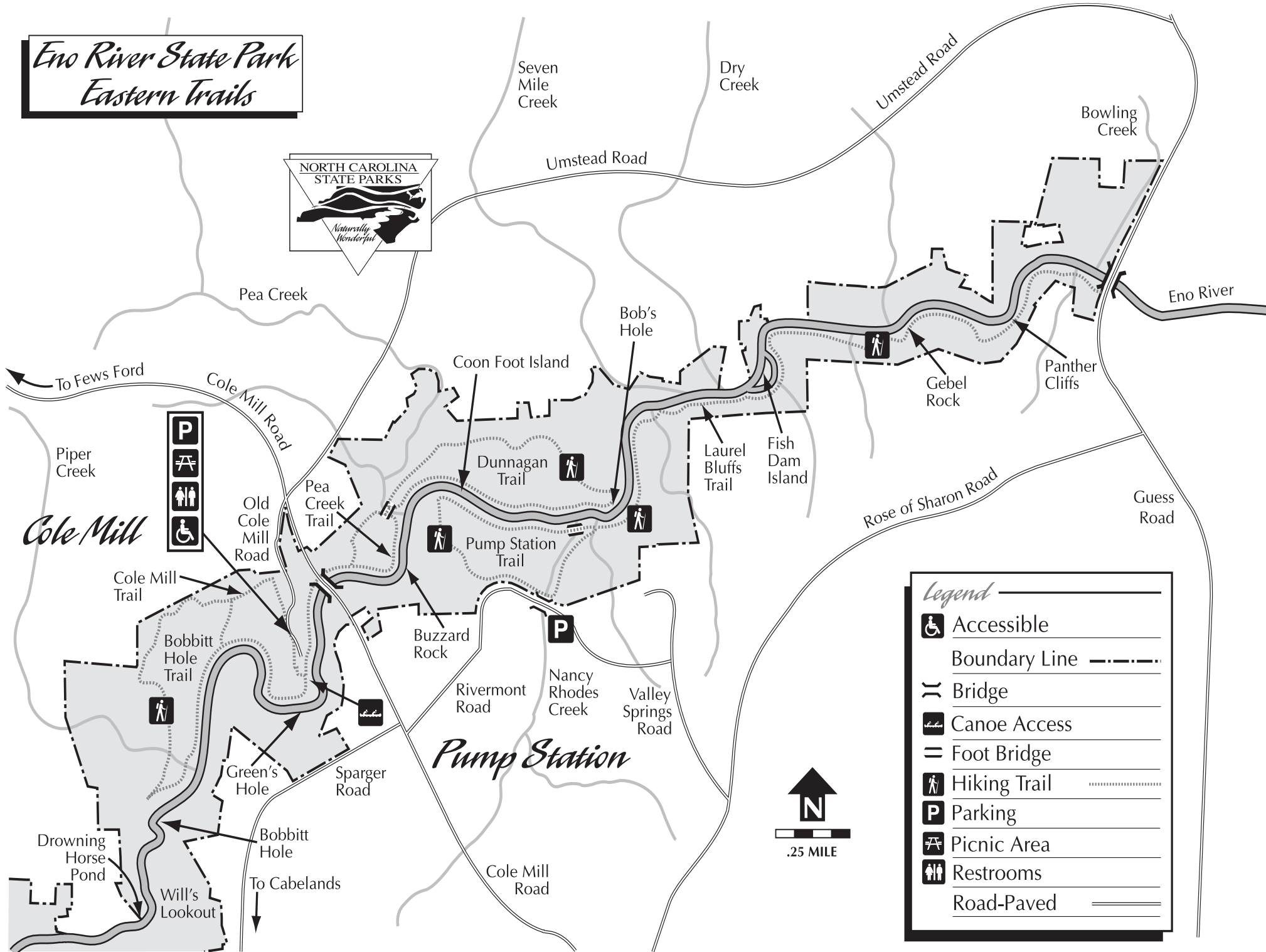


Eno River State Park Eastern Trails



Legend

- Accessible
- Boundary Line
- Bridge
- Canoe Access
- Foot Bridge
- Hiking Trail
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- Road-Paved



THE TRAILS OF EASTERN ENO RIVER STATE PARK

General Information:

There are 9.94 miles of hiking trails along the Eno river and through the rugged hills in eastern Eno River State Park. Mature hardwoods provide canopy for most of the trails, however severe storms have opened up the forest on several trail sections. Trails vary from easy to moderate difficulty. All trails have sections of rugged footing and include rolling hills. Hikes may be as short as a quick walk to the river from a parking lot or many miles by combining intersecting trails. The trails are marked with blazes painted on trees and brown signs with white letters.

