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 Wren
- 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
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Wilson’s Snipe
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- American Pipit
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Palm Warbler

- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Northern Waterthrush
- Vesper Sparrow
- Lincoln’s Sparrow
- Bobolink
- Rusty Blackbird

**Species list:** [https://ebird.org/printableList?regionCode=L424469&yr=all&m=](https://ebird.org/printableList?regionCode=L424469&yr=all&m=)

**eBird Bar Chart:** [https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L424469&yr=all&m=](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

- **P**arking: well-maintained gravel lot with more than 100 spaces
- **D**rinking water: available at restrooms
- **R**estrooms: one at Visitor’s Center and one on path in center of park
- **A**ccessibility: 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.