

Turkey Creek Trail (White blazes) takes the hiker on a 3.5 mile loop traversing pine lands, mature hardwood forests, and small headwater streams. In addition the trail passes through the home site of a long abandoned farm.

Beginning at the trailhead beside Issaqueena Lake road the trail follows a well established forest road for 2.0 miles. This is Dalton Road, named for Carl Dalton, a Clemson Forester who laid the road out sometime in the 1950s (it is closed to public motor vehicles). In addition to providing access for forest management work, it provides for an interesting and relatively easy hike.

The initial section of trail traverses abandoned farm fields that are now in planted loblolly pines. As of this writing the pines are approximately 8 years in age and are 10 ft in height.

After 0.75 miles the trail abruptly enters a scenic hardwood forest where the sounds of Turkey Creek rushing over small cascades and waterfalls greet the hiker. The forest here is dominated by mature oaks, hickories, and black gum, with an understory of mountain laurel, sourwood, and flowering dogwood. This is an area to see early spring wildflowers. A short distance ahead the trail crosses this creek.

At 1.25 miles from its beginning the trail passes beside a meadow. The meadow is maintained in its early successional condition as a management technique for wildlife enhancement.

Immediately beyond the meadow, a 0.3 mile **shortcut loop** – blue blazing - is available to take the hiker back to the Lake Issaqueena Road. See the note at end of this description.

Passing the meadow the main trail (white blazes) continues to follow the road bed, passing several more small streams and mixed forest stands that characterize the Clemson Forest.

At 2.0 miles Dalton Road rejoins the Issaqueena Lake Road

and the trail now follows the Issaqueena Lake Road (left) for 0.5mi to the Willow Springs picnic area. At Willow Springs the trail leaves the Issaqueena Lake Road and crosses Turkey creek on a footbridge.

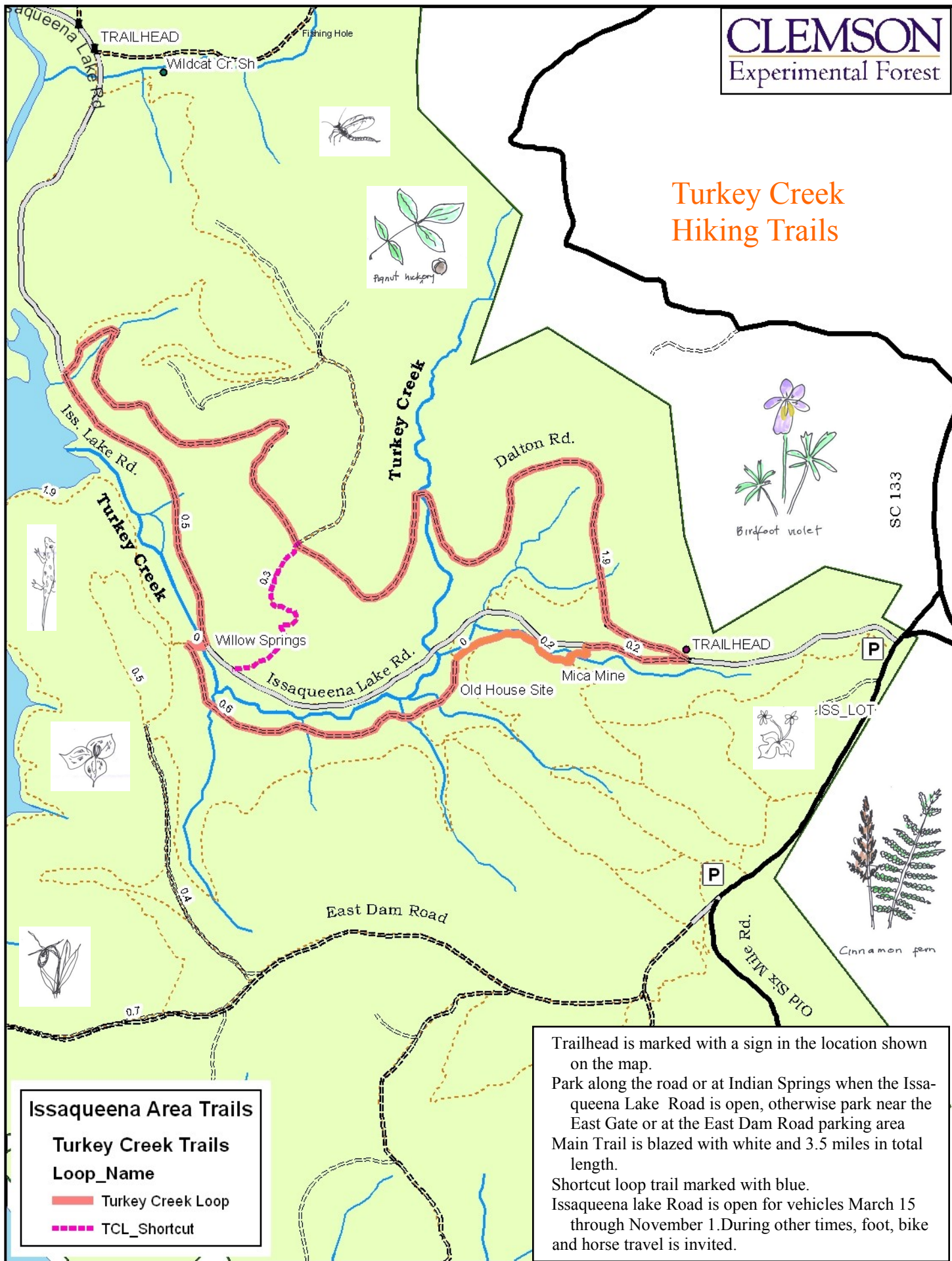
After the footbridge the trail turns left on an abandoned forest road. Following this road for 0.9 mile the hiker passes above the Turkey Creek floodplain on the left, and alternately pine and hardwood forested slopes on the right. Among the hardwoods are seasonal displays of mayapples, jack-in-the-pulpits, black cohosh and other wildflowers. At small stream crossings are dense grows of ferns including cinnamon ferns, New York ferns, and royal ferns.



0.9mi from Willow Springs the trail comes to an abandoned house site. There are many such old house sites in the Forest and most, like this one, are characterized by the presence of semi-open grounds with black walnut trees and daffodils (both planted by the past residents), and rock piles representing the fallen chimney of the long ago house.

Of interest, just past the house site are some large loblolly pines in the forest to the left. These represent some of the first plantings of pines when the Clemson Forest lands were obtained by the federal government in the 1930s. These trees are now over 30 inches in diameter.

After visiting the old house site the trail passé along the side of a steep hillside through hardwood forest for the next 0.25 miles, then rejoins the Issaqueena Lake Road. After following this road for another 0.25 miles the hiker is back at the trailhead.

**Turkey Creek
Hiking Trails**



Issaqueena Area Trails	
Turkey Creek Trails	
Loop_Name	
	Turkey Creek Loop
	TCL_Shortcut

Trailhead is marked with a sign in the location shown on the map.
 Park along the road or at Indian Springs when the Issaqueena Lake Road is open, otherwise park near the East Gate or at the East Dam Road parking area
 Main Trail is blazed with white and 3.5 miles in total length.
 Shortcut loop trail marked with blue.
 Issaqueena lake Road is open for vehicles March 15 through November 1. During other times, foot, bike and horse travel is invited.

