



Today, this land is sanctuary for our wild animals; the deer, bear, coyote, fox, rabbits, squirrels, and many others that do not have such popularity.

Not only do the animals need the protection, but all us humans have a need to get out in nature, away from the clash of traffic, and stretch our eyes and muscles to be at one with the woods and streams of the forest.

Directions:

From Clemson take US 123 west to Old Clemson Highway, turn right. Travel 1.7 miles and turn right on Lawrence Bridge Road. Travel 2.7 miles crossing Lawrence/Ramsey Bridge and take a right on Issaqueena Lake Road and bear left. Travel 1.8 miles crossing Six Mile Creek Bridge. The Trailhead is just before Wildcat Creek Picnic Area.

This area is a Special Natural Resource Area and is noted for flowing streams, rock outcrops, and outstanding displays of wildflowers and mountain laurel.

The thick layers of pine needles are habitat for special plants including Pink Lady Slipper, Hepatica and many others.

Areas along the trail feature beds of sessile trilliums, Rue Anemone, Hepatica, and Bloodroot. Streams are home to salamanders, shiners, darters, lizards and many invertebrates.

It is the Clemson Experimental Forest, but a walk through it tells you that the forest really belongs to all the nature that lives in it.

SIX MILE CREEK TRAIL

The Headwaters of Wildcat Creek and Six Mile Creek lie in the northern areas of the Clemson Experimental Forest. The Forest covers over 17,500 acres and lies north and south of Clemson University campus.

The area is reclaimed worked out cotton farms. Sixty years ago it was pretty bare soil and gullies, not habitable to wildlife. Most of it is "old field" and has returned to a second growth of forest. These areas are mixed hardwood/pine forests or hardwood forests. There are also pure pine stands where the area has been managed as commercial forest land.

This area is a watershed that drains into Lake Issaqueena and Lake Hartwell by way of Six Mile Creek and Wildcat Creek. Because of the varied types of growth on the land, it has many different habitats and is rich in variety of plants and animals of all kinds, including many birds.

By government action and the enterprise of Clemson University foresters, the land has been reclaimed, restored, and now functions as a working forest and outdoor classroom for the people of South Carolina.

Today, you see forests in various stages of growth and enjoy wild flowers and wild animals in a natural scene. In spring, ephemerals such as Bloodroot, Rue Anemone, Trilliums, and Hepatica are to be found in selected spots.

Lake Issaqueena was constructed in 1938; in 1942, 135 acres was leased to Air Corps for bombing practice. It is said that the bottom of Lake Issaqueena is studded with the dud bombs that the Air Corp dropped.

In the late forties and early fifties forestry classes were begun and an arboretum was started. Finally in 1954, almost twenty years after the first action, the forest land was deeded to Clemson.

Legend

Six Mile Creek Trails

- Alt Route
- Six Mile_Trail

Six Mile Creek Hiking Trails

Trailhead is marked with a sign in the location shown on the map. Park beside the road and walk around cable gate.

Main Trail is blazed with white and 3.6 miles in total length.

Side trails marked with blue.

Routed wooden signs are placed to indicate selected features shown on the map.

There are four stream crossings. Prepare for wet feet or take provisions to stay dry (plastic bags / waders). Do not cross high water.

Issaqueena lake Road is open for vehicles March 15 through November 1.

During other times, foot, bike and horse travel is invited.

