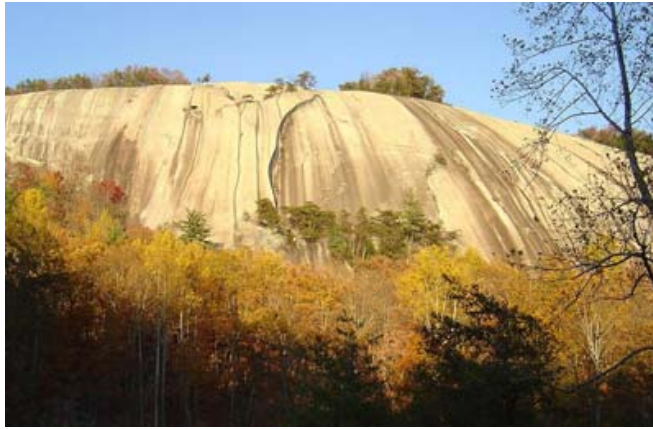


State Parks and State Forests



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North Carolina State Forests

Dupont State Forest - <http://www.dupontforest.com>

The DuPont State Forest is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains between Hendersonville and Brevard, North Carolina. Its 10,400 acres of forest feature four major waterfalls on the Little River and several on the Grassy Creek. The original 7,600 acre forest was established in 1996 through a generous bargain sale from the DuPont Corporation. In 2000, the Forest was expanded by two property additions, including the spectacular 2200 acre tract in the center of the Forest containing High Falls, Triple Falls, and Bridal Veil Falls. The property is presently open to hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking (see maps, trail guide and user policies at <http://www.dupontforest.com>).

Located southeast of Brevard in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the 10,400 acre Dupont State Forest (DSF) offers almost 100 miles of trails and several unique waterfalls and other attractions. Some trails pass over large expanses of solid rock on large granite domes. Others twist through the woods, offering more traditional Carolina style. Trails are multi-use (biking, hiking, and equestrian) and they are well signed and well marked.

There are five main parking areas at DSF: at Guion Farm, Hooker Falls, Buck Forest Gate, Fawn Lake, and Corn Mill Shoals. Each has portable toilet facilities and an information board, displaying good advice for using the area, rules and regulations, events, and a good map.

The DuPont State Forest can be accessed from Hendersonville via Kanuga/Crab Creek Rd, from Asheville/Brevard via US64 and Little River Rd, or from Greenville/Brevard via Cedar Mountain and Cascade Lake Rd.

Holmes Educational State Forest

USGS Map: Standing Stone Mountain

1299 Crab Creek Road
Hendersonville, N.C., 28739
(828) 692-0100, e-mail: holmesesf@ncmail.net

To get to Holmes State Forest from downtown Hendersonville take US 25 south .5 mile till it meets with Caswell Street, turn right onto Caswell Street which will become Kanuga Road (SR 1127). Go approximately 10 miles and Holmes State Forest will be on the drivers left. From Penrose on US 64 take Featherstone Creek Road for 2.6 miles onto Little River . Turn left onto Crab Creek Road that will become Kanuga Road. The entrance to Holmes State Forest is 4.2 miles away on the driver's right. There will be signs on US 64 to help. The Holmes Educational State Forest is named after the states first state forester, John S Holmes (1868-1958). In the 1930's this 231 acre plot was used by the civilian conservation corps as a camp, and in 1972 it became a recognized state forest. The park has facilitates for picnicking, hiking, nature study and primitive camping on the mountain top. The forest center and trail map board is located .1 mile from the parking lot. The forestry center informs hikers and picnickers of bathroom facilities and established picnic grounds. The Holmes Talking Tree Trail and Cliffside Demonstration Trail are also shown on the map board. The Cliffside Demonstration Trail (red blaze) is a 2.8 mile loop trail that circles the mountain to the campground at the top. A less difficult trail can be accessible by most handicapped is the Holmes Talking Tree Trail which had a green blaze. This .8 mile loop trail has audio devices that explain the function, value and historical use of the native trees in the area. http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/esf/hesf/hesf_home.htm

Rendezvous Mountains

Is 147 acres of mountain forest in Wilkes County. It is located 1-1/2 miles off County 1348 near Purlear.

