

The Virginia Creeper Trail

Welcome to the Upper Section of The Virginia Creeper Trail

Jefferson National Forest

US 58

Damascus

Appalachian Trail

Feathercamp Trail

Straight Branch

Fork Mtn

Taylor's Valley

Whitop

Chestnut Mtn

McQueen Knob

Green Cove

Whitetop Station

End of Trail

To Mountain City

To Independence

SCALE

Elevation Profile of the Virginia Creeper Trail

Abingdon 2040 ft

South Holston Lake 1750 ft

Damascus 1930 ft

Whitetop Station 3576 ft

INTERESTING SITES ALONG THE TRAIL:

Mile 15.5 (both sides): Entrance to Damascus, Appalachian Trail junction.

Mile 0.0 (trailhead): Site of Black's Fort, precedent of Abingdon.	Mile 17.5 (both sides): Iron Bridge, enter Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area.
Mile 0.5 (on right): Mansion of W. Robertson, early Virginia governor.	Mile 19.5 (left side): Recreation Area facility, Appalachian Trail access.
Mile 1.8 (both sides): Entrance to Great Knobs, views of Berry Creek.	Mile 23.0 (both sides): Taylors Valley. Daniel Boone campsite.
Mile 3.7 (both sides): Long trestle, site of old Watauga station.	Mile 27.0 (both sides): Creek Junction, 563 ft. trestle.
Mile 7.2 (both sides): Confluence of Middle & South Forks Holston River.	Mile 30.5 (left side): Restored Green Cove Station.
Mile 8.5 (on right): Alvarado, site of old station.	Mile 33.4 (both sides): Reconstructed Whitetop Station and highest point - 3576 ft.

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Donations to help protect and maintain this great natural and historic corridor may be made to the Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy, PO Box 2382, Abingdon, VA 24212 [www.vacreepertrail.org](http://www.vacreepertrail.org)

**Legend** **P** Parking **?** Information (seasonal)  
**T** Toilet

## A NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

### Abingdon, Virginia to the North Carolina State Line

## HISTORIC

The logo for Abingdon, Virginia, features the word "Abingdon" in a large, elegant, black script font. Above the letters "i", "n", "g", and "d" are three thick, black, curved lines that sweep upwards and to the right, resembling a stylized arch or a series of brushstrokes. Below the word "Abingdon", the word "VIRGINIA" is written in a smaller, black, all-caps, sans-serif font.

*A guide to the*  
**Virginia Creeper Trail**  
[www.vacreepertrail.org](http://www.vacreepertrail.org)



*A National Recreation Trail*



The Virginia Creeper Trail is a 34.3-mile public access, shared-use trail connecting Abingdon, Virginia with the Virginia-North Carolina border 1.1 miles east of Whitetop Station, VA.

With 47 trestles, sharp curves, and steep grades, the Virginia Creeper was the typical mountain railroad. Train crews faced wash-outs, rock slides, and other hazards, but it was economics that sounded the line's death whistle. Having failed to turn a profit since the Great Depression, the Creeper ran its last train on March 31, 1977.

The Virginia Creeper Trail traverses through some of the most rugged and picturesque scenery in the Eastern United States and is widely lauded as one of the most beautiful trails on the continent. **Enjoy your visit!**

Although the public legally has the right to use the trail, much of the actual land is *privately owned*. **Stay on the trail, close any gates, respect all property and livestock, and be courteous to landowners and other trail users.**

Please observe these **Trail Rules, Safety and Etiquette:**

As the trail traverses private and public property, we ask that all users exercise respect and courtesy.

Though helmets are not required, they are highly recommended and are standard issue with bike rentals.

Travel single file and keep to the right except when passing.

When passing other riders, walkers/runners, or equestrian traffic, pass to the left, calling out “passing on the left” or sound a mechanical warning like a bell.

Keep your speed under control, especially when traveling downhill, and keep your eyes on the trail and trail surface, watching out for oncoming traffic, rocks, washouts, and other hazards.

All pedestrians and cyclists must yield to equestrian users.

Due to the very curvy nature of the VCT, it is impossible to see around certain curves. Please don't stop in the trail traffic lanes. Pull off to the side when taking a break or enjoying the scenery.

Trestles and bridges are very slippery when wet or covered in leaf fall and bicyclists should use caution crossing, dismount, and walk their bikes if conditions warrant.

Please do not block gates or park on the trail.

Obey all stop signs at road crossings. Vehicular traffic will not yield.

Dogs should be on a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length.

Know where you are on the trail by observing the concrete mileposts and trestle numbers.

Please pack out all litter, including animal waste and cigarette butts.

Fireworks are not allowed.

In the event of an accident or sudden illness, dial 9-1-1 with your location (nearest mile marker and/or trestle number). If cell service is not available, ask another trail user to go to the nearest house or station to call emergency services.

**Maps by Ed Davis  
a member of the  
Geography Department faculty  
Emory & Henry College**

**P** Parking  
**T** Toilet

**?** Information  
(seasonal)

*See Other Side*