



SELF-GUIDED HIKES

1

ELKIN & ALLEGHANY RAIL TRAIL (OUT AND BACK)

*Hike Distance: 3 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Easy | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 1 Mile
Elkin Recreation Center parking (36.251947, -80.861409)*

Meanders along the Big Elkin Creek through a variety of woodland and wetland habitat; accessed from the Elkin Park and conveniently located to downtown. This trail's establishment (or reestablishment) marked the beginning of Elkin's pursuit as a 'Trail Town'. This is a good trail for dogs (leash required) and excellent for fall leaf peeping as well as spring and summer wildflower blooms. Look up for hawks and migratory raptors in late summer/early fall.

2

ELKIN SECTION OF THE OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL (OUT AND BACK)

*Hike Distance: 4 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Easy | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 1 Mile
Elkin Recreation Center parking (6.252795, -80.861441)*

Follows OVT section through Elkin Municipal Park, straddling the Big Elkin Creek; can be accessed by foot from downtown (W. Main Street). Get a historical feel on this section of the greater OVT as you follow a path that nods to the Revolution as well as downtown Elkin's shops, pubs, and art.

3

SKULL CAMP TO CARTER FALLS (OUT AND BACK)

*Hike Distance: 5 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 3 Miles
(36.285168, -80.853229)*

North Elkin spur trail that access the MST and convenient to Isaacs Trailhead and Carter Falls. There are multiple route combinations to add on to this trail in the heart of north Elkin.

4

ISAACS TRAILHEAD TO CARTER FALLS (OUT AND BACK)

*Hike Distance: 5.7 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 3.7 Miles
Isaacs Trailhead off of Carter Mill Rd. (36.281116, -80.867878)*

Mostly along the MST, passes Grassy Creek connector, through Enchanted Forest, and by Carter Falls Powerhouse Loop. Enjoy more solitude and the rural side of north elkin. Notice a variety of wildflowers and hardwood tree species common across this region too.

5

GRASSY CREEK VINEYARD TO CARTER FALLS (OUT AND BACK)

*Hike Distance: 4.2 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 4.6 Miles
Grassy Creek Vineyard & Winery (36.294278, -80.861831)*

Variety of wooded walks including the Enchanted Forest, Byrd's Branch, and Carter Falls Powerhouse section.

Distance on this route varies depending on if you want to do the full Carter Falls Powerhouse Loop. A great choice for those who like forest hikes, waterfalls, dog walking, trail running, and wine.

6

FOREST BATHING TRAIL

*Hike Distance: 1-1.5 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Easy/Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 4.6 Miles
Grassy Creek Vineyard & Winery - to the left of the entrance, look for sign (36.293, 80.846)*

From the Winery tasting room follow the sign and a distinct trail that winds through dense forest along Grassy Creek. It links with the MST as well as the Carter Falls Powerhouse Loop. Dubbed NC's first ever 'forest bathing' trail, inspired by the Japanese practice of 'Shinrin Yoku'. Hikers are encouraged to 'disconnect' from technology - turn off phones, take out earbuds, and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and smells of nature.

7

DAM MURAL (OUT & BACK FROM GRASSY CREEK TRAILHEAD)

*Hike Distance: 1-1.5 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Easy/Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 4.6 Miles
Grassy Creek Vineyard & Winery - to the left of the entrance, look for sign (36.293, 80.846)*

Follows same path as the Forest Bathing Trail. At junction after the bridge crossing, follow arrow signs for 'Dam Mural'. This segment can easily be a part of the greater Forest Bathing loop trail or done as an out-and-back.

8

CARTER FALLS POWERHOUSE LOOP

*Hike Distance: 1 Mile | Hike Difficulty: Easy/Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 5 Miles
Carter Falls Trailhead off of Pleasant Ridge Rd. (36.288925, -80.880323)*

Views of Big Elkin Creek, Carter Falls and Lower Carter Falls on a nearly all-forested walk start to finish.

