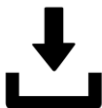


3rd Edition, Updated with NEW TRAILS!



**Download this guide
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Family Adventure Guide



Berkeley County Blueways

25 Paddling Trails | 235 Miles of Family Fun!

Berkeley Blueways Family Adventure Guide



Huger / Quinby Creek on the Berkeley Blueways.

Front cover photo: Duckpond (#8) on Lake Moultrie.
Back cover photo: Spiers Landing/Church Island (#24) on Lake Marion.

Berkeley Blueways: Family Adventure Guide – 3rd Edition

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Berkeley Soil & Water
Conservation District

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3rd Edition: September 2020



This book is distributed with the understanding that Berkeley County, South Carolina assumes no legal responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of this book, nor for any injuries or damages incurred while attempting any of the activities or visiting any of the destinations described within it. The text is based on information available at the time of publication. Paddle at your own risk.

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Photography

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The Berkeley Blueways

LAKE MOULTRIE

North Moultrie Trail		Paddled	✓
1	Santee Canal	20	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Sandy Beach	25	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Russellville Flats	30	<input type="checkbox"/>

East Moultrie Trail

4	The Jungle	35	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Dennis's Pasture	40	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Coon Island	45	<input type="checkbox"/>

West Moultrie

7	The Hatchery	50	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Duckpond	55	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Cross Coves	60	<input type="checkbox"/>

SANTEE RIVER

10	Wilson's Landing	66	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Highway 52	71	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Arrowhead Landing	76	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Jamestown	81	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Goose Creek Reservoir	86	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paddled ✓

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Introduction

Berkeley Blueways



Our rivers and waterways are history's natural highways. Before interstates or even dirt roads, our founders traveled them and moved produce and trade goods by canoe and pole boats. Just a short paddling trip can, for all practical purposes, create an experience much like those experienced by our forefathers. You can quickly whisk yourself away from the hustle and bustle of today's busy and complicated lifestyles to a much simpler time. A time often referred to as "the good old days" can be relived and shared with your family and friends. Berkeley County, South Carolina has an abundance of waters suitable for kayaking and canoeing that can provide wonderful back-to-nature experiences for the entire family. In these pages, we provide detailed information on the recreational opportunities available through kayaking and canoeing Berkeley County.

This guide contains information to help you plan various paddling trips throughout Berkeley County. It includes information and pictures to help you determine where to paddle and yet strives to maintain anticipation for what may lay around the next bend.

There are maps included with each trail as well as turn-by-turn route directions. This will allow you to study not only the trail you intend to paddle, but also what lies beyond your field of vision from the banks. It is our sincere hope that this guide contributes favorably to your enjoyment of the Berkeley County Blueways.



Old Santee Canal Park

About the Berkeley Blueways

The Berkeley County Blueways paddling trail system identifies over 235 miles of total waterways from 25 trails and is the result of the vision and efforts of many individuals and organizations working in partnership. The Berkeley Soil and Water Conservation District has served as the coordinating agency with supporting grants from Berkeley County Government and the National Oceanic and



Bald Eagle on The Jungle paddle trail

Atmospheric Administration made available through the SCDHEC Office of Coastal Resource Management.

Special thanks are given to Berkeley County, Santee Cooper, and the US Forest Service for their enthusiastic cooperation as the waters and landings listed in this guidebook are under their care and stewardship. Along with other partners, the SC Department of National Resources has provided valuable insight and technical services towards the development of this project. Special thanks are given to the staff of the GIS Department of Berkeley County who developed the original mapping. Also, special thanks are given to the individuals of the Carolina Gypsy Paddlers who assisted in the survey of each waterway listed and brought to life the value that a paddling trail program would contribute to the recreational opportunities in Berkeley County.

It is the desire of this partnership that the Berkeley County Blueways should be viewed as an open invitation for recreational paddlers to experience and enjoy the abundant and beautiful lakes, rivers, streams, forests, and wildlife we have to offer. For more information, contact:

The Berkeley Soil & Water Conservation District

223 East Main Street, Suite B

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

843-719-4146

www.berkeleysoilandwater.com

info@berkeleysoilandwater.com



The Blueways Partnership



paddling Speed on the Berkeley Blueways

Two miles an hour is a reasonable paddling speed for the average paddler. Six hours or about 12 miles is a reasonable full day of paddling. Additional time should be allowed for rest stops, lunch breaks and exploration. Care should be taken to ensure your trip will be completed prior to it getting dark.

When planning your trips, always calculate times and distances based on expectations from your most inexperienced paddlers. Plan your trip accordingly and allow ample time to enjoy your surroundings.



*It's all smiles on
the Berkeley Blueways!*

Safety Concerns on the Berkeley Blueways

Primary safety concerns are the same as any other type of outdoor activity:

- Ensure you are properly hydrated. Bring more water than you think you will need.
- Have ample protection from sun exposure -- sunblock, long sleeve shirts and wide brim hats.
- Share your put-in/take-out location, paddling route and launch & return times with family and friends.
- It is always a good idea to bring a buddy along with you. Share your awesome Berkeley Blueways experience!

Alligators

Alligators are the number one concern asked about when discussing the Berkeley Blueways with newcomers. There are alligators in many of the waterways. After thousands of miles paddled on the Blueways, we can tell you that alligators are not a concern. They are exciting to see, but they are also difficult to see. Why? Alligators do not want anything to do with you. If you see an alligator, count yourself lucky. They do not stick around long and move away very quickly.

Use common sense. Treat alligators with respect. Never feed an alligator (or any wildlife). Never approach them on purpose, and just paddle on.

Wasps

Would you believe wasps are a bigger concern than alligators? With that said, wasps are rarely an issue, but here's some things to keep in mind. Wasps like to build their nests in branches that overhang or are adjacent to the water. Wasps will normally not bother you, but if you strike a branch with your paddle, you could make some new buzzing, stinging friends that you don't want.

FOLLOW THIS RULE: Keep your paddle low and out of all branches! This is usually only a concern when paddling close to shore or in the narrow waterways of the blackwater creeks.

PFD's or "Life Jackets," and Whistles

South Carolina law states each person must have a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) in the kayak or canoe. Children under 12 are always required to wear their PFD when in a kayak or canoe. We recommend that **everyone** wear a PFD at all times. In addition, each person must have a whistle attached to their PFD.

Reference: SC Laws Sec. 50-21-870 for more information.

Water Levels

Rising water levels, tidal influence and flooding can be a concern for some waterways. We have done our best to provide precautions for each paddle trail. It is paddlers' responsibility to use common sense and do due diligence in researching current water levels. If

you still have concerns, you are welcome to contact the Berkeley Blueways and we will direct you to the right information.



The Hatchery

IMPORTANT: Berkeley County Soil & Water Conservation District and/or any of our partners associated with this program or guidebook assume no legal responsibility for any injuries or damages incurred while attempting any of the activities or visiting any of the destinations described within it. Paddle at your own risk.

Choose Your Family Adventure

Berkeley Blueways



Easy / Family Friendly

Name	Distance	Location	Pg #
Dennis's Pasture	4 - 6 miles	Lake Moultrie	40
Duckpond	2.5 - 3 miles	Lake Moultrie	55
Goose Creek Rsvr.	2 - 4 miles	Hanahan/G. Ck	86
Wambaw Creek	4.6 miles	Jamestown	101
Huger/Quinby Creek	3.9 miles	Huger/Cainhoy	106
Old Santee Canal Pk.	3 miles	Moncks Corner	131
Spiers Landing	3 - 5+ miles	Lake Marion	136

Moderate

Name	Distance	Location	Pg #
Santee Canal	6.4 miles	Lake Moultrie	20
Sandy Beach	5.2 miles	Lake Moultrie	25
Russellville Flats	6 - 7 miles	Lake Moultrie	30
The Jungle	4 - 6 miles	Lake Moultrie	35
Coon Island	7 miles	Lake Moultrie	45
The Hatchery	3 - 6 miles	Lake Moultrie	50
Cross Coves	9 - 11 miles	Lake Moultrie	60
Jamestown	11 miles	Santee River	81

Moderate (continued...)

Name	Distance	Location	Pg #
Lower Wadboo Creek	3 - 4 miles	Moncks Corner	91
Upper Wadboo Creek	5 miles	Moncks Corner	96
Echaw Creek	2 - 2.5 miles	Jamestown	111
Chicken Creek	9.1 miles	Jamestown	116
Durham Cr./Back River	7.8 miles	Goose Creek	121
Bushy Park/Foster Cr.	10 -12 miles	Goose Creek	126

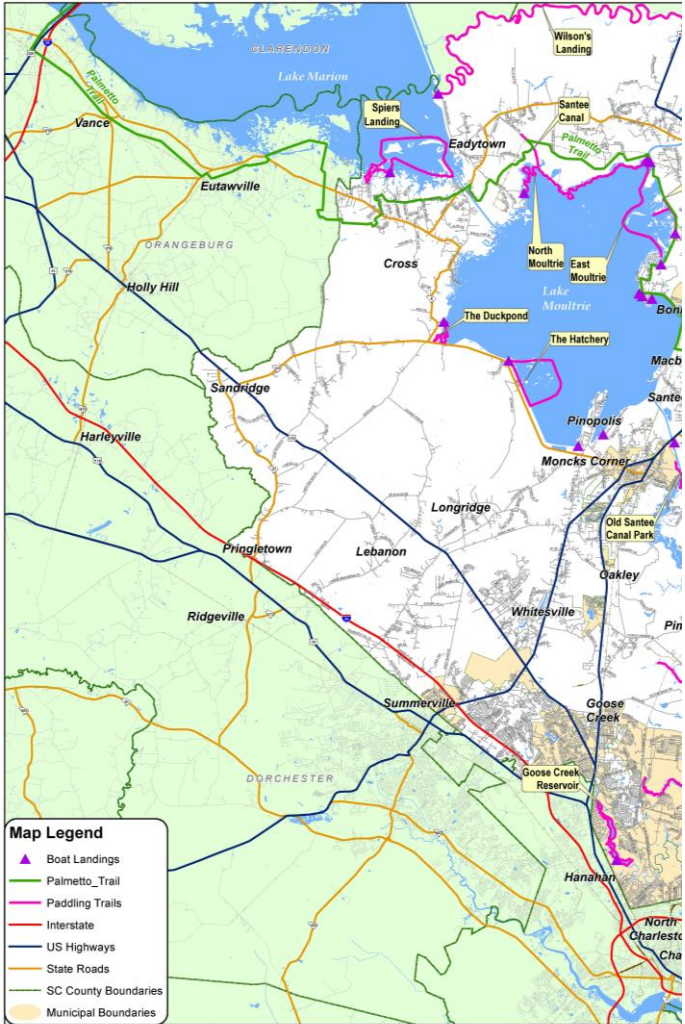
Strenuous

Name	Distance	Location	Pg #
Wilson's Landing	25 miles	Santee River	66
Highway 52	13 miles	Santee River	71
Arrowhead Landing	16 miles	Santee River	76
Swamp Fox 50 Trail	54 miles	Marion-Moultrie	141

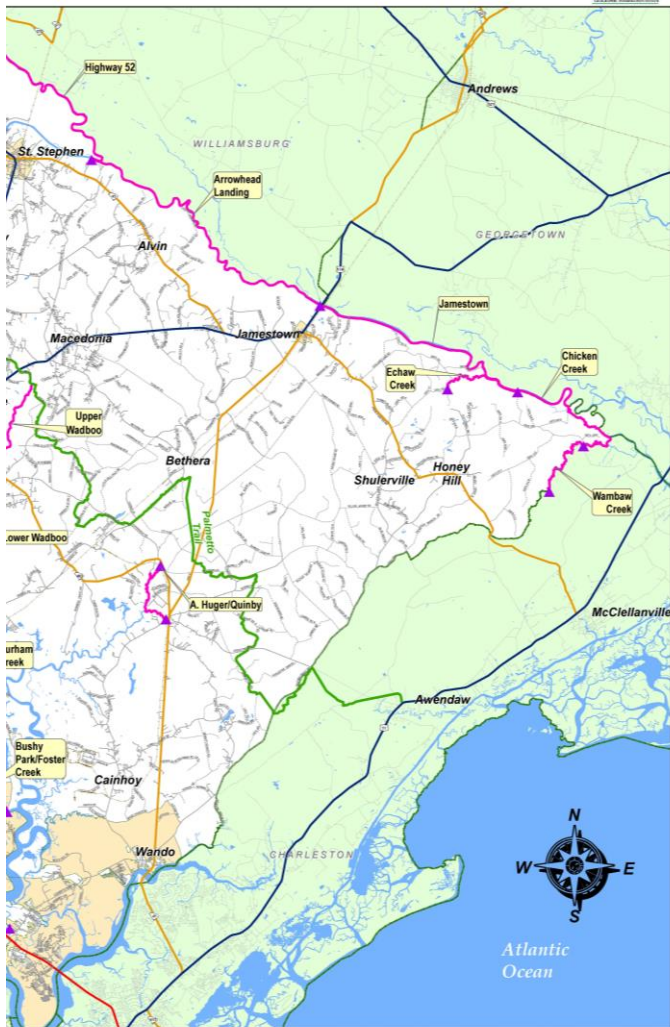
Overnight / Camping

Name	Distance	Location	Pg #
Sandy Beach	5.2 miles	Lake Moultrie	25
Coon Island	7 miles	Lake Moultrie	45
The Hatchery	3 - 6 miles	Lake Moultrie	50
Duckpond	2.5 - 3 miles	Lake Moultrie	55
Wilson's Landing	25 miles	Santee River	66
Highway 52	13 miles	Santee River	71
Arrowhead Landing	16 miles	Santee River	76
Jamestown	11 miles	Santee River	81
Upper Wadboo Creek	5 miles	Moncks Corner	96
Spiers Landing	3 - 5+ miles	Lake Marion	136
Swamp Fox 50 Trail	54 miles	Marion-Moultrie	141

Berkeley County Blueways Trails System



Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.



8
Miles

Source: South Carolina Department of Transportation, 2010. Data provided by the South Carolina Department of Transportation, 2010. All other data provided by the South Carolina Department of Transportation, 2010. All other data provided by the South Carolina Department of Transportation, 2010.

Want More Information?

Visit www.BerkeleyBlueways.com for the full color downloadable version of this guide, latest family adventures, paddle trail updates, photos, social media and more!



Spiers Landing near Church Island.

The 24 FAMILY PADDLE TRAILS

Berkeley Blueways



Family kayakers at The Hatchery



Santee Canal – N. Lake Moultrie

1

Date Paddled: _____



The quiet waters of the narrow Santee Canal.

Summary

With its inception in 1796, the Santee Canal offers a lot for the keen history buff. One of the engineers was none other than General George Washington! The original canal was 22 miles in length, but after Lake Moultrie was formed, there remains a beautiful 2.5-mile section of the canal.

Difficulty

Moderate, due to crossing open water.

Distance

6.4 miles, round-trip.

Time

3- 4 hours, minimum.

Crowds

Very light; could see boaters/anglers. Almost guaranteed not to see anyone else in the canal.

Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Angel's Landing Marina, 1556 Viper Road, Pineville, SC 29468, 800-315-3087. <u>GPS</u> : 33.381196, -80.091654 33°22'52.3"N, 80°05'30.0"W <u>Directions</u> : All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	\$5.00 parking fee (as of Spring 2020).
Current	Negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	Winds above 10 MPH can be tough for a paddler on Lake Moultrie. There is a lot of open water for wind to intensify and cause waves/whitecaps. There are hundreds of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. Tip : these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.

Map – Santee Canal N. Moultrie



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 8 on page 23.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 22	
1	From the boat ramp at Angel's Landing Marina, turn left, heading in a northeast direction.
2	At 0.1 mile, pass by island of tall grass. It is best to pass on the left side, closest to the mainland. Continue in slight northeast direction.
3	Pass by tip of island at 0.6 miles. Begin an even more northeastern direction towards another large island 0.3 mile away.
4	At 0.9 mile, paddle around southern tip of island, head into center of the <u>bay</u> , paddling towards upper right corner of the bay. This is where the canal opening is located.
5	Enter the Santee Canal at 1.4 miles. This is a narrow, shallow waterway (no more than 20 yards wide and maintains a depth of 4-5 feet). Enjoy the calm waters of the Santee Canal. Keep an eye out for wildlife: deer, wild boar, and a variety of waterfowl.
6	Come to railroad crossing over the canal at 2.8 miles. The canal will begin to narrow shortly after the railroad crossing.
7	At 3.2 miles, come to the obvious end of the canal. Return the same way you came.
8	<u>Option</u> : When leaving the canal, turn a hard left and head into a large cove. This is picturesque and worth the extra 20-30 minutes, particularly when everything is in bloom!



Otherworldly-looking, but beautiful Golden Lotus seed pods on the paddle to the Santee Canal.



Paddling the beautiful cove outside the Santee Canal (# 8 on page 23).

Sandy Beach – N. Lake Moultrie



Date Paddled: _____

2



Paddling North Lake Moultrie to Sandy Beach.

Summary

The 600-acre Sandy Beach Waterfowl Refuge includes part of North Lake Moultrie. It is a protected waterfowl management area with a nice beach for primitive camping. This entire area is beautiful with tupelos, flowing aquatic plants and you are almost guaranteed to see a few large birds of prey. There are hiking trails open from March 1 until November 1.

Difficulty

Moderate, due to crossing open water.

Distance

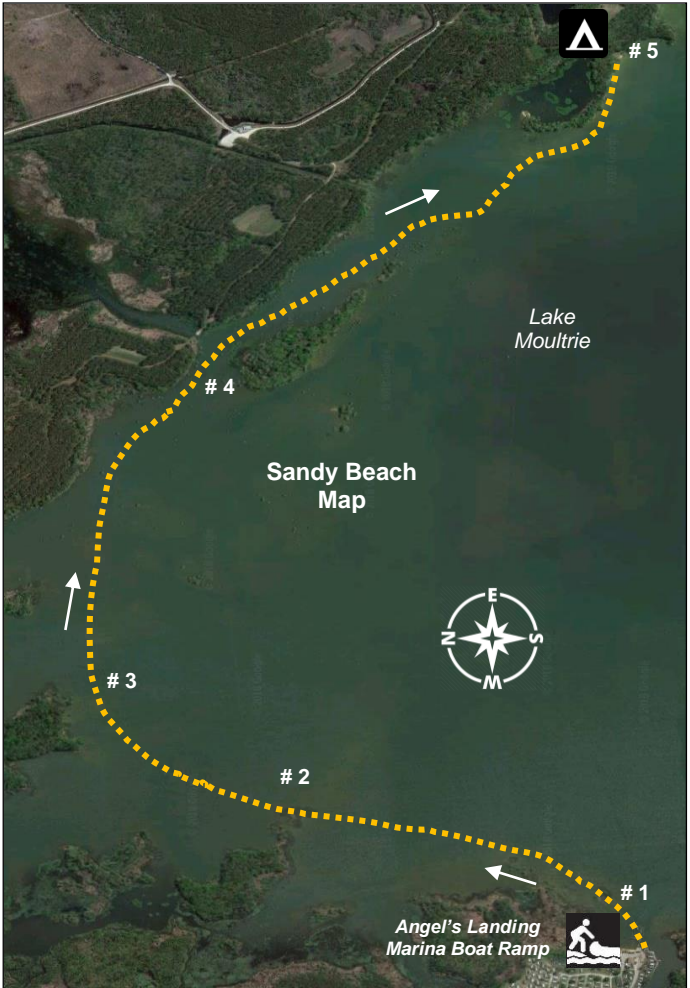
5.2 miles, round-trip.

