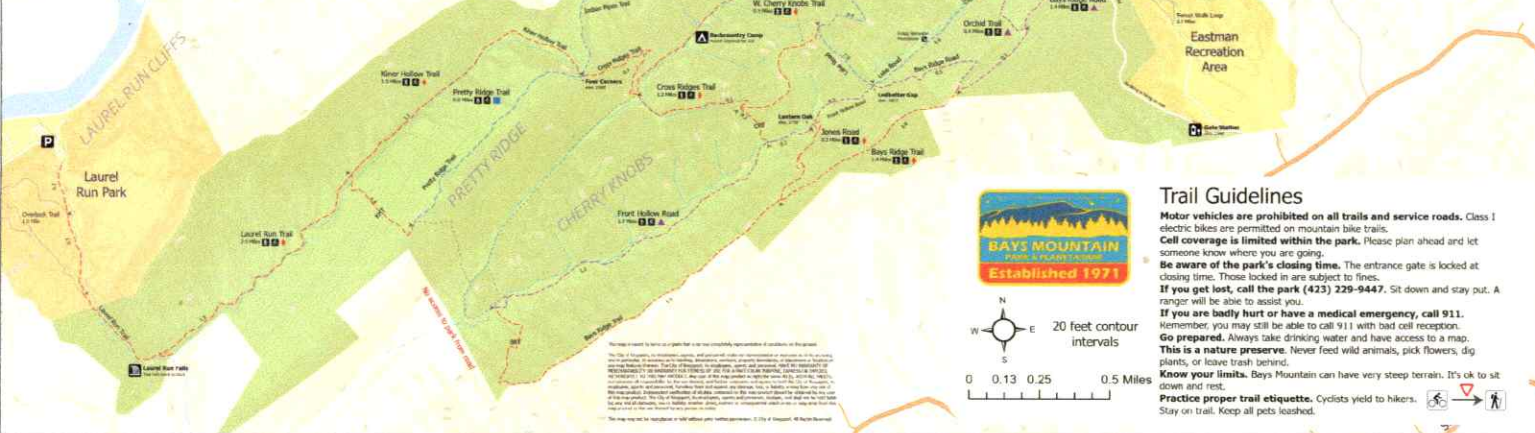


Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium



Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium
853 Bays Mountain Park Rd.
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 229-9447
Map created: March 1, 2024



Trail Legend	
▲ 0.2	Azalea Trail 1.4 miles
▲ 0.2	Back Hollow Road 0.9 mile
○ 0.2	Barred Owl Trail 250 feet
▲ 0.2	Bays Mountain Road 2.0 miles
▲ 0.2	Bays Ridge Road 1.4 miles
▲ 0.2	Bays Ridge Trail 2.4 miles
▲ 0.2	Bear Run Trail 0.5 mile
▲ 0.2	Big Oak Trail 1.0 mile
▲ 0.2	Chestnut Trail 1.6 miles
▲ 0.2	Chinquapin Trail 1.9 miles
▲ 0.2	Cliffside Trail 0.5 mile
▲ 0.2	Cross Ridges Trail 1.2 miles
▲ 0.2	Dolan Branch Trail 0.7 mile
▲ 0.2	East Cherry Knobs 0.8 mile
▲ 0.2	Fire Tower Trail 0.8 mile
○ 0.2	Food Plot Trail 0.2 mile
▲ 0.2	Front Hollow Road 1.7 miles
○ 0.2	Hemlock Trail 0.1 mile
○ 0.2	Holly Loop 0.4 mile
▲ 0.2	Indian Pipes Trail 2.0 miles
▲ 0.2	Jones Road 0.9 mile
▲ 0.2	Kiner Hollow Trail 1.5 miles
▲ 0.2	Lake Road 4.3 miles
▲ 0.2	Lakeview Trail 2.5 miles
▲ 0.2	Laurel Run Trail 2.0 miles
▲ 0.2	Moonshiners' Delight 4.1 miles
▲ 0.2	Orchid Trail 0.4 mile
○ 0.2	Pine Trail 0.1 mile
▲ 0.2	Pretty Ridge Trail 0.9 mile
▲ 0.2	River Mtn Road 3.2 miles
▲ 0.2	Sweetgum Trail 150 feet
○ 0.2	Towhhee Trail 0.1 mile
▲ 0.2	West Cherry Knobs 0.5 mile

Symbol Legend	
🚶	Hiking trail
🚲	Biking trail
🅇	Parking lot
📶	Park info.
🏠	AED
🏠	First Aid
🚻	Bathroom
🗺️	Maps
👤	Ranger Station
🐍	Snake Exhibit
🛍️	Gift Shop
🗑️	Trash Location
📶	Wi-Fi Available
👶	Baby Changing
🏛️	Museum
📍	Point of Interest
🏠	Overlook
🌊	Waterfall
🚪	Gate Station
📡	Observing Tower
⛺	Campsite

○ Easy ■ Moderate ▲ Advanced ✦ Expert
Trail line color corresponds with difficulty.

Trail Guidelines

Motor vehicles are prohibited on all trails and service roads. Class 1 electric bikes are permitted on mountain bike trails.

Cell coverage is limited within the park. Please plan ahead and let someone know where you are going.

Be aware of the park's closing time. The entrance gate is locked at closing time. Those locked in are subject to fines.

If you get lost, call the park (423) 229-9447. Sit down and stay out. A ranger will be able to assist you.

