

Hike Description Laurel Snow

Length: 32 miles; rating: moderate. The trail will travel along the eastern escarpment of the Cumberland Plateau, connecting the watersheds of many creeks, and giving the hiker access to waterfalls in any season, as well as a fine show of spring wildflowers.

Location: The current Laurel-Snow Trailhead is located on the west side Dayton (2.5 miles from town), in an isolated hollow on Richland Creek. Parking is ample and water is plentiful year-round.

The primary focus of this segment is the Bowater Laurel-Snow Wilderness (Tennessee's first National Recreational Trail). The natural area contains a section of gorges deeply cut into Walden Ridge of the Cumberland Plateau by Morgan, Henderson, Laurel and Richland Creeks. The site is named after two scenic waterfalls, Laurel Falls (80 feet) and Snow Falls (35 feet), and features two scenic overlooks, Buzzard Point (also known as Dunn Overlook) and Bryan Overlook (also known as Raven Point). The area features scenic creeks, steep gorges, geologic features, a small stand of virgin timber, and a wide variety of plants and animals.

Logging and deep mining took place in some portions of the area in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Some remnants of mining activities can still be seen along the trail. Part of Henderson Creek was dammed to serve as the Dayton Reservoir and water supply for the town of Dayton. The low dam across the stream can still be seen although water is no longer collected for the town.

A day-hiker can easily access both waterfalls with an 8 mile hike. However, either waterfall can be visited with no more than a 6-mile day-hike. After leaving the Wilderness, the remaining 20+ miles of this segment will be in rugged country with limited access and no resupply points.

See the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas [LAUREL-SNOW](#) webpage for a description of the 2,259-acre Laurel-Snow Natural Area.

ATTENTION OVERNIGHT CAMPERS

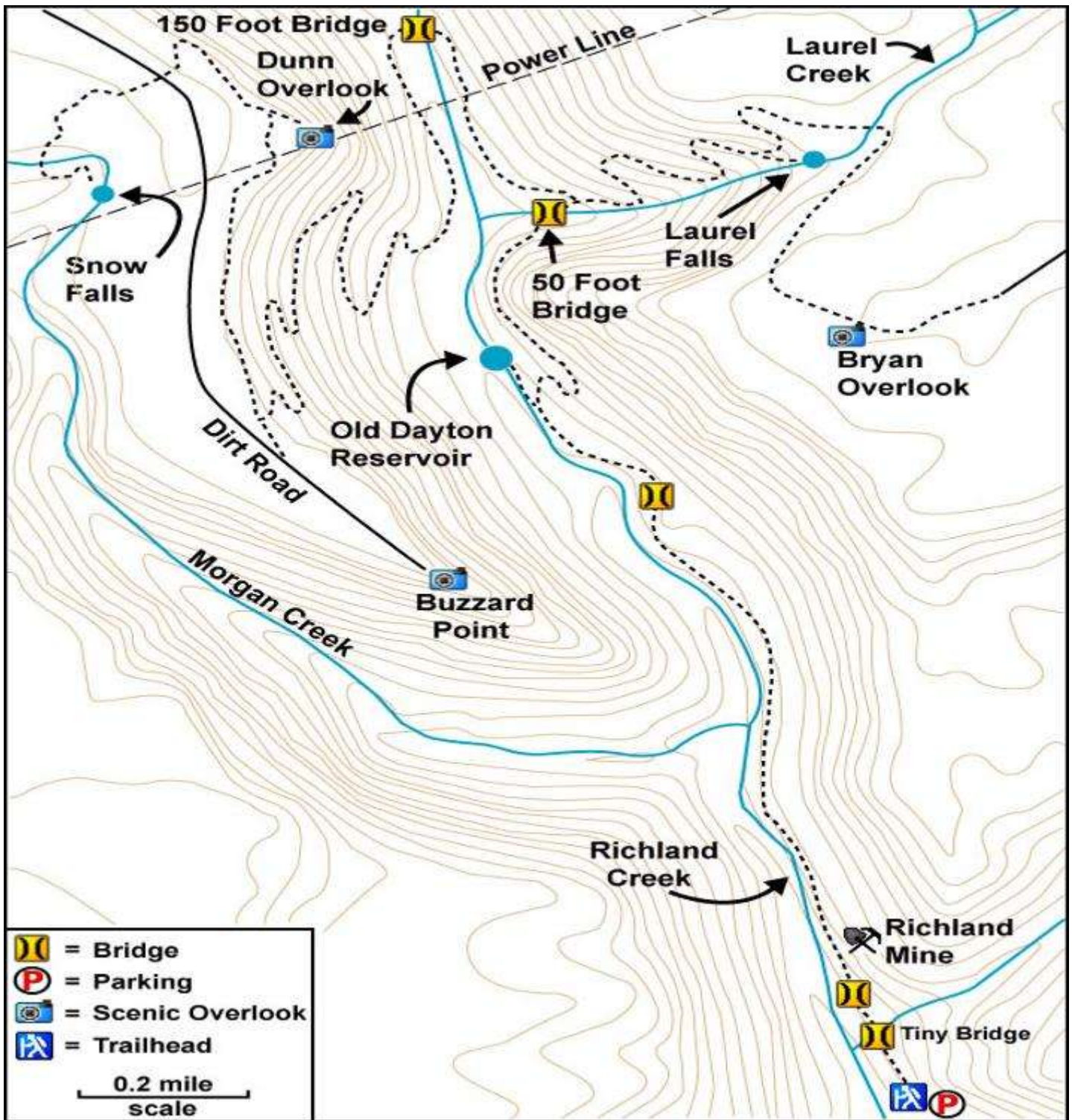
You are **REQUIRED** to register to camp and/or park after sunset at the trailheads. There is no fee. The information you provide will help us to provide security and also to determine if there is a need to expand the camping area and provide designated campsites in order to enhance your hiking and camping experience. As people discover this spectacular area, public use is increasing rapidly.

To register your group on-line, please complete the [ONLINE GORGES CAMPSITE REGISTRATION FORM](#). You will automatically be emailed a copy of your submission for your records. A confirmation code will be supplied upon submission of the online form. Please be prepared to supply this confirmation code to the Park Ranger if asked.

To register your group by phone, please call 423-566-2253 and give the information required on the online registration form by phone.

To preserve this natural and scenic area, please practice Leave No Trace principles.





GPS Readings For Important Points:

Location	GPS Waypoint in WGS 84 format
Trailhead	N35 31.566 W85 01.310
Richland Mine	N35 31.773 W85 01.382
50 Foot Bridge	N35 32.758 W85 01.767
Laurel Falls	N35 32.841 W85 01.450
150 Foot Bridge	N35 33.001 W85 01.912
Snow Falls	N35 32.792 W85 02.312