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**RAINEY FOUNDATION**  
FORESTATE  
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**Broad River Blueway**  
A Map and Guide to the Broad River Scenic Corridor  
June 2017  
The First 70 Miles in South Carolina

**Welcome to the Broad River Blueway**

The Broad River Blueway in South Carolina provides significant beginner-friendly and novice paddling opportunities. Originating in the Blue Ridge Mountains of eastern Buncombe County, North Carolina, the Broad River – which once formed the boundary between the Catawba and Cherokee Indian tribes – flows through seven Piedmont counties in South Carolina before joining the Saluda River to form the Congaree River in Columbia. In the Upstate, the Broad River flows through Cherokee Falls in the Sumter National Forest and the Town of Lockhart, passing through Cherokee, York, Union, Chester, Fairfield, Newberry, and Richland Counties.

One of the Upstate's widest rivers with major tributaries like the Pacolet, Tiger, and Enoree Rivers, the Broad River has provided significant power generation with nine dams along the entirety of the river. In 1991, South Carolina designated 15 miles of the Broad River from 99 Islands Dam downstream to the confluence with the Pacolet River as Wild and Scenic, to the benefit of the endangered rocky shoals spider lily and resident and migratory fish. Wildlife is abundant in this area. Visitors may see a variety of birds, fish, and mammals including bald eagles, osprey, herring, largemouth and smallmouth bass, river otters, muskrats, deer and coyotes.

With slow flows and clear, wide channels, the Broad River is ideal for family paddling trips and fishing. Surrounded by an abundance of forests, farms, and orchards, the Broad River is a significant recreational resource. Recreation opportunities have been generously provided by utility companies, such as Duke Energy and Lockhart Power, allowing for the creation of the Broad River Blueway. Learn how you can protect this and other hometown rivers by visiting [www.UpstateForever.org/Reconnecting](http://www.UpstateForever.org/Reconnecting). This and other blueway maps from across South Carolina are available at [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 before paddling. 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 a whistle.
  - 5) Avoid boating alone. Let someone know your plan and when to expect you to return.
  - 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>BROAD RIVER</b> Broad River Greenway to Big Bay Access Trip Length: 8.25 miles Skill Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 4-5 hours	<b>BROAD RIVER</b> Bowens River Access to Cherokee Ford Recreation Area Trip Length: 5 miles Skill Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 2-3 hours
<b>LOCKHART, SC</b> Lockhart, SC to Broad River Landing Trip Length: 7.5 miles Skill Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 3-4 hours	<b>BROAD RIVER</b> Sandy River Landing to Shelton Ferry Landing Trip Length: 6.2 miles Skill Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 3 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 following stream gauges for real time information to determine if flow levels are suitable for paddling. Flow is measured in either cubic feet per second (volume) or feet (height of river). River levels on the Broad can fluctuate quickly if dam operators release water. Be sure to camp on high ground.

USGS Site No. 02153200  
Broad River near Blacksburg, SC near River Mile 83  
Ideal Conditions: 2.5 ft - 5.6 ft

[www.upstateforever.org/broad](http://www.upstateforever.org/broad)  
USGS Site No. 02156500  
Broad River near Carlisle, SC near River Mile 130  
Ideal Conditions: 2,000 cfs - 5,000 cfs  
[www.upstateforever.org/broad2](http://www.upstateforever.org/broad2)


**Broad River Greenway River Access and Parking Area**  
126 Broad River Drive, Shelby, NC 28152

Located downstream of the Highway 150 bridge, this trailhead to the Broad River Greenway includes a fishing pier, river access, a playground, educational displays, and picnic shelters. The Broad River can be accessed from either side of the bridge. The fee for use is \$5 per car; it is open from dawn to dusk. For more information, visit: [www.broadrivergreenway.com](http://www.broadrivergreenway.com).

