

Park: Chimney Rock

Hours of Operation:

January-February:	8:00	a.m.	to	6:00	p.m.
March-April:	8:00	a.m.	to	8:00	p.m.
May-August:	8:00	a.m.	to	9:00	p.m.
September-October:	8:00	a.m.	to	8:00	p.m.
November-December:	8:00	a.m.	to	6:00	p.m.

Closed December 25, Christmas Day.

Parking /Access:

Designated Climbing Area: Rumbling Bald Access (South)

Road, Parking, and Trails: The existing climbing day use area at Rumbling Bald, located off Boys Camp Road, provides parking for 35 vehicles and trail connections to southern climbing and bouldering areas. Park hours are as listed above. The southern climbing area is considered from “Hanging Chain Wall” to “Cereal Wall” to include the boulder fields located on State Park property.

Future Impacts-Expand Parking: To ensure that Rumbling Bald will accommodate growing visitation, an additional day use area is proposed further east at the end of Boys Camp Road to include additional parking and sanitary facilities. This new facility will allow for increased access to regional hiking and other activities while taking the pressure off the existing climbing day use area. From the proposed day use area, it is proposed that visitors will access loop trails as well as connections to Rumbling Bald, thus the possibility of opening up the north side of Rumbling Bald to climbing.

Designated Climbing Area: Chimney Rock Access (Attraction)

Road, Parking, and Trails: The Chimney Rock Access located off US 64/74 in Chimney Rock Village is a fee access that provides parking, trails, and other facilities for all visitors. This access is operated by a concessionaire. The park hours for this access vary year to year and can be found on the concessionaire’s website.

Guided Climbing: At this time climbing in the Chimney Rock attraction area is only allowed through a contract with the current concessionaire. Chimney Rock Management LLC has contracted Fox Mountain Guides to guide climbing within the attraction area. Climbers are allowed to climb within the attraction as long as they contract Fox Mountain Guides to lead them. Fox Mountain Guides’ activities fall under the group climbing management section of this document as well as the concessionaire’s contract.

Future Impacts-General Public Climbing: Opportunities for the general public to climb without a guide within the attraction will be explored at the term of the concessionaire’s contract with the State. Options may include:

- 1) Climbers must request and fill out a free climbing permit when purchasing an entry ticket.
- 2) Climbing will be allowed only on specified routes (listed above) and with paid admission fees.
- 3) Access points to these routes will be through current or future trails.

- 4) Any route not specified in the Chimney Rock Climbing Management Plan is considered closed.
- 5) All other climbing management guidelines, plans, policies, rules, and regulations would apply.

Resource Management:

DPR may close any climbing area, rock feature, or climbing route to protect wildlife, natural or cultural resources, visitor safety, or visitor experiences. Seasonal closures may be addressed in park-specific plans. Decisions on route or area closures will be made after the consideration of the following:

- Sensitivity of plant or animal species or natural communities present within the climbing zone
- Sensitivity of cultural resources present within the climbing zone
- Whether climbing activities have or are likely to have an unsustainable, adverse impact on natural or cultural resources
- Whether public or climber safety compromised by leaving the route(s) or area(s) open

When appropriate, DPR staff will collaborate with appropriate biologists, safety personnel, climbing community representatives, and other qualified sources prior to closing climbing routes to determine how to best address any relevant concerns. In some instances, such as State or federally-listed species, DPR may have no choice but to close routes to comply with State or federal regulations or conservation strategies. Other options may include but will not be limited to: installing safety measures, such as fencing, railings, trails, or overlooks; visitor education; rare species monitoring; temporary route closures; permanent route closures; installation of new or upgraded anchors or belay stations; etc. The relocation of rare species will be considered only under extreme circumstances. If permanent closure occurs, then appropriate restoration efforts will be conducted. Any closure will be accompanied by a public education component.

All cliff and boulder areas except those listed above as a designated climbing areas are closed to rock climbing, rappelling, and bouldering.

