

BLACK CREEK/UMSTEAD/REEDY CREEK GREENWAY

This 14-mile stretch of trail is the Triangle's longest multiuse trail yet. It's now possible to hop on your bike – or lace up your sneakers – and take the greenway from Cary's Godbold Park on N.W. Maynard Road, along Black Creek to Lake Crabtree, through Umstead State Park, past Schenck Forest, through the N.C. Museum of Art and on to Meredith College and Hillsborough Street in Raleigh. Use this handy guide to make the trip.

Hills

Most greenways follow streambeds and are flat. This greenway, however, has several hills that will test your legs.

Scenic highlights

Lake Crabtree – Trail climbs above the lake; a great spot to rest and look for kayakers on the water.

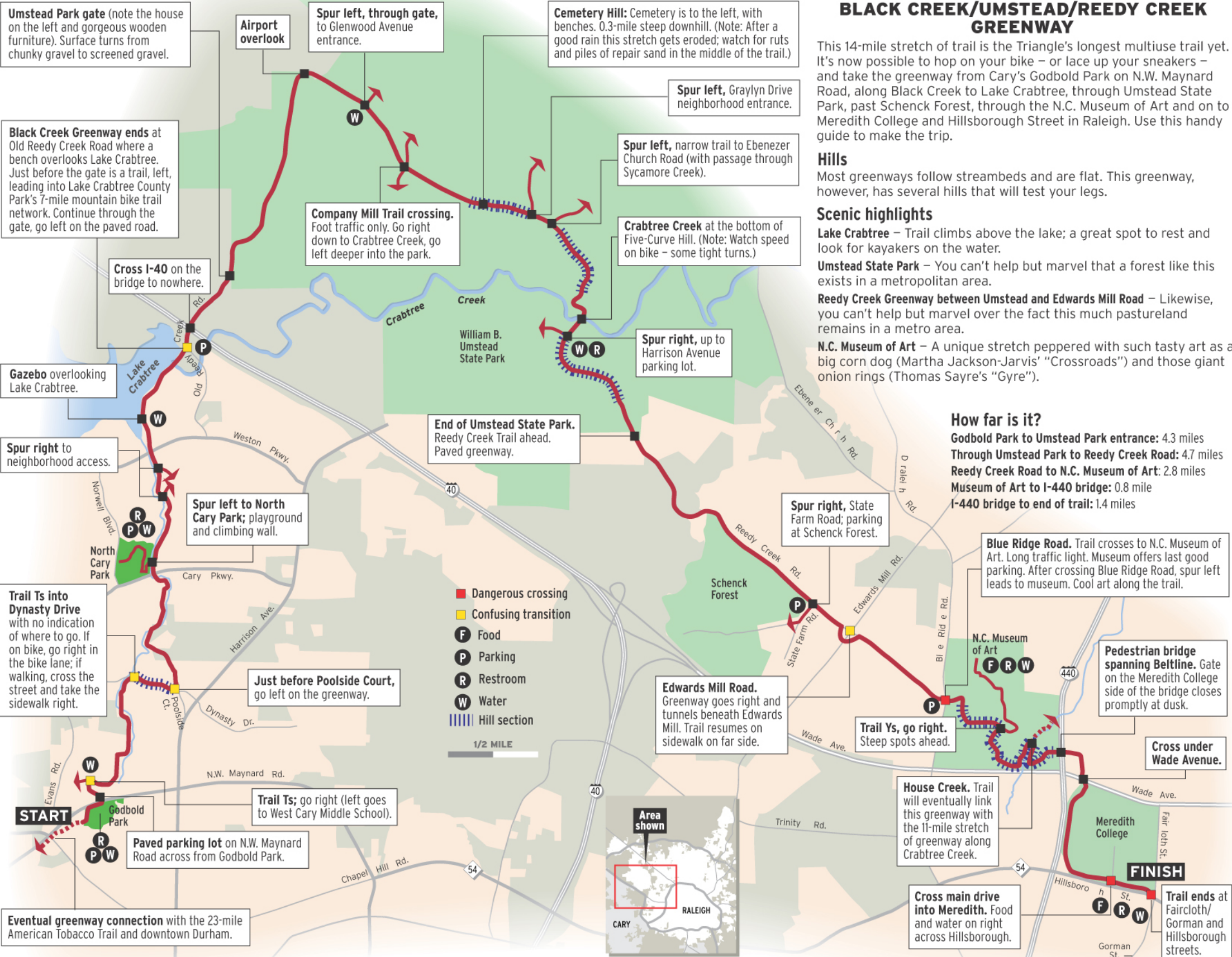
Umstead State Park – You can't help but marvel that a forest like this exists in a metropolitan area.