Western North Carolina Region STATE PARKS

Crowder's Mountain State Park

Raptors soar gracefully in the wind; vegetation reaches to the sky; sheer vertical cliffs drop 150 feet. Enjoy the spectacle from a front-row seat. High atop Crowder's Mountain, the highest point in Gaston County, views stretch for more than 20 miles. For a closer view of nature's marvels, walk the park's many miles of trails. The gently rolling landscape of the North Carolina Piedmont offers a variety of terrain. Dip into the valleys; cross the foothills; climb to the peaks. Quiet woods, trickling streams and melodious birds await. These spectacular surroundings, like the unique habitats in many other state parks, would not exist were it not for the efforts of concerned citizens dedicated to protecting our environment from continued threats by man. Visit this mountain treasure. Around 5,000 acres.

522 Park Office Lane
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
(704) 853-5375

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/crmo/crmo.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/crmo/home.html



Gorges State Park

Plunging waterfalls, rugged river gorges, sheer rock walls and one of the greatest concentrations of rare and unique species in the eastern United States are found within Gorges State Park. An elevation that rises 2,000 feet in only four miles, combined with rainfall in excess of 80 inches per year, creates a temperate rain forest and supports a collection of waterfalls.

PO Box 100
Sapphire, N.C. 28774-0100
(828) 966-9099

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/gorg/gorg.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/gorg/home.html



Hanging Rock State Park

Not far from the cities of the Triad area, off the four-lane highways there's another North Carolina to be discovered—sheer cliffs and peaks of bare rock, quiet forests and cascading waterfalls, views of the piedmont plateau that stretch for miles. Hike the trails of Hanging Rock State Park and let nature put life's hectic pace in perspective. Rent a vacation cabin and fall asleep to the lullabies of spring peepers and chorus frogs. Join an interpretive program and discover something new about nature's bounty. Nestled in the hills is a cool mountain lake that beckons to swimmers and fishermen. Picnic areas and campgrounds lend themselves to time spent with family and friends. Hanging Rock State Park awaits you. Includes 6,921 acres in Stokes County.

P.O. Box 278,
Danbury, NC 27016
(336) 593-8480

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/haro/haro.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/haro/home.html



Lake James State Park

Tucked away in rolling hills at the base of Linville Gorge is Lake James, a 6,510-acre lake with more than 150 miles of shoreline. This impressive waterway is the centerpiece of Lake James State Park. Here, nature offers scenic vistas of the Appalachian Mountains and beckons to those with an appetite for recreation. Bring family and friends to one of North Carolina's newest state parks for a variety of activities. Try swimming and sunbathing or enjoy a picnic along the lakeshore. Boat, water ski or fish in cool mountain waters, or take a walk and enjoy an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife along park trails. Lake James offers a variety of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

P.O. Box 340
Nebo, NC 28761
(828) 652-5047

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/laja/laja.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/laja/home.html



Mount Jefferson State Natural Area

Mount Jefferson rises abruptly to more than 1,600 feet above the surrounding landscape, serving as a landmark for area motorists. Acquaint yourself with this mighty peak by viewing it first from the Mount Jefferson Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Rising as a long, forested prominence, its dark color is conspicuous among neighboring peaks on the Ashe plateau. Though the mountain is magnificent from a distance, Mount Jefferson is best appreciated up close. On a clear day, you can see for miles from its peak. A great part of Ashe County spreads out below; fields, farms, forests and mountains mingle in kaleidoscopic patterns. On the horizon, the Blue Ridge Mountains form a striking backdrop. (490 acres)

PO Box 48
Jefferson, NC 28640
(336) 246-9653

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/moje/moje.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/moje/home.html



Mount Mitchell State Park

In the crest of the timeworn Black Mountains lies the summit of Mount Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi. For those who ascend this mighty peak, what looms in the horizon is a feast for the eyes—breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, rolling ridges and fertile valleys. Forested and forever misty, 1,855-acre Mount Mitchell State Park will provide you with some of the most tranquil moments you'll ever experience.