White-Nose Syndrome has been found on bats in Hickory Nut Gorge. This deadly disease has decimated populations of bats across the eastern United States. In an effort to prevent the spread of the disease, visitors to the park, who may carry the disease on their shoes and equipment, are asked to stay out of the caves. The caves on Rumbling Bald Mountain in particular are closed to the public until further notice.

Route/Anchor Management:

Designated Routes: Rumbling Bald Access (South)

Roped Climbing Routes: Specific climbing routes included in this area can be found in the book, Selected Climbs in North Carolina by Yon Lambert and Harrison Shull, 2009 edition, published by The Mountain Books. Any route not specified in the Chimney Rock Climbing Management Plan is considered closed.

Boulder Routes: Specific boulder routes included in this area can be found in the book, Rumbling Bald Bouldering Guide by Chris Dorrity, 2007 edition, published by King Coal Propaganda. Any route not specified in the Chimney Rock Climbing Management Plan is considered closed.

Designated Routes: Chimney Rock Access (Attraction)

Fox Mountain Guides and their clients are permitted to climb the following routes:

- 1) East Buttress: The Contortionist, The Group Slab, The East Buttress Streak, The Big Gulley Slab
- 2) Wildcat Group Site: Wildcat Area, Wildcat Slab, Wildcat Crack, Wildcat Flake, Down with Olfaction, Talk Dirty To Me, Mixed Inauguration, Cliffside Approach
- 3) Wildcat Cliffside: The Steeps, Don't Lego, Brown-Williams, Evan's Crack, Munge Town
- 4) Four Seasons Boulder: Top ropes

Climbing on "Vista Rock", "Chimney Rock proper", and "Hickory Nut Falls" will only be allowed by Special Activity Permit. Any route not specified in the Chimney Rock Climbing Management Plan is considered closed.

Individual climbers are not permitted to climb in the Chimney Rock attraction without Fox Mountain Guides.

New Routes

The establishment of new routes may be addressed in park-specific climbing management plans. All new routes must be located within existing designated climbing areas. In all cases, the following will apply:

- The removal of rock from its natural position will be allowed only when the rock to be removed poses a risk to safety (loose slabs, flakes, etc.).
- Chipping or gluing holds is prohibited.
- The intentional removal of vegetation to clean a route is prohibited
- All new routes will follow anchor management protocol.

Anchor Management

Although there are hundreds of fixed anchors, primarily expansion bolts, on State Park property, fixed anchors can be controversial, and DPR's preference is to minimize their use. Thus, while fixed anchors are permitted in State Parks, DPR reserves the right to prohibit new installation efforts on a case-by-case basis. DPR is not responsible for the installation, use, inspection, or maintenance of any fixed anchors. DPR makes no claims as to any fixed anchor's condition or reliability, and is not responsible for anchor information in guidebooks, Internet websites, etc.

DPR will not install/replace fixed anchors. Instead, all anchor installation/replacement efforts will be conducted on a volunteer basis by members of the climbing community. Park staff may provide logistical coordination of anchor installation/replacement efforts.

Anchor installation/replacement efforts will be coordinated through credible organizations specializing in climbing issues, including but not limited to the Carolina Climbers Coalition, professional guide services, Outward Bound, The Access Fund, the American Safe Climbing Association, the American Alpine Association, the AMGA, the PICA, etc. The selection and certification of all anchor installation/replacement team members will be the responsibility of the consulting organization(s).

Prior to the project's initiation, all volunteer climbers will be advised in writing by the park superintendent of the following points:

- Anchor installation projects will comply with DPR's Volunteer Guidelines.
- The State will not provide medical coverage or worker's compensation in the case of an accident.
- All climbing equipment, tools, anchor hardware, and any other costs associated with anchor

replacements are to be provided by the climbing community.

