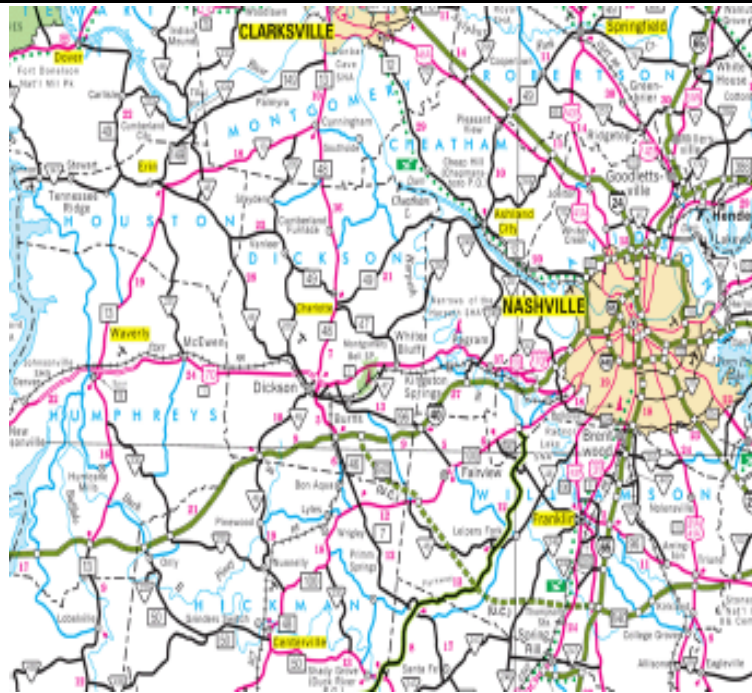


Montgomery Bell

Background

Montgomery Bell State Park is located just outside of Dickson, Tennessee in Dickson County. This area was once home to a developing iron industry in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The ground was mined for iron ore, and the forests were cleared in order to produce charcoal for iron furnaces. Today, the iron industry has collapsed, and the forests at Montgomery Bell State Park have healed. Montgomery Bell State Park has excellent camping facilities, hiking trails, and interpretive programs.



Hiking

Montgomery Bell State Park has around nineteen miles of hiking trails with lengths ranging from .75 miles to 11.7 miles. These trails are excellent for running easy day hikes or an easy backpacking trip.

The Montgomery Bell Overnight Trail follows the circumference of the park and takes hikers to the Ore Pit Loop, Lake Woodhaven, and Acorn Lake. The trail is open year round, but spring and fall are probably the best times to hike the trail. Water can be obtained from several springs and streams along the trail, but it must be purified to be made drinkable. There are some strict rules that must be obeyed while on the trail. Hiking parties cannot be larger than six people unless a permit is obtained from the park manager, and hiking parties are supposed to maintain a distance of at least .25 miles between each other. Hikers should also practice Leave-No-Trace and pack out any trash. The elevation gain is only 130 feet and the highest point is only 660 feet, making this a very easy and relaxing hike.

Camping

Montgomery Bell State Park features a fee-based campground, and reservations cannot be made. The campground has three bathhouses, and the campsites have picnic tables and grills. The main campground also has a creek running through it, and some of the campsites are located on the creek bank. Three backcountry campsites are available in addition to the main campground. Troops interested in camping on the Montgomery Bell Overnight Trail are allowed to camp in designated sites along the trail. A special permit is required, and reservations are recommended.

Montgomery Bell State Park

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Montgomery Bell State Park

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