

Valle Crucis Community Park

<https://vallecrucispark.org/>

Location: 2892 Broadstone Rd., Banner Elk, NC 28604 behind the Mast General Store Annex in Valle Crucis (GPS 36.211991, -81.775789)

Species of Interest

Year-round

Great Blue Heron
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Osprey
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Bald Eagle
Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Bluebird
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Cardinal

Summer/Breeding

Green Heron
Broad-winged Hawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Barn Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Tree Swallow
House Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Yellow Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Scarlet Tanager
Indigo Bunting
Baltimore Oriole
Orchard Oriole
Eastern Meadowlark

Winter

Winter Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Yellow-rumped Warbler

Savannah Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Migration

Osprey

Yellow-throated Warbler

Solitary Sandpiper

Tennessee Warbler

Spotted Sandpiper

Northern Waterthrush

Wilson's Snipe

Vesper Sparrow

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Lincoln's Sparrow

American Pipit

Bobolink

Black-throated Green Warbler

Rusty Blackbird

Palm Warbler

Species list: <https://ebird.org/printableList?regionCode=L424469&yr=all&m=>

eBird Bar Chart: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L424469&yr=all&m=>

Habitats: river floodplain, created wetland, agricultural fields, managed park vegetation, and mixed hardwood/conifer forest across the Watauga River (visible, but not part of the park)

Access and Parking open year-round sunrise to sunset

Parking: well-maintained gravel lot with more than 100 spaces

Drinking water: available at restrooms

Restrooms: one at Visitor's Center and one on path in center of park

Accessibility: designated parking spaces with accessibility to the paved path; both restrooms accessible

Site Description

Property ownership: private nonprofit organization

Trails: figure-eight trail of almost 1 mile and side trail at the far end

Trail surface and elevation gain: flat paved figure-eight trail; dirt side trail

Likely spots for species of interest: shore birds attracted to created wetlands during migration; side trail through an open weedy area good for sparrows

Special Considerations

Hunting: not allowed

Need for boots/waterproof footwear: flooded paths possible after heavy rain

Other: fly fishing in the Watauga River; outdoor concerts Friday evenings between Memorial Day and Labor Day; popular spot for exercise and dog-walking; closed

between sunset and sunrise so not available for owling.

Directions: From Boone, head west on NC Highway 105 south toward Banner Elk. Approximately 2.5 miles outside of Boone, immediately after the bridge over the Watauga River, turn right at the traffic light on Broadstone Rd. (Follow signs for Valle Crucis.) Continue on Broadstone Rd. for 2.8 miles. The park is located on the right, behind the Mast General Store Annex. The Park's gravel driveway is just before the Mast Store's parking lot. Look for the wooden bear sitting on a tree stump in the middle of the driveway and follow to the Park's parking lot.