Lake Waccamaw is located in the coastal region of North Carolina, one hour west of Wilmington. It is the largest lake out of the 500,000 mysterious geological phenomena known as Carolina bays. A limestone bluff reduces the acidity levels, making the lake an ideal home for several aquatic species that are found nowhere else in the world.

**Fun Facts**
- The park was established in 1976 with 273 acres of land.
- Artifacts from the Waccamaw-Siouan tribe have been found at the lake.
- The land was once owned by Federal Paper Board Company and Georgia-Pacific Corporation.
- Water for the lake is supplied by the Friar Swamp.
- Lake Waccamaw is one of the few bay lakes that contains open water and is not covered with vegetation.
- John Bartram, a renowned botanist, wrote about the area in *Journey Through the Carolinas* in 1765–1766.
- The lake has 52 species of game and non-game fish.
- Lumber companies used the lake to ship cypress shingles.
- The lake is 9,000 acres, has 14 miles of shoreline and 4 miles of easy trails.

**FAUNA**
- American alligator
- Brown-headed nuthatch
- White-eyed vireo
- Parula warbler
- Bobcat
- Black bear
- Waccamaw silverside
- Waccamaw darter

**Experience the Park!**
- Many rare plants grow in the area including venus-hair fern, green-fly orchid, sevenangled pipewort, narrowleaf yellow pondlily and water arrowhead
- The limestone bluffs along the lake’s north shore neutralize the water creating a biodiverse lake.

**Activities**
- ncparks.gov

Lake Waccamaw is home to many different endemic species, including 15 species of mussels and clams and 11 different snail species.