



## ABOUT THE WACCAMAW RIVER BLUE TRAIL

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The Waccamaw River Blue Trail extends the entire length of the river in North and South Carolina. Beginning near Lake Waccamaw, a permanently inundated Carolina Bay, the river meanders through the Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve, City of Conway, and Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge before merging with the Intracoastal Waterway where it passes historic rice fields, Brookgreen Gardens, Sandy Island, and ends at Winyah Bay near Georgetown.

Over 140 miles of river invite the paddler to explore its unique natural, historical and cultural features. Its black waters, cypress swamps and tidal marshes are home to many rare species of plants and animals. The river is also steeped in history with Native American settlements, Civil War sites, rice and indigo plantations, which highlight the Gullah-Geechee culture, as well as 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®, and many local partners worked together to establish the Waccamaw River Blue Trail, providing greater access to the river and its recreation opportunities. A Blue Trail is a river adopted by a local community that is dedicated to improving family-friendly recreation such as fishing, boating, and wildlife watching and to conserving riverside land and water resources. Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore the land, Blue Trails help people discover their rivers. They help communities improve recreation and tourism, benefit local businesses and the economy, and protect river health for the benefit of people, wildlife, and future generations.



Photo: Staci Williams

## 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.
- 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. ([www.erh.noaa.gov/er/ilm/hydro/](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/ilm/hydro/), [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org), or [www.dnr.sc.gov/boating.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/boating.html))
- 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 manned 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 and South Carolina state law requires each boat carry a noise making device and a flashlight.
- A first-aid kit, plenty of drinking water, sunscreen, sunglasses, and bug repellent are among other trip essentials.



## 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 and South Carolina, the land that lies below the normal high water line is public property. This makes camping legal on the many sand bars found along the river. However, it is important to note private property boundaries as overnight camping is not allowed on private property unless given the permission of the landowner.

Overnight stays are allowed at some of the public boat landings. For more information, contact Horry County Parks and Recreation at 843-915-5330, Columbus County Parks and Recreation at 910-640-6624, Georgetown County Parks and Recreation Department at 843-545-3275, and NC Wildlife Resources Commission at 910-253-6299 for the Lake Waccamaw and Pireway landings. There are several private camping facilities near the Waccamaw. Visit local chambers of commerce or tourism websites for more information.

**Lake Waccamaw State Park** - Camping is allowed in designated areas by permit only. In most cases, campers register with a ranger on site or at an on-site registration box. You must register 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.

**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.

**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.

## NATURAL, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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See map on following page for locations.

- Lake Waccamaw State Park
- Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve
- Downtown Conway
- Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge
- Bucksville/Bucksport
- Sandy Island
- Samworth Wildlife Management Area
- Brookgreen Gardens
- Historic Rice Field
- Georgetown Harbor

## NEARBY PLACES OF INTEREST

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- Green Swamp ([www.nature.org/greenswamp](http://www.nature.org/greenswamp))
- Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve (<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/>)
- Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center (<http://www.fws.gov/waccamaw/>)
- Hobcaw Barony (<http://www.hobcawbarony.org/>)

# 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 BLUE TRAIL MAP LEGEND

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Public Access Sites



Camping



Public Parking



Public Restrooms



Hiking Trails



Mountain Biking



Picnic Areas



Dining Facilities



Important Information



US Highways



North Carolina State Highways



South Carolina State Highways



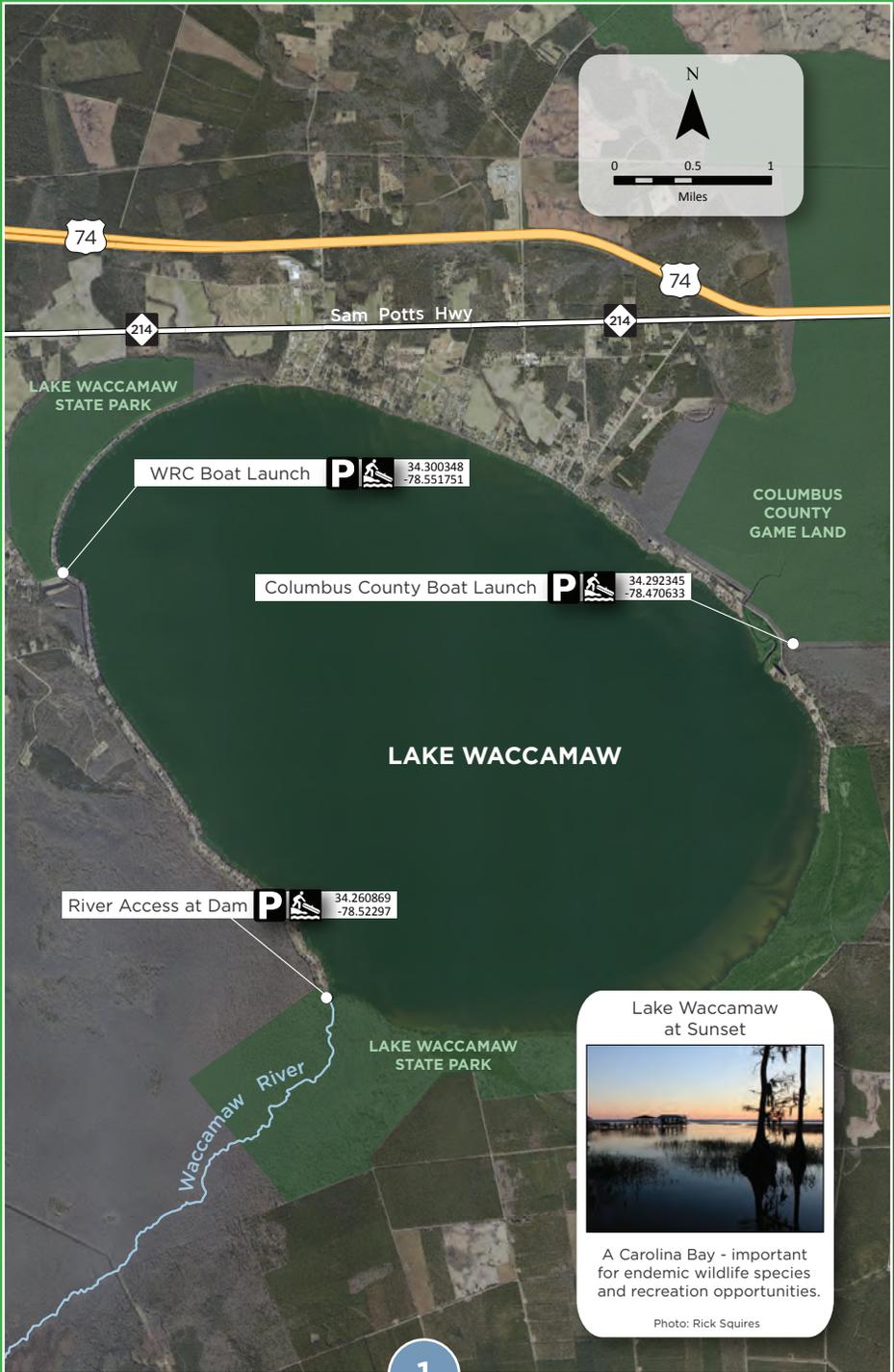
U.S. Geological Survey Gages



**American Rivers**  
*Rivers Connect Us®*



Photo: Charles Slate



Lake Waccamaw at Sunset



A Carolina Bay - important for endemic wildlife species and recreation opportunities.