**1. Big Bay Access Area**  
end of Sarratt Road, Gaffney, SC 29341

**2. Gaston Shoals Fishing Trail**  
end of Spillway Road, Gaffney, SC 29341

**3. Bowens River Canoe Access**  
1444 Dravo Road, Blacksburg, SC 29702

**1. BIG BAY ACCESS AREA:**  
This access includes a small parking area, boat ramp, and fishing pier.

**2. GASTON SHOALS FISHING TRAIL:**  
This fishing trail is located below the Gaston Shoals Dam and follows the river for about 700 ft. While no boat ramp exists at this location, paddlers can put in here to avoid the Gaston Shoals Dam.

**3. BOWENS RIVER CANOE ACCESS:**  
This access includes a small parking area and dirt boat ramp, river-left. A fishing area is located 2,000 feet north on Dravo Rd., next to the Hydro Plant and also includes a small parking area.

**Caution! Cherokee Falls Dam**  
Portage is available river-right. Please avoid the dam and its facilities. Stay away from the tailrace of the dam.

**Caution! Gaston Shoals Dams**  
Portage is available at the dock in the center island between the two Gaston Shoals Dams. Put back in the river on the downstream side of the island below the main spillway. Use extreme caution at all times.

**Cherokee Ford Recreation Area**  
Wolf Den Lane, Gaffney, SC 29340

Located river-right, above the Cherokee Falls dam, this river access is next to the Cherokee Ford Recreation Area. At the end of Wolf Den Lane, there is a dirt clearing with easy access to the river from the river bank.

**Scenic Broad River**

In 1991, this 15-mile segment of the Broad River was designated a State Scenic River by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Encompassing the Broad River from mile 93 to mile 107 between Cherokee and York Counties, this designation extends from Ninety-Nine Islands Dam to the confluence with the Pacolet River and showcases an undeveloped riverfront of Piedmont forests and pasturelands.

**PACOLET RIVER: Skull Shoals Road River Access and Parking Area**  
600 Skull Shoals Road, Gaffney, SC 29342

This is the last road crossing before the confluence of the Pacolet and the Broad Rivers. Parking is available in the dirt lot on river-left. The next take out location is the Town of Lockhart approximately 12 miles downstream (a 6-6.5-hour paddle).

**Skull Shoals River Access and Parking Area**

**Town of Lockhart River Access and Parking Area**  
Take-out above the dam: 400 Lockhart Drive, Lockhart, SC 29364  
Put-in below the dam: 100 River Street, Lockhart, SC 29364

Paddlers should use caution when approaching the Lockhart Dam. The take out is located river-right, before the first dam. Access to the parking lot requires a short walk. The Lockhart Canal is formed by the two dams located north and south of the Town of Lockhart. Swimming and boating are not permitted within the Lockhart Canal. Paddlers wishing to continue their trip downstream should use the phone in a box on the side of Lockhart Power's building, which is connected to the Lockhart Power control room, to call (864) 545-2580. Lockhart Power will bring a truck and portage you to the put in downstream river-left, east of Lockhart Power's Hydropower Plant and Dam.

**Lockhart Dam #1**

**Lockhart Dam #2**

**Lockhart Dam #1 (top)**

**Aerial of Town of Lockhart (bottom)**

**Lockhart Canal:** NO paddling or swimming at any time.

**Re-enter river here, end of River Street.**

**Worth Mountain WMA River Access and Parking Area**  
off of Scenic View Rd Hickory Grove, SC 29717

This river access includes a parking area and concrete boat ramp. Also available are biking, fishing, hunting, and hiking. For updates and additional information about hunting seasons, visit: [www.dnr.sc.gov/mands/wmaprogram](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/mands/wmaprogram).