This is a popular favorite of the Elkin area trails. Good for dogs (leashed) and those who like to wade in the water on a hot summer day (take caution around falls especially during high water).

9

CAROLINA HERITAGE VINEYARD

*Hike Distance: 1 Mile | Hike Difficulty: Easy | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 6.7 Miles
Carolina Heritage Vineyard parking (36.278224, -80.765272)*

MST section east of Elkin, winds around Carolina Heritage Vineyard through grassy meadows. An easy way to stroll along the MST, enjoy some time outside, and perhaps some local wine after.

10

WELLS KNOB HIKE

*Hike Distance: 5 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 11 Miles
Wells Knob Trailhead (36.339638, -80.947016)*

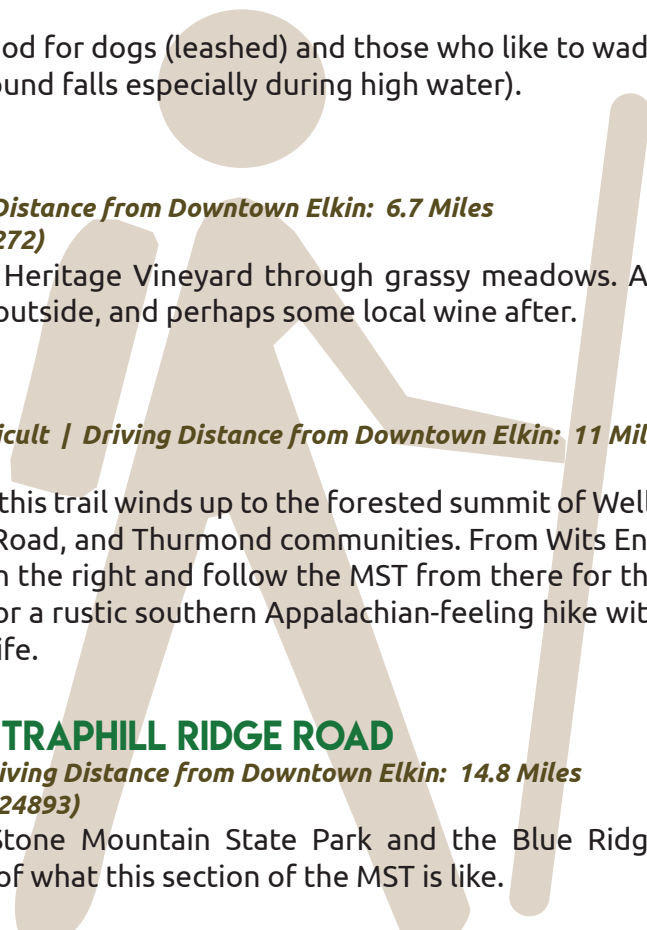
Once on the MST via the road from the parking lot, this trail winds up to the forested summit of Wells Knob, a prominent hill from the north Elkin, State Road, and Thurmond communities. From Wits End Rd., hike until you see the 'Elkin/Stone Mtn' sign on the right and follow the MST from there for the way to the summit of Wells Knob. A great choice for a rustic southern Appalachian-feeling hike with solitude and great opportunities for spotting wildlife.

11

STONE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY STORE TO TRAPHILL RIDGE ROAD

*Hike Distance: 4 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 14.8 Miles
Stone Mountain Country Store parking (36.357327, -81.024893)*

A connector trail to the MST, enjoys views of Stone Mountain State Park and the Blue Ridge escarpment. Enjoy less crowds and an easier taste of what this section of the MST is like.



12

COMBS ROCK (OUT AND BACK FROM COUNTRY STORE)

Hike Distance: 3 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 14.8 Miles
Stone Mountain Country Store parking (36.357327, -81.024893)

Opposite direction of the hike above, follows the MST up the road past the Stone Mountain State Park entrance gate, then turns left on the Horse Trail. Follow this trail for less than .5 miles to Combs Rock with views of Stone Mountain and Cedar Rock. A great choice for a sunrise or late afternoon hike and introductory trail for Stone Mountain State Park.

