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**UPSTATE FOREVER**  
CALLE AND JOHN RAINEY FOUNDATION

**TWELVEMILE BLUEWAY TRAIL**  
June 2017

**A Map and Guide to the Twelve Mile River Scenic Corridor**  
Back Section 4  
Front Section 1 and Section 3

**The Twelve Mile River Blueway**

**Welcome to the Twelve Mile River Blueway**

The Twelve Mile River is a 30-mile tributary of Lake Hartwell in Pickens County, South Carolina. Characterized by sections of whitewater rapids and flatwater, the Twelve Mile River is ideal for paddlers of all skill levels. Whitewater paddlers can experience a nearly two-mile-long stretch of Class III rapids, while beginners will find lake-like paddling conditions as the river enters Lake Hartwell. With nearby historic landmarks, scenic waterfalls, hiking trails, fishing opportunities, and parks, the Twelve Mile River offers an abundance of recreation opportunities. The Clemson Experimental Forest borders the river as it enters Lake Hartwell, offering activities from boating and fishing to hunting and biking.

The Twelve Mile River was the focus of an EPA Superfund cleanup to remove PCB contamination and restore the health of the river until January, 2015. Contaminated sediment was removed from behind two dams known as Woodside I and II, and the dams were dismantled to allow clean sediment to cover and encapsulate the contaminated sediment to help naturally restore the Twelve Mile arm of Lake Hartwell. Historically, the dams impeded flow on the river, and their removal has opened up enormous opportunities for recreation. Because of the historical PCB contamination, fishermen are advised not to consume fish caught in the Twelve Mile River and upper reaches of Lake Hartwell due to a PCB Advisory still in effect.

Recreation opportunities along the Twelve Mile have significantly increased during the last few years. Future plans include two new riverside parks that will continue to improve recreational access to the river. Pickens County has been a key partner in the improvement of recreation along this scenic river. Unofficial river accesses are ones that are widely used, however, are not officially constructed river accesses. While the Twelve Mile River can be accessed under any SCDOT-maintained road, the accesses included on the blueway map are ones that are most often used and family-friendly. There are many great options at all skill levels for a fantastic day on the river. Learn how you can protect this and other hometown rivers by visiting [www.UpstateForever.org](http://www.UpstateForever.org). This and other blueway maps are available on SC's statewide online paddling resource, [www.GoPaddleSC.com](http://www.GoPaddleSC.com).

**Planning and Safety**

- 1) Review the map carefully.
- 2) Plan your start and end points according to your skill level.
- 3) Check current river conditions. A flooded river can be dangerous, and a low river may expose logs, rocks, or other debris, slowing your trip down significantly.
- 4) Always wear a life jacket with whistle.
- 5) Avoid boating alone and carry emergency numbers with you.
- 6) Minimize your impact on the river by properly disposing of waste, respecting wildlife, and leaving what you find.
- 7) Do not trespass on private property. Stay in the river until your take-out.
- 8) If you fall out in a rapid, assume the whitewater "swimming" position - with your feet up and pointing downstream (like you're in a recliner) until you reach flatwater and can get back in your boat.
- 9) Roadside river accesses with listed addresses are approximate locations of bridges and should not direct you to private homes. Please do not access the river on private property.

**Suggested Trips**

<b>TOWN CREEK</b> Town Creek Park Trip Length: 0.75 miles Skill Level: Intermediate Trip Duration: < 1 hour	<b>TWELVE MILE RIVER</b> Shady Grove Rd. to Bargain Exchange Flea Market Trip Length: 1.62 miles Skill Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 1-1.5 hours
<b>TWELVE MILE RIVER</b> Crittter Creek Parking Area to Lay Bridge Road Trip Length: 1.85 miles Skill Level: Intermediate Trip Duration: 1-1.5 hours	<b>TWELVE MILE RIVER</b> Lay Bridge Road to Shaw Bridge Road Trip Length: 2 miles Skill Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 1-1.5 hours

**River Rapids Classification**

**Class I Rapids: Easy**  
Fast-moving water with riffles and small waves. Little or no prior paddling experience necessary.

