

Union County Trails

Appalachian Trail (A.T.) (1) (Union Co. access at Gooch Gap FS 42, Woody Gap GA 60, Neel's Gap US 129, Tesnatee and Hog Pen Gaps on the Richard Russell Scenic Highway – GA 348) Moderate to strenuous. The white-blazed 2,181 mile AT passes through Union County. In 2010 Union County was named an official Appalachian Trail Community™.

Duncan Ridge Trail (4) (Union Co. access at Wolf Pen Gap GA 180) Total length 31 miles, beginning near Three Forks and ending at the A.T. south of Blood Mountain. Moderate to strenuous, with little access to water. Connects to (or shares trail with) Benton MacKaye Trail and Coosa Backcountry Trail

Brasstown Bald Area:

- **Brasstown Bald Trail (23)** (Town County) Short (0.6) mile moderate trail leads from Brasstown Bald parking area (off GA 180) to excellent views at the summit of Georgia's highest mountain, Brasstown Bald (4,784 ft).
- **Arkaquah Trail (29)** (Union and Towns Counties) 5.5 mile moderate to strenuous hike with steep ascent or descent. Begins at the Brasstown Bald Visitor's Center parking area, and ends at the Trackrock Gap Archeological Site on Trackrock Road.
- **Jack's Knob Trail (45)** (Town County) Blue-blazed 4.5 mile moderate hike begins at the Brasstown Bald Visitors Center parking lot, descends 1500 feet, crosses GA 180 at Jack's Gap, then ascends to join the Appalachian Trail at Chattahoochee Gap.
- **Wagon Train Trail (44)** (Town County) 7 mile trail Moderate uphill or easy downhill. Begins at the Brasstown Bald Visitors Center and ends on the campus of Young Harris College.

Helton Creek Falls Trail (145) Very short (0.2 mile) easy trail to 2 waterfalls. Access off US 129, 2 miles south of Vogel State Park, on Helton Creek Road.

Freeman Trail(1-A) Moderate 1.8 mile blue-blazed trail winds around the south slope of Blood Mountain, connecting with the Appalachian Trail at Bird Gap and Flatrock Gap. Access via the A.T. from Neel's Gap or the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial access trail and parking area, or from Lake Winfield Scott via the Jarrard Gap Trail and Slaughter Creek Trail.

Lake Winfield Scott Area (Access from GA 180):

- **Slaughter Creek Trail (141)** Moderate 2.7 mile blue-blazed trail leads from Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area to intersect with Appalachian Trail south of Blood Mountain.
- **Jarrard Gap Trail (142)** 1 mile moderate blue-blazed trail leads from Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area to intersect with the Appalachian Trail at Jarrard Gap. A 5.5 mile loop hike can be made by using the Jarrard Gap, the A.T., and Slaughter Creek trails.
- **Lake Winfield Scott Trail (143)** Short (0.4 mile) easy trail leads around the lake

Sosebee Cove Trail(21) Short (0.5 mile) easy loop trail featuring large second-growth trees and spectacular spring wildflowers. Access from GA 180.

Logan Turnpike Trail (131) This steep and rugged 2.6 mile trail starts in Union County at Tesnatee Gap. It is actually an abandoned toll road from the horse and buggy era. This trail is of interest because of its historic significance.

Byron Herbert Reece Trail (112) 0.7 mile moderate blue-blazed trail leading up to the Appalachian Trail at Flatrock Gap. An additional 1.4 miles on the A.T. leads to the summit of Blood Mountain, the highest point of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. Access is at the parking area ½ mile north of Neel's Gap on US 129).

Cooper Creek Recreation Area Numerous trails thread throughout the Cooper Creek Recreation Area which is popular for camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. Water is plentiful here, but facilities are limited and primitive. Access from Mulkey Gap road in Union County.

Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) (2) A wilderness trail that begins at Springer Mountain in Georgia with the A.T. and ends at Davenport Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Approximately the first third of this trail is in Georgia. Access the BMT in Union County from Skeenah Gap Rd near the Union County - Fannin County line. Two other access points are available nearby along Hwy 60 in Fannin County. The BMT is marked with white diamond blazes.

