

LEE COUNTY

There are a tremendous amount of OHV trails already in existence in the northwest corner of Lee County, primarily around the Pennington Gap area, which actually lead into and connect with trails in Kentucky. **Immediate Action: Landowners need to be identified and permission granted to allow these trails to be opened to the public.**

- Already in existence is the Hagan ATV Trailhead which offers a network of trails onto the top of Stone Mountain in Virginia Little Black Mountain? and accessing trails in Kentucky.
- A second trailhead recently closed but at one time provided access up onto Yellow Mountain.
- There are approximately 20 acres of property currently owned by the Town of Pennington Gap (just off Left Poor Valley Road) that could serve as a trailhead location which would provide easy access to existing trails leading to Yellow Rock and Stone Mountain.
- There is also potential to convert an old school into a lodging facility for ATV riders if the building is still structurally sound.
- There is strong interest in developing trails in the Pennington Gap area of Lee County. To this end, a multi-use trail is being developed on Stone Mountain. Funding has been awarded to construct the trail but an additional \$30,000 is necessary to conduct an environmental study. It is highly recommended that the state allow a portion of the overall funding to be used to conduct the necessary environmental study.
- Funding has also been obtained to create a Greenway to connect Riverbend Shopping center with Leeman Field Park via the Powell River in the Town of Pennington Gap which, once completed, will serve as a wonderful asset to the community. The shopping center could accommodate outfitters for ATV'ing, canoeing, bicycling, & others.
- Leeman Field Park offers riding stables that are leased by Cumberland Horse Association. With ample parking, restroom facilities and picnic areas, this site will serve as an excellent trailhead for equestrian riders with the intent that one day horse trails might be developed from this site connecting with trails in Kentucky.
- Extend the Wilderness Road Trail - An abandoned railroad corridor continues east of the trail terminus. It should be extended and incorporated into the trail system.
- Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail has a number of historically significant sites along the route that should be identified with interpretive signage and included on a website and other interpretive materials featuring the trail.
- There is potential for developing a Water Trails (Powell River) - officials should work with river user groups to develop a canal trail for Powell/Clinch Rivers. Management plans should be developed that addresses law enforcement, education, camping, sanitation, access management, and maintenance.
- There is also potential for additional public boat launching locations and bank fishing opportunities.
- Unthanks Cave Natural Area Preserve should develop a karst trail and include interpretive signs which would allow a visitor to experience the cave without actually entering.
- Keokee and St. Charles should consider becoming OHV Friendly in order to revive the communities and spur economic development. Trail riders will need access to gas and food along the trail. The Pennington Gap Stone Mountain Trail proposes to connect to Keokee as an access point for Lake Keokee as well as accessing the existing trails.

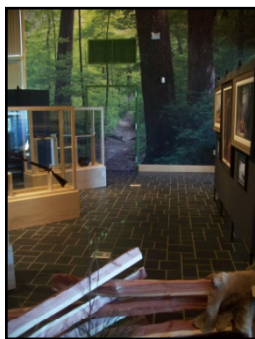
Lee County - SITE VISIT

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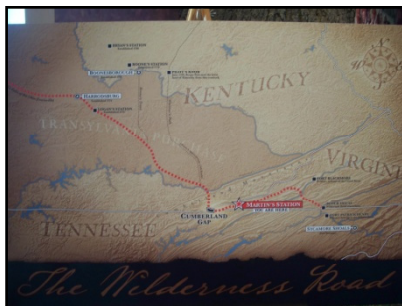
On March 25th, 2009, toured portions of Lee County with Tina Rowe and Jack McClanahan.

Jonesville is the county seat. Population is less than 1,000 in the town and about 23,500 in the county. Other communities include Ben Hur, Dryden, Ewing, Keokee, Pennington Gap, Rose Hill, St. Charles and Blackwater. Portions of both Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and Jefferson National Forest are located in Lee County.

First stop upon coming through the Cumberland Gap from Kentucky was the Wilderness Road State Park.



The Visitor Center offers travelers tourist info, a wonderful interpretive center, a gift shop and restroom facilities.



Martin's Station, a recreated fort, is located on the back portion of the property; buffalo can be seen as one enters the park and the Wilderness Trail is located directly behind the Visitor Center.

Camping: The park offers primitive group camping for groups of up to 50. Campers must bring drinking water; portable toilets are available, showers are not. Reservations can be made at the visitor center.

