



## Zebulon

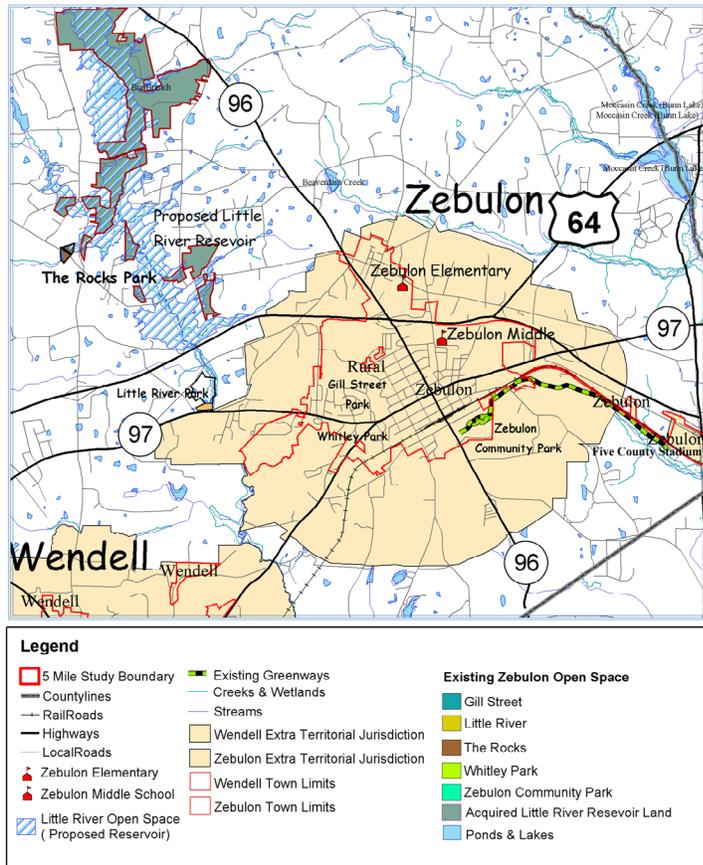
The parks included within the ETJ of Zebulon include two community parks: Little River Park (9.10 acres) and Zebulon Community Park (46.14 acres). Zebulon also has two “mini” parks which are located within the urban infrastructure of downtown Zebulon; Gill Street Park (1.42 acres) and Whitley Park (2.57 acres). In addition to the community parks and mini parks, Zebulon has Five County Stadium (46.42 acres), which hosts a minor league baseball team, and also provides passive recreational use (picnic areas).

All Zebulon Parks are currently managed by the Town of Zebulon Parks & Recreation Department. Zebulon Community Park is open to the general public, and consists of ball fields and picnic areas. Little River Park is a passive park type that features the remnants of a mill and features picnic areas. Whitley and Gill Street Parks are urban parks that focus on passive use.

Zebulon currently has only one greenway trail in place. The Zebulon Community Greenway Trail is (1.96) miles in length.

### Vital Statistics:

- Population: 4,218 (July 2005)
- Acres of Parkland: 105.65
- Miles of Greenway: 1.96
- Ratio of People to Open Space: .026 ac/person



Within Wake County there are three state owned and operated lands and facilities: William B. Umstead State Park, Mitchell Mill Natural Area and Hemlock Bluffs (operated by Town of Cary). The County also leases Falls Lake Recreation Area from the Corps of Engineers.

#### William B. Umstead State Park

Surrounded by the cities of Raleigh, Cary, Durham and the Research Triangle Park, this state park is an oasis of tranquility, a peaceful haven. The 5,481-acre park support a diversity of activity including hiking, boating, fishing and picnicking. This park supports nineteen miles of hiking trails.

#### The Mitchell Mill State Natural Area

Mitchell Mill Natural Area is a 93 acre tract of land that contains some of the finest examples of granitic flatrock in the eastern Piedmont of North Carolina. More than 10 flatrocks can be seen on the site, covering 15-20 acres of the parcel. The ecosystem of the flatrocks is unique and fragile. The entire site is a registered Natural Heritage Area. With its proximity to local populations in Wake County, Mitchell Mill offers a destination for environmental education.

