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
- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Hooded Warbler
- Northern Parula
- Chestnut-sided Warbler
- Black-and-white Warbler
- American Redstart
- Common Yellowthroat
- Swainson's Warbler
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- American Woodcock

Fall and early Spring Migration:
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- American Wigeon
- Scaup
- Ring-necked Duck

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.