

### **Appalachian Trail Access Points in Craig County**

Craig County offers several points of access to the famous Appalachian Trail. At any of these points you may choose to hike either north or south on the trail. Different sections provide different levels of difficulty and varying mileage. Some have shelters for camping and some have spur trails that can lead to beautiful overlooks and/or points of interest such as: Dragons Tooth, Kelly Knob, the Keffer Oak, and The Audie Murphy Monument.

#### **Miller Cove/Trout Creek area**

From New Castle take Rt. 311 approximately 6 miles south to Rt. 621 (Upper Craigs Creek Rd.). Turn right on Rt. 621 and go 2.8 miles to Rt. 620 (Miller Cove Road). Turn left on Rt. 620 and go 1.1 miles to trailhead parking on the right. (Note: on Rt. 620, you must ford a small creek or cross a private bridge at your own risk).

#### **Lee Hollow/Brush Mountain area**

From New Castle take Rt. 311 approximately 6 miles south to Rt.621 (Upper Craigs Creek Rd.). Turn right on Rt.621 and go 6.2 miles to the trail crossing / parking on the right.

#### **Route 42/Level Green/Sinking Creek area**

From New Castle take Rt.42 (Cumberland Gap Rd.) for approximately 21 miles to the trail crossing/limited parking on the left. Additional parking can be found by turning left onto Rt.629 (Lugar Hill Rd.), just prior to the crossing on Rt.42. Go a short distance on Rt. 629 then take a right on Rt. 630 (Northside Dr.), after crossing a small bridge, parking is on the left.

#### **Johns Creek Mountain/Rocky Gap area**

From New Castle take Rt. 311 approximately 6 miles north to Rt. 658 (Johns Creek Rd.) on the left. After a few miles stay to the left on Johns Creek Rd., which now becomes Rt. 632. Continue on Rt. 632 for approximately 15 miles to Rt. 601 (Rocky Gap Trail) on the left at the “town” of Captain. Follow Rt. 601 to the top where the AT crosses. Limited parking.

**NOTE: A great resource for detailed information and maps can be found on the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s website at [appalachiantrail.org](http://appalachiantrail.org)**

#### **Fenwick Mines Trails (Craig County)**

Two short hiking trails are available at Fenwick Mines Day Use Area on the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests. The site was formerly a prosperous mining town and played an important role in early Craig County history. Facilities include picnic tables and shelter, restrooms, game fields, horse loading ramp, and fishing pond. Activities include hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing, wildlife viewing, and photography.

**Fenwick Wetlands Trail** is an easy one-mile hike through a hardwood forest, an Appalachian swamp and a marsh. Hikers may see deer, grouse, turkeys, wood ducks, mallards, beavers, warblers, newts, salamanders, fish, insects and a variety of shrubs and trees as they hike the trail.

**Fenwick Nature Trail**, also one mile long, descends gradually along the old railroad bed, shaded by oak, cherry, birch and hemlock trees, before returning along Mill Creek. An overlook along the way provides a nice view of a small waterfall. Wildflowers are abundant during Spring.

Both of the trails and the restrooms are wheelchair accessible. Open year-round.

From New Castle, VA, follow Rt. 615 (Craig Creek Rd.) for 5 miles. Turn left on Rt. 611 (Peaceful Valley Rd.). Continue ¼ mile and turn right onto Rt. 685 (Fenwick Mines Rd.). Follow signs to Fenwick Mines Recreation Area.

### **Ferrier Trail & Lick Branch Trails (Craig County)**

Ferrier Trail offers somewhat limited views of Craig Creek Valley and Potts Mountain. The trail includes intermediate grades. At about 3 miles out the trail intersects with Lick Branch Trail. Take Lick Branch to loop back to start of Ferrier (the last 1.5 miles being on the FS road) or continue up Ferrier about 2 more miles to intersect with North Mountain Trail. During rainy weather, both Ferrier and Lick Branch have numerous creek crossings.

In New Castle, from Rt. 311 turn right onto Main Street. Go 2 blocks and turn right onto Rt. 616 (Court Street). This then becomes Little Cuba Lane. Continue approximately 1 mile, turn right onto Rt. 690 (Maggie Maw Lane). At End of State Maintenance sign, take the right fork – the Ferrier Trail comes in on the left. Continue another 1.5 miles to the Lick Branch Trail trailhead and parking.

### **North Mountain Trail (Craig County)**

This trail follows craggy peaks and swales along the ridge of North Mountain for approximately 13 miles with some nice views of both Catawba and Craig Creek Valleys. The ridgeline is on the Craig/Roanoke County line at the southwestern end and on the Craig/Botetourt County line on the northeastern end. Three 1.5 mile trails (from Wildlife Road) climb the north face of the mountain to the ridge. By accessing one of these trails, various out and back or loop hikes can be done. Trails are somewhat rocky, steep and difficult, making them popular with avid hikers and mountain bikers.

From New Castle, follow Rt. 311 south approximately 7 miles, then turn left onto Forest Service Road #224 (Wildlife Road). Parking is currently available at both the Deer and Grouse trailheads.

### **Hanging Rock Trail (Craig County)**

Hanging Rock Trail is the only designated trail in the Shawvers Run Wilderness. Nestled in the northwest corner of Craig County, this wilderness area is a remote and wild landscape. The trail, however, is rated as an easy one-mile round trip from the parking area to the overlook and back. It's perfect for sunset viewing and offers beautiful views to the west of Peters Mountain and the valleys below. On a clear day you can see McAfee's Knob to the southeast.

From New Castle, follow Rt. 311 north to the top of Potts Mountain. Turn right onto Potts Mountain East and go about 3 miles to trailhead parking on the left.

**NOTE:** While sometimes closed to motor vehicle use, many Forest Service roads throughout Craig County welcome foot travel year round.