Dockery Lake Trail (762) 3.5 mile moderate to strenuous trail leads from Dockery Lake Recreation Area (Ga 60 south of Woody Gap) to intersect with the Appalachian Trail at Miller Gap.

Vogel State Park Area (US 129, 3 miles north of Neel's Gap) (detailed trail maps available at Vogel State Park):

- **Byron Herbert Reece Nature Trail (110A)** 0.8 mile easy loop trail through a diverse forest with many wildflowers
- **Bear Hair Gap Trail (110)** 4 mile moderate loop trail
- **Trahlyta Lake Trail** 1 mile easy loop trail around Trahlyta Lake with a spur to view a waterfall.
- **Coosa Backcountry Trail (111)** Moderate to strenuous 13 mile loop trail with significant elevation gains and losses. Best hiked as a backpack. Can also be accessed at Wolf Pen Gap or Burnett Gap on GA 180.

Meeks Park Trail(s) Over 4.5 miles of easy, scenic walking trails in Meeks Park, just west of Blairsville on US 515.

A Note about Trail Markings and Trail Safety: This map is intended to provide general information about the locations and difficulty of hiking trails in Union County. This information is NOT intended to be a tool for navigating in the backcountry. The Appalachian Trail (A.T.) is reliably marked with white rectangular "blazes" and official A.T. connecting trails are marked with rectangular blue blazes. The Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) is well marked with white diamonds. Many other trails on state or federal lands in Union County are marked with lime-green blazes, although these markings are incomplete in some areas. Trails in Meeks Park are well marked with signs. Hikers should familiarize themselves with the general area they plan to hike, carry a map, water, food, and clothing suitable for the weather. Trail conditions may change due to weather and other factors. Detailed maps, guide books, and up-to-date advice about trail conditions may be obtained from Mountain Crossings at Neel Gap, Blairsville Bikes and Hikes, Southern Highroads Outfitters in Blairsville, the U.S. Forest Service, and other local sources. It is advisable to let a friend know of your plans when hiking in unfamiliar areas. You are responsible for your own safety! Your best safety tool is between your ears! Plan your activity and use common sense!

Prepared by the Blairsville-Union County Appalachian Trail Community Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, U.S. Forest Service and the following partners: Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC), Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA), Mountain High Hikers (MHH), Union County Government, Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, Version No. 6 – Date: 06-04-2015

