

The Currituck County Rural Center is located in Currituck County in Spot, NC off North Spot Road. The Currituck County Rural Center is maintained for the education, cultural and recreational enrichment of the public and for the benefit of the citizens and visitors of Currituck County. The greatest possible use thereof is encouraged, subject only to such rules and regulations as will preserve the parks and public areas for purposes for which they are laid out and the enjoyment, convenience and safety of all concerned.

The Visitor Center

Visitor Services:

Start your visit at the Main Office Visitor Center where you will find information, brochures, rules and regulations and a site map. The building is open 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and occasional weekends. Our friendly staff will help start your visit by answering questions and providing you with the above mentioned items.

Hours of Operation:

General Park Hours: Daily from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday. Saturday and Evening hours by reservation only.

Activity Center (Covered Arena): Varied Schedule: Please refer to Equestrian Facility page. (Special Events/Promotions may be later)

Outdoor arenas: Open Riding permitted daily from 8:00am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday (except if booked for an event or reserved). Saturday and Evening hours by reservation only. (Special Events/Promotions may be later)

Kayaking/Canoeing: Daily from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Friday. Saturday and Evening hours by reservation only. (Special Events/Promotions may be later)

Rural Life Museum: Under construction, hours to be announced upon opening.

Fishing in Ponds: Daily from 8:00 am to 5:00pm Monday – Friday (except if booked for an event or reserved) Saturday and Evening hours by reservation only. (Special Events/Promotions may be later) NOTE: (catch and release only) Valid NC Fishing license required.

All groups/clubs: By reservation only

Swimming and wading are prohibited at the Currituck County Rural Center.

Approved reservations are needed for use of the Currituck County Rural Center after normal business hours.

Equestrian Facilities

Currituck County Rural Center boasts equestrian facilities for show and practice. The Activities Center is a covered indoor riding arena 120 x 240 with a clay-sand base floor. In addition to open riding, the center will be used for horse shows, clinics, demonstrations, and other events.

Two outdoor riding rings with all-weather footing, cross country trails, dressage ring and wooded horse trails will be available to equestrians. Jump equipment & show equipment are available to event promoters. Two barns with stalls as well as turn-out sheds for the RV/Camper enthusiast are available for a small fee for overnight stays. No long term boarding is available.

Equestrian events vary throughout the year. Open riding is permitted 8 am - 5:00 pm daily, except if the arenas or trails are booked for an event. Most events are free to spectators. Reservations are needed for before/after hours. Hours are subject to change. Please call 252-232-2262 twenty-four (24) hours in advance to make your reservations.

Please Note: Currituck County Rural Center does not rent horses or provide riding lessons. Programs and prices are subject to change.

RULES & REGULATIONS for EVENT PROMOTERS of Special Events:

The following rules in particular apply to the Currituck County Rural Center Event Promoters:

The Licensee agrees to comply fully with all rules, regulations and policy statements established by the Currituck County Rural Center, and other ordinances or laws of Currituck County and the State of North Carolina in the execution of the agreement.

The RENTER is responsible for:

The return of all equipment to their storage places immediately upon completion of the activity.

Informing park staff that the facility is ready for inspection at the completion of the activity.

Providing adequate supervision to maintain order at all times, and to avoid disturbing adjoining property and facility misuse during the period of use on the premises granted.

SCHEDULING DATES

Scheduling may be done up to one year in advance. After scheduling and payment are completed, any changes to the agreed upon reservation must be made in writing. The Currituck County Rural Center reserves the right to schedule more than one event on any given date and to designate the areas in which each Renter shall conduct activities. The County reserves the right to cancel an event due to inclement weather or unsafe conditions. **RENTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBEYING ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS AS SET OUT BY THE CURRITUCK COUNTY RURAL CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURES.**