Photo: Rick Squires



N

0 1,000 2,000

Feet

Waccamaw Shores Rd

LAKE WACCAMAW

River Access at Dam **P**  34.260869  
-78.52297

Mile 0  
34.260896  
-78.52297

LAKE WACCAMAW  
STATE PARK

Waccamaw River

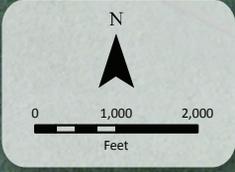
Mile 1  
34.249432  
-78.530997

River Access at 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

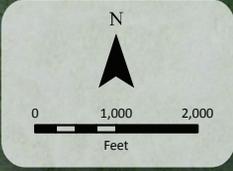


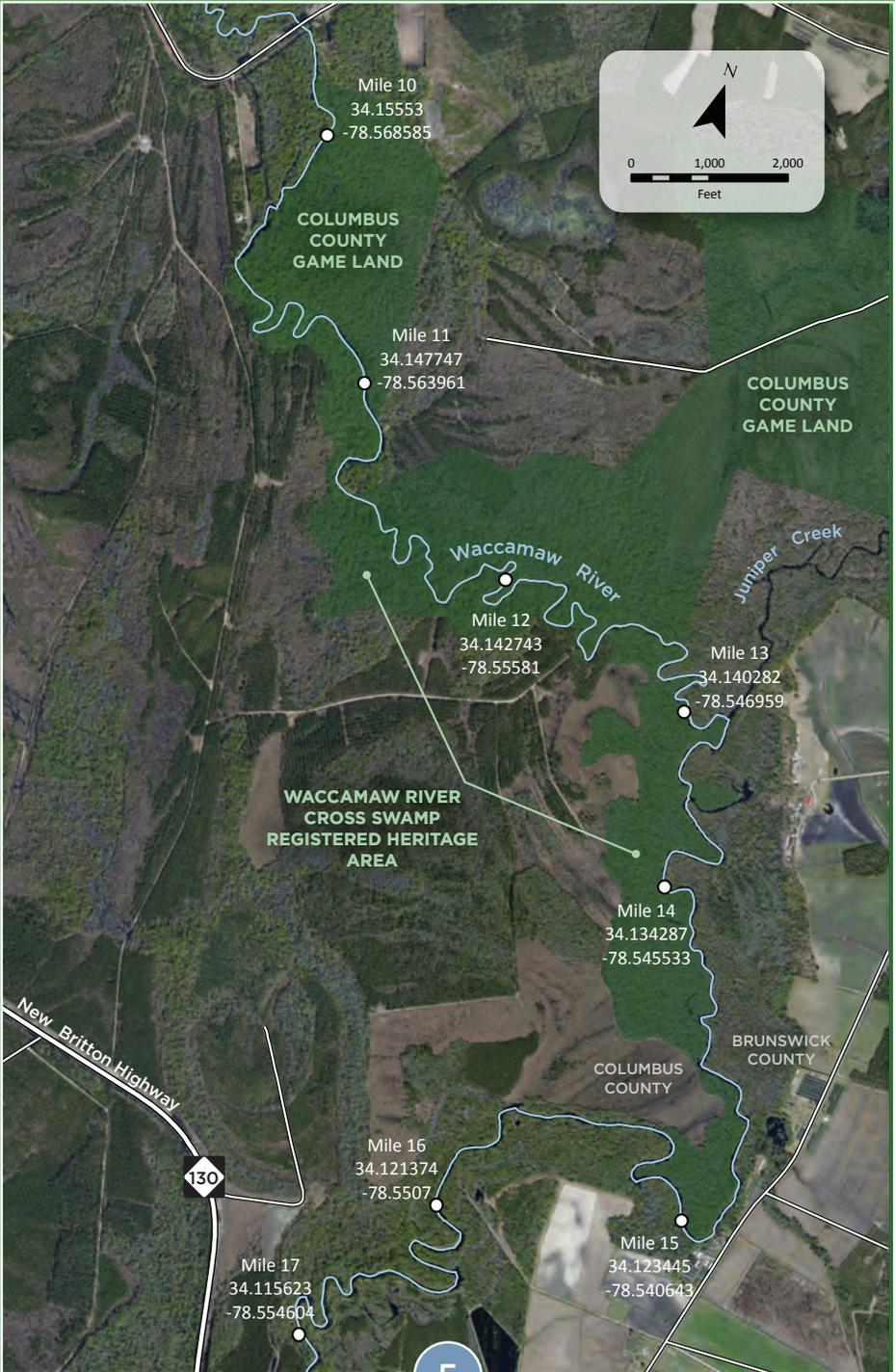
This stretch of river can be difficult to navigate during times of low and high water levels.

