

Phillips Hollow - Artie Hollow - Davis Creek Shuttle Hike

6.8 Mile Shuttle - Very Strenuous - Elevation Gain 1533 Feet

If only one vehicle is available, this hike can be done as a loop ending with a one mile walk on Shelton Mission Road.

WARNING: The Phillips Hollow and Artie Hollow trails were partially decimated by the flood of 2001 and later by the tornado of 2011. The footpath is evident in most places but there are many blowdowns and difficult creek crossings.

Consider these trails as unmaintained manways. The Davis Creek Section is maintained and is in very good shape but does contain numerous creek crossings.

Hiked March 30, 2012

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Directions to Trailhead: Leave Greeneville on McKee Street which becomes The Jones Bridge Road. Drive approximately 5 miles from town, cross the Nolichucky River, until you reach the intersection with Highway 107 at the Crossroads Service Station and Hardware. Drive straight through the intersection on the Greystone Road and follow signs to the Margarett Falls Trailhead. Continue on Shelton Mission Road past the Margarett Falls Trailhead for one mile to the Davis Creek Trailhead which is difficult to find. Look for an old swimming pool foundation on the left just past a white house in a curve. The Davis Creek Trailhead is just across the road and a sign is present. There is a small parking space for one or two cars. Leave a vehicle here and return to the Margarett Falls Parking Lot.

Begin at the Margarett Falls-Bullen Hollow Trailhead at the large parking lot on the Shelton Mission Road. The first section is very easy walking along a graveled forest service road. After a little over a half mile, the road will end at a small traffic circle. Margarett Falls and Bullen Hollow continue up a path to the right.

To reach the trailhead for Phillips Hollow immediately cross the creek to the left. This was a difficult rock hop with high water conditions present at the time it was hiked. The Phillips Hollow Trail is no longer maintained and the trailhead is not marked. After the crossing, climb up a steep bank to find the trail. Phillips Hollow is steep and rocky with numerous blowdowns and difficult creek crossings. At the time of this hike, all the crossings were all rock hopped without wading.

After a total of one mile you will reach the second creek crossing with huge boulders in the trail. The crossing is not difficult and the Spruce Thicket Trailhead is on the right although a signpost or blaze is not present. The Spruce Thicket Trail can be found at the top of the rise, and is a beautiful unmaintained manway that also contains many blowdowns and creek crossings that ends at Low Gap on the Camp Creek Bald Road.

For this hike, continue straight on Phillips Hollow which climbs steeply through many blowdowns and many more creek crossings, some of which may be difficult. After covering about a mile and a half, you will pass a very nice waterfall then come to a flatter open section known as the Orchard. Notice the ruins of an old building just beside the trail.

Just past the Orchard, you will reach the Junction of the Artie Hollow Trail. You have covered a total of two miles. Phillips Hollow continues straight and climbs steeply to the Appalachian Trail. The Artie Hollow Trailhead has no signpost but, at the time, there were ribbons marking the junction and the trail is easy to spot in any case.

Artie Hollow initially follows a small creek, then climbs steeply up the mountain side. At the time of this hike there was a long, wide firebreak that climbs straight up the hillside and down the other side. The original trail crosses the firebreak three or four times on switchbacks, giving the hiker the option of the easier, longer route or the direct route straight up the mountain. We followed the firebreak but it was long and strenuous and the original path is recommended.

After covering a little over three miles, the high point of the hike is reached at the top of the Firebreak. The hike will be mostly downhill from here. You will follow a small creek until the confluence with Davis Creek is reached. This descent is rough and you will continually cross the creek. Most crossings are easy because the water volume is low. In some areas you will be climbing over boulders and in others you will hike directly in the creekbed.

After covering a total of four miles, you will pass Artie Hollow Falls, a nice 30 foot cascade. Follow the creek downhill for another mile past the falls to reach the Davis Creek Trail in an open, flatter area. Davis Creek is obvious because it is much wider and contains a lot more volume than the creek you have been following. Cross Davis Creek and take the trail to the left.

This section of the Davis Creek Trail has been maintained and is in much better condition than Phillips Hollow and Artie Hollow. The result of a lot of chainsaw work is evident along the trail. In the next mile you will cross Davis Creek many times and all crossings are wide and wading may be required at high water.

After covering a total of six miles, you will leave Davis Creek at a small signpost and climb over the hillside for about three quarters of a mile to reach the Davis Creek Trailhead. This final section is dry and open but susceptible to blowdowns due to the Southern Pine Beetle. At the time of this hike, this section was in excellent condition.

SYNOPSIS OF HIKE

Mile	Elevation	Description
0	1872	Margarette Falls Trailhead
.056	2110	Phillips Hollow Trailhead. Take the left and cross the creek.
1.05	2198	JCT Spruce Thicket Trail. Continue Straight.
2.06	3081	JCT Artie Hollow Trail. Take the Left.
3.12	3405	High Point of Hike.
4.04	2848	Artie Hollow Falls
4.95	2365	JCT Davis Creek Trail. Take the Left.
6.04	2036	Signpost
6.86	1894	Davis Creek Trailhead.

