



# The Waccamaw River Blue Trail

*A Guide for Paddlers*



**American Rivers**  
RIVERS CONNECT US®

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The riverside lands of the Waccamaw River are home to several Eastern Siouan tribes, including the Waccamaw, Winyah, Pee Dee, Chicora, Sampit and others. American Rivers acknowledges the painful history of colonization, enslavement, removal, genocide and segregation they endured, and the diversity of their descendants who are still present on this land. We are educating ourselves about the environmental movement's role in these atrocities and how to respect Native American peoples' relationships with the land. We are committed to continuous learning and meaningful engagement with the Waccamaw Indian People and other Native American descendants along the Waccamaw River.

## INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to American Rivers' newly updated, waterproof Waccamaw River Blue Trail map! In this edition, you will find all of the essential information included in the previous version of the map with additional information that reflects the ever-evolving landscape of this beautiful region and the many ways that people connect with the Waccamaw River. We have updated information about boat landings and added points of interest to highlight the natural wonders, ethnic diversity and cultural history of the river. Lastly, we have included information about thousands of acres of newly protected land along the Waccamaw River Blue Trail, which is now open to the public. We hope that our map will help you explore the treasures of the Waccamaw River - old and new!



Photo: Staci Williams



## THE WACCAMAW RIVER BLUE TRAIL

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Considered one of the finest blackwater rivers in the Southeast, the Waccamaw River provides Carolinians and visitors with clean drinking water, flood protection, scenic landscapes, diverse plants and wildlife and outstanding recreation. As a federally-designated National Water Trail, the Waccamaw River Blue Trail is recognized as a national treasure that is vital to the health of natural and human communities in the Carolinas and beyond.

The Waccamaw River Blue Trail extends the entire length of the Waccamaw River. The Blue Trail begins in North Carolina near Lake Waccamaw, one of the world's largest Carolina Bays, and meanders through the Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve, the riverfront city of Conway, South Carolina and portions of the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge. The lower reaches of the river merge with the Intracoastal Waterway, then widens as it passes by Brookgreen Gardens and Sandy Island. The river ends its journey to the Atlantic Ocean at Winyah Bay near Georgetown, South Carolina.

With over 140 miles of stunning blackwater, the Waccamaw River beckons adventure-seeking outdoor enthusiasts. The natural, historical and cultural features located along the Waccamaw River provide ample opportunity for exploration, education and relaxation. Its cypress swamps and tidal marshes are home to many unique species of plants and animals such as the Venus fly trap and Red-cockaded woodpeckers. The river is intertwined with the histories of Native American and Gullah Geechee people, rice and indigo plantations and Civil War sites. It also showcases many historic homes, churches, shops and remnants of industries that were once served by steamships.

To protect this important natural resource American Rivers, Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® of Winyah Rivers Alliance and many local partners worked together to establish the Waccamaw River Blue Trail. A Blue Trail is a river adopted by a local community that is dedicated to improving family-friendly recreation and conserving riverside land and water resources. Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore land, Blue Trails help people discover rivers. They promote recreation and tourism, support local businesses and inspire communities to protect river health for the benefit of wildlife, people and future generations.

## STEWARDSHIP

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The Waccamaw River Blue Trail asks visitors to follow the National Leave No Trace Code of Outdoor Ethics ([www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)) that promotes the responsible use and enjoyment of the outdoors:

- Plan ahead and prepare.
- Obey all rules and regulations.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- Respect private property and wildlife.
- Dispose of waste properly (human and litter).
- Leave what you find.
- Minimize campfire impacts.
- Be considerate of others.

## SAFETY / GEAR

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- Avoid boating alone.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Review relevant water level and safety information before your trip. (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/sc/nwis/rt>, [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org) or [www.regulations.com/southcarolina/huntingandfishing/boating/](http://www.regulations.com/southcarolina/huntingandfishing/boating/)).
- Review relevant water quality and safety information before your trip. Contact the Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® at (843) 349-4007 for more information.
- Leave information about your route and return time with a relative or friend.
- Be aware of wildlife and river hazards such as strainers (fallen trees), large vessels on the Intracoastal Waterway and bridge piers.
- When in a group assign a lead and sweep boat operated by experienced paddlers.
- Stay in your boat if it becomes stuck and carefully shift your weight as you push off with your paddle or pole.
- Never paddle farther from shore than you are prepared to swim.
- Bring a spare paddle or pole, and in an emergency, stay with your boat.
- North Carolina and South Carolina state law requires each boat to carry a life jacket, noise making device and a flashlight.
- Bring a first-aid kit, plenty of drinking water, sunscreen, sunglasses and bug repellent.
- Bring a copy of the Waccamaw River Blue Trail Map.

## PLANNING

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- Review the Waccamaw River Blue Trail map.
- Know where your trip will take you, where to get out and emergency routes.
- Allow enough time to complete your trip within daylight hours.
- Check river conditions. A flooded river can be dangerous and should be avoided. A low river may expose logs or rocks and require carrying your boat, which may make your trip slower and more difficult.
- Check weather conditions before your trip. Do not go if the weather is beyond the ability of the least experienced person in your group.
- USGS maintains gages on the Waccamaw River with information useful to paddlers. Visit <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt> for more information.

## CAMPING INFORMATION

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For most rivers in North Carolina and South Carolina, the land that lies below the normal high water line is public property. This makes camping legal on the many sandbars found along the river. Be aware that the Waccamaw River is a tidal river. High tides and prolonged rainfall can cause the river to flood sandbars and low-lying areas. It is important to note private property boundaries. Access and overnight camping are not allowed on private property unless you have the permission of the landowner.

Overnight stays are allowed at some of the public boat landings. For more information, contact Columbus County Parks and Recreation at 910-640-6624, NC Wildlife Resources Commission at 910-253-6299 for the Lake Waccamaw and Pireway landings, Horry County Parks and Recreation at 843-915-5330 and Georgetown County Parks and Recreation Department at 843-545-3275.

**Lake Waccamaw State Park** - Camping is allowed in designated areas by permit only. In most cases, campers register online or with a ranger on site. You must check in at the visitor center or with a ranger even if you have reserved a campsite.

**North Carolina Game Lands** - It is unlawful to camp on game lands, except at specific areas designated by the landowner. Contact NC Wildlife Resources Commission for more information at 910-253-6299.

## CAMPING (cont.)

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**Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve** - Boaters and backpack campers may camp overnight on the riverbank within preserve boundaries. However, the preserve is not contiguous and numerous private inholdings occur along the river. Contact SC Department of Natural Resources at 843-546-3226 ext. 13 for more information.

**Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (Waccamaw NWR)** - Waccamaw NWR does not allow camping on Refuge property. Exceptions to this policy will be made for individuals or groups who agree to pick up litter on designated sites along the Waccamaw & Pee Dee Rivers and will require a Special Use Permit issued by the Refuge. If you would like more information, please contact the Refuge office at 843-527-8069.

**Samworth Wildlife Management Area** - Temporary primitive camping is available to organized groups by permit. No camping will be allowed that may conflict with organized hunts. Contact SC Department of Natural Resources at 843-546-8665 for more information and to obtain a permit.

## NATURAL, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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- Lake Waccamaw State Park ([www.ncparks.gov/lake-waccamaw-state-park/home](http://www.ncparks.gov/lake-waccamaw-state-park/home))
- Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve ([www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Location](http://www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Location))
- Waccamaw River Park
- City of Conway
- Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge ([www.fws.gov/waccamaw/](http://www.fws.gov/waccamaw/))
- Bucksville and Bucksport
- Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor ([www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org/](http://www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org/))
- Sandy Island
- Brookgreen Gardens ([www.brookgreen.org/](http://www.brookgreen.org/))
- Samworth Management Area ([www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Location](http://www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Location))
- Georgetown Waterfront
- Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor
- Hobcaw Barony ([www.hobcawbarony.org/](http://www.hobcawbarony.org/))

## NEARBY PLACES OF INTEREST

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- Green Swamp ([www.nature.org/greenswamp](http://www.nature.org/greenswamp))
- Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve ([www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Location](http://www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Location))
- Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center ([www.fws.gov/waccamaw/](http://www.fws.gov/waccamaw/))



Photo: David Thebeau - Waccamaw River downstream of Pireway.

