

NATURAL RESTORATION AREAS Trails and Points of Interest

A 275-acre, post-industrial, natural area characterized by ongoing restoration efforts and natural reclamation.

Mead's Quarry Lake



This 25-acre lake has floating wildlife platforms for birds and turtles. At times freshwater jellyfish can be seen here. State license required for fishing.

Imerys Trail (0.75 miles)

Named after the company that donated the 103-acre, Ross Marble Natural Area, this trail leads right through the heart of this rugged property with connections to the quarry gorge and multi-use trails.

Pink Marble Trail (0.4 miles)

A scenic, multi-use, trail along the lake-front named after the pink Tennessee Marble extracted for use in local and national buildings and monuments. The trail leads to an observation deck affording expansive views of the lake.



Tharp Trace (1.1 miles)

Looped trail, steep in places. Named after Minnie Tharp who championed the restoration of Mead's Quarry. Views of the lake and Mt. LeConte, plus the historic Stanton Cemetery, punctuate long stretches of woodland canopy along the trail above the cliffs.

Ross Marble Quarry Loop (0.25 miles)

The rock bridge provides panoramic views of the former quarry site, while underneath, the "keyhole" provides access to the lower quarry featuring carved Tennessee marble shelves and rock faces.



Hayworth Hollow (0.1 mile)

Named after long-time Ijams champions, Dr. Ray and Christine Hayworth, this stunning trail follows the quarry gorge lined with moss-covered boulders and sheer rock walls. Gated caves protect native wildlife, including bats and the rare and threatened Berry cave salamander.

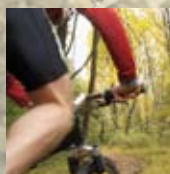
Safety First: Please be careful when exploring Ijams' natural areas, especially near water and high points.

Do not climb rocks or proceed past safety barriers, which have been situated for visitor safety. Access to Mead's Quarry Lake for swimming or boating is prohibited due to falling rocks and underwater currents.



HISTORY: In 1881, the Ross Marble Company began extracting Tennessee marble at Mead's Quarry for use in buildings and monuments in Knoxville, New York, and Washington, D.C. John M. Ross operated the quarry to the south. The Great Depression ended the marble boom and from the 1940s onwards only agricultural lime and gravel was produced at these sites.

Amber Trail (0.75 mile) & Hickory Trail (1.4 miles) Multi-use trails for hiking and mountain biking wind through the former quarry site, wetlands and a native forest populated by impressive hickory trees. Special thanks to the members of Appalachian Mountain Bike Club who built these and other multi-use trails at nearby William Hastie Natural Area.



0 100 300 500 ft.
UPDATED: OCT. 2010

Mead's Quarry circa 1920s



P PARKING	♿ RESTROOMS	— MULTI-USE TRAIL
♿ WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE	🏠 OVERLOOK/OBSERVATION POINT	— PAVED TRAIL
? INFO KIOSK		 HILLY TRAIL