2388 State Highway 128
Burnsville, NC 28714
(828) 675-4611

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/momi/momi.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/momi/home.html



New River State Park

The New River area still maintains an old-fashioned charm. Mountain roads are narrow and winding, dotted with small farms, churches and country stores. The river itself is tranquil, offering good bass fishing, trout streams, excellent birding and inspiring mountain scenery. But perhaps the best way to absorb and appreciate the river's peacefulness is from the seat of a canoe as it glides across the slow-moving waters. Three areas with access to this waterway make up more than 1,500 acres of New River State Park and provide spots for camping, canoeing, picnicking and fishing.

PO Box 48

Jefferson, NC 28640

(336) 982-2587

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/neri/neri.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/neri/home.html



Pilot Mountain State Park

Approach from any direction and see Pilot Mountain rising more than 1,400 feet above the rolling countryside of the upper Piedmont plateau. Dedicated as a National Natural Landmark in 1976, this solitary peak is the centerpiece of Pilot Mountain State Park. Fun, from relaxation to exhilaration, is easy to find here. Treat yourself to a horseback ride through the woods or challenge the river from raft or canoe. A five-mile woodland corridor joins two sections of the park, each section offering a wealth of opportunities for outdoor fun. The mountain segment, which includes the two pinnacles, contains most of the visitor facilities. The more primitive river section centers around the lazy, meandering Yadkin River. It consists of 3,703 acres in Surry and Yadkin County.

1792 Pilot Knob Park Road

Pinnacle, NC 27043

(336) 325-2355

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/pimo/pimo.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/pimo/home.html



South Mountains State Park

Nestled deep in the woods, South Mountains State Park is the perfect place to enjoy nature. Here you can see a majestic mountain range peeking out from the gently rolling landscape of the piedmont. The park includes elevations up to 3,000 feet, a waterfall dropping 80 feet and more than 40 miles of trails. From equestrian camping to trout fishing, mountain biking to picnicking, a number of activities are available at South Mountains State Park. It consists of 16,664 acres in Burke County.

3001 South Mountains State Park Ave.

Connelly Springs, NC 28612

(828) 433-4772

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/somo/somo.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/somo/home.html



Stone Mountain State Park

Stone Mountain is not immediately visible upon entering the park that bears its name, but this magnificent 600-foot granite dome is well worth the wait. Sunlight and shadows dance across a broad tapestry of stone. White-tailed deer emerge from the security of the forest to graze on meadow grasses at the mountain's base. The scenery is only one attraction of the park. Test your fly-fishing techniques in more than 17 miles of designated trout waters. Or, with more than 16 miles of trails, take a hike in the park. Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the north by the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands. More than 13,747 acres of mountain beauty offer opportunities for outdoor activities of all kinds.

3042 Frank Parkway
Roaring Gap, NC 28668
(336) 957-8185

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/stmo/stmo.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/stmo/home.html



Central North Carolina Region

STATE PARKS

Eno River State Park

Eno River begins in northwest Orange County, flowing eastward approximately 33 miles until, along with the Little and Flat rivers, it forms the Neuse and flows into Falls Lake. The Eno's waters roll through wilderness passing historic mill sites, river bluffs covered with flowering shrubs and fords used by early settlers. The river can run as swift as the wind and as gentle as a blowing breeze. But, upstream, rapids smash against rocks in the river's path. Further down, the Eno meanders quietly through serene surroundings. The valley of the river is narrow and steep-walled. The rolling landscape is carved and sculpted by swift-flowing water. Eno River State Park lies here, in the beauty of more than 2,600 acres of natural resources. Five access areas—Cabe Lands, Cole Mill, Few's Ford, Pleasant Green and Pump Station—offer entry into this largely unspoiled river environment.

6101 Cole Mill Road, Durham, NC 27705

(919) 383-1686

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/enri/enri.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/enri/home.html>



Falls Lake State Recreation Area

Hours of relaxation await you at Falls Lake State Recreation Area. Just moments away from the hustle and bustle of the city, Falls Lake is a great way to escape urban life. With a 12,000-acre lake and 26,000 acres of woodlands, Falls Lake State Recreation Area offers a choice of recreation areas—Beaverdam, B.W. Wells, Highway 50, Holly Point, Rolling View, Sandling Beach and Shinleaf. Fishing, boating and swimming are only a few of the activities awaiting you on the water. On land, you can enjoy walking, mountain biking or camping along a portion of the state's Mountains-to-Sea Trail. From recreation to environmental education, no matter what you are looking for, you are sure to discover it at Falls Lake.