## HOW TO USE THIS MAP BOOKLET



The index map below can help you navigate to the appropriate map for the river reach of interest. Look on the bottom of each page for corresponding numbers. The top of each map is upstream regardless of the orientation and thus the bottom of each map is downstream.



## WACCAMAW RIVER BLUE TRAIL MAP LEGEND



Public Access Sites



Camping



Fishing



Boating



Disc Golf



Hiking Trails



Mountain Biking



Picnic Areas



Dining Facilities



Cultural Tours



Bed & Breakfast



Kayak Rentals



Public Parking



Limited Parking



Not Accessible by Vehicle



Public Restrooms



US Highways



North Carolina State Highways



South Carolina State Highways



U.S. Geological Survey Gages



Important Information



**Blue Heart Landings**

Recommended for peak season kayakers who want to avoid the inconveniences caused by high volumes of traffic that occur at some boat launches. Due to their spacious parking, great launch conditions and limited use, these landings provide easy access to the Waccamaw River.



N

0 0.5 1

Miles

LAKE WACCAMAW  
STATE PARK  
NC State Parks



Lake Waccamaw Canal Cove Boating Ramp



34.300584  
-78.552121

Columbus County Boat Launch



34.29052  
-78.47211

COLUMBUS  
COUNTY  
GAME LAND

## LAKE WACCAMAW

River Access at Lake Waccamaw Dam



34.26099  
-78.52361

Waccamaw River

LAKE WACCAMAW  
STATE PARK  
NC State Parks

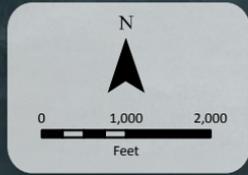


### Lake Waccamaw at Sunset



Lake Waccamaw is one of the largest Carolina Bays. One origin story of the lake centers around a meteor that fell and burned deep into the earth. For this reason, the local Waccamaw-Siouan are known as "People of the Fallen Star".

Photo: Rick Squires



## LAKE WACCAMAW

River Access at Lake Waccamaw Dam    34.26099  
-78.52361

Mile 0  
34.26099  
-78.52361

LAKE WACCAMAW  
STATE PARK  
NC State Parks



Waccamaw River

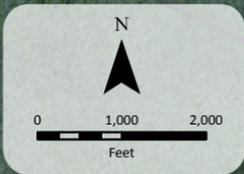
Mile 1  
34.249432  
-78.530997

River Access at Lake  
Waccamaw Dam



A thick swamp greets the  
paddler at the start of the  
Waccamaw River.

Photo: Julie Stocks



Mile 2  
34.240278  
-78.544043

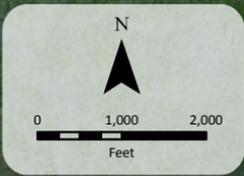
Mile 3  
34.231199  
-78.557183

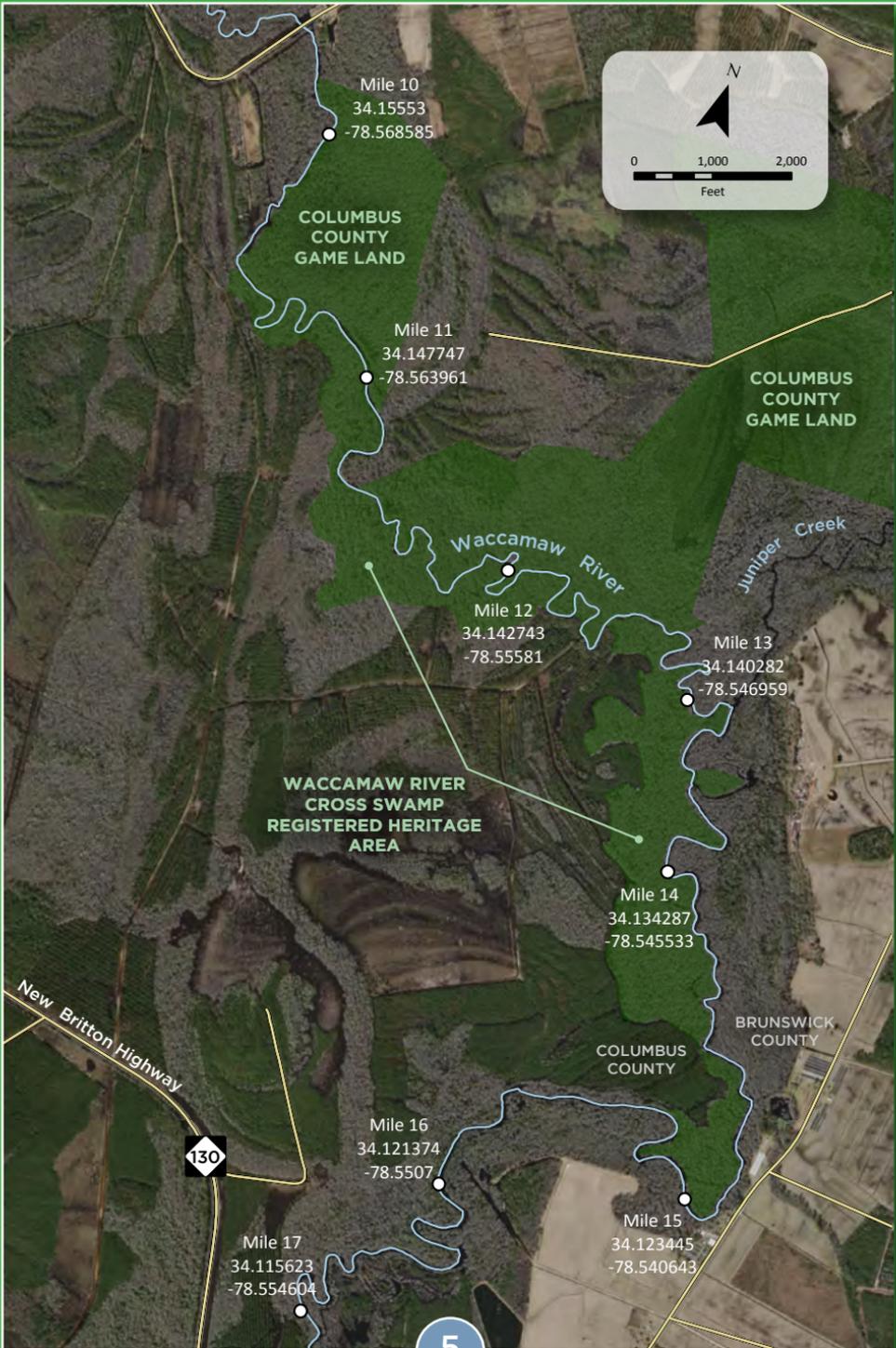
 This stretch of river can be difficult to navigate during times of low and high water levels.

