

Detailed Descriptions and Maps of Woodside's Nature Trails

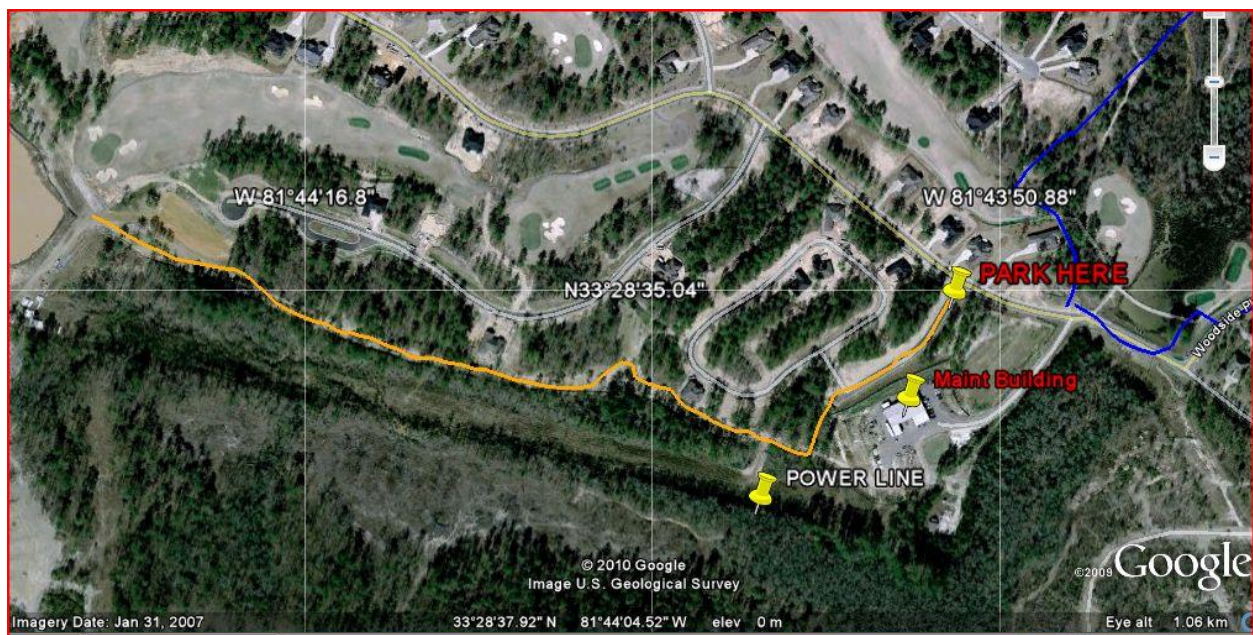
Mill Road Trail

Access

Park along Anderson Mill road. Signs on West Pleasant Colony and Anderson Mill road clearly point to the beginning of the trail.

Trail Description

An "in and out" flat trail. Easy walking. You may see wild life in the adjacent Hollow Creek Preservation area.



THE MILL ROAD TRAIL

The Oakman Trails (1.5 miles)

Access points

The main access [trail head] is near the ninth hole of the Reserve golf course. This entry point is clearly marked by a sign on West Pleasant Colony Drive.

You should park on Anderson Mill Road rather than on West Pleasant Colony Drive and walk the short distance to the trail head.

There are two more access points to this trail system. Both are off Woodside Plantation Drive and are clearly marked by signs on that street. The first uses the golf cart path between holes 6 & 7 of the reserve golf course [orange blazes]. If using this entry point you should park on Summer Squall Lane rather than Woodside Plantation Drive. The second uses the access point to Oakman Lake [blue blazes]. If using this entry point you should park on White Birch Court rather than Woodside Plantation Drive.

Trail Description

From the main access point the Oakman Trail system provides walkers with two walking options. **The Long Circuit** (marked with blue blazes) is a mix of woodlands trails, golf cart paths, and paved sidewalks along Woodside plantation Drive. This circuit travels through the wooded area between the fifth and sixth holes of the Reserve golf course. Walkers get a nice view of Oakman Lake as they cross the dam that takes them to the sidewalk that parallels Woodside Plantation Drive. This long circuit then follows the sidewalk and returns to the starting point. The distance is 1.5 miles. **The Short Circuit** (marked with orange blazes) and the Long Circuit share the woodland path until the Short Circuit separates and continues deeper into the woodland. You will soon come to a zig zag bridge that crosses a wetland. Before you continue across the bridge, you might explore a short meandering offshoot trail. It is unmarked and very short; you shouldn't get lost. Continuing on the Short Circuit (orange blazes) you will cross the bridge and exit the woodlands behind the putting green of the sixth hole of the Reserve golf course. At that point the trail joins the golf cart path, and proceeds to Woodside Plantation Drive where it rejoins the Long Circuit (blue blazes) on Woodside Plantation Drive and continues to the trail head. The distance is about 0.7 miles. There are many other ways to hike this trail system. One popular way is to proceed around the blue blazed trail from the trail head, then along Woodside Plantation drive to join the orange blazed trail on the golf cart path between holes 6 & 7. Proceed over the zig zag bridge on the orange trail to rejoin the blue trail and hence back to the trail

head. That distance is about 1.7 miles. Whatever way you hike this trail system you are in for a very nice walk.