**Ninety-Nine Islands River Access and Parking Area**  
end of Ninety-Nine Island Road Blacksburg, SC 29702

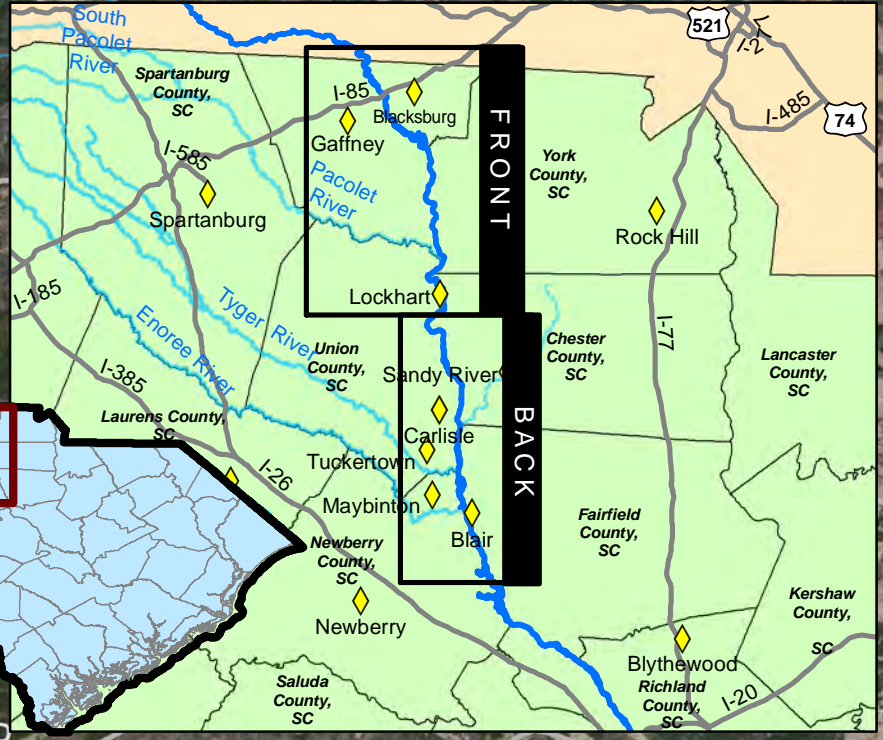
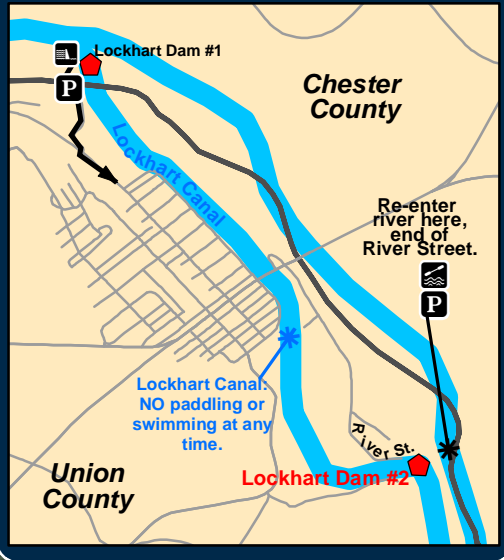
Located river-left, this boat ramp and small parking area is downstream of the 99 Islands Dam, next to the powerhouse.

**Pick Hill River Access and Parking Area**  
1290 Ninety-Nine Island Road Blacksburg, SC 29702

Located river-left, this access has a boat ramp and small parking area, as well as a fishing trail that runs along the river 600 feet downstream of the boat ramp.

**Town of Lockhart River Access and Parking Area**  
 Take out above the dam:  
 400 Lockhart Drive, Lockhart, SC 29364  
 Put in below the dam:  
 100 River Street, Lockhart, SC 29364

Paddlers should use caution when approaching the Lockhart Dam. The take out is located river-right, before the first dam. Access to the parking lot requires a short walk. The Lockhart Canal is formed by the two dams located north and south of the Town of Lockhart. Swimming and boating are not permitted within the Lockhart Canal. Paddlers wishing to continue their trip downstream should use the phone in a box on the side of Lockhart Power's building, which is connected to the Lockhart Power control room, to call (864) 545-2580. Lockhart Power will bring a truck and portage you to the put in downstream river-left, east of Lockhart Power's Hydropower Plant and Dam.