Mile 4  
34.219206  
-78.55916

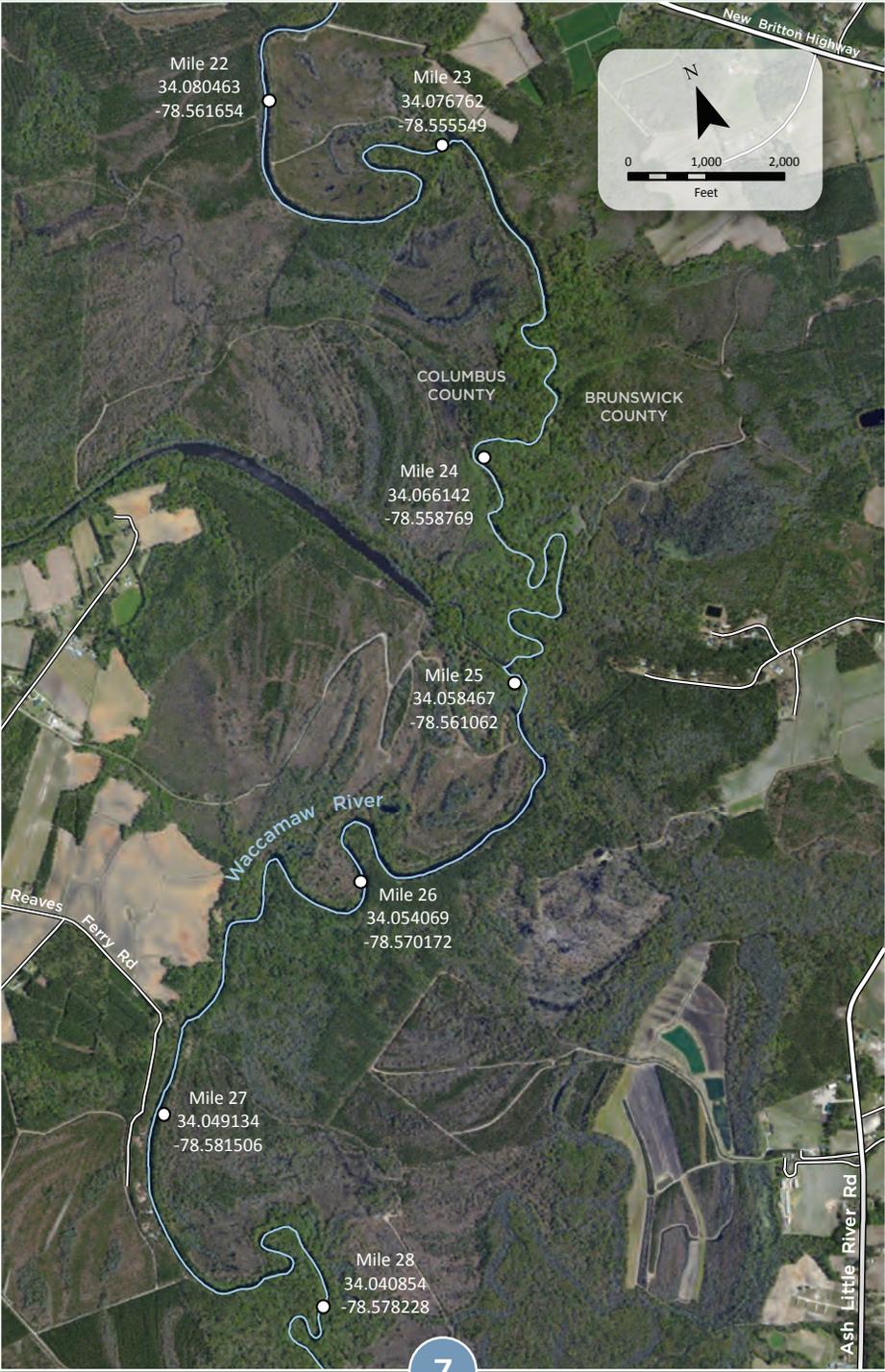
Mile 5  
34.206806  
-78.563727

Waccamaw River



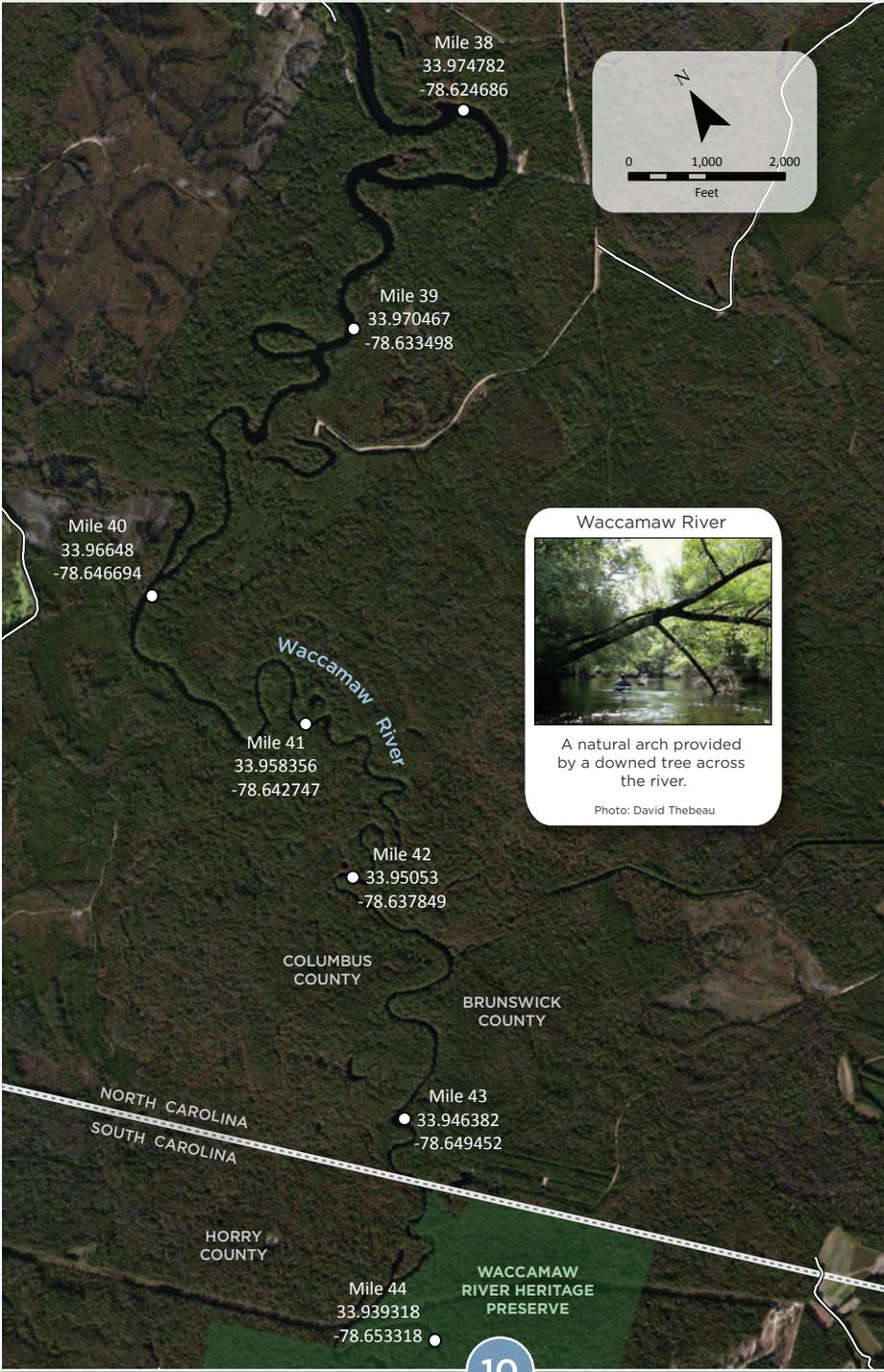








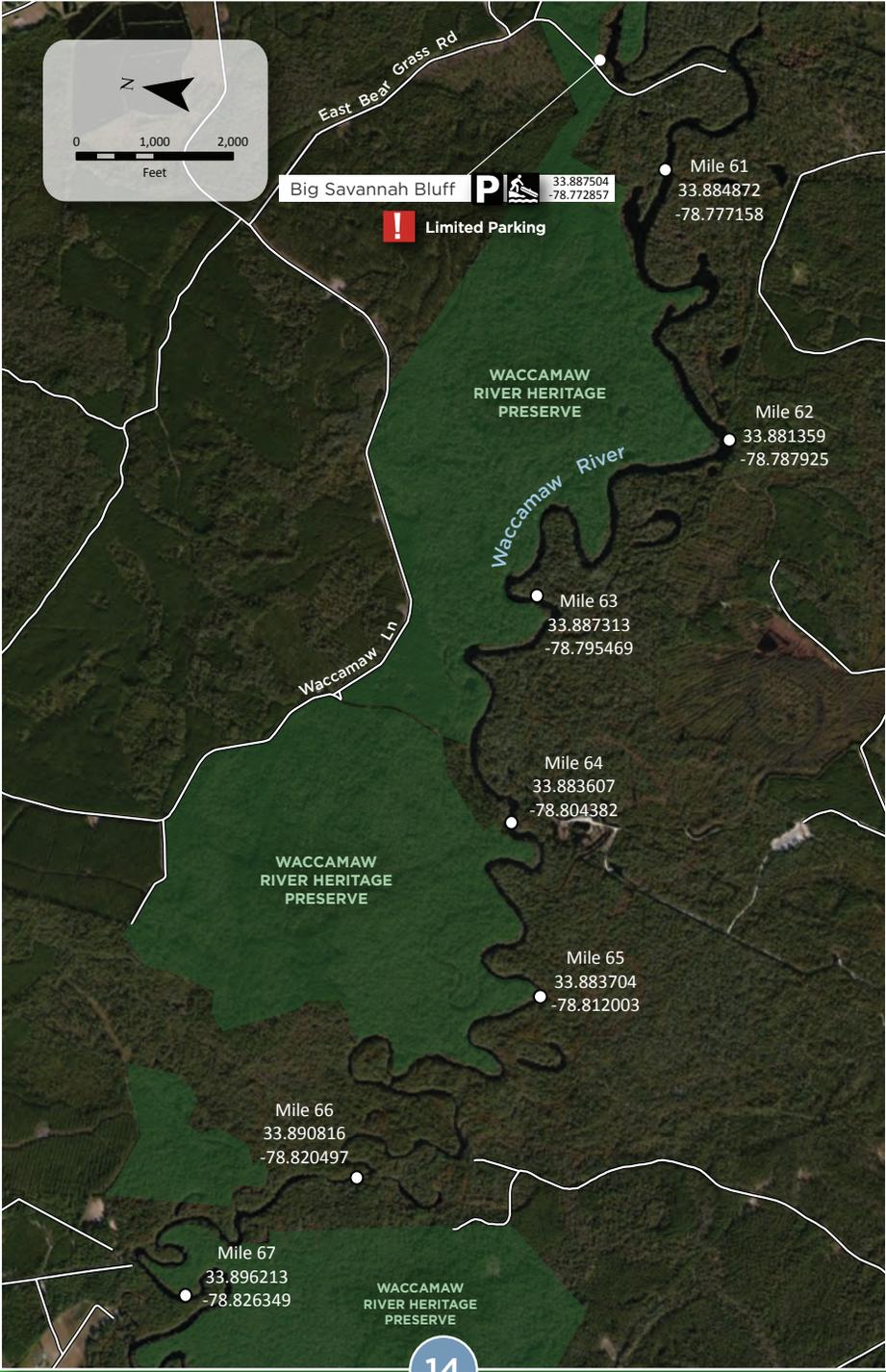


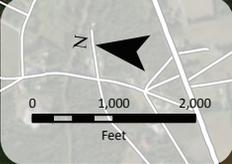












Mile 67  
33.896213  
-78.826349

Mile 68  
33.897855  
-78.833843

WACCAMAW  
RIVER HERITAGE  
PRESERVE

HAMMOND

s.c.  