**Class II Rapids: Moderate**  
Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels. Some prior paddling experience is suggested.

**Class III Rapids: Difficult**  
Moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to maneuver. Prior experience required.

**Class IV Rapids and Above: Advanced**  
Intense, powerful, or extremely long rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water. Drops may contain large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages. Extensive experience is essential.

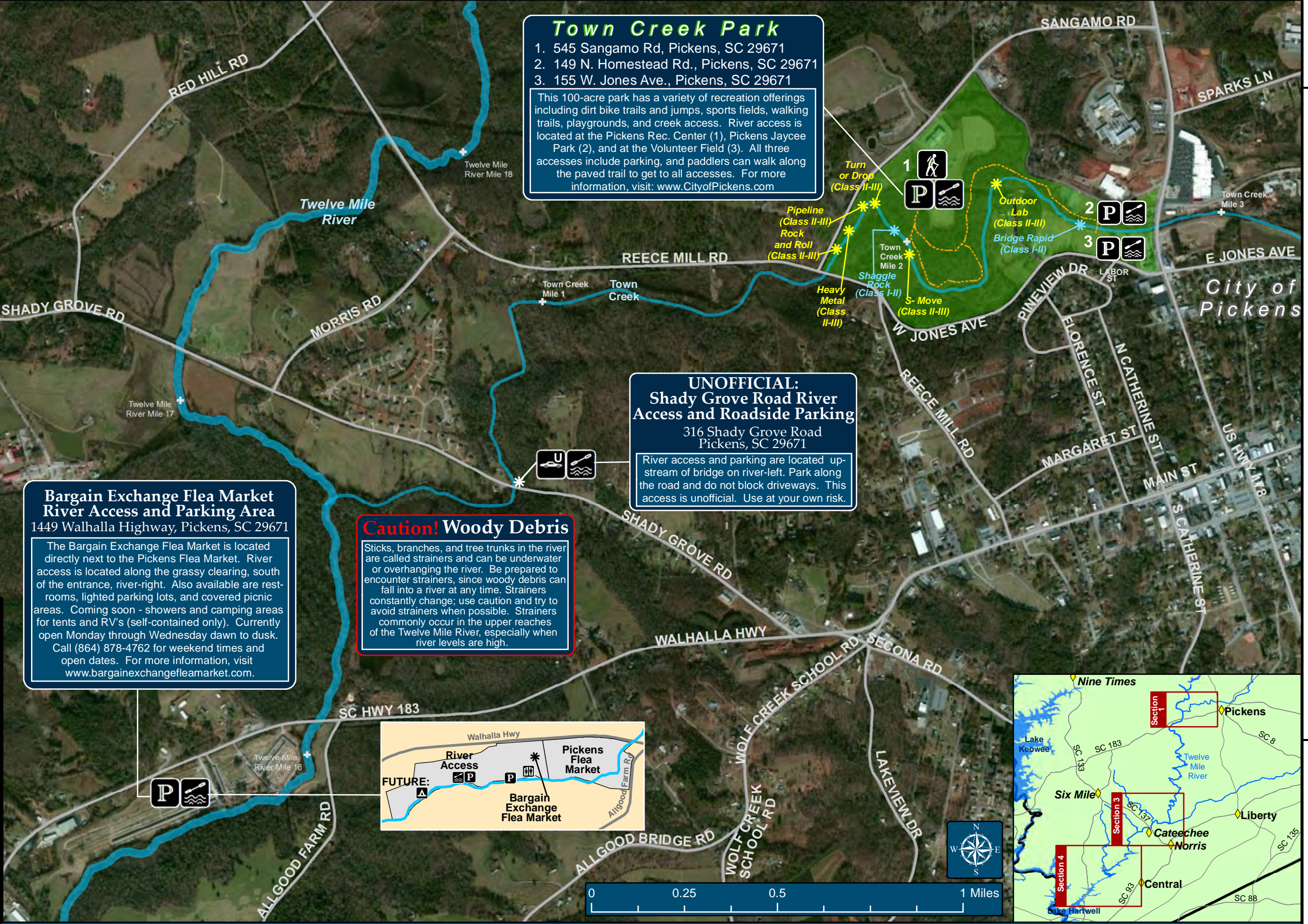
**River Levels**

Adequate river flow is essential to paddling. If levels are too low or too high, paddling may not be possible. Please check the stream gauge listed below for real-time information to determine if flow levels are suitable for paddling. Flow is measured either in cubic feet per second (volume) or feet (height of river). Sections 1 and 3 of the Twelve Mile River (and Town Creek) require higher water levels (above 300 cfs) for adequate paddling opportunities.

USGS Site No. 02186000; Twelvemile Creek near Liberty, SC near River Mile 2  
Ideal Conditions: 200 cfs - 1,000 cfs  
[www.upstateforever.org/12mile](http://www.upstateforever.org/12mile)

**Disclaimer**

There is some risk involved in water paddling. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies solely with you. Upstate Forever and its partners disclaim all warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the information provided in this map and shall not be held liable to any user of this map.