CANCELLATIONS

In order to allow maximum use of the facilities, rain dates cannot be scheduled. In case of emergencies or other unusual circumstances the Currituck County Rural Center may close the park at any time if it is determined necessary to protect the parkland, facilities or the public. Every effort will be made to give reasonable notice of any such cancellation and all fees will be refunded in full. If the facility must be closed by the park authority due to snow or other unusual circumstances all fees will be refunded in full. If the Renter cancels the rental agreement less than 120 calendar days prior to the rental date, all fees will be refunded less the initial deposit. If the Renter fails to appear for a scheduled day, all rental fees will be due. The County reserves the right to revoke or forfeit the contract due to renter's failure to follow rules and regulations.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Operating hours for the facility for reserved events/promotions are Monday thru Saturday from 8:00 am to midnight, and Sunday from 12:00 pm through midnight. If the requested event will need additional time before the facility opens at 8:00 am / 12:00 pm, a minimum of 28 days notice prior to the event date must be requested to the Currituck County Rural Center Director, so that staff times may be scheduled accordingly. Approval is subject to staff availability.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED IN THE PARK.

SMOKING/OPEN FLAMES

No smoking is allowed in the Currituck County Rural Center Buildings. No candles or open flames are permitted inside of the facility. Barbeque grills are permitted outside of the facility at the RV area or designated picnic areas only and must be a minimum of 15 feet away from the building. Sterno and flame sources of this type are permitted as long as they are used with the appropriate equipment

PARKING

All cars will be parked in designated parking areas only.

PETS

Pets are not permitted inside the Main Office Visitor Center with the exception of service animals. All dogs and pets must be leashed and under control of the owner while on park property.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Silly Putty, Play-Doh, Silly String and items to this effect are not permitted in the Main Office Visitor Center or on the Visitor Center grounds.

FEES

See Fee Schedule

All reservations must be confirmed by a signed contractual agreement. Please call 252-232-2262 to reserve for events.

The Currituck County Rural Center reserves the right to change rules and regulations and fee schedule at any time. The Currituck County Rural Center is under construction and may not be available as scheduled. Any fees/deposits secured will be refunded if park is unusable for any reason.

FISHING – RULES AND REGULATIONS

All persons must have a valid NC Fishing License and must follow the catch-and-release guidelines.

Catch-and-Release Guidelines

These guidelines provide basic information on the most beneficial catch-and-release methods for most small- to medium-sized freshwater and marine fish:

1. If you plan to fish with artificial lures, such as plugs and spoons, consider replacing treble hooks with single hooks. Single hooks are quicker and easier to remove, especially when dealing with such predatory fish as bluefish and northern pike. Consider pinching the barb on your hooks, since this will make releasing the fish much easier.
2. Plan your release strategy. Decide whether to keep or release any fish prior to angling or at least before removing the fish from the water. Familiarize yourself with any regulations in effect for the species targeted, and gather any items that will facilitate handling and releasing the fish.
3. When a fish is hooked, use a steady, deliberate retrieval technique. This can reduce the amount of stress a hooked fish undergoes when pulled up from the depths too quickly or when physically exhausted from an overly slow retrieve.
4. Once you have decided on releasing the fish, avoid netting or even removing it from the water if possible. Use needle-nosed pliers to pry the hook from the fish while it is still in the water. Fish that can be lifted by the leader – the short length of line used to attach the end of the fishing line to the lure or hook – can easily be released over the rail using a "dehooker." These devices, whether homemade or purchased, are gaining in popularity in the bluefish industry – to avoid the fish's nasty teeth – and are useful for releasing a number of other species. A dehooker may simply be a metal rod with a handle at one end and a small upturned hook at the other end. If live bait or a lure is deeply embedded in the fish's gullet, cut the leader close to the fish's mouth and let the fish keep the hook. Studies have shown that fish can get rid of the hook up to 120 days later.
5. When landing the fish, it is important to minimize out-of-water time and any fish contact with surrounding surfaces or objects.
 - Avoid using landing nets if possible. If a landing net must be used, one with a neoprene bag rather than natural twine should be used. Neoprene removes less of the fish's mucous coat.
 - Do not use a gaff!
 - Keep hands moistened. This helps prevent removal of the fish's natural protective mucous layer, and reduces the chance of subsequent infections in the fish's skin.
 - Minimize handling, particularly of the gills and soft underbelly. Gently prevent the fish from battering itself on surrounding hard surfaces. Place the fish on an old piece of foam cushion and place a wet rag or gloved hand over the fish's eye. These two actions can do much to subdue even unruly tuna and bluefish.
6. Return the fish to the water headfirst. In most cases, it is best to point the fish's head straight down and allow the fish to plunge down into the water.
7. All Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult for safety reasons.