13304 Creedmoor Road, Wake Forest, NC 27587

(919) 676-1027

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/fala/fala.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/fala/home.html>



Jordan Lake State Recreation Area

Imagine relaxing in a cove, listening to the sounds of water rippling. Then, you feel a firm tug on your fishing line. It's going to be a big one! Picture the surface of the lake glistening, water spraying your face, the boat motor ahead roaring. Suddenly, your skis give way — a splash landing! Hear the laughter of children, smell charcoal drifting through the air, feel a breeze blowing through the campground. With almost 14,000 acres of water, all this and more is yours to discover at Jordan Lake. The NC Division of Parks and Recreation operates eight recreation areas on the lake — Crosswinds Campground, Ebenezer Church, Parkers Creek, Poplar Point, Seaforth, Vista Point, Robeson Creek and New Hope Overlook. Whether you're looking for fun in the sun or an evening under the stars, Jordan Lake offers it all.

280 State Park Road,

Apex, NC 27523

(919) 362-0586

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/jord.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home.html>



Kerr Lake State Recreation Area

Set a course for Kerr Lake State Recreation Area to enjoy sailing, fishing, water skiing and camping. This 50,000-acre, man-made lake is a haven for water sports enthusiasts and landlubbers alike. The lake is situated in the northeast corner of the Piedmont region and covers both Virginia and North Carolina. The recreation area's headquarters are located north of Henderson at Satterwhite Point. More than 800 miles of wooded shoreline provide access to a variety of fun-filled activities on the lake. Relax and enjoy water sports at any of the seven recreation areas operated by the NC Division of Parks and Recreation along this expansive reservoir.

Address: 269 Glass House Road
Henderson, NC 27356
(252) 438- 7791

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/kela/kela.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/kela/home.html>



Lake Norman State Park

At Lake Norman State Park, fun is just a matter of scale. On one hand, there's the largest manmade lake in the state, Lake Norman. When filled to capacity, its surface area is 32,510 acres with a shoreline of 520 miles and a main channel 34 miles in length — thus its nickname, the "Inland Sea." Thirteen miles of the shoreline are in the state park, which provides boating access. On another hand, the park boasts its own 33-acre lake where fishing and boating are enjoyed. And with hiking trails, picnic areas, interpretive programs and campgrounds, there's more to Lake Norman State Park than merely water. It was formerly known as “Duke Power State Park.”

159 Inland Sea Lane
Troutman, NC 28166
(704) 528-6350

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/lano/lano.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/lano/home.html>



Medoc Mountain State Park

At Medoc Mountain, the urban refugee finds a welcome tranquility, a chance to embrace the outdoors. Trails beckon as light filters through branches overhead and falls on paths that hold the promise of new frontiers. The peacefulness gives the opportunity to refresh. The silence of the forest is broken only by bird songs and the occasional drumming of the pileated woodpecker. Grab your hiking boots. Load your camera. Spend some time at Medoc Mountain State Park and let nature renew your spirit. Located in Halifax County, this park consists of 2,300 acres of rolling topography.

1541 Medoc State Park Road
Hollister, NC 27844
(252) 586-6588

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/memo/memo.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/memo/home.html>



Morrow Mountain State Park

Recreation is plentiful in and around the waters of Lake Tillery and the Pee Dee River. Fishing, boating and swimming are popular pastimes. Nature lovers can pick from miles of trails to travel on foot or horseback. And for those who want to stay and take it all in, cabins and camping are available. There's really only one word to describe Morrow Mountain State Park: variety. Use the family car or RV, horseback or canoe, put on a pair of hiking boots or dip bare feet in the river, or bait your favorite fishing pole—a visit to Morrow Mountain lets you choose your kind of adventure. Located in Stanley County, the park covers 4,742 acres.