THE OAKMAN TRAIL SYSTEM

The Creek Walk

Access point

The Creek walk is a short 0.5 mile neighborhood walk. The trail entrance is clearly marked on Woodside Plantation Drive just north of its intersection with Longwood Green Court. If accessing the trail by car, please park on Longwood Green Court rather than Woodside Plantation Drive.

Trail Description

This blue blazed trail is fairly flat and follows the Cottonwood Creek steam bed, crossing it in several places on wooden bridges. There are two observation

platforms where seating is provided. A family of deer uses this area as their home base and if you sit quietly you may often observe them. The area is completely shaded and makes a nice cool retreat on a hot summer day.



THE CREEK WALK

The Hollow Creek Trail

The Hollow Creek trail [HCT] system consists of a western branch and an eastern branch. Both branches roughly follow the perimeter of the Hollow Creek Preservation Area which encompasses both sides of Anderson pond. The western branch is cleared and blazed [blue paint] and sign posts are installed. The eastern branch is cleared and blazed but sign posts have not yet been installed.

Hollow Creek Trail Western Branch

Access Points

There are three access points to the western branch of the HCT. One access is by a temporary pathway that leaves from the end of Commonwealth Way. You may park at the end of

Commonwealth Way. The temporary trail [orange blazes] follows the road leading to the temporary golf cart path between golf holes 5 & 14 of the Hollow Creek golf course (about 0.2 miles). Turn right at this junction and follow the golf cart path for about 200 feet and then turn left along a path that parallels future golf hole #6. The temporary access trail ends at a point about 0.5 miles from the parking area. At this point it intersects at about the midway point of the west branch of the Hollow Creek trail. At that intersection you can go left or right along the western branch of the Hollow Creek trail. The right fork proceeds in a southerly direction for about 1.4 miles where it meets Anderson Pond road. The left fork proceeds in a northerly direction for about 0.8 miles where it emerges on Anderson Mill Road.

The second access point is from the end of Anderson Mill Road just behind the Reserve Club maintenance shed. From there you can walk the entire western branch through to Anderson Pond Road a distance of about 2.2 miles. Alternately you can leave the HCT where it intersects with the temporary access trail and proceed to Commonwealth Way, a total distance of about 1.3 miles. Park along Anderson Mill Road.

The third access point is at the point where the trail intersects with Anderson Pond Road. From there you can walk the entire western branch to Anderson Mill road [2.2 miles] or again leave the trail at the midway point and proceed to Commonwealth Way.

Trail Description

This description describes the trail as walked from the end of Anderson Mill Road through to Anderson Pond Road a distance of 2.2 miles. Distances are measured from Anderson Mill road. Leaving Anderson Mill Road the trail proceeds for about 100 yards where it intersects with the Mill Road Trail. Signs at this junction clearly show the way to each trail. The HCT proceeds straight ahead. You will soon cross a short elevated bog walkway and then a bridge over a small creek. Turn left after the bridge and proceed through a shady area of mature trees, bushes and underbrush. The trail then enters a more open area and then becomes wide, grassy and flanked by large pines and hardwoods. In about 0.8 miles on your right you will find a sign for the temporary access trail leading to Commonwealth Way. The HCT proceeds straight ahead behind future golf hole #6 of the Reserve golf course and then makes a left turn over a small culvert. After crossing the culvert turn left again and meander through a very pleasant wooded area. In about 1.3 miles the trail emerges from the woods and makes a left turn to cross a dam that impounds the lower of what is known as the twin ponds. After crossing the dam the trail meets the Woodside Equestrian Community's Bridal Trail which proceeds to the right and eventually leads to Woodside's Anderson Pond gate. The HCT turns left [signs clearly point the way] and proceeds through a beautiful wooded area of mature trees. In about 1.8 miles views of Anderson pond can be seen on your left. The trail skirts Anderson pond with nice views of the pond at various points. In 2.2 miles the trail ends at Anderson Pond Road. You may make a left turn here for a short trip along Anderson Pond Road to view the dam at the end of the pond. If you proceed further along Anderson Pond Road you will see a dirt road going off to the left. This is the beginning of the Eastern Branch of the Hollow Creek trail – see eastern branch below.

