



NEWS RELEASE

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Longleaf Festival Celebrates Milestone Anniversary

Explore the importance and history of one of North Carolina's unique ecosystems at the 10th annual Longleaf Festival on Saturday, May 18. This free event runs from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at [Harris Lake County Park](#), 2112 County Park Drive, New Hill.

The event will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of Harris Lake County Park, a 680-acre park situated on a peninsula on the Shearon Harris Reservoir in New Hill. Special features this year include a rock wall and inflatable for kids.

“This family-friendly event is a great way for residents to enjoy a day at the park, while learning about the longleaf pine and what Wake County is doing to ensure its survival,” said Chris Snow, director of Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space. “We’re also excited to celebrate this milestone anniversary of our largest park.”

The Longleaf Festival includes an opportunity to hop on the Longleaf Express wagon and take a ride through Harris Lake County Park's 60-acre longleaf pine forest. The [N.C. Forest Service](#) will guide the trips, which are free, but space is limited.

More than 40 agencies and organizations will offer interactive, educational exhibits, including live animals, nature-themed activities and games, children's crafts and a scavenger hunt. Enjoy munchies from food trucks and music from local bands.

This event takes place rain or shine. Visit the [Longleaf Festival](#) web page for a complete list of participants and to find out how to get a ticket for the Longleaf Express. For more information, call Harris Lake County Park at 919-387-4342, or contact Jackie Trickel at jackie.trickel@wakegov.com or 919-387-4344.

About Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space
[Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space](#) strives to provide outdoor recreation and educational opportunities while promoting environmental and cultural stewardship through a managed system of parks and open spaces. In 2018, more than 1.3 million people visited Wake County's 10 parks and nature preserves.

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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