

## Grandfather Mountain Profile Trail

<https://www.ncparks.gov/grandfather-mountain-state-park/trail/profile-trail>

**Location:** Profile Trail Rd, at 4198 NC Hwy.105, Linville, NC 28646.  
(Parking Lot Entrance GPS 36.11992, -81.83497)

### **Species of Interest**

#### **Spring**

Broad-winged Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Red-tailed Hawk	Hermit Thrush
Northern Saw-whet Owl (rare)	Wood Thrush
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Northern Parula
Hairy Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Blackburnian Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler
American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Raven	Black-and-white Warbler
Carolina Chickadee	Ovenbird
White-breasted Nuthatch	Canada Warbler
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Hooded Warbler
Winter Wren	Song Sparrow
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Dark-eyed Junco

#### **Summer**

Broad-winged Hawk	Wood Thrush
Red-eyed Vireo	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Blackburnian Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler
American Crow	Black-throated Green Warbler
Common Raven	Canada Warbler
Carolina Wren	Hooded Warbler
Winter Wren	Scarlet Tanager
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	Indigo Bunting
Veery	

#### **Fall**

Broad-winged Hawk	Carolina Wren
Red-eyed Vireo	Winter Wren
Yellow-throated Vireo	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher
Blue-headed Vireo	Wood Thrush
American Crow	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Common Raven	Blackburnian Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler  
Black-throated Green Warbler  
Canada Warbler

Hooded Warbler  
Indigo Bunting

### **Winter**

American Crow  
Common Raven  
Brown Creeper  
Carolina Wren

Winter Wren  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Song Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco

**Species List:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3018029?yr=all&m=>

**eBird Bar Chart:** <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L3018029&yr=all&m=>

**Habitats:** Watauga River, rich cove forest, acid cove forest, Canada hemlock forest, spruce/fir forest

**Access and Parking** open year-round weather permitting

**Parking:** well-maintained paved lot at 4198 NC Hwy 105 N

**Drinking water:** water fountain at the restrooms

**Restrooms:** yes

**Accessibility:** accessible parking lot and restroom. Trail not accessible

### **Site Description**

**Property ownership:** North Carolina state park

**Trails:** 7.6 mile round trip

**Trail surface and elevation gain:** trail moderate for first mile, then strenuous; 2,300 feet in elevation gain

**Likely spots for species of interest:** section along Watauga River great for warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Brown Creepers, and Winter Wrens. Section climbing through spruce/fir forest good for Canada Warblers and Hermit Thrushes

**Special Considerations** open year-round depending on weather

**Hunting:** not allowed

**Need for boots/waterproof footwear:** good hiking boots strongly recommended for strenuous and rocky trail. May be wet and muddy, especially if recent rain/snow

**Other:** trail connects to Grandfather Trail at top, which goes to Calloway Peak or the Swinging Bridge

### **Directions**

**From Boone:** head south on Hwy.105. Turn left on Profile Trail Road. If you pass the Lowes Food Shopping Center on your left, you have gone too far.

**From points south:** head north on Hwy.105. Turn right on Profile Trail Road just after the Lowes Food Shopping Center.