

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.

The following are prohibited:

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

Please come prepared!

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

Report unauthorized use to:
911 and **919-856-7007** (Wake County Security)

Report off-leash dogs to:
919-856-6911 (Wake County Animal Control)

PARK HOURS

GROUND

8 a.m. – sunset
Seven days a week

CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve

Christmas Day
New Year's Day

📍 6333 Robertson Pond Road
Wendell, NC 27591

📞 919-604-9326

✉️ NaturePreserve@wake.gov

🖱️ wake.gov/parks/RobertsonMillpond

Follow us on social media!

📘 /RobMillpond

📷 @wakegovparks



Parks, Recreation
and Open Space



ROBERTSON MILLPOND PRESERVE



WELCOME TO ROBERTSON MILLPOND PRESERVE

ABOUT THE PRESERVE

Step back in time at the only blackwater swamp habitat in Wake County. The site was purchased under the Wake County Open Space Program in 2013. This 85-acre preserve offers a unique experience for history buffs, nature lovers and kayakers! When you look around, you will think you are in the Great Dismal Swamp!

We welcome you to paddle on the millpond, stroll on the paved paths and boardwalks, visit the historic landmark and fish in designated areas. Be prepared, as there are no restrooms or potable water on site.

A RICH CULTURAL HISTORY

The millpond is on Buffalo Creek, which is thought to be named for the herds of buffalo in the area long ago. Evidence of Native Americans show that they lived and hunted along the creek. The dam was likely built in the 1820s by

the Avera family, who operated the mill. Land sales in 1887 and 1914 led to ownership by the Robertson family, for which the road and pond are named. The Robertson family operated the mill until the 1940s. In 1960, the millpond was inherited by Nettie Robertson Fowler and her husband, John, who rented boats for fishing in the 1960s. The gristmill was removed by the Fowler family in the mid-1970s due to hurricane damage and disrepair.



A SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA

In 1983, the site was identified by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program as a significant natural area. This blackwater cypress-gum swamp is unique this far north and this far west with many species from the coastal plain present. The bases of the cypress trees provide habitat for plants, shrubs and vines, including coastal fetterbush and swamp titi. Many birds, beavers, muskrats, amphibians, reptiles and fish live in the swamp.

HELP MAKE NEW MEMORIES

Now is the time to make new memories at this beautiful preserve. Share your memories via Instagram, Facebook or at NaturePreserve@wake.gov.



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Scan the **QR code** or visit wake.gov/parks/MobileTours to begin your tour!



PADDLING TRAIL

(1.15 miles, one-way; ~1 hour to paddle)
Marked with numbered buoys.

Life jackets are required (9 feet deep in many areas)! The swamp does not have a shoreline to pull onto except at the launch. Bring a trail map, water and snacks.



PRESERVE FEATURES

The 1820s dam created the blackwater swamp and pond, which developed into a nearly closed canopy of cypress trees. Blackwater is caused by tannins from decaying vegetation leached into the slow-moving water. The water is transparent, acidic and darkly stained like tea or coffee.



PICNIC AREA

Shaded picnic tables are available—enjoy a picnic lunch or take a break after your trip around the paddling trail!



FISHING

Cast a line from the boardwalk, a boat or along the shoreline. The boardwalk ends at a platform open to the pond for easy fishing access. Look for the display of common fish found in the preserve. All North Carolina freshwater fishing laws and regulations apply.



BOAT LAUNCH

Launch your non-motorized boat from the ADA-accessible dock or the grassy shoreline. Refer to website for current outfitter for renting kayaks.

Paddleboards will want to stay between buoys 1 and 16 due to shallow waters. Sometimes during summer months, the trail becomes too shallow for kayaks between buoys 31 and 63.

Non-potable water is available to wash boats and feet.



HISTORIC LANDMARK

The dam and mill foundation were designated a Wake County Historic Landmark in 2014. The dam, mill foundation and an original millstone can still be seen at the preserve along with displays with more information.



If you have pictures or information about the mill to help us better understand the site, please contact us at NaturePreserve@wake.gov.