**Woods Ferry Recreation Area**  
 Park Road, Carlisle, SC 29031  
 (34.698880, -81.450655)

Open year-round, this recreation area features restrooms, picnic shelters, fishing platforms, a boat ramp, camping sites, horse trails, accommodations and hot showers. Fee for camping is required and can be paid upon arrival. For more information, visit: [upstateforever.org/WFRA](http://upstateforever.org/WFRA)



**Broad River Landing River Access and Parking Area**  
 end of Boat Landing Road, Union, SC 29379

A small parking area and boat ramp are located river-right.



**Neal Shoals Dam River Access and Parking Area**  
 end of Shoals Road (FS 304)  
 Carlisle, SC 29031

River access is a 500-ft. walk from the parking area. Use this access to avoid portaging the Neal Shoals Dam.

**Caution! Woody Debris**

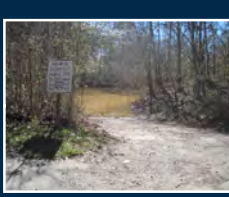
Sticks, branches, and tree trunks in the river are called strainers and can be underwater or overhanging the river. Be prepared to encounter strainers, since woody debris can fall into a river at any time. Strainers constantly change; use caution and try to avoid strainers when possible. Strainers commonly occur in the Enoree, Pacolet, and Tyger Rivers, especially when river levels are high.

**Caution! Neal Shoals Dam**

Portage is available river-left. Please avoid the dam and its facilities. Stay away from the tailrace of the dam. Portage is 0.4 miles long.

**Sandy River Landing River Access and Parking Area**  
 end of Boat Ramp Road  
 Carlisle, SC 29031

A small parking area and dirt boat ramp are located river-left 300 feet above where Sandy River meets the Broad River.



**Shelton Ferry Landing Boat Ramp and Parking Area**  
 end of Shelton Ferry Road  
 Whitmire, SC 29178

A small parking area and boat ramp are located river-right.

**Broad River Blueway Sponsors and Partners**

**Common Fish in the Broad River**

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

**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.

**Legend**

- River Access
- Parking Area
- Roadside Parking
- Dam Portage
- Point of Interest
- Hiking Trail
- Accessible
- County Boundary
- Fishing
- Camping
- Unofficial Roadside Parking
- Restroom Facilities
- Cities and Towns
- Dams
- Hiking Trails
- River
- Roads
- Railroads

Visit: [www.upstateforever.org/blueway-mapping-for-the-tyger-river-blueway-map](http://www.upstateforever.org/blueway-mapping-for-the-tyger-river-blueway-map)

Jews Harp Spring Trail: spring is 0.7 miles from Collins Creek Seasonal Camp and 0.2 miles from Maybinton Road

**Collins Creek Seasonal Camp**  
 1466 State Road S-44-45  
 Whitmire, SC 29178  
 For more information, please visit [www.fs.usda.gov/scnls](http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnls)

**ENOREE RIVER: Brazelmanns Bridge Road River Access and Parking Area**  
 3720 Brazelmanns Bridge Road  
 Newberry, SC 29178

The landing is downstream of Brazelmanns Bridge Road, river-left. Directional signage from the road will lead you to a small parking area and concrete boat ramp. For more information, visit: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/scnls](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/scnls)

**ENOREE RIVER: Keitts Bridge Landing at Maybinton Rd.: River Access and Parking Area**  
 Enoree Trail off of Maybinton Road,  
 Newberry, SC 29108

River access is downstream of the bridge, river-right. Drive under the bridge to a small clearing. For more information, visit: [upstateforever.org/keitts](http://upstateforever.org/keitts)

**Strother Landing River Access and Parking Area**  
 Strother Road, Blair, SC  
 34.393142, -81.393956

Strother Landing is located 600 feet downstream of the SC 34 bridge, river-left. Traveling east across the SC 34 bridge, go 0.1 miles and turn right on to Strother Road. Turn right onto the first dirt path 500 feet down the road, across railroad tracks, and bear right to the landing.



Coming Soon - The Enoree River Blueway Map. Check [www.upstateforever.org/blueway-mapping-for-updates](http://www.upstateforever.org/blueway-mapping-for-updates)