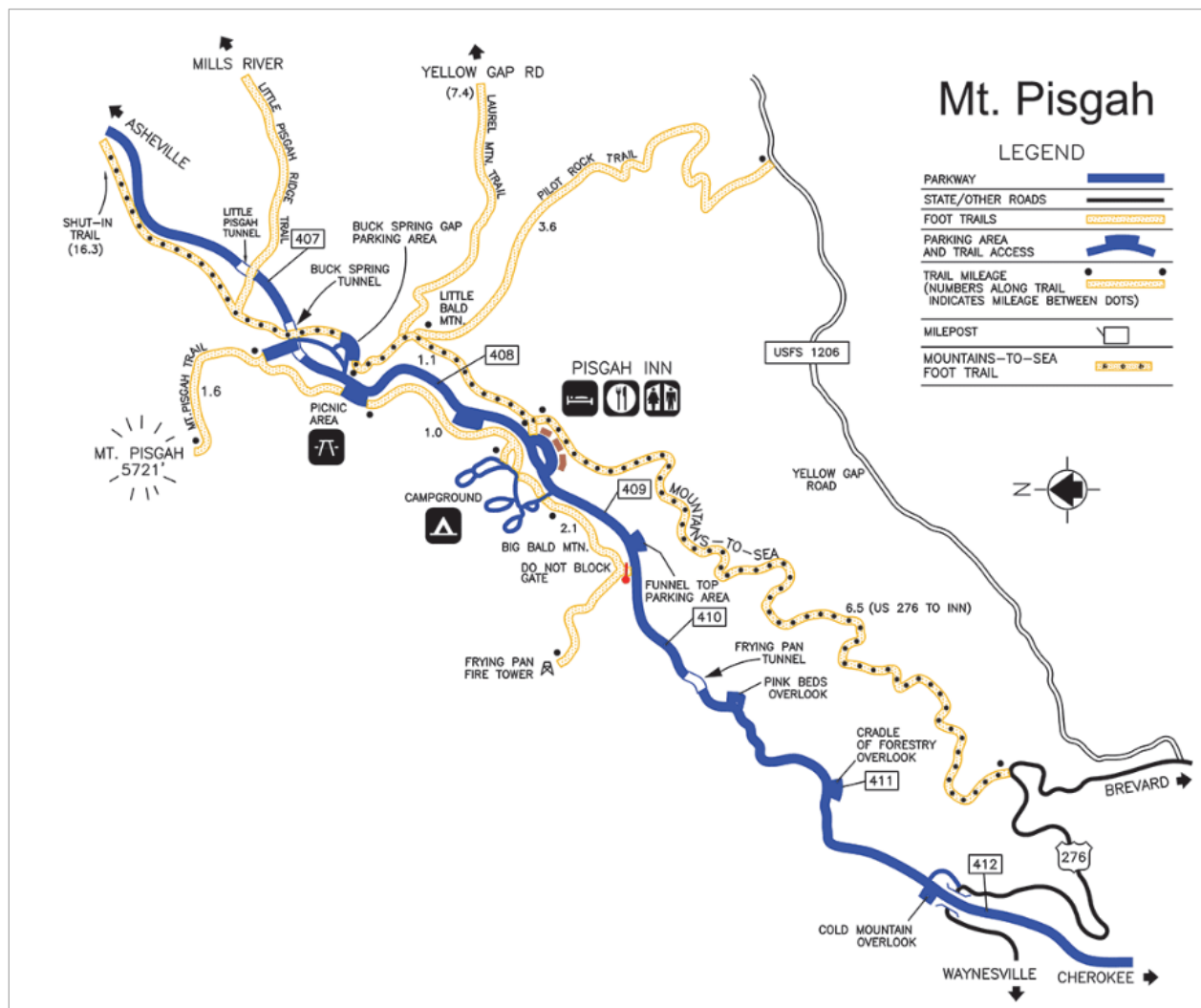


A&WMA Visibility Conference Park Excursion

All conference attendees are invited to attend the excursion in park on Wednesday afternoon. Grab your bag lunch to eat on the bus or carry with you.

A bus will leave from the Terrace hotel at 12:30 pm and transport attendees to Mt. Pisgah Parking area where you can access multiple trails, including the hike to the Frying Pan Mountain tower, where the IMPROVE site is located at the foot of the tower.

See the map and descriptions below for the [Mt. Pisgah trails](#), connectors and access points.



Frying Pan Trail and IMPROVE site



Round Trip: 3.2 miles

A moderate to strenuous hike of 2.1 miles, the trail continues into Frying Pan Gap, named for a communal frying pan hung in a tree by mountain herders who camped there. From the Gap, a gravel road leads to a U.S. Forest Service fire tower at the summit, which at 5,450 feet is the trail's end. Groves of shrubby beaked hazelnut, hawthorn, azalea, and tall, shady red spruce, make this trail a favorite among birdwatchers, especially for spring and fall warblers.

The IMPROVE monitoring site is near the base of the fire tower in a small fenced enclosure with a light-colored equipment shelter.

Mount Pisgah Trail

1.6 miles to the summit, begins at the far end of the Mount Pisgah Parking Area. With an ascent of 712 feet, the latter half of the moderate to strenuous hike is fairly steep and rocky. The trail passes through a Northern Red Oak forest to a deciduous heath bald at the summit, which offers a spectacular view including the French Broad River Valley and Shining Rock Wilderness.



Buck Spring Trail

This 1.1 mile-long section of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail runs between the Mount Pisgah Inn and the Buck Spring Gap Parking Area. The trail passes the site where George Vanderbilt's mountain cabin, Buck Spring Lodge, once stood.

Laurel Mountain Trail

This 7.4 mile moderate trail is a spur off the Buck Spring Trail (Mountains-to-Sea Trail). It descends to U.S. Forest Service Road 1206, Yellow Gap Road, about 1,700 feet below.

Pilot Rock Trail

This moderate trail crosses over part of Pilot Rock, a huge rock outcropping used by old-timers as a landmark to get their bearings.

Shut-In Trail

This moderate to strenuous hike of 16.3 miles follows the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. It begins at the Mount Pisgah Parking Area and descends 3,681 feet to Bent Creek near NC 191.

The bus will pick everyone up in the parking lot at 5 pm to head back to Lake Junaluska.



Optional second hiking area: Graveyard Fields

3.5 miles total, approximately 2.5 hours. Moderate



area.

After dropping off the people at the Mt. Pisgah parking area, the bus will continue to the Graveyard Fields hiking area and drop off passengers at approximately 1:45 pm so they can do the Graveyard Fields hike to a waterfall.

The bus will arrive in the Graveyard Fields parking lot around 4:15 pm and leave at 4:30 pm to head back to the Pisgah Parking