PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please come prepared!
There are no restroom facilities or drinking water at the preserve.

Safety and enjoyment go hand in hand. The following rules and regulations have been established to ensure a safe and pleasant visit.

1. Keep pets on a 6-foot leash.
2. Clean up after your pets.
3. Park only in designated areas.
   No parking on roadsides, grass or outside preserve gates.

The following are prohibited:
- Open fires
- Alcoholic beverages
- Tobacco and vapor products
- Hunting
- Feeding of wildlife
- Swimming
- Collection or release of any animal, plant or mineral material
- Amplified music
- Littering
- Firearms
  This does not prohibit concealed handgun permit holders from legally carrying a concealed handgun in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-415.11
- Overnight parking and camping
- ATVs and other motorized vehicles

Please report unauthorized use to 911 and Wake County Security at 919-856-7007.

PARK HOURS

PEAK SEASON
Mother’s Day until the first weekend in August
Monday–Sunday
8 a.m. – sunset

OFF-PEAK SEASON
First weekend in August until Mother’s Day
Saturday–Sunday
8 a.m. – sunset

CLOSED
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year’s Day
ABOUT THE PARK
Step back in time at the only blackwater swamp habitat in Wake County. The site was purchased under the Wake County Open Space Program in 2013. This 85-acre preserve offers a unique experience for history buffs, nature lovers and kayakers! When you look around, you will think you are in the Great Dismal Swamp!

We welcome you to paddle on the millpond, stroll on the paved paths and boardwalks, visit the historic landmark and fish in designated areas. Be prepared, as there are no restrooms or potable water on site.

Take a virtual tour with audio recordings and images mapped to locations around the preserve at wakegov.com/parks/mobletours.

A SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA
In 1983, the site was identified by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program as a significant natural area. This blackwater cypress-gum swamp is unique this far north and this far west with many species from the coastal plain present. The bases of the cypress trees provide habitat for plants, shrubs and vines, including coastal fetterbush and swamp titi. Many birds, beavers, muskrats, amphibians, reptiles and fish live in the swamp.

Log onto the Wake County Natural Resources Inventory Database at wakegov.com/NRID to see wildlife and plant photos taken at the preserve, and access checklists to help identify species while you explore.

HELP MAKE NEW MEMORIES
Now is the time to make new memories at this beautiful preserve. Share your memories via Instagram, Facebook or at naturepreserve@wakegov.com.

A RICH CULTURAL HISTORY
The millpond is on Buffalo Creek, which is thought to be named for the herds of buffalo in the area long ago. Evidence of Native Americans show that they lived and hunted along the creek. The dam was likely built in the 1820s by the Avera family, who operated the mill. Land sales in 1887 and 1914 led to ownership by the Robertson family, for which the road and pond are named. The Robertson family operated the mill until the 1940s. In 1960, the millpond was inherited by Nettie Robertson Fowler and her husband, John, who rented boats for fishing in the 1960s. The gristmill was removed by the Fowler family in the mid-1970s due to hurricane damage and disrepair.
PADDLING TRAIL
(1.15 miles; ~1 hour to paddle)
Marked with numbered buoys.

Life jackets are required
(9 feet deep in many areas)!
The swamp does not
have a shoreline
to pull onto
except at
the launch.
Bring a
trail map,
water and
snacks.

PICNIC AREA
Shaded picnic tables are available—
enjoy a picnic lunch or take a break
after your trip around the paddling trail.

FISHING
Cast a line from
the boardwalk, a
boat or along
the shoreline. The
boardwalk ends
at a platform open
to the pond for easy
fishing access.
Look for the display
of common fish found
in the preserve.

BOAT LAUNCH
Launch your non-motorized boat from
the ADA-accessible dock or the grassy
shoreline. Refer to website for current
outfitter for renting kayaks.
Paddleboards will want to stay between
buoys 3 and 6 due to shallow waters.
Sometimes during summer months, the trail
becomes too shallow for kayaks between
buoys 3 and 63.
Non-potable water is available to
wash boats and feet.

HISTORIC LANDMARK
The dam and mill foundation were
designated a Wake County Historic
Landmark in 2014. The dam, mill
foundation and an original millstone
can still be seen at the preserve along
with displays with more information.

If you have pictures or information
about the mill to help us better
understand the site, please contact us
at naturepreserve@wakegov.com.