Time

2 - 3 hours; although, we recommend spending the night/camping on this little gem of a beach!

Visit a DNR Waterfowl Area with primitive camping!

Crowds	Light to Moderate. You're almost guaranteed to see boaters/anglers, and you might see other paddlers on the weekends.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Angel's Landing Marina, 1556 Viper Road, Pineville, SC 29468, 800-315-3087. <u>GPS</u> : 33.381196, -80.091654 33°22'52.3"N, 80°05'30.0"W <u>Directions</u> : All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	\$5.00 parking fee (as of Spring 2020).
Current	Negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	<p>Winds above 10 MPH can be tough for a paddler on Lake Moultrie. There is a lot of open water for wind to intensify and cause waves/whitecaps.</p> <p>There are hundreds of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. Tip: these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.</p> <p>It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season.</p>



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 28.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 27	
1	From the boat ramp at Angel's Landing Marina, turn left, heading in a northeast direction.
2	Pass by tip of island at 0.6 miles. Begin an even more northeastern direction towards another large island 0.3 mile away.
3	At 0.9 mile, paddle around southern tip of island and bear east towards the shore/treeline that is 0.4 mile away.
4	Once you reach near the shore at 1.3 miles, paddle near the shore in a general southeast direction. Paddle between the long island and the shore. This island is a great place to see osprey and anhinga birds.
5	Continue paddling near the shore for another 1.3 miles. There is lots to see here. You will run across more large waterfowl, blooming aquatic plants and beautiful trees. At 2.6 miles, arrive at the Sandy Beach area. This will be evident; it is a 200-ft. long beach area with primitive camping. This is a great place to stop for lunch, pictures, and camp! Return the same way you came.



There is lots to see on the eastern shore of Lake Moultrie on this paddle.



Male Anhinga near Sandy Beach on North Lake Moultrie.



Russellville Flats – N. Lake Moultrie

3

Date Paddled: _____



Paddling through fields of beautiful Golden Lotus in Russellville Flats.

Summary

Located between Sandy Beach and the Amos Lee Gourdine boat ramp, the Russellville Flats area offers some of the most picturesque flora of Lake Moultrie. There are several islands, two swamps, numerous shallow bays and a way ditch to the black water canal that parallels the dike system. For the angler, this area offers some of the best bluegill and red eared sunfish fishing to be found anywhere.

Difficulty

Moderate to strenuous, due to distance.

Distance

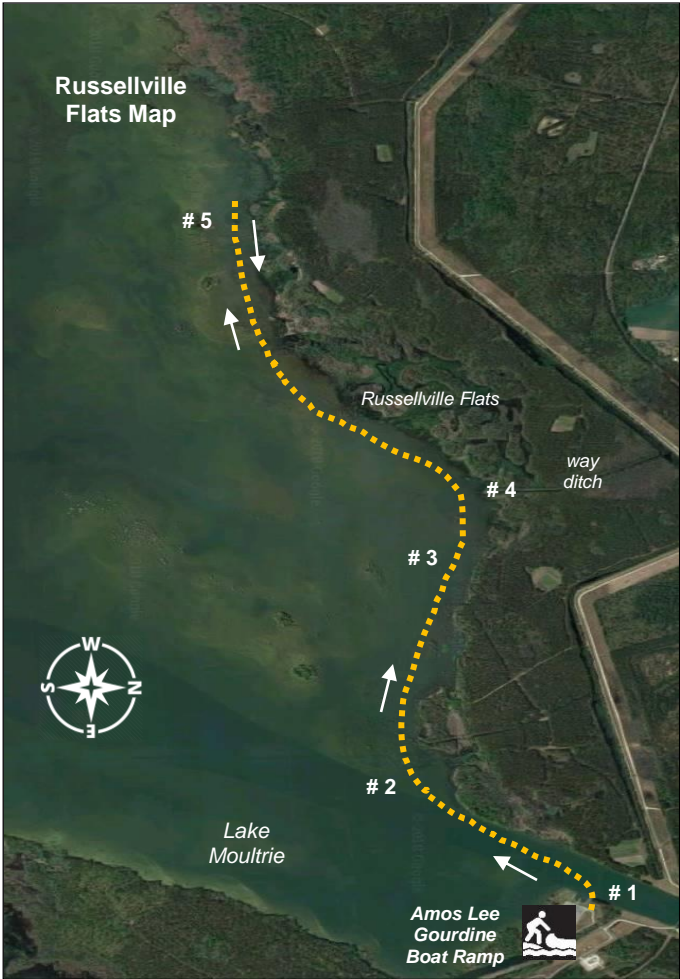
6-7 miles, roundtrip.

Time

3 -5 hours.

Crowds	Light. You're likely to see boaters/anglers in this area.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, Russell Store Road, St. Stephen, SC 29479. <u>GPS:</u> 33.402138, -79.992848 33°24'07.7"N, 79°59'34.3"W <u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible, generally northeast direction in open water.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	You will stay close to the shoreline on this route. Winds can intensify on Lake Moultrie resulting in waves/whitecaps.

Map – Russellville Flats



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 33.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 32	
1	From the Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, paddle 500-ft. across the canal to the opposite shoreline. Begin following the shoreline in a general southwest direction.
2	Continue paralleling the shore, and at 0.5 mile, you'll begin rounding a long bend, and head in a western direction.
3	<p>At approximately 1.4 miles, you will begin to enter the Russellville Flats area. Over the next mile, there are nearly endless opportunities for exploring shallow bays, cypress areas, flowering plants, and beautiful bottomland habitats. Take some time and enjoy this special place.</p> <p>For kayak angler, this area offers some of the best bluegill and red eared sunfish (shell cracker) fishing to be found anywhere in the state!</p>
4	At 1.5 miles on the right, there is a narrow, 10-20 ft. wide way ditch that goes 0.4 mile back to the black water canal that parallels the dike system.
5	Reach the end of the Russellville Flats area. Return the same way you came.



Early morning kayaker fly fishing at Russellville Flats on Lake Moultrie.



There are many Cormorant birds on the paddle to Russellville Flats.

The Jungle – E. Lake Moultrie



Date Paddled: _____

4



Large group of paddlers enjoying the day in The Jungle.

Summary

The Jungle is an enclosed tupelo swamp with an appearance like the famed Okefenokee Swamp of south Georgia, but on a much smaller scale. The waters are heavily grown with water lilies, lotus plants and various grasses. There are many options for exploration on this paddle.

Difficulty

Moderate. The lilies/vegetation can be overgrown and tough to push through, but well worth the effort.

Distance

4 - 6 miles, roundtrip, opportunity for a lot more exploration.

Time

2.5 hours, minimum.

Hundreds of acres of water lilies and lotus plants!

Crowds	Light. The Jungle is not navigable by larger motorboats.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10-feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, Russel Store Road, St. Stephen, SC 29479. <u>GPS:</u> 33.402138, -79.992848 33°24'07.7"N, 79°59'34.3"W <u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible, generally northeast direction in open water
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	You will stay close to the shoreline on this route and won't have to cross any large bodies of water. Winds can intensify on Lake Moultrie resulting in waves/whitecaps. There are hundreds of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface, particularly the closer you get to the entrance of The Jungle. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. Tip: these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 38.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 37	
1	From the Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, turn left, going around the peninsula, and head in a south direction, staying close to the shore.
2	Continue paralleling close to shore.
3	At 1.4 miles, turn left into 300-ft. wide opening. This is the first opening you encounter when paralleling the shore that goes back into an open area. This is The Jungle entrance.
4	Continue into main body of The Jungle. There are obvious paths of exploration, or you can make your own. There is lots to see here!
5	Option: Continue navigating east through The Jungle until you reach the black water canal that parallels the dike. Return the same way you came.



Nesting Great Blue Heron in early Spring at The Jungle.



Entering the picturesque Jungle.



Dennis's Pasture – E. Lake Moultrie

5

Date Paddled: _____



Young photographer among the blooming aquatics of Dennis's Pasture.

Summary

Dennis's Pasture, also known as the "Cow Pasture," comprises of the area between The Jungle and Bonneau Beach. It consists of numerous small islands and open bays of varying depths and vegetation. It is unique because the density of islands and cypress groves offer good wind protection. You can easily spend a full day of paddling the various bays, way ditch and canal.

Difficulty

Easy to Moderate.

Distance

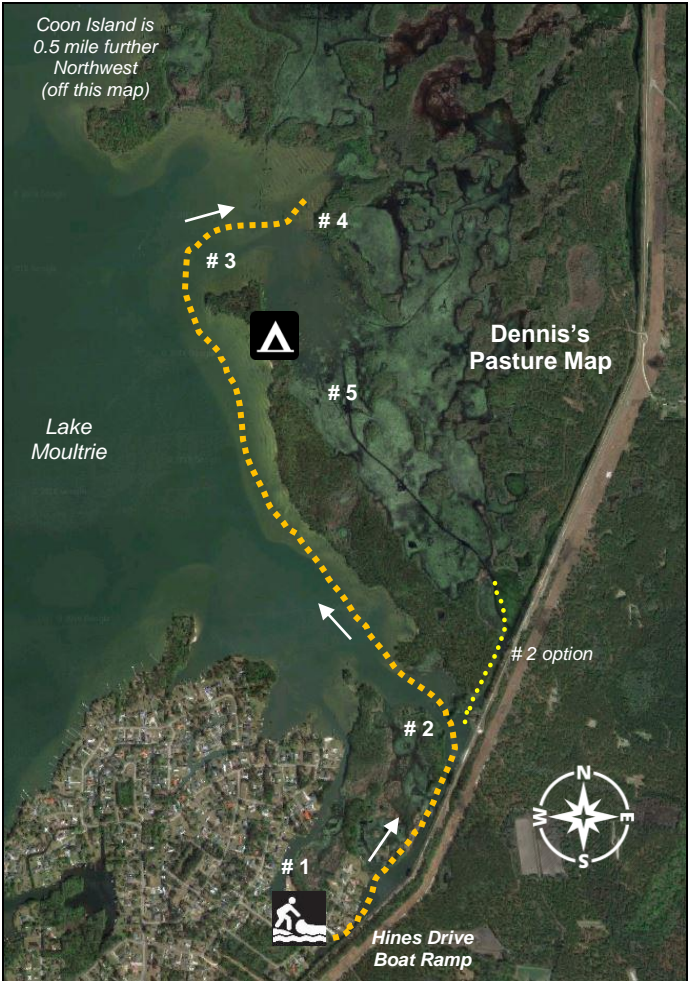
4 - 6 miles, roundtrip, varies based on exploration.

Time

2 - 3 hours but take your time to discover all this has to offer.

Crowds	Moderate. The area can be popular with anglers.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Hines Drive Bonneau Beach Landing, At corner of Hines Lane & Driftwood Drive, Bonneau, SC 29431 GPS: 33.332530, -79.982775 33°19'57.1"N, 79°58'58.0"W <u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	You will have protection from some winds with a few islands and dikes, however, there are plenty of open spaces in Dennis's Pasture where winds can intensify resulting in waves/whitecaps.

Map – Dennis’s Pasture



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 43.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 42	
1	From the boat ramp, turn left, heading in a northern direction up the canal. This is an area of frequent boat traffic.
2	At 0.5 mile, bear left in northwest direction towards a more open area of Lake Moultrie. Continue paddling close to the shore/treeline for next 1.3 miles. Option: Instead of bearing left, continue straight into the narrow canal into the “backside” of Dennis’s Pasture.
3	At 1.8 miles, round the tip of the peninsula, and turn right heading east.
4	Cross the 1,000-ft. wide open area and you have entered Dennis’s Pasture. From this point, there are hundreds of acres of fun exploration!
5	0.4-mile southeast is a wide path that heads 0.7 mile back to the canal. The path itself is worth paddling through, and this can serve as a shortcut back towards the boat ramp. See map. Return the same way you came.



You'll paddle by acres of lily fields in the warmer months.



Good times, big smiles, and laughter in Dennis's Pasture.

Coon Island – E. Lake Moultrie



Date Paddled: _____

6



Primitive camping on Coon Island is fun and FREE!

Summary

Coon Island is known as one of the best places for primitive camping on Lake Moultrie (locals may also call this “Coon Hill Island”). There is a beautiful beach with high ground on its south side. Camping is permitted on a first come, first serve basis, and the area is large enough to support many campers.

Difficulty

Easy to moderate.

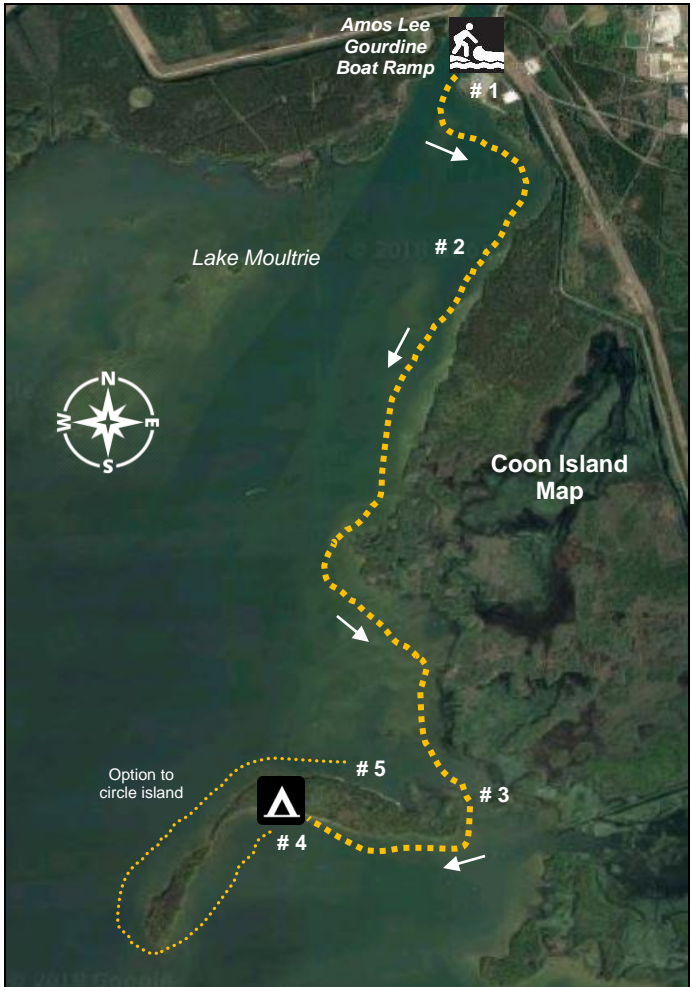
Distance

7 miles, round-trip.

Time

2 - 3 hours; although, we recommend spending the night/camping on this great island!

Crowds	Moderate. You are almost guaranteed to see boaters/anglers, and you'll probably see other paddlers on the weekends.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, Russel Store Road, St. Stephen, SC 29479 <u>GPS</u> : 33.402138, -79.992848 33°24'07.7"N, 79°59'34.3"W <u>Directions</u> : All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	<p>You will stay close to the shoreline on most of this route. Winds can intensify on Lake Moultrie resulting in waves/whitecaps.</p> <p>There are hundreds of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. Tip: these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.</p>

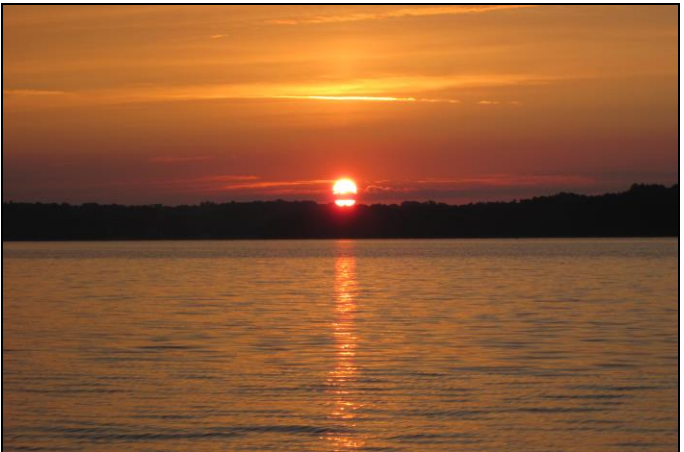


This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 48.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions – see map on page 47	
1	From the Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp, turn left, going around the peninsula, and head in a south direction, staying close to the shore.
2	Continue paralleling shore and the general treeline for the next 2.8 miles. This is a beautiful shoreline with a mix of pine and occasional tupelo trees. Look for nesting osprey in shorter trees out in the water in this area.
3	At 2.9 miles, reach the eastern tip of Coon Island. Continue in a south direction around the tip, bear right/west and paddle close to the shore.
4	<p>The southern side of the island has a long beach. Depending on water levels, this beach can be between 1,000 - 2,000 feet long. This is fantastic place to stop for lunch, take pictures of waterfowl, and has some of the best camping on Lake Moultrie.</p> <p>When you finish your exploration of the south side of Coon Island, return the same way you came.</p>
5	<u>Option</u> : Continue paddling around the shoreline of the entire island. This will extend your paddle by nearly 2 miles. The north side of the island has additional camping opportunities and smaller beaches.



You will paddle across open water to get to Coon Island, but it's easy!



When camping on Coon Island, this will be your evening "back porch!"



The Hatchery – W. Lake Moultrie

7

Date Paddled: _____



This protected waterfowl area is full of surprises! Pictured: Egret.

Summary

The Hatchery, or sometimes called “Pinopolis Pool” by locals, is a 2,200+ acre Department of Natural Resources protected Waterfowl Management Area. It is somewhat contained by a series of old dikes and many small islands. This paddle offers anything from a couple hours of enjoyment to an all-day adventure - there’s lots to see! Wildlife includes wading birds, songbirds, and small game. It offers some of the best fishing around.

Difficulty

Easy to moderate.

