

PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

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

1. **Park only in designated areas.**
2. **Dogs and other pets are prohibited.** ADA service animals are welcome.
3. **Hike on the designated trails.** Bikes, off-road vehicles and horses are prohibited.
4. **Fishing is allowed on the pond boardwalk.** All North Carolina freshwater fishing regulations apply. Bank fishing is prohibited.

The following are prohibited:

- Walking or climbing on the mill or dam
- Open fires
- Alcoholic beverages
- Tobacco and vapor products
- Hunting
- Collection or release of any animal, plant or mineral material
- Amplified music
- Swimming and personal boating
- Metal detectors and the collection/removal of artifacts
- Firearms and explosives of any kind as per NCSU Policy REG 06.05.01
- Geocaches and other off-trail activities

PARK PHOTO POLICY

Registration is required for client-based photography. For more information, visit wakegov.com/parks/photography.



PARK HOURS

GROUNDS

8 a.m. – sunset
Seven days a week

FINLEY CENTER

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Seven days a week

MILL BUILDING

Scheduled tours:
March – November

PARK CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year's Day

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Parks, Recreation
and Open Space



HISTORIC YATES MILL COUNTY PARK





WELCOME TO HISTORIC YATES MILL COUNTY PARK

ABOUT THE PARK

Managed as a historic site and native wildlife refuge, the 174-acre Historic Yates Mill County Park features the last operating 18th-century water-powered grist mill in North Carolina's capital county. The park includes over three miles of hiking trails that traverse pond, creek, forest and wetland habitats. Picnic areas, boardwalks, overlook decks, a field classroom and an amphitheater are available year-round. Steep Hill Creek and a 3,300-acre watershed feed the 20-acre mill pond.

PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS

The park was developed through a partnership among Wake County, NC State University and Yates Mill Associates. It has served as a field research facility for NC State since 1963, when the university purchased the mill property and 1,000 surrounding acres. The park is surrounded by NC State's Lake Wheeler Road Biological Field Laboratories.

THE HISTORIC MILL

The mill, operated by the nonprofit group Yates Mill Associates, contains multiple generations of milling technology and displays the evolution of early industries in piedmont North Carolina. Guided tours are available March through November with corn-grinding demonstrations by costumed interpreters on the third weekend of each month. All tour revenue directly supports the mill's upkeep and operations.



A.E. FINLEY CENTER FOR EDUCATION & RESEARCH

The Education Wing of the A.E. Finley Center for Education & Research houses an exhibit hall, auditorium, classrooms and staff offices. NC State University conducts biological studies in the center's Research Wing. Enjoy an excellent view of the pond and mill from a rocking chair on the building's back porch.

EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS

The Finley Center's 2,200-square-foot exhibit hall contains artifacts and interpretive panels on local history, agriculture and the environment. It also features fun interactive activities including a historic dress-up corner. Park grounds include several wayside displays.





Connector trails
Boardwalk
Creek
Wetlands

Restroom
Picnic area
Hiking trail
Gardens
Fishing
Open play



PARK PROGRAMS

Public: The park offers guided mill tours, site-based, experiential, multi-disciplinary programs and camps for all ages.

Group: Customized programs and mill tours are available for a wide range of age groups. Kids' programs correlate with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and feature inquiry-based learning that encourages participation and enriches classroom experiences.



NATURAL EXPLORATIONS

Head out into the park to enjoy hiking, picnicking, boardwalk fishing, wildlife observation, photography and more. The park showcases a variety of native plants and gardens. Wildlife habitat features, such as nest and roost boxes, have also been installed.



HIKING TRAILS

All trails close a half-hour before sunset. Pick up a copy of the Tree Identification Trail brochure at the Finley Center, and check out the park's wildlife interpretation stations and wayside exhibits.

Mill Pond Trail (1 mile—easy to moderate)

This trail includes an accessible gravel pathway to the mill, a stone ramp to a low bridge over the creek (may be closed during flooding), stone steps through the old miller's residence area and the pond boardwalk.

High Ridge Trail ——— (0.8 mile—strenuous)

This naturally surfaced linear trail travels along the ridges above the pond through mixed old field pine, hardwood forests and north-facing bluffs. When combined with part of the Mill Pond Trail, the trail length can be extended to a 1.25-mile loop.

Creekside Trail (1 mile—moderate)

This linear trail crosses over several wetland areas by way of footbridges and wooden walk-boards. After a short loop at the end of the trail, hikers will retrace their steps back to the boardwalk for a total of 2 miles.