Trail Rules and Safety:

1. Bicycles are not permitted on Eno River State Park Trails.
2. No motorized vehicles other than official state park vehicles are permitted on state park trails.
3. Dogs must be constrained by a leash everywhere in NC State Parks.
4. Fires are permitted only in the fire rings at the group camp and picnic areas.
5. Take only photographs, leave only footprints. The removal or damage of any plant, animal, rock, or artifact is prohibited. Dispose of trash in the cans provided.
6. Alcoholic beverages are dangerous in the wilderness and prohibited in NC State Parks.
7. The river and streams are not tested for drinking purposes. Drink only properly purified water. There are water fountains and spigots at the picnic areas and the park office.
8. Chiggers and ticks are seasonally plentiful in weedy areas of the park. Avoid them by staying on maintained trails. Check for ticks after passing through bushes or tall weeds.
9. Snakes will leave you alone if you leave them alone. Do not put hands or feet where you cannot see, or sit down without looking first. Snakes are a critical part of the park's ecology. Killing any snake is prohibited. Walk around them if you don't like them.
10. Poison ivy is plentiful in some areas of the park. Learn to identify and avoid it. Stay on maintained trails to avoid exposure.
11. Trails are often slippery when wet, particularly near

the river.

12. Watch your step, footing is rough and uneven on much of the trails.
13. Off trail exploring and orienteering are permitted but it is recommended only attempting these activities with persons trained in wilderness land navigation.
14. 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.
15. Camping requires a permit and fee, and is only allowed in the backcountry sites off Fanny's Ford Trail and the group camp off the Cox Mountain Trail at the Fews Ford Access. Registration is at the park office.
16. Check with park staff regarding other North Carolina State Park regulations. More detailed information regarding camping, educational programs, fishing, picnicking, facilities, nature, and history can be obtained from staff and park publications.

Trail Descriptions

Cole Mill

blazed with yellow dots

This trail is a 1.2 mile loop beginning at the Cole Mill picnic area from either the south end of the parking lot or beside the southern toilet building. 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. Fishermen should be alert to crossing county lines on this trail, which are marked with signs.

Bobbitt Hole

blazed with red dots

This trail takes you to one of the most scenic and fascinating places in the river. The river drops into Bobbitt Hole over a short rock cascade from the south and leaves in a sharp 90 degree bend to the east. On the south bank a rock outcropping stands sentinel over the hole which has been measured to 18 feet deep. The trail is a 1.65 mile loop extending the Cole Mill Trail up river, 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. Steep, laurel covered bluffs shadow the river opposite the trail. The upland trail crosses several hills and drainages.

Pea Creek

blazed with blue dots

Pea Creek Trail starts at the south end of the Cole Mill parking lot, goes down to the river, follows the river under the Cole Mill Road bridge, eventually intersecting 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. Hikers can see a large outcrop called Buzzard Rock across the river from the trail, a short distance south of passing under a electrical transmission line. This hike can be lengthened by adding the Dunnagan Trail loop.

Dunnagan

blazed with red dots

This trail is accessed from the Pea Creek Trail by crossing the creek on a footbridge. From there this 1.8 mile trail is a loop with an easy 3/4 mile on the river and the remainder generally paralleling the river on the adjacent ridge. On the ridge the trail passes a cemetery and two old home sites with nothing left but large trees, exotic flowers, and the fallen stones of the chimneys. On the river the trail crosses the remnant of an old dam. A short distance east of the dam, as the trail turns northwest away from the river is a deep spot known as Bob's Hole. Visible on the opposite shore are the decaying stone walls of Durham's first water pumping station.

Pump Station

blazed with red dots

The Pump Station Trail 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. It is generally an easy hike with only a few gentle hills. The foundations of Durham's first water pumping station are at the northeast section of the loop near the river. The unusually long and narrow Coon Foot Island can be viewed while hiking beside the river. This hike can be lengthened by adding the Laurel Bluffs Trail, intersecting on the east side of the loop.

Laurel Bluffs

blazed with yellow dots

This trail starts at an intersection with the Pump Station Trail and goes east to Guess Road. It is 2.49 miles long and generally stays close to the river except for short sections where cliffs and steep bluffs force it up and around on ridges. Along the way the trail passes the chimney and foundation of an old hunting lodge, the mostly intact Guess Mill Dam, enters the millrace and comes out at the chimney at the Guess Mill site. Future plans are for Laurel Bluffs Trail to extend west to Cabelands Trail and to connect with West Point on the Eno city park trails to serve as a component of North Carolina's Mountains to Sea Trail.

Park Hours

Opens:

Pump Station Access 8:30 a.m.
Cole Mill Access 9:00 a.m.

Closes:

Pump Station & Cole Mill Accesses

May–August 8:30 p.m.
 September & April 7:30 p.m.
 March & October 6:30 p.m.
 November–February 5:30 p.m.

Information

To discover more about Eno River State Park and to obtain reservation and fee information, contact:

Eno River State Park
6101 Cole Mill Road
Durham, NC 27705-9275
Phone: (919) 383-1686
Fax: (919) 382-7378
Email: eno.river@ncmail.net

To discover other North Carolina State Parks and Recreation Areas, contact:

NC Division of Parks and Recreation
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
1615 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1615
(919) 733-PARK
Web: www.ncsparks.net

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