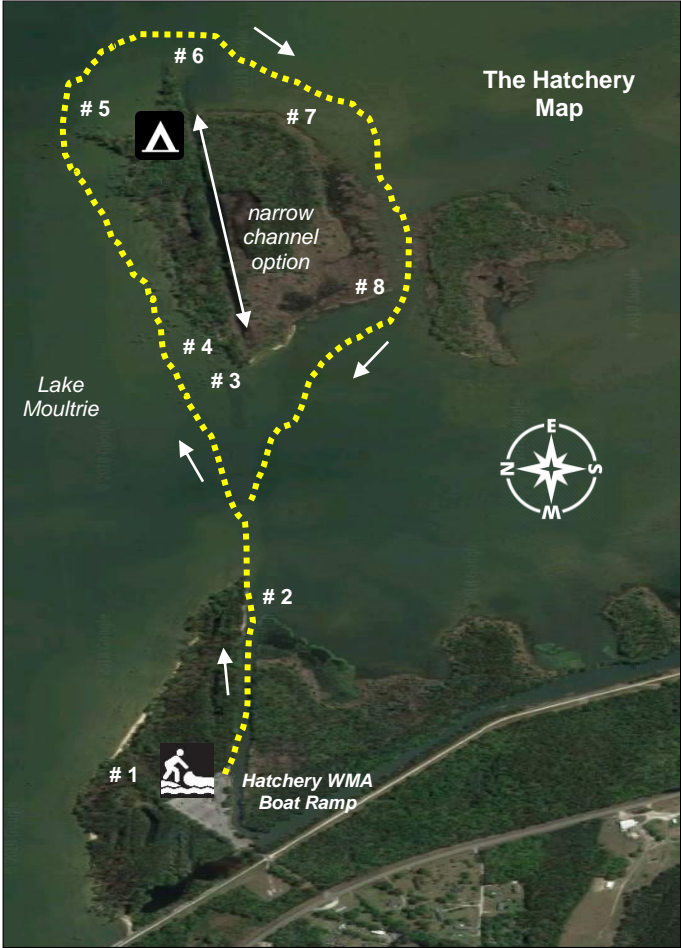
Distance

3 miles, round-trip, and exploration available.

Time

2 - 2.5 hours.

Crowds	Moderate. You are almost guaranteed to see boaters/anglers, and you'll probably see other paddlers on the weekends.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Hatchery Wildlife Management Area, State Road S-8-802, Pinopolis, SC 29469. GPS: 33.268503, -80.103042 33°16'06.6"N, 80°06'11.0"W <u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	<p>You'll have protection from some winds with a few islands and dikes, however, there are plenty of open spaces in The Hatchery where winds can intensify resulting in waves/whitecaps.</p> <p>There are hundreds of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. Tip: these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.</p> <p>It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season.</p>



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 8 on page 53. Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 52	
1	<p><u>Note:</u> There is lots to see and explore at The Hatchery. It can offer multiple and different adventures each time you visit. For the purposes of this guide, we're recommending a fun, family-oriented big island circumnavigation that will truly be a catalyst for other Hatchery adventures.</p> <p>From the boat ramp at The Hatchery, turn left, heading down the 75-ft. wide channel.</p>
2	At nearly 0.3 mile, come to open water/main body of The Hatchery. Continue straight, heading towards large island.
3	Reach western tip of island at 0.7 mile. Paddle on left (north) side of island.
4	300-ft. past tip of island, among tupelo trees, is a small beach area. This is a great spot for photos!
5	Continue paddling along the north side of the island, staying close to the shore. Turn right, heading south at 1.2 miles. To your right is a 250-ft. long beach area with designated camping. This is a great spot for lunch!
6	<p>At 1.4 miles, round the eastern most tip of the island, turn a sharp right and begin heading back in a west direction. Continue paddling close to shore.</p> <p><u>Option:</u> 300-ft. ahead is a narrow channel opening that splits the island; it runs about 1,500-ft. (nearly the length of the island) and is a fantastic place to see wading birds!</p>
7	Continue paddling close to the southern side of the island and at 1.8 miles, another island will be to your left within 200 feet.
8	At 1.9 miles, round the southwest tip of the island, paddle in a northwest direction towards where you started to end your paddle.



Circumnavigating the cypress lined big island at The Hatchery.



Marveling at the beautiful Golden Lotus of The Hatchery (late summer).

Duckpond – W. Lake Moultrie



Date Paddled: _____

8



It is all smiles at Lake Moultrie's Duckpond!

Summary

The area of Lake Moultrie known as the Duckpond is a large, enclosed bay that opens to a smaller area of a cypress swamp that contains abundant wildlife, cypress and tupelo trees, and tall grasses. It is home to numerous wading birds, as well as large osprey and bald eagles. About midway between the boat ramp and the Duckpond is a nice sandy beach that can even be used for primitive camping!

Difficulty

Easy and family friendly!

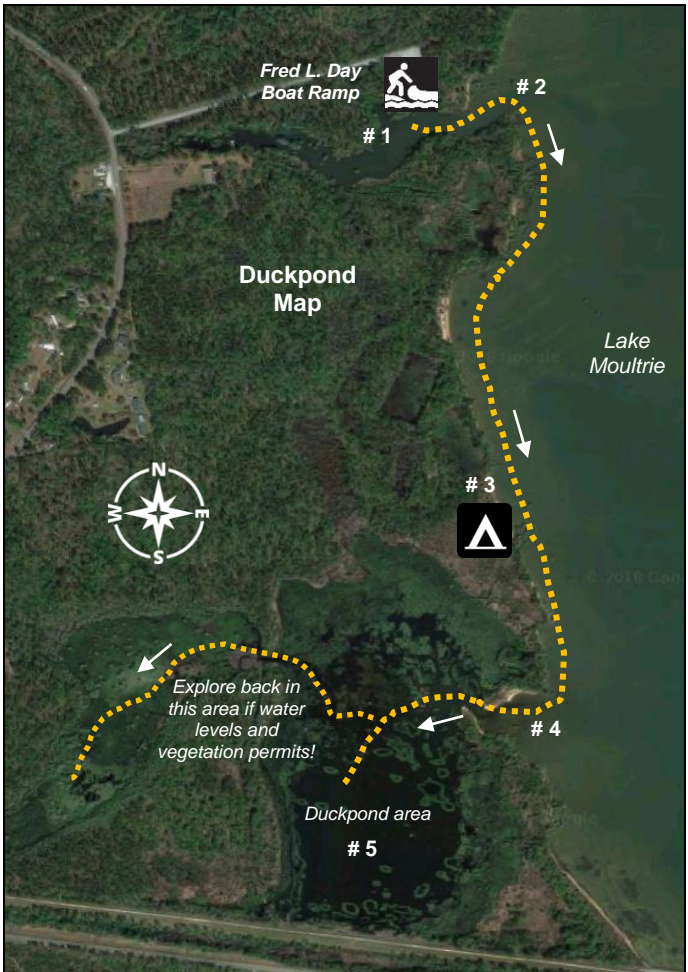
Distance

2.5 - 3 miles, roundtrip, varies based on exploration.

Time

1.5 - 2.5 hours.

Crowds	Moderate. The area can be popular with anglers.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Fred L. Day Boat Ramp, Boat Landing Way, Cross, SC 29436. GPS: 33.295429, -80.156345 33°17'43.5"N, 80°09'22.8"W <u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	You will have protection from some winds with a once you reach the Duckpond, however, if winds are above 10 MPH expect some waves and whitecaps on the paddle to the area. There are many of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. Tip: these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 58.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions -- see map on page 57	
1	From the boat ramp, turn left, heading towards the open area of Lake Moultrie. This is an area of frequent boat traffic.
2	After approximately 500 feet, turn right, following the shore/treeline in a generally south direction.
3	At 0.5 mile, there's a nice 150-ft. long sandy beach area fronted by a small grove of cypress trees that's a great place for lunch, swim or primitive overnight camping.
4	At nearly 1.0 mile, turn right into bay, paddle another 400-ft through the narrow entrance into the Duckpond.
5	<p>You can now explore the Duckpond. It is approximately 0.3-mile in width (south to north) by 0.2-mile wide (east to west). This area offers abundant places for photography, bird viewing and fishing.</p> <p><u>Option:</u> On the west side of the Duckpond, there is an obvious 20-ft. wide opening that goes back further (see map). If water levels and vegetation permit, it is worth further exploration. In Spring and early Summer, you are likely to see hundreds of nesting Anhinga chicks. This area extends approximately 0.5 mile.</p> <p>Return the same way you came.</p>



Look around, and up. You are almost guaranteed to see nesting birds.



There are more than just ducks! Nesting Anhinga chicks in late June.



Cross Coves – W. Lake Moultrie

9

Date Paddled: _____



Cross Coves is a birder's and photographer's paradise! Pictured: Osprey.

Summary

The Cross Coves Blueway kayak trail is located on west Lake Moultrie between two popular boat ramps. It consists of miles of beautiful and interesting coves. There are numerous rookeries of Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Anhingas, Cormorants and Bald Eagles. You are nearly guaranteed to see an abundance of wildlife on this paddle. This adventure, more than any other on the Berkeley Blueways, is a birder's and photographer's paradise!

Difficulty

Moderate to Strenuous, depending on distance.

Distance

9 - 11 miles, one way, varies based on exploration

Time

4 - 5.5 hours

Crowds Moderate. This area is popular with boaters/anglers.

Boat Type Kayaks or canoes 12 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

Put In Fred L. Day Boat Ramp, Boat Landing Way, Cross, SC 29436.

GPS: 33.295429, -80.156345
33°17'43.5"N, 80°09'22.8"W

Take Out Angel's Landing Marina, 1556 Viper Rd., Pineville, SC 29468.

GPS: 33.381196, -80.091654
33°22'52.3"N, 80°05'30.0"W

Fees/Permits \$5.00 parking fee at Angel's Landing. No fee for the Fred L. Day Boat Ramp.

Current Negligible, generally south direction

Tidal Influence None

Precautions: If winds are above 10 MPH expect some waves and whitecaps on the paddle to the area.

There are many of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. **Tip:** these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 7 on page 63. Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions -- see map on page 62

IMPORTANT: Doing the entire paddle in one day requires staging two vehicles or arranging pickup. However, this trip is best suited as a slower exploration paddle and completing the adventure in at least two trips; paddling north from the Fred L. Day Boat Ramp, and then paddling south from Angel's Landing Marina.

For the purposes of this guide, the route directions describe paddling north from the Fred L. Day Boat Ramp.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Turn left from the Fred L. Day Boat Ramp. After approximately 500 feet, turn left again, following the shore/treeline in a generally north direction. |
| 2 | At 1.0 mile, come to large cove that is nearly 2,000 ft. wide. This cove is rich with birds and wildlife. Historically, there are several rookeries on the northwest side of the cove. |
| 3 | At 3.3 miles, there is another cove (going back to Johnston Landing). 1,000 ft. into the cove and to the right is an opening into a tributary. This area is worth exploring for beautiful vegetation and more wildlife. |
| 4 | Cross by the entrance of the Diversion Canal at 5.7 miles. |
| 5 | At 6.4 miles, there are more, deep coves to explore. Again, this area is known to have several rookeries. |
| 6 | Come to an area with homes. This is the entrance to another series of large coves. This area is another opportunity to see many waterfowl and other wildlife. |
| 7 | At 9.9 miles, come arrive at Angel's Landing Marina to end your paddle. |



Juvenile egrets in one of the many rookeries of Cross Coves.



Leaving the Fred L. Day Boat Ramp in early morning to paddle Cross Coves.



Cross Coves is a birder's and photographer's paradise!



Juvenile ospreys in late Spring on the Cross Coves kayak adventure.



Santee River – Wilson's Landing

10

Date Paddled: _____



There are a few Class 1 riffles on this section of the Santee River.

Summary

Wilson's Landing is located on the tailrace of the Lake Marion Dam. This is the longest paddle in the Berkeley Blueways program. This 25-mile section of the Santee River is best attempted by camping overnight and making two days of the adventure. During most water levels, there are many sandbars along the trip. There is truly little sign of human habitation and wildlife is abundant.

Difficulty

Very strenuous, due to distance and the potential of Class 1 riffles. Tenured paddlers only!

Distance

25 miles, landing to landing.

Time

9 - 12 hours of paddling.

Crowds	Very light. You are likely to only see motorized boats near the two landings. Very few paddlers ever make this journey.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 14-feet or longer, with room for overnight camping provisions. Paddle boards are not recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

IMPORTANT: Once you embark on this paddle, the next take out is 25 miles downriver!

Put In Wilson's Landing, 1541 Wilson Landing Road, Pineville, SC 29468.

GPS: 33.448418, -80.158270
33°26'54.3"N, 80°09'29.8"W

Take Out HWY 52/Santee River Bridge, 15 US 52, Salters, SC 29590

GPS: 33.497546, -79.959332
33°29'50.8"N, 79°57'33.7"W

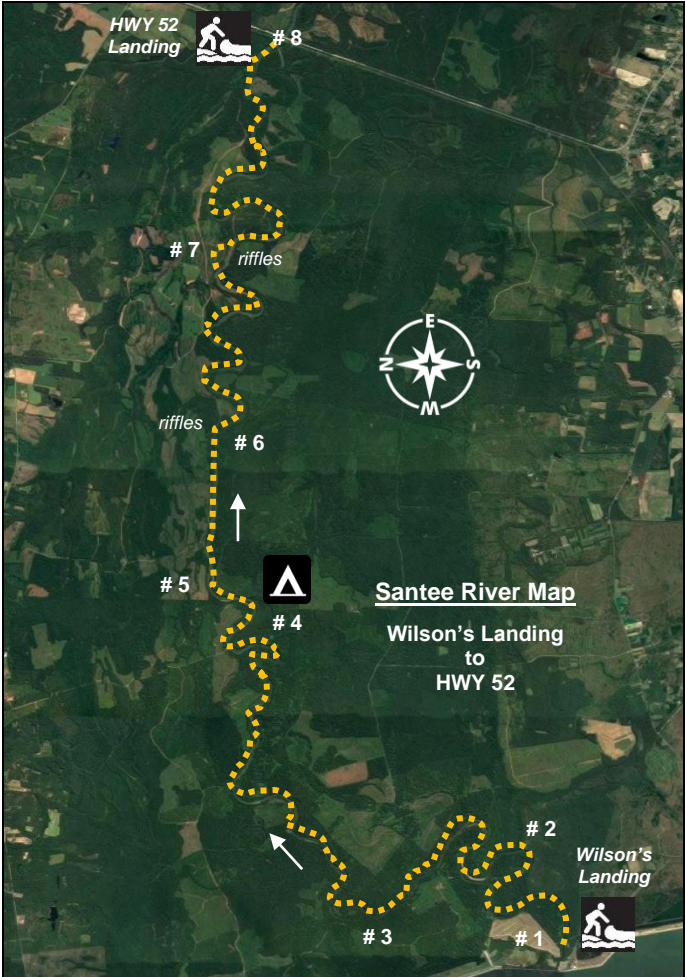
Fees/Permits None.

Current Flows downriver in an east direction.

Tidal Influence Extremely negligible tidal influence this far up the river.

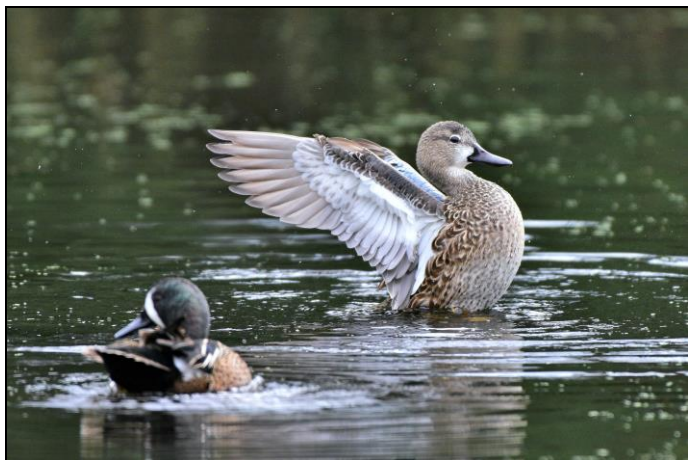
Precautions: Motorized boats go up and down the river near the two landings. While normally not a problem for paddlers, dam water releases could inundate campsites. Call 800-925-2537 for scheduled releases.

Map – Santee River Wilson's Landing



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 8 on page 69.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 68	
1	<p>From the boat ramp, turn right to begin paddling down river. For most of the river, you can expect a 1 - 3 MPH current, depending on width and water levels.</p> <p><u>Option:</u> Turn left to paddle upriver approximately 1,000 ft. to the Lake Marion Dam. This is a great place for photos. IMPORTANT -- Do not cross buoys and/or metal safety cables.</p>
2	<p>For first 4.5 miles, the river makes five sweeping curves. You are likely to see Great Blue Herons and White Egrets in this quiet section.</p>
3	<p>At 6.6 miles, there is a creek/tributary to your left/west in a small cove. If time and water levels permit, this is a pleasant 1.4-mile paddle back to the Lake Marion Dam.</p>
4	<p>At near the halfway point, between miles 12.2 - 13.0 there are reliable sandbars for camping.</p>
5	<p>Begin near 2-mile long, wide straightaway section of river.</p>
6	<p>Immediately after the straightway section, at 15.3 miles, come up on a large shoal area with Class 1 riffles. You should be able to hear the riffles coming up at least a quarter-mile before.</p> <p><u>VERY IMPORTANT:</u> It is recommended that you stop and examine the riffles. At just about every water level, it is recommended that you <u>paddle down the left, narrow passageway.</u></p>
7	<p>At 19.4 miles, come upon another larger section of riffles. You should not have to stop and examine this section. Paddle straight through.</p>
8	<p>End your paddle at the Highway 52 bridge/boat ramp.</p>



Blue Winged Teal near the dam at Wilson's Landing.



Beautiful early morning light and fog rising from the Santee River.

Santee River – HWY 52



Date Paddled: _____

11



It is an easy float and paddle down this long section of the Santee River.

Summary

This section of the Santee River terminates at Arrowhead Landing on the Santee Cooper Rediversion Canal. This adventure has many sandbars, as well as islands for breaks, lunch, or camping. There are two landmarks on this paddle: a railroad trestle at mile 4.9 and a set of high-tension power lines crossing the river at mile 8.0. This is a fun day trip for experienced paddlers.

Difficulty

Very strenuous, only due to distance.

Distance

13 miles, landing to landing.

