

The Great Outdoors



ENO RIVER STATE PARK,

6101 Cole Mill Rd, Durham, 919-383-1686,
ncparks.gov:

- **Winter Birdfeeders for Kids**—Saturday, December 8, 10am. Kids can learn about the duties of park rangers and how kids can play a role in helping the North Carolina State Parks Make a birdfeeder and help local birds survive the winter (not for kids who are allergic to peanuts). Everyone will meet at the Piper-Cox House Porch; call to register.
- **Sunday Morning Birds**—December 9, 8:30am. Join a relaxing morning stroll and watch the birds. Be sure to wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and if you have binoculars, take those, too. Everyone will meet in the Few's Ford Parking Loop; call to register.
- **Wednesday Wanderings**—December 12, 10am. Find your favorite place for quiet reflection. Everybody will meet in the Few's Ford Parking Loop; call to register.
- **Make a Snowflake**—Saturday, December 15, 11am. Make a decoration to adorn your holiday tree or front window. Everyone will meet at the Park Office; call to register.
- **Winter Reveal**—Sunday, December 16, 11am. Join an off-trail hike and learn about the communities that had settled along the Eno River. Everyone will meet at the Park Office; call to register.
- **Silent Hike** (age 14+)—Sunday, December 23, 10am. Join a hike and enjoy your thoughts. Everyone will meet at the Pump Station; call to register.
- **Historic Holiday Sing-a-Long**—Sunday, December 23, 2pm. Enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies, and sing your favorite holiday carols. Everyone will meet at the Piper-Cox House; call to register.
- **Small Steps**—Saturday, December 29, 10am. Join a leisurely-paced 1.5-mile hike along the Buckquarter Creek Trail. Everyone will meet at the Park Office; call to register.

- **Last Day Hike**—Monday, December 31, 9:30am. Join a hike along the Cox Mountain Trail. Everybody will meet in the Few's Ford Parking Loop; call to register.
- **First Day Hike**—Tuesday, January 1, 2pm. Join a 2.5-mile hike along Fanny's Ford Trail, through the forest, and along the Eno River. Dogs are welcome as long as they're on a leash (no longer than 6 feet). Everyone will meet at the Few's Ford Picnic Shelter.

These are *free* events! Call the Eno River Association at 919-620-9099 or click *here* for more info.



FALLS LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA,

13304 Creedmoor Rd, Wake Forest,
919-676-1027, ncparks.gov:

- **Bird ID Hike**—Sunday, December 9, 8:30am. Join a hike and learn how to identify birds in the park. Everyone will meet at the Beaver Dam Duck Cove Trail.
- **Winter Wonderland Hike**—Sunday, December 16, 9am. Join a hike and learn about the changes that the park goes through in the winter. Everyone will meet in the Rolling View MST Parking Area.
- **Oh Deer!**—Saturday, December 22, 1pm. Learn about white-tailed deer and make a holiday-themed craft. Everyone will meet at the Rolling View Shelter 15.
- **First Day Hikes at Falls Lake**—Tuesday, January 1, 10am and 2pm. Kids ages 6 to 12 are invited to join in the Scavenger Hunt. Everyone will meet at the Rolling View Recreation Area Track Trailhead.

These are *free* events!



JORDAN LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA,

280 State Park Rd, Apex, 919-362-0586,
ncparks.gov:

- **First Day Hike**—Tuesday, January 1, 9–11am. Join a challenging 2.7-mile hike along the Blue Loop Trail. Everyone will meet on the New Hope Overlook Campground.
- **First Day Hike**—Tuesday, January 1, 1–3pm. Join an easy 1-mile hike along the Old Oak Trail. Everyone will meet on the Ebenezer Church's Old Oak Trail.



WILLIAM BUMSTEAD STATE PARK,

8801 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh, 919-571-4170,
ncparks.gov:

- **Senior Hike**—Wednesday, December 12, 10am–noon. Join a moderate 2- to 3-mile hike along the Sycamore Trail and back on the Graylyn Multi-Use Trail. Everyone will meet in the Multi-Use Trail Parking Lot (off Hwy 70, exit 287/Glenwood Ave, in Raleigh); call to register.
- **Beginners Hike**—Wednesday, December 12, 10:30am. Join a hike with a park ranger and get some helpful hiking tips. Everyone will meet at the Visitors Center; call to register.
- **Night Ride**—Wednesday, December 19, 6pm. Join a bicycle ride through the park. Everyone will meet by the Park Gate on Old Reedy Creek Rd; call to register.
- **Winter Solstice Hot Cocoa, S'mores, and Story Time**—Friday, December 21, 6pm. Listen to family-friendly stories by the campfire. Dress warmly, take a blanket, a reusable coffee cup, and a flashlight (to find your way back to your vehicle). Everyone will meet at Reedy Creek Shelter #2 (off Hwy 40, exit 287/Harrison Ave, in Cary); call to register.
- **Mesmerizing Magnificent Mammals of Umstead**—Friday, December 28, 1pm. Learn about the animals that live in the park. Everyone will meet at the Visitors Center; call to register.

These are *free* events!



SKY EXPLORATIONS:

- **Duke Teaching Observatory Open House** (918-5172 W Cornwallis Rd)—Friday, December 7, 6–8pm. Explore the night sky and peer at the galaxies through one of five Meade LX200 GPS Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. It's *free*; click *here* for more info plus instructions on finding the site on W Cornwallis Rd.
- **Skywatching Session**—Thursday, December 13, 8–10pm, at West Point on the Eno Park (5101 N Roxboro Rd). Look through one of the telescopes provided by Morehead Planetarium educators and see if you can find the Geminid meteor shower. Durham Parks and Recreation is allowing people to stay until 3am for this special occasion—be sure to

take your own telescope if you plan to do so. It's *free*; call 919-962-1236 for directions and day-of if weather conditions cause you to wonder if the session will be cancelled.

- **Viewing of the Geminids Meteor Shower**—Friday, December 14, 1:30–3am (Thursday night/Friday morning), at Valley Springs Park (3805 Valley Springs Rd). Cohosted by Durham Parks and Recreation, North Carolina Central University, and the Chapel Hill Astronomical and Observational Society (CHAOS) as part of DPR's *Astronomy Series*. Explore the night skies through high-powered telescopes. Call 919-560-4355 for more info.
- **Duke Teaching Observatory Open House** (918-5172 W Cornwallis Rd)—Friday, December 14, 6–8pm. Explore the night sky and peer at the galaxies through one of five Meade LX200 GPS Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. It's *free*; click *here* for more info plus instructions on finding the site on W Cornwallis Rd.
- **Skywatching Session**—Friday, December 14, 6:30–8:30pm, at Little River Regional Park (301 Little River Park Way, in Rougemont). Look through one of the telescopes provided by Morehead Planetarium educators and see if you can spot the last remaining stars from the previous night's Geminid Meteor Shower. It's *free*; call 919-962-1236 for directions and day-of if weather conditions cause you to wonder if the session will be cancelled.

These are *free* events!



DURHAM PARKS AND RECREATION OUTDOOR EVENTS:

Click *here* to view Durham Parks and Recreation's "Play More" catalog of classes, outings, and special events. Call 919-560-4355 for more info. You can register for events by going to dprplaymore.org and then clicking on "Register Online." Don't forget the activity code.

