

Trail Access Information

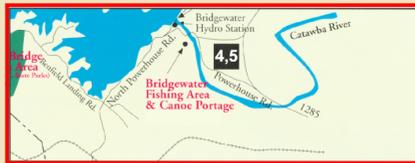
(...Continued from front)

Linville Access, Bridgewater Dam Portage and Public Fishing Area/Access

(1A) **Linville Access** on Linville River provides an alternate starting point for the trail to Bridgewater Dam Portage 4.5 miles. The site is accessible from NC 126. Parking and boat launch.



(4) **Bridgewater Dam Portage** begins on Lake James southwest of the dam. **The portage is mandatory.** Follow signs showing the portage at the dam. Carry boats and gear up steps, across NC Hwy. 126 and begin long descent to Bridgewater Fishing Area/Access. The portage is over 3300 feet long and has an elevation drop of 165 feet.



(5) **Bridgewater Public Fishing Area/Access** is located below Bridgewater Dam, across Powerhouse Road. To drive to the access, take North Powerhouse Road off NC Hwy. 126. Facilities include parking, fishing and canoe launch. At this fast moving water access, follow safety tips for whitewater paddling.

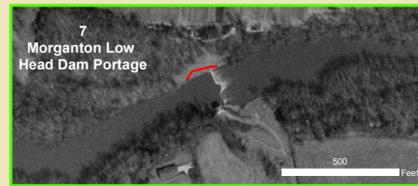


Watermill Road Access/ Morganton Low Head Dam Portage

(6) **Watermill Road Access**, situated below the bridge on Watermill Road, can be accessed by driving north on Watermill Road from Glen Alpine. Facilities include parking and a canoe launch. **This is the last access before the portage at Morganton Low Head Dam.**



(7) **Morganton Low Head Dam Portage** is located approximately 3.6 miles below the Watermill Road Access. **The portage is mandatory.** As you approach, you will see signs for the portage with the take-out on river left. You will carry around the dam and put-in approximately 100 yards below the dam.

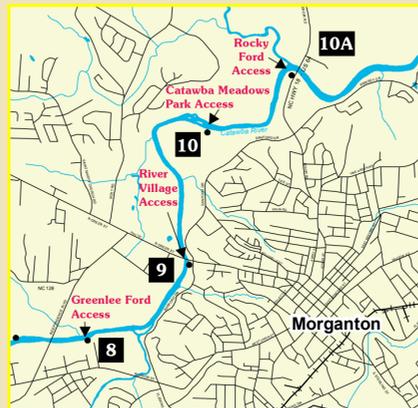


Morganton Greenway (Greenlee Ford), River Village, Catawba Meadows Accesses)

(8) **Greenlee Ford Access**, part of the Morganton Greenway and located next to Judge's Restaurant, is downstream from the Morganton Low Head Dam. Turn north off US 70 in Morganton on Greenlee Ford Road. Amenities include a canoe launch, parking, fishing, food, hiking trail, playground, telephone, restrooms and picnicking.

(9) **River Village Access** is located at Shops on the Greenway, 1.2 miles downstream from Greenlee Ford Access and upstream from Catawba Meadows Park and NC Hwy. 181. For access use NC Hwy. 181, turning west on Sanford Drive. Canoe launch, parking, food service, hiking trail, telephone and restrooms.

(10) & (10A) **Catawba Meadows Park and Rocky Ford (opening July 2004)** There are two proposed canoe access facilities to be located within the park. The first access (10) will be located near the proposed ball fields 1.0 mile downstream from River Village. The second access (10A) will be located 1.5 miles downstream from access (10) and will be located at the NC 18 bridge. Planned facilities include a canoe launch, parking, fishing, hiking trail, telephone, restrooms, and picnicking.



Johns River, Huffman Bridge, Castle Bridge Accesses

(11) **Johns River Access** is located on the Johns River 5.1 miles from Catawba Meadows Park. Drive on US 64-18 from either Morganton or Lenoir. Parking and boat launch. From the Morganton area, the boater can go directly to Huffman Bridge Access.



(12) **Huffman Bridge Access** is located on Lake Rhodhiss downstream from Morganton and Johns River tributary. Amenities include parking, fishing, and canoe launch. To reach the site, take Huffman Bridge Road. (See map in previous column).

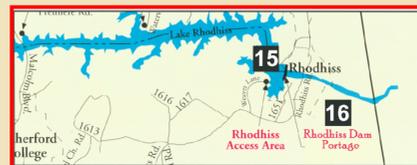
(13) **Castle Bridge Access** is adjacent to Castle Bridge at Malcolm Blvd. from Rutherford College, or Connelly Springs Rd. from Lenoir. Facilities include a boat launch and parking.