Mile 4  
34.219206  
-78.55916

Mile 5  
34.206806  
-78.563727

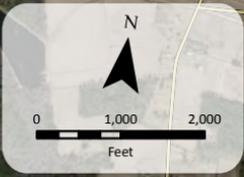
Waccamaw River







Mile 17  
34.115623  
-78.554604



**Babson's Landing Kayakers**

Photo: David Thebeau

Mile 18  
34.108485  
-78.551963

**FREELAND**

Mile 19  
34.102128  
-78.546416

**!** A small fee is required to use this landing

COLUMBUS COUNTY

Mile 20  
34.095081  
-78.551588

**Babson's Landing** 34.094962  
-78.549510

**USGS Stream Gage**  
34.092222, -78.548333

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

**Waccamaw River**

Mile 21  
34.091238  
-78.559858

Mile 22  
34.080463  
-78.561654

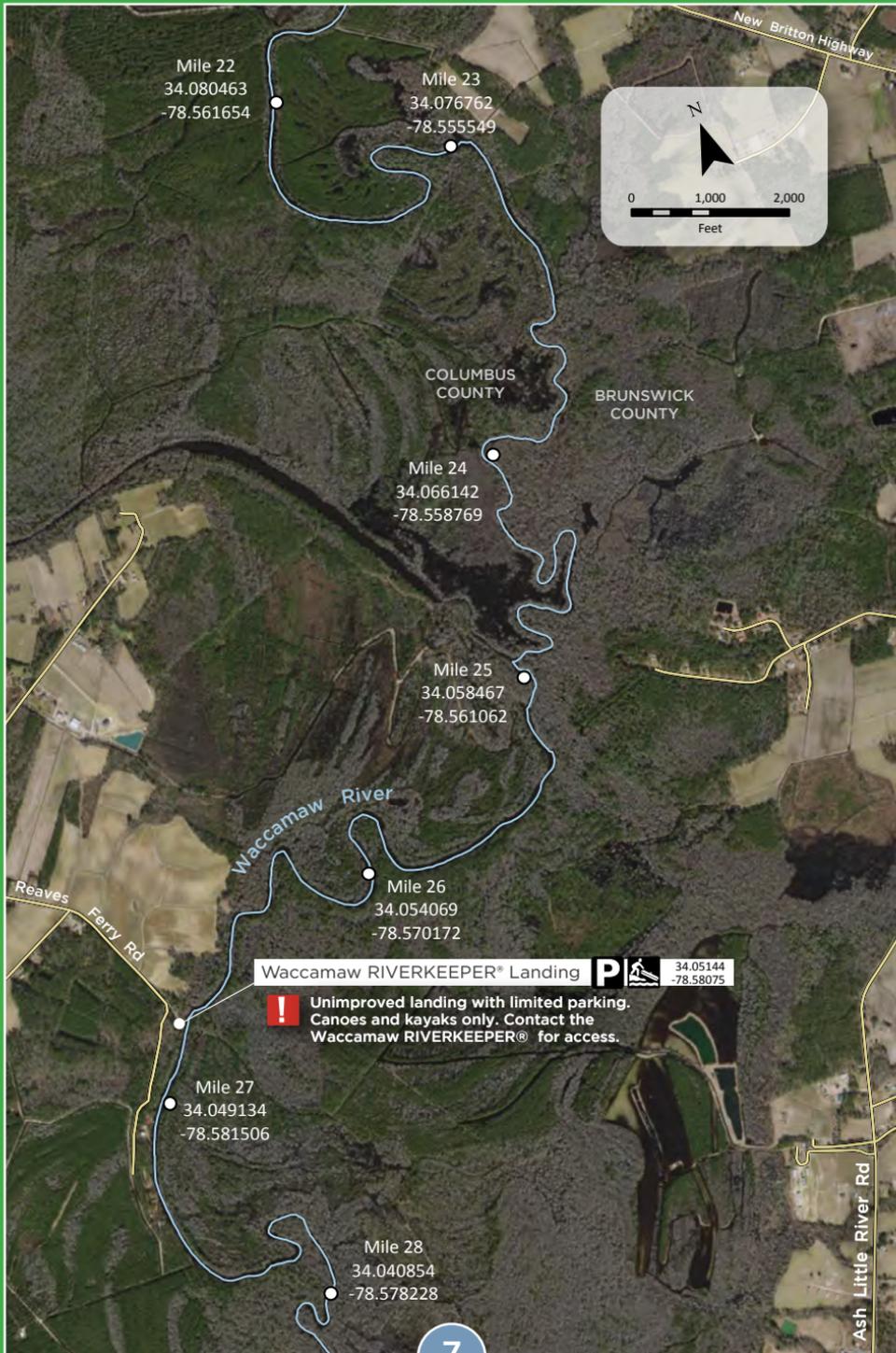
