



**BLUE JAY CENTER
FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



PARK HOURS
8:00 A.M. - SUNSET,
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.
(contact the park for seasonal closing times)

TELEPHONE
(919) 870-4330



BLUE JAY POINT COUNTY PARK
IS CLOSED
THANKSGIVING DAY
CHRISTMAS EVE
CHRISTMAS DAY
NEW YEAR'S DAY

Safety and enjoyment go hand in hand at Blue Jay Point County Park. The following rules and regulations have been established to insure a safe and pleasant visit.

1. **SPEED LIMIT IS 20 MPH.**
2. **PETS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEASH.**
3. **OPEN FIRES ARE NOT ALLOWED.**
4. **PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS.**
No parking on roadsides.
5. **THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:**
 - a. *Alcoholic beverages.*
 - b. *Firearms.*
 - c. *Hunting.*
 - d. *Overnight camping.*
 - e. *Swimming.*
 - f. *Collection or removal of any animal or plant material.*
 - g. *Amplified music.*

Learn more about other parks operated by Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space.

Information is available at park office and in our brochures.

BLUE JAY POINT COUNTY PARK
3200 PLEASANT UNION CHURCH ROAD
RALEIGH, NC 27614
(919) 870-4330



BLUE JAY POINT COUNTY PARK



A DAY AT BLUE JAY POINT

A day at Blue Jay Point County Park offers a variety of educational and recreational activities for all visitors. Located on a 236-acre site adjacent to Falls Lake, the park offers individuals and groups many opportunities to learn about and enjoy the natural world.

Environmental Education programming is the park's main attraction. Public programs for all ages are conducted throughout the year.

Organized group programs are available upon request.

Other park attractions include hiking trails, picnic areas, a playground, and open-play fields. Fishing is also available along the shore of Falls Lake.

Whatever your recreational interest might be, there is something for everyone to enjoy during a day at Blue Jay Point County Park.



THE BLUE JAY CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The mission and focus of Blue Jay Point is to provide opportunities for Wake County's population to experience environmental education in a natural setting. In that regard, the park's Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education targets local school groups and the general public, in its environmental education offerings. As well, organized groups, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H Clubs can take advantage of the park's programming opportunities to complement their own organizational missions.

Blue Jay Point offers a wide variety of educational programs in natural history and the natural sciences, including current environmental issues and environmental ethics. More information about these programs is available through the Blue Jay Center for Environmental Education at 870-4330.

The Blue Jay Center houses an exhibit hall that explores many environmental and natural resource themes. Water is the focus of the first set of exhibits, offering a glimpse of the water cycle, the Neuse River basin, the Falls Lake watershed, and the city's reliance on Falls Lake for its supply of drinking water. The next series of exhibits offers visitors a look at many of the perils currently impacting the local environment and highlights steps citizens can take toward its preservation. Finally, the Nature Discovery Room allows visitors an up close look at the natural habitats found at Blue Jay Point, exploring the plants, animals, and ecology of the fields, forests, and streams of the park.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

A day at Blue Jay Point offers visitors an opportunity to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of the park. Some of the attractions at Blue Jay include the following:

- **Blue Jay Gardens.**
This area gives visitors ideas for their own backyard wildlife habitat and native plantings.
- **Picnic area with grills.**
- **Kids Lot and Tot Lot playgrounds.**
- **Open-play field.**
This large open area is ideal for flying kites, throwing frisbees, and just relaxing in the sun.
- **Hiking and walking trails.**
There are four miles of trails within the park. Hikers seeking extended trail opportunities will discover that Blue Jay's Section VI of the Falls Lake Trail connects with North Carolina's Falls Lake Trail, thus extending the hiking opportunities well beyond the boundaries of Blue Jay Point.
- **Fishing.**
The shores of Blue Jay Point provide informal bank fishing in Falls Lake. NOTE: All N.C. Inland Freshwater Fishing Regulations apply.



RENTALS

Blue Jay Point County Park has facilities for rent to various groups, with priority given to Wake County groups involved in environmental education. More information regarding the various rental facilities available can be obtained by calling the park's administrative office at 870-4330.

Discovering...

THE TRAILS OF BLUE JAY POINT

HIKING TRAILS

WALKERS AND JOGGERS ONLY

The Falls Lake Trail: Section VI ○

Blue Jay Point County Park contains Section VI of the Falls Lake Trail. (Section VI is not gamelands—see below) This section, blazed in white, meanders along the shore of Falls Lake, passing through the park from Lower Barton Creek to Upper Barton Creek on Six Forks Road. It passes through hardwood forests, across intermittent streams, and past a number of Blue Jay's park facilities. Along this rugged footpath, hikers may encounter a beaver lodge, various wildflowers, and the abundant wildlife living at Blue Jay Point. Many rock piles, abandoned road beds and field furrows along this trail are reminders of this area's history.

Total Length: 3.1 miles.

Hiking Time: 1 - 2 hours.

The Falls Lake Trail: The Falls Lake Trail is a portion of North Carolina's Mountain-to-Sea Trail. Running along the southern shore of Falls Lake, the Falls Lake Trail passes through and connects several different recreation areas. Its nine sections, including Blue Jay's Section VI, may be accessed at many trailheads along its route as it passes through property managed by different local, state, and federal agencies.

