

# 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. **Keep pets on a 6-foot leash.**
2. **Clean up after your pets.**
3. **Park only in designated areas.**  
No parking on roadsides or outside park gates.
4. **A negative Coggins test no more than 12 months old for all horses over 6 months of age is required.**  
Proof of equine testing certification must be carried by the horse owner at all times while the animal is within the park.

## The following are prohibited:

- Open fires.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Tobacco and vapor products.
- Hunting.
- Feeding of wildlife.
- Swimming.
- 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.
- Collection or release of any natural material or living organism unless otherwise designated by Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space staff.
- Overnight parking and camping.
- ATVs and other motorized vehicles.
- Bikes or other wheels except for ADA use.

## Please come prepared!

There are no restroom facilities or drinking water at the preserve.

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



## PARK HOURS

### PEAK SEASON

Summer hours  
April 1 – Aug. 31

**Monday–Sunday**  
8 a.m. – sunset

### OFF-PEAK SEASON


Winter hours  
Sept. 1 – March 31

**Saturday–Sunday**  
8 a.m. – sunset

### CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Eve

Christmas Day  
New Year's Day

 7201 Doc Procter Road  
Wendell, NC 27591

 919-604-9326

 [NaturePreserve@wake.gov](mailto:NaturePreserve@wake.gov)

 [wake.gov/parks/SandyPines](http://wake.gov/parks/SandyPines)

Follow us on social media!

 [/SandyPinesPreserve](https://www.facebook.com/SandyPinesPreserve)

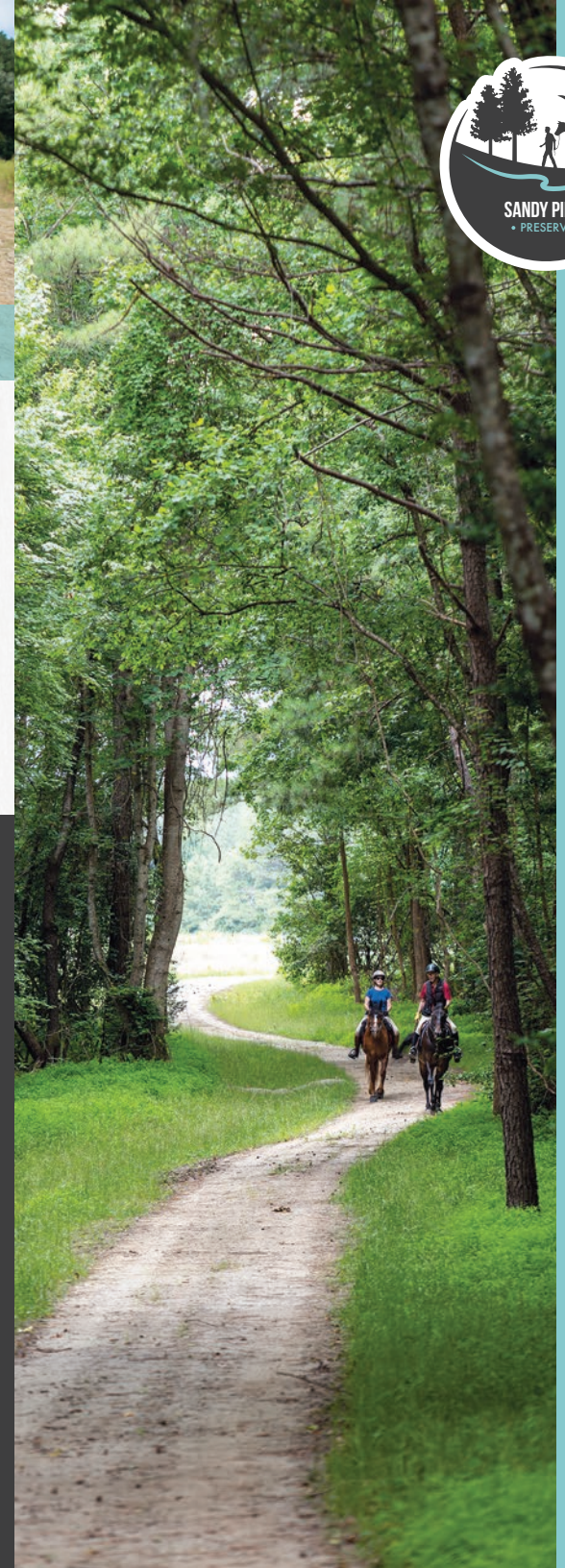
  [@wakegovparks](https://www.instagram.com/wakegovparks)