**130**

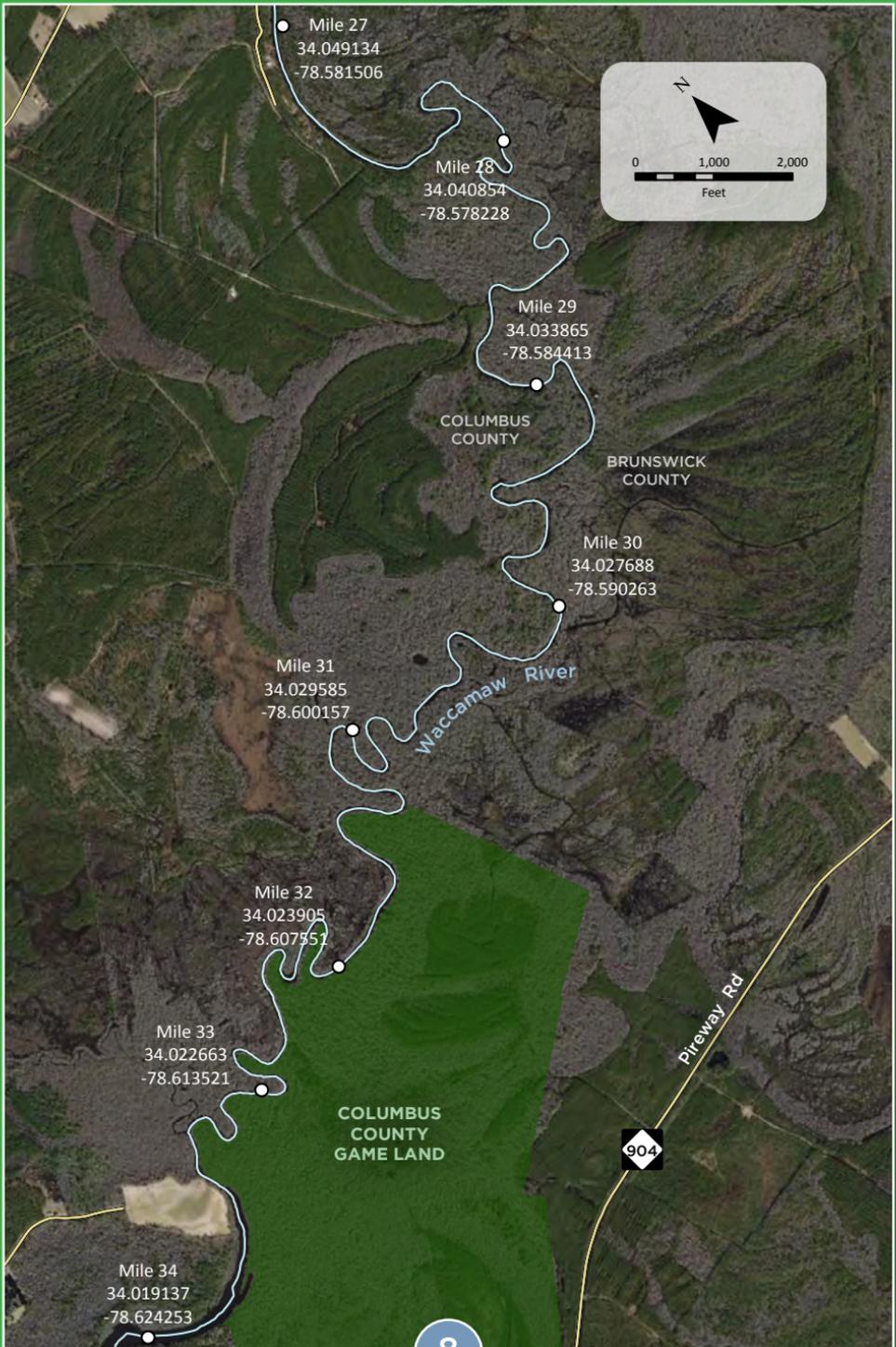
**Babson's Landing**

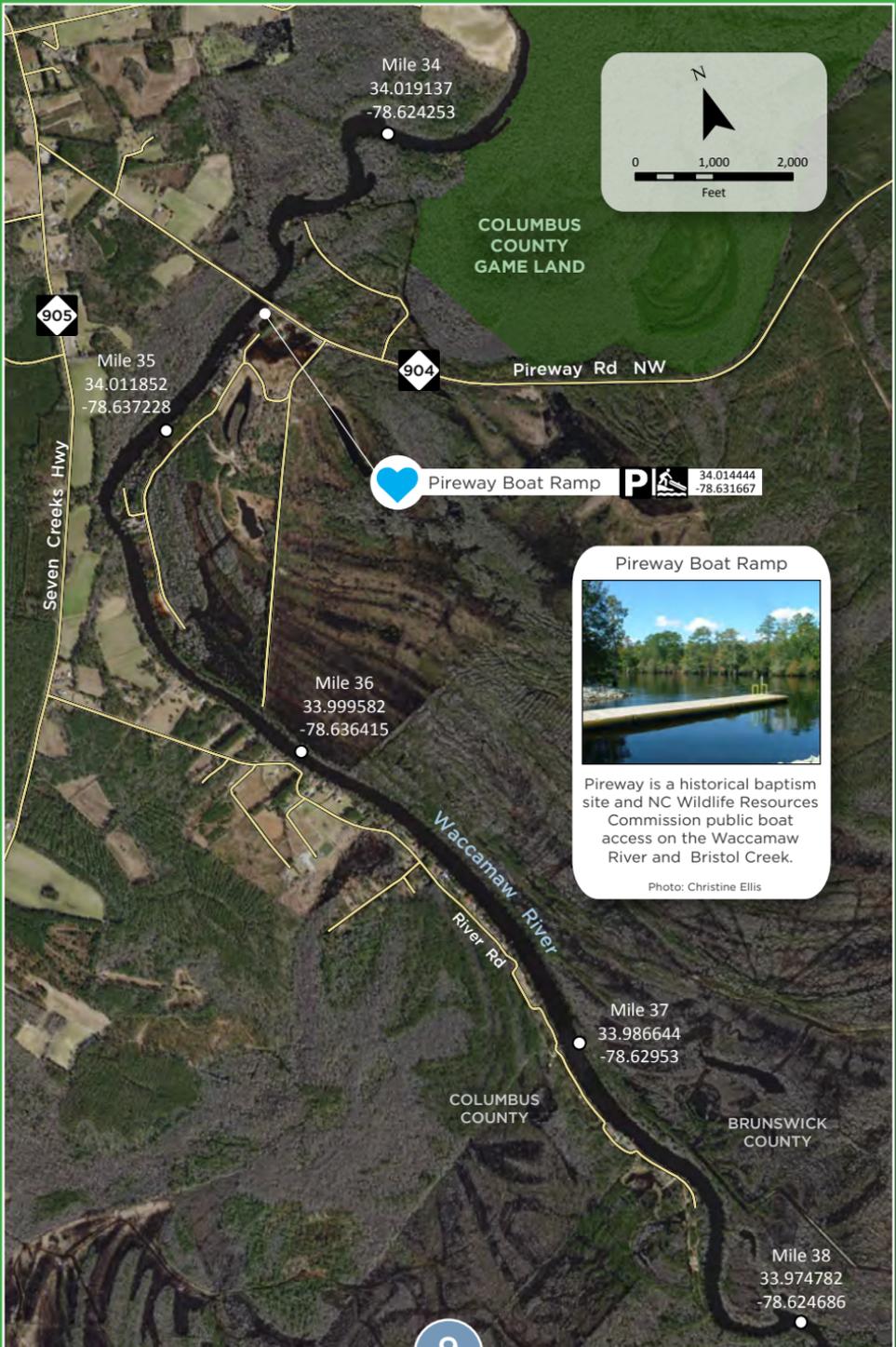
Babson's Landing is a private access point. A small fee is required to use this landing.

Photo: Christine Ellis

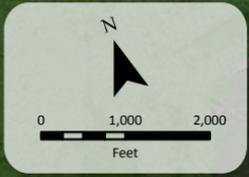
Mile 23  
34.076762  
-78.555549







Mile 34  
34.019137  
-78.624253



COLUMBUS  
COUNTY  
GAME LAND

905

Mile 35  
34.011852  
-78.637228

904

Pireway Rd NW



Pireway Boat Ramp



34.014444  
-78.631667

Seven Creeks Hwy

Pireway Boat Ramp



Pireway is a historical baptism site and NC Wildlife Resources Commission public boat access on the Waccamaw River and Bristol Creek.

