Location Information

Gate C Hwy 751 | Durham, NC 27705 | GPS: 36.012170, -78.973943

Parking - Along the graveled shoulder of Hwy 751

Facilities – None

Cost - Free

Area Information

The Duke Forest is owned and managed by Duke University. It consists of over 7,000 acres of forested land and open fields in Durham, Orange, and Alamance counties. It has been managed for teaching and research purposes since 1931. The Duke Forest also provides education and outreach through tours and volunteer events and serves as an outdoor recreation destination for the local community.

Packing List

This is a suggested packing list. Please use your best judgment and check the weather when deciding what to pack.

- Reusable Water Bottles
- Map of the Area
- First Aid Kit
- Medication if Needed
- Camera
- Sun Hat
- Sunscreen
- Rain Jacket (weather dependent)
- Insulating Layer (weather dependent)
- Sunglasses
- Food/Snacks
- Day Pack
The following risk management plan outlines potential hazards and how to decrease those hazards. This is only a list of potential hazards and does not include everything. You are responsible for your own safety and use your best judgment when making decisions. It is recommended to carry a first aid kit and inform a friend or family member of your planned location, activity, and when you will return.

### Potential Hazards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Hazards</th>
<th>Safety Factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poor weather conditions including but not limited to thunderstorms, lightning,</td>
<td>• Check the weather forecast before starting the activity and be prepared for changing weather</td>
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<td>rain, wind, and/or snow</td>
<td>conditions</td>
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<td>Exposure to the Elements</td>
<td>• <strong>Heat/Sun</strong> – Wear sunscreen and reapply frequently. Drink hydrating liquids, get in the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>water to cool down, and take breaks in the shade</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• <strong>Cold</strong> – Wear appropriate clothing, stay hydrated, and warm up in sheltered areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Hazards</td>
<td>• Always check trail conditions and stay on the trail.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Be aware of dead branches and tripping hazards such as roots, rocks, and stumps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flora and Fauna</td>
<td>• Be aware of poison ivy, wear bug spray to deter mosquitos, chiggers, and ticks, and be</td>
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<td></td>
<td>conscious of copperhead snakes</td>
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### Nearest Emergency Facilities

- Duke University Hospital | 2301 Erwin Road | Durham, NC 27710
These are recommendations for the area. Please use your best judgment on the distance you are comfortable Hiking.

**SHORT:** Shepherd Nature Trail – .8 mile loop – Start on the Northside of Hwy 751. The trailhead is a short walk past the gate and up the hill.

**MODERATE:** Pine Thicket Trail – 1.6 miles round trip – Start on the Southside of Hwy 751. At the trail intersection go left/East until the trail intersects with Hwy 751. Turn around and return to the parking area.

**LONG:** Pine Thicket Trail – 2.8 miles round trip – Start on the Southside of Hwy 751. At the trail intersection stay right/South until the trail intersects with Hwy 751. Turn around and return to the parking area.

Map
Resources

- Duke Forest Website
- Duke Forest Recreation Information
- Trail Information
- Leave No Trace Seven Principles

Rules and Regulations

- All activities are restricted to forest roads, trails posted Designated Access Area, and picnic areas.
- Do not disturb any scientific equipment, stakes, or flagging.
- **DOGS MUST BE LEASHED** at all times, in accordance with county leash laws. Under these laws, voice command is NOT recognized as adequate restraint.
- No fires of any kind are permitted in the Forest at any time except in the grills at the two improved picnic sites on NC 751.
- Cars, motorcycles, and motorized trail bikes are not allowed within the Forest or on the Forest roads except at the two improved picnic sites.
- Gates must not be blocked at any time.
- No vegetation (including trees, shrubs, flowers, mushrooms, brush, or grasses) may be cut, picked, scarred, or damaged in any way.
- No hunting or weapons.
- No camping is permitted.
- Access to the Duke Forest is not permitted after sunset except at the picnic shelters.
- Horses and mountain bikes must stay on graded and mowed roads.
- Rock and tree climbing is not permitted.

Considerations

- Conditions along roads and trails cannot be guaranteed.
- Parking is not allowed in front of forest gates.
- Parking is often only available in road right-of-ways, which are not maintained by or under the authority of the Office of the Duke Forest.
Land Acknowledgement

A land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial. It is important to understand the long standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history.

Therefore

We acknowledge that this space gathers on land that has long served as the site of meeting and exchange amongst a number of Indigenous peoples, historically the Shakori, Eno, and Catawba people.

It is also important to recognize the 8 tribes that currently reside in North Carolina, these include the Coharie, Lumbee, Meherrin, Oconeechi Band of the Saponi, Haliwa Saponi, Waccamaw Siouan, Sappony, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee. We honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this territory on which we gather.

For more information please visit Native Land, Whose Land, and the Native Governance Center.