13

STONE MOUNTAIN LOOP TRAIL

Hike Distance: 4.5 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Difficult | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 17.3-19.2 Miles
Stone Mountain State Park Trailhead (36.383969, -81.026996 - upper lot) (36.397888, -81.051474 - lower lot)

Route can be started at upper or lower trailhead lots; the elevation change offers a collection of summit views. A challenging but doable and rewarding staple hike for Stone Mountain State Park that offers excellent views of the park and surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains. Water can be accessed at both trailheads, but bring plenty on hot days along with some sunscreen on the exposed rocks.

14

STONE MOUNTAIN BACKPACK LOT TO DEVILS GARDEN (OUT AND BACK)

Hike Distance: 12 Miles (6 if shuttled) | Hike Difficulty: Difficult | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 19.1 Miles
Stone Mountain State Park backpack parking area (36.394667, -81.068813)

From the Park, the trail climbs to the Parkway along the MST. Get a taste of what thru-hiking the MST is like with this challenging, predominantly wooded section. Consider a shuttle/have someone to pick you up at the Parkway or the Backpacking lot if you go downhill (slightly easier version of the route).

15

STONE MOUNTAIN WOLF ROCK-BLACKJACK RIDGE LOOP

Hike Distance: 3 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 19.2 Miles
Stone Mountain State Park Lower Trailhead (36.397888, -81.051474)

Views of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Stone Mountain along a forested hike that includes cabin and still remnants. This route is less challenging than the Stone Mountain Loop and offers similar views of the Blue Ridge plus dramatic views of Stone Mountain and early settlement remnants in the woods. A great walk for plant and bird enthusiasts.

16

DOUGHTON PARK LOOP

Hike Distance: 17 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Difficult | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 22.3 Miles
Grassy Gap Road parking area off of Longbottom Rd. (36.390408, -81.162092)

The trail takes a steep but gradual climb to the Parkway through dense Appalachian forest, and hosts multiple panoramas of the Blue Ridge Mountains across rolling balds and on rocky outcrops. One of the most challenging but rewarding hikes in the greater region; plan to allot at least a half day just for walking the trail. There is potable water at the Doughton Park Campground and Visitor Center (The Bluffs Restaurant). Excellent birding trail. Consider camping to enjoy solitude.

17

DOUGHTON PARK VISITOR CENTER TO ALLIGATOR BACK (OUT AND BACK)

Hike Distance: 3-4 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Easy/Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 40 Miles
Visitor Center parking - shared with The Bluffs restaurant (36.433536, -81.178234)

The trail offers convenient access to views of the rolling balds of Doughton Park and the Blue Ridge Mountains. This trail is a great introduction to hiking the region. Dog friendly (leashed) and a great choice for spring and summer wildflowers, fall leaf peeping, and birding year-round