Photo: Christine Ellis

Mile 36  
33.999582  
-78.636415

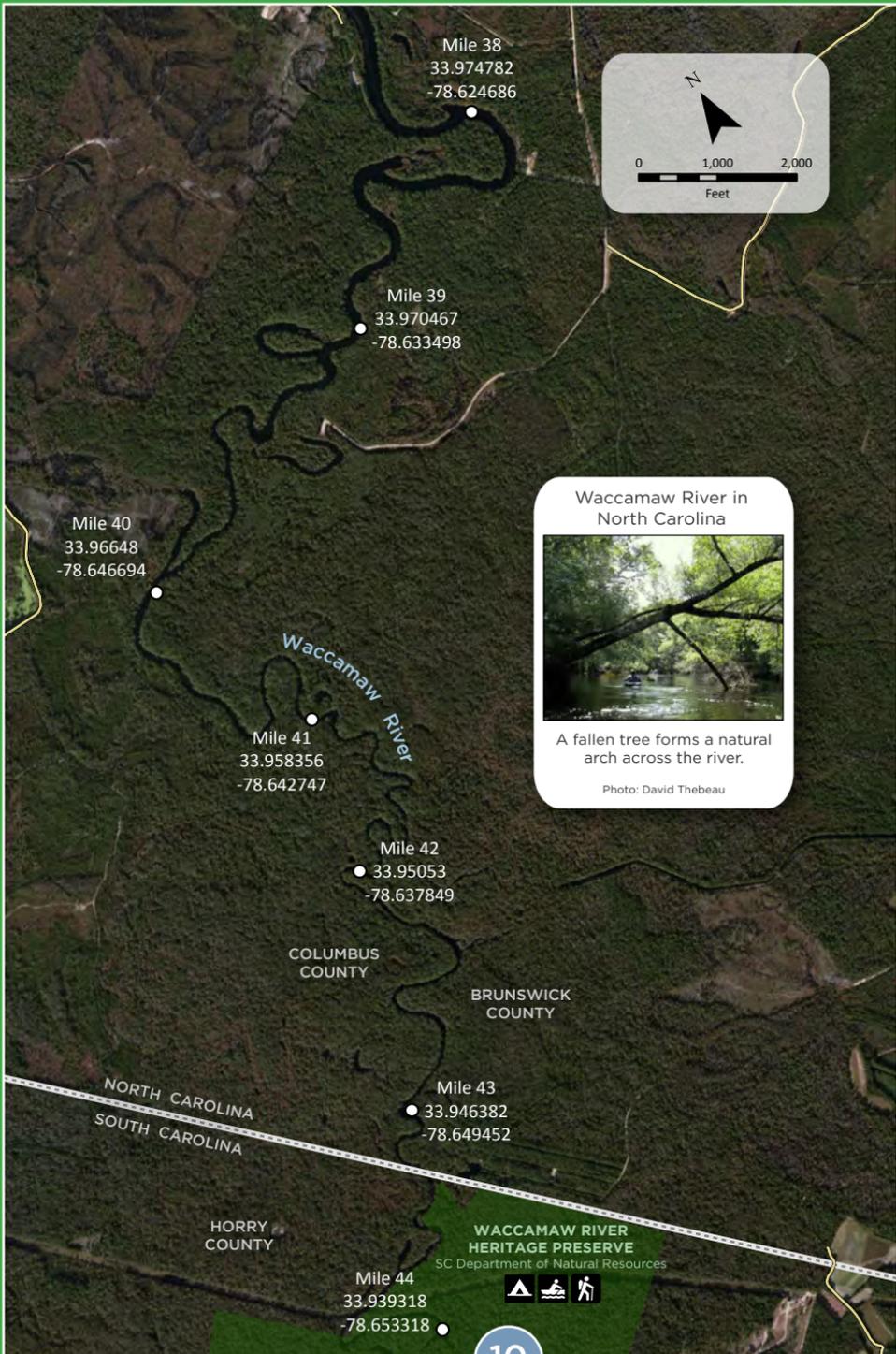
Waccamaw River  
River Rd

COLUMBUS  
COUNTY

BRUNSWICK  
COUNTY

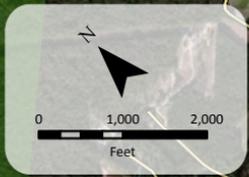
Mile 37  
33.986644  
-78.62953

Mile 38  
33.974782  
-78.624686



NORTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH CAROLINA

HORRY COUNTY



Mile 44  
33.939318  
-78.653318

WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 45  
33.935891  
-78.65955

Mile 46  
33.9303  
-78.668416

WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 47  
33.922293  
-78.675657

Mile 48  
33.920931  
-78.681647

Mile 49  
33.917517  
-78.692042

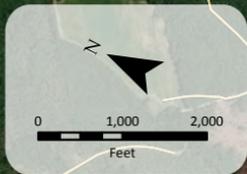
Waccamaw River

Wortham's Cutoff Rd

Little River Rd

sc  
111





Mile 56  
33.890726  
-78.72926

**WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE**  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 57  
33.886566  
-78.737895

Mile 58  
33.883163  
-78.744032

**WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE**  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 59  
33.878628  
-78.751942

**Wood Duck**



These brightly colored ducks can be found nesting along the river in natural tree cavities and in duck boxes maintained by local groups.

Photo: Frank Perrotta

Mile 60  
33.880206  
-78.764635



**Big Savannah Lake Landing**

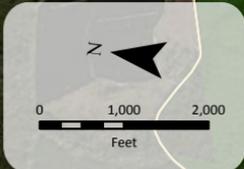


33.887578  
-78.773023



**Steep boat launch**

Mile 61  
33.884872  
-78.777158



East Beat Grass Rd

Mile 61  
33.884872  
-78.777158



Big Savannah Lake Landing



33.887578  
-78.773023



Steep boat launch

WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 62  
33.881359  
-78.787925

Waccamaw River

Waccamaw Ln

Mile 63  
33.887313  
-78.795469

WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 64  
33.883607  
-78.804382

Mile 65  
33.883704  
-78.812003

Mile 66  
33.890816  
-78.820497

Mile 67  
33.896213  
-78.826349

WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
SC Department of Natural Resources





Mile 67  
33.896213  
-78.826349

WACCAMAW RIVER  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 68  
33.897855  
-78.833843

s.c.  
905

Red Bluff Rd

HAMMOND



Red Bluff Landing **P** 33.898844  
-78.839798  
(also known as Danny Knight Landing)

Mile 69  
33.897811  
-78.84762

Waccamaw River

s.c.  
22

s.c.  
22

Mile 70  
33.898943  
-78.86393

s.c.  
905

### Alligator on the Waccamaw



The best time to see an alligator on the Waccamaw is during the spring mating season. It is illegal to feed or harass them.

Photo: Gator Bait Adventure Tours





Mile 75  
33.867795  
-78.893099

Mile 76  
33.861242  
-78.888734

Mile 77  
33.850586  
-78.897558

USGS Stream Gage  
33.850833, -78.897222

Reaves Ferry Landing  33.850533  
-78.897694

Mile 78  
33.841147  
-78.907852

Mile 79  
33.835908  
-78.908392

Mile 80  
33.82674  
-78.909671

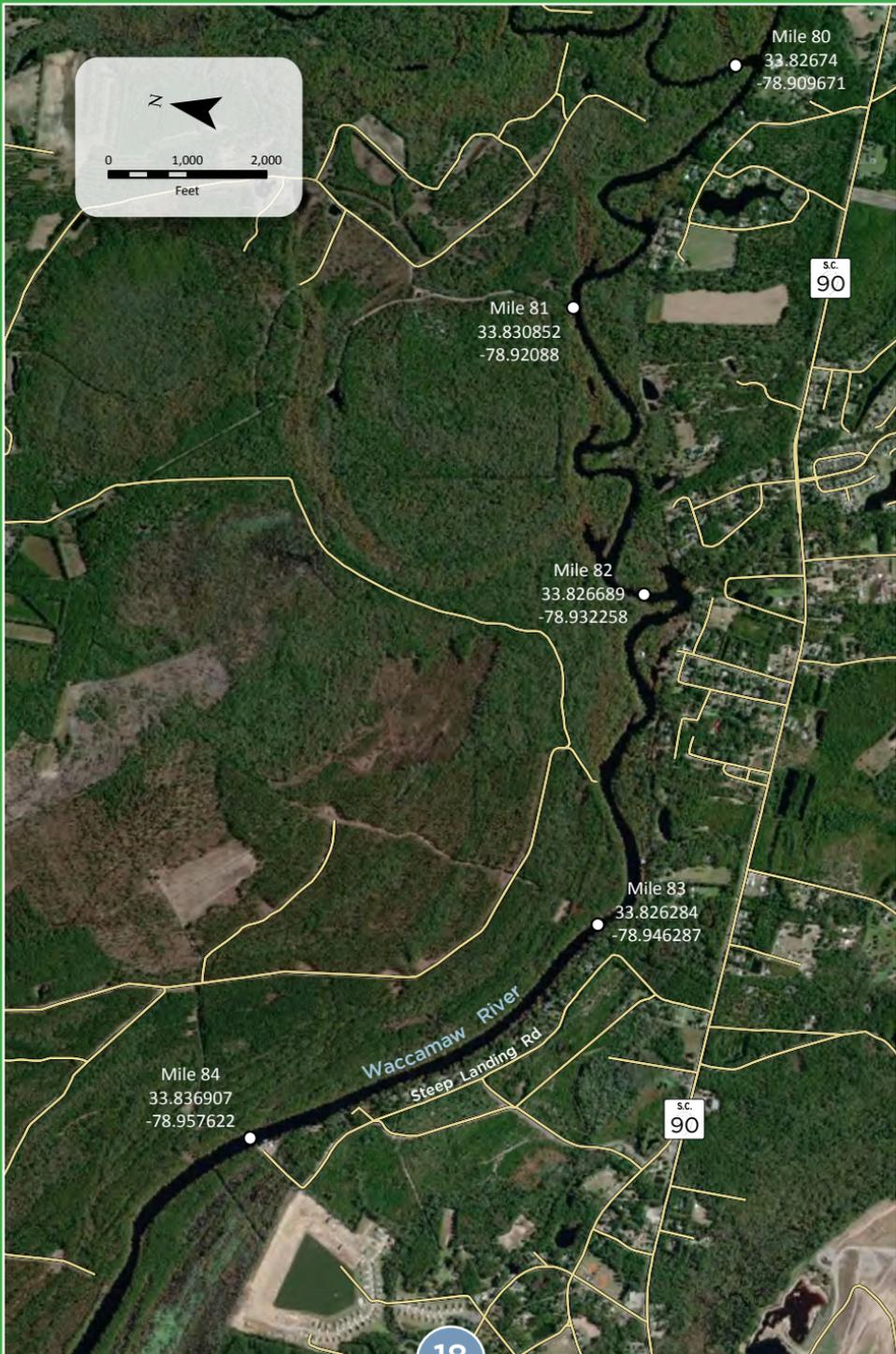
Mile 81  
33.830852  
-78.92088

### Waccamaw Indian People Annual Pauwau



European settlers often named Native American groups according to the river where they were observed. Native American peoples often migrated to various rivers in the region. As a result, different names were often ascribed to the same group of people.