Time

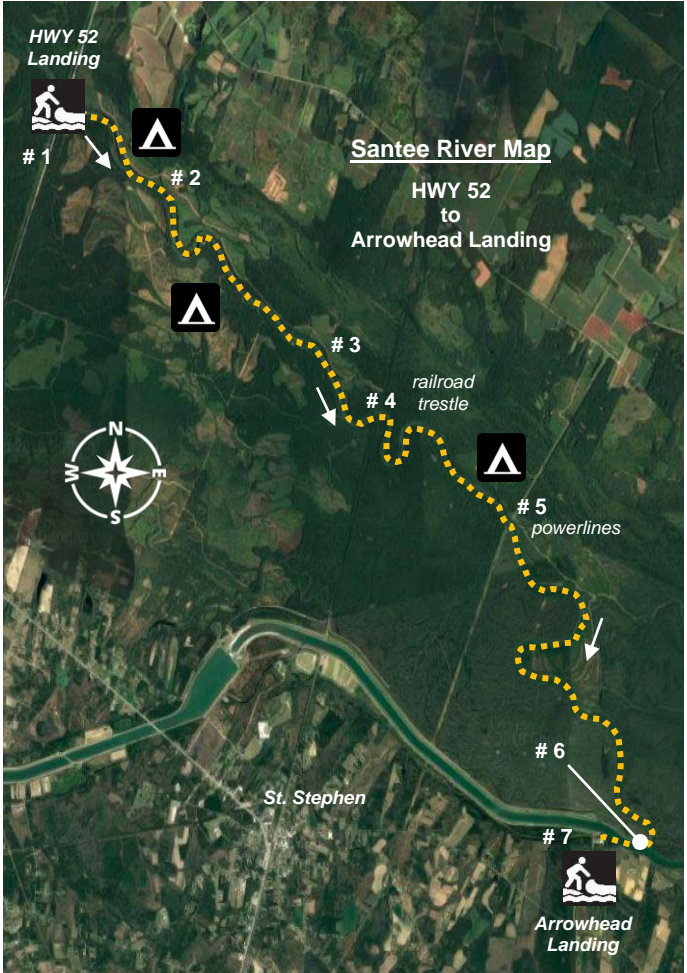
6 - 8 hours.

A great, extended day trip down the Santee River

Crowds	Light. You are likely to see motorized boats up and down the river, however, the river is wide enough where this should not bother the paddler. You are likely not to see many other paddlers on this trip.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12-feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

Put In	HWY 52/Santee River Bridge, 15 US 52, Salters, SC 29590. <u>GPS:</u> 33.497546, -79.959332 33°29'50.8"N, 79°57'33.7"W
Take Out	Arrowhead Landing, Arrowhead Road, St. Stephen, SC 29479 <u>GPS:</u> 33.404235, -79.863481 33°24'15.3"N, 79°51'48.5"W
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Flows downriver in a southeast direction.
Tidal Influence	Extremely negligible tidal influence this far up the river.
Precautions:	Motorized boats go up and down the river near the two landings. While normally not a problem for paddlers, dam water releases could inundate sandbars. Call 800-925-2537 for scheduled releases.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 7 on page 74.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 73	
1	From the boat ramp, turn left to begin paddling down river. For most of the river, you can expect a 1 - 3 MPH current, depending on width and water levels.
2	At 1.5 miles, come upon the first set of islands. At the end of the second island, at approximately 1.8 miles, there are a couple large sandbars appropriate for camping.
3	Arrive at another island at 3.6 miles. Only at low water levels, this island is likely to have a sandbar.
4	Pass under photogenic railroad trestle at 4.9 miles.
5	At 7.3 miles, pass under set of large high-tension power lines crossing the river. Over the next 1.7 miles, the flora changes. You will encounter several small islands with sandbars and tall grassy shoals.
6	Come to the Santee Cooper Rediversion Canal at 12.1 miles. IMPORTANT: Turn right at the Rediversion Canal. (Some mapping/GPS applications call the Rediversion Canal the "Santee River," "Mattassee Lake," or "Crawl Creek.")
7	Paddle nearly 0.5 mile to Arrowhead Landing on the left side of the canal. End your paddle here.



You will see lots of large waterfowl like this Cormorant on the Santee River.



The Santee River shoreline has lots of willows and hanging moss.



Santee River – Arrowhead Landing

12

Date Paddled: _____



Late spring overnight camping trip down the Santee River. It's an adventure!

Summary

This paddle begins at Arrowhead Landing in St. Stephen on the Rediversion Canal and ends at the Jamestown Landing adjacent to the HWY 41 bridge. Throughout the trip, there are numerous sandbars and small islands for lunch or rest spots. Wildlife consist of numerous large birds, deer, and wild boar.

Difficulty

Very strenuous due to distance.

Distance

16 miles, landing to landing.

Time

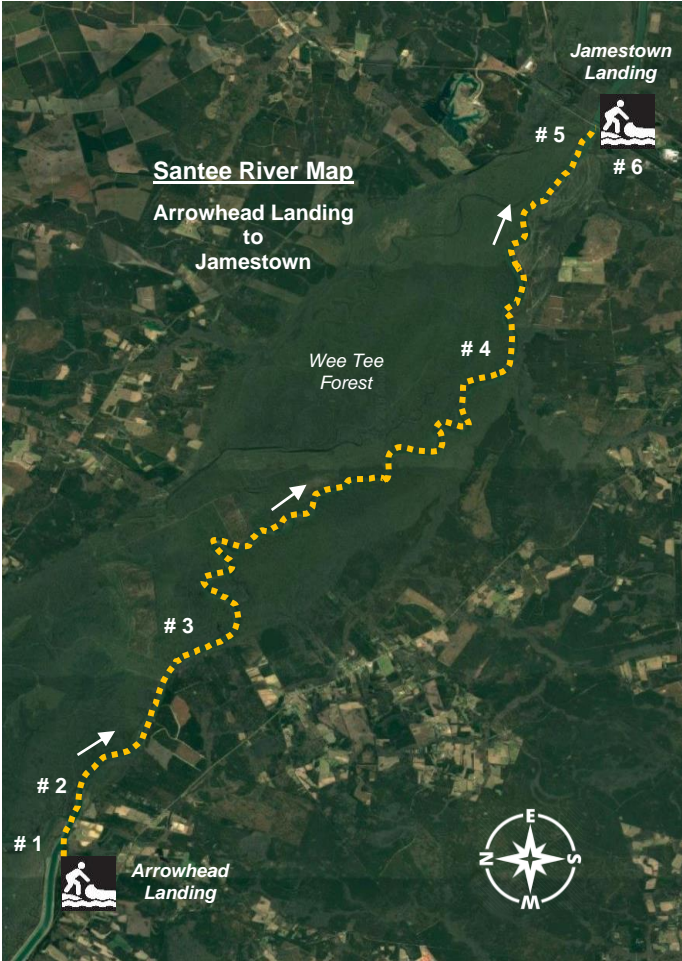
6 - 8 hours.

Crowds	Very light. You are likely to only see motorized boats near the two landings. Not many paddlers make this journey either.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 14-feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

Put In	Arrowhead Landing, Arrowhead Road, St. Stephen, SC 29479. <u>GPS:</u> 33.404235, -79.863481 33°24'15.3"N, 79°51'48.5"W
Take Out	Jamestown Landing, US-17/41 ALT, Jamestown, SC 29453. <u>GPS:</u> 33.303510, -79.679659 33°18'12.6"N, 79°40'46.8"W
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Flows downriver in a southeast direction.
Tidal Influence	Yes, can begin to feel tidal influence within 2-3 miles of Jamestown Landing. Tide is approximately 3 - 3.5 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.
Precautions:	Motorized boats go up and down the river near the two landings. While normally not a problem for paddlers, dam water releases could inundate sandbars. Call 800-925-2537 for scheduled releases.

Map – Santee River Arrowhead Landing



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on page 79.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 78	
1	From the boat ramp, turn right to begin paddling down river. For most of the river, you can expect a 1 - 3 MPH current, depending on width and water levels.
2	Within 1 mile, the river leaves evidence of human habitation and becomes quite primitive. The river is now about 250-ft. wide and remains about this width for the next 13 miles. There is an island at 1.5 miles.
3	At 4.3 miles, the river begins “zig-zagging” back and forth (following the way of a “snake”) for the next 7 miles. It offers little in the way of variety, but is a quiet, beautiful paddle with numerous small islands and sandbars. Keep your eyes open for herons and ibis.
4	A little past 11 miles, the river begins to widen, has sweeping bends, and then widens even more.
5	At 15.3 miles, within sight of the Jamestown Landing bridge, is a beautiful Santee River tributary creek on the left. It traverses back into a bottomland cypress habitat that’s part of the Wee Tee Forest. It is worth exploring if you’re not too tired from your 16-mile paddle. (Some mapping/GPS applications call this creek “Wittee Branch.”)
6	At 16.1 miles, complete your paddle at the Jamestown Landing / US 17/41 bridge on the right side of the river.

Photos -- Santee River Arrowhead Landing



Ibis along the Santee River.



Jamestown Landing within sight, on the Santee River.

Santee River – Jamestown



Date Paddled: _____

13



Kayak fishing is always great on the Santee River!

Summary

This is a pretty section of the Santee River. It ranges from 50 yards in width to a little over 100 yards. It is bordered by uninhabited high bluffs and cypress swamps. Much of it is bordered on the right side by the Francis Marion National Forest, and you will have the opportunity to visit the Battery Warren, a Civil War-era fort built to protect a railroad bridge.

Difficulty

Moderate, due to distance.

Distance

11 miles, landing to landing.

Time

4 - 5 hours.

Crowds	Heavy. The Jamestown Landing and this section of the river is used heavily by motorized boats; however, the river is wide enough where you should not be affected. You are likely not to see many other paddlers on this trip.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12-feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

Put In	Jamestown Landing, US-17/41 ALT, Jamestown, SC 29453.
---------------	---

GPS: 33.303510, -79.679659
33°18'12.6"N, 79°40'46.8"W

Take Out	McConnell's Landing (note: some mapping/GPS applications call this "Pleasant Hill Landing), Forest Service Road 204-F, Jamestown, SC 29453.
-----------------	---

GPS: 33.244908, -79.520938
33°14'41.7"N, 79°31'15.4"W

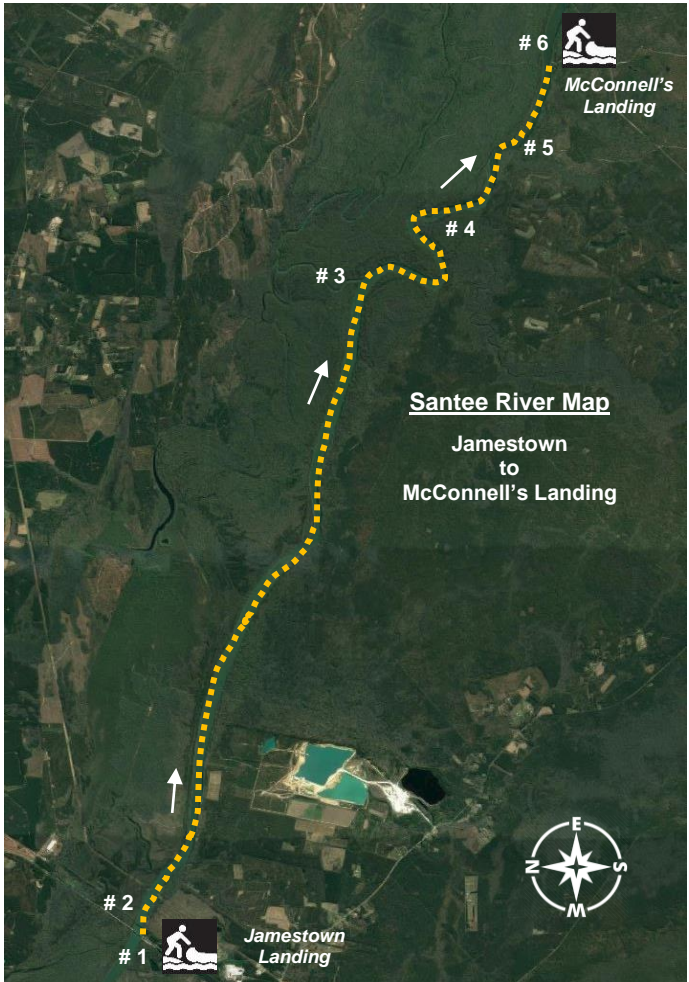
Fees/Permits	None.
---------------------	-------

Current	Flows downriver in a southeast direction.
----------------	---

Tidal Influence	Yes, tide is approximately 3 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.
------------------------	---

Precautions:	Motorized boats near Jamestown. While normally not a problem for paddlers, dam water releases could inundate sandbars. Call 800-925-2537 for scheduled releases.
---------------------	--

It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season in the Francis Marion National Forest.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on page 84.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 83	
1	From the boat ramp, turn right to begin paddling down river. For most of the river, you can expect a 1 - 3 MPH current, depending on width and water levels.
2	Cross under railroad trestle just 600-ft. into your paddle. For the next 7 miles, the river consists of miles-long sweeping turns that almost appear straight on the map.
3	At 7.3 miles, the river begins a large "S-curve" for the next 2 miles.
4	At 9.6 miles there is a 100-ft. wide creek/tributary opening on the right. This is the eastern terminus of Echaw Creek (Berkeley Blueway # 18, page 105 in this guidebook).
5	At 10.6 miles, to your right on the bank is the Battery Warren Civil War Historical Site. Look for the interpretative signs and wooden overlook (pictured on page 79). This is worth a stop. It is free and part of the Francis Marion National Forest.
6	At 11.4 miles, complete your paddle at McConnell's Landing on the right side of the river. (Some mapping/GPS applications call this landing "Pleasant Hill Landing.")



The Battery Warren site sits on a high bluff in this section of the Santee River.



Juvenile Yellow-Crown Night Heron on the Santee River.



Goose Creek Reservoir

14

Date Paddled: _____



Kayak fishing is fantastic at Goose Creek Reservoir.

Summary

One of the most accessible paddles in the Berkeley Blueways program, Goose Creek Reservoir is in the middle of urban sprawl in the cities of Hanahan and Goose Creek. Extremely popular with boaters/anglers, you will not be alone on this 600-acre lake.

Difficulty

Easy to Moderate.

Distance

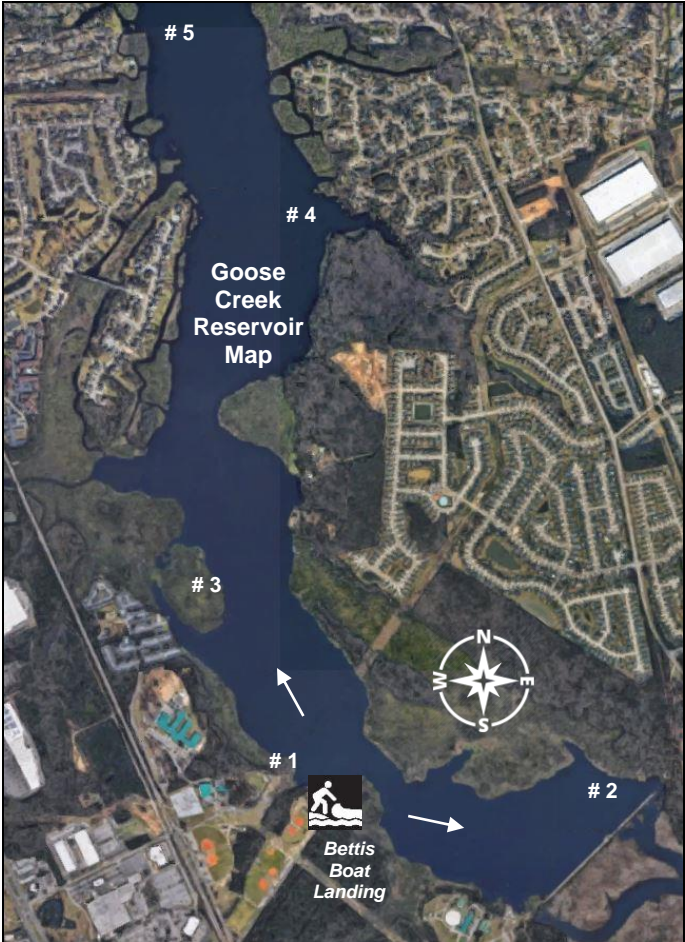
2 - 4 miles, varies. Best suited as exploration.

Time

1 - 4 hours; take as little or as much time as you would like.

Crowds	Heavy at times. Even on weekdays, there are always boaters and friendly folks fishing from the shore and dock.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10-feet or longer, canoes. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	At the end of Bettis Boat Landing Road, Hanahan, SC. GPS: 32.932889, -80.022594 32°55'58.4"N, 80°01'21.3"W <u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible, generally south direction towards the dam.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	Winds above 10 MPH can be tough for a paddler on Goose Creek Reservoir. There is a lot of open water for wind to intensify and cause waves/whitecaps.

Map – Goose Creek Reservoir



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 89.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 88

1	Begin at the boat ramp at the end of Bettis Boat Landing Road. This paddle is best suited as exploration. The reservoir is more than 4 miles in length. For this guide, we'll highlight some of the interesting areas of the reservoir.
2	By turning right, heading in a southeast direction, the reservoir's dam is only a 0.7-mile paddle away. This is a great place to fish for bluegills and speckled perch (crappie). You will almost always find boaters in this area. About half-way back on the right/east side of the reservoir is a popular spot for waterfowl such as egrets, anhingas and larger gull birds.
3	By turning left, heading in a north direction, you will reach a large peninsula on your left. It will look like an island. This is a great place to see nesting anhingas and herons.
4	Further north up the reservoir at approximately 1.5 miles, is one of the most popular spots for boaters/anglers - for a good reason. The cove off to the right offers some of the best fishing around!
5	Continue further up the reservoir as far as you would like. The topography does not change much other than more housing development after mile 2. You will encounter several small islands, peninsulas and coves, and the further north you paddle up Goose Creek Reservoir, the larger birds you are likely to see. Return the same way you came.

Photos -- Goose Creek Reservoir



Family paddlers crossing open water at Goose Creek Reservoir.



Sunning Anhinga at Goose Creek Reservoir. You'll see lots of these!

Lower Wadboo Creek



Date Paddled: _____

15



It's easy paddling on the Lower Wadboo Creek.

Summary

On the map, this looks like a wide, winding creek that leads to the Tailrace Canal, but it is so much more than that! The Lower Wadboo Creek includes beautiful flora, inlets and tributaries that include swamp-like habitats and a chance to see birds of prey. Do not underestimate the tidal influence, it can test the strongest paddlers!

Difficulty

Moderate. The biggest consideration is the tidal influence from the Tailrace Canal (Cooper River).