905

Red Bluff Rd

Red Bluff P  33.898844  
-78.839798

Waccamaw River

Mile 69  
33.897811  
-78.84762

s.c.  
22

s.c.  
22

Mile 70  
33.898943  
-78.86393

s.c.  
905

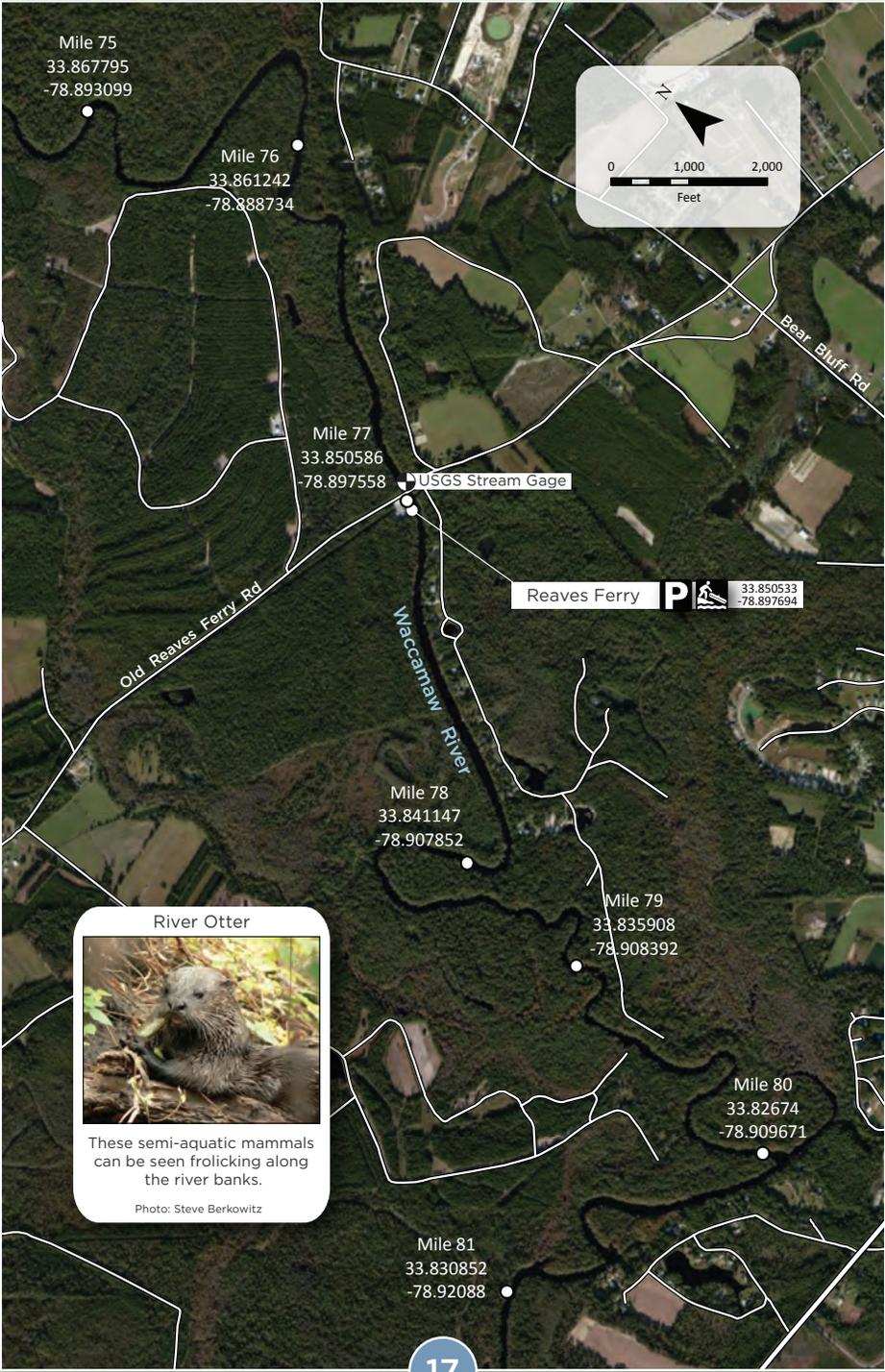
**Cypress Trees**



Cypress trees are an important part of the Waccamaw's wetland ecosystem, providing habitat for wildlife and helping store and filter water during floods.