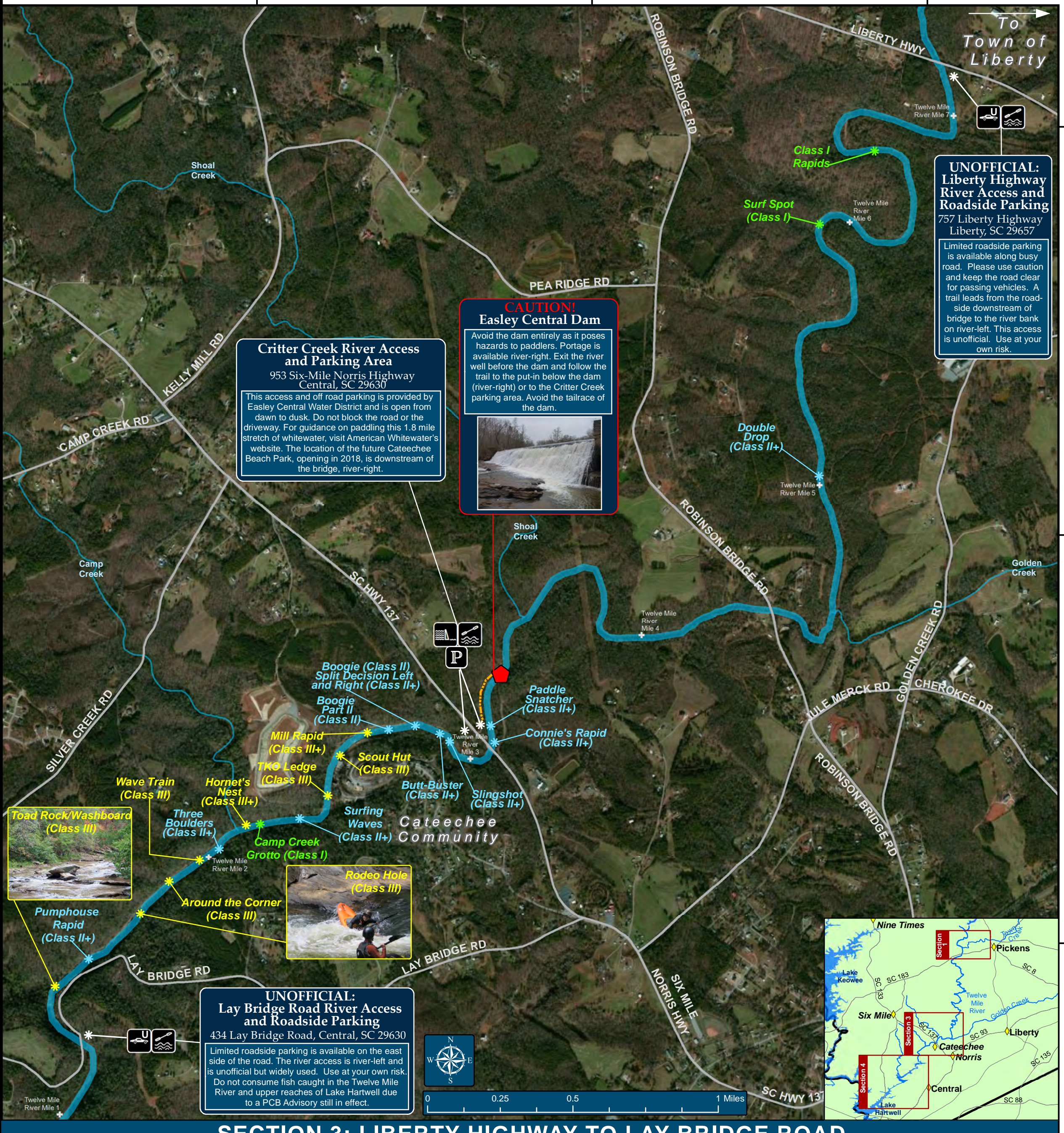


**SECTION 1: TOWN CREEK PARK TO BARGAIN EXCHANGE FLEA MARKET**

82°45'0"W 82°43'45"W 82°42'30"W

**WATER LEVELS RARELY SUPPORT PADDLING BETWEEN THESE SECTIONS**

82°47'0"W 82°46'0"W 82°45'0"W



**SECTION 3: LIBERTY HIGHWAY TO LAY BRIDGE ROAD**

82°48'0"W 82°47'0"W 82°46'0"W 82°45'0"W

82°49'30"W 82°49'0"W 82°48'30"W 82°48'0"W 82°47'30"W 82°47'0"W



**Twelve Mile River Blueway Sponsors and Partners**

**Common Fish in the Twelve Mile River**


Help conserve native species by never releasing aquatic organisms into waters other than those from which they were caught. Don't dump your bait bucket unless it is back into the waterbody where that bait was collected.

The native species of Redeye Bass is known as "Bartram's" Bass, and is threatened by competition and hybridization from the non-native Spotted/Alabama Bass. Conservation of the Bartram's Bass is of high priority.

The PCB Advisory for the Twelve Mile River remains in effect; therefore, the consumption of fish caught in the Twelve Mile River and in the upper reaches of Lake Hartwell is not recommended.

**Legend**


**UNOFFICIAL: Lay Bridge Road River Access and Roadside Parking**  
 434 Lay Bridge Road, Central, SC 29630

Limited roadside parking is available on the east side of the road. The river access is river-left and is unofficial but widely used. Use at your own risk. Do not consume fish caught in the Twelve Mile River or upper reaches of Lake Hartwell due to a PCB Fish Advisory still in effect.

**Todd Creek Falls**  
 298 Brookbend Road  
 Central, SC 29630

Roadside parking is available at the trailhead, near the large power line crossing. It is a 1 mile hike to Lake Hartwell, passing Todd Creek Falls at 0.3 mile.

**Maw Bridge Road River Access and Roadside Parking**  
 1002 Maw Bridge Road, Central, SC 29630

Limited roadside parking is available downstream of the bridge, on river-left. The river bank is a short walk from the road. Do not consume fish caught in the Twelve Mile River and upper reaches of Lake Hartwell due to a PCB Advisory still in effect.

