



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Blue Ridge Parkway
www.nps.gov/blri

199 Hemphill Knob Road
Asheville, NC 28803

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Parkway Begins Spring Openings

(Asheville, NC) Visitor facilities along the Blue Ridge Parkway have begun to open for the season and will continue to do so until all are open by late May. The concession at Mt. Pisgah and the Parkway Craft Center at the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park commenced operations earlier this month.

In an announcement today, Superintendent Phil Francis noted that the picnic areas at Peaks of Otter and Humpback Rocks will begin operation Friday, April 6 in time for Easter weekend, while the one at Linville Falls will open April 13. These are in addition to the picnic area at Price Park, which is open year-round.

Linville Falls and Otter Creek Campgrounds will open on Friday, April 6, while all other Parkway campgrounds will open May 11. The daily camping fee for 2007 is \$16. Some sites at Mt. Pisgah, Linville Falls and Price Park Campgrounds can be reserved. For more information, visit www.ReserveUSA.com on the Internet or call toll-free (877) 444-6777. A separate contractor fee is charged for reservations. A number of individual sites at these campgrounds and all sites at the remaining six Parkway campgrounds will still be available as first-come, first-served.

Seasonal openings announced today are in addition to year-round operations at the Peaks of Otter lodge and restaurant near Bedford, VA., the Folk Art Center at Asheville, N.C., and the Museum of North Carolina Minerals near Spruce Pine, N.C.

Most visitor centers will open April 27, some on a 5-day-a-week schedule through late May. As an exception, the Craggy Gardens Visitor Center will operate from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, April 13-22, and seven days a week, beginning April 28. Visitor center hours will be expanded to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 27.

Excluding temporary weather-related closures, the Parkway motor road in Virginia is open with the exception of MP 29 - 61. In North Carolina, MP 344 - 355 (NC 80 to the entrance of Mt. Mitchell State Park) is closed for tunnel work. Mt. Mitchell State Park is open and can be accessed from Asheville north only. The Mt. Mitchell to NC 80 section should open on April 27, weather permitting.

The Parkway is subject to springtime snow and ice, and temporary closures are still possible. For information on current road conditions, call (828) 298-0398.

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Beginning in June, Ranger-led campfire programs, nature walks and other interpretive services will be offered at campgrounds, visitor centers and selected locations along the Parkway. Weekly schedules will be posted. In addition, the summer concert series at the Blue Ridge Music Center will be offered on Saturday evenings June to early autumn. The series is provided through the partnering organization, the National Council for the Traditional Arts. For information about specific performances, visit www.ncta.net on the Internet.

Additional information about the Parkway is also available at www.nps.gov/blri.

Rangers are continuing to emphasize traffic patrols, especially on weekends, to reduce accidents. Motorcyclists are urged to exercise special caution.

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The full schedule of seasonal operations follows.

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY
FACILITY OPENINGS/CLOSINGS
SPRING 2007**

CAMPGROUNDS

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
Linville Falls	04/06/07	11/01/07
Otter Creek	04/06/07	11/01/07
<i>Port-a-Johns will be used before opening and after closing at Montebello and Peaks Campgrounds</i>		
All Other Parkway Campgrounds	05/11/07	11/01/07

PICNIC AREAS

Price Park	Open Year-round	
<i>(Full Service Restrooms and Water Fountains open April 30)</i>		
Peaks of Otter	04/06/07	11/13/07
Humpback Rocks	04/06/07	11/13/07
Linville Falls	04/13/07	11/01/07
All Other Parkway Picnic Areas	05/11/07	11/01/07

VISITOR CENTERS

	<u>Hours</u>
Humpback Rocks	
April 27 - May 26, 7 Days a Week	9-5
Closed for Lunch (12-1) April 27-May 26	9-5
May 27 – Oct 31, 7 Days a Week	
Closed for Season: Nov. 4	
James River	
May 27 - Oct. 29, 5 Days a Week, Closed Mon & Tues	9-5
Closed for Season: Oct. 30	
Peaks of Otter	
April 27 – May 26, 5 Days a Week, Closed Wed & Thurs	9-5
May 27 – Oct. 31, 7 Days a Week	9-5
Closed for Season: Nov. 1	
Rocky Knob	
Weekends Only (Sat, Sun): May 13, 14 and May 20, 21	9-5
May 27 – Oct. 29, 7 Days a Week	9-5
Closed for Season: Oct. 30	

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Blue Ridge Music Center	
May 5 – May 26, 5 Days a Week, Closed Mon & Tues	9-5
May 27 – Oct. 31, 7 Days a Week	9-5
Closed for Season: Nov. 1	
Moses Cone (<i>Information desk and bookstore</i>)	
April 27 – Oct. 31, 7 Days a Week	9-5
Closed for Lunch (12-1) April 27-May 26	
NPS Desk Closes for Season Nov. 4	
(<i>Craft Center open March 15-November 30</i>)	
Linn Cove	
April 27 – Oct. 31, Full Time, 7 Days a Week	9-5
Closed for Lunch (12-1) April 27-May 26	
Closed for Season: Nov. 1	
Linville Falls	
April 7 – April 23, Weekends Only (Sat, Sun)	9-5
April 27 – May 26, 7 Days a Week	9-5
May 27 – Oct. 31, 7 Days a Week	9-5
<i>Closed for Season: Nov 4</i>	
Museum of North Carolina Minerals	Open Year Round
May 27 – Oct. 31	9-5
Nov 1 – May 26: Closed for Lunch, 12-1	9-5
Craggy Gardens	
Weekends Only: April 13 -22 (Fri, Sat, Sun)	10-4
April 27 – May 27, 7 Days a Week	10-4
May 27 – Oct. 31, 7 Days a Week	9-5
Closed for Season: Nov. 4	
(<i>Open additional weekends in November – weather permitting</i>)	
Folk Art Center	Open Year Round
Hours: May 27 – Oct. 31	9-6
Other Times	9-5
Waterrock Knob	
April 27 – May 26, 7 Days a Week	10-4
May 27 – Oct. 31, Full Time, 7 Days a Week	10-5
Closed for Season: Nov. 1	

CONCESSIONS FACILITIES

Otter Creek Restaurant/Gift Shop – Milepost 60.8
May 11 – October 28
Peaks of Otter Lodge/Restaurant/Lounge/Gift Shop - Milepost 85.9
Lodge, Restaurant and Gift Shop Open Year-Round
Peaks Country Store: May 11 – October 28
Sharp Top Bus Service: May 11 – October 28
Rocky Knob Cabins – Milepost 174.1
April 28 – November 4
Mabry Mill Restaurant/Gift Shop - Milepost 176.2
April 28 – November 4
Bluffs Lodge/Restaurant/Gift Shop – Milepost 241.1
April 28 – November 4

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Price Park Lake Boat Rentals – Milepost 297.1

Weekends in May, September and October

Daily May 26 – September 3 (Memorial Day – Labor Day)

Crabtree Meadows Snack Bar/Gift Shop/Camp Store – Milepost 339.5

April 28 – October 28

Northwest Trading Post Gift and Craft Shop – Milepost 258.8

April 28 – December 3

Parkway Craft Center at Moses Cone Manor House – Milepost 294

March 15 – November 30

Folk Art Center – Milepost 382

Open year-round except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas

Pisgah Inn/Restaurant/Gift Shop/Country Store – Milepost 408.6

March 27 – November 4

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