For further information, please call the 252-232-2262, NC Cooperative Extension, Currituck County Center.

KAYAK/CANOE: RULES AND REGULATION

All kayak/canoe participants must sign in at park office.

Federal, State and Local laws are to be obeyed.

Currituck County Rural Center does not rent kayaks or canoes.

Please be sure to park in designated areas. Please be aware of park hours as gates are locked at closing.

Follow trail markers.

Groups or tournaments must be scheduled in advance and a contractual agreement must be signed. Please NC Cooperative Extension, Currituck County Center, 4-H office at 252-232-2262 to schedule.

The launch ramp is used only for launching kayaks or canoes. All other watercraft is prohibited. After launching, vessels must be moved to open water so as not to block the ramp or impede channel access.

Swimming or fishing at the launch ramp is unsafe and, therefore, not allowed.

In-coming kayak/canoes have the right-of- way.

Currituck County Rural Center Kayak/Canoe Recommendations

A sport as fun and exciting as kayaking is often hard to realize that there are rules that should be followed to keep people safe making time out on the water enjoyable and not disastrous.

One of these rules is not go out on the water alone. There should always be more than a solo kayaker on the water, this can be as dangerous a place as it can be fun and if alone and tipped or injured it can lead to disaster.

Emergency supplies including a first aid kit should be carried and a rope which can come in handy for many situations.

There are other rules also, ones that help to make the time on the water more fun such as doing warm up exercises before going out on the water, this will help to keep from having sore or strained muscles, it will also help in paddling.

Paddling should always be done using the torso and back rather than just the arms as they would tire quickly and it would be a short trip when it need not be, using the torso and the back it will allow not only for longer paddling time but it will also avoid strains in the muscles.

Another rule for this sport is not to attempt water that is above the skill level a person is, this can lead to disaster, water is rated in classes and with each different class it is more difficult to handle a craft in and without the proper paddling strokes it would be difficult to travel.

By taking classes or lessons the correct paddling strokes are learned for the type of water a person will be in, learning to understand currents is also helpful in avoiding parts of water that could be dangerous.

There are many other rules and these are just a few of the important ones that should be used whenever someone is setting out on the water.

Dogs at Park

The Currituck County Rural Center is a dog-friendly park. We wish to ensure that all visitors enjoy their stay at the park. Please be sure to read the rules below before bringing your dog. Casual, leisurely walks with your dog are welcome.

Dogs must have current vaccinations and licenses. Proof of vaccinations and licensure may be requested by Park Staff.

Dogs under four months of age or female dogs in heat are not permitted.

Dogs must be under control at all times, must wear a collar with any required tags (rabies, etc.) and must be on a leash..

Each dog owner or adult in control of a dog shall remove and dispose of their dog's fecal matter in containers provided for such disposal.

Aggressive dogs are not permitted and any dog displaying aggression shall be immediately removed from the county park.

No dogs shall be left unattended.

Only service dogs are permitted in the main office visitor center or any other building. Dogs, however, may be in the indoor arena or the outdoor horse arena during a canine special event or canine promotion reserved by a contractual agreement with the Currituck County Rural Center.

For further information, to reserve or schedule an event,
please call the 252-232-2262, NC Cooperative Extension, Currituck County Center.