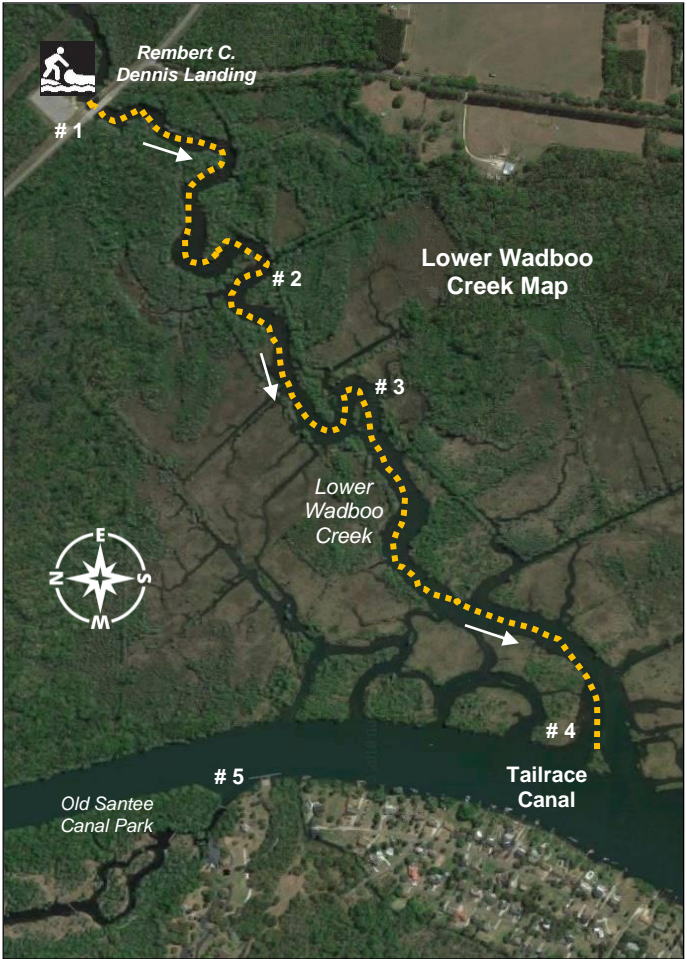
Distance

3 - 4 miles, varies. Best suited as exploration of inlets and Tailrace Canal.

Time

2 - 3 hours.

Crowds	Moderate. There are almost always boaters zipping up and down the wide creek.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12-feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	<p>Rember C. Dennis Landing, 1400 SC HWY 402, Moncks Corner, SC 29461.</p> <p>GPS: 33.195955, -79.953198 33°11'45.4"N, 79°57'11.5"W</p> <p><u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.</p>
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Flows west in the direction of the Tailrace Canal, however the tidal influence is a larger factor.
Tidal Influence	Yes, can be strong at times if paddling against the tide. Approximately 2 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.
Precautions:	Motorized boats go up and down the Lower Wadboo all day long. Most boaters will slow down and yield to paddlers but keep a watchful eye.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 94.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 93	
1	From the Rembert C. Dennis Landing boat ramp, turn right, paddling under the HWY 402 bridge. Immediately after the bridge, the flora changes with beautiful water lilies on the right.
2	This paddle is full of small inlets from the creek, to flooded 19 th century rice fields. At 0.5 mile, pass a small island (might look more like a peninsula depending on water level) in an S-curve. Just beyond the island on the left is a small access stream that leads back to a beautiful cypress swamp.
3	At 1.0 mile, there is another small stream to the left that goes back into a marsh and wooded area. This is a fantastic spot to fish for large bluegills and redbreast.
4	Reach the Tailrace Canal at 1.5 miles. In addition to these route directions, there are literally dozens of small inlets, streams, and tributaries to see along the Wadboo Creek. Suggestion: take your time returning to the boat ramp and explore these areas. Return the same way you came.
5	<u>Option:</u> For strong paddlers only. There can be a strong current and high-speed boats. At the Tailrace Canal, turn right/north and paddle 0.4 mile to the Old Santee Canal Park that is on the west side of the river. There is a dock that you can rest and get out of your boat. If you decide to explore the park, please visit the Interpretative Center up the hill and pay for admission.



*Paddler and his "best friend" on the Lower Wadboo Creek. **Note:** Wearing a PFD (life jacket) is always recommended. Always make sure your dog does not disturb or attract the attention of wildlife!*



Stunning Red Shouldered Hawk on Lower Wadboo Creek in winter.



Upper Wadboo Creek

16

Date Paddled: _____



Fall paddle on Upper Wadboo Creek near the Rembert C. Dennis Landing.

Summary

One of the most beautiful paddles in the state, the historic Upper Wadboo Creek is a lovely cypress swamp that looks the same as it did two centuries ago when Francis Marion roamed these parts. You will see remnants of 19th century rice plantation dikes and canals, limestone bluffs and the fauna include white tailed deer, turkey, osprey, and ibis.

Difficulty

Moderate to Strenuous. Can be challenging during periods of low water when it may be necessary to portage around obstructions.

Distance

5 miles, one way.

Time

2 - 3 hours.

Crowds

Very light, not likely to see anyone.

Boat Type Shorter boats of 10-feet or under can have a big advantage in the Upper Wadboo Creek. Paddle boards are not recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

Put In Patts Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. Park at end of dirt road and there is an easily to find path leading to Palmetto Trail on the southeast side of the parking area. The launching ramp/bridge is a 300-yard portage down the trail.

GPS for Parking Area:

33.255451, -79.916218
33°15'19.6"N, 79°54'58.4"W

GPS for Actual Ramp/Bridge:

33.253937, -79.913003
33°15'14.2"N, 79°54'46.8"W

Take Out Rembert C. Dennis Landing, 1400 SC HWY 402, Moncks Corner, SC 29461.

GPS: 33.195955, -79.953198
33°11'45.4"N, 79°57'11.5"W

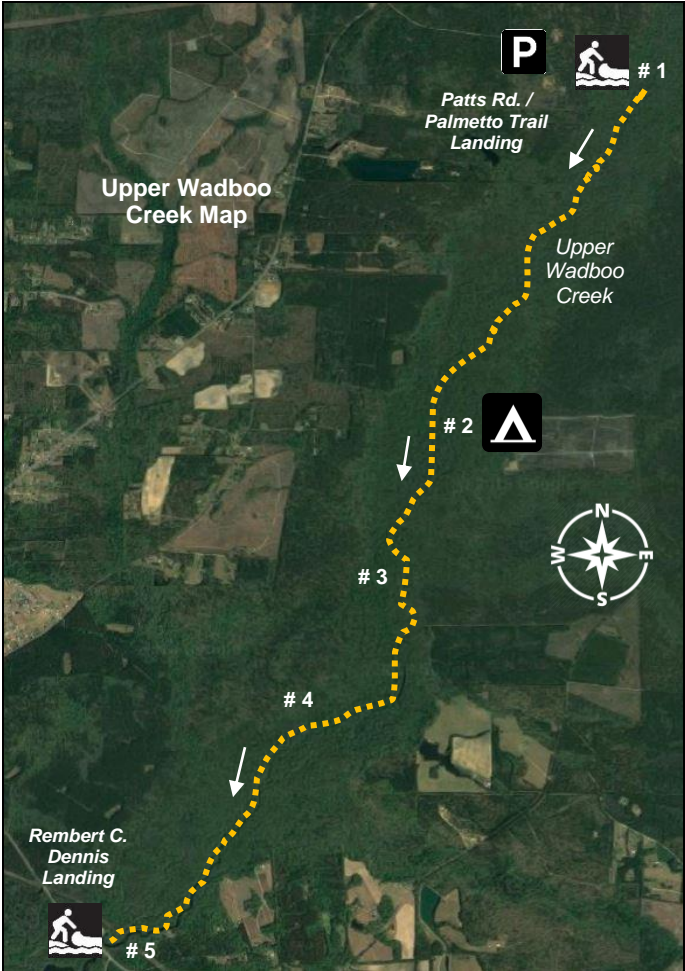
Fees/Permits None.

Current Negligible, runs southwest

Tidal Influence Yes, but not as strong as the Lower Wadboo Creek. Approximately 2.75 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.

Precautions: Obstructions or water levels that require portaging are the biggest concern. After big storms, downed trees and low hanging branches will have to be negotiated. It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season.

Map – Upper Wadboo Creek



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 99.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 98

1	<p><u>Note:</u> this can be paddled from either boat ramp. For the purposes of this guide, the route directions are from the Upper Wadboo Creek off the Palmetto Trail.</p> <p>From the wooden ramp, turn right, heading south on Wadboo Creek. Over the next mile is some of the densest of the creek. Look for small yellow diamond-shaped trail markers bearing the likeness of a canoe.</p>
2	<p>At approximately 2.3 miles, there is a small camping area on the left. Depending on water levels or recent rains, there is enough room for several tents here. This is a great spot for a break or lunch.</p>
3	<p>Several limestone bluffs at 2.9 miles.</p>
4	<p>By 4.2 miles, the creek begins to widen to 20 - 30 feet and continues to widen to 50 - 70 feet over the next half mile. There is a possibility that you could begin to see small motorized boats from here to the take-out point.</p>
5	<p>At 5.2 miles, arrive at the Rembert C. Dennis Landing on your right.</p>



The residents of Wadboo Creek are very photogenic!



The narrow waters of the Upper Wadboo Creek.

Wambaw Creek



Date Paddled: _____

17



It's always all smiles on quiet, beautiful Wambaw Creek.

Summary

Wambaw Creek is a pretty black water tidal creek located in the Francis Marion National Forest. It meanders the Wambaw Creek Wilderness. There are two landings that provide access to the creek. You can stage two vehicles or paddle up in one direction and return to your put-in landing. There are many large, beautiful cypress trees along the banks. Camping is permitted at the Elmwood Recreation Area.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

4.6 miles one-way.

Time

2 - 4 hours.

An easy-going, shaded paddle through a quiet forest

Crowds	Light
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10-feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.

You can stage 2 vehicles or do an “up & back” paddle

Put In Wambaw Creek-Still Landing, FR 211-B, Mill Branch Road, McClellanville, SC 29458.

GPS: 33.177449, -79.496577
33°10'38.8"N, 79°29'47.7"W

Take Out Elmwood Recreation Area, Echaw Road, Jamestown, SC 29453.

GPS: 33.207819, -79.468563
33°12'28.2"N, 79°28'06.8"W

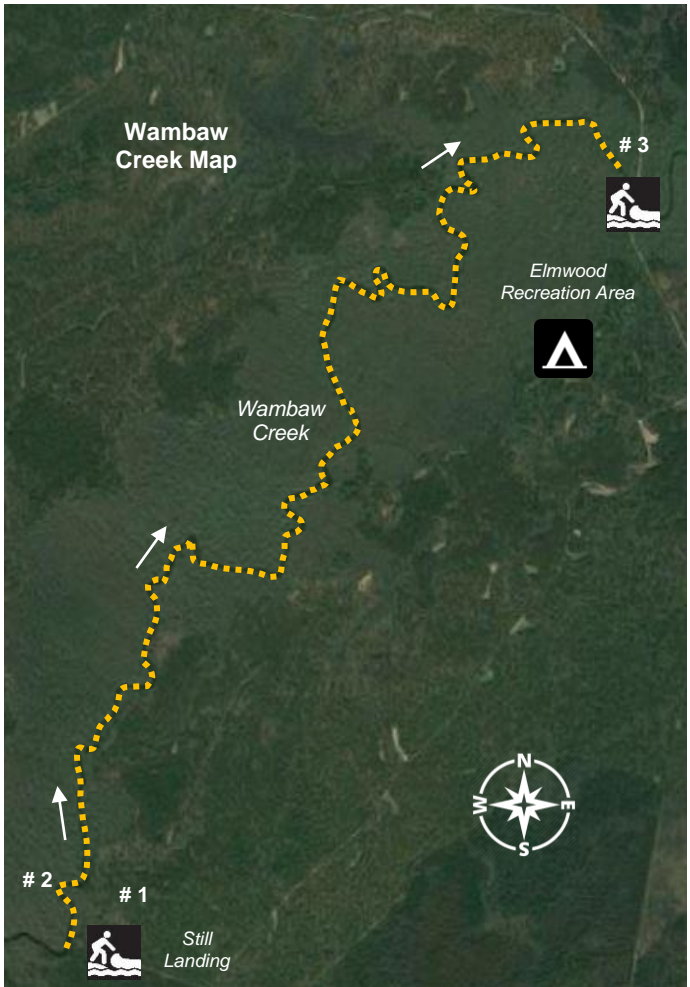
Fees/Permits None.

Current Flows in northeast direction.

Tidal Influence Yes, tide is approximately 2 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.

Precautions: Log jams and portages after heavy storms. Wasp nests could be in low lying branches.

It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season in the Francis Marion National Forest.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 3 on page 104.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 103	
1	<p><u>Note</u>: this can be paddled from either landing, and it is short enough that you can paddle both directions in a morning or afternoon. For the purposes of this guide, the route directions are from Still Landing.</p> <p>From the boat ramp, turn right, heading downstream in a northeast direction.</p>
2	<p>Just 500-ft. into your paddle, the creek bears left in a “C-curve.” During times of highwater, this area could become a small oxbow lake. Keep this in mind. Over the next 3 miles, there are similar shaped turns in the creek that could do the same. Even if this occurs, the creek is easy to follow.</p> <p>Throughout your paddle, the primary growth on the higher ground is loblolly pine and the creek itself is lined with beautiful, and sometimes strange, cypress trees.</p>
3	<p>At 4.6 miles, arrive at the Elmwood Recreation Area Landing.</p>



*Want a peaceful paddle? There's no stress on Wambaw Creek!
Note: Wearing a PFD (life jacket) is always recommended.*



Great Egret snagging some lunch on Wambaw Creek.



Huger / Quinby Creek

18

Date Paddled: _____



Huger / Quinby Creek is a great spot for kayak fishing.

Summary

This easy paddle meanders through marshland and rice fields. This is a tributary of the East Branch Cooper River. You are guaranteed to see lots of large waterfowl and the creeks are lined with flowering lily pads in the warmer months. This area also offers some of the best fishing around; excellent pan fish and bass are easy to find in these creeks.

Difficulty

Easy.

Distance

3.9 miles one-way.

Time

2 - 4 hours.

Crowds Light to moderate. These creeks are popular with smaller motorized boats because of the great fishing.

Boat Type Kayaks or canoes 10-feet or longer.

You can stage 2 vehicles or do an “up & back” paddle

Put In Ralph Hamer Sr. Landing, 3800 Cainhoj Road, Huger, SC 29450.

GPS: 33.094700, -79.807426
33°05'40.9"N, 79°48'26.7"W

Take Out Huger Recreation Area Landing, HWY 402, Cordesville, SC 29434.

GPS: 33.131327, -79.811059
33°07'52.8"N, 79°48'39.8"W

Fees/Permits None.

Current Flows in southwest direction.

Tidal Influence Yes, tide is approximately 2 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.

Precautions: The creek borders tall grass and rice fields for the first 2.5 miles, offering little shade; take extra water and wear a wide brim sun hat in warmer months.

It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season in the Francis Marion National Forest.

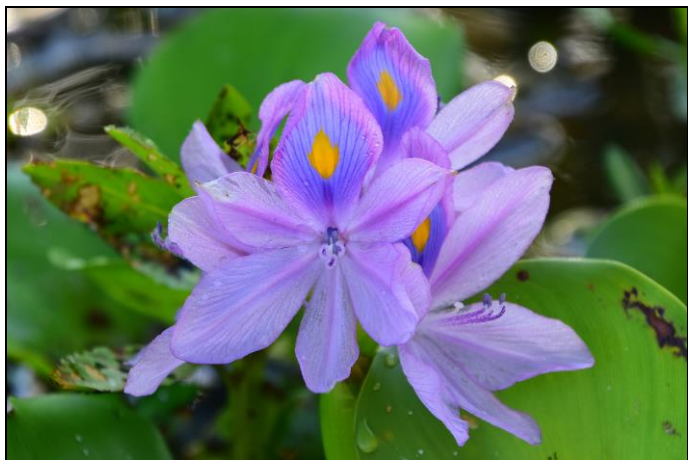
Map – Huger / Quinby Creek



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 4 on page 109.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 108

1	<p><u>Note</u>: This can be paddled from either landing, and it is short enough that you can paddle both directions in a morning or afternoon. For the purposes of this guide, the route directions are from the Ralph Hamer Sr. Landing on Quinby Creek.</p> <p>From the boat ramp, turn right, heading in a northwest direction. Quinby Creek meanders through marshland and old rice fields.</p>
2	<p>Reach the East Branch Cooper River at 1.3 miles. The creek widens significantly here, and you will see remnants of old rice field dikes on the left bank as you approach the river.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT</u>: Turn right to head into Huger Creek. You will soon notice a change to higher ground with more forestation.</p>
3	<p>By approximately the 3.0 mile point, the creek is more heavily forested and offers a little more reprieve from the sun.</p>
4	<p>At 3.9 miles, cross under a railroad bridge. 400-ft. ahead on the left is the Huger Recreation Area Landing.</p>



Beautiful flowers of lower Huger Creek.



Paddlers cleaning up Huger Creek with Keep Berkeley Beautiful.

Echaw Creek



Date Paddled: _____

19



You'll paddle past old growth cypress trees wider than your boat!

Summary

Echaw Creek is a small black water creek with tidal influence. The creek above the landing narrows quite a bit making paddling difficult about half-a-mile south of the landing. The creek below the landing widens, is deeper and is easy paddling to the Santee River.

Difficulty

Easy to Moderate. There is a slight current and log jams can make navigating the upper part of the creek tough. Be prepared for adventure, including pulling/dragging your boat over obstacles.

Distance

2 - 2.5 miles, best suited as exploration.

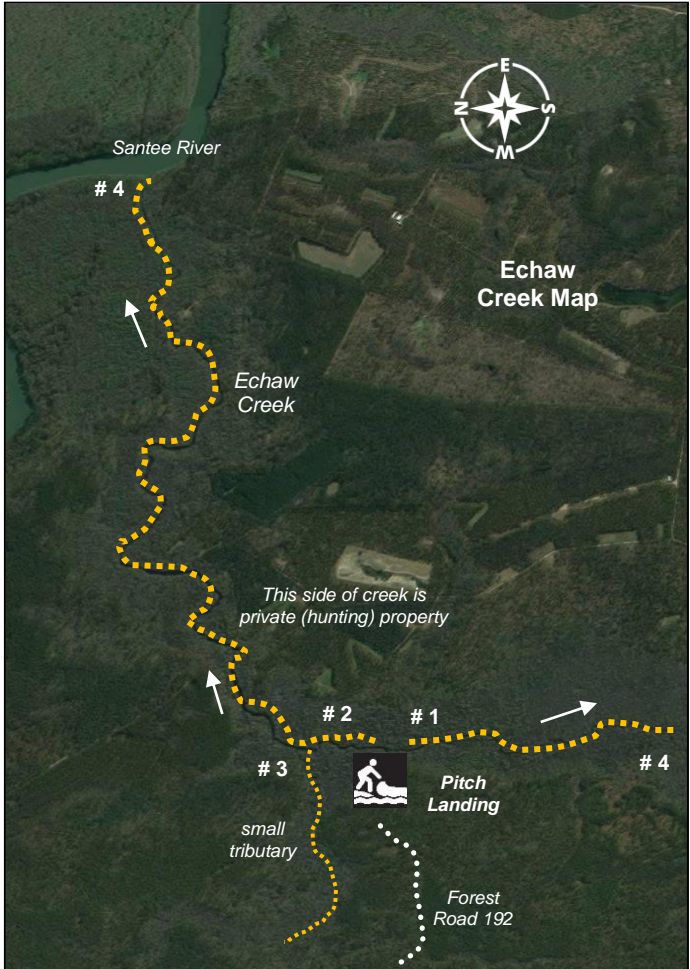
Time

2 - 3 hours.