Photo: Janae Davis with the permission of Chief Harold Hatcher



Mile 80  
33.82674  
-78.909671

Mile 81  
33.830852  
-78.92088

Mile 82  
33.826689  
-78.932258

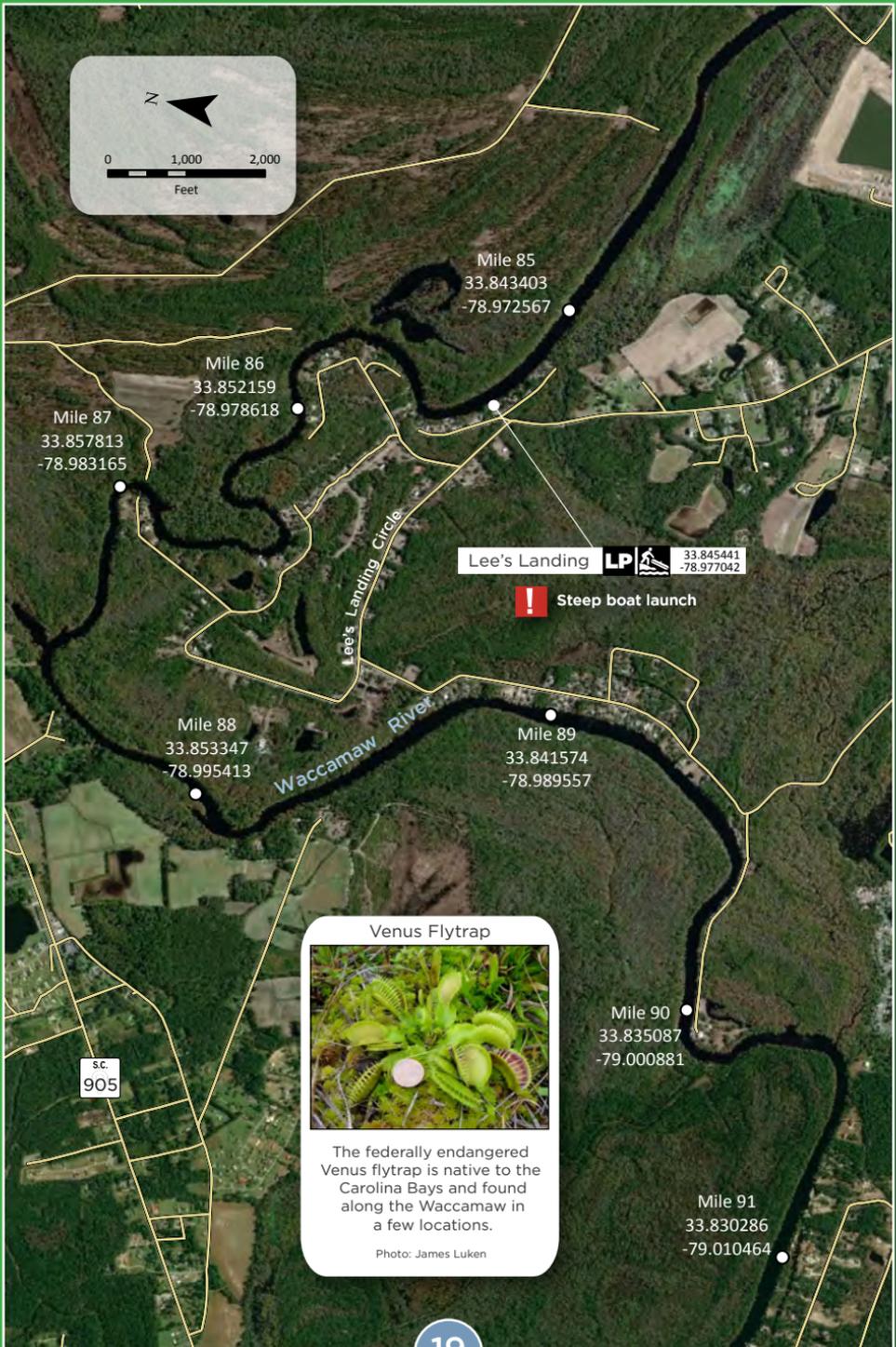
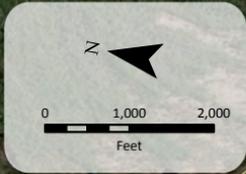
Mile 83  
33.826284  
-78.946287

Mile 84  
33.836907  
-78.957622

Waccamaw River  
Steep Landing Rd

S.C.  
90

S.C.  
90



Mile 85  
33.843403  
-78.972567

Mile 86  
33.852159  
-78.978618

Mile 87  
33.857813  
-78.983165

Lee's Landing LP  33.845441  
-78.977042

 Steep boat launch

Mile 88  
33.853347  
-78.995413

Mile 89  
33.841574  
-78.989557

Waccamaw River

Lee's Landing Circle

sc  
905

Mile 90  
33.835087  
-79.000881

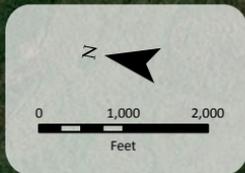


### Venus Flytrap

The federally endangered Venus flytrap is native to the Carolina Bays and found along the Waccamaw in a few locations.

Photo: James Luken

Mile 91  
33.830286  
-79.010464



Mile 91  
33.830286  
-79.010464

### Conway Riverwalk



Downtown Conway boasts several historical sites, shopping and dining opportunities, and the city's riverwalk and Riverfront Park.

Photo: Cara Schildtnecht  
Waccamaw Riverkeeper

Mile 92  
33.832938  
-79.024181

Riverwalk **P** 33.833171  
-79.044283

Blackwater Recreation Area **P** 33.826415  
-79.035131

Mile 93  
33.838171  
-79.03487

USGS Stream Gage  
33.832776, -79.043889

BUS  
501

501

(also known as Billy Witherspoon  
Boat Landing)

Savannah Bluff **P** 33.816627  
-79.041947

Mile 94  
33.829093  
-79.043261

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

RIVERFRONT  
PARK

Waccamaw River

501

Mile 95  
33.816744  
-79.045038

← Upstream on Crabtree Canal 3.0 & 3.6 River Miles

Crabtree Canal  
Boat Launches **P** 33.858914  
-79.054903  
33.861239  
-79.045953

sc  
905

**CONWAY**

Riverfront Park  
Boat Launch **P** 33.827836  
-79.044940



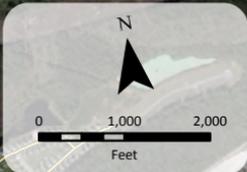
Conway Marina 33.82770  
-79.04499

**!** Launching from the Marina requires a small fee, but can launch from end of gravel parking lot for free

501

378

701



Mile 96  
33.805822  
-79.05423

**!** Great access to Pitch Lodge Lake

Pitch Landing **P** 33.800517  
-79.055141

Pitch Landing Rd

Pitch Lodge  
Lake

WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

Mile 97  
33.793669  
-79.05104



Cox Ferry  
Recreation Area



33.791855  
-79.050034

**!** Requires portage to launch

701

WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

Waccamaw National  
Wildlife Refuge Cox Ferry  
Lake Recreation Area



This 325-acre area inside  
the Waccamaw National  
Wildlife Refuge features  
nature and mountain biking  
trails, a boardwalk and  
weather shelter with picnic  
tables.

