

State Educational Forest – Holmes Educational State Forest

Driving Directions

For those using a GPS the address for Holmes Educational State Forest is 1299 Crab Creek Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28739

From Hendersonville take Kanuga Rd. (Kanuga Rd. changes to Crab Creek Rd. after the light at Little River Road) approximately 10 miles and the forest will be on the left.

Or Highway 64 East to Brevard Rd. Turn left on Crab Creek approximately 6 miles and the forest will be on the right.

Hiking Information

The Talking Tree Trail and the Crab Creek Trail both leave from the picnic area/parking lot and both are approximately 1.5 miles long.

Information

Holmes Educational State Forest is a 235 acre state forest which provides a living outdoor classroom. The forest's primary purpose is education and promotion of forest resources. The North Carolina Forest Service operates a system of seven Educational State Forests. Each forest features self-guided trails that include exhibits, tree identification signs, a forest education center and a talking tree trail. In addition, HESF offers a network of well-marked hiking trails, a picnic area with a shelter and a campground for youth groups.

The state originally purchased the forest in 1938 to establish a tree nursery which was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The state received a federal grant in 1972 to convert the nursery into an educational state forest. The forest was opened in May 1977. Since then the forest has grown into a diverse woodscape that includes many other plant species from herbs on the forest floor to towering forest trees.

The Crab Creek Trail is a recently constructed trail which includes firefighting exhibits. You can see firsthand a firefighting helicopter, a tractor/plow and a fire tower. Come experience the exhibits at Holmes Educational State Forest and leave with a better understanding of the ecology of a managed forest.