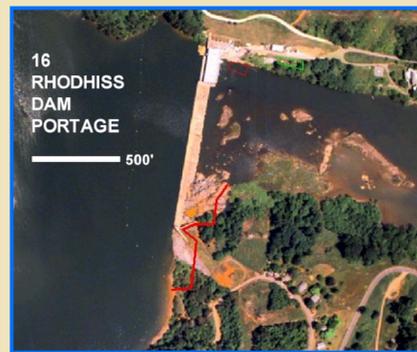
Conley Creek, Rhodhiss Access and Dam Portage

(14) **Conley Creek Access** is 2.5 miles downstream from Castle Bridge Access. For car access, take Waterworks Rd. off Dry Ponds Road between Granite Falls and Sawmills. Amenities include parking, boat launch, and fishing. Sawmills plans to construct additional recreation facilities at Conley Creek Park which will include a hiking trail, playground equipment, restrooms, and picnicking. (See inset map above).

(15) **Rhodhiss Access** is 3.3 miles downstream from Conley Creek Access. Auto access from Weaver Lane, off State Road 1651 in Burke County. Boat launch and parking. **This is the last access before the Rhodhiss Dam portage.**



(16) **Rhodhiss Dam Portage** begins on the south side of the Dam. **The portage is mandatory.** The portage is over 1,400 feet long and has an elevation drop of 65 feet.



Geitner Park and Glenn Hilton Park Access Areas

(17) **Geitner Park Access** is located 5 miles below the Rhodhiss Dam portage on Lake Hickory. To drive to the park, take 12th St. Dr. NW. Facilities include boat launching, parking, fishing, hiking trail, canoe launch, picnicking and restrooms.

(18) **Glenn Hilton Park Access** is one mile downstream from Geitner Park in Horseford Cove. To drive to the access, continue 1 mile on 12th St. Dr. from Geitner Park. Facilities include parking, canoe launch, hiking trail, playground, restrooms and picnicking.



Gunpowder, Lovelady and Wittenburg Access Areas

(19) **Gunpowder Access** is located 4.3 miles from Glenn Hilton Park. To reach the site from Lake Hickory, the boater must paddle up the Gunpowder tributary. To drive to the site, take Grace Chapel Road and then Rocky Mtn. Road north. Boat launch, parking.



(20) **Lovelady Access** is located 3.1 miles from Gunpowder Access Area. To drive to the site, take Grace Chapel Road and Rocky Mtn. Road south. Facilities include a boat launch and parking.

(21) **Wittenburg Access** is located 2.6 miles from Lovelady Access. To drive to the site, take NC Hwy. 127 into Alexander County. Then take Wildlife Access Road. Facilities include a boat launch, parking, and public fishing area.



Dusty Ridge and Oxford Access Areas

(22) **Dusty Ridge Access** is located 5.1 miles from Wittenburg Access Area. Drive to Polly Bowman Rd and Dusty Ridge Access Road in Alexander County. Boat launch, parking. Alexander County is currently developing land adjacent as a park.

(23) **Oxford Access** is 5.1 miles below Dusty Ridge Access Area. Drive to Claude Road, off St. Peters Church Road. Boat launch and parking. **This is the last access before the portage at Oxford Dam.**



Oxford Dam Portage

(24) Boaters can take out at the construction landing on river right. **The portage is mandatory.** Walk the trail and put-in below the dam at NC Hwy. 16 bridge. The portage is 700 feet long and has an elevation drop of 122 feet.



Riverbend Park and Lookout Shoals Access

(25) **Riverbend Park Access** is located below Oxford Dam and the NC Hwy. 16 bridge on the south side of the river. To drive to the park, turn off NC Hwy. 16. Facilities include restrooms, picnicking, canoe launch, hiking trails, bicycling and equestrian trails. Flows and paddling times to Lookout Shoals Access can vary depending on the Hydro generation schedule at Oxford Dam.

