Few, if any, universities can match Carolina’s excellence in both academics and athletics. But those who call Carolina home also consider it to be “The Southern Part of Heaven,” because of its mild weather, beautiful campus, and amazing outdoor activities.

**Coker Arboretum | J-4**
The Coker Arboretum is a serene spot on campus where students go to study, relax, or just take in the beauty of nature. In 1903, Dr. William Chambers Coker, the university’s first professor of botany, began developing a five-acre boggy pasture into an outdoor classroom for the study of trees, shrubs, and vines native to North Carolina. Beginning in the 1920s and continuing through the 1940s, Dr. Coker added many East Asian trees and shrubs. These species, closely related counterparts to many North Carolina native plants, enhanced the beauty and educational value of the Arboretum. Examples of conifers and extensive displays of daffodils and daylilies are located here as well.

**Battle Park | P-4**
93 acres encompass Battle Park, which is open to the public and free of charge. The original trails were set out by UNC president Kemp Plummer Battle between 1876 and 1891 and are now enjoyed by countless students and visitors. You might not have brought your hiking boots - but that shouldn’t be a problem since none of the trails are considered strenuous. Take the time to walk through one of them to get a sense of one of the many ways you can enjoy nature while at Carolina.

**Student Recreation Center and Rams Head || K-10, M-15**
The athletic prowess at Carolina extends beyond our varsity athletes. The Student Recreation Center (SRC) and Rams Head Recreation Center are our two fitness centers on campus and include cardio and weight training equipment, indoor basketball courts, an indoor track, and fitness class space. But if you’re just picturing weights and treadmills, think again. You can hone your bouldering skills at the SRC or take a partner and explore the climbing wall at Rams Head. In addition to the indoor facilities, UNC also offers the Carolina Outdoor Recreation Center. It offers ropes courses, areas for backpacking and camping trips, and an amazing network of professionals and students to help you expand your outdoor experience.

**North Carolina Botanical Garden || 100 Old Mason Farm Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**
Only a four-minute drive from Jackson Hall the NC Botanical Garden hosts over 90,000 visitors annually. And with free admission, it makes a great spot to learn more about the state’s flora. As part of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the display gardens, conservation efforts, and community involvement have all pushed the NC Botanical Garden to be a leader in connecting people to nature. Open weekdays 8am - 5pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm, and Sunday 1pm - 5pm.

**Carolina Skyline || Davis Library || K-7**
Books on books on books, but all in an eight-story building, which makes Davis Library a great perch for seeing the campus. Get on one of the elevators (or the stairs if you want a workout) and get to the 8th floor. Two of the diagonal corners have large window lounges that give you some of the best views in town. You can observe the bustling life in the Pit from the southwest corner, or for a more uninterrupted skyline, check out the northeast corner.