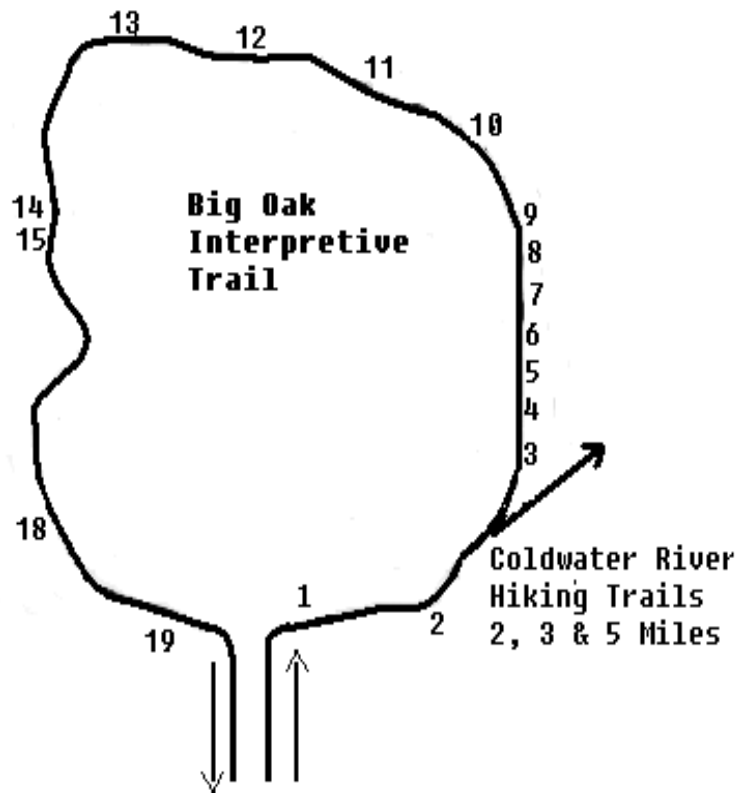


Team Up to Clean Up!



Coldwater River Hiking Trail

The 5 mile trail system will take you back into the past as you travel along streams that wanders through hardwood trees that are, in some instances, over 125 years old and stand like guardians over the forest floor sheltering a multitude of animal life. Whitetail deer browse and doe deer deliver their young here in early spring. If you encounter a young fawn, please do not disturb or try to handle it in any way. The baby is not abandoned. The mother is close by even though you may not be able to see her.

Bobcat, fox, squirrel, turkey, and an occasional armadillo call this their home. Raccoon forage along the stream shoreline for small crawfish and frogs. Crawfish are the favorite food of this masked, mischievous animal. The stream is also home to many fish, such as bluegill, sunfish, gar, and bass. On a sunny day, these fish can be seen swimming just under the surface. Logs that have fallen across the stream are a favorite perch for turtles and frogs to bask in sunlight. Woodducks can be seen near nesting boxes located at ponds which have been formed by nature's best engineers, the beaver. A quiet approach could result in observing one or more of these busy animals at work. Many species of birds inhabit the hardwood forest canopy. Stop and quietly listen to a beautiful serenade by nature's feathered songsters.

The trail will also take you into an area of the present. As you cross Pratt Road you will enter into a predominately pine forest. Rowcrops and pasture land covered most of this area in the 1930s. After the dam was completed in 1942, the area was planted in loblolly pine trees.

Pine stands, like other crops, must be managed. As you look out across the forest floor in this area, you will see stumps, tree tops, tree limbs, and skid marks. This residue was left by the loggers who performed a process called thinning. During this process, inferior trees and stands which have trees too close together are removed and sold for pulp, (paper products). The remaining trees will grow and reach maturity in a shorter period of time.