Crowds

Very light, not likely to see anyone else.

- Boat Type** Even though just about any type of kayak or canoe will work just fine, shorter boats in the 10-ft. range will work best through some of the narrow twists, turns and log jams. Paddle boards are not recommended.
- Put In / Take Out** Pitch Landing, Forest Road 192 (off FR 151), Jamestown, SC 29453. There is signage for "Pitch Landing."
- GPS: 33.246968, -79.577922
33°14'49.1"N, 79°34'40.5"W
- Directions: If you search "Pitch Landing Echaw Creek SC," all GPS mapping applications recognize this location.
- Fees/Permits** None.
- Current** The creek's current flows east towards the Santee River.
- Tidal Influence** Yes, there is a negligible tidal influence from the Santee River. Approximately 2.75 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.
- Precautions:** It is rare to see motorized boats above the landing. The biggest precaution is log jams and cypress knees right beneath the water surface.
- It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season in the Francis Marion National Forest.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 4 on page 114. Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 113

1	<p><u>Note:</u> This wonderful creek is best suited as an exploration paddle. There is lots to see. There are a couple options for paddling.</p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> From the boat ramp, turn right heading upstream. The paddle is characterized by thick bottomland cypress habitat with lots of twists and turns. We recommend paddling as far up the creek as you can go. This is usually about 1.0 - 1.8 miles, depending on log jams, portaging, and water levels. Take your time, look around and explore this special place.</p>
2	<p><u>Option 2:</u> From the boat ramp, turn left heading downstream. The creek will quickly double in size/width and is much deeper going this direction. The creek continues approximately 2.8 miles until you reach the Santee River.</p>
3	<p>At 0.25 mile downstream, there is an unnamed tributary creek to your left (see map). This is a beautiful 10-minute paddle into a rarely explored creek that is similar in flora to the upper part of Echaw.</p>
4	<p><u>Longer Paddling Option:</u> Paddle the entire 2.8 miles down Echaw Creek to the Santee River. Bear right on the river and continue another 1.8 miles to McConnell's Landing (reference page 76 for information on this landing). This requires staging two vehicles or arranging pickup.</p>



Beautiful and strange surprises are around every corner of Echaw Creek!



The quiet, dark waters of Echaw Creek.



Chicken Creek

20

Date Paddled: _____



Exploring the deep forest of Chicken Creek.

Summary

Get ready for variety with this paddle! You will spend time on the Santee River, meander two wilderness bottomland creeks that rarely see visitors, paddle through the Francis Marion National Forest, and experience the same forests that Revolutionary soldiers traversed over two centuries ago. Besides all this, you are likely to see herons, egrets, bald eagles and so much more!

Difficulty

Moderate, only due to distance.

Distance

9.1 miles, one-way.

Time

4 - 5 hours.

Crowds	Light. You could see motorized boat traffic on the Santee River sections, but the creeks rarely see boats or paddlers.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 12-feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

Put In	McConnell's Landing (note: some mapping/GPS applications call this "Pleasant Hill Landing"), Forest Service Road 204-F, Jamestown, SC 29453.
---------------	--

GPS: 33.244908, -79.520938
33°14'41.7"N, 79°31'15.4"W

Take Out	Elmwood Recreation Area, Echaw Road, Jamestown, SC 29453.
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GPS: 33.207819, -79.468563
33°12'28.2"N, 79°28'06.8"W

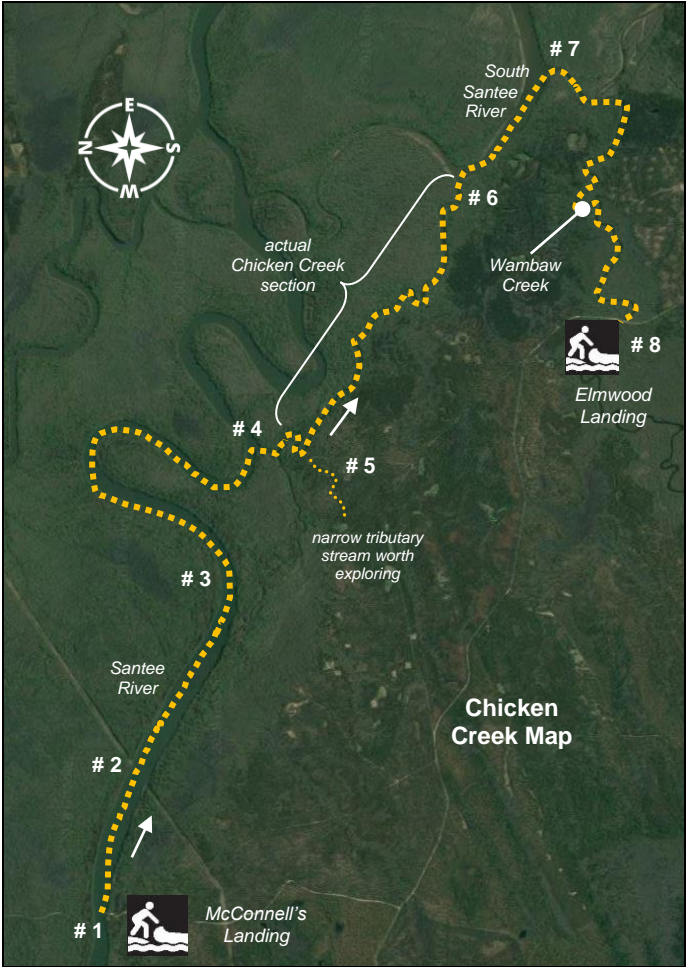
Fees/Permits	None.
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Current	Flows downriver in a southeast direction.
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Tidal Influence	Yes, tide is approximately 2 - 2.5 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.
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Precautions:	It is advisable to wear bright orange during hunting season in the Francis Marion National Forest.
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Map – Chicken Creek

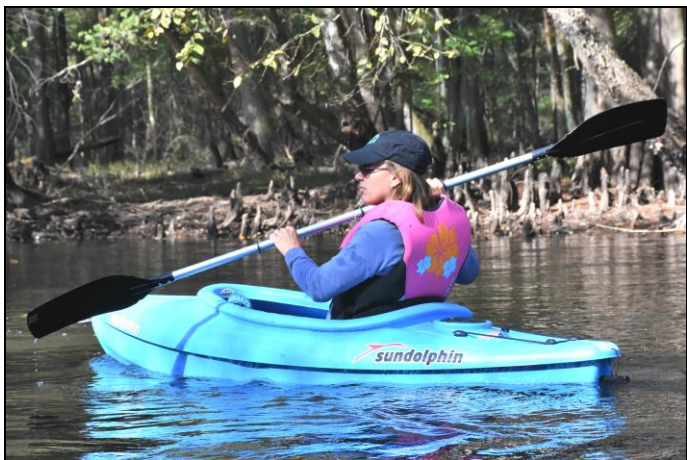


This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 8 on page 119.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 118	
1	From the McConnell's Landing boat ramp, turn right to begin paddling down river. For most of the river, you can expect a 1 - 3 MPH current, depending on width and water levels.
2	Pass under power lines at 0.7 mile.
3	At 1.8 miles, begin long sweeping "U"-shaped curve that continues for next 2 miles.
4	When coming out of "U"-shaped curve, the river bears left. Soon after this turn at 4.0 miles, there is a creek opening on the right. TURN RIGHT. This is Chicken Creek.
5	500-ft. after entering Chicken Creek, there is a narrow stream to the right. This is an interesting 0.5-mile paddle back into a part of the bottomland forest that few people have ever been. It is worth exploring! Back on the main Chicken Creek passage, continue paddling the creek for another 2.1 miles.
6	At 6.2 miles, Chicken Creek terminates in the South Santee River. Turn right, paddling down river.
7	Turn right into Wambaw Creek at 7.0 miles. This will be your first creek/opening in the river. <u>IMPORTANT:</u> After a little more than 1,000-ft., there is a creek leading to the left; this is Hampton Creek. Do not take this. CONTINUE STRAIGHT on Wambaw Creek.
8	After another 1.9 miles, end your paddle at the Elmwood Recreation Area Landing on the right.



Egret building a home at the confluence of Chicken Creek and the South Santee River.



The banks of Chicken Creek are lined with cypress knees in many areas.

Durham Creek / Back River



Date Paddled: _____

21



You'll paddle narrow waters with mixed vegetation on the upper Back River.

Summary

The Back River is accessed from Durham Creek near Cypress Gardens. You will paddle beside tall grasses, and forestation that is a mix of pine, cypress, sweet gum, hardwoods, red cedar and river birch. In warmer months, the banks are lined with flowering water lilies. The waterway is home to wood ducks, herons, anhingas, and osprey. On the upper creek, you may even spot a white tailed deer.

Difficulty

Moderate, only due to distance.

Distance

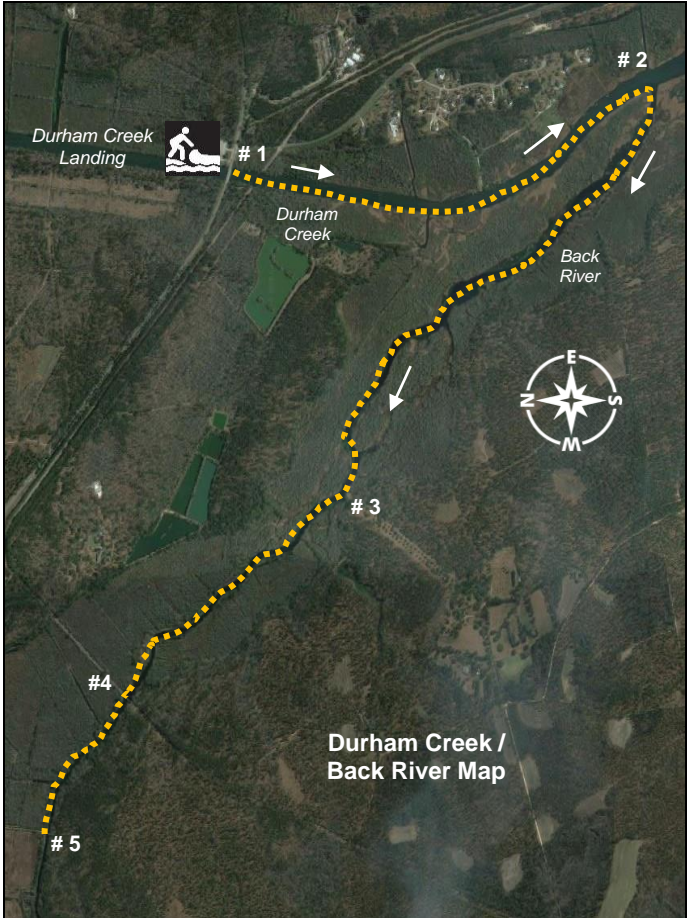
7.8 miles, round-trip.

Time

3 - 4 hours.

Paddle a seldom visited small tidal creek and river

Crowds	Light. You are almost guaranteed to see boaters/anglers in Durham Creek, but the Back River is not frequented.
Boat Type	Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
Put In / Take Out	Durham Creek Landing (note: some mapping/GPS applications call this "Cypress Gardens Boat Ramp"), 3000 Cypress Gardens Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. <u>GPS</u> : 33.057584, -79.957782 33°03'27.3"N, 79°57'28.0"W
Fees/Permits	None.
Current	Negligible, generally south direction.
Tidal Influence	Yes, tide is approximately 1.5 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.
Precautions:	Motorized boats go up and down Durham Creek. Most boaters will slow down and yield to paddlers but keep a watchful eye.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 124.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 123	
1	From the Durham Creek Landing boat ramp, turn left to begin paddling down the creek. In 200-ft., pass under bridge. In 500 more feet, pass under a railroad trestle.
2	At 1.3 miles, turn right into wide Back River. The river will consist of tall grasses and marshland.
3	1.4 miles up the river (at 2.7 miles total), you will come to a well-manicured clearing on your left with a floating dock. This is Medway Plantation. It consisted of 12,000 acres that has history back to the 1680s. Fort Sumter was built using bricks produced at this plantation. <u>Note:</u> Medway Plantation is private property. No trespassing.
4	Pass under a railroad trestle at 3.6 miles.
5	At 3.9 miles, come to a wooden bridge. <u>Note:</u> At the time of updating this guidebook in September 2020, recent storms have blown down part of this bridge and there is massive debris blocking further passage. Since the creek becomes narrow and very shallow past this point, there are no plans to clear this blockage. Return the same way you came.



Beautiful Spider Lilies in the tall grasses of the Back River in summer.



Louisiana (also known as "Little Blue") Heron on the Back River.



Bushy Park / Foster Creek

22

Date Paddled: _____



Foster Creek is known by the locals as one of the best fishing spots around!
Note: Wearing a PFD (life jacket) is always recommended.

Summary

Foster Creek is a pretty tidal creek at the southern end of the Back River section of the Cooper River. It meanders through the Naval Weapons Station in Goose Creek. The banks are restricted access and you are not allowed to go ashore. This is a great trip for taking photos of numerous wading birds. Foster Creek is also a popular fishing area; it produces some nice largemouth bass and bluegills.

Difficulty

Moderate, only due to distance.

Distance

10 -12 miles, round-trip.

Time

5 - 6 hours.

Almost guaranteed a quiet, solitary paddle on this creek

Crowds Light. You are almost guaranteed a quiet, solitary paddle back in Foster Creek.

Boat Type Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer.

Put In / Take Out Bushy Park Boat Landing, Bushy Park Road, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

GPS: 32.967805, -79.937209
32°58'04.1"N, 79°56'14.0"W

There are boats ramps on both sides of the road. You will launch from the northwest side.

Fees/Permits None.

Current Negligible, generally south direction.

Tidal Influence Yes, tide is approximately 1.5 hours behind Charleston Harbor tide table.

Precautions: Motorized boats go up and down the Back River. Most boaters will slow down and yield to paddlers but keep a watchful eye.

IMPORTANT: Foster Creek goes through the Naval Weapons Station. You can paddle in the creek; however, the banks are **RESTRICTED ACCESS** by the military!



You **CANNOT NOT GO ASHORE**. There are many signs pointing this out.

Map – Bushy Park / Foster Creek



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 3 on page 129.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 128

1 From the northwest side of the Bushy Park boat ramp, paddle north up the Back River. The river is nearly 750 ft. wide here. Paddle over close to the left shoreline. The river will consist of tall grasses and marshland.

2 At 0.6 mile, come to a 250-ft. wide opening on the left. This is Foster Creek. Bear left into the creek.

The banks continue to be tall grasses with blooming flowers in the warmer months, and you are likely to see many wading birds.

3 Paddle as far up Foster Creek as you would like. The creek goes back another 6+ miles. The further you get up Foster Creek, there is more variety of vegetation and trees on the banks.

IMPORTANT: Keep in mind the tidal influence and time to return to the boat ramp.

Return the same way you came.



Ducks on upper Foster Creek.



Paddling the narrow waters of upper Foster Creek.

Old Santee Canal Park



Date Paddled: _____

23



No boat? No problem! You can rent a canoe and paddle the quiet, beautiful waters of Biggin Creek.

Summary

This paddle trail is located entirely within the boundaries of the Old Santee Canal Park on Biggin Creek. It is an excellent opportunity for beginner paddlers to enjoy a few hours of kayaking or canoeing. Rental canoes are available at the park for a modest fee. You will see cypress trees, swamp-like habitats, flowering aquatic plants, wading birds and maybe even a deer on the banks.

Difficulty

Easy, family friendly, and highly recommended for all skill levels!

Distance

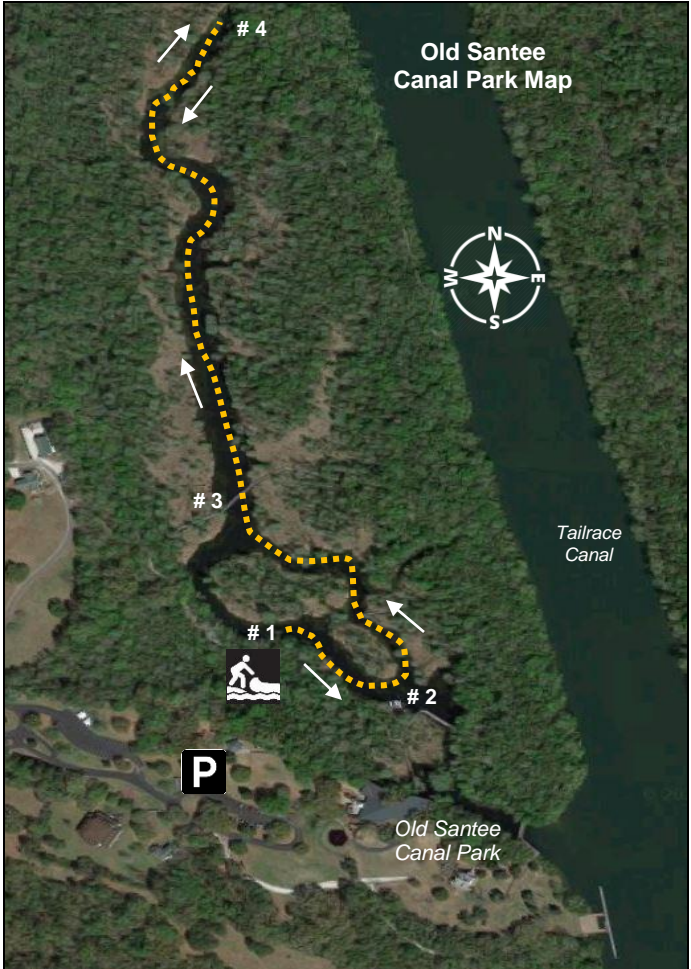
3 miles, roundtrip, loop trail.

Time

2 - 2.5 hours; however, take your time, take lots of family photos, and enjoy this gem in the middle of Moncks Corner.

