

### ACR Self-Guided Tour

The Anderson Creek Retreat community encompasses a diverse southern Appalachian landscape of more than 1,200 acres. From the mid 1800's to the first part of the twentieth century, ten pioneer families lived here. The chimney ruins of a few cabins are still standing and are set aside as community parks. Overgrown fields have been restored as open space and pasture.

Anderson Creek Retreat is defined by two land forms: **Spring Camp**, a valley formed by a high mountain ridge and the valley to the north and **The Ridge at Creek Camp**, a mountain next to Anderson Creek overlooking it. The two areas are bisected by Creek Camp Road which runs from Old Anderson Creek Road on the north to the gap at Tanager Trail.

Spring Camp includes the Ridge Preserve, a mile of a hardwood ridgeline beginning at Mountain Camp, a community park, at our boundary with the Chattahoochee National Forest to the gap at Tanager Trail. A trail along the high ridge runs the length of the Ridge Preserve from Mountain Camp to Tanager Trail. The Ridge Preserve is protected by a conservation easement with the Georgia Land Trust.

The rugged north facing slopes of Spring Camp are a hardwood forest. In the lower elevations, dozens of springs form a small creek that winds for more than a mile through concentrations of laurel, rhododendron and wild azalea to Tickanetley Creek. A trail follows the creek from its source near Lot 34 off Mountain Camp Road until it leaves the property at Old Bucktown Road. The lower portion of the trail below the Spring Camp Homestead follows the creek through a dense stand of old growth hemlocks.

There were three pioneer homesteads north of Spring Camp Road on more gentle rolling land. The Weaver chimney ruins are found on Spring Camp Road just below the Calton Cabin on Site 17. **The Patterson chimney ruins** stand in the park across from Site 24. The Spring Camp Homestead is built on the site of another Patterson family cabin. Below the Homestead cabin is Spring Camp, a lush spring complex.

The Ridge at Creek Camp encompasses the ridges overlooking the mile-long Anderson Creek Valley and includes The Ridge homesites, and the adjoining Creek Preserve, a 75-acre community park in the Anderson Creek valley. The Creek Preserve is also protected by a Georgia Land Trust conservation easement.

**The Mulkey Homestead ruins** are just below the gap at Tanager Trail next to the old wagon road to the creek. There are many trails in the Creek Camp area. A two-mile loop trail circles The Ridge. Trails also run along both sides of Anderson Creek and a higher trail runs the length of the creek valley to Anderson Lake, the Anderson Family Homestead ruins and the dam at Anderson Lake.

There are 64 existing home sites-37 in Spring Camp and 27 in The Ridge at Creek Camp. **Forty one owners have purchased 51 home sites or large tracts from 20 to 134 acres.** Twenty homes are completed and two more are in planning. Our architecture is typical of southern Appalachian mountain homes.

**Don't miss Sunrise Ridge** on our northern boundary where you can look south to see the mile-long Ridge Preserve, to the east to see Springer Mountain where the Appalachian Trail begins and north to the 13,000-acre Rich Mountain Wilderness

**Don't miss Creek Camp and the 75-acre Creek Preserve.**

**Restroom facilities are always open at the Office next to the Barn and at the stone bathhouse at Creek Camp.**

### **Suggested Route to Creek Camp**

Drive past the Barn and Office on Spring Camp Road. The first house on your left is the Page Cabin, on Lot 2 Spring Camp. Next is the Ross Compound, Lot 10 Spring Camp, around the curve on your right and one of several Anderson Creek Retreat homes featured in the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

You will pass Mountain Camp Road on your left which is the access road to Mountain Camp and the Bunkhouse at our National Forest boundary. The Cummins home is under construction on Sites 17-18. You will need all-wheel drive to make the last, sharp uphill right turn to the Bunkhouse.

As you continue on Spring Camp Road, homes on Sites 13, 15, 17, and 18-the Ashford, Dahlgren, Calton and Engle-Chapman homes are set back from view. Along the roads, trailheads are marked by locust posts. You are welcome to park and take a walk on any of the trails. They are shown on the community plan as dashed lines.

As you continue on Spring Camp Road you reach a field with the Patterson Homestead chimney ruins and, in the field, a swing made from locust trees, Adirondack chairs and a picnic table. This is a community park. After you pass the Patterson Place, Spring Camp Road bears left and ends at Creek Camp Road. Straight ahead is the Parsons home on 13 acres, Sites 1, 2, 3 and 9 in The Ridge. Turn left toward Creek Camp and the Creek Preserve. Turn right to Sunrise Ridge.

On your way to Creek Camp, on the left is a 3.5-acre community park designated for a community garden and pollinators. At the upper end is the Smith-Hauck home, a southern dogtrot design that was featured in Cottage Living Magazine. As you continue past the Smith-Hauck home, The Ridge sites 9, 10, 11 and 12 are on your right.

When you crest the ridge, Creek Camp Road ends and Tanager Trail is to your right. The road to Creek Camp and Anderson Creek is straight ahead. Creek Camp has a stone bath house and a stone shelter with a fireplace. Make yourself at home with the Adirondack chairs, picnic tables, horseshoes and hammock. There is a nice trail downstream on the Creek Preserve Trail that joins the two-mile-long Ridge Loop.

On Tanager Trail you will pass Sites 13,14,15,16 with exceptional views across the Cartecay River Valley. On your left, Sites 30 and 31 have exceptional views across to the south to the National Forest and the Anderson Creek Valley to Burnt Mountain. The Lancaster Home is on Site 29 on your left. The sites at the end of Tanager Trail join the Creek Preserve and overlook the Anderson Creek valley. Sites on Settlement Trail join the Creek Preserve.

If you are adventurous and have all-wheel drive, on your way back to the Barn and Office and Old Bucktown Road, take a right at Mountain Camp Road and up the mountain to the Bunkhouse at Mountain Camp on our National Forest boundary. Park across from the Bunkhouse and walk the woods road behind it to Mountain Camp. Turn left in the curve back to the Bunkhouse for the High Ridge Trail that runs one mile along the crest of The Ridge Preserve to Tanager Trail.

Finally, you might enjoy seeing the Spring Camp Homestead built on the site of an old settler's cabin beside the creek that drains the 400-acre Spring Camp valley. The cabin is built above the very bold spring that provided the Homestead water. Walk down the trail to the spring where you'll see a mass of Jewelweed, ferns, laurel, rhododendron and hemlocks.