



NEWS RELEASE

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Wake County Parks Programs Go Fee-Free in 2019

Canoe rentals, nature programs and special hikes are just a few of the many things Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space offers that will be free to all residents starting Jan. 1, 2019.

“We decided to eliminate fees for our programs, because even though the cost to patrons was minimal, it could still be a barrier and prevent people from participating,” said Chris Snow, director of Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space. “We’re hopeful that going ‘fee-free’ will bring more individuals, families and groups to our parks, so they can enjoy more of what we have to offer.”

So far in 2018, more than 385,000 people have visited Wake County’s 10 parks and nature preserves.

There are some exceptions to the new fee-free structure. Fees will still apply for:

- Camps,
- Historic Yates Mill tours,
- Shelter rentals and
- Lodge reservations.

But, everything else—from bird watching programs to Lake Crabtree boat rentals and wagon rides—will come at no charge.

As part of the change, Wake County will also stop accepting cash on site at its parks and preserves. Credit and debit cards will be accepted on site and online. Checks can be used to make advance payments online or mailed to Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space, PO Box 550, Suite 1000, Raleigh, NC 27602.

To see a list of upcoming programs and events, visit wakegov.com/parks.

Reminder

The new [Park Locator](#) makes it easy to explore all the parks and preserves in Wake County! Filter results by activity or location, and get customized directions.

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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