(26) **Lookout Shoals Access**, on Lake Lookout Shoals near Lookout Shoals Dam, can be found on the west side of the lake. To drive to the access, take I-40, Oxford School Road and Lookout Dam Road. Parking and canoe launch. **This is the end point of the Upper Catawba River Trail.**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING EFFORTS TO CREATE TRAILS IN THE CATAWBA VALLEY, CONTACT:

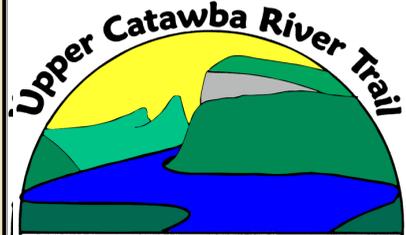
Catawba Valley Heritage Alliance
PO Box 1327
Newton, NC 28658
(828) 464-0405
www.heritagealliance.org

Caldwell County Pathways
(828) 726-0616



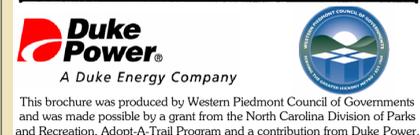
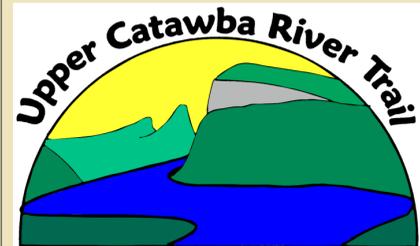
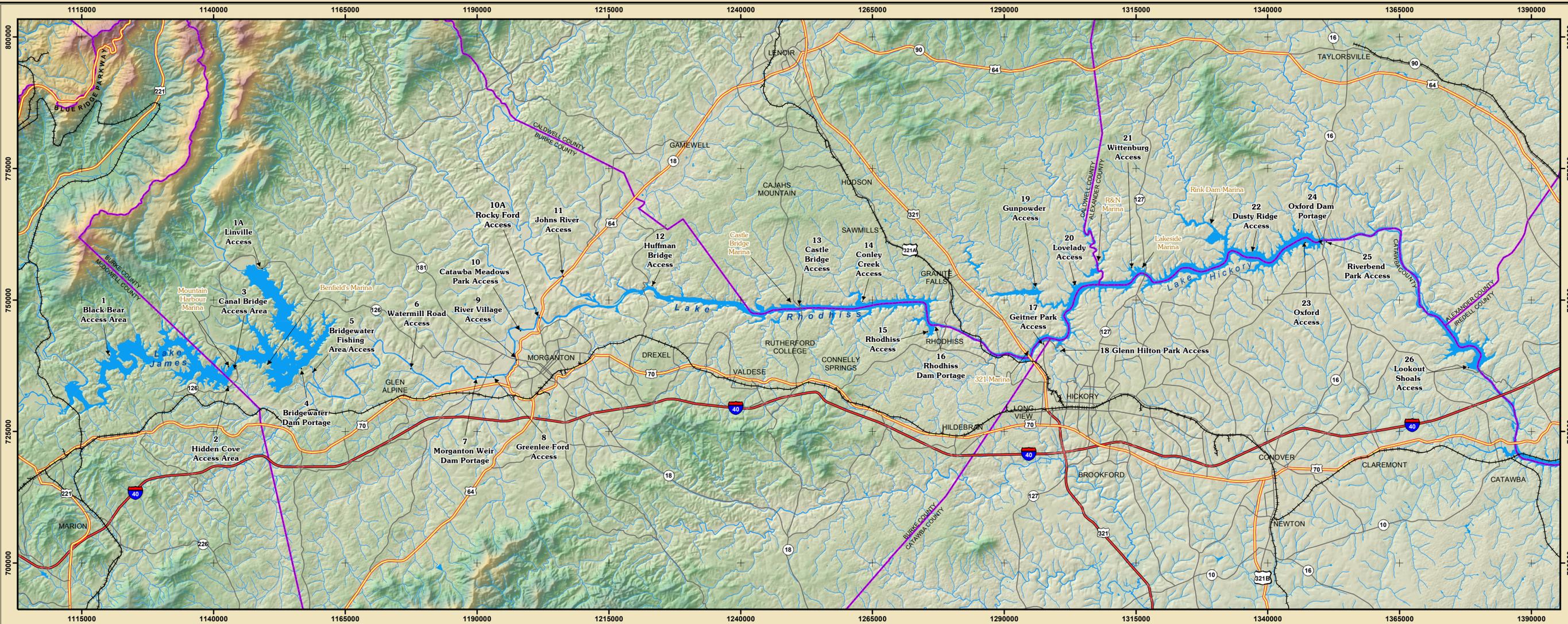
WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PO BOX 9026 HICKORY, NC 28603



TRAIL MAP and RIVER GUIDE





General Information

As part of the North Carolina Trail System, the Upper Catawba River Trail extends over 82 miles from Black Bear Access on Lake James to Lookout Access on Lake Lookout Shoals. With 22 access points, one future site and four portages around dams, the trail covers 18 free-flowing miles and 64 reservoir miles.