49104 Morrow Mountain Road
Albemarle, NC 28001
(704) 982-4402

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/momo/momo.pdf

Website: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/momo/home/html



Raven Rock State Park

The first feeling you are likely to experience at Raven Rock is one of renewal. Here, the forest reigns as each year the timeless cycle of growth further heals age-old wounds inflicted by man. Nature triumphs as plants compete in the stages of forest succession and the woodlands are restored. High above the Cape Fear River stands Raven Rock, its austere beauty a testament to the forces that have shaped the land. As the river below rushes to join the sea, nature's elements continue to shape the surface of this natural monument. It consists of 4,667 acres of Hamett County. Rolling terrain, extensive forest, unique plant life, and exposed rocks are eye-catching features.

3009 Raven Rock Road
Lillington, NC 27546
(910) 893-4888

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/raro/raro.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/raro/home.html>



Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve

The Sandhills region consists of nearly one million acres in south-central North Carolina. In the midst of this sandy terrain—famous for golf courses, peach orchards and horse farms—is Weymouth Woods, an 898-acre natural preserve. A natural preserve, Weymouth Woods is different from traditional parks. This protected area serves to preserve and portray the natural features unique to its region. Weymouth Woods is a place where you can look at the longleaf pine forest and see how human actions have affected the environment, where you can learn about rare and endangered species—the red-cockaded woodpecker, the pine barrens tree frog and the bog spicebush. Walk the sandy paths of Weymouth Woods. Look to the canopy of its stately trees. Listen to the sounds of its woodlands. The fox squirrel, the longleaf pine and the role of fire are just a few of the subjects nature teaches in this fascinating ecosystem.

1024 Fort Bragg Road
Southern Pines, NC 28387
(910) 692-2167

Map: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wewo/wewo.pdf>

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wewo/home.html>



William B. Umstead State Park

Tucked between the growing cities of Raleigh, Cary, Durham and the corporate world of Research Triangle Park is an oasis of tranquility, a peaceful haven—William B. Umstead State Park. Here, two worlds merge as the sounds of civilization give way to the unhurried rhythm of nature. Highways fade in the distance as trees, flowers, birds and streams form a more natural community. William B. Umstead is a place to escape the pressures of everyday life, a place to picnic in the pines, to wait for a fish to bite, to take a hike or horseback ride on trails through the woods. Divided into two sections, Crabtree Creek and Reedy Creek, this 5,577-acre park is easily accessible from Interstate 40 and US 70. Visit William B. Umstead State Park and enjoy this region of wilderness at the city's doorstep.

8801 Glenwood Ave.

Raleigh, NC 27612

(919) 571-4170

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wium/wium.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wium/home.html>

Eastern North Carolina STATE PARKS

Carolina Beach State Park

With a marina providing access to some of North Carolina's best fishing spots, a secluded camping area beneath towering trees, and miles of hiking trails that traverse a variety of distinct habitats—not to mention the presence of the Venus flytrap, one of the world's most unique carnivorous plants—it's no wonder Carolina Beach State Park is a popular coastal attraction. 761 acres, New Hanover County. Near Carolina Beach, there are 83 tent/trailer campsites. Picnicking, fishing, hiking, nature study, small marina, and boating are all offered.

PO Box 475

Carolina Beach, NC 28428

(910) 458-8206

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/cabe/cabe.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/cabe/home.html>



Cliffs of the Neuse State Park

At the turn of the century visitors flocked to the area. They drank mineral water from local springs to cure their ills and they took riverboat excursions to the cliffs. Things have changed since then. Mineral water now comes in bottles and isn't likely to cure anything at all, and riverboats have given way to more modern modes of transportation. The cliffs, however, remain virtually unaltered, standing as a journal of the geological and biological history of the land. See this spectacular formation, now protected within the boundaries of Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.. Consists of 751 acres in Wayne County. There are 35 tent/trailer campsites. Picnicking, refreshment stand, fishing, hiking, swimming, rental row boats, nature study, museum, and a dump station are all provided at the site.