- Park staff must be notified prior to the initiation of the project, and all work must occur during posted park operating hours.
- Old anchors are to be completely removed and carried out. Unless otherwise warranted, the replacement(s) should occur as close as possible to the old anchor site(s).
- Upgrading pitons or other fixed gear with expansion bolts is strongly encouraged.
- On completion of the project, climbers will provide the park superintendent with written documentation of anchor location, type, date/method of installation, and who did the work.

Fixed Anchor Standards

The minimum standards for expansion bolts will be a stainless steel 3" x 3/8" wedge anchor, or a stainless steel 2.25" x 3/8" sleeve anchor, coupled to a stainless steel hanger. All anchors and hangers must be rated by the European Committee for Standardization and the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (CE/UIAA). Specialty anchors, such as glue-in bolts, will be considered on a case-by-case basis and only after consultation with knowledgeable sources.

- Larger and longer anchors are acceptable, and camouflaged anchors are encouraged.
- Stainless steel ring anchors are preferred (but not required) for belay or rappel station anchors.
- Non-climbing specific hardware, such as homemade hangers, construction or masonry anchors, cold shuts, etc., is not allowed.
- Pitons are strongly discouraged.
- Existing anchor holes may be used in the installation of replacement anchors whenever possible.
- Abandoned anchor holes that are deemed unusable may be patched with some form of moldable epoxy putty, preferably colored to match the native stone.

Fixed Anchor Installation Methods

- Fixed anchors may be installed using either a handheld or power drill.
- Replacement anchors may be placed on rappel or from the ground up.
- The installation of fixed anchors on new routes from the ground up, by a lead climber, or from the top-down, on rappel, will be left to the area's prevailing climbing style and may be addressed in park-specific management plans.

Replacement of Existing Fixed Anchors

The replacement of fixed anchors on established routes or belay stations will be allowed whenever climbers notify park staff that existing fixed anchors are unsafe. Upon notification, park staff will immediately post information at climbing information kiosks, permit kiosks, and park offices advising climbers that suspect anchors may be present on a specific route. The route in question may remain closed until repairs are made.

Installation of New Fixed Anchors

There will be situations where the installation of new fixed anchors is prudent. The placement of new fixed anchors will be allowed for:

- New climbing routes, but only in sections of the route that have no features adequate for the reliable placement of removable hardware, such as camming devices, wired stoppers, etc.
- Rappel or belay stations, particularly at the tops of routes and for "No Top Out" areas.
- Resource protection.
- Any situation in which climbers notify DPR of the need for additional anchors for safety or natural resource protection.

Belay/Rappel Station Anchors

In addition to the anchor standards noted above, all fixed anchor belay and rappel stations will be located after due consideration of the following:

- The use of vegetation for belay and rappel anchors is not recommended.
- Fixed belay/rappel stations must have a minimum of two anchors.
- CE/UIAA-rated stainless steel ring anchors are preferred but not required.
- Anchor stations are to be placed to avoid rope drag across obstructions or sharp edges. Where needed, anchors may be lengthened with CE/UIAA-rated stainless steel chain.
- Fixed anchor stations are to be installed so that the anchors can be easily equalized.
- Fixed anchor stations are to remain clean of webbing and accessory cord.

Groups:

There is a maximum limit of 14 people per group.

A Group includes all climbers, support personnel and spectators

Quarterly Group Restrictions

The quarters are January to March, April to June, July to September, October to December

Total reservation maximum per quarter: none

Weekend reservation maximum per quarter: none

Having an approved GCA does not constitute a reservation.

Groups with reservations must arrive in time to use a route first come, first served. Routes may not be held by placing rope and gear on them and leaving them unattended.

Unattended and abandoned gear is considered littering and may be removed by park staff.

Climbing Area:

Daily group limits: none

No more than ___ organized or commercial groups may be allowed per day. Organized and commercial groups are not limited at Chimney Rock.

Groups may be directed to climb in specific areas or zones to minimize conflict with other park users and manage impacts on natural resources.