Trails of Blairsville-Union County Georgia An Appalachian Trail Community



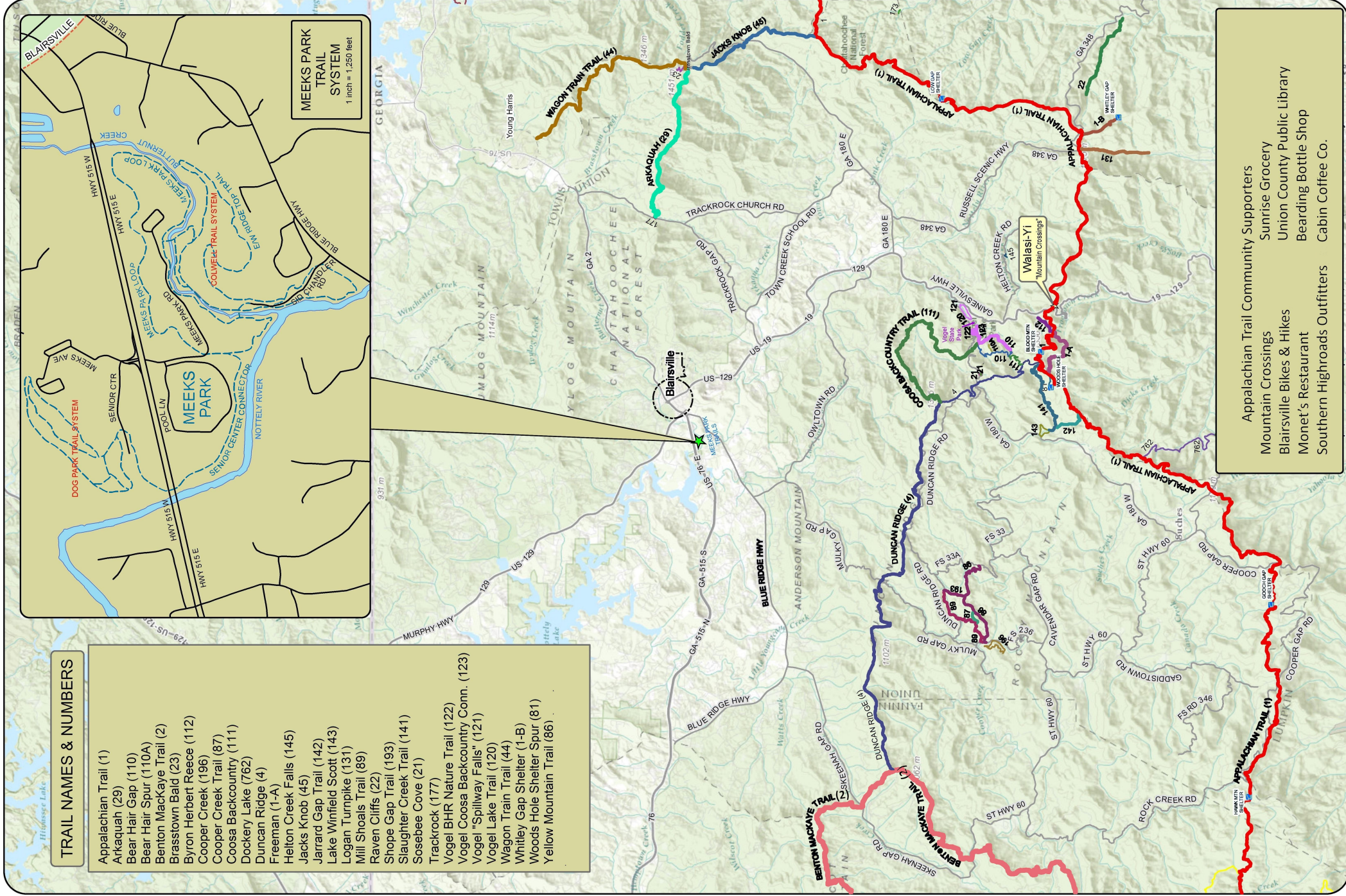
Union County, GA
The County for All Seasons



For map reprints, additional information on these trails and links to related sites, scan this QRcode or go to UnioncountyATcommunity.net

You can also send inquires to info@UnioncountyATcommunity.net or call the Blairsville Chamber of Commerce at (706) 745-5789.





TRAIL NAMES & NUMBERS

- Appalachian Trail (1)
- Arkaquah (29)
- Bear Hair Gap (110)
- Bear Hair Spur (110A)
- Benton MacKaye Trail (2)
- Brasstown Bald (23)
- Byron Herbert Reece (112)
- Cooper Creek (196)
- Cooper Creek Trail (87)
- Coosa Backcountry (111)
- Dockery Lake (762)
- Duncan Ridge (4)
- Freeman (1-A)
- Helton Creek Falls (145)
- Jacks Knob (45)
- Jarrard Gap Trail (142)
- Lake Winfield Scott (143)
- Logan Turnpike (131)
- Mill Shoals Trail (89)
- Raven Cliffs (22)
- Shope Gap Trail (193)
- Slaughter Creek Trail (141)
- Sosebee Cove (21)
- Trackrock (177)
- Vogel BHR Nature Trail (122)
- Vogel Coosa Backcountry Conn. (123)
- Vogel "Spillway Falls" (121)
- Vogel Lake Trail (120)
- Wagon Train Trail (44)
- Whitley Gap Shelter (1-B)
- Woods Hole Shelter Spur (81)
- Yellow Mountain Trail (86)

- Appalachian Trail Community Supporters
- Mountain Crossings
- Blairsville Bikes & Hikes
- Monet's Restaurant
- Southern Highroads Outfitters
- Sunrise Grocery
- Union County Public Library
- Bearding Bottle Shop
- Cabin Coffee Co.



1 inch = 15,000 feet

Union County Hiking Trails