#### Hemlock Bluffs State Natural Area (aka Cary Nature Preserve)

Hemlock Bluffs is a landscape that is widely known for its unique stand of Canada hemlock trees, which grow more than 200 miles from the hemlock populations of the Appalachian mountains. This 92 acres site is owned by the State and managed by the Town of Cary through a lease with the State. The Town also owns 50 acres east of the state owned land. The Hemlock Bluffs Nature Trail is actually comprised of three different trails. The Swift Creek Trail, (.63 miles) includes a system of boardwalks and loop trails through a floodplain area. The Beech Tree Cove, (.34 miles) is a small, protected floodplain area along Swift Creek. The Chestnut Oak Trail, (1.1 miles) loops throughout an upland hardwood forest with ridges, ravines and creeks. An observation deck along the north section of the trail offers a dramatic view down a Galax covered slope to a tributary of Swift Creek.

#### Falls Lake

With a 12,000-acre lake and 26,000 acres of woodlands, Falls Lake offers a choice of recreation areas. Within the 5,035 acre State Recreation Area is Beaverdam, B.W. Wells, Highway 50, Holly Point, Rolling View, Sandling Beach and Shinleaf. Fishing, boating and swimming are only a few of the activities at the park. On land, visitors can enjoy walking, mountain biking or camping along a portion of the state's Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

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State of Open Space, written and published by Triangle Land Conservancy, is a series of reports that assesses the status of the Triangle's green infrastructure every two years. The report examines land use changes in the region, inventory protected open space, catalog and review government and non-profit land conservation initiatives, and recommend ways for the region to strengthen its open space preservation programs. The

## State Parkland and Open Space



## State of Open Space and Triangle Greenprint

first State of Open Space report resulted in the preparation of the Triangle Greenprint to identify important places for protection of open space at a regional scale. The Triangle Land Conservancy, Triangle J Council of Governments, and NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources partnered to begin the Triangle Greenprint process. The resulting report, GIS database, and collection of maps constitute the technical data to underpin an action plan. ([www.trianglegreenprint.org](http://www.trianglegreenprint.org))

## One NC Naturally Program



The One NC Naturally Program (originally called the Million Acre Initiative) is a challenge for North Carolinians, issued in January 2000 by Governor Jim Hunt, to preserve an additional one million acres of open space by 2010. The economic prosperity, recreational and educational needs, public and environmental health, and spiritual enrichment of North Carolina communities depends on a balance between growth and land preservation. Parks, forests, farms, greenways, and green spaces are vital for North Carolinians' quality of life, but these open spaces are increasingly being lost to development. The One NC Naturally plan establishes a specific goal for open space preservation that all North Carolinians can share, and offers a framework for tracking our progress toward that goal. About 2.8 million acres, the majority in state and national parks and forests, already is set aside from development in North Carolina. However, the vast majority of this land is located outside the major population centers and in many cases is a considerable distance from the major urban centers. The current open space total constitutes about 8.6 percent of the state's land mass. Preserving one million additional acres would bring the total to about 12 percent.



The goal of preserving one million acres was enacted into law in June 2000 by North Carolina's General Assembly when they voted to approve the legislation initially sponsored by Senator Fountain Odom. This challenge to preserve one million acres is an aggressive plan to build public-private partnerships with local governments, business leaders, developers and conservationists to preserve open space in North Carolina. Preserving additional acreage in the state will protect the quality of streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, sounds, coastal waters, water supplies and wetlands, as well as other significant or sensitive natural areas, rare species, and wildlife habitat. It will also protect forestland and farmland, especially small family farms, from conversion to non-related uses, as well as protecting urban greenspaces.

One NC Naturally focuses on lands permanently protected through voluntary acquisition of title interest or conservation easements by federal, state, local, or private non-profit land managing organizations. Priorities for open space will be set by the local and regional governments across the state. The program includes farmland, passive and active recreational areas, hazard prone lands, natural areas, hunting lands, water quality buffers, forest land, trails and greenways, wetlands, scenic or culturally significant areas, archaeologically significant lands, urban greenspaces, wildlife habitats, and related areas. To be included, the open space must be permanently protected.