

## **Exploring North Carolina: North Carolina State Parks, Trails, Lakes, Rivers & Natural Areas** <sup>[1]</sup>

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**North Carolina State Parks History Interactive Timeline in NCpedia.** <sup>[2]</sup>

The North Carolina State Parks system was launched on March 3, 1915 when the General Assembly passed legislation appropriating funds to buy land for a park at Mount Mitchell. A year later, following the acquisition of 795 acres at the mountain's summit, Mount Mitchell became the state's first park and the first park in the southeastern United States. Today the North Carolina State Parks system covers 225,000 acres from the mountains to the sea.

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### **Background Articles**

[History of the North Carolina State Parks System](#) <sup>[3]</sup> (from the Division of Parks and Recreation)

[State Parks](#) <sup>[4]</sup> (from the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*)

## **State Parks Facts**

<b>Park Type</b>	<b># Park Units</b>	<b>Size</b>
State Parks	35	156,900 acres
State Recreation Areas	4	13,256 acres
State Natural Areas	20	24,194 acres
State Lakes	7	29,135 acres
State Rivers	4	146 miles
State Trails	5	2,052 acres, 806 miles
Visitors to State Parks, 2015	17.3 million	

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State Parks Superintendents/Directors

<b>Superintendent/Director</b>	<b>Years Served</b>
Thomas W. Morse*	1935 – 1961
Thomas C. "Red" Ellis	1961 – 1974
Ronald D. Johnson	1974 – 1977
James S. Stevens, Jr.	1977 – 1984
William "Wes" Davis	1984 – 1989
Philip K. McKnelly	1989 – 2003
Lewis R. Ledford	2003 – 2014
Michael A. Murphy	2014 to present

\*During the time Morse served in World War II, R.J. Pearce served in an Acting role.

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**State Parks, Recreation Areas, Rivers, Lakes, Trails and Natural Areas**  
(with links to NCpedia articles)

## **State Parks**

[Cape Hatteras State Park](#) <sup>[5]</sup> (now part of the National Seashore)

[Carolina Beach State Park](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

[Carvers Creek State Park](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

[Chimney Rock State Park](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

[Crabtree Creek State Park](#) <sup>[9]</sup> (now [Umstead State Park](#) <sup>[10]</sup>)

[Crowders Mountain State Park](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Cliffs of the Neuse State Park](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

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[Fort Macon State Park](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

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[Grandfather Mountain State Park](#) <sup>[19]</sup>  
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[Jones Lake State Park](#) <sup>[24]</sup>  
[Lake James State Park](#) <sup>[25]</sup>  
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[Pilot Mountain State Park](#) <sup>[36]</sup>  
[Raven Rock State Park](#) <sup>[37]</sup>  
[Reedy Creek State Park](#) <sup>[38]</sup> (now [William B. Umstead State Park](#) <sup>[10]</sup>)  
[Singletary Lake State Park](#) <sup>[39]</sup>  
[South Mountains State Park](#) <sup>[40]</sup>  
[Stone Mountain State Park](#) <sup>[41]</sup>  
[William B. Umstead State Park](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

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## State Trails

[Fonta Flora Loop State Trail](#)  
[French Broad River State Trail](#) <sup>[42]</sup>  
[Mountains-to-Sea State Trail](#) <sup>[43]</sup>  
[Deep River State Trail](#) <sup>[44]</sup>  
Yadkin River State Trail

## State Recreation Areas

[Falls Lake State Recreation Area](#) <sup>[45]</sup>  
[Jordan Lake State Recreation Area](#) <sup>[46]</sup>  
[Kerr Lake State Recreation Area](#) <sup>[47]</sup>  
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## State Natural Areas

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[Mount Jefferson State Natural Area](#) <sup>[49]</sup>  
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[Sugar Mountain Bog State Natural Area](#)  
[Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area](#)  
[Weymouth Woods-Sandhills Nature Preserve](#) <sup>[51]</sup>  
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## State Rivers

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[Salters Lake](#)  
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## Resources and Video Recordings:

Video Recording: Earnhart, Tom; UNC-TV. 2015. "Saving the Best: North Carolina State Parks at 100." <https://www.ncparks.gov/100/saving-the-best> <sup>[52]</sup>

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation. 2015. "Here in This Place: A Celebration of North Carolina's State Parks." <https://www.ncparks.gov/100/parks-history> <sup>[53]</sup>

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. documents and images from North Carolina Digital Collections<sup>[54]</sup>.

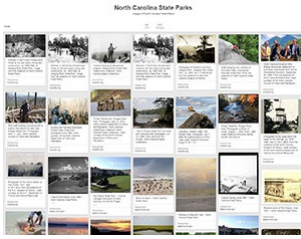
North Carolina State Parks Collection. North Carolina Digital Collections.<sup>[55]</sup>

Images of North Carolina State Parks. Government & Heritage Library Pinterest. <https://www.pinterest.com/ncghl/north-carolina-state-parks/><sup>[56]</sup>

North Carolina State Parks. texts on Internet Archive<sup>[57]</sup>

North Carolina State Parks. North Carolina State Parks at the Crossroads. 1968. <https://archive.org/details/northcarolinasta68unse> <sup>[58]</sup> (accessed December 29, 2015).

North Carolina State Parks. texts and images in the Digital Public Library of America<sup>[59]</sup>



Images of North Carolina's state parks, N.C. Government & Heritage Library State Parks Pinterest board.

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<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/search/collection/p16062coll14/p16062coll6/p249901/coll22/p16062coll9/p16062coll4/p16062coll25/searchterm/searchterm/Department%20of%20Natural%20and%20Cultural%20Resources|Department%20of%20Nat>

[55] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/search/searchterm/North%20Carolina%20State%20Parks/mode/exact>

[56] <https://www.pinterest.com/foreverythingNC/north-carolina-state-parks/>

[57] <https://archive.org/search.php?query=%28North+Carolina%29+AND+%28parks%29&page=2>

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