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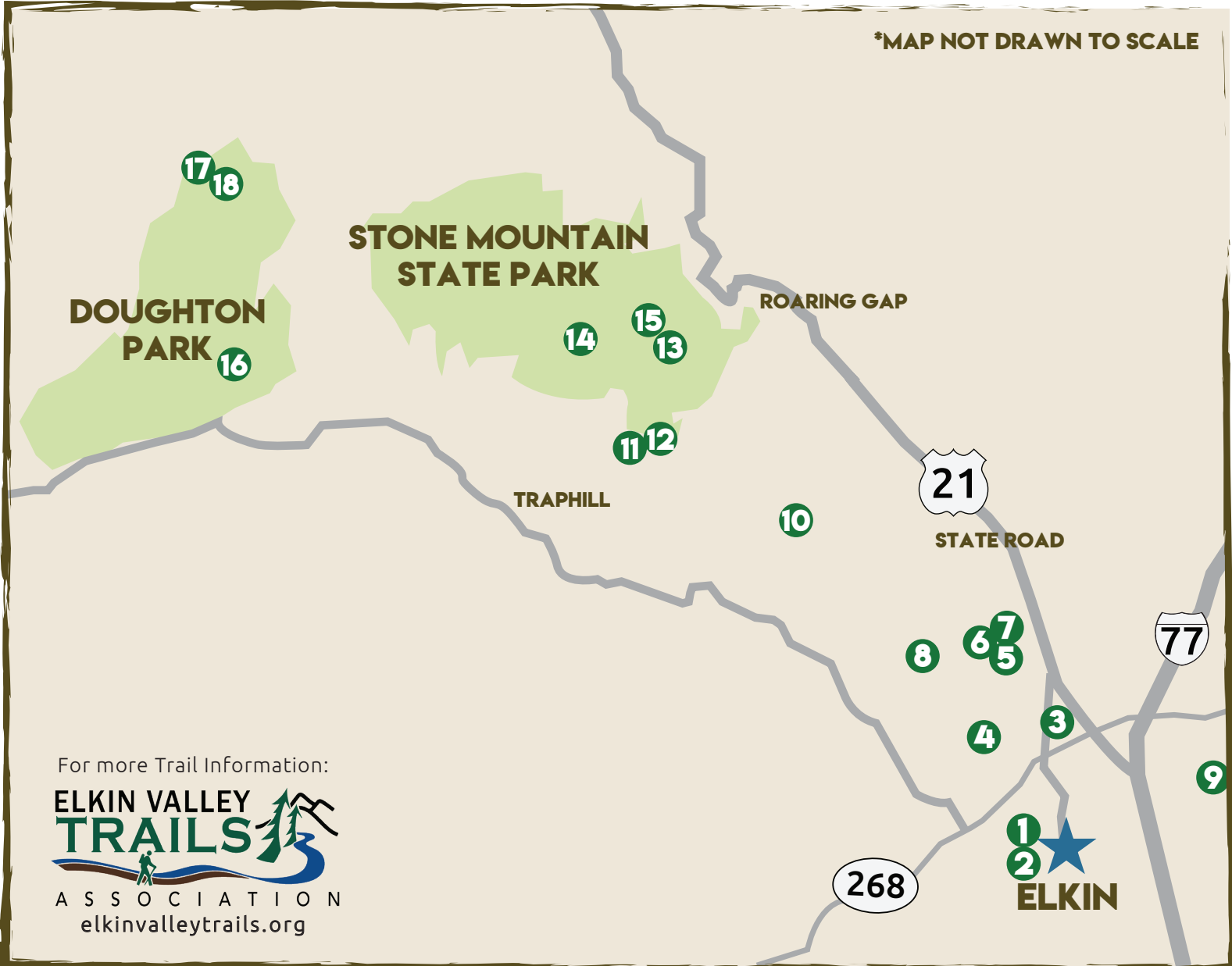
DOUGHTON PARK FODDER STACK

Hike Distance: 2-3 Miles | Hike Difficulty: Moderate | Driving Distance from Downtown Elkin: 43 Miles
Wildcat Rock Overlook parking (36.430312, -81.175156)

From Wildcat Rock, the trail showcases views of Caudill Cabin (Southwest) and the Basin Cove of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



*MAP NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



For more Trail Information:

ELKIN VALLEY TRAILS
ASSOCIATION
elkinvalleytrails.org



1ST WEEKEND IN JUNE
NCTRAILDAYS.COM



**YADKIN VALLEY HERITAGE
& TRAILS VISITOR CENTER**
257 Standard St., Elkin

Monday-Friday | 8:30AM-4:30PM
Hours may vary during NC Trail Days



For more information about restaurants,
vineyards/breweries, outfitters, and more,
please visit ExploreElkin.com