

History of the Designated Nature Preserve

The park, pond, and nature area, off Pine Valley Drive at Laurel Valley Drive, includes trails and a wetlands boardwalk. It was part of the original Greenbrier design plan for that section of the community. The pond itself is a component of the western drainage ditch system, meeting the retention pond requirements of the state in effect during construction of Greenbrier.

At the time the Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company left Greenbrier in 1995, the entire designated preserve was deeded to the Greenbrier Property Owners Association as a nature park and commons area. It was recorded with restrictions of, no swimming, no fishing, no vehicular use, and no playground or picnicking equipment. Such attractions near the water would have made insurance costs prohibitive for the Association. Today, it combines three pedestrian exercise areas with trails, benches, garden and forest plants, identification of indigenous trees and shrubs, and an experimental erosion control project with NC State University. The benches have been donated and are maintained by volunteers.

GPOA maintenance of the park has primarily involved grass cutting and upkeep of the boardwalk through the wetlands. Volunteers have added plants, garden beds, and a memorial tree-planting project enhancing the pond area. At trail entrances, holly trees have been planted by the City of New Bern to recognize Greenbrier's participation in the city's Christmas Tree Decoration program. The Greenbrier Home and Garden Club has been active in tending the garden beds and forest edges.

Dimensions and a legal description of the park appear on the deed document as well as engineering drawing with the city.

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