

THE TRAILS OF *Eno River State Park*



GPS: 36.0783, -79.0050

Eno River State Park is located in Durham and Orange counties, north-west of Durham and east of Hillsborough. Five access areas may be reached from I-85 by exit 173 Cole Mill Road or exit 170 U.S. 70 West.

PARK INFORMATION

Park Hours:

North Carolina State Parks are open every day, with the exception of Christmas Day. Park hours vary with the seasons.

Please visit the North Carolina State Parks website or contact the park office for the most current information about seasonal hours, activities, alerts, camping fees, programs, rules and weather.

Contact Information:

Eno River State Park 6101 Cole Mill Road Durham, NC 27705-9275 919-383-1686 eno.river@ncparks.gov www.ncparks.gov	N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources 1615 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1615 919-707-9300
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WELCOME

The Eno River is a swift, shallow stream flowing from northwest Orange County into Durham County for 33 miles. There, it joins the Flat River to become the Neuse River and flows into Falls Lake. Its waters roll through wilderness, passing historic mill sites, river bluffs covered with flowering shrubs and fords used by early settlers.

Rains can turn the river into a raging torrent, yet it quickly settles into a gentle current. It is a chain of rapids, pools and riffles meandering through forest on a bed of rock.

Eno River State Park lies here, in the beauty of more than 4,000 acres of natural resources. Five accesses—Cabe Lands, Cole Mill, Fews Ford, Pleasant Green and Pump Station—offer entry into this largely unspoiled river environment.

TRAILS

There are approximately 31 miles of hiking trails within Eno River State Park. These trails vary from easy to moderate in difficulty and vary in length from 0.5 mile to 3.75 miles, although much longer hikes can be accomplished by combining trails. Sections of trails around the river are subject to flooding when the river runs high. Watch for slippery conditions. The trails are marked with blazes painted on trees.

Cole Mill

Blaze: yellow ●

This trail is a 1.2-mile loop beginning at the Cole Mill picnic area from either end of the parking lot. Most of the trail is an easy hike along the river with a short climb through the upland forest. Scenic laurel-covered bluffs dominate the opposite river bank.

Bobbitt Hole

Blaze: red ●

This 1.65-mile loop extends the Cole Mill Trail upriver, intersecting the western section of Cole Mill Trail twice. A short spur at the southern end of the Bobbitt Hole loop dead ends at the hole.

Pea Creek

Blaze: blue ●

This trail, starting at the south end of the Cole Mill parking lot, goes down to the river, follows it under the Cole Mill Road bridge and intersects with a short loop that follows the river and Pea Creek, and returns through the upland forest. The round trip from the parking lot is 1.3 miles.

Dunnagan

Blaze: red ●

This 1.8-mile loop is accessed from the Pea Creek Trail by crossing the creek on a footbridge. From there, it's an easy 0.75 mile along the river and paralleling the river on the adjacent ridge.

Pump Station

Blaze: red ●

This easy hike is known as the best spring wildflower trail in the park. It begins at the Nancy Rhodes Creek bridge on Rivermont Road and makes a 1.5-mile loop. The foundations of Durham's first water pumping station are at the northeast section of the loop near the river.

Laurel Bluffs

Blaze: yellow ●

The Laurel Bluffs Trail has three distinct parts, all of which are part of the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail. The eastern portion is 2.2 miles long and links Pump Station Trail to the eastern boundary of the park at Guess Road. The middle section is 2.5 miles long and links Cabellands Trail to Pump Station Trail. The western part of the trail is 1.4 miles long and links Eno Quarry Trail to the Pleasant Green Access.

Mountains-to-Sea

Blaze: white ●

The Mountains-to-Sea State Trail (MST) will eventually span the state of North Carolina, connecting the Great Smoky Mountains with the Outer Banks. Currently, Eno River State Park has 7.5 miles of trail connecting Pleasant Green Access (in the western part of the park) with West Point on the Eno City Park trails (at Guess Road). Sections of the MST trail are always marked with white circles.

Cox Mountain

Blaze: blue ●

Begin this hike in the Fews Ford picnic area. It is a 4.1-mile loop. The hike can be lengthened by adding the Fanny's Ford Trail loop, which intersects from the northeast. The trail passes beside the picnic area, heads down to the river and crosses the river on a suspension foot bridge. The trail climbs 270 feet in elevation from the river to the hilltop. A long steep climb and descent is required.

Fanny's Ford

Blaze: purple ●

This trail is accessed by hiking the Cox Mountain Trail from the picnic area north to the Fanny's Ford loop. This trail is a 1.01-mile loop, but the round trip from the picnic area is 2.85 miles. The hike is generally easy with gentle hills and flat terrain along the river.

Eno Trace

Blaze: red ●

This self-guided nature trail has information stations posted about Eno River ecology. Eno Trace turns west off the Cox Mountain Trail on top of the bluff between the picnic area and the river. Round trip from the picnic area is 0.5 mile.

Buckquarter Creek

Blaze: red ●

This 1.5-mile loop begins at the Piper-Cox Museum parking lot and turns upriver at Few's Ford. The most spectacular rapids on the river are viewed from a rock outcrop along the trail. A staircase takes hikers over the outcrop.