Trails at Wilderness Road State Park include:

- The Wilderness Road Trail, a 10 mile hiking, biking, & equestrian trail.
- The Indian Ridge Trail, a self-guided natural heritage trail.

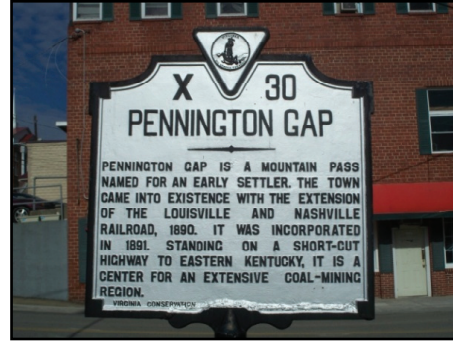
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Town of Jonesville



Views of the Town of Jonesville as one drives east along VA 58

Town of Pennington Gap



Rooster's Pub is an excellent restaurant we ate at while touring the area. It is located near the railroad track in downtown Pennington Gap.



Leeman Field Park in Pennington Gap has a lot to offer including a walking track and access to Powell River.

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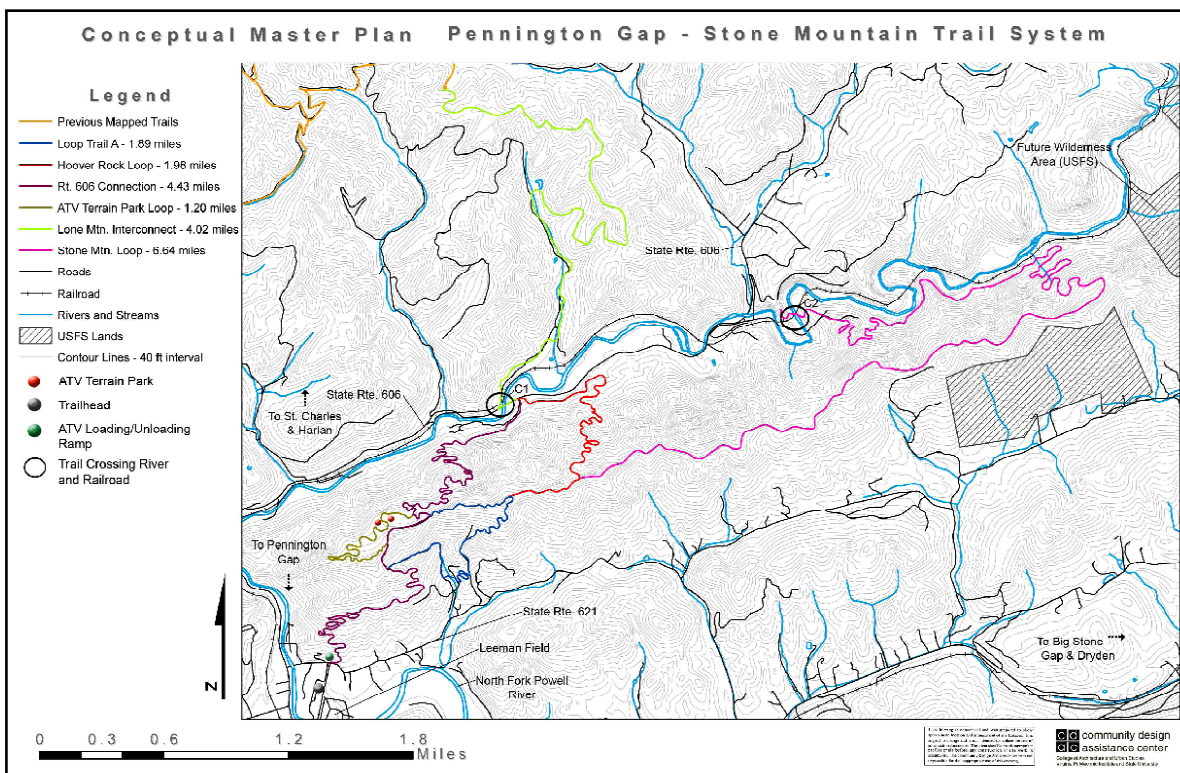


Leeman Park offers baseball fields, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, two playgrounds, a swimming pool, an amphitheater, three pavilions, restroom facilities and a walking/hiking track that is attracting people of all ages to get out and exercise. There is also river access to the Powell River.



Leeman Park also offers riding stables that are privately owned and available for rent. Will serve as an excellent trailhead for the multi-use trail system currently being developed on Stone Mountain.

