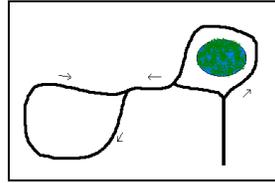


This is a .6 mile self-guided tour that takes you on a journey through the first two loops of the Peninsula Hiking trail. Only a few of the plants and animals that live at Harris Lake County Park are mentioned here. Follow along in numerical order, when the trail splits go to the right. Enjoy!



Trail Map (not to scale)



Screech Owl

### 3. Owl Box

With the decrease of woodland habitat, manmade homes like this one are used in place of an animal's natural home. This particular home is designed for a Screech Owl. The screech owl is about 8 in. in height and has two color varieties red and gray. Most owls including this one are nocturnal, so owl boxes are used for resting during the day and empty (except for owlets) in the evening when the adult owls hunt for food.

### 4. Red Fox

The park provides a wonderful habitat for red foxes with its mixed cultivated land and wooded areas. The red fox is an extremely cautious mammal and you may only catch a glimpse of its white tipped tail as it heads for safety. If you don't see this mostly nocturnal mammal, then look for clues they leave behind.



### 5. Cooling Tower

Water used from Harris Lake to aid in the cooling cycle process never makes contact with the fuel in the reactor and is released through the evaporation process. The steam cloud you see from the tower can be used to forecast weather and wind direction. You can pick up a Progress Energy Brochure at the restroom building or park office for further information on the Harris Plant.



### 6. Whitetail Deer

The power line easement provides safe coverage for deer to forage for food and escape danger. Scan over the brush top to look for deer heads popping up to check you out. If they sense danger they will flip up their tails and flash their white underside as a signal of caution for other deer. Also, look on the trail floor for deer tracks as you continue your hike.

### 1. Brushy Habitat

Thickets and brush provide a perfect habitat for many birds, like the field and song sparrows. You can tell the two apart by looking at the chest feathers of each bird. The Song Sparrow has a heavily streaked chest with a noticeable spot right in the center, while the adult Field sparrow has no streaks on chest.



Song Sparrow



Field Sparrow

### 2. Pond

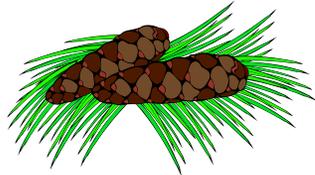
There are many small ponds like this one through out the park. They were an important water source for farms that were once here. Now they are home to many different kinds of wildlife. Bullfrogs love this spot. You may have heard them jump in as you approached the pond.



Bullfrog

### 7. Loblolly Pine Trees

These evergreens provide a very important food source for our beavers. Notice the absence of bark at the pine tree's base. Beavers girdle around the tree eating the soft cambium layer, but they will leave one stripe of bark alone so the tree can survive and still transport nutrients and water to and from the tree's trunk.



### 8. Shorebirds

Many species of birds can be seen feeding along the shores of lakes like this one. They are able to find a wide variety of food in the edges of the water where plants are thick and water is shallow. A great blue heron can be seen using the "still as a statue" fishing technique to hunt for prey. These large long legged birds are one of the most common shorebirds seen here at Harris Lake.

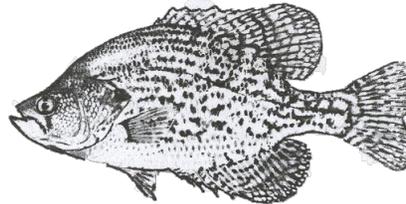


Great Blue Heron

### 9. Harris Lake

Harris Lake is a man made lake. Progress Energy built the lake to make up for water that is lost by steam in the cooling tower. The lake covers about 4,100 acres and has an average depth of 18 feet. A large amount of the land that surrounds the lake is game lands, and the entire lake is open for fishing including largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegill.

Black Crappie



### 10. Wax Myrtles

This fruiting evergreen can reach up to 20 feet tall and is known for the spicy fragrance of its' foliage. It is a winter food source for some bird species, including the Yellow-rumped Warbler and wild turkeys. This shrub also provides nesting habitat and cover for other wildlife. The name 'Wax Myrtle' comes from the Colonial tradition of making candles from the berries' wax coating.



Wax Myrtle Stem

## Red Fox Run Interpretive

### Trail Guide



## Harris Lake County Park



## Wake County, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space



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