

Julian Price Memorial Park

Location: Blue Ridge Parkway, Blowing Rock NC (around milepost 297)

Boone Fork parking lot (36.139499, -81.727429), Price Lake boat rental parking lot (36.135737, -81.738433)

Species of Interest:

Summer:

Belted Kingfisher	Dark-eyed Junco
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Eastern Towhee
Hooded Warbler	Song Sparrow
Northern Parula	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Wood Duck
Black-and-white Warbler	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Redstart	Blue-headed Vireo
Common Yellowthroat	Red-eyed Vireo
Swainson's Warbler	White-breasted Nuthatch
Louisiana Waterthrush	Scarlet Tanager
American Woodcock	

Fall and early Spring Migration:

Pied-billed Grebe	Bufflehead
Horned Grebe	Hooded Merganser
American Wigeon	Blue-winged Teal
Scaup	Spotted Sandpiper
Ring-necked Duck	Solitary Sandpiper

eBird bar chart for Park: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L770359&yr=all&m=>

eBird bar chart for Price Lake: <https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L1048254&yr=all&m=>

Habitats: wooded stream, deciduous forest, river floodplain, lake, grassland

Access and Parking

Parking: ample paved parking at several locations - Boone Fork picnic area, boat ramp and 2 lake overlooks

Drinking water: at picnic area except in winter

Restrooms: at picnic area except in winter

Accessibility: parking is handicap accessible as are lake overlooks; trails are not

Site Description

Property ownership: National Park Service

Trails: Boone Fork Loop is 5 miles, mostly wooded following the river, relatively flat but rated moderately strenuous due to uneven footing; Price Lake loop is 2.3 miles of flat, lake-edge trail often through rhododendron thickets with marshy floodplain at the far end.

Likely spots for species of interest: in late winter/early spring Woodcock display in the scrubby field about 0.25 mile from the parking lot counterclockwise on the Boone Fork trail; Swainson's Warblers may be found on both the Lake loop and the Boone Fork loop; Louisiana Waterthrush may be seen at Hebron Falls on the Boone Fork Loop; Price Lake parking spots and the loop trail provide opportunities for viewing Waterfowl and shorebirds

Special Considerations

Hunting: not allowed in park

Use of recordings to attract birds: not allowed

Need for boots/waterproof footwear: may be muddy or wet during wet weather, requiring boots at those times

Parkway Closures: in bad weather the parkway may be closed, preventing access

Typical level of use: picnic area can be crowded on weekends and holidays; Boone Fork Trail is popular for hiking

DIRECTIONS

From Boone, take Blowing Rock Rd. (US 321) southeast for about 5 miles and follow signs for the Blue Ridge Parkway South to Flat Top Rd. Turn left in 0.2 miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Go 4.7 miles on the Parkway to Julian Price Park. The first entrance, on the right, is to the picnic area and the 5 mile Boone Fork Trail loop. Less than 1 mile farther down the Parkway is a left turn to the parking area overlooking Price Lake, with access to the 2.3 mile Price Lake Trail Loop. Still within a mile of the picnic area, again on the left, is access to the Boating Ramp area, from which the Price Lake Trail Loop and the Boone Fork Trail loops can be accessed.