Photo: Nancy Isenhour



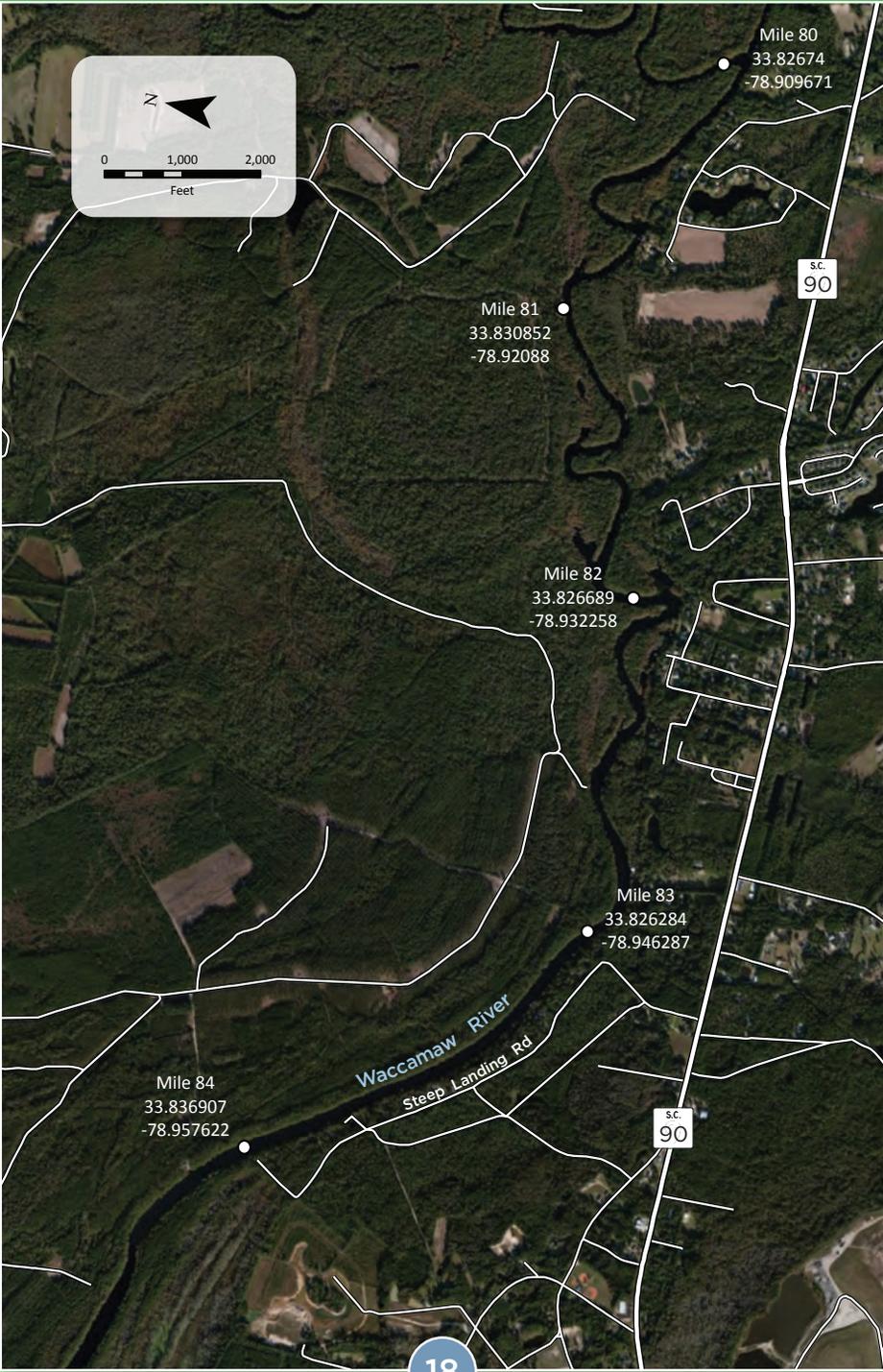


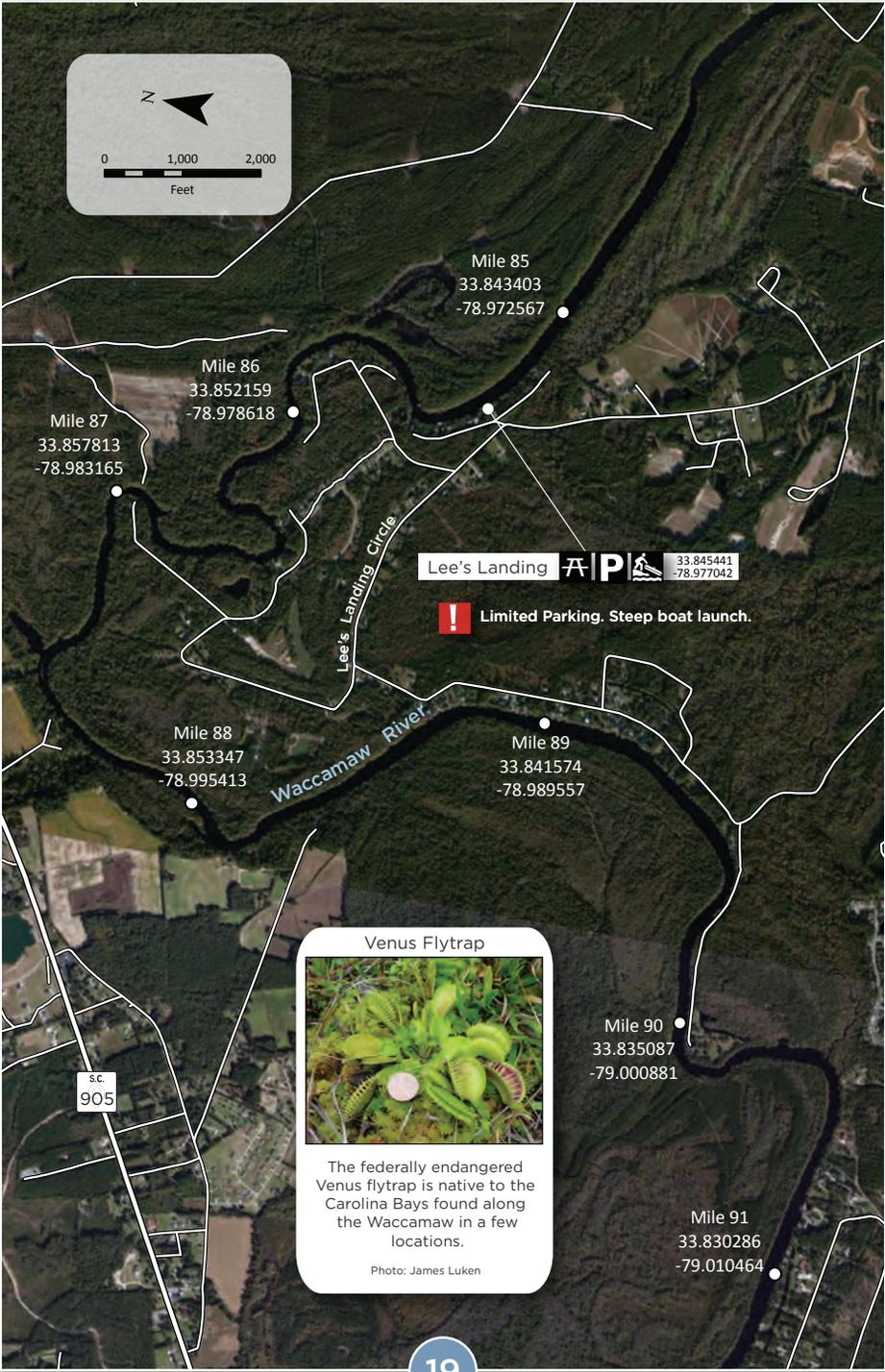
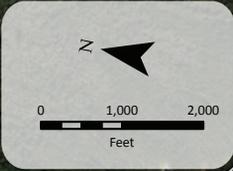
**River Otter**



These semi-aquatic mammals can be seen frolicking along the river banks.

Photo: Steve Berkowitz





Mile 85  
33.843403  
-78.972567

Mile 86  
33.852159  
-78.978618

Mile 87  
33.857813  
-78.983165

Lee's Landing 33.845441  
-78.977042

Limited Parking. Steep boat launch.

Mile 88  
33.853347  
-78.995413

Mile 89  
33.841574  
-78.989557

Waccamaw River

Lee's Landing Circle

S.C.  
905

Mile 90  
33.835087  
-79.000881

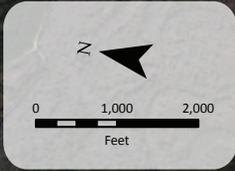
Mile 91  
33.830286  
-79.010464



Venus Flytrap

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

Photo: James Luken



Mile 91  
33.830286  
-79.010464

Conway



Downtown Conway boasts several historical sites and the riverwalk.

Photo: Ben Burroughs

Mile 92  
33.832938  
-79.024181

Riverwalk **P**  33.833171  
-79.044283

Savannah Bluff **P**  33.816627  
-79.041947

Mile 93  
33.838171  
-79.03487

Conway Marina   **P**  33.829011  
-79.044634

Mile 94  
33.829093  
-79.043261

USGS Stream Gage

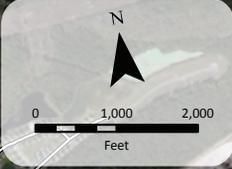
Waccamaw River

Mile 95  
33.816744  
-79.045038

CONWAY



Scan this QR Code to discover more about Conway's history!



