

Jack Branch Trail

Hot Springs Area

Trail # 299



Characteristics

Initially take River Ridge Loop Trail, a yellow-blazed trail that begins across SR 1304 at Murray Branch Recreation Area.. Follow this trail to the intersection with Jack Branch Trail, which is blazed in blue rectangles. Jack Branch Trail follows an old road at this point and climbs steadily to the top of a ridge. The trail follows the ridge that offers good views of French Broad River and the town of Hot Springs. The trail intersects and follows gated FR 422 where the trail ends. FR 422 is seasonally open to four-wheel drive traffic and is accessed from FR 467 near Hurricane Gap.

Highlights

- Jack Branch Trail combined with the River Ridge Trail offers panoramic views of the French Broad River.
- The trail traverses open fields and Oak-Hickory forests.

Statistics

Total Length: 2.4 miles

Total Elevation Change: 1,320 feet

Degree of Difficulty: Difficult

Beginning Point: River Ridge Trail

Ending Point: Forest Road 422

Average Hiking Time: Two hours (one way)

Amount of Use: Moderate

Blaze Color: Blue Rectangle

Area Trail Maps: Harmon Den/Hot Springs Trail Map

USGS Quad Map: Hot Springs

Access

From Burnsville, travel west on NC 19E and merge onto I-26E. Take Exit 11 toward Mars Hill/Marshall. Turn Left onto NC 213/Carl Eller Road, which leads into Marshall. Take US-25 Bypass/ US-70 Ramp, merging onto US-25/US-70. Eventually, turn left to continue on US-25/US-70 toward Hot Springs. Immediately before crossing French Broad River, turn right onto SR 1304. Turn right at first intersection and continue on SR 1304 for five miles to the Murray Branch Recreation Area. Follow the River Ridge Trail to the intersection of Jack Branch Trail.



Pisgah National Forest

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