

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

 **Hunt Valley Trail Entrance**
7100 Hunt Valley Trail
Wendell, NC 27591

 **Pleasants Road Entrance**
1525 Pleasants Road
Wendell, NC 27591

 919-604-9326
 NaturePreserve@wake.gov
 wake.gov/parks/Turnipseed

Follow us on social media!

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  @wakegovparks



Parks, Recreation
and Open Space



TURNIPSEED NATURE PRESERVE

WELCOME TO TURNIPSEED NATURE PRESERVE

ABOUT THE PRESERVE

At 265 acres, Turnipseed Nature Preserve is part of the Marks Creek watershed, which was named a “Last Chance Landscape” by Scenic America for its locally treasured beauty. Wake County partnered with several nonprofits to protect the natural, historic and agricultural lands in this 50,000-acre watershed area.

The preserve offers:

- Hiking trails
- Picnic tables
- Scenic views from a pedestrian bridge over the creek
- Access to unique boulders and granite rock outcrops
- Open play areas



A SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREA

Designated as a North Carolina Natural Heritage Program significant natural area, the preserve is in the transitional area between the piedmont and coastal plain. The geology and past land uses result in a wide variety of habitats.

This area also features the last major exposure of crystalline rock heading east toward the coastal plain. In terms of geology, eastern Wake County is underlain by the Rolesville batholith, which is composed of several varieties of granite, distinguished by differences in grain size, texture and mineral content.

Special natural features include:

- Granite rock outcrops and boulders
- Diverse habitats, including wetlands, forests and meadows
- A variety of wildlife species, including beavers, otters, wood ducks, red-shouldered hawks, prothonotary warblers, white-eyed vireos, and many frogs, salamanders and reptiles



WHY TURNIPSEED?

The name of the preserve comes from Turnipseed Road, which runs along the south side of the property. The road was named in the 1960s when it was straightened and the Turnipseed family sold some of their farmland for it. The road was previously known as the Wendell-Raleigh Road.

A LOOK BACK

Three towns were settled in the early 1800s: Eagle Rock in 1837, Shotwell in 1883 and Wendell in 1891. Wendell quickly grew in importance due to its tobacco market. The families who farmed the land that is now part of the preserve formed a tight-knit community.

History lovers can find more information on our website.



HUNT VALLEY TRAIL
ENTRANCE
7100 Hunt Valley Trail



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Visit wake.gov/parks/MobileTours or scan the QR code to begin your tour!

ROCKS, BOULDERS AND SAND

Take in the best view of the rocks and sand along the **Gin Branch Creek Trail North**. Relax on the many boulders overlooking the creek. For a unique adventure, try out the **Hidden Boulders Trail**, ending at an expansive area ready for exploration.

CREEKS, WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Take the **Gin Branch Creek trails** down to the bridge to cross the creek. Enjoy the sound of the water flowing along this dynamic floodplain, and check out the boulders beside the trail. Look for beaver dams, observe chew marks on trees and listen for birds.

FARMING HISTORY

The meadows at the preserve were historically farmed for tobacco and soybeans. All the meadows you see in the preserve were agriculture fields.



HIKING TRAILS

Wide dirt/stone trails (ADA accessible):

1

Gin Branch Creek Trail North
(1.2 miles, to bridge and back)

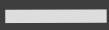
Gin Branch Creek Trail South
(0.5 miles, to bridge and back)



Meadow Loop
(0.5 miles, one-way)



Lupine Loop
(0.5 miles, one-way)



Hunt Valley Trail
(Roadside, 2 miles, out-and-back)

Single-track dirt trails:

2

Hidden Boulders Trail
(1.7 miles, out-and-back)

6

Connector and Spur Trails



BICYCLING

Bikes are only allowed along **Hunt Valley** and **Gin Branch Creek** trails.



OPEN PLAY

Toss a ball, fly a kite or just enjoy the sunshine at our open play area. The Hunt Valley Trail entrance features large rocks on which to play or rest.



PICNIC AREA

Several picnic areas are located along trails near the parking lots at both entrances, and they include ADA-accessible picnic tables.



MEADOWS

Enjoy expansive views of large meadows on both sides of Gin Branch Creek. Nature preserve staff promote plant and wildlife diversity through a carefully crafted regime of mowing, controlled burning and leaving the meadow fallow. Plants provide cover and food for a variety of mammals, birds and reptiles.