(Conceptual Master Plan - PenningtonGap-Stone Mountain Trail System insert here)



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Potential Trailhead



There are 20 acres of property currently owned by the Town of Pennington Gap right off Left Hand Road that could serve as a trailhead location providing easy access to existing trails leading to Yellow Rock and Stone Mountain.

Trails in Pennington Gap Area - hiking, biking, ATV (these trails have all been mapped).

- Take Left Hand Road that runs along Stone Mountain then turn right onto Hwy 637 (left on Hwy 627 will take you to the High School and Hwy 58)
- Cross RR multiple times
- Pass Yellow Rock where there was a trailhead next to a graveyard which is currently closed due to the owner getting tired of trash being dumped. Potential to reopen with proper policing.
- Turn right onto Occonita Road (fenced pond) then right again on Hubbard Church Road then right on Hubbard Springs Road.
- Will pass by Wagon Tunnel on the right. Across from it is the old site of a hotel located next to seven springs. The current owner is cleaning up the area and the springs have ferns and could make a nice picnic area in the future.
- Continue on Hubbard Springs (past a pay lake on the left)
- Go through a small tunnel and come to an intersecton. Turning left takes you to Hwy 58. Continuing right takes one to Hagan ATV trailhead. Ample parking for 12 to 15 cards and trailers. Trash cans at site. Cross over RR and go behind two homes to connect with trails. (home owners are very ATV friendly) White Rocks is a favored stop along the route?

Trail leads to Wagon Tunnel and to Yellow Rock.

Hell's Trail is in rough shape and washes out - considered a black diamond. There is a way to drop down and avoid it. Trail will take rider to Harlan Substation in Kentucky.



View of Yellow Mountain



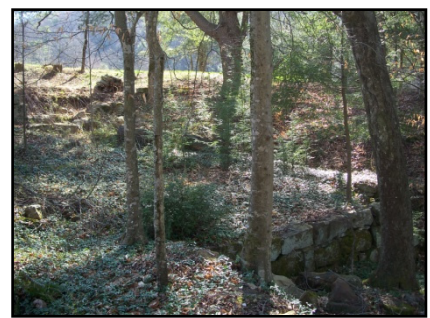
Trailhead (next to Cemetery) leading to trails to Yellow Mtn. is currently closed.

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Wagon Tunnel on Little Black Mountain (one of the many sites along the route to Hagan ATV Trailhead).



View of Wagon Tunnel on top of Little Black Mountain. The mountain ridge is the KY/VA state line.



Across the road, a large hotel once stood and attracted many visitors who came to see the Wagon Tunnel and enjoy the “healing powers” of the seven springs which still flow today. Someone has recently begun cleaning up the area and cleaning out the springs so they can flow more naturally as they once did.



Small privately owned pay lake is located along Hubbard Springs Road.



Potential to convert old school into lodging facility for ATV riders if building is still structurally sound.



Tunnel one passes through as one nears Hagan ATV Trailhead.



Community Center also along the route.

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Hagan's ATV Trailhead (lead to trails on Yellow Mountain, Little Black Mountain & trails in Harlan Co. KY



Hagan's Trailhead is located next to a railroad track.



ATV trails goes between these two homes. The owners are ATV friendly. A few riders using the trailhead.



Traveling Hwy 68 back to Pennington Gap Community will take one past Phoebe's Butt at the intersection of 880 and 758. Just turn right onto 758. Hwy 68 also takes one past Lee High school and the turnoff to Hwy 645 which connects with Hwy 627 that leads to Hagan's Trailhead.

Road leading back to VA 58 from Hagan Trailhead



Vacant buildings that may find a new use if Spearhead Trail System reaches full potential in Lee County.

Community of Keesee

- Named for Asian Indians - a Coal Industrialist's wife's name.
- Company store still exists and is now a convenience store. Could be included on a Coal Trail. Follows State Route 606.



Welcome Sign and Rules



Restroom Facilities



Rules and Regulations at Boat Ramp

Lake Keesee Recreation Area (Clinch Ranger District of the George Washington and Jefferson Forests). The recreation area includes a 92 acre lake where Tiger Muskie, Large Mouth Bass, Catfish and Sunfish can be caught and a hiking trail around the lake. There are also vault toilets, central garbage, and two picnic units with tables and grills.

Keesee Hiking Trail: The trail is 3.7 miles long creating a loop around the lake. It is an easy trail primarily used for hiking and wildlife viewing which gets light use and is open year-round.



Keesee Lake Park Recreation Area