

Nature Preserve.  
station turn right into Reedy Creek Park and  
left at the stoplight, and then just past the fire  
Rocky River Rd. for approximately 1/2 mile, turn  
stoplight and turn left onto Rocky River Rd. Follow  
Travel on East W.T. Harris Blvd. to the 4th  
Follow I-85 to Exit 45-A (East W.T. Harris Blvd.).  
Travelling I-85 to or from Charlotte

### Directions

Open daily 7:00 am until sunset  
**Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve**  
Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Closed  
Thanksgiving and Christmas Day

*Reedy Creek Park,  
Nature Preserve &  
Nature Center*  
2900 Rocky River Road  
Charlotte, NC 28215  
704.598.8857  
www.parkandrec.com  
*Hours of Operation*

## Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve



## Facilities

Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve are located in northeast Mecklenburg County. Reedy Creek Park is 116 acres in size and offers numerous active recreational opportunities. Reedy Creek Nature Preserve protects over 727 acres of natural, forested habitats and provides ample opportunities for passive recreation and education. The rolling topography of the park and nature preserve includes mixed pine and hardwood forests, open fields, lakes and streams. The historical significance of the area is also well represented with cabin ruins and the remains of the Robinson Rockhouse.

**Reedy Creek Nature Center** is located in the nature preserve. It is the focal point for a diversity of environmental education and natural history programs and workshops. The center contains a classroom, exhibit hall and gift shop. Outside, visitors can stop and observe nature in action at the bird feeding station, butterfly/bird garden, garden pond, bog garden and outdoor composting demonstration area. This facility has accessible parking and restrooms.

Picnic shelters, grills, two playgrounds, an 18-hole disc golf course, a fishing pier, an off-leash dog park, volleyball courts and a basketball court are located in the park. Reservations for picnic shelters can be made by calling 704-598-8857, Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Several picnic shelters are fully accessible. Athletic fields can be reserved by contacting the Northeast Park District Athletic Coordinator at 704-336-8465.

## Hiking Trails

Over 10 miles of hiking trails offer outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to explore a variety of terrains while enjoying scenic views of the small lakes, forests, fields and streams. A variety of wildlife can be viewed from these trails dawn through dusk.

**Dragonfly Pond Trail** ■  
This 1.0 mile graveled, loop trail begins and ends at the parking lot of the Nature Center. This trail, popular with hikers, passes through hardwood forests and follows the shoreline of Dragonfly Pond. Hikers can enjoy woodland wildflowers, and aquatic wildlife such as mallard ducks, turtles and of course, dragonflies. Moderate trail with some uphill/downhill sections.

**Sassafras Trail** ■  
This graveled, loop trail begins behind one of the Park's picnic shelter areas. It passes through shady, upland hardwood forests of oak and hickory and provides access to the Sierra Loop Trail. Dragonfly Pond can also be accessed from this trail via a short connector. This trail is 0.6 mile long and is rated easy.

### Umbrella Tree Trail ●

A self-interpretive guide is available for this trail at the Nature Center. This trail is 1.0 mile in length and passes through some of the most botanically significant areas of the nature preserve. Appropriately named the Umbrella Tree (*Magnolia tripetala*), the large leaves of this deciduous magnolia shade the banks of the south fork of Reedy Creek. Hikers have the opportunity to walk through a mature hardwood forest that contains rich flora and fauna, and large boulders dot the scenery along the trail. Moderate trail with some uphill/downhill sections.

### Big Oak Trail ▲

This trail begins off of the Umbrella Tree Trail approximately 0.25 mile behind the Nature Center. The trail parallels Plaza Road Extension at the southern limit of the nature preserve before connecting back to the Umbrella Tree Trail. This trail is 1.0 mile long and is rated easy.

### South Fork Trail ■

This 0.25 mile trail makes its way from the Umbrella Tree Trail and ends at the Sierra Loop Trail near Reedy Creek. It passes through rich woodland areas and crosses one creek. Bird watchers and botany enthusiasts will find this trail especially rewarding. Moderate trail with some uphill/downhill sections.

### Sierra Loop Trail ▲

Constructed by volunteers from the Central Piedmont chapter of the Sierra Club, this 1.5 mile loop trail provides access to some of the most remote portions of the nature preserve. In the spring, watch and listen for neotropical migrants such as the Kentucky Warbler, which nests here. Moderate trail with some uphill/downhill sections.

