



# Adult Visit Guide



## Welcome to Historic Yates Mill County Park!

Immerse yourself in rich historical and environmental experiences here at Historic Yates Mill County Park! A day at the park provides experiences that interpret and preserve our agricultural heritage, environmental resources, and history through educational tours, events, and exhibits. In this packet you will find information for your group on:

- Mill Tours and Environmental Experiences
- Park History and General Information
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Essential Information
- Wildlife Identification



Please contact the group program coordinator with any  
questions: 919-856-5638  
[jack.singley@wakegov.com](mailto:jack.singley@wakegov.com)



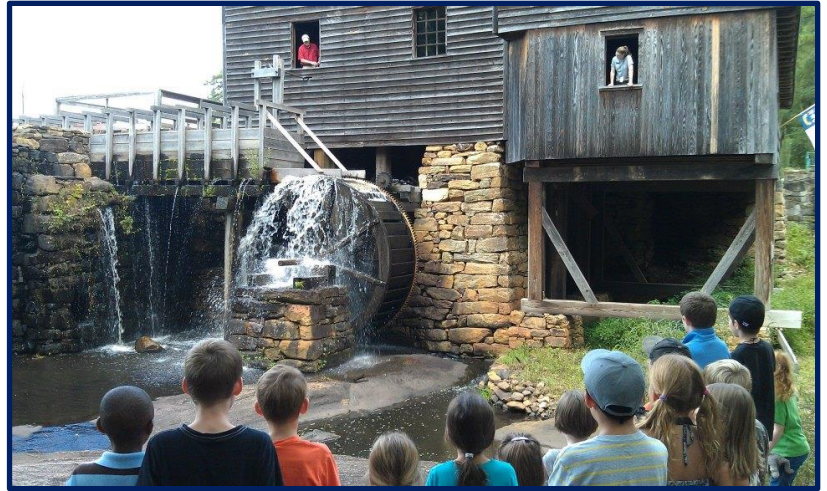
# Mill Tours and Environmental Experiences

Trained docents and education staff lead groups through the historic site and park. All of the programs and tours at Historic Yates Mill County Park feature inquiry-based learning, a variety of interactive group activities and tours, and hands-on experiences that both enchant and educate.

## Mill Tours

*Tour fees directly support the nonprofit Yates Mill Associates for maintenance and operations of Historic Yates Mill.*

- **Mill Heritage Tour:** Discover Historic Yates Mill – a place of business, community, and exciting local history! Explore the inner workings of the mill itself and witness the power of water as it turns the milling machinery. Schedule a guided tour with our group program coordinator.



**\$65.00 for groups up to 16 participants**  
**\$100.00 for groups up to 30 participants**

## Environmental Experiences:

*Explore the outdoors in our 174-Acre Nature Refuge. Hiking the park trails and exploring the millpond awaken the senses and invigorate the spirit. Trained naturalists can serve as guides and provide program participants with enjoyable and immersive natural experiences.*

- **Guided Nature Hike:** Take a hike on Yates Mill's natural surface. Explore the natural communities, diverse plants, and wildlife found here. Want a specific topic covered, such as watersheds or native plants? Let our staff know in advance.

**\$FREE with minimum of 8 participants and maximum of 30**



# Mill History



Yates Mill served Wake County as a water-powered mill for more than 200 years. Of the 70 or so gristmills that once served Wake County, Yates Mill is the only one still in operating condition. The water-powered gristmill was an important economic and social center for residents of Wake County from colonial times through the mid 1900s.

Gristmills provided the important service of grinding corn and wheat into meal and flour. In rural areas of North Carolina, before towns or crossroad-stores developed, gristmills served as public gathering places for scattered rural populations. Millponds were popular locations for fishing, swimming, and picnicking. Yates Millpond is again a popular gathering place, as it once was in the past.

## Mill Ownership:

1750–1802, Samuel Pearson

1802–1819, Simon Pearson

1819–1853, William Boylan

1853–1863, John Primrose, James Dodd, Thomas Briggs, James Penny

1863–1902, Phares and Roxanna Yates

1902–1937, Robert E. Lee (R.E.L.) Yates

1937–1947, Minnie John Yates

1947, Trojan Sales Company/A.E. Finley Associates

1947–1963, NC Equipment Company/A.E. Finley Associates

1963–present, North Carolina State University (NCSU)

1989, Yates Mill Associates forms and begins mill restoration

1996, Park planning begins – NC State University agrees to let Wake County use 158 acres for the park; Wake County purchased an additional 16-acre property upstream of the millpond

1999, Development of the 174-acre historic and environmental park begins

2006, Park (with the restored mill as its centerpiece) opens to public

# Volunteer Opportunities

*Join the Yates Mill Community!*

*Volunteers "keep the wheels turning" at Historic Yates Mill County Park!*

Annually, volunteers generously donate more than 2,070 hours of their time to the park. We certainly could not provide the well-received programs, events and other services that we do without their help! Volunteers have assisted mainly in the following areas: mill interpretation during guided tours, corn-grinding demonstrations, selling cornmeal, cooking products made with Yates Mill cornmeal, conducting historical research, making historically accurate period clothing, storytelling, helping with nature programs, maintaining and constructing trails, and teaching craft-making, among other activities.



