

Transcript for Video “More Great Places to Hike in Raleigh North Carolina”

By ExplorationSolo

More places to hike in Raleigh, North Carolina.

These are slightly more difficult than our family friendly hikes which you can check out here.

1. Lake Johnson Park and Nature Preserve.

In the summer, the park is open 7 am until 8 pm.

The trails are mostly flat, but they are not always well marked. Grab one of the free maps.

To avoid the crowds, park at the Thomas G Crowder Woodland Center.

Start on the Connector Trail. You can pick it up behind the pool (go left when you see the trail), or via the Nature Trail behind the center.

The connector will take you to the 1.5 mile Lake Johnson Segment natural surface trail.

The sign is confusing. The trail is a loop, you can go either way. I like counterclockwise.

The trail starts off nice and wide. It's easy terrain for almost any hiker.

You'll take a left turn over a bridge.

There is another left that's easy to miss. The sign says, “Lake Trail”, and “Boardwalk”.

Check out the overlook just past the turn.

When you hit the trail again, stay left. There are many false trails. Follow the trail that hugs the lake.

It's easier after this. You'll cross a road and meet the Greenway. Then you'll reach the boardwalk.

There's the Waterfront Center with picnic tables for a break. Then cross the road and head back.

You'll see the connector rail and signs leading you back to your car.

2. Durant Nature Preserve

Summer hours are 7 am until 7:30 pm.

There are maps at the trail head by the Park Office. The trails are well maintained but not always well marked.

My route was White House to Border to Beaver Pond to White House to Lakeside to Nature to White House.

The Border Trail is easy to follow. It borders several houses but has fun things to see.

There was even a vernal pool. They fill with water in the spring and become breeding grounds.

Beaver Pond Trail was also easy to find and follow.

The Lakeside Trail was easy to follow until I reached a building with no signs. Keep walking straight with the lake on your left.

You'll pass an outdoor event area with restrooms, and the pier.

After the campfire circle, I wound up at my car. I'm still not sure how I got off the trail. But you can see the parking lot, so you won't be lost.

There are plenty of places to hike in Raleigh and nearby areas. Grab a friend and get out there!