345-A Park Entrance Road

Seven Springs, NC 28578

Phone: (919) 778-6234

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/clne/clne.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/clne/home.html>



Fort Fisher State Recreation Area

Enjoy a leisurely day at the ocean shore. Comb the beach for sea stars, keyhole urchins and whelk shells. Or, simply lie back on the sand and enjoy the aerial acrobatics of seagulls, terns and brown pelicans as they soar above the waves. You may want to venture into the mud flats and marshes to watch sandpipers and other shorebirds as they search for food. Learn about endangered species. Loggerhead sea turtles, piping plovers and other rare species nest along this sandy shore. Explore the North Carolina coast; visit Fort Fisher State Recreation Area. This stretch of pristine shoreline offers many enjoyable activities. Located on the southern tip of Pleasure Island near Wilmington, Fort Fisher lies between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Cape Fear River on the west. Here are miles of white, sandy beach for sunning, swimming and fishing. The salt marsh, tidal creeks and mud flats form a natural outdoor laboratory exhibiting the wonders of a coastal environment.

PO Box 243

Kure Beach, NC 28449

(910) 458-5798

Map: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/fofi/fofi.pdf>

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/fofi/home.html>



Fort Macon State Park

Fort Macon offers public access to the surf, sun and sand of the Crystal Coast—as well as a historic landmark. Located at the eastern end of Bogue Banks, one of a series of barrier islands along the North Carolina coast, the park is surrounded on three sides by water—the Atlantic Ocean, Beaufort Inlet and Bogue Sound. This area of undisturbed natural beauty is the perfect place to explore salt marches and estuaries vital to the coastal ecosystem. The park is also home to a Civil War fort with a history as intricate and unique as the waterways of the sound. Visit Fort Macon to enjoy the land's natural beauty and soak up some history.

P.O. Box 127

Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

(252) 726-3775

Map: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/foma/foma.pdf>

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/foma/home.html>



Goose Creek State Park

Giant, old oaks draped in Spanish moss welcome you to this special world where broad, lazy Goose Creek joins the Pamlico River. A primitive camping area, picnic sites, swim beach and hiking and canoeing trails offer a variety of ways to savor the tranquil surroundings at Goose Creek State Park. And historic Bath, North Carolina's oldest incorporated town, is just six miles away. The area consists of 1,208 acres of diverse topography and vegetation. The river section has natural sand beaches, and combined creek section that offers fishing, bird watching, and water recreational activities. Goose Creek may be reached from US 17, US 264, and NC 92. Southeast of Washington, NC.

2190 Camp Leach Rd

Washington, NC 27889

(919) 923-2191

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/gocr/gocr.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/gocr/home.html>



Hammocks Beach State Park

Venture to Bear Island and reward yourself with vivid memories of one of the most unspoiled beaches on the Atlantic coast. Accessible only by passenger ferry or private boat, there's just one thing at Hammocks Beach that's crowded—the list of things to do. Stroll the beach with laughing gulls and sandpipers. Cast a baited hook into endless rows of foaming breakers. Discover tiny specimens of marine life in tidal pools and mudflats. Use a camera or paintbrush to capture the green and gold grasses that color the salt marshes. Spend the night among the sand dunes, or simply bask in the sun and do nothing at all. Secluded and tranquil, free from intruding commercialism, Hammocks Beach may not be for everyone, but the island is a retreat for people who welcome the challenges of relentless sun, sand, sea and sky.

1572 Hammocks Beach Road

Swansboro, NC 28584

(910) 326-4881

Map: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/habe/habe.pdf>

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/habe/home.html>



Jockey's Ridge State Park

There are many reasons why millions of people visit Jockey's Ridge State Park. Some come to see the tallest sand dune on the Atlantic coast; others come for the spectacular sunsets. At Jockey's Ridge State Park you can experience the world of the desert. Shifting sands, high winds, extreme temperatures and a lack of water make the park resemble barren environments such as the Sahara Desert. You also can explore the wonders of an estuarine environment. The tidal waters of the Roanoke Sound, the western boundary of the park, is a rich habitat for a variety of plant and animal life, making these waters the source of much of the sea's bounty. Whatever the reason for a visit to Jockey's Ridge, a trip to this unique park will give you even more reasons to come back again and again. 420 acres.