Mile 96  
33.805822  
-79.05423

Pitch Landing **P** 33.800517  
-79.055141

Pitch Landing Rd

Mile 97  
33.793669  
-79.05104

Cox Ferry Recreation Area **P** 33.791837  
-79.050228

**!** Limited Parking

WACCAMAW  
NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

WACCAMAW  
NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

701

Waccamaw River

Jackson Bluff Rd

Mile 98  
33.781729  
-79.057322

Waccamaw National  
Wildlife Refuge's Cox  
Ferry Recreation Area

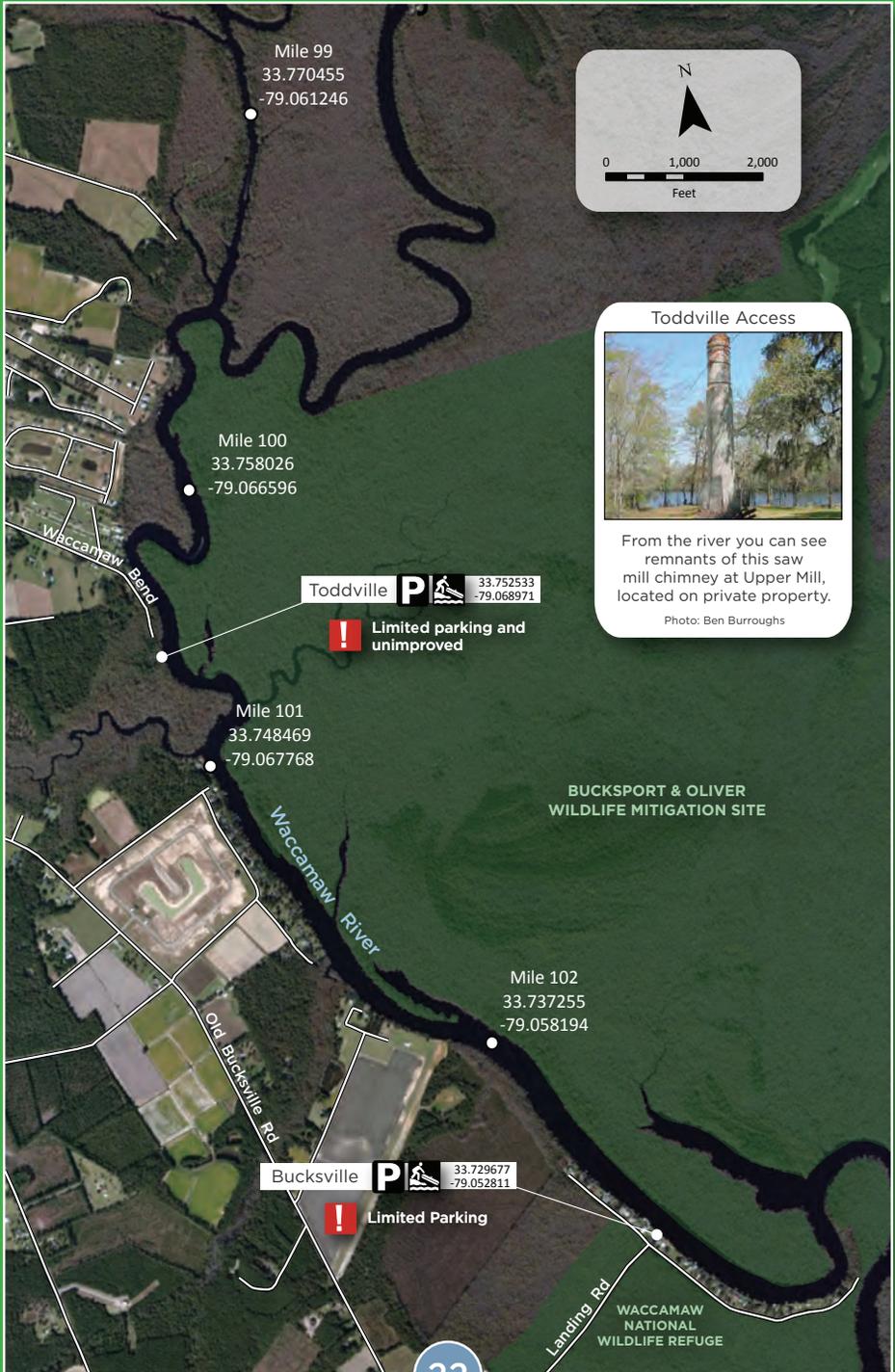


Photo: Staci Williams

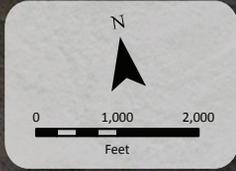
Mile 99  
33.770455  
-79.061246

**!** Limited Parking

Jackson Bluff **P** 33.772882  
-79.053698



Mile 99  
33.770455  
-79.061246



Mile 100  
33.758026  
-79.066596

