



# State Parks and Zoo

Our state parks are the reason so many people love to visit North Carolina. The bond provides \$75 million to build new facilities in state parks, new hiking trails and campgrounds, and provide funding to support environmental education.

## North Carolina Zoo

The North Carolina Zoo has huge plans for the future, involving major expansions and renovations in order to attract millions of new visitors. The first plan approved by the bond includes a major renovation to the Africa exhibit. The funds will build expanded habitats for tigers, orangutans, Komodo dragons, kangaroos, and other animals that can't currently be accommodated with existing space.

Funds will also serve to increase the viewer experience and education by including safari rides through the park and glass-bottom gondolas that would offer new and more interactive ways to view the animals. NC intends for these improvements to make the zoo more attractive and increase its appeal as a "must-see" destination for tourists visiting North Carolina.

## State Parks

The NC Bond will award North Carolina State parks with funds to improve and invest in renovations needed to maintain the quality of NC State Parks. The Connect NC Bond projects for state parks identified in the package include:

- \$20.9 million for new/improved visitor centers and community buildings in 11 parks
- \$18.8 million for new/expanded campgrounds and cabins in 12 parks
- \$21.3 million for park-wide improvements in 12 parks
- \$14.1 million for land acquisition/expansion in 10 parks

**Mountains-to-Sea State Trail** – a 1,000-mile trail that will connect Clingman's Dome to the Great Smoky Mountains to Jockey's Ridge State Park and is considered North Carolina's State Trail. The trail is only 2/3 complete. Bond approval will provide needed funds to complete the trail.

State parks that will benefit from the bond:

Cravers Creek	Eno River	Goose Creek
Hammocks Beach	Jockeys Ridge	Kerr Lake State Recreation Area
Lake James	Lake Norman	Mount Mitchell
Elk Knob	Pilot Mountain	Dismal Swamp
Gorges	Falls Lake State Recreation Area	Fort Fisher State Recreation Area
Jordan Lake State Recreation Area	Hanging Rock	Haw River
Mayo River	Lake Waccamaw	Lumber River
William B. Umstead	Pettigrew	South Mountain
Carolina Beach	Yellow Mountain State Natural Area	Beech Creek Bog State Natural Area
Crowders Mountain	Chimney Rock	Cliffs of the Neuse
Grandfather Mountain	Deep River State Trail	Fort Macon
Medoc Mountain	Jones Lake	Lower Haw River State Natural Area
Mount Jefferson State Natural Area	Merchants Millpond	Morrow Mountain
Singletary Lake	New River	Raven Rock
	Weymouth Woods State Natural Area	