



NEWS RELEASE

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Show Love for Wake County Parks

Sample of programs available at Wake County Parks in February

February is the perfect month to spend some quality time at one (or more!) of Wake County's eight parks and two nature preserves. [Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space](#) hosts programs that give visitors of all ages the opportunity to learn about animals and nature, park history and much more. The following is a sample of the programs scheduled in February.

Whooo is the Screech Owl?

Friday, Feb. 2, 6 - 8 p.m.

[Lake Crabtree County Park](#)

Do you hear screeches at night? It might be the local Eastern Screech-Owl! Join us for an evening hike as we search for owls and other nocturnal creatures. Learn about the owl, see what their homes look like, and find out how you can build your very own owl box. This program is free, but [pre-registration is required](#). Lake Crabtree County Park is located at 1400 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville.

Nature Watchers: Who's in the Forest

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m. - noon

[Crowder District Park](#)

If you can't see animals, how do you know they are there or where

they have been? Read a fun story about critters in the forest, then discover a few sets of funny feet and match them up to their owners. Wrap up the class with a quick walk around the park to search for animal clues in a fun, tracks-themed scavenger hunt. This program is for ages 3 - 5. The program fee is \$4 per child, and [pre-registration is required](#). Meet at the Upper Pavilion. Crowder County Park is located at 4709 Ten Ten Road, Apex.

Family Wildlife Series: Nature at Night

Friday, Feb. 9, 6 - 7 p.m.

[Blue Jay Point County Park](#)

Put on your best “sneaking feet” for a nighttime hike down to the lake. Learn what critters are active at night—and how you can tell! This is a family program for ages 5 and older. The program fee is \$1 per person, and [pre-registration is required](#). Blue Jay Point County Park is located at 3200 Pleasant Union Church Road, Raleigh.

A Side of History: The Legends of Saint Valentine

Saturday, Feb. 10, 11 a.m. - noon

[Historic Yates Mill County Park](#)

Every Feb. 14, loved ones exchange flowers and gifts in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from? Explore the history of this centuries-old holiday, from ancient Roman rituals to the customs of Victorian England. Then create a Valentine's Day card to give to a special someone. This program is for all ages. The fee is \$1/person, and [pre-registration is required](#). Historic Yates Mill County Park is located at 4620 Lake Wheeler Road, Raleigh.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Feb. 16 - 19

[Various locations](#)

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual, four-day event that encourages bird watchers of all ages and skill levels to count birds and report their results online to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The data collected provides scientists with useful information, which enables them to better evaluate fluctuations in bird populations. Wake County Parks staff encourages you to participate by joining

us for our counts and by counting in your own backyard—check out the [programs and events](#) we have available. Whether you're an avid birder or a beginner who wants to learn more about local birds, the GBBC is for you! Learn more about the GBBC at gbbc.birdcount.org.

GBBC Bird Walk along the American Tobacco Trail

Friday, Feb. 16, 8 - 10 a.m.

[American Tobacco Trail](#)

Observe and count the variety of birds that can be found along the American Tobacco Trail as we walk to the Beaver Creek Bridge. This is a free program for ages 6 and older. [Pre-registration is required](#) for all participants. Dress for the weather, bring water and binoculars if you have them, or borrow ours. Meet at the New Hill Parking Area at the lower picnic table, located at 1309 New Hill-Olive Chapel Road, Apex.

Farmer Presidents

Saturday, Feb. 17, 1 - 3 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2 - 4 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 19, noon - 2 p.m.

[Historic Oak View County Park](#)

In celebration of Presidents Day, children are invited to learn more about U.S. presidents who were also farmers and enjoy a presidential craft activity. The wayside event is free and no reservations are required. Historic Oak View County Park is located at 4028 Carya Drive, Raleigh.

Raptors of Harris Lake County Park

Monday, Feb. 19, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

[Harris Lake County Park](#)

Many kinds of raptors and birds of prey call Harris Lake County Park home. Some, like the bald eagle, stay all year, while others, such as the osprey, are only part-time residents. Discover the adaptations that make them such great survivors, and take a short hike around the park to search for sightings. This program is free for ages 6 and older. [Pre-registration is required](#) for all participants. Dress for the weather, bring water and binoculars if you have them,

or borrow ours. Meet at the Cypress Shelter. Harris Lake County Park is located at 2112 County Park Drive, New Hill.

To learn more about [Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @WakeGovParks. You can also check out each of our parks on [Facebook](#).

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