History

Lake James, named for James B. Duke, a founder of Duke Power Company, was built over a seven-year period beginning in 1916. It required the construction of three dams: Linville, 160 feet high and 1,325 feet long; Paddy Creek, 165 feet high and 1,610 feet long; and Catawba, 150 feet high and 3,155 feet long. The lake straddles the McDowell/Burke county line with a surface area of 6,800 acres, 150 miles of shoreline and full pond elevation at 1,200 feet.

Rhodhiss Dam, built in 1925, is 65 feet high and 1,500 feet long. Lake Rhodhiss has 90 miles of shoreline and approximately 3,060 acres. Full pond elevation is 995 feet.

Created in 1925 with the completion of Oxford Dam, Lake Hickory covers 4,223 acres with 105 miles of shoreline. Oxford Dam is 122 feet high, with a length of 1,200 feet. Lake Hickory's full pond elevation is 935 feet.

Lookout Shoals Lake was formed in 1915 with the construction of Lookout Shoals Dam. The lake contains 1,305 acres of surface area and 37 miles of shoreline. Full pond elevation is 835 feet.

Important Telephone Numbers

Emergency Numbers
 Alexander County 911 or (828) 632-4658
 Burke County 911 or (828) 757-1518
 Catawba County 911 or (828) 464-5421
 City of Hickory 911 or (828) 328-5551
 City of Morganton 911 or (828) 438-5293

Marinas
 Mountain Harbor Marina (828) 584-0666
 Castle Bridge Marina (828) 396-9139
 Lakeside Marina (828) 495-8181
 Rink Dam Marina (828) 632-7937
 Taylorsville Beach Marina (828) 632-7649
 321 Marina (828) 322-9433
 Benfield's Boat Landing (828) 584-0441
 R&N Marina (828) 495-8833

Hydro Generation Information
 Bridgewater (828) 584-1451 *
 *This number may be discontinued without notice.
 Lake Level Information (800) 829-5253

General Information
County Chambers of Commerce
 Alexander (828) 632-8141
 Burke (828) 437-3021
 Caldwell (828) 726-0616
 Catawba (828) 328-6111
 McDowell (828) 652-4240
 Hickory Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau (828) 322-1335



Respect Property

- ✗ Keep the Upper Catawba River Trail clean. Carry trash with you and dispose of it properly.
- ✗ The trail is a publicly-owned river flowing through private property. River users should not trespass, abuse or litter the waters, banks or shoreline of the trail.



Trail Access Information
Lake James

(1) **Black Bear Access**, the beginning of the Upper Catawba River Trail, is located on the upper part of Lake James off Lake James Road with access from US 221 North from Hankins Road. Parking and boat launching area.



(2) **Hidden Cove Access** and (3) **Canal Bridge Access** are located on the upper part of Lake James near Canal Bridge, accessible from NC Hwy. 126. **These are the last two accesses before the dam portage and provide Parking and boat launching areas.** (Continued on Back...)



Major Roads
 Limited Access Highway
 Highway
 Local Roads

County Boundaries
 Layer generated from USGS 1:100,000 scale USGS DLG data.

Hydrography
 Layer generated from 1:24,000 scale USGS DLG (Digital Line Graph) data.

Elevation layer generated from United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 scale Digital Elevation Models. Elevation values are in feet.

Inset Maps

- Generated by WPCOG and contain USGS DLG data as well as street centerline data from Burke and Catawba Counties.
- Contain USGS DOQQ (Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quad) data, enhanced by WPCOG.
- Provided by Duke Power, and originally appeared in the brochure "ACCESS: Your guide for locating public recreation resources on Duke Power lakes" and were updated by WPCOG.
- Contain aerial photography provided by Duke Power, enhanced by WPCOG.

DISCLAIMER
 Since water activities are inherently dangerous, paddlers and boaters must understand they take sole responsibility for their safety when they engage in these activities. (Some basic "Safety Tips" are included in this publication.)

This map/brochure is intended to provide general information pertaining to the Upper Catawba River Trail and is compiled from a variety of sources, including the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Duke Power, and the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, and counties and municipalities within Region E.

Users of this map/brochure do so at their own risk, and are hereby notified that the aforementioned information sources should be consulted for verification of the information contained in this map/brochure. Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Duke Power, and the North Carolina Adopt-A-Trail Program assume no legal responsibility for the information contained in this map/brochure.