Photo: Staci Williams

Mile 98  
33.781729  
-79.057322

Jackson Bluff Rd

WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

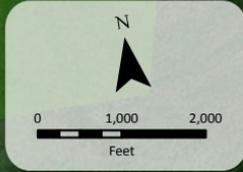
Mile 99  
33.770455  
-79.061246

J. Todd Landing **LP** 33.772737  
-79.053799

(also known as Jackson Bluff Landing)

Mile 99  
33.770455  
-79.061246

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)



Mile 100  
33.758026  
-79.066596

**Toddtville Access**  
(Saw Mill Chimney at Upper Mill,  
private property)



**Toddtville Boat Ramp** LP   
33.752533  
-79.068971

From the river you can see the remnants of this saw mill chimney at Upper Mill, located on private property. There were also a middle and lower mill along the river that no longer exist.

Photo: Ben Burroughs

Mile 101  
33.748469  
-79.067768

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

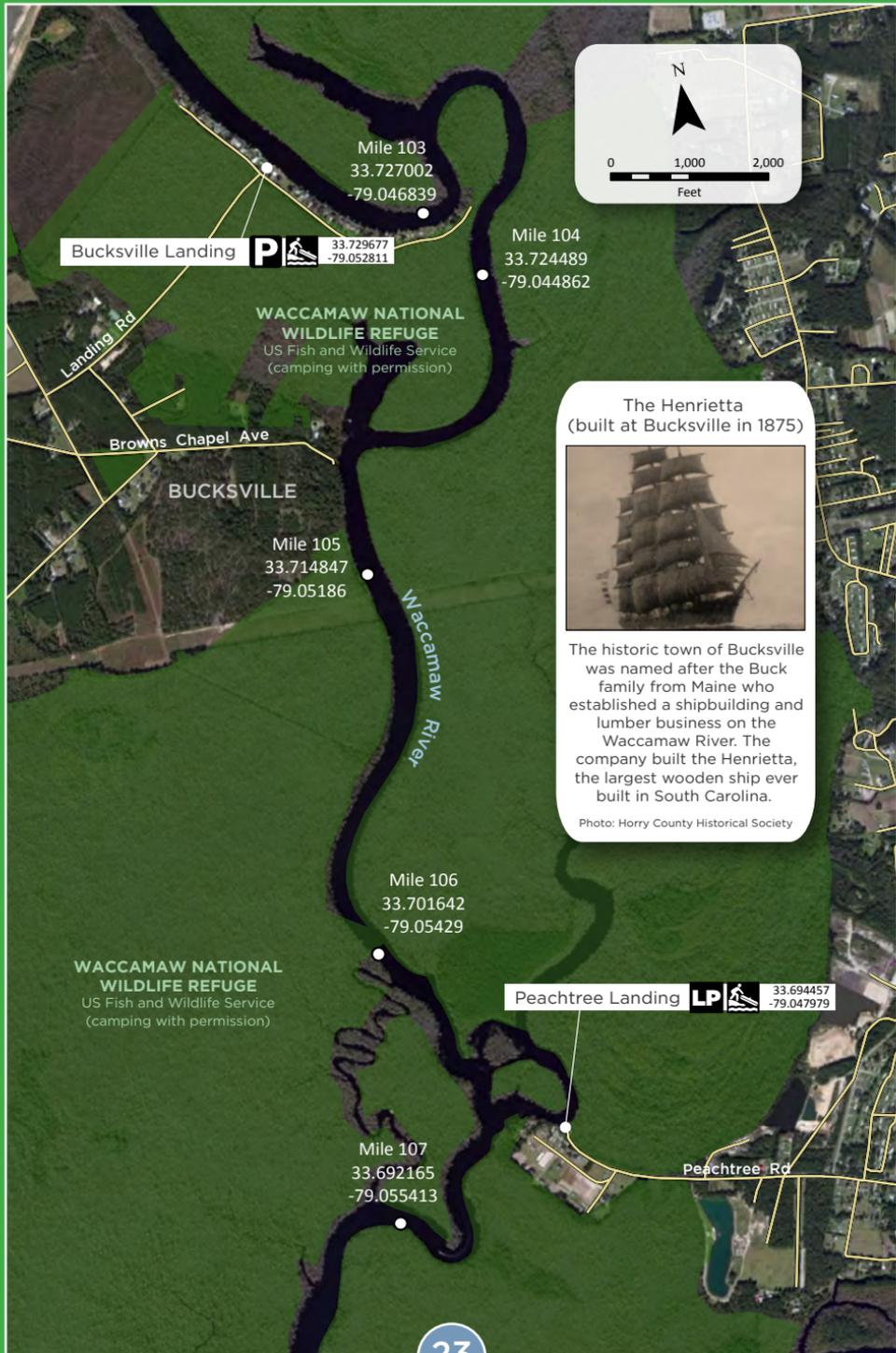
Waccamaw Bend  
Waccamaw  
Old Bucksville Rd

Mile 102  
33.737255  
-79.058194

**Bucksville Landing** P   
33.729677  
-79.052811

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

Landing Rd



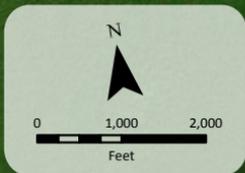
**The Henrietta**  
(built at Bucksville in 1875)



The historic town of Bucksville was named after the Buck family from Maine who established a shipbuilding and lumber business on the Waccamaw River. The company built the Henrietta, the largest wooden ship ever built in South Carolina.

Photo: Horry County Historical Society

Mile 107  
33.692165  
-79.055413



### Swallow-tailed Kite



Protected lands within the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge provide important habitat for the endangered swallow-tailed kite.

Photo: Craig Sasser

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

Mile 108  
33.682894  
-79.063159

Mile 109  
33.67283  
-79.0679

### Enterprise Boat Landing



Enterprise once served as a ferry location for travelers who needed to cross the Waccamaw River.

Photo: Horry County Historical Society



Enterprise Boat Landing



33.668033  
-79.060979

Mile 110  
33.664085  
-79.071224

Mile 111  
33.657157  
-79.085647

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)



Bucksport Marina



33.651576  
-79.095569



Pay per use access point



Bucksport Marina



33.651576  
79.095569

 Pay per use access point



 USGS Stream Gage  
33.648889, -79.043889

Mile 112  
33.647848  
-79.09323

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

**Paddlers at Bucksport Marina**



Paddlers at Bucksport Marina get ready to explore the Waccamaw River Blue Trail at the Wake Up Paddle Series hosted by the Waccamaw Riverkeeper.

Photo: Cara Schildtknecht, Waccamaw Riverkeeper

Mile 113  
33.633514  
-79.094711

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

**Bald Eagle**

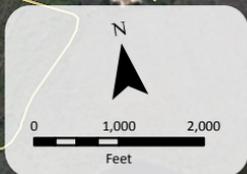


The Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge provides important habitat for several species that are classified as endangered in South Carolina including the bald eagle.

