

Sumter National Forest

South Carolina



Parson's Mountain Lake Recreation Area

Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Date: 12/01/2003

Highlights

This artificial 28-acre managed lake is nestled in the northern portion of the Long Cane Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest. Parson's Mountain offers a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, swimming, picnicking, fishing, boating, and hiking.

Attractions

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

For your comfort and safety there are designated swimming and picnic areas, as well as a bath house. This day-use area was designed to accommodate the fishing enthusiast with an earthen pier, a pedestrian bridge, and a boat ramp for non-motorized boats. The lake is managed to enhance catfish, bream, and bass populations.

Marked trails incorporate the upstate's rich history and diverse wildlife habitat. The Parson's Mountain Interpretive Trail begins at the swimming area. The Parson's Tower Hiking Trail can originate at the boat ramp, terminating 1.4 miles at the firetower. This trail climbs from the lake to the top of Parson's Mountain, passing the historic "gold mines." It traverses bottomland and upland hardwoods, through pine, and terminates amongst dry ridge scrub oaks.

Surrounding Area

Nearby points of interest include historic Abbeville with its antebellum houses, cobblestone square, Burt-Stark mansion and well renowned Opera House. Fell and Midway Camps are nearby, as is Candy Branch Rifle Range, Cedar Springs and Parsons Mountain OHV Trails, and Long Cane Scenic Area.

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.

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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 Tower Hiking trail is moderately difficult. It has a 400' elevation change.
- *Parson's Lake trail is moderate

Facilities:

- *Handicap accessible day area
- *Handicap accessible fishing pier
- *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, parking. Self-service fee station for day and camping use. Shelter reservations must be made and fees paid at the district office. Reservations are first come, first served.

Requirements: SC fishing and boating regulations apply

Season: April 1-December 31

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