Reedy Creek Greenway between Umstead and Edwards Mill Road – Likewise, you can't help but marvel over the fact this much pastureland remains in a metro area.

N.C. Museum of Art – A unique stretch peppered with such tasty art as a big corn dog (Martha Jackson-Jarvis' "Crossroads") and those giant onion rings (Thomas Sayre's "Gyre").

How far is it?

- Godbold Park to Umstead Park entrance: 4.3 miles
- Through Umstead Park to Reedy Creek Road: 4.7 miles
- Reedy Creek Road to N.C. Museum of Art: 2.8 miles
- Museum of Art to I-440 bridge: 0.8 mile
- I-440 bridge to end of trail: 1.4 miles



Umstead Park gate (note the house on the left and gorgeous wooden furniture). Surface turns from chunky gravel to screened gravel.

Airport overlook

Spur left, through gate, to Glenwood Avenue entrance.

Cemetery Hill: Cemetery is to the left, with benches. 0.3-mile steep downhill. (Note: After a good rain this stretch gets eroded; watch for ruts and piles of repair sand in the middle of the trail.)

Spur left, Graylyn Drive neighborhood entrance.

Black Creek Greenway ends at Old Reedy Creek Road where a bench overlooks Lake Crabtree. Just before the gate is a trail, left, leading into Lake Crabtree County Park's 7-mile mountain bike trail network. Continue through the gate, go left on the paved road.

Company Mill Trail crossing. Foot traffic only. Go right down to Crabtree Creek, go left deeper into the park.

Spur left, narrow trail to Ebenezer Church Road (with passage through Sycamore Creek).

Crabtree Creek at the bottom of Five-Curve Hill. (Note: Watch speed on bike – some tight turns.)

Cross I-40 on the bridge to nowhere.

Spur right, up to Harrison Avenue parking lot.

Gazebo overlooking Lake Crabtree.

End of Umstead State Park. Reedy Creek Trail ahead. Paved greenway.

Spur right, State Farm Road; parking at Schenck Forest.

Spur right to neighborhood access.

Spur left to North Cary Park; playground and climbing wall.

Blue Ridge Road. Trail crosses to N.C. Museum of Art. Long traffic light. Museum offers last good parking. After crossing Blue Ridge Road, spur left leads to museum. Cool art along the trail.

Trail Ts into Dynasty Drive with no indication of where to go. If on bike, go right in the bike lane; if walking, cross the street and take the sidewalk right.

Just before Poolside Court, go left on the greenway.

Edwards Mill Road. Greenway goes right and tunnels beneath Edwards Mill. Trail resumes on sidewalk on far side.

Trail Ys, go right. Steep spots ahead.

Pedestrian bridge spanning Beltline. Gate on the Meredith College side of the bridge closes promptly at dusk.

START

Paved parking lot on N.W. Maynard Road across from Godbold Park.

Trail Ts; go right (left goes to West Cary Middle School).

House Creek. Trail will eventually link this greenway with the 11-mile stretch of greenway along Crabtree Creek.

Cross under Wade Avenue.

Eventual greenway connection with the 23-mile American Tobacco Trail and downtown Durham.

Cross main drive into Meredith. Food and water on right across Hillsborough.

Trail ends at Faircloth/Gorman and Hillsborough streets.

FINISH