**Waldrop Stone Falls**  
 333 Waldrop Stone Road  
 Central, SC 29630

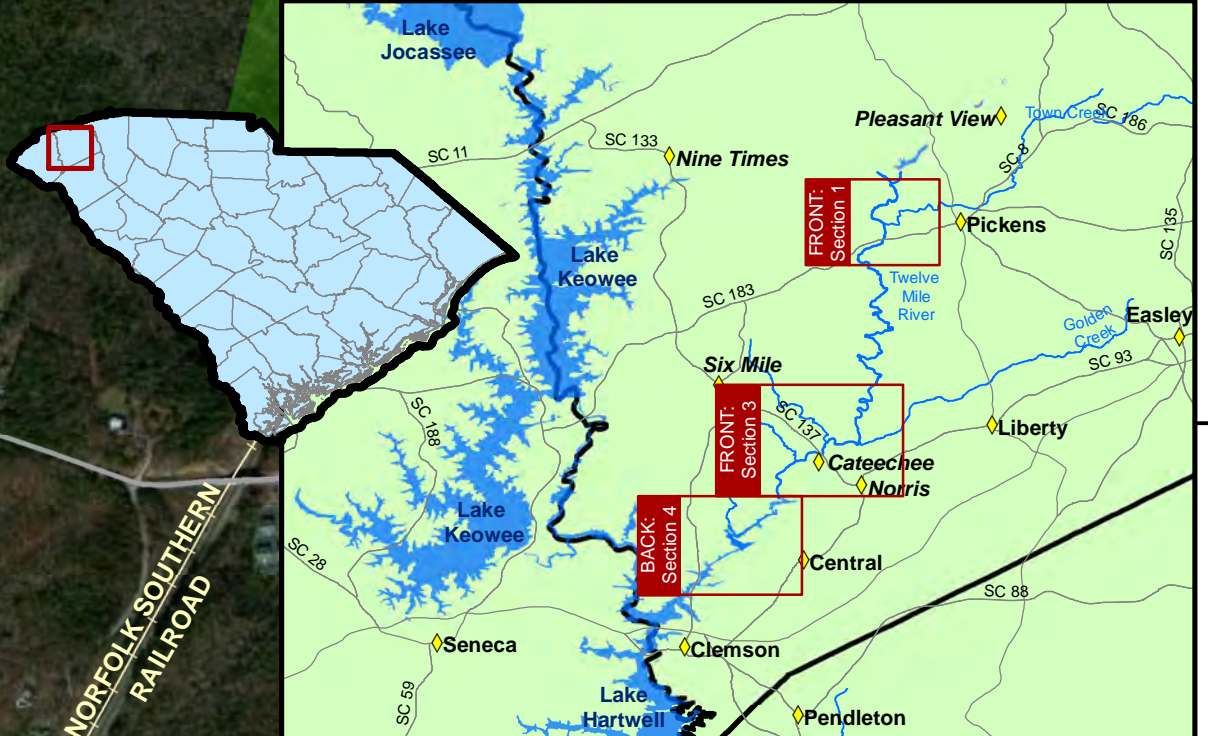
Limited roadside parking is available at the trailhead. It is a 1.26 mile loop with a scenic view of Waldrop Stone Falls.

**Madden Bridge Road River Access and Parking Area**  
 952 Madden Bridge Road  
 Central, SC 29630

A small off-road parking area and limited roadside parking is available upstream of the road, on river-right. A 500-foot trail leads to a small sandy beach along the lake. The future location for Madden Bridge Park is downstream of the bridge, river-right, opening in 2018. Do not consume fish caught in the Twelve Mile River and upper reaches of Lake Hartwell due to a PCB Advisory still in effect.

**Twelve Mile Recreation Area**  
 113 Twelve Mile Park Road  
 Clemson, SC 29631

Managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, the park has a boat launch, playground, picnic shelters, and restrooms. Swimming at your own risk is allowed and fishing is permitted. Parking fee of \$4. Do not consume fish caught in the Twelve Mile River and upper reaches of Lake Hartwell due to a PCB Advisory still in effect.



82°50'0"W 82°49'30"W 82°49'0"W 82°48'30"W 82°48'0"W

**SECTION 4: LAY BRIDGE ROAD TO PICKENS RECREATION AREA**