

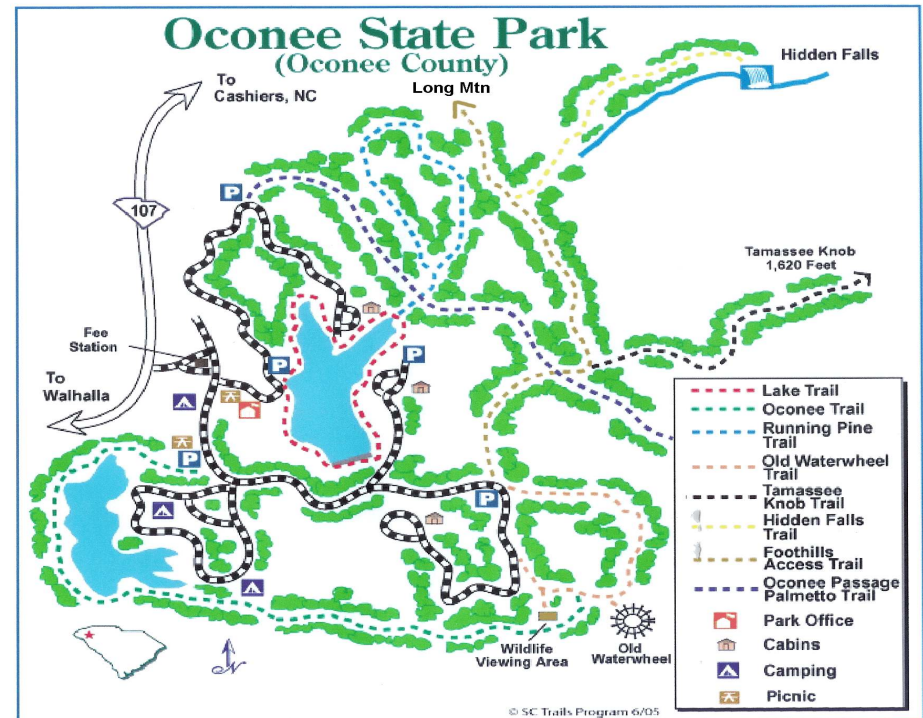
HIDDEN FALLS and LONG MOUNTAIN via OCONEE STATE PARK



DESCRIPTION: Long Mountain is accessed via a short spur off the Foothills Trail (FT) north of Oconee State Park. The destination is an old fire tower at the summit. The tower may be closed. If accessible vistas to the east and west are impressive. Near-by rises now support a nest of cell towers. The 2 mile, out and back hike begins at the FT start point in the Park. Even without tower access, the hike remains a pleasant, mostly easy, ramble through rolling woodlands with elevation gain of only a few hundred feet. Do keep alert for the easy to miss, sharp left, uphill spur to the tower about 1.5 miles outbound. On the return, about a mile back, watch for the junction and sign for Hidden Falls. Follow the yellow blazes for another moderate mile or so...jogging across, and a short way down...an intersecting dirt roadway. The 50ft high falls, surrounded by dark rock walls, is a nice show even when severe drought reduces the flow to misty trickle. Have lunch at the base. Climb back out, another few hundred ft of gain, returning to the FT junction and the easy path back to the FT access and parking. The total trek is about 6.5 miles.

DIRECTIONS: (GPS: 34.866756, -83.101322)

Meet, pool, and depart as usual from KKEPA at 830A and/or Walhalla at 9A. Oconee State Park is on the right about 11 miles NW on SC28/107. The Park fee is \$2 for youngsters; \$1.25 for kids over 65, and free for those with an SC parks pass. On entering the Park, bear right at the stop past the fee station, then straight at the next stop. Continue about a mile to the parking across from the FT entrance. It speeds entry to the Park if cars without passes have their cash combined and ready before the gate. There are facilities in the park, but not at the trail head, so Walhalla is the better choice. Expect to return around 230P.



UPDATED: Jul 2017