Grid is based on the North Carolina State Plane Coordinate System 1983 North American Datum, International Foot Conversion.

Brochure created March, 2004

SITE NUMBER	ACCESS AREA / PORTAGE	Miles to Next Site	Total Mileage	Boat Launch Area	Canoe Launch	Parking	Fishing	Food	Hiking Trail	Play Ground	Telephone	Restrooms	Picnicing
1	Black Bear	5.7	0.0	✓	✓	✓							
2	Hidden Cove	0.9	5.7	✓	✓	✓							
3	Canal Bridge	2.7	6.6	✓	✓	✓							
1A	Linville (Alternate Starting Point)	4.5		✓	✓	✓							
4	Bridgewater Dam Portage	0.3	9.3										
5	Bridgewater Fishing/Access Area	7.8	9.6			✓	✓						
6	Watermill Road	3.6	17.4	✓	✓	✓							
7	Morganton Weir Dam Portage	0.4	21.0										
8	Greenlee Ford	1.2	21.4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	River Village	1.0	22.6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Catawba Meadows Park (Future Access 1)	1.5	23.6										
10A	Rocky Ford Access (Future Access 2)	5.2	25.1										
11	Johns River	4.1	30.3	✓	✓	✓							
12	Huffman Bridge	6.4	34.4	✓	✓	✓							
13	Castle Bridge	2.5	40.8	✓	✓	✓							
14	Conley Creek	3.3	43.3	✓	✓	✓							
15	Rhodhiss	0.3	46.6	✓	✓	✓							
16	Rhodhiss Dam Portage	5.2	46.9										
17	Geitner Park	1.0	52.1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Glenn Hilton Park	4.3	53.1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Gunpowder	3.1	57.4	✓	✓	✓							
20	Lovelady	2.6	60.5	✓	✓	✓							
21	Wittenburg	3.3	63.1	✓	✓	✓							
22	Dusty Ridge	5.1	66.4	✓	✓	✓							
23	Oxford Access	0.2	71.5	✓	✓	✓							
24	Oxford Dam Portage/Access	0.3	71.7										
25	Riverbend Park	10.4	72.0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Lookout Shoals Access	-	82.4	✓	✓	✓							

SAFETY TIPS

- Preparing for your trip**
- ☑ Wear approved type 3 floatation at all times
 - ☑ Carry a map of the trail with emergency phone numbers
 - ☑ Carry sunscreen for skin protection
 - ☑ Check recent and predicted weather conditions.
 - ☑ Take your own litter bag. Do not throw trash in or along the river
 - ☑ Take extra clothing and food
 - ☑ Wear foot protection
 - ☑ Carry and use mosquito repellent
- Planning for your trip**
- ☑ Allow sufficient time. It is better to finish earlier than planned than to finish after dark.
 - ☑ Don't forget driving time is extra. Plan your shuttle routes.
- If you spill or capsize**
- ☑ Stay calm and hold on to your boat; it has floatation.
 - ☑ If other boats spill, go after the boaters first, then rescue the boat safely.
 - ☑ Put your feet out in front of you to avoid foot entrapment
 - ☑ On free flowing sections of the river, avoid "strainers" – things in the river that impede water flow, such as rocks, branches, trees, etc.
 - ☑ If caught in a strainer, climb as high on it as possible and wait for assistance.
- Play it safe – Don't be sorry**
- ☑ Plan no more than two adults per canoe.
 - ☑ Don't overload your craft. Center the load.
 - ☑ Let someone know where you plan to be on the river and when you plan to return.
 - ☑ Place food, and a change of clothes, etc. in water-tight containers and tie them securely to the boat.
 - ☑ Secure glasses
 - ☑ Never paddle alone
- Special Notes**
- ☑ Know your limits
 - ☑ The free flowing sections of Upper Catawba (particularly below Lake James) require special skills. Learn the principles of whitewater canoeing so you can use your canoe safely and skillfully.
 - ☑ There are sections of the Upper Catawba River Trail that are free flowing and can be very dangerous at high water levels.
 - ☑ If putting in below Bridgewater Dam (Lake James), Rhodhiss Dam and Oxford Dam, be careful for sudden water releases from the dams.
 - ☑ Be aware of the following mandatory portages.
 - Bridgewater Dam (Lake James)
 - Morganton Dam
 - (Morganton Water Intake)
 - Rhodhiss Dam (Lake Rhodhiss)
 - Oxford Dam (Lake Hickory)

