



## SELF-GUIDED EXCURSIONS

### **Self-Guided Holly Shelter Game Land Hike (any distance up to 19 miles one-way)**

Holly Shelter Game Land offers up to 19 miles (one-way) of MST hiking on sandy roads through longleaf pine savannas, along the edges of pocosins, and past pine plantations. Take 210 back to US 17 and turn left. After 4.3 miles, turn right at the Lodge Rd. entrance to Holly Shelter Game Land. (If you reach Topsail Baptist Church, you have just missed the turn.) You can park here at the entrance or continue in as far as you like, following the directions in Friends' Segment 15 guide. The Lodge Rd. entrance is at Westbound Mile 71.6.

### **Self-Guided Stones Creek Game Land Hike (3.5-7 miles)**

This hike takes you through Stones Creek Game Land, a little known enclave nestled into Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. It traverses several longleaf pine restoration areas and pine plantation, and passes along the shore of a lake that began as a borrow pit for highway construction. The trail is 3.5 miles long and can be done as an out-and-back hike of up to 7 miles or, if you have two cars, one-way with a shuttle.

Take NC 210 (New River Dr.) to the northeast end of North Topsail Beach, a little over 8 miles from the center of Surf City, then turn inland and cross a high bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. Continue another 4.4 miles, crossing NC 172. Turn left into the Stones Creek Game Land parking area, at a traffic light just past Sneads Ferry Presbyterian Church and across from the entrance to Dixon Elementary School. Follow the directions in Friends' Segment 15 guide, beginning at Westbound Mile 47.4. To set a shuttle at the other end of the trail, continue on NC 210 another 3.2 miles and turn left on US 17. At the fifth crossover, turn left on a gated track, where limited parking is available. If you begin hiking here, follow the directions beginning at Eastbound Mile 46.7.

### **Self-Guided North Topsail Beach Park Hike (any distance)**

Take NC 210 (New River Dr., which becomes Island Dr.) to the northeast end of North Topsail Beach, a little over 8 miles from the center of Surf City. Where the road turns inland, turn right onto New River Inlet Rd. just before the North Topsail Beach City Hall. Continue 0.5 mile to the North Topsail Beach Town Park. After crossing the dunes, you can turn right on the beach to follow the MST route or go left. Either way offers pleasant beach walking that is usually less crowded than the beaches in Surf City.

### **Self-Guided Hike on Jacksonville's Lejeune Memorial Greenway and Rail-Trail (up to 9.6 miles round-trip)**

This moving hike follows Jacksonville's greenways past the Lejeune Memorial Gardens, which holds four memorials to our nation's servicemen and women: the Beirut, Vietnam Veterans and Montford Point Memorials and the 9/11 Memorial Beam. It continues through mostly pine forest and across a tidal creek for up to 4.8 miles along the edge of the Camp Lejeune before ending at the base's main gate at Holcomb Blvd. Beyond this point, the MST route continues along a busy highway and is recommended only for thru- or section-hikers. The walk follows Friends' Segment 15 guide from Eastbound Miles 71.3-76.1

From Surf City, take 210 back to US 17 and turn right. Take US 17 about 25 miles into Jacksonville, being sure to stay right on US 17 North/NC 24 East at the split where Business US 17 exits left. From this exit, continue another 3 miles to the exit for Montford Point Rd. At the top of the ramp turn left; parking is on the right after crossing over the highway.

### **Self-Guided Hike of Burgaw's Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail (2-3 miles)**

From Surf City, take 210 back to US 17 and turn left. Continue 19 miles on US 17 miles to I-40 North. Take I-40 north 18 miles to Exit 398 and turn left onto NC 53 at the top of the exit ramp. Follow NC 53 into downtown Burgaw and park along the street. If you want, stop into the Pender County Museum at the corner of Bridgers and Dudley Sts. to learn a bit about Burgaw's history. Begin walking south on the sidewalk of Dickerson St., passing the historic Burgaw train depot and downtown. Where the sidewalk becomes an asphalt path, follow the path leaving Dickerson St. After approximately 2.1 miles, the greenway ends at Wallace St., from which you can find your way back to your car.