

# PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Please come prepared!

There are no restroom facilities or drinking water at the preserve.

Safety and enjoyment go hand in hand. The following rules and regulations have been established to ensure a safe and pleasant visit.

1. **Keep pets on a 6-foot leash.**
2. **Clean up after your pets.**
3. **Park only in designated areas.**  
No parking on roadsides, grass or outside preserve gates.

## The following are prohibited:

- Open fires
- Alcoholic beverages
- Tobacco and vapor products
- Hunting
- Feeding of wildlife
- Swimming
- Collection or release of any animal, plant or mineral material
- Amplified music
- Littering
- Firearms  
This does not prohibit concealed handgun permit holders from legally carrying a concealed handgun in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-415.11.
- Overnight parking and camping
- ATVs and other motorized vehicles

Please report unauthorized use to **911** and Wake County Security at **919-856-7007**.



## PARK HOURS

### PEAK SEASON

Mother's Day until  
the first weekend in August

**Monday–Sunday**  
8 a.m.–sunset



### OFF-PEAK SEASON

First weekend in August  
until Mother's Day

**Saturday–Sunday**  
8 a.m.–sunset

### CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Day  
New Year's Day

 **Hunt Valley Trail Entrance**  
7100 Hunt Valley Trail  
Wendell, NC 27591

 **Pleasants Road Entrance**  
1525 Pleasants Road  
Wendell, NC 27591

 [naturepreserve@wakegov.com](mailto:naturepreserve@wakegov.com)

Follow us on social media!

 [wakegov.com/parks/turnipseed](http://wakegov.com/parks/turnipseed)

 [/turnipseednaturepreserve](https://www.facebook.com/turnipseednaturepreserve)

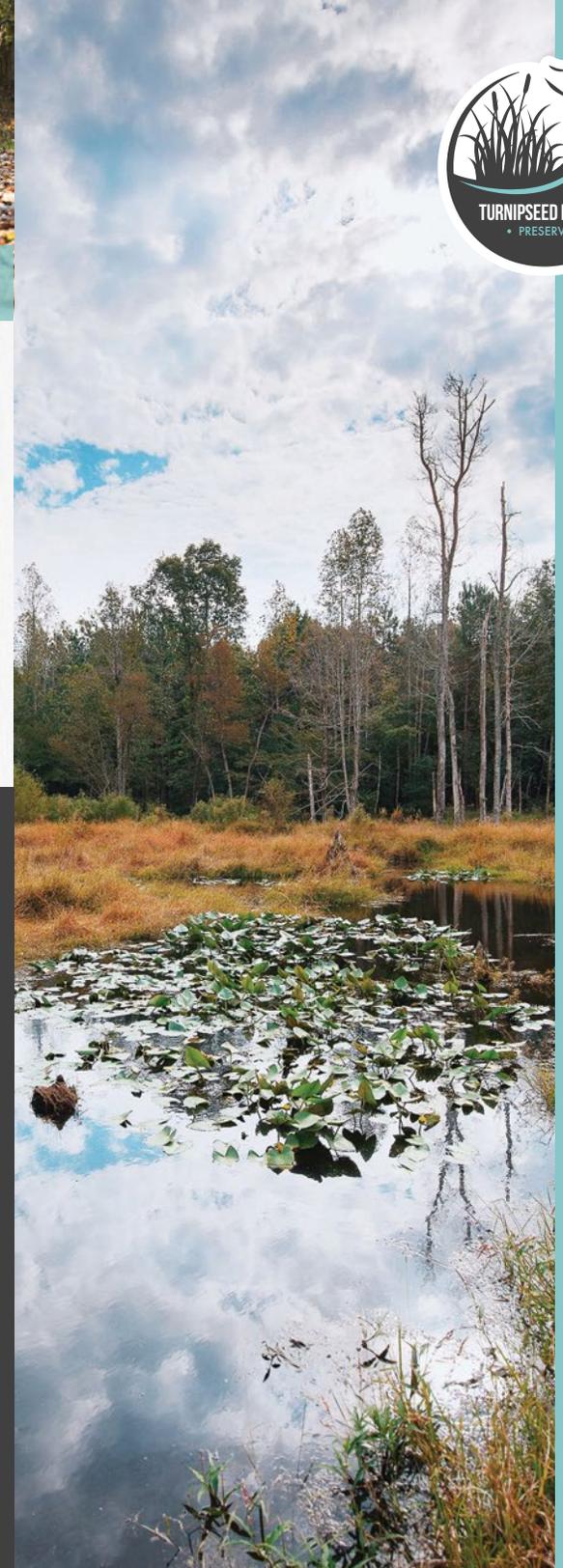
  [@wakegovparks](https://www.instagram.com/wakegovparks)