Parks, Recreation  
and Open Space



SANDY PINES PRESERVE







# WELCOME TO SANDY PINES PRESERVE

## ABOUT THE PARK

This 563-acre preserve of forests and fields is the largest single tract of land owned by Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space. Purchased in 2008, Sandy Pines Preserve opened to the public in 2021, making it Wake County's third nature preserve.

The preserve offers 6.5 miles of walking and equestrian trails through a variety of habitats featuring pine forests, mixed hardwood-pine forests, creeks, a pond and many open field areas. Picnic areas and benches are available.

Equestrian-specific features:

- Pull-through parking for trailers.
- Eye hooks to tie horses during unloading and near picnic areas.
- Gravel parking area and hoof-friendly trails.
- Mounting blocks and benches located along the trail.
- Signs and maps at "horse height."

## CULTURAL AND FARMING HISTORY

Beginning in 1785, the Marriott family of Surry County, Virginia, established the land as a homestead and farm producing a variety of cash crops and livestock. Prior to 1865, enslaved persons provided labor, and after emancipation, sharecropping, tenant farming and later timber management sustained the farm until the early 2000s. The farm has been owned by the Procter family of Raleigh since an inheritance in 1880. For more than seven generations, the Marriott-Procter families cultivated and protected this unique property, which eventually became the largest tract of family-owned, undeveloped farmland and forest remaining in Wake County.

Under North Carolina law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting exclusively from the inherent risks of equine activities. Chapter 99E of the North Carolina General Statutes.

## NATURAL FEATURES

The name "Sandy Pines" recognizes the years of managed Loblolly pine forests and the history of Longleaf pines on the property. During a field trip by North Carolina State University forestry students in 1961, professors estimated Longleaf pine stumps to be 80 to 90 years old — with one being 231 years old. Many areas were planted with Loblolly pine, which was on a renewable harvest schedule from the 1940s until the 1990s, with one area thinned in 2006. You can see evidence of this forestry history while on the trails.







## WALKING/EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

When enjoying the preserve, please keep the following in mind: **HEELS YIELD TO HOOVES**



### Walkers/Runners:

Slow down or stop if you see a horse and move off the trail if needed. Call out to the rider before approaching horse from behind and ask what their horse needs.

### Equestrians:

Call out to get a walker's or runner's attention and politely advise what your horse needs for safe passing. Take the manure from your trailer and parking area with you. Be mindful of manure and keep your horse moving. Avoid riding on wet areas to minimize damage and to keep trails open.



1

### Sandy Pines Trail

(1 mile)

This wide, crushed stone screenings trail runs north to south and connects to all trails.

Trails 2-5 are narrower and consist of dirt and some areas of gravelly stone.

2

### Longleaf Pond Trail

(0.7 mile)

Enjoy a short trot to the pond where you can fish for smaller sunfish and see the Longleaf pine restoration area.

3

### Wandering Fields East

(2 miles)

This trail connects many wide-open fields as well as a large lowbush blueberry patch (not tasty like cultivars, but great for wildlife).

### Wandering Pines West

(1.25 miles)

Add this onto Wandering Fields for an even longer trail. It connects Loblolly pine forests and the restored Longleaf pine forests.

4

### Easy Gait Trail

(0.9 mile)

Take in a one-mile dose of nature.

