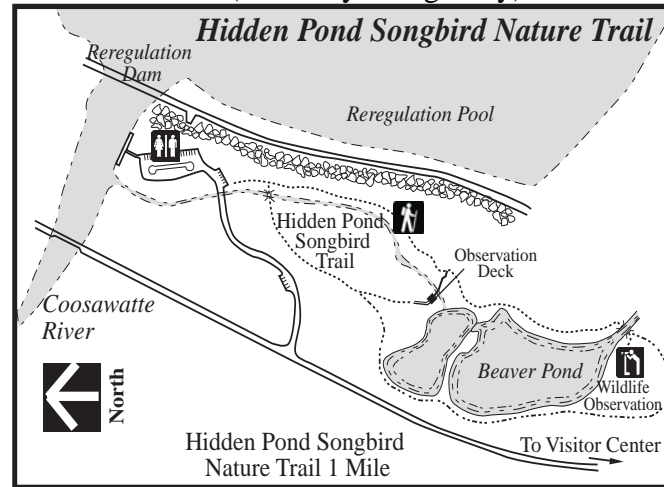
(difficulty rating: easy to moderate)



Located in Ridgeway Park, this trail offers a hike featuring lush mountain vegetation and an overlook of the cascading waters of Tails Creek. The total walking distance of this National Scenic Trail is slightly over one mile, taking about an hour and a half to hike. The trail is one-way and splits into two directions about 2/5 of a mile into the hike. The left fork leads to the 150-foot long bridge that crosses 30 feet over Tails Creek and ends at the cascade's peak. The right fork leads to an overlook featuring a view of the gentle cascade.

Hidden Pond Songbird Trail

(difficulty rating: easy)



This trail begins at the Carters Lake South Reregulation Park. The trail is roughly one mile total walking distance and takes about an hour to hike, round trip. The trail is a mile loop with one-way extension. Along this trail there are three bridges (20, 28, and 210 feet in length). A few wildlife-viewing blinds that look over a beaver pond are positioned along the trail. Scenery varies from grassy meadow and hardwood forest to the bridge crossing the stream and beaver pond. Watch for wildflowers and waterfowl along this trail. A Carters Lake birding guide is available at the Visitor Center.

For more information on recreational opportunities at Carters Lake check out our web site at:

<http://carters.sam.usace.army.mil/>

or:

<http://corpplakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/>

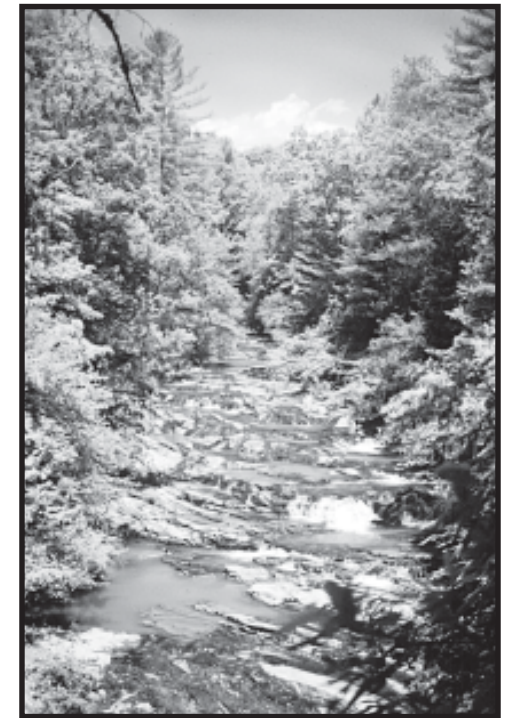
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Carters Lake

Hiking Trails



US Army Corps
of Engineers
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