

Sumter National Forest

South Carolina



Parson's Mountain Lake Recreation Area

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 4/11/2006

Highlights

Parson's Mountain Recreation Area, just south of Abbeville, is home to an artificial 28-acre lake and an 800-foot summit. Although neither terribly high nor dramatic, it offers compelling views of the surrounding countryside. Geologists call this type of hill a "monadnock," a technical term for a mound of hard rock left when all the surrounding land erodes away. The woods surrounding this area overflow with flowering flora such as sparkelberry, redbud, wild ginger, and dogwood.

Attractions

This 23-site, heavily wooded campground offers the relaxing solitude of nature, with easy access for other activities.

There are designated swimming and picnic areas, and a bath house. This day-use area was designed with an earthen pier, a pedestrian bridge, and a boat ramp for non-motorized boats.

Three marked trails incorporate the upstate's rich history and diverse wildlife habitat: the Parson's Mountain Interpretive trail, the Parson's Mountain Tower trail, and the Parson's Lake trail. Surrounding Area

Nearby points of interest include historic Abbeville, Burt-Stark mansion and well-renowned Opera House. Fell and Midway Camps, Candy Branch Rifle Range, Cedar Springs and Parson's Mountain OHV Trails, and Long Cane Scenic Area are nearby.

For More Information

Long Cane Ranger District

810 Buncombe Street

Edgefield, SC 29824

Phone: (803) 637-5396, Fax: (803) 637-5247

Hours: Monday--Friday, 8 a.m.--4:30 p.m.

Directions: From Abbeville, take SC route 28 south 2.1 miles. Turn left on Route S 1-251, drive 1.5 miles to entrance on right.

Difficulty Level:

- Parson's Mountain Interpretive Trail is easy.
- Parson's Mountain Tower Hiking Trail is moderately difficult with a 400 ft. elevation change.
- Parson's Lake Trail is moderate

Facilities:

- Handicap accessible day area
- Picnic area has tables, grills, and group shelter (group shelter may be reserved)
- Bath house with flush toilets and showers
- Camping sites with fire ring, table, and lantern post.
- Pit toilets and water pumps are located throughout the campground.

Fees: \$7/day, camping, \$3/day, day-use. Self-service fee station for day and camping use. Shelter reservations must be made and fees paid at the district office.

Requirements: SC fishing and boating regulations apply.

Season:

- Campground and picnic area: April 1--mid-December
- Swimming Area: April 1-November 15

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Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests

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