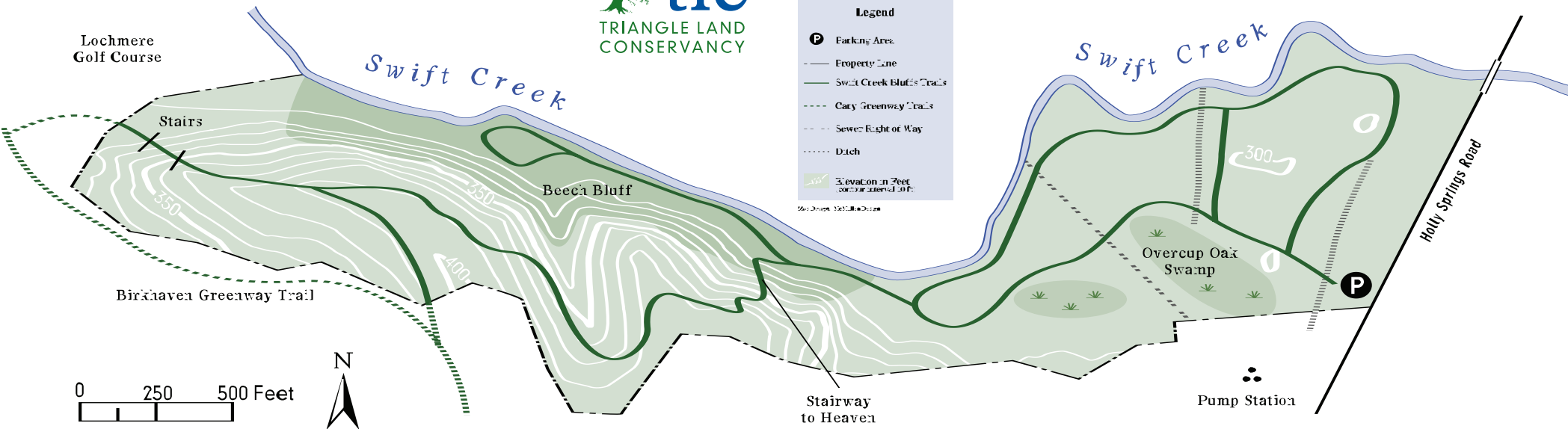


SWIFT CREEK BLUFFS PRESERVE



Trail Details

A 1-mile trail system takes hikers through the preserve's distinct habitats. Shortly after leaving the parking area, the creek trail veers off to the right and follows the contours of Swift Creek. The main trail from the parking lot goes through the creek's floodplain and then reaches the base of the prominent bluffs. Visitors can either follow the trail to the right, which goes through a beech bluff along the creek and loops back, or take the steep "Stairway to Heaven" to the left, which leads to the top of the bluffs. A bench on the bluff offers a good place to rest and enjoy the view of the creek and floodplain. The trail continues to the western boundary of the preserve where hikers can exit the preserve on stairs and then turn left onto the Birkhaven Greenway Trail. Following the greenway for a short distance there is another entrance to the preserve and the bluff trail on the left.

Getting to Swift Creek Bluffs

Directions from I-40:

Take Exit 293A for US 1 South/US 64 West toward Sanford. This is a multi-exit ramp that extends more than a half-mile. Take the second exit off this extended ramp for Exit 101A/Walnut Street/Shopping Centers. Turn right on Walnut Street and pass through the Crossroads area shopping district. After 1.2 miles Walnut Street intersects with Tryon Road at a traffic signal. Go straight and Walnut Street becomes Holly Springs Road. Continue 2.3 miles to the Swift Creek bridge. Swift Creek Bluffs is located just beyond Swift Creek bridge on the right, adjacent to a Town of Cary lift station. Park in the gravel lot.