One of Georgia's oldest and most popular state parks, Vogel is located on land donated by the Vogel Tanning Company. Located near Brasstown Bald, Georgia’s tallest mountain, the park surrounds beautiful Lake Trahlyta, which was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid-1930’s during the initial development of the park.

The park is rich in both history and diversity of the natural resources. Lying in the shadows of Blood and Slaughter Mountains, Indian legends tell of a great battle in which the streams ‘ran red with blood.’ Biologically, one of the richest areas on Earth, this great diversity adds to Vogel’s beauty and uniqueness. Ever changing, there is always something new.

Vogel has something for everyone. Visitors can choose from picnicking, fishing or swimming in Lake Trahlyta, playing a game of mini-golf, to hiking on any of over 18 miles of trail. Four covered picnic shelters or the enclosed family gatherings area with kitchen appliances and a barbeque pit can host family reunions and groups. Thirty-five cottages, 103 campsites, and a rustic ‘pioneer area’ used for group camping offer overnight accommodations. Backpack camping is allowed on the Coosa Back-Country Trail by permit. The visitors center carries basic supplies, necessities, and souvenirs; and a ‘CCC Museum’ gives tribute to those who first worked at the park.

In season, paddleboats are available for rent, and summer naturalist programs are geared towards both family fun and education. Special events are held throughout the year: April wildflower walks, the CCC Days in May, and Mountain Music in September.

**Trail Safety & Etiquette**

- Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time.
- Be prepared for unexpected weather changes by dressing in layers and carrying rain gear.
- Take a map, compass, water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight and whistle. Three short blasts on a whistle are known as a call for help.
- Do not stray from trails. If you become lost, stay in one location and wait for help. This will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Don’t count on cell phones to work in the wilderness, but if they do, be able to give details about your location.
- Invest in good hiking socks as they are made of sporting goods stores. Avoid blisters by carrying ‘moleskin’ and applying it as soon as you feel a hot spot on your feet. Available in the foot care section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Be prepared for unexpected rain and wind which can lead to hypothermia. Always carry quality rain gear and turn back in bad weather. If you become wet or cold, it is important to get dry and warm as quickly as possible.
- Pack out all trash.
- Keep pets on a leash.
- Do not pick flowers or disturb wildlife.
- Protect the landscape by staying on trails.

**Backcountry Trails & Camping**

Backcountry camping is allowed on the Coosa Trail by permit. Sites are available on a first-come-first served basis. To help preserve our natural and cultural resources and their beauty and uniqueness for others to enjoy, we encourage low-impact practices: ‘Pack it In, Pack it Out; Take Only Pictures, Leave only Footprints.’ Rangers can and will cite violators disregarding rules or damaging our resources.

Backcountry trails cross over several streams and nearby to other water sources, purity of these water sources cannot be guaranteed and it is advisable to treat any water collected from these before using.

The ‘backcountry’ area is wild and remote. To be safe, always be aware of your surroundings. For example, do not camp beneath standing dead trees or trees with dead branches. Be aware of rapidly changing weather conditions, not just cold or wet; but also of the dangers of heat and lightning. Be wary of poisonous plants, stinging and biting insects, snakes, and other animals. Be ‘bear-safe,’ carry a food storage bag and rope to hang packs and food supplies. Even a dog that has become separated from its owner can ruin a trip by eating unprotected food supplies.

When possible, travel with a friend, or better yet, friends. At the least, leave an itinerary with someone who can trust and who will send help, should you become incapacitated or overdue. Cellular telephones should not be depended upon in mountainous terrain. Always allow adequate time to make your journey, and never wander off of marked trails. Criminal trespass charges and search and rescue costs can be charged to persons guilty of negligence or failing to get user permits (OCCG 12-3-10).