Most of this trail travels through gamelands managed by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. (Section VI is not considered gamelands). Hikers are advised to use caution from September through February due to hunting activity on and near the gamelands. Wearing some article of blaze orange clothing while hiking is recommended during these months.

Lake Access Trails ●

Old abandoned road beds provide evidence of past human activity at this location as well as current access to the shore of Falls Lake and the Falls Lake Trail. Access trails are blazed in blue.

Sandy Point Trail: Trailhead is located in the Lodge parking area.
Total Length: 0.2 mi.

Blue Jay Point Trail: Trailhead is located at the traffic circle, south of the playground and the comfort station.
Total Length: 0.2 mi.

Beaver Point Trail: Trailhead is located outside the park gate, between the gate and the Maintenance Facility road.
Total Length: 0.3 mi.

Laurel Loop Trail ●

This short loop, blazed in yellow, is a mulched path extending from below the park's playground area to the shore of Falls Lake. Several benches located along this trail provide quiet places to sit and view the lake and surrounding woodlands. Mountain laurel and beech trees have a perfect home on this north-facing slope.
Total Length: 0.2 mi.

Azalea Loop Trail ●

This loop, also blazed in yellow, begins just inside the park entrance gates and allows access to the Beaver Point and the Falls Lake Trails.
Total Length: 0.2 miles.

Connector Trails ●

These two short trails, blazed in red, connect different areas of the park.

PAVED ACCESS

MULTI-USE

Paved Trails connect major park facilities. These five-foot wide asphalt trails are convenient and easy for everyone.

The Garden Loop ●

This trail loop begins at the Blue Jay Center and winds through the park's interpretive gardens. These gardens focus on what Wake County citizens can do in their own backyards to promote wildlife habitat. A self-guided brochure, interpreting the gardens' different themes, will soon be available at the entrance to the garden area.

The Playground Loop ●

This trail, convenient to the playground and the comfort station, is often the beginning of many day hikes.

When planning began in 1987 for Blue Jay Point County Park, a system of marked trails was an important element of Wake County's first environmental education park. The trail system now in place at Blue Jay Point provides access for people of all ages to explore the natural world.

There are two trail types at Blue Jay Point: Hiking Trails and Paved Trails. On all trails, being aware of other trail users will help assure the safety of all visitors. Also, park visitors are asked to review the "TRAIL USERS' ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITIES" outlined below before departing from the various trailheads.

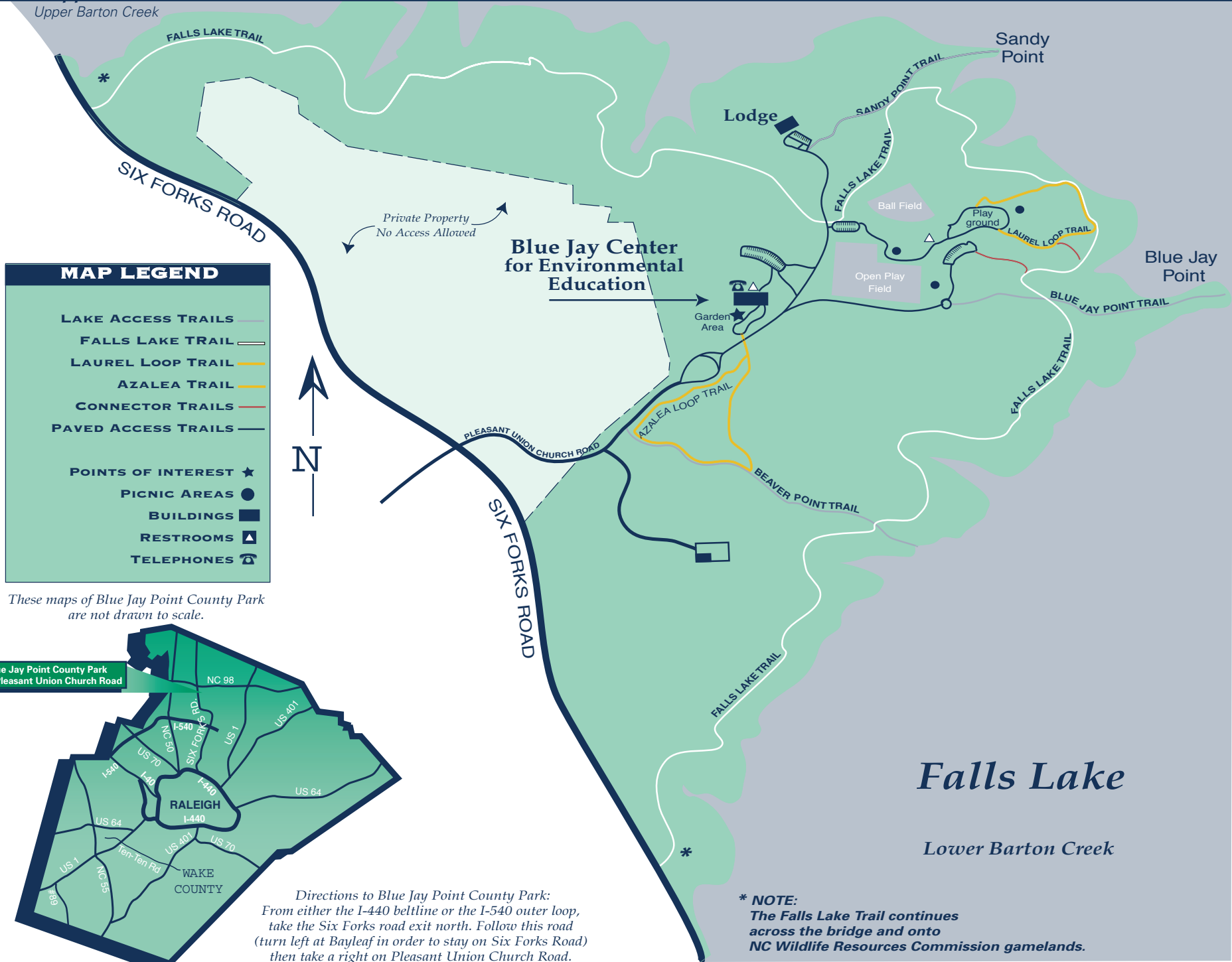
No horses, motorized vehicles, or bicycles, are allowed on any natural surface trails. Bicyclists are allowed on the Paved Trails.