Parks, Recreation  
and Open Space



TURNIPSEED NATURE PRESERVE





# WELCOME TO TURNIPSEED NATURE PRESERVE



## ABOUT THE PRESERVE

At 265 acres, Turnipseed Nature Preserve is part of the Marks Creek watershed, which was named a “Last Chance Landscape” by Scenic America for its locally treasured beauty. Wake County partnered with several nonprofits to protect the natural, historic and agricultural lands in this 50,000-acre watershed area.

The preserve offers:



- Hiking trails
- Picnic tables
- Scenic views from a pedestrian bridge over the creek
- Access to unique boulders and granite rock outcrops
- Open play areas

Future projects include additional trails and interpretive displays on the preserve’s history and wildlife.

## A LOOK BACK

Three towns were settled in the early 1800s: Eagle Rock in 1837, Shotwell in 1883 and Wendell in 1891. Wendell quickly grew in importance due to its tobacco market. The families who farmed the land that is now part of the preserve formed a tight-knit community.

History lovers can find more information at [wakegov.com/parks/turnipseed](http://wakegov.com/parks/turnipseed).

## A SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA

Designated as a North Carolina Natural Heritage Program significant natural area, the preserve is in the transitional area between the piedmont and coastal plain. The geology and past land uses result in a wide variety of habitats.

This area also features the last major exposure of crystalline rock heading east toward the coastal plain. In terms of geology, eastern Wake County is underlain by the Rolesville batholith, which is composed of several varieties of granite, distinguished by differences in grain size, texture and mineral content.

## WHY TURNIPSEED?

The name of the preserve comes from Turnipseed Road, which runs along the south side of the property. The road was named in the 1960s when it was straightened and the Turnipseed family sold some of their farmland for it. The road was previously known as the Wendell-Raleigh Road.

Special natural features include:

- Granite rock outcrops and boulders
- Diverse habitats, including wetlands, forests and meadows
- A variety of wildlife species, including beavers, otters, wood ducks, red-shouldered hawks, prothonotary warblers, white-eyed vireos, and many frogs, salamanders and reptiles. Learn more at [wcnrid.wakegov.com](http://wcnrid.wakegov.com).



Spend the day exploring Turnipseed Nature Preserve, including its boulders, meadows, open play area and Gin Branch Creek. Hike, picnic and learn about farming history at this unique Wake County preserve.



### ROCKS, BOULDERS AND SAND

Take in the best view of the boulders, rocks and sand along the 1-mile **Boulder Trail**, which is accessed via the half-mile **Gin Branch Creek Trail**. Relax on one of the many boulders overlooking the creek.

### CREEKS, WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Take the **Gin Branch Creek Trail** or the **Boulder Trail** down to the bridge to cross the creek. Enjoy the sound of the water flowing along this dynamic floodplain, and check out the boulders beside the trail. Look for beaver dams, observe chew marks on trees and listen for birds.

### FARMING HISTORY

The meadows at the preserve were historically farmed for tobacco and soybeans. All the meadows you see in the preserve were agriculture fields.



### Meadows

ADA-accessible trail loops wind through meadows on both sides of Gin Branch Creek. Please protect the surface by not riding bikes on this trail (the mile-long Hunt Valley Trail gravel entrance road is perfect for biking).



### Open play area

Toss a ball, fly a kite or relax on the large rocks at our open play area. The Hunt Valley Trail entrance features large rocks on which to play or rest.



### Picnicking

Several picnic areas are located along trails near the parking lots at both entrances, and they include ADA-accessible picnic tables.