## Gorges STATE PARK



# Activities Activities

### **Experience the Park!**





GPS: 35.096, -82.951

#### **Gorges State Park**

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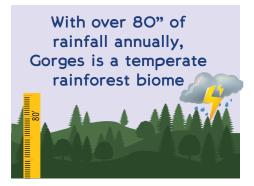
#### **Fun Facts**

- The park was established in 1999.
- In 1916, the dam containing Lake Toxaway broke scouring the gorges and leaving 15-20 foot high piles of debris. These debris piles can still be seen today.
- After the flood, locals sold large tracts of land to the Singer Sewing Machine Company, which logged most of the land.
- In the 1940s-50s Duke Energy Corporation purchased the land for its steep topography and high rainfall, which offered opportunities for development of hydropower projects.
- In 1982, almost 275 acres of these lands were placed on the N.C. Registry of Natural Heritage because of numerous rare species that reside there.
- The park is located along the Blue Ridge Escarpment, an area where 5 streams carry water to the ocean from the divide between the Tennessee Valley drainage and the Atlantic drainage.
- The park has 21 of the 44 natural community types known in the mountain regions of North Carolina.









About 125 rare plant and animal species can be found in the park, including Carolina star-moss and Oconee bells.

One of the largest known populations of the green salamander lives in the park