PO Box 592

Nags Head, NC 27959

(252) 441-7132

Map: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jori/jori.pdf>

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jori/home.html>



Jones Lake State Park

Venture to Jones Lake State Park and view one of the greatest geological mysteries of the eastern United States—the phenomenon of the Carolina bays. Adjacent to the Bladen Lakes State Forest and home of two natural lakes, Jones and Salters lakes, the 2,208-acre park is a nature lover's delight. Peaceful surroundings and a variety of facilities, including a trail with several outlooks that circles Jones Lake, make this state park a favorite for hiking, picnicking, swimming, fishing and camping.

4117 NC 242 Hwy. N.,

Elizabethtown, NC 28337

(910) 588-4550

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jone/jone.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jone/home.html>



Lake Waccamaw State Park

The cool, tea-colored waters at first appear similar to other lakes in the area, but Lake Waccamaw is one of the most unique bodies of water in the world. You will find here species of animals found nowhere else on the planet, rare plants and endangered animals. At Lake Waccamaw, you can view one of the greatest geological mysteries of the eastern United States—the phenomenon of Carolina bays. Limestone bluffs along the north shore neutralize Lake Waccamaw's water, making the lake different from any other Carolina Bay. Nearby, you can catch a glimpse of a botanical wonder—the Green Swamp. From its sandy shorelines to its tree-lined natural areas, Lake Waccamaw offers peaceful surroundings, an intriguing natural history and fun in the sun.

1866 State Park Drive Lake

Waccamaw, NC 28450

(910) 646-4748

Map: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/lawa/lawa.pdf>

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/lawa/home.html>



Lumber River State Park

The Lumber River flows through the south-central portion of our state. And, the river's headwaters are in Montgomery, Moore and Scotland counties where the waterway is known as Drowning Creek. The creek becomes a river at SR 1412/1203 along the Scotland-Hoke county line, and its waters flow into South Carolina, eventually joining the Little Pee Dee River. Lumber River State Park contains 7,936 acres of land and 115 miles of state natural and scenic waters, 81 miles of which are also designated national wild and scenic waters. The park's recreation activities are currently centered at the Princess Ann Access, which includes a reverse flow area named Griffin's Whirl. At the access, a bend in the river opens to a long, straight vista that beckons paddlers to take a ride.

2819 Princess Ann Road
Orrum, NC 28369
(910) 628-9844

Map: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/luri/luri.pdf>

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/luri/home.html>



Merchants Millpond State Park

An "enchanted forest," primitive species of fish relatively unchanged over millions of years, towering bald cypress trees with massive trunks, luxuriant growths of Spanish moss—this is Merchants Millpond State Park. Here, coastal pond and southern swamp forest mingle, creating one of North Carolina's rarest ecological communities. Together with upland forests, these environments create a haven for wildlife and humanity alike. Merchants Mill Pond is one of our state's rarest ecological communities, situated on 3,250 acres of lakes, wetland, and hiking trails.

71 US Hwy 158E,
Gatesville, NC 27938
(252) 357-1191

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/memi/memi.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/memi/home.html>



Pettigrew State Park

With more than 1,200 acres of land and 16,600 acres of water, Pettigrew State Park is an ideal blend of nature, history and recreation. Explore Lake Phelps and examine dugout canoes as ancient as the pyramids. Or cast your line into crystal-clear waters where largemouth bass reign. Take a trip back in time at the grave of a great Confederate general. Or hug a tree as wide as an elephant. Pettigrew exhibits its history among picturesque natural surroundings. Majestic cypress trees tower above as the branches of tulip poplar and swamp chestnut oak provide perches for songbirds. Wildflowers decorate the landscape with a splash of color.

2252 Lake Shore Road
Creswell, NC 27928
(252) 797-4475

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/pett/pett.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/pett/home.html>



Singletary Lake State Park

Bring your group to Singletary Lake State Park and enjoy group camping in a land of mysterious origins. A portion of the unique Carolina bay ecosystem found nowhere else in the world, Singletary Lake lies within the 35,975-acre Bladen Lakes State Forest. Developed primarily for organized group camping, the park is comprised of 649 acres of land and a 572-acre natural lake. In addition to group camping, Singletary Lake State Park offers ample opportunities for nature study and recreation.

6707 NC 53 Hwy. East

Kelly, NC 28448

(910) 669-2928

Map: www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/sila/sila.pdf

Website: <http://www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/sila/home.html>