**Toddville Access**



From the river you can see remnants of this saw mill chimney at Upper Mill, located on private property.  
Photo: Ben Burroughs

**Toddville**  33.752533  
79.068971

 Limited parking and unimproved

Mile 101  
33.748469  
-79.067768

**BUCKSPORT & OLIVER  
WILDLIFE MITIGATION SITE**

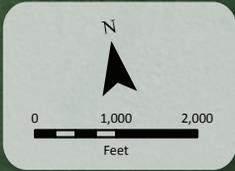
Mile 102  
33.737255  
-79.058194

**Bucksville**  33.729677  
79.052811

 Limited Parking

**WACCAMAW  
NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE REFUGE**





**Swallow-tailed Kite**



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

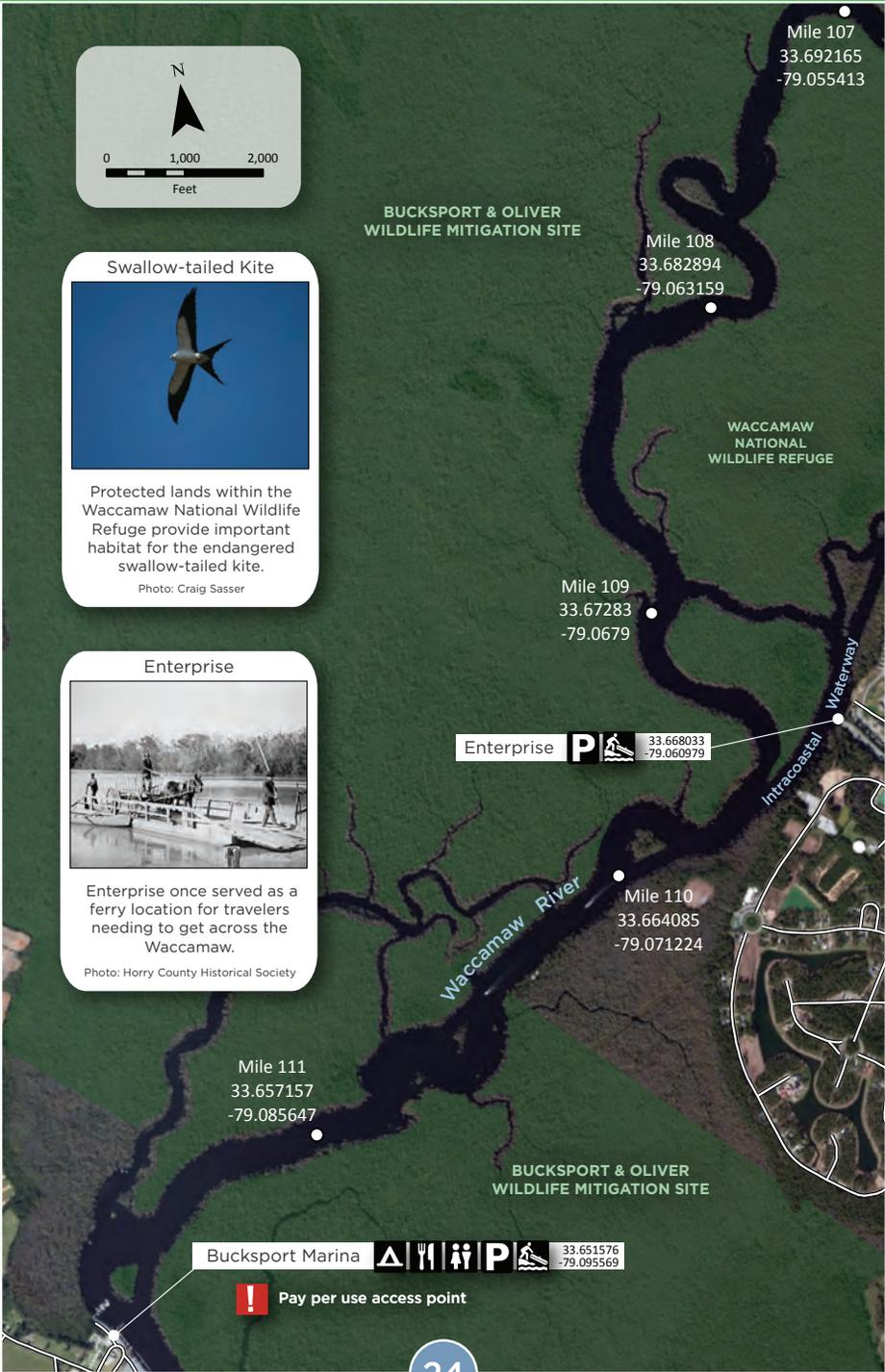
Photo: Craig Sasser

**Enterprise**

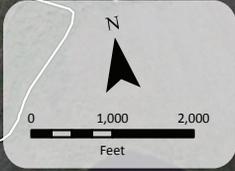


Enterprise once served as a ferry location for travelers needing to get across the Waccamaw.