An enjoyable paddling adventure for the entire family!

Crowds	Light to moderate. On the weekends, you will probably see a few other groups with rental canoes.
Boat Type	Any kayak or canoe, however, under 15-ft is best because the canal narrows quite a bit in places.
Put In / Take Out	900 Stony Landing Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461. 843-899-5200, oldsantee canal park.org. GPS: 33.194924, -79.971907 33°11'41.7"N, 79°58'18.9"W Note: The GPS coordinates are for the <u>actual</u> boat ramp if bringing your own kayak/canoe. Driving across a grass field and through the woods on a narrow dirt road is required. It's best to ask the front gate staff for directions.
Fees/Permits	\$3 adults, \$2 senior citizens, children under 6 FREE (as of September 2020).
Current	Negligible.
Tidal Influence	None.
Precautions:	There could be low hanging branches and tight places to squeeze your boat after storms; however, the park staff is good at cleaning up this type of debris.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 4 on page 134.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 133	
1	<p>If bringing your own kayak/canoe, obtain detailed directions on the boat ramp location (it can be confusing; you must drive across a grass field and then down a steep, narrow dirt road through the woods).</p> <p>If renting a canoe, go see the friendly folks at the Interpretative Center, and start at step # 2 below.</p> <p>From the small boat ramp, begin your paddle by turning right in Biggin Creek.</p>
2	<p>At 0.1 mile, reach the dock and rental canoe area. Continue left around the marsh following the creek, heading north. This general area is beautiful with towering cypress trees with hanging moss.</p>
3	<p>Go under a beautiful boardwalk bridge at 0.3 mile. Continue straight in Biggin Creek. Over the next 0.3 mile, the creek is over 120-ft. wide, lined with beautiful cypress, and you are likely to see egrets and herons.</p>
4	<p>At 0.6 mile, the creek narrows to 10 - 12 feet for the next 450-ft. This is an intimate, completely shaded paddle and part of the old canal. Pass under another foot bridge (labeled "6").</p> <p>The paddle trail continues through the old canal for the next 0.8 miles, narrowing again, and then widening to 30 - 50 feet. Continue in the canal until you cannot paddle any further.</p> <p>Return the same way you came.</p>



Kayaker and Great Blue Heron share an exciting moment on Biggin Creek.



Old Santee Canal Park is a great place for large groups of paddlers.



Spiers Landing / Church Island

24

Date Paddled: _____



There's always lots to see at Spiers Landing and Church Island!

Summary

Spiers Landing is on Lake Marion and part of a Berkeley County Park by the same name. There are numerous islands as well as several miles of interesting shoreline to explore. For the purposes of this guide, we will focus on Church Island. The island has a 160+ year old cemetery with many Confederate soldiers buried there.

Difficulty

Easy to Moderate.

Distance

3 - 5+ miles, best suited as exploration.

Time

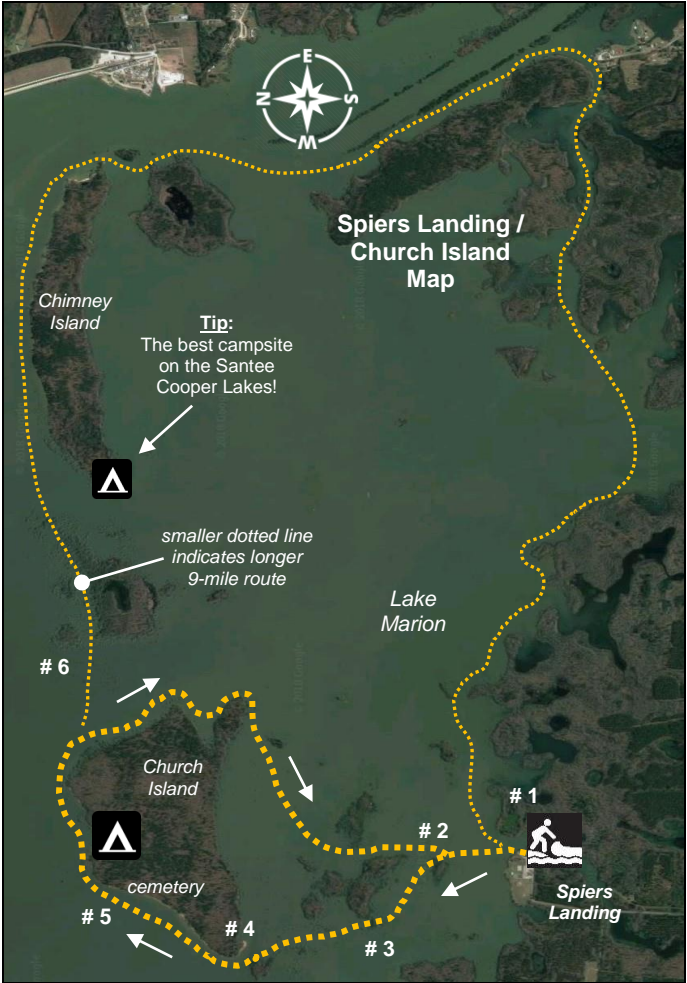
2 - 3 hours.

Crowds

Can vary from light to heavy depending on motorboat traffic

- Boat Type** Kayaks or canoes 12-feet or longer. Even though paddle boards are not officially recommended, they are found here often in the summer.
- Put In / Take Out** Spiers Landing Boat Ramp, 1505 Spiers Landing Road, Cross, SC 29436.
- GPS: 33.395937, -80.197160
33°23'45.4"N, 80°11'49.8"W
- Directions: If you search "Spiers Landing Boat Ramp," all GPS mapping applications recognize this location.
- Fees/Permits** None.
- Current** If you get out in the open water, east of the islands, there can be a small current in the south direction.
- Tidal Influence** None.
- Precautions:** You will have protection from some winds with the islands, however, there are plenty of open spaces in Lake Marion where winds can intensify resulting in waves/whitecaps.

Map – Spiers Landing / Church Island



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 6 on page 139. Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Route Directions - see map on page 138	
1	Leave the boat ramp and head in a general north direction towards the islands.
2	At 0.2 mile, pass by the first small island.
3	At 0.5 mile, round the western tip of the next (larger) island. This tip is composed of tall grass/vegetation. Continue north heading towards Church Island.
4	At nearly 1 mile, arrive at the tip of Church Island. Continue paddling around the island in a clockwise direction, staying close to the shore.
5	At 1.4 miles, you will see signs for the old Church of the Epiphany remains and cemetery. Here you can find a spot to beach or tie your kayak off and visit this area. During warmer months, the grass could be overgrown with ticks and other buzzing friends. Insect repellent is recommended.
6	<p>Continue circumnavigating Church Island, staying close to the shore, and head south back towards Spiers Landing.</p> <p><u>Option:</u> Continue paddling the larger Spiers Landing/ Lake Marion area by following the smaller dotted line on the map. This is easy to navigate. This will take you by several more islands and interesting coves. This route is approximately 9 miles, and plan for an additional 3-4 hours of paddling.</p> <p>There are many established camping areas on these islands. Tip: The campsite on the far western tip of Chimney Island is arguably the best camping on the Santee Cooper Lakes, and part of the Swamp Fox 50 Mile Paddle & Camp Trail (Blueway # 25).</p>



There's centuries' old history on Church Island.



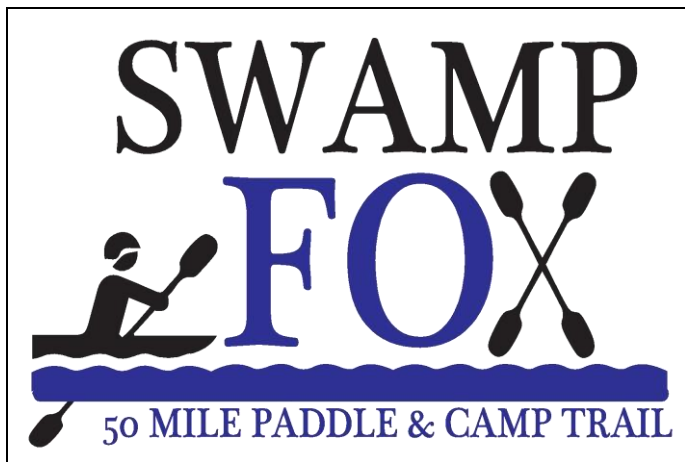
Winter paddling around Church Island among tupelo trees.

Swamp Fox 50 Trail



Date Paddled: _____

25



Swamp Fox 50 Mile Paddle & Camp Trail: Established 2012

Summary

Experience the South Carolina's only established 4 night, 5 day paddle trail. Paddle the state's largest lake, Lake Marion, camp at a state park, pass by historic landmarks and experience Lake Moultrie. Epic wildlife is guaranteed. The paddle trail has Bald Eagles, just about every type of heron known to the Low Country, egrets, other waterfowl, otters, beavers, deer and so much more. This is a bucket list level adventure!

Difficulty

Daily sections range from easy to very strenuous.

Distance

54 miles total.

Time

Each section can take 6 - 10 hours/day.

Crowds	Very light. You are likely not to see any other paddlers on this trip. You will see many motorized boats.
Boat Type	<u>IMPORTANT:</u> Touring kayaks or canoes, capable of holding camping gear, fresh water and supplies for multi-day trips. Because of open water and capacity, minimum of 14-ft. long recommended.

Requires staging 2 vehicles or arranging pickup!

Put In	Lake Marion, Lowfalls Landing, 958 Low Falls Road, Cameron, SC 29030. 803-823-9074.
---------------	---

GPS: 33.632445, -80.543588
33°37'56.8"N, 80°32'36.9"W

Take Out	Lake Moultrie, 200 Hines Drive, Bonneau, SC 29431.
-----------------	--

GPS: 33.332527, -79.982664
33°19'57.1"N, 79°58'57.6"W

Fees/Permits	Camping fees at Santee State Park (803-854-2408). Contact for current fees.
---------------------	---

Current	If you get out in the open water, there can be a small current in a south direction.
----------------	--

Tidal Influence	None.
------------------------	-------

Precautions:	Winds across open water can cause waves and whitecaps. There are tree stumps located in the water near the surface. Watch out for motorized boat traffic. The use of a compass and/or a GPS is strongly encouraged for this trip.
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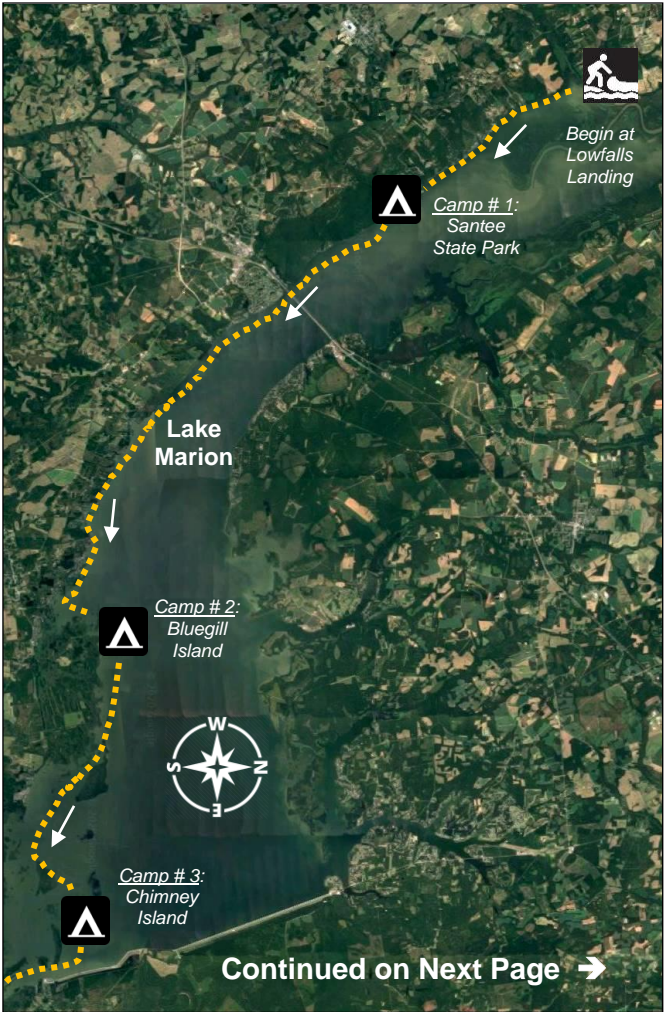


Exploring Stumphole Swamp on the Swamp Fox 50 Trail.

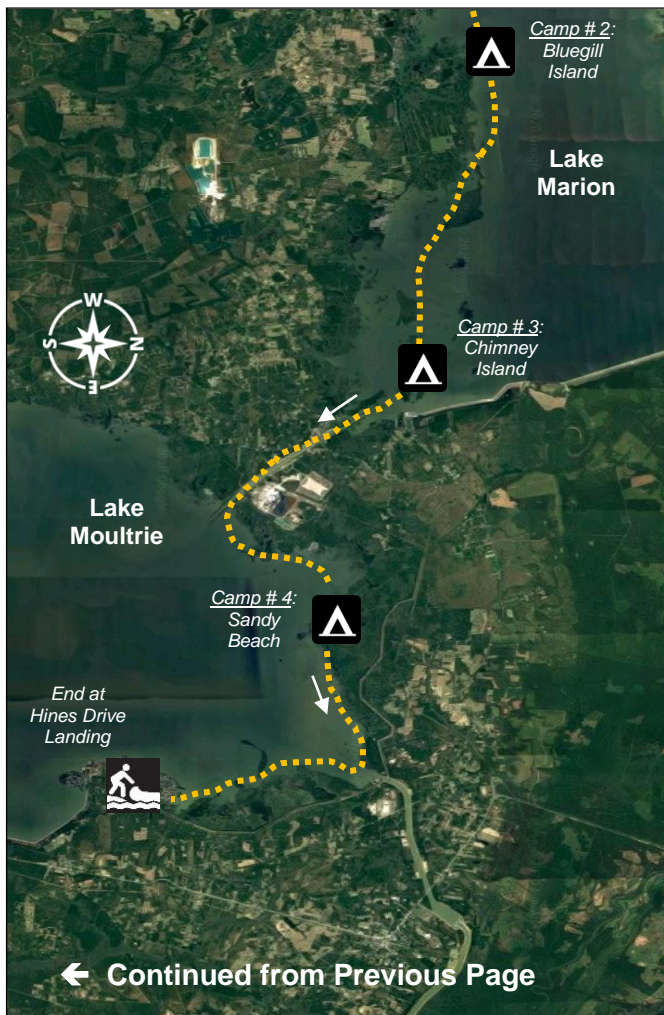


Camping on the Swamp Fox 50 Trail is scenic. Photo: Chimney Island.

Overview Map 1 – Lake Marion – Swamp Fox 50 Trail



Overview Map 2 – Lake Moultrie – Swamp Fox 50 Trail



Overview – Swamp Fox 50 Mile Trail: Day 1 – 3

Day 1

7 miles, easy, 3 - 4 hours

Stumphole Section

Begin on north Lake Marion at Lowfalls Landing, 958 Low Falls Road, Cameron, SC 29030. 803-823-9074.

GPS: 33.632445, -80.543588
33°37'56.8"N, 80°32'36.9"W

End and camp at Santee State Park, 251 State Park Road, Santee, SC 29142. 803-854-2408.

GPS: 33.552039, -80.501540
33°33'07.3"N, 80°30'05.5"W

Day 2

15 miles, very strenuous, 6 - 8 hours

Eutaw Section

Begin at Santee State Park, 251 State Park Road, Santee, SC 29142. 803-854-2408.

GPS: 33.552039, -80.501540
33°33'07.3"N, 80°30'05.5"W

End and camp at Bluegill Island (Eutaw Springs).

GPS: 33.431394, -80.314068
33°25'53.0"N, 80°18'50.6"W

Day 3

9 miles, moderate, 4 - 5 hours

Chimney Island Section

Begin at Bluegill Island (Eutaw Springs).

GPS: 33.431394, -80.314068
33°25'53.0"N, 80°18'50.6"W

End and camp at Chimney Island (part of Blueway # 23).

GPS: 33.414081, -80.175478
33°24'50.7"N, 80°10'31.7"W

Day 4

12 miles, strenuous, 6 - 7 hours

**Cross
Section**

Begin at Chimney Island (part of Blueway # 23).

GPS: 33.414081, -80.175478
33°24'50.7"N, 80°10'31.7"W

End and camp at Sandy Beach Waterfowl Management Area (Blueway # 2).

GPS: 33.381827, -80.060897
33°22'54.6"N, 80°03'39.2"W

Day 5

11 miles, moderate, 5 - 6 hours

**The Jungle
Section**

Begin at Sandy Beach Waterfowl Management Area (Blueway # 2).

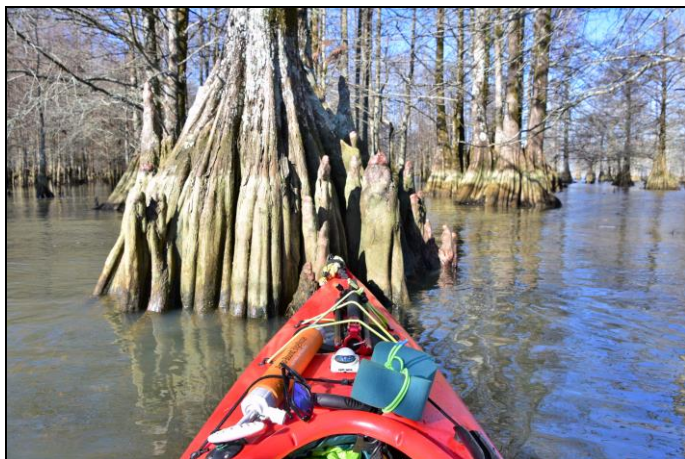
GPS: 33.381827, -80.060897
33°22'54.6"N, 80°03'39.2"W

End at east Lake Moultrie, 200 Hines Drive, Bonneau, SC 29431.

GPS: 33.332527, -79.982664
33°19'57.1"N, 79°58'57.6"W



There are 4 exciting campsites on the Swamp Fox 50 Trail.



Navigating the cypress of the Chimney Island section.