Hollow Creek Trail Eastern Branch

Access Point

Access to the eastern branch of the HCT is from Anderson Pond Road. There is parking near the Anderson Pond dam. From the dam proceed along Anderson Pond Road till you see a dirt road on your left. This is the beginning of the Eastern Branch of the HCT. It is about 2.2 miles from this point to the trail terminus. You must then back track to the parking area near the dam so be prepared for a 4.4 mile hike.

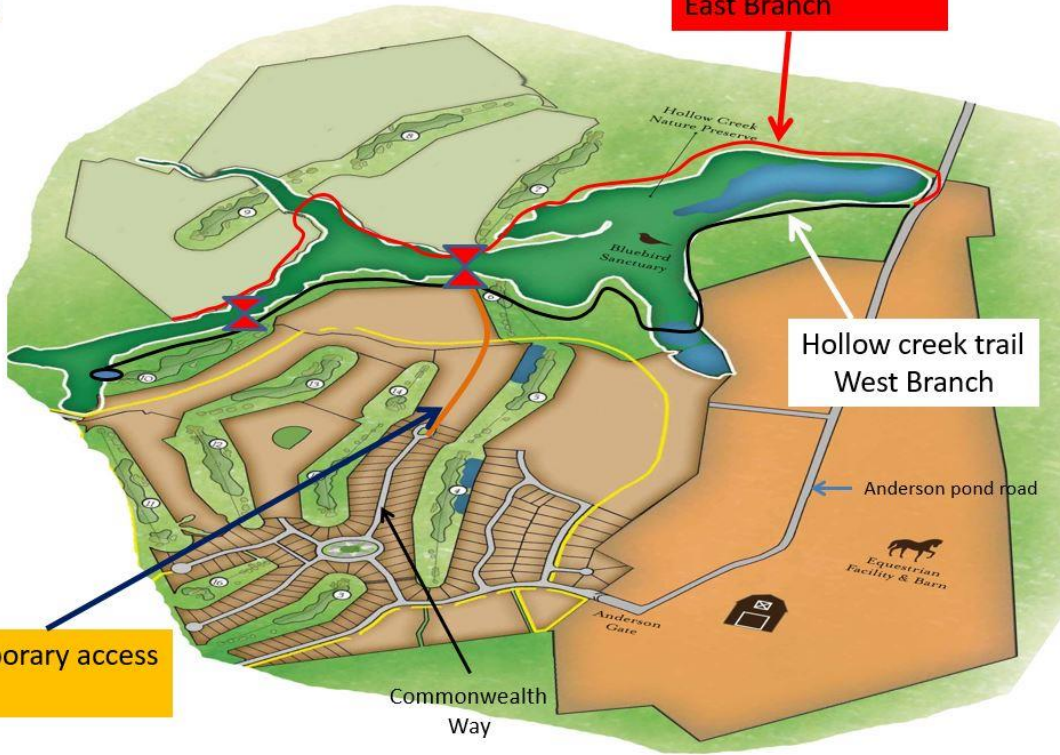
Trail Description

Distances are measured from the access point. The eastern branch of the Hollow Creek Trail is cleared and blazed but there are no sign posts. This branch is in a remote area and we advise that you take along a cell phone or better still a buddy! Please note that cell phone connectivity can be iffy. From the access point the trail follows a dirt road pleasantly lined with mature trees. After about 0.4 miles it turns left and proceeds along the top of a ridge toward Anderson Pond. Some nice views of the pond can be glimpsed just before the trail turns right and proceeds along the edge of a swampy area that forms the upper region of Anderson Pond. After about 1.2 miles the trail makes a short detour from the main path to avoid a very steep hill on that path. You will soon cross a small stream which runs through a culvert under the trail and then proceed through a beautiful open forest of hardwoods. A very quiet and peaceful walk! In 2.2 miles you will reach the trail terminus. It is clearly marked. When you reach that point you must backtrack to the starting point on Anderson Pond Road. In the future, when the last 8 holes of the Hollow Creek golf course are developed there will be a bridge built through the swamp where the trail currently ends. This bridge will carry golf carts and, hopefully, hikers back to the western part of the HCT close to where it intersects with the Mill Road Trail. That will provide a 5 mile circular route.



Future bridge

Hollow Creek Trail
East Branch



Hollow creek trail
West Branch

Anderson pond road

Equestrian
Facility & Barn

Anderson
Gate

Commonwealth
Way

Temporary access
trail

THE HOLLOW CREEK TRAIL