Holden Mill

Blaze: yellow ●

This 2.6-mile combination of two loops continues west from the Buckquarter Creek Trail from a bridge spanning the creek. Round trip from the Piper-Cox House parking lot is 4.1 miles. The smaller western loop is an easy hike around the stone remnants of Holden's Mill. The river segment is characterized by rock outcrops, giant boulders and frequent rapids.

Fieldstone

Blaze: Blue ●

This 0.6-mile trail connects Holden Mill Trail to Ridge Trail as it rolls through old farm fields some of which are full of old field stones.

*Ridge

Blaze: blue U

The Ridge Trail is part of the old Ridge Road to Roxboro. Hikers may see what remains of three 19th-century homes along this 1.27-mile route. It starts at an intersection with the Buckquarter Creek Trail and provides access to the Shakori and Knight trails. This trail can be combined with Shakori Trail to make a loop.

*Shakori

Blaze: yellow U

This 1.04-mile hike intersects with the Ridge Trail at the south and northwest ends. It joins with the Ridge Trail to make a loop.

*Knight & Piedmont

Blaze: red U

Knight and Piedmont trails are primarily accesses for neighborhoods off Pleasant Green Road but any hiker may use them. The Knight Trail turns east off Ridge Trail and goes up a steep hill 0.34-mile to the park boundary. The Piedmont Trail is 0.18-mile of utility right-of-way, which crosses the Knight Trail. There is no parking access to these trails.

Cabe Lands

Blaze: red ●

This is a 1.2-mile loop starting from the Cabe Lands Access parking lot. Stone foundations and the millrace earthworks of the old Cabe Mill are visible from the trail, especially when the leaves are off the trees. This stretch of river is known as Cabe's Gorge and is a particularly rocky area.

Eno Quarry

Blaze: blue ●

This trail starts from the upper loop of the Cabe Lands Trail and descends a gentle ridge 0.38, mile crossing Rhodes Creek at the base of the Eno Quarry. The trail continues with a 0.42-mile loop around the quarry rim. Caution should be taken around the quarry. It is dangerous with steep drop offs and no shallow areas, and the depths at the banks generally exceeding 25 feet with maximum depths of 60 feet. There are hidden hazards below the surface near the banks. Banks are difficult to climb. For safety, stay on the marked trail. There are openings on the bank suitable for fishing.

*These trails exit the park. Enter private property with permission only.

TRAIL RULES & SAFETY

Make your visit a safe and rewarding experience. Some of our regulations are posted for the protection of our visitors and our park. A complete list is available at the park office. To prevent accidents, please remember these safety tips.

- Bicycles are not permitted on Eno River State Park trails.
- No motorized vehicles other than official state park vehicles are permitted on state park trails.
- Pets must be on an attended leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Fires are permitted only in the fire rings at the camping and picnic areas.
- Take only photographs, leave only footprints. The removal or damage of any plant, animal, rock or artifact is prohibited. Dispose of trash in the bins provided.
- Alcoholic beverages are dangerous in the wilderness and prohibited in N.C. state parks.
- The river and streams are not tested for drinking purposes. Drink only properly purified water. Water fountains and spigots are at the picnic areas and the park office.
- Chiggers and ticks are seasonally plentiful in weedy areas of the park. Avoid them by staying on the trails. Check for ticks after passing through bushes or tall weeds.
- Poison ivy is plentiful in some areas of the park. Learn to identify and avoid it. Stay on maintained trails to avoid exposure.
- Trails are often slippery when wet, particularly near the river.
- Watch your step. Footing is rough and uneven on the trails.
- Off trail exploring and orienteering are permitted, but it is recommended to attempt these activities only with persons trained in wilderness land navigation.
- There are no protected swimming areas in the park. All water bodies are natural and have subsurface hazards. Avoid water when thunder or lightning are present.
- Camping requires a permit and fee. Camping is allowed only in the backcountry sites off Bobbitt Hole Trail in the Cole Mill Access, the backcountry sites off Fanny's Ford Trail, the group camp at Buckquarter Creek and the group camp at Cox Mountain Trail at the Fews Ford Access. Registration is at the park office.
- Check with park staff regarding other North Carolina State Parks regulations. More detailed information regarding camping, educational programs, fishing, picnicking, facilities, nature and history can be obtained from staff and park publications.

Contact park staff for other safety tips or an explanation of park rules. See the Division's website for a full listing of rules and regulations at www.ncparks.gov



Roy Cooper
Governor

Susi H. Hamilton
Secretary



When you have finished with this publication, help save our earth by sharing it with a friend, returning it to the park or recycling it.

ENO RIVER STATE PARK

LEGEND

- Accessible
- Bridge
- Canoe Access
- Discovery Trail
- Foot Bridge
- Group Camping
- Hiking Trail
- Historic Site
- Hospital - Durham Regional Emergency 911
- Park Boundary
- Park Office
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Primitive Camping
- Restrooms
- Roads
- Waterways