Photo: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Mile 114  
33.620308  
-79.09987

Mile 115  
● 33.612732  
-79.089815



Mile 115  
33.612732  
-79.089815

Bull Creek

Mile 116  
33.601602  
-79.094561

Upstream on Bull Creek 2.3 River Miles

Sandy Island Access #1   33.602664  
-79.118322

 Island river access only  
Not accessible by vehicle

Red-Cockaded  
Woodpecker Trail 

Waccamaw River

Mile 117  
33.588544  
-79.098182

### Sandy Island



Sandy Island was once home to slaves who worked in rice fields along the Waccamaw and Pee Dee Rivers. Today, some of their descendants still reside on the island and maintain the rich heritage of the Gullah Geechee people.

Photo: Brookgreen Gardens Collection

**SANDY ISLAND PRESERVE**  
Managed in partnership by  
The Nature Conservancy and  
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge



**WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
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HORRY COUNTY

GEORGETOWN COUNTY

Mile 118  
33.575146  
-79.101668

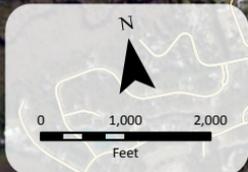
Mile 118  
33.575146  
-79.101668

**SANDY ISLAND PRESERVE**

Managed in partnership by  
The Nature Conservancy and  
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge



**WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
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Mile 119  
33.567043  
-79.089786

**Sandy Island Access #2**



33.567375  
-79.105764

**!** Island river access only  
Not accessible by vehicle

**Wachesaw Landing & Wacca Wache Marina**



33.562056  
-79.085587

**!** Limited parking at marina  
with additional parking nearby

Mile 120  
33.553451  
-79.086778

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

**Southern Lubber Grasshopper at Sandy Island Preserve**



Most of Sandy Island is protected by Sandy Island Preserve. This 9,165-acre preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy and managed in partnership with the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge.

Photo: Gerrit Jobsis

Mile 121  
33.542248  
-79.095511

**WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

**Statue at Brookgreen Gardens**



A National Historic Landmark, this botanical sculpture garden is a unique blend of art, culture and history.

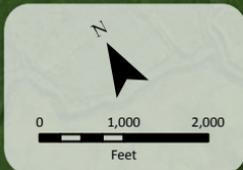
Photo: Tony Morano

## SANDY ISLAND PRESERVE

Managed in partnership by  
The Nature Conservancy and  
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge



Mile 122  
33.531983 ●  
-79.10602



### Sandy Island School Bus Boat



The children of Sandy Island are ferried to the mainland to catch a school bus each day. This vessel is only school boat in South Carolina.

Photo: Janae Davis

### WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

### Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Sandy Island Preserve



The long-leaf pine forests on Sandy Island Preserve provide critical habitat for the federally-endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.

Photo: Courtesy of TNC,  
Credit © John Moore"

Mile 123  
● 33.521186  
-79.117335

### Larry Paul Trail

Mile 124  
33.510689 ●  
-79.126221

### WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

Sandy Island Rd

WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

← Upstream on Thoroughfare Creek 1.0 River Miles

Sandy Island Access #3 LP 33.515077  
-79.142782

Island river access only  
Not accessible by vehicle

Sandy Island Boat Landing 33.506095  
-79.120380

Thoroughfare Creek

● Mile 125  
33.504216  
-79.139937

Thoroughfare Creek

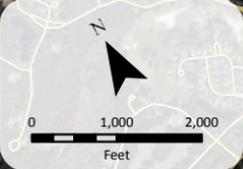
Upstream on Thoroughfare Creek 1.0 River Miles

Sandy Island Access #3



33.515077  
-79.142782

**!** Island river access only  
Not accessible by vehicle



**WACCAMAW NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(camping with permission)

Mile 126  
33.491433  
-79.14602

Waccamaw River

Mile 127  
33.479269  
-79.154153

**SAMWORTH WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA**  
SC Department of Natural Resources

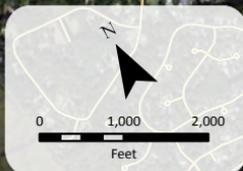


Mile 128  
33.465323  
-79.157441

SAMWORTH WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 128  
33.465323  
-79.157441



### Rice Cultivation



Enslaved African Americans and Native Americans constructed and cultivated rice fields along the Waccamaw River. Slave labor produced much of the region's wealth.

Photo: Georgetown County Library  
Photograph Collection

Mile 129  
33.453564  
-79.167353

Waccamaw River

USGS Stream Gage  
33.444444, -79.174167

Mile 130  
33.442747  
-79.17841

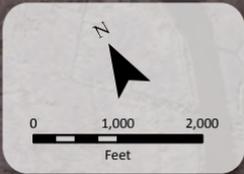
Hagley Landing **LP**  33.436326  
-79.182200

**!** Soft beach for kayak/canoe launch dependent on tide; very limited parking

Mile 131  
33.43203  
-79.189834

Hagley Rd

Kings River Rd



Hagley Landing LP    33.436326  
-79.182200

 Soft beach for kayak/canoe launch dependent on tide; very limited parking

Mile 131  
33.43203  
-79.189834

Mile 132  
33.427068  
-79.205429

**SAMWORTH WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**  
SC Department of Natural Resources



Mile 133  
33.415732  
-79.212037

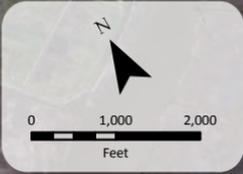
**Historic Rice Fields**



Many of the historic rice fields that were cultivated by enslaved people are still visible today.

Photo: Janae Davis

Mile 134  
33.404207  
-79.222073



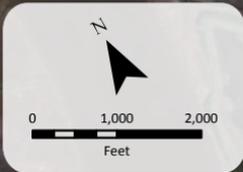
Great Pee Dee River

Waccamaw River

Mile 134  
33.404207  
-79.222073

Mile 135  
33.392149  
-79.231569

Mile 136  
33.380645  
-79.241801



Waccamaw River

Great Pee Dee River

Mile 137

● 33.369071  
-79.251287



HOBCAW BARRONY

HOBCAW BARRONY



GEORGETOWN

Sunset on Front Street



Dine, shop, catch a few fish, take a tour or see a concert on Georgetown's beautiful waterfront.

Photo: Charles Slate

Slave Church at Hobcaw Barony



The native Waccamaw people called this peninsula "hobcaw," meaning "between the waters". Native peoples were enslaved with Africans on 14 plantations that comprised Hobcaw. Today, the 16,000-acre site is internationally known for education, research and conservation. Tours of this historic landscape are available to the public for a fee.

Photo: Brandon Coffey Photography

Front St

EAST BAY PARK

Sampit River

Winyah Bay



East Bay Street Landing



33.356550  
-79.280030

HOBCAW BARRONY

The re-printing of this waterproof map was made possible through the generous support of the Waccamaw Community Foundation, the City of Conway, the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

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American Rivers, through its Blue Trails program, partners with local communities who want to protect rivers and clean water for people and wildlife. A Blue Trail does not include additional regulations or restrictions associated with river access and use.

Visit [www.americanrivers.org/conservation-resources/rrformer/waccamaw-river-blue-trail](http://www.americanrivers.org/conservation-resources/rrformer/waccamaw-river-blue-trail) and [www.americanrivers.org/waccamawstorymap](http://www.americanrivers.org/waccamawstorymap) to learn more about the Waccamaw River Blue Trail and the Waccamaw River.

Waterproof Map Booklet and Maps Designed by:



[www.biogeocreations.com](http://www.biogeocreations.com)

# BLUE TRAIL



## WACCAMAW RIVER



**American Rivers**  
RIVERS CONNECT US®



While considerable effort has been made to provide accurate information, American Rivers and BioGeoCreations take no responsibility for any errors or omissions. There is risk involved in river recreation. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies solely with the individual. River mileage was calculated using official National Hydrology Dataset information for the Waccamaw River.