

## Hemlock Day at Anna Ruby Falls

3455 Anna Ruby Falls Rd., Helen, GA 30545

Save Georgia's Hemlocks will have an information booth at the Anna Ruby Falls Visitor Center on Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be brief presentations about the hemlock crisis at 11:00, 1:00, and 3:00. Hemlock experts will be on hand to answer your questions and provide printed information. Healthy hemlock saplings will also be available for adoption.

### DESCRIPTION

Spectacular Anna Ruby Falls lies in the heart of the Chattahoochee National Forest. The quiet coolness of the area is broken only by the thundering rush of water flowing over the rugged cliff face. Anna Ruby Falls marks the junction of Curtis and York Creeks. Both creeks begin on Tray Mountain and are fed by underground springs, rain, and snow. Curtis Creek drops 153 feet and York Creek 50 feet to form the twin waterfalls known as Anna Ruby Falls.

From the falls, Smith Creek tumbles downhill to Unicoi Lake and then to the Chattahoochee River. Its journey continues south, eventually joining the Apalachicola River in Florida and ending its 550-mile journey in the Gulf of Mexico.



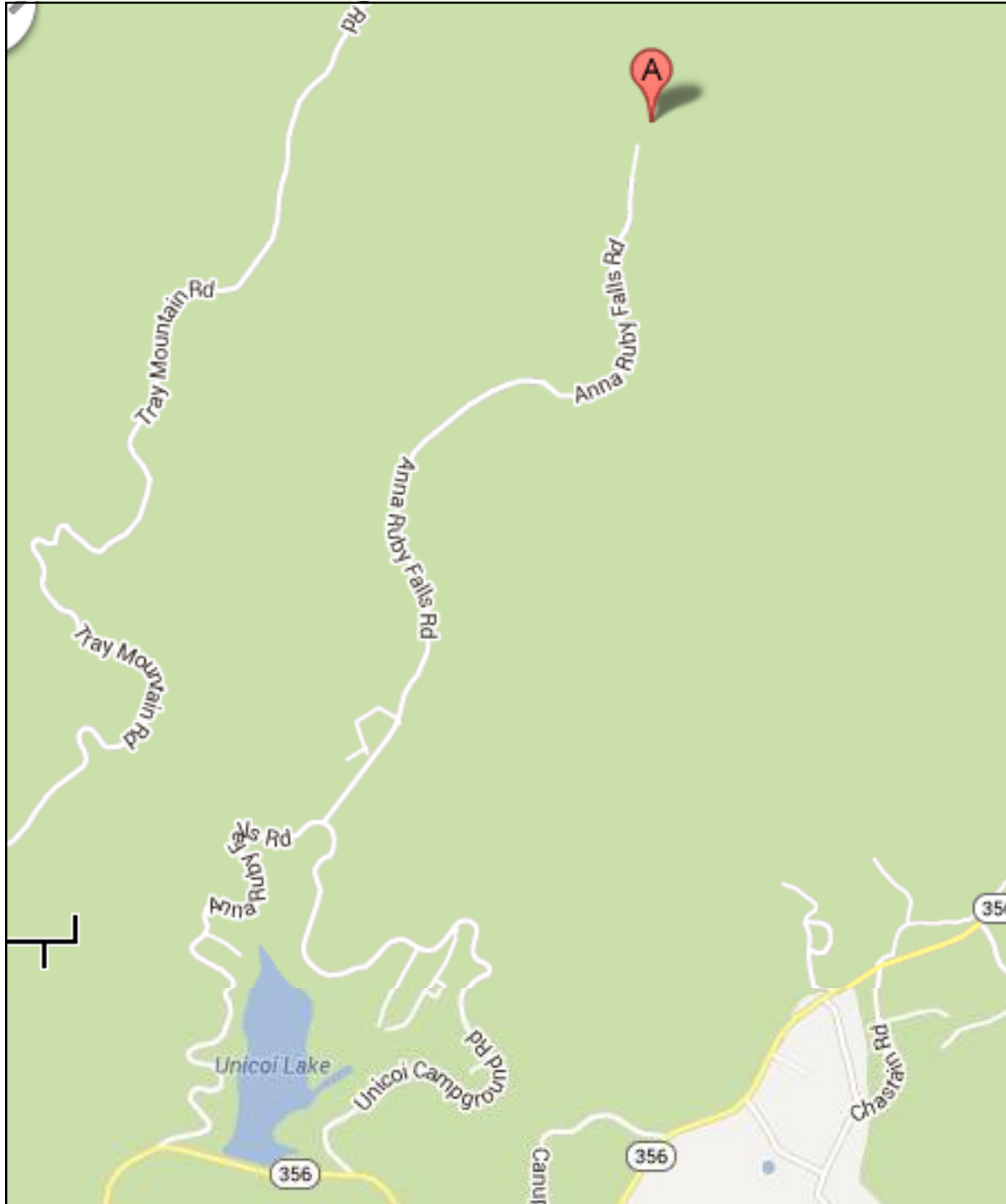
### DRIVING DIRECTIONS

You will need to drive through Unicoi State Park to get to the Anna Ruby Falls Visitors Center (see maps and driving directions below).

**To Unicoi State Park:** From Helen, take Hwy 75 north, turn right onto Hwy 356 east, and enter Unicoi State Park.



**To Anna Ruby Falls Visitors Center:** From Hwy 356, turn onto Anna Ruby Falls Rd. just west of the dam. Pass through the fee station and continue to the end of the road. The Visitors Center is at the far end of the large parking lot. Phone at Visitors Center is 706-878-1448; cell phone reception is sketchy.



## **TRAILS**

A 1/2 mile paved trail leads from the Visitors Center parking lot to the base of the falls and two viewing decks that give a nice view of both falls. Walking is easy to moderate and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Benches are provided along the way. Walking shoes are recommended since the trail can be wet and slippery.

Ambitious hikers will find the 4.6-mile Smith Creek Trail a challenge. This longer trail leads from the base of Anna Ruby Falls to Unicoi State Park.

Another interesting trail that begins at the Visitors Center is The Lion's Eye Trail. It runs along Smith Creek and is designed to provide visually impaired individuals an opportunity to visit the creek and learn about the local environment. The trail has hand rails and braille signs to interpret various features of the area.

## **FEES**

There are separate entrance fees for Unicoi State Park and Anna Ruby Falls. If you want to visit both, you'll need to pay both fees. However, if you are only visiting Anna Ruby Falls, you are allowed to drive through Unicoi State Park for free. The Anna Ruby fee is \$3.00 per person (age 16 and up).

## **HOURS**

Unicoi State Park is open from 9 a.m. to dusk. Anna Ruby Falls is open daily (weather permitting) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No one is admitted on the trail after 5 p.m.