5

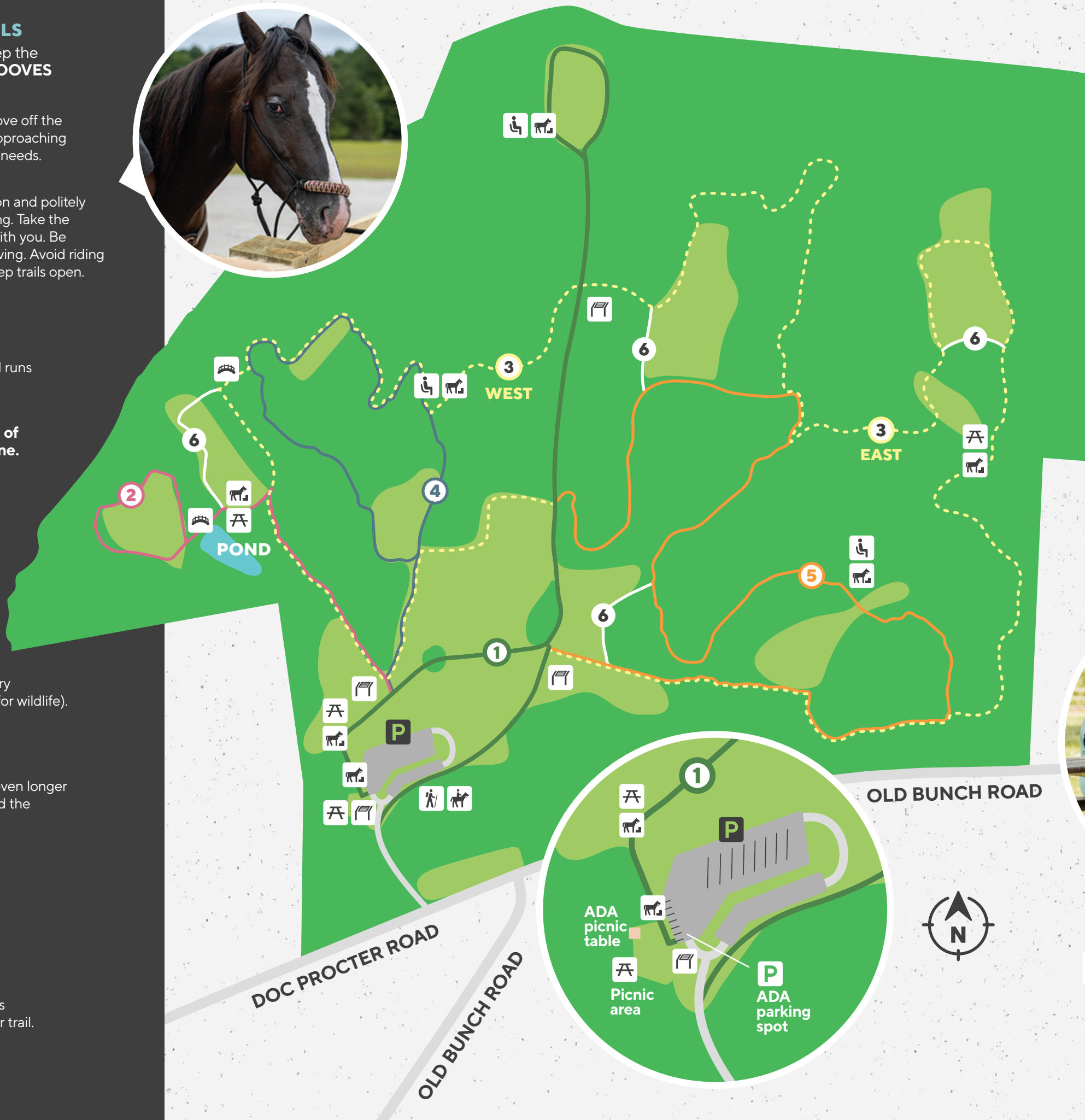
### Horseshoe Trail

(1.6 mile)

Appreciate the towering hardwood trees along the southern portion of this longer trail.

6

### Connector trails



OPEN FIELDS



### KIOSKS

There are kiosks with maps at the trail intersections to help orient you.



### BRIDGES



### MOUNTING BLOCKS



### BENCHES



### PICNIC OPPORTUNITIES

Several picnic areas can be found along the trails as shown on the map. There are several conveniently located next to the parking lot, including one ADA-accessible picnic table.