Photo: Horry County Historical Society







● Mile 115  
33.612732  
-79.089815

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 

SANDY ISLAND

Waccamaw River

● Mile 117  
33.588544  
-79.098182

Sandy Island



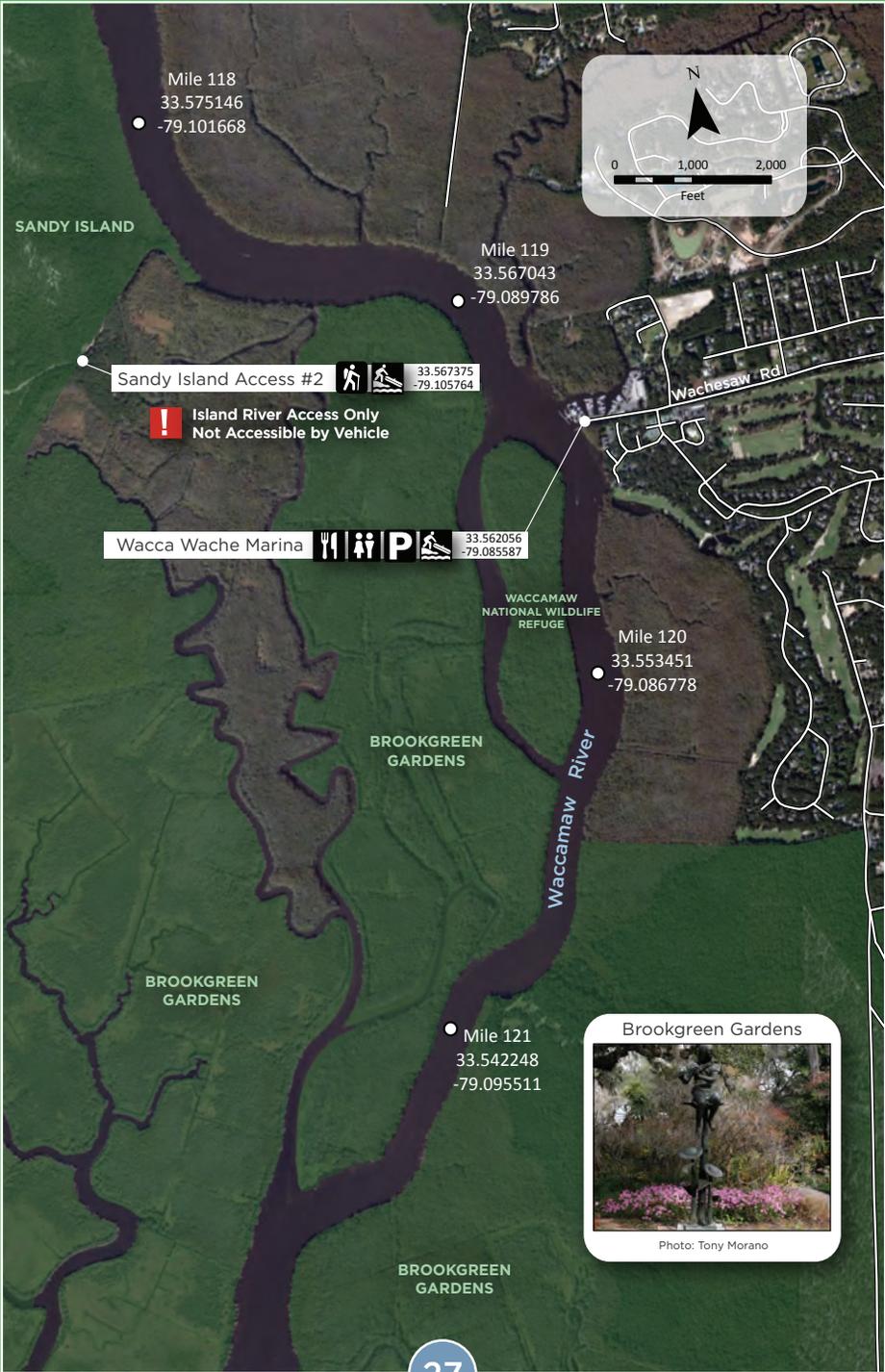
Sandy Island was once home to many of the slaves that worked in the rice plantations. Today, some of their ancestors still reside on the island.

Photo: Brookgreen Gardens Collection

HORRY COUNTY

GEORGETOWN COUNTY

● Mile 118  
33.575146  
-79.101668







SAMWORTH  
WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA

### Rice Cultivation



Rice cultivation in one of the  
rice fields in Georgetown  
County

Photo: Georgetown County Library  
Photograph Collection

Mile 128  
33.465323  
-79.157441



Mile 129  
33.453564  
-79.167353

Waccamaw River

USGS Stream Gage

Mile 130  
33.442747  
-79.17841

Hagley



33.436326  
-79.182200



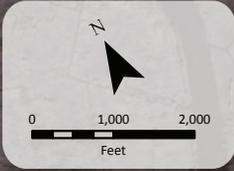
Limited Parking

Hagley Rd

Kings River Rd

Mile 131  
33.43203  
-79.189834

30



Hagley **P** 33.436326  
-79.182200

**!** Limited Parking

Mile 131  
33.43203  
-79.189834

Mile 132  
33.427068  
-79.205429

Mile 133  
33.415732  
-79.212037

Mile 134  
33.404207  
-79.222073

Great Pee Dee River

SAMWORTH  
WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT AREA

Waccamaw River

17





0 1,000 2,000  
Feet

N

Waccamaw River

Great Pee Dee River

Mile 137  
● 33.369071  
-79.251287



HOBCAW BARRONY

GEORGETOWN

Front St

Winyah Bay

HOBCAW BARRONY

Sampit River

Georgetown



Sunset along Front Street in Georgetown

Photo: Charles Slate

East Bay Landing 33.356550  
-79.280030



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This waterproof map booklet is made possible through the generous support of National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program





# American Rivers

*Rivers Connect Us®*

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

Learn more at [AmericanRivers.org/BlueTrails](http://AmericanRivers.org/BlueTrails)



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.

Waterproof Map Booklet and Maps Designed by:



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

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Cover Photo by Charles Slate