TRAIL USER ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. BE MINDFUL OF OTHER USERS.** Respect the rights of all other trail users and obey all park rules and regulations. Show courtesy when passing other trail users, especially large educational groups.
- 2. PLAN AHEAD.** Know your ability. Become familiar with Blue Jay Point and the park's rules before use.
- 3. USE DESIGNATED TRAILS.** Please stay on the park's marked trails. Straying off trails tramples vegetation and can cause unwanted erosion.
- 4. WILDLIFE IS WATCHING YOU.** In an environmentally friendly, natural setting such as Blue Jay Point, many wildlife species abound. This is their home. Take care not to disturb or alarm any wildlife living in the park.
- 5. ALL PETS MUST BE KEPT ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES.**
- 6. LEAVE NO TRACE.** Tread lightly, leaving behind only footprints. Responsible trail users always practice the "take out what is taken in" principle, leaving behind no food wrappers, drink containers, napkins, cigarette butts or other trash. The collection of any plant, animal, rock, or other natural item is prohibited.
- 7. SET A GOOD EXAMPLE.** The success of all trails at Blue Jay Point depends on its users. Practice good trail ethics, immediately reporting any violators or natural hazards to park staff.
- 8. ALLOW TIME TO FINISH OUTINGS BEFORE PARK CLOSING TIME.**
Remember that as dusk approaches, wooded areas along trails become dark much earlier than trails in open spaces.
- 9. BEWARE OF NATURAL HAZARDS.** Remember that you are in a natural environment. Plants such as poison ivy can cause allergic reactions. There are many wild animals that call Blue Jay Point home. Please respect these animals and their habitat by admiring them from a distance.



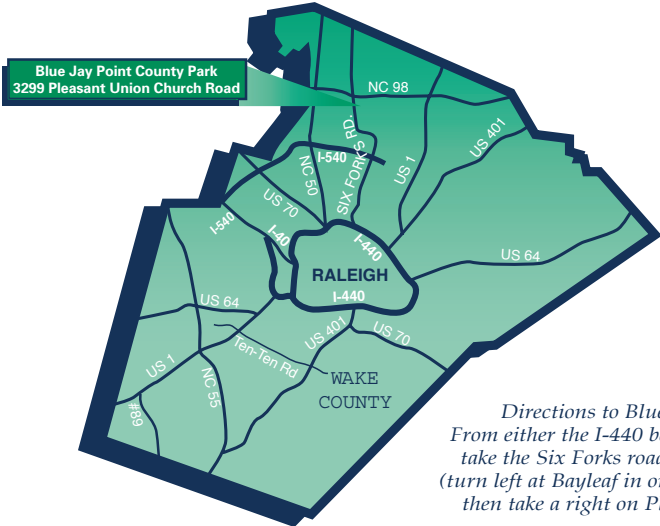
BLUE JAY POINT COUNTY PARK



MAP LEGEND

- LAKE ACCESS TRAILS
- FALLS LAKE TRAIL
- LAUREL LOOP TRAIL
- AZALEA TRAIL
- CONNECTOR TRAILS
- PAVED ACCESS TRAILS
- POINTS OF INTEREST
- PICNIC AREAS
- BUILDINGS
- RESTROOMS
- TELEPHONES

These maps of Blue Jay Point County Park are not drawn to scale.



Directions to Blue Jay Point County Park:
 From either the I-440 beltline or the I-540 outer loop, take the Six Forks road exit north. Follow this road (turn left at Bayleaf in order to stay on Six Forks Road) then take a right on Pleasant Union Church Road.

*** NOTE:**
 The Falls Lake Trail continues across the bridge and onto NC Wildlife Resources Commission gamelands.