### Robinson Rockhouse Trail ●

A popular spot for visitors interested in history, Robinson Rockhouse can be reached from the Nature Center by way of the Umbrella Tree Trail, South Fork Trail and the Sierra Loop Trail. This site was excavated by archeologists from UNC at Charlotte. It is believed that the Robinson Rockhouse was built in 1790. An exhibit of the actual archaeological dig is located in the Nature Center. From the Sierra Loop Trail, this moderate trail is 0.5 mile long to the site.



## Fishing

Fishing is allowed in both Dragonfly and Kingfisher Ponds. Mecklenburg residents can fish with live bait (excluding minnows) without a North Carolina fishing license. Mecklenburg residents using artificial bait and out of county visitors must have a valid North Carolina fishing license in order to fish. Dragonfly Pond has an accessible fishing dock.

The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department participates in the North Carolina Fishing Tackle Loaner program. Visitors can "checkout" a rod and reel for a day at a time from the Nature Center free of charge. Equipment must be returned in good condition.

North Carolina fishing licenses and bait are not sold at the park.



## Educational Programs

Reedy Creek Nature Center offers a variety of environmental education and nature programs to the general public, schools, teachers, and other organized groups. Staff develop and present weekend programs and coordinate teacher workshops, an ecology club, ecology and advanced ecology summer camps and more. The center also participates in special events such as Earth Day, Big Sweep and International Migratory Bird Day. *Natural Connections*, a quarterly newsletter, has a complete description of programs and special events.

Reedy Creek Nature Center can schedule a program for your classroom or organized group. Groups are encouraged to schedule programs at least 8 weeks in advance and a nominal fee is charged. *The Educator's Guide to Natural Explorations* is available to schools and groups wishing to schedule a program.

For more information or to receive a newsletter, stop by the Nature Center or call 704-598-8857.

## Volunteer Opportunities

A number of volunteer opportunities are available to individuals, families and organized groups at Reedy Creek Nature Center and Nature Preserve. Contact the center to schedule a meeting or project. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- maintenance of butterfly/wildlife gardens
- nature photography
- educational programs
- botanical and wildlife inventories
- animal care
- trail clean-up

## Publications

The following publications are available at Reedy Creek Nature Center:

- "Natural Connections" quarterly newsletter
- "Educators Guide to Natural Explorations in Mecklenburg County Parks and Nature Preserves"
- Color Park/Nature Preserve topographical maps
- Greenway trails brochure
- Flora and fauna checklists
- Several interpretive trail brochures

## Nature Preserve Rules

- For your safety, please walk with a friend and stay on designated trails.
- No weapons or firearms are allowed.
- Hiking trails are only for pedestrians.
- Bicycles and motorized vehicles are restricted to paved roads.
- Collection, removal, or disturbance of any natural or cultural object is prohibited.
- No alcoholic beverages are allowed (except with a valid shelter reservation and permit).
- All pets must be a leash no longer than six feet.
- Children under the age of 16 are required to wear a helmet while riding bicycles, skateboards, or rollerblades.
- No swimming or wading is allowed.
- Introduction of plants or animals to the nature preserve is prohibited.

# Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve



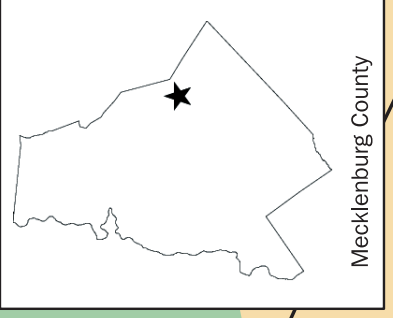
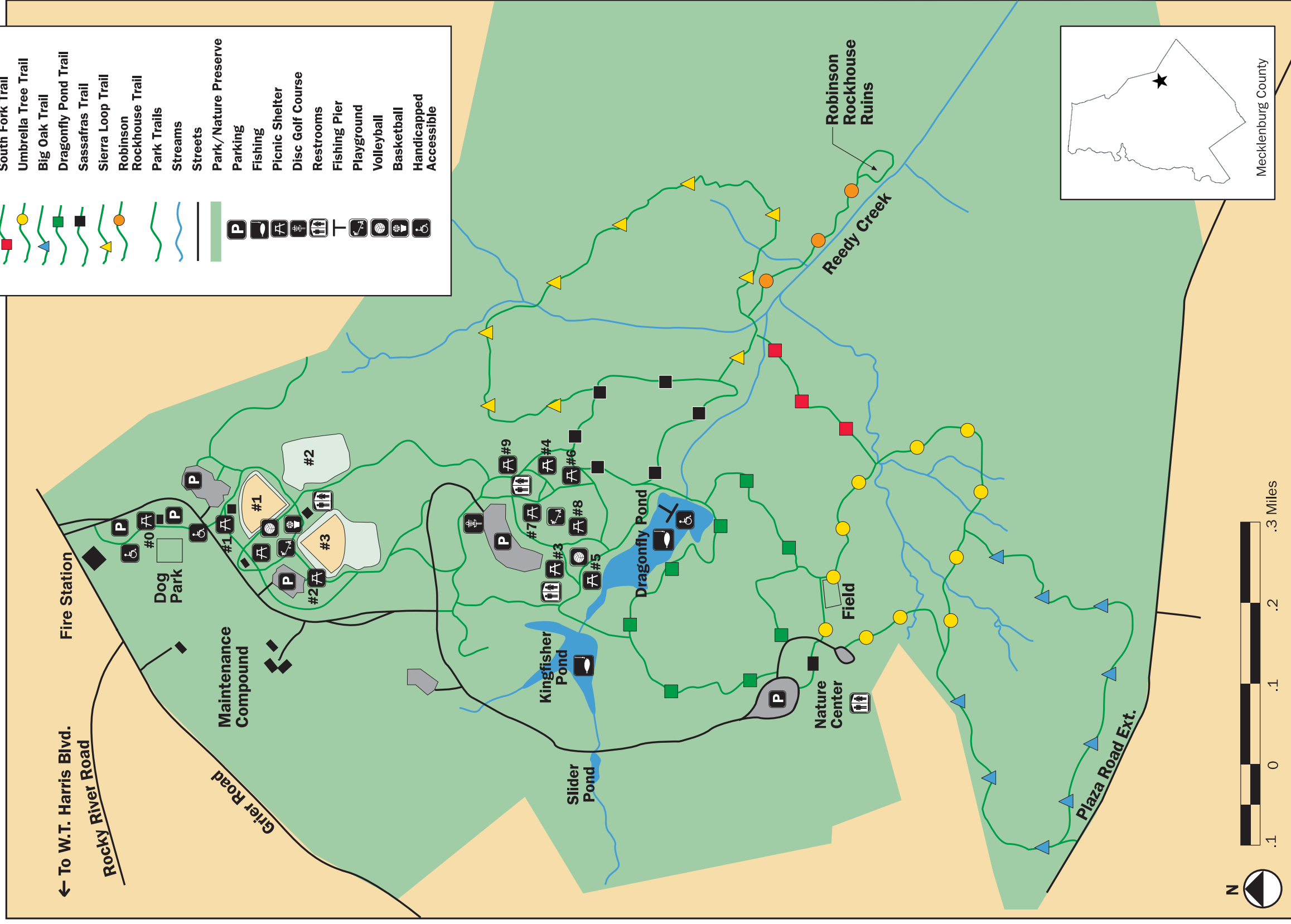
Mecklenburg County  
Park and Recreation  
*The Natural Place  
To Be...*



Reedy Creek Park and Nature Preserve  
2900 Rocky River Road  
Charlotte, NC 28215  
704.598.8857  
www.parkandrec.com

## Legend

	South Fork Trail
	Umbrella Tree Trail
	Big Oak Trail
	Dragonfly Pond Trail
	Sassafras Trail
	Sierra Loop Trail
	Robinson Rockhouse Trail
	Park Trails
	Streams
	Streets
	Park/Nature Preserve
	Parking
	Fishing
	Picnic Shelter
	Disc Golf Course
	Restrooms
	Fishing Pier
	Playground
	Volleyball
	Basketball
	Handicapped Accessible



Brochure Design: Greenways Incorporated, June 1999, Revised January 2005.  
Map based on GIS mapping by L. Beckstrom and T. Ludden