Latta Nature Preserve Scavenger Hunt

*This program was developed by the staff at Mallard Creek Recreation Center*
• Start your search at 6345 Sample Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078. Begin at the Quest Nature Center sign and set out on your adventure!
• To complete this scavenger hunt you will need to take a selfie or group picture at each of the 6 locations on the hunt. The following pages have pictures of the landmarks along with some information about each spot.
• Once you have completed your scavenger hunt, submit your pictures by posting on either Instagram or Facebook and using the hashtags below.

    #LattaNaturePreserveSearch
    #MallardCreekScavengerHunts

• For a downloadable map of the Latta Nature Preserve that can help you on your journey go to the link below:

    https://www.mecknc.gov/ParkandRec/StewardshipServices/NatureCenters/Pages/Latta.aspx
Start your journey by going to 6345 Sample Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078.

The first location on this scavenger hunt is the sign for the new Quest Nature Center!

*You can choose to walk, bike, or drive on this scavenger hunt – the furthest point between locations is about 3 miles.

(Picture Location #1)

If you don’t get time to visit the Quest Nature Center today, make sure you come back and visit! This new nature center has some amazing exhibits that highlight the role that water plays in nature, and you can meet some great animal friends, too!

Just a little way down the road from the new Quest Nature Center you will find the old Latta Nature Center and just past that you will see the sign for the North Kayak Access on the right. Follow the sign and head to the Kayak access.
This is the North Kayak Access at Latta Nature Preserve. This is a great place to launch a kayak and it even has an accessible ramp! Be sure to walk out to the end of the dock and check it out!

Once you mark this location off your list, head back to the main road and take a right to go to the next location.

(Picture Location #2)

This is the raptor (raptors are birds of prey) statue in front of the current Carolina Raptor Center inside the preserve. Eventually the Raptor Center will be moving their raptor trail to a location right behind the Quest Nature Center.

(Picture Location #3)
The next location on the hunt is the Gar Creek Access area. Follow the sign and take a left to head down to the lake access.

This is the road down to the Gar Creek Access. It is just down the hill!
This is the Gar Creek Access area. It is a favorite spot to launch kayaks or canoes. It also has a great view if you want to just sit on the bench and enjoy nature!

When you get done at this location head back to the main road that runs through the preserve and take a left to continue.

(Picture Location #4)

At the end of Sample Rd, deep in the preserve, you will dead end into a parking lot. Park in this lot and follow this sign towards the fishing pier.
When heading towards the water you will want to take the path to the left to keep on track.

As you continue down the trail you will notice the canoe rack on the left side of the trail. This is where the Nature Center staff keep the canoes that they use for programs on the water. Be sure to stop by the nature center to get more info.
This is the Latta Nature Preserve fishing pier. Whether you want to go fishing (with a permit of course) or just get a great view of Mountain Island Lake, this is your spot!

(Picture Location #5)

Next, we will take a journey down Cattail Trail. Cattail Trail is just one of the trails that make up the 16 miles of trails available at the preserve. Make sure you go to the left of the sign to get onto the trail.
Now that you have finished the scavenger hunt, go out and experience the rest of what the Latta Nature Preserve has to offer! See the nature center staff if you need assistance with signing up for one of their many nature programs.

This is the last spot on our scavenger hunt, but it could be just the beginning of your foray into nature! We picked this spot because of the amazing view and the small beach area. Also, be on the lookout for shells from the freshwater river scallops that are a great food source for much of the wildlife that lives around the water.

(Picture Location #6)