



# Newsletter



Volume 11, Issue 1

Carvers Creek State Park

January 1, 2023

## Welcome to 2023!

**We are celebrating 2023 as the Year of the Trail!** This year we will talk about the various trails located throughout the park, highlight some of the special features you can find as you hike, and give you some tips for successful, safe and fun hikes. For more information about the Year of the Trail, check out the [Year of the Trail website](#), and keep an eye on our [Events List](#) at the park for all our upcoming activities! **(Note:**



**all web links are added to the end of the newsletter).**

Since we know everyone is very excited to get 2023 started the best way (which means being outside!) **Carvers Creek will hold three different hikes on January 1st.** All the hikes will start at 11am (so you can only sign up for one, sorry!) The hikes will be held rain or shine (or snow!). Please sign up by calling the park at 910-436-

4681 or clicking the "Register" button on the event webpage.

**The first hike is called a History Hike.** This will be held at the Long Valley Farm trailhead off of East Manchester Road. It will be led by one of our experienced volunteers, and will give hikers the opportunity to learn about the natural history of the area, the history of Long Valley Farm and the Rockefeller family, and the history of the park since we opened in 2013. Expect the hike to be about 3 miles on sandy terrain. During the hike you'll visit some of the historic buildings at Long Valley Farm, including the various houses used by the workers when Long Valley Farm was operating, the Rockefeller House and the old farm area that is currently off-limits to the public. Unfortunately, due to upcoming construction, we will not be able to tour the Rockefeller House. Meet near the front of the office at 11am, and don't forget to call or stop in the office to sign up, or [click here to register](#).

**The second hike is called a sense hike.** This hike will start at the office at the Long Valley Farm access point off East Manchester Road. Led by the Park Superintendent this hike is geared towards children and families, but anyone who would like to learn more about nature observation is welcome! During the short hike, which will take place near the office at Long Valley Farm, everyone will get a chance to explore nature using taste, touch, smell, sight and hearing! Can you hear the birds? See how the bare branches of the trees move in the breeze? How does the cold air feel against your face? Meet at the Long Valley Farm office by the parking lot at 11am. Call or stop by the office to sign up, or [click here to register](#).

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**The third hike will be a nature hike at the Sandhills Access of Carvers Creek.** The parking lot is at the end of McCloskey Road off of Ramsey Street. You'll explore the area during a 2+ mile hike through the longleaf pines. You'll get a chance to see some of the native grasses and other plants that thrive in the longleaf ecosystem, look for birds and other animals that frequent the area, and learn about why prescribed fires are critical for the health of the longleaf pine. We'll talk about the history of the area, and how the Fayetteville and Cape Fear areas first came to be settled and the early economy. Bring your binoculars to look for some of the birds that live in the area! Call or stop by the office to sign up or [click here to register](#).

**To start the New Year off right, here are some hiking tips while at Carvers Creek:**

- **We love pets!** Pets are welcome, but for everyone's safety and enjoyment must be on a leash.
- **Hiking and biking are available at both access points (Long Valley Farm and Sandhills), while equestrian activities are limited to the Sandhills Access.** No motorized vehicles are authorized on any trail, except Ranger and Staff vehicles.
- The terrain in both access points is generally sandy and flat but with some small hills scattered throughout the trails. **Comfortable walking shoes or boots** are recommended for all hikes.
- **Bring the kids** and help them earn their Junior Ranger Badge! Stop by the office and get the free Junior Ranger guide. Complete the activities in the book to earn points toward your Junior Ranger badge. There are plenty of fun and easy activities for different ages. Stop back at the office after you finish and one of the staff will help you with your certificate and Junior Ranger award!
- **Check the map before you go!** Trail maps are available in the office at Long Valley Farm, and at the signboards at each parking area. Remember, the Longleaf Pine trail is 4 miles ONE WAY (it's not a loop until you turn around and walk the 4 miles back)! But we have several other shorter trails so you can make your hike as long or short as you'd like.
- Some activities, like professional photography or large group events, require a **special permit**. If you aren't certain if your event requires a permit, stop in at the Long Valley Farm office and we'll answer any questions you have.

Check out the [Year of the Trail website](#) for more trail-centered activities across the state!

**Trail websites listed in the article:**

North Carolina Year of the Trail: <https://greattrailsnc.com/>

Upcoming Events at Carvers Creek: <https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/carvers-creek-state-park/events-list>

First Day History and Sense Hikes at Carvers Creek: <https://www.ncparks.gov/news/events/first-day-hikes-2023-long-valley-farm-access>

First Day Nature Hike at Sandhills: <https://www.ncparks.gov/news/events/first-day-hike-2023-sandhills-access>

If you would like to attend one of our upcoming programs please call 910-436-4681 to reserve your spots.

## First Day Hikes

**Sunday, January 1st, 2023 at 11:00 am**

A long standing tradition of the NC State Parks are the First Day Hikes. Start the year off right and come join us for a variety of hikes throughout the park on January 1st 2023! Call (910) 436-4681 or register below to sign up!

**First Day History Hike (Long Valley Farm):** Join us for a 3 mile walk around the Long Valley Farm park area to learn more of the history of the park, going back to when it was a working farm and part of the Rockefeller estate. We will view some of the old farm and estate buildings and learn about the people that lived here and how the farm functioned. The hike will begin at 11am. Please meet in the field next to the Park Welcome Center.

**Sense Hike (Long Valley Farm):** Join our Park Superintendent on a 1 mile hike designed to introduce children (and kids of all ages!) to nature and experiencing the wonders of the natural world. Please meet at the picnic area in the parking lot at 11 am.

**Nature Hike (Sandhills Access):** Meet at the Sandhills Access on McCloskey Street for a 2 mile hike to explore the sights and sounds of the Sandhills Access. We'll wander through the longleaf pines and learn about the different types of plants and animals in the area and see what kind of animal tracks and signs we can find. Meet at 11am at the Sandhills Access by the small parking lot.

## Birdwatching in the Park

**Saturday, Jan. 7th @ 10:00 am (Long Valley Farm)**

**Saturday, Jan. 21st @ 10:00 am (Sandhills Access)**

Join a park naturalist at our Sandhills access for a bird watching walk around the Wiregrass loop trail. An easy 1.4 -mile loop that starts and ends at the parking lot, the Wiregrass loop trail is a great place to find some of the birds that live year-round in our longleaf pine habitat, and maybe even see some of the less frequent visitors that are just passing through. We'll start early to help keep things cool but bring weather appropriate clothes and some water! We will be using the Merlin Bird ID app (free and available in both Android and IOS app stores). If you have binoculars, be sure to bring them! The hike will start at 10:00 AM For Sandhills access- meet at the trail head near the small parking lot. For Long Valley Farm- meet in front of the Welcome Center. The event and access to the park are both free of charge. Please call our office at 910-436-4681 to sign-up!

## History Hike

**Saturday, Jan. 14th @ 2:00 pm**

Join us as we will be walking and exploring the millpond, silos, pavilion, and other historical farm buildings not yet open to the public. Please call or stop by the park office to sign up. Bring a bottle of water, a camera (if you like taking pictures), and your walking shoes! Please meet in front of the park office for this event.