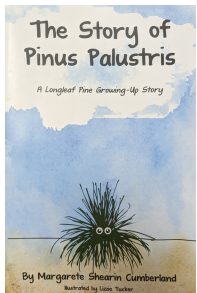




Join us during the month of May to celebrate one of Harris Lake County Park's unique ecosystems, the Longleaf Pine forest! Check out our Longleaf Celebration event page for links to program opportunities, special activities, and for more information.



*May 6 - 29: **StoryWalk®: The Story of Pinus Palustris: A Longleaf Growing-Up Story by Margarete Shearin Cumberland*** In honor of our Longleaf Celebration, we are thrilled to offer "The Story of Pinus Palustris: a Longleaf Growing-Up Story", as our StoryWalk® selection this month. A huge thank you to our friends at Carvers Creek State Park whose generous donation of this book made our StoryWalk® possible! We hope you enjoy the tale of best friends Pal and Ari who have special adaptations which allow them to share the Longleaf Pine forest.

*Thurs., May 11, 11a.m. - 12 p.m.: **Kids Discover Nature: The Busy Tree***  
Explore the wonderful world of trees with park staff! Together we will read *The Busy Tree* by Jennifer Ward, a sweet story about the many creatures that make their home in trees. Participants will sing songs, make a craft, and take a hike to search for different types of trees in the park. Don't miss it!



*Sat., May 13, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Multiple time slots **Longleaf Forest Wagon Tours***  
Take a guided wagon tour to our 60-acre Longleaf forest and walk among our beautiful Longleaf Pines! Learn about their special history to the area and the ecology of the Longleaf forest ecosystem, including the importance of prescribed fire. See new growth and the progression of 30 acres of our forest after a prescribed burn in February! Rides will be narrated by Sarah Crate of The Longleaf Alliance and our own Park Manager, Christina Hester. Arrive early to enjoy a picnic lunch. While you wait for your wagon ride, be sure to say hi to Smokey Bear, visit the N.C. Forest Service table for fun giveaways, and discover more about Longleaf Pines and the ecosystem they support through interactive educational displays and activities. Fun for all ages! Choose the time slot that suits your schedule! Meet at the wagon near the playground.



*Weds., May 17, 1-2 p.m.: **Virtual: Bringing Back Longleaf***  
Sarah Crate, Outreach Communications Coordinator for The Longleaf Alliance, will present "Bringing Back Longleaf". The Longleaf Alliance works to ensure the sustainable future for longleaf ecosystems across the Southeast. Join the lecture to learn more about the longleaf ecosystem and what longleaf restoration looks like in North Carolina. Zoom meeting information provided in confirmation email.

*Fri., May 19, 6-8 p.m.: **Vehicle Venture***  
Come out to Harris Lake County Park for a vehicle extravaganza with a special focus on fire equipment! See a bulldozer used by the NC Forest Service during prescribed burns, a fire engine from the Apex Fire Department, the park's John Deere tractor, and cool off with a quick spray from our small pumper unit! Meet our special guest, Woodsy Owl, and test your aim with our flame shoot game! Drop in anytime from 6-8 p.m. in our Day Use area near the large playfield. For all ages and no preregistration required.

*Weds., May 24, 7-7:45 p.m.: **Virtual Wild Wednesday: Longleaf Forest Friends***  
We'll take a look at the animals that live in the Longleaf Forest. Reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds of all kinds make their homes in the forest and we will discover the ways they use this special habitat's features for food and shelter. Zoom meeting information provided in confirmation email.

