

WATTACOO WATTACOO LOOP and OIL CAMP TRAIL in ASHMORE HERITAGE PRESERVE

Ashmore Heritage is a 1,125 acre Preserve located in Greenville County. There are several options for hiking in this area. We usually hike the 2 mile lake loop plus another 3 out and back along the West Fork of Wattacoo Creek, via Oil Camp Trail, for an easy/moderate 5 mile total. To add distance continue on Oil Camp...nice, but with more climbing and little scenic reward.



DESCRIPTION: The trail starts on a coarsely graveled road through open forest, past a bat hive, past Oil Camp Trail (orange blazes on left), and cross the West fork of Wattacoo Creek. Continue uphill. Note a major branch to the right, but bear left and make a steady descent to Lake Wattacoo. Follow the edge and cross the dam. Enjoy reflections of Green Mtn and view a distant, inaccessible waterfall. Just beyond the dam take the small path to the left. Continue southeast, cross the creek again and head back toward the trailhead. Intersect and repeat the first part of the hike. This time go left on Oil Camp and climb 7-800 ft, along the creek past a trilside waterfall. Cross several headwater bridges. Note a rock shelf west of a rustic bridge. Continue to the gated Persimmon Rd. Enjoy lunch at the shelf on the return..

DIRECTIONS: (GPS: 35.0818,-82.5840) Meet at Holly Springs (SC11/US178) in time for a 915A departure.. This requires leaving KKEPA by 840A OR Walhalla by 830. From Holly, follow US11 (& 276) 14 mi to Persimmon Ridge Rd, on the left, just past Wildcat Falls, Park 0.8 mile up Persimmon; trailhead and sign about 100 yds beyond. No fees or facilities. Expect to return by 230PM.

UPDATED Jun 2017