If you are badly hurt or have a medical emergency, call 911. Remember, you may still be able to call 911 with bad cell reception.

Go prepared. Always take drinking water and have access to a map. **This is a nature preserve.** Never feed wild animals, pick flowers, dig plants, or leave trash behind.

Know your limits. Bays Mountain can have very steep terrain. It's ok to sit down and rest.

Practice proper trail etiquette. Cyclists yield to hikers. Stay on trail. Keep all pets leashed.

Park Hours

Summer Hours March - October
Mon-Sat 8:30am-8:00pm
Sunday 11:00am-8:00pm

Winter Hours Nov-Feb
Mon-Sat 8:30am-5:00pm
Sunday 11:00am-5:00pm

Closed:
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve & Day

Gate locked at closing time.
Hours subject to change without notice.

About the Park



Dolan Branch Falls
Photo by: Robert Dale Collier

Bays Mountain Park is a 3,750 acre nature preserve and state natural area. It is the largest municipal park in the state. Bays Mountain was historically used by Native Americans as a hunting ground. The first Europeans settled in the area in the late 1700s. Family farms dominated the landscape until construction of the reservoir in 1916, which served as Kingsport's drinking water supply until 1944. For over 100 years, families visited Bays Mountain for outdoor recreation and a connection to nature. In 1965 Kingsport began exploring options for permanently protecting this public use by creating a city park. This effort culminated in the opening of the Nature Center and the dedication of the park in 1971. Since that time, the park has continued to grow in size and resources. With a planetarium, nature center, native animal exhibits and a barge on the reservoir, the park focuses much of its resources on science education. An extensive hiking and biking trail system lends itself to outdoor recreation for all levels. The park's ecosystem is home to myriad plants and animals, big and small.

Park Rules

Bays Mountain Park is a nature preserve and state natural area. The collection of any items, living or dead, is expressly prohibited by law.

ANIMAL HABITATS - All of our animals are fed a nutritious diet. Do not feed any animal. Pets and bicycles are prohibited in the animal habitat areas.

PICNIC AREAS - Picnic areas are located in the parking areas. No fires or grills allowed. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.

FISHING - Fishing is available to visitors under the age of 16 and over the age of 55. Fishing is allowed Monday & Saturday from 8:30am - Noon. In June, July, and August, fishing days are extended to Monday thru Saturday. All fishing must take place from the dam. No live bait other than night crawlers. All Tenn. fishing regulations apply.

MOUNTAIN BIKING - Ride at your own risk. Mountain bikes must stay on biking trails. E-bikes prohibited except for pedal assist (class 1) bicycles. Helmets required of all bikers. Bikes are prohibited in the animal habitats and the entrance road.

MOTOR VEHICLES - Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all trails and service roads. Vehicles are required to follow all posted speed limits and should always yield to pedestrians.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Bays Mountain is a nature preserve best suited to passive recreation. As such, recreational activities such as horseback riding, roller skating, skateboarding, electric motored vehicles (hoverboards, etc.), metal detecting, swimming, and boating are all prohibited. All visitors should stay on trail.

WILDLIFE - Visitors will likely encounter wildlife during their visit. It is a violation of law to harass wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.

PETS - Pets, such as dogs and cats, can be a nuisance to wildlife, carry diseases, and harm or scare other visitors. As such, visitors with pets are required to maintain control of their pet on a 6-foot visible leash at all times. Pets may not be in the animal habitat areas or the Herpetarium. Pets may not swim in the lake or any pond.

Park Programs

Park program offerings and times vary throughout the year. Please visit our website for a complete listing of available programs.

BARGE RIDES - Observe water lilies, deer, raccoons, ducks, geese, turtles, great blue herons, beaver lodges, and sometimes beavers and black bear. Your captain will discuss park history as well as the sights and sounds encountered on your trip creating a unique experience.

PLANETARIUM PROGRAMS - Visit our state-of-the-art planetarium theater. It is the only one of its kind in the Western Hemisphere! Programs cover a wide range of astronomical topics. Programs change regularly and many are produced by our in-house staff.

ANIMAL PROGRAMS - Learn about native wildlife at our live animal exhibits. At our Keeper Talks, our animal care staff will explain how we care for our animals and answer any questions you may have about our animals or their exhibits. At some programs, you may even get to meet some of our animals up close!

ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS - Our staff astronomers and astronomy club host a variety of astronomy themed programs throughout the year. SunWatch is held on most sunny Sundays and Saturdays and allows visitors to safely view the Sun. StarWatch is held many Saturday nights in the spring and fall and gives visitors the opportunity to experience the night sky. StarFest is a regional gathering of amateur astronomers held every fall. Astronomy programs are weather dependent. Alternate indoor programs may be offered in poor weather. Check the park's calendar for details.

NATURE PROGRAMS - Giving our visitors the opportunity to connect with nature is central to our mission. For visitors who may be new to the outdoors or just want to learn more about nature, we offer guided ranger programs. These programs are often seasonal and cover topics like backpacking, wildflowers, outdoor safety, off trail adventures, and more.

This set of rules is not exhaustive. For a complete set of rules and regulations, please see a park ranger.

In case of emergency, please call 911
For information or if you are lost, please call (423) 229-9447

Memberships and tickets can be purchased at the Gift Shop
To view scheduled programs, visit our website www.BaysMountain.com