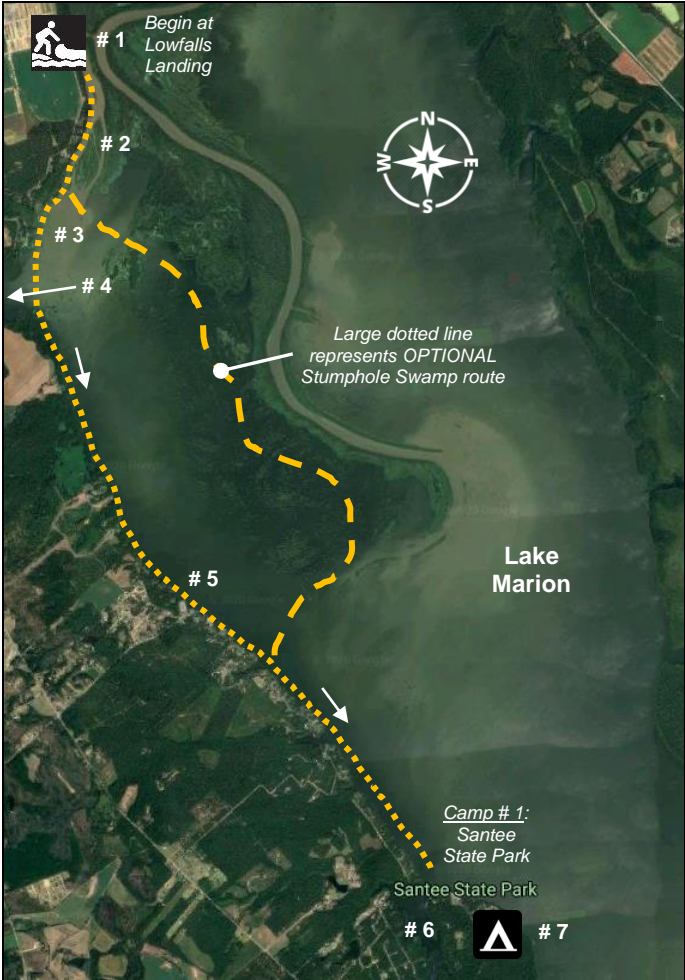


Bald Eagle near The Jungle on the Swamp Fox 50 Trail!



Loaded kayak, cruising the Swamp Fox 50 Trail.

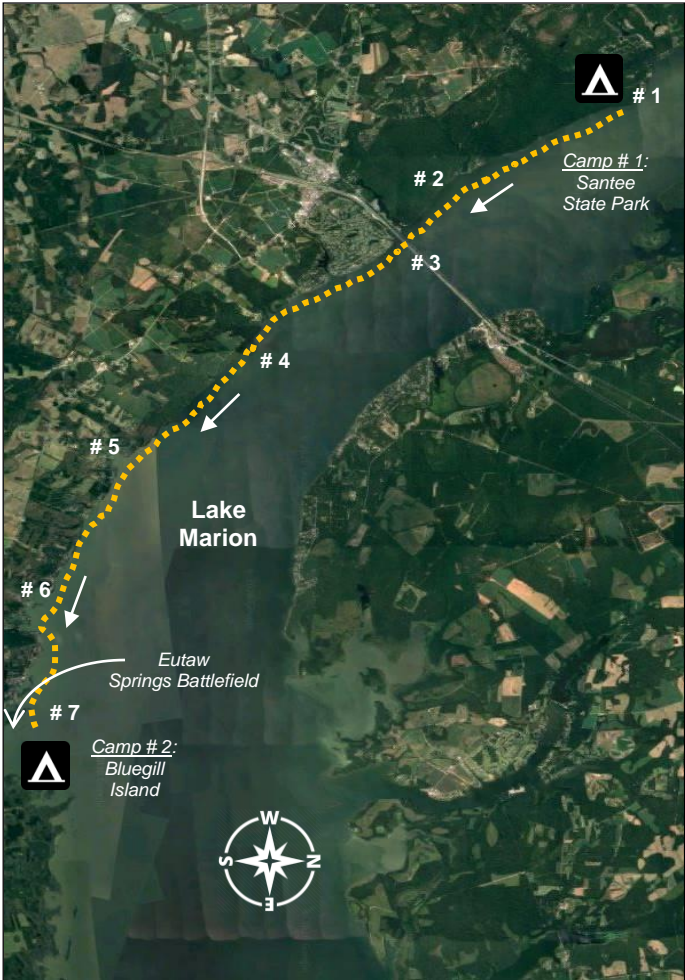
Map – Swamp Fox 50 Trail – Day 1



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 7 on page 151.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Stumphole Section - 7 miles	
1	From the Lowfalls Landing boat ramp, begin your paddle by turning right into Lake Marion. Over the next 1.2 miles, you will travel down a 200 - 500 ft. wide tributary of greater Lake Marion / Santee River.
2	At 0.6 mile, come to large island (grouping of trees, vegetation) that is nearly a half-mile long. You can choose to go around the island in either direction. The right side keeps you closer to the shore.
3	After passing by the large island at 1.2 miles, continue going straight, staying close to the shore to the right. STUMPHOLE SWAMP Option: Turn left and paddle in a southeast direction for approximately 2,000 ft. to enter Stumphole Swamp. The swamp is approximately 2.5 miles long and up to 1 mile wide in some areas. This option will not add much mileage to your paddle, but depending on exploration, could add a 1 - 2 hours to your paddle time. If you take this option, exit the swamp at any time by paddling southwest towards the shore.
4	At 1.6 miles, there is a large cove (nearly 2,000 wide) to the right. Depending on water levels, you can explore this swamp area in a west direction back nearly a mile.
5	At 4.2 miles, pass by Stumphole Landing.
6	Immediately before arriving at Santee State Park at 6.8 miles, in the area where the over-the-water cabins are located, to the right is Poplar Creek cove. This 1.3 mile long cove traces the state park's west boundary and goes back to a charming swamp (this is named "Twinkleberry Swamp" because it resembles "Sparkleberry Swamp," but on a smaller scale). If time allows, this is well worth the trip.
7	At nearly 7 miles, end your day and camp at Santee State Park.

Map – Swamp Fox 50 Trail – Day 2



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 7 on page 153.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

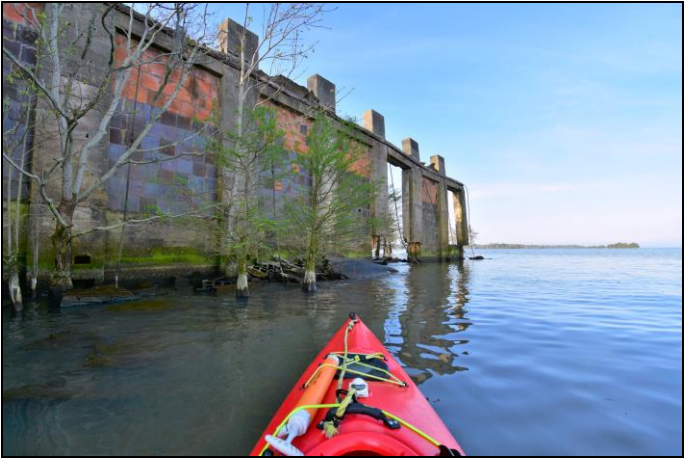
Eutaw Section - 15 miles	
1	NOTE: Start early! This is the longest day of the Swamp Fox 50 Trail at 15 miles (it is 18 miles if the Eutaw Springs Battle Ground is visited). From Santee State Park, begin your paddle by turning right into Lake Marion and paddle along the shore.
2	At 3.2 miles, pass by Boy Scout Camp Rd. boat ramp.
3	Pass under I-95 bridge in Santee at 4.5 miles.
4	At 6.9 miles, pass by the Lake Marion Resort & Marina boat ramp.
5	At 9.8 miles, pass by the Mill Creek Marina & Campground boat ramp.
6	At 12.2 miles, pass by the Indian Bluff Recreation Park boat ramp.
7	<p>At 14.2 miles, come to a large cove. Continue across open water in a northeast direction for approximately 0.8 mile to a group of islands. There are several areas of camping (check GPS coordinates on page 140). End your day of paddling and camp on these islands. The largest island is known as Bluegill Island.</p> <p><u>EUTAW SPRINGS BATTLE GROUND Option:</u> When you reach the large cove at 14.2 miles, continue paddling near the shore in a southeast direction. Paddle nearly 2 miles until you reach the Bells Marina boat ramp (<u>GPS:</u> 33.408818, -80.299869 or 33°24'31.7"N, 80°17'59.5"W). Walk approximately 900 ft. south to HWY 6, turn left and walk another 500 ft. to the Eutaw Springs Battle Ground, which is on the left.</p> <p><u>IMPORTANT NOTE:</u> This option adds a total of 3 paddling miles (for a total of 18 miles for the day), plus the walking and battleground visit time. It is recommended that you plan a minimum of 2 extra hours for this excursion.</p>



Historical point of interest along the Swamp Fox 50 Trail.



Pied-Billed Grebe near the Eutaw section of the Swamp Fox 50 Trail.

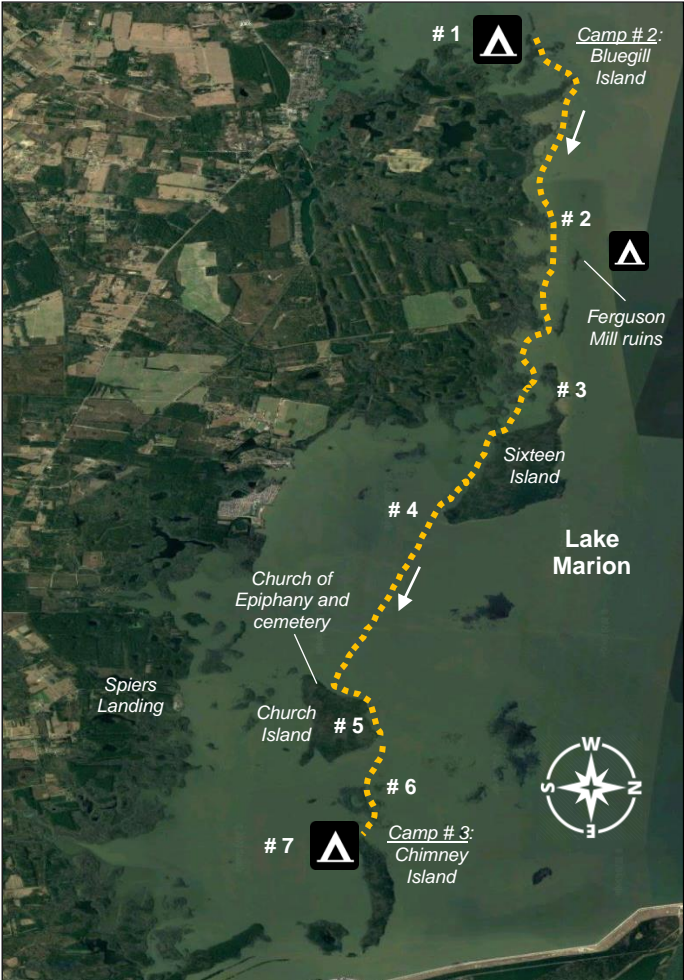


Ferguson Mill ruins on the Chimney Island section of the Swamp Fox 50.



Osprey are highly active along the entire Swamp Fox 50 Trail.

Map – Swamp Fox 50 Trail – Day 3



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 7 on page 157.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Chimney Island Section - 9 miles	
1	From Bluegill Island, begin your paddle by turning right into Lake Mario. Paddle in a northeast direction, following the island and peninsulas' shoreline. This soon changes to a general east direction.
2	At 2.2 miles, come to the tip of a peninsula. Ferguson Landing is only 0.25 mile away, by turning right and paddling into the cove. To proceed on the trail route, paddle straight and continue following the peninsula tips in an east direction. <u>FERGUSON MILL RUINS Option:</u> From the tip of the peninsula at 2.2 miles, paddle in a northeast direction for 0.25 mile to a small island. The Ferguson Mill, which dates to the early 1900s, is on the west side of the island. There is also DNR-designated camping on this island.
3	Come to the western tip of Sixteen Island at 3.5 miles. This is a large 1.8 mile long island and nearly 0.75 mile at its widest. Begin paddling in a southeast direction, staying close to the island's shore.
4	At 5.1 miles, come to end of Sixteen Island. Continue paddling in a southeast direction across the open water towards the large visible island - this is Church Island. <u>WARNING:</u> It is 2 miles of open water to Church Island. Be mindful of winds, whitecaps and waves when crossing open water here!
5	At 7.1 miles, reach Church Island. Begin paddling the shore in a north direction. Almost immediately on the island, is the Church of the Epiphany and cemetery. This is an excellent and easy historical place to visit.
6	Continue paddling the shore of Church Island in an east direction. Pass by a beautiful tupelo island at 8.5 miles.
7	At 9 miles, arrive at Chimney Island to camp. <u>Tip:</u> The best campsite on the Santee Cooper lakes is on the island's west end!

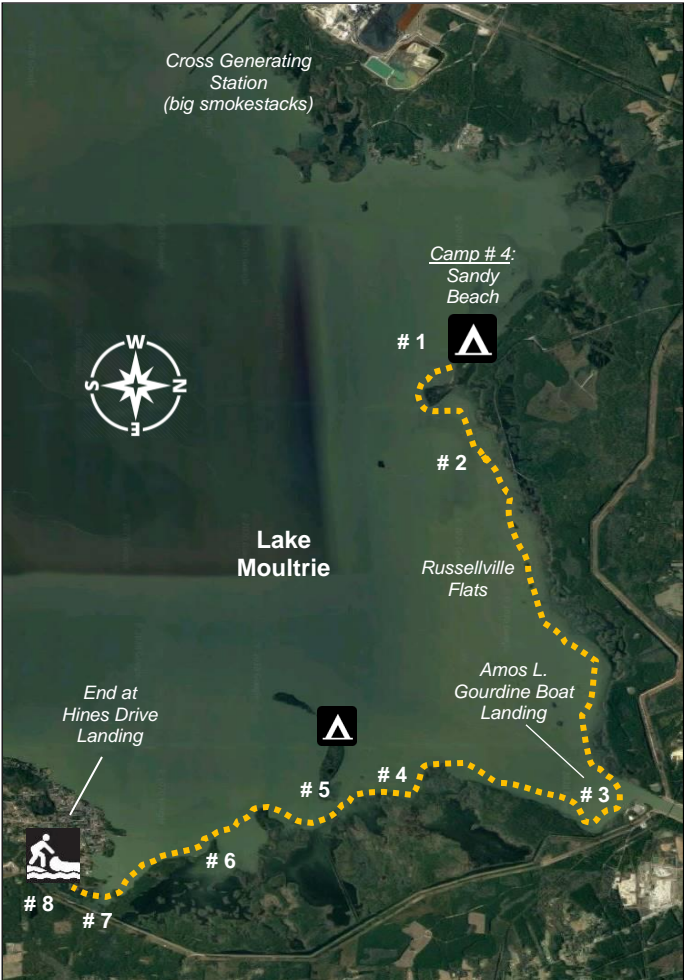
Map – Swamp Fox 50 Trail – Day 4



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 9 on page 159.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

Cross Section - 12 miles	
1	From Church Island, begin your paddle by heading in a southeast direction towards an island that is nearly a mile away.
2	Continue paddling southeast, and at 1.4 miles, enter the Diversion Canal. The canal is nearly 5 miles in length and connects Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie.
3	At almost 3 miles, you will reach the HWY-45 bridge and Canal Lakes Fish Camp and Boat Ramp on the right.
4	Pass by the Cross Generating Station at 4.5 miles on the left. Its tall smokestacks are visible for dozens of miles!
5	At 6.2 miles, come to the end of the Diversion Canal in Lake Moultrie. Turn left, heading north, staying close to the shore and tips of the peninsulas.
6	Pass by Angel's Landing Campground and boat ramp on the left at 9.3 miles. Continue paddling north.
7	At 10 miles near the tip of a peninsula, begin paddling east towards the treeline in the distance.
8	<p>At 10.7 miles, arrive at the treeline, turn right, paddling in a southeast direction.</p> <p>SANTEE CANAL Option: After reaching the treeline, turn left, paddling in a northwest direction. Within 2,000 ft., come to the narrow opening of the Santee Canal. Built in the 1780s, this quiet, beautiful canal continues another 1.8 miles (depending on water levels).</p> <p>NOTE: The alternative campsite for this section is located at the entrance of the Santee Canal, on the left high bank (GPS: 33.398682, -80.079991 or 33°23'55.3"N, 80°04'48.0"W).</p>
9	At nearly 12 miles, arrive at the Sandy Beach campsite on your right. This campsite closes seasonally - check for signage. Use alternative campsite in # 8 if needed.

Map – Swamp Fox 50 Trail – Day 5



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 8 on page 161.
Download this map in color at www.BerkeleyBlueways.com.

The Jungle Section - 11 miles	
1	From the Sandy Beach campsite, begin your paddle by turning left into Lake Moultrie, staying close to the shore. At 0.5 mile, round the tip of the small peninsula, and continue following the shore/treeline.
2	By the time you reach approximately 1.5 miles down the shore, you will enter the Russellville Flats area (Blueway # 3). Continue paddling down this north edge of Lake Moultrie for another 3.4 miles.
3	At nearly 5 miles, bear right, crossing beginning of the canal and the Amos Lee Gourdine Boat Ramp will be on your left. Continue following the shore, heading in a south direction.
4	Pass by the entrance to The Jungle at 6.6 miles (Blueway # 4). Continue following the peninsula tips and treeline.
5	At 7.7 miles, pass by the southern tip of Coon Island (Blueway # 6). This island has nearly endless possibilities for camping. It has thousands of feet of beach. Continue following the peninsula tips and treeline.
6	At 8.5 miles, pass by the area known as Dennis's Pasture (Blueway # 5). Continue paddling in a southeast direction for the next 1.5 miles.
7	At 10 miles, reach the straight canal/dike or "way ditch" that runs north to south. Turn right, heading south.
8	Continue down the canal for another 0.6 mile and end your paddle at the Hines Drive Landing on the right. Congratulations on completing the Swamp Fox 50 Mile Paddle and Camp Trail!



Common Moorhens are found throughout The Jungle section.



Crossing open water on the Chimney Island section of the Swamp Fox 50.



Share with us! Share with others! Help spread the word about the Berkeley Blueways. Once you experience these paddle trails, you will come back again and again for your family adventures. We think you will agree it is the best natural resource in the Southeast.

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PADDLING JOURNAL

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PADDLING JOURNAL

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PADDLING JOURNAL

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Berkeley County Blueways

Tucked in the historic “Low Country” of South Carolina, Berkeley County is one of the state’s best places to visit and call home. It has an abundance of waterways suitable for kayaking and canoeing that provide a wonderful back-to-nature experience for the entire family. In fact, Berkeley County has more navigable waterways than any other county in the state!

This *Berkeley County Blueways: Family Adventure Guide, 3rd Edition* highlights 25 exciting paddling trails. It has all the information you need to select an adventure from a couple hours to a multi-day trip. Maps, photography, difficulty ratings, mileage, time commitments, precautions, put-in/take-out locations, and detailed “turn-by-turn” route directions are all provided. Whether you are a brand-new paddler or tenured backcountry explorer, the Berkeley County Blueways has many exciting adventures for you and your family.