## **Program Assistants & Tour Guides:**

### **Help to interpret Yates Mill's ecology & history!**

- Might you enjoy teaching education programs and/or leading guided mill tours, and maybe even getting to dress in historic costumes? We can always use assistance for the park's programs and would love to hear how you best think you can contribute to the park's programming efforts.

## **Greeters for Visitor Center:**

### **Help to make the park a friendly place for everyone!**

- Do you have a friendly nature and like being around people? We could use some help covering the visitor center reception desk, by providing basic park information to visitors and answering the phone, especially on weekends.

## **Gardeners & Garden Clubs: Help to make**

### **Yates Mill more environmentally friendly!**

- Would you be willing to put your green thumb to good use by helping to care for the park's plant beds and grounds. With your help, we can work together to keep the park looking good and park staff can reduce the use of herbicides!

## **Interested in Volunteering?**

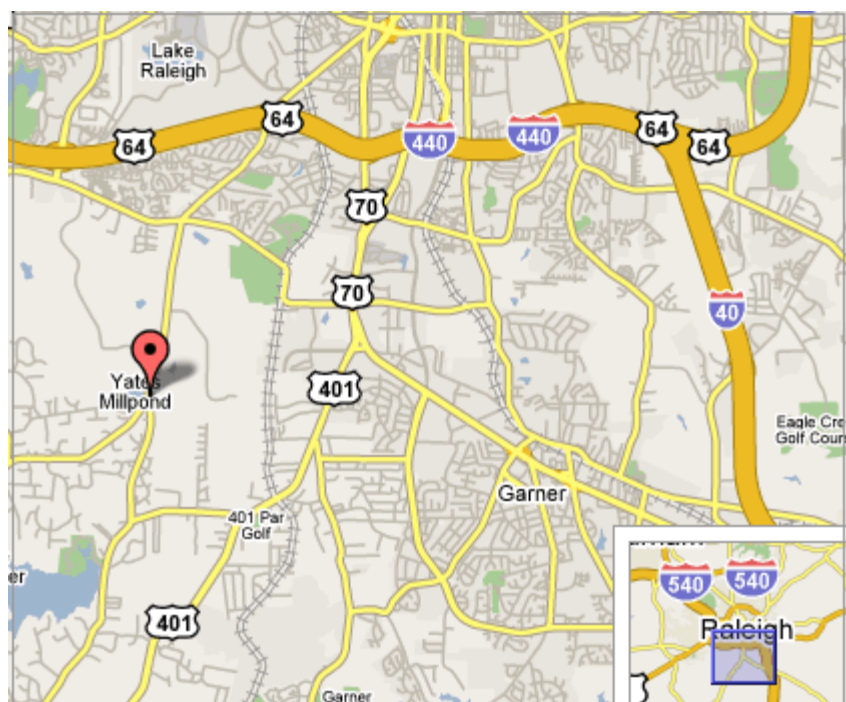
To learn more about becoming a Yates Mill Park Volunteer, please contact the volunteer coordinator at 919-856-5378 or email [laura.ketcham@wakegov.com](mailto:laura.ketcham@wakegov.com)



# Essential Information

## Directions & Hours:

- The park is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to sunset. Closing time is posted at the park park center entrance and on the park's Facebook page. The park's visitor center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not rely on Google Maps, Garmin or a Navigator App to get you to the park! If you search for "Yates Mill", it may lead you to the mill yard which is located at 4630 Lake Wheeler Road. The park entrance is located at 4620 Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh.



## Rules and Safety Information

- Parking in designated areas only – no roadside parking.
- Please respect NC State University property – hike only on designated trails.
- Be sure to wear closed toed shoes.
- Picnicking in designated areas only – use is on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no reserved use.
- Fishing is allowed from the Pond Boardwalk only. All baits except minnows are allowed. [View Park Fishing Rules and Regulations](#). Note that all North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Rules and Regulations apply; adults must have a NC fishing license. [View NC Wildlife Resources Commission's Rules and Regulations](#).
- Hammocks may be used only within 10 feet of the High Ridge Trail, using tree-friendly hanging straps on trees that are large enough to support the weight. Please do not step on sensitive park vegetation.
- Drones may be used only in the open field above the amphitheater, if other people are not present in this area. Drones are not allowed to fly elsewhere in the park, unless the operator has received prior approval from Park Management. This approval is given only for environmental research-related purposes.

# Essential Information

## Wildlife Identification

- The park has an online Natural Resources Inventory Database for the park where you can look up the types of wildlife that are seen here in the park:

<http://wcnrid.wakegov.com/public.php>.

*If you are proficient at wildlife identification and/or take good nature photographs, we'd love to hear from you. Visitor wildlife records and photos can be added to our database and may also be shared on the park's social media sites.*



*A Yellow-Bellied Slider basks in the sunlight down by the old mill stream.*

### *Follow Us!*

*Keep up with all of the park's events and happenings!*



[www.facebook.com/yatesmill](http://www.facebook.com/yatesmill)



[www.twitter.com/YatesMillPark](http://www.twitter.com/YatesMillPark)



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**We are looking forward to your visit!!**