

The Upper Saluda River Blueway

MAP 2
Section 2 (Front) and Section 3 (Back)

A Map and Guide to the Upper Saluda River Scenic Corridor

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Upstate Forever
AMERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
RAINEY
CALLE AND JOHN

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Welcome to the Upper Saluda River Blueway

The Upper Saluda River Blueway provides over 70 miles of beginner-friendly and nearly 50 miles of more advanced paddling opportunities. Beginning in the pristine valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Pickens and Greenville Counties, the Saluda River borders six counties as it flows through Upstate South Carolina. The Saluda River is easily accessible, just off of several major highways, including Highway 11 in the mountains, I-85 in the Piedmont, and Highway 25 before flowing in to Lake Greenwood. The Saluda River is the longest river flowing through the Upstate and flows through Pumpkintown, Cleveland, Slater-Marietta, Piedmont, Pelzer, Williamston, and Ware Shoals.

The Saluda River Watershed is rich in diversity of both plant and animal species. While cropland and pastures surround the river in the southern counties of the Upstate, deciduous hardwood forests are prominent in the mountains. This area has a high population of both birds and fish; blue herons, ospreys, and bald eagles; largemouth bass, catfish, trout, and bream can be found throughout the watershed.

Recreation opportunities along the Saluda River have significantly increased during the last few years. The Anderson County Parks and Recreation Department has been leading the way, with significant assistance from Greenville County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism, Naturaland Trust, Upstate Forever, Trout Unlimited, and Save Our Saluda. Unofficial river accesses are widely used; however, they are not officially constructed river accesses. While the Upper Saluda River can generally be accessed from SCDOT-maintained road bridges, the accesses included on the blueway map are ones that are most often used and family-friendly. There are many great options at all skill levels for a fantastic day on the river and additional access improvements are in the works. Learn how you can protect this and other local rivers by visiting www.UpstateForever.org. Coming Soon - this and other blueway maps from across South Carolina will be available at www.gopaddlesc.com.

- Planning and Safety**
- 1) Review the map carefully.
 - 2) Plan your start and end points according to your skill level.
 - 3) Check current river conditions before paddling. A flooded river can be dangerous, and a low river may expose logs, rocks, or other debris, slowing your trip down significantly.
 - 4) Always wear a life jacket with a whistle.
 - 5) Avoid boating alone. Let someone know your plan and when to expect you to return.
 - 6) Minimize your impact on the river by properly disposing of waste, respecting wildlife, and leaving what you find.
 - 7) Do not trespass on private property. Stay in the river until your take-out.
 - 8) If you fall out in a rapid, assume the whitewater "swimming" position - with your feet up and pointing downstream (like you're in a recliner) until you reach flatwater and can get back in your boat.
 - 9) Roadside river accesses with listed addresses are approximate locations of bridges and should not direct you to private homes. Please do not access the river on private property.

Suggested Trips

SALUDA RIVER (SECTIONS 2 AND 3) Lake-like Paddling! Use accesses as put-in AND take-out - Timmerman Landing - Lyman Street Landing - Cooley Bridge Road - Soule Harbor Trip Level: <i>beginner</i> Trip Duration: 1-2 hours *Paddle upstream first for an easier return, with the current!	SALUDA RIVER (SECTIONS 2 AND 3) Holiday Dam Road to Erwin Mill Road Trip Level: <i>novice</i> Trip Duration: 2.5-3 hours
SALUDA RIVER (SECTION 3) Beacham Road to Soule Harbor (Lake Greenwood) Trip Length: 6.04 Trip Level: <i>beginner</i> Trip Duration: 3-3.5 hours	SALUDA RIVER (SECTION 3) Maddox Bridge Road to Ware Shoals, SC Trip Length: 2.75 Trip Level: <i>beginner</i> Trip Duration: 1-2 hours

River Rapids Classification

Class I Rapids: Easy/Beginner
Fast-moving water with riffles and small waves.

Class II Rapids: Novice
Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels.

Class III Rapids: Intermediate
Moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to maneuver.

Class IV Rapids: Advanced
Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water.

Class V Rapids: Expert
Extremely long, obstructed, or very violent rapids. Drops may contain large unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages. Extensive experience is essential.

River Levels

Adequate river flow is essential to paddling. If levels are too low or too high, paddling may not be possible. Please check the following stream gauges for real-time information to determine if flow levels are suitable for paddling. Flow is measured in either cubic feet per second (volume) or feet (height of river).

USGS Site No. 02163001;
Saluda River near Williamston, SC
Ideal Conditions: 3 feet - 5 feet
www.upstateforever.org/saluda2
(Saluda River Section 2)

USGS Site No. 02163500;
Saluda River near Ware Shoals, SC
Ideal Conditions: 3 feet - 5 feet
www.upstateforever.org/saluda3
(Saluda River Section 3)

UNOFFICIAL: River Road River Access and Parking Area
305 River Road, Piedmont, SC 29673

Follow the dirt road about 300 feet to the river to a small dirt parking area, which may be muddy following rain. The access is located river-right at the mouth of Big Brushy Creek. This access is unofficial but widely used. Use at your own risk.

Caution! The Piedmont Dam

Avoid the dam entirely! Portage is not available at this time. Exit the river using the River Road access.

Timmerman Landing River Access and Parking Area
13 Capers Street, Pelzer, SC 29669

The Upper Pelzer Mills dam creates lake-like paddling conditions here, which offer the opportunity to use Timmerman Landing as the put-in and take-out. Timmerman Landing has a large paved parking lot, handicap-accessible fishing dock, and a boat ramp.

Boat Ramp at Timmerman Landing

Caution! The Upper Pelzer Mills Dam

The Upper Pelzer Mills Dam

Avoid the dam entirely! Portage is available river-left. Exit the river before the dam's facilities and re-enter the river below the dam, near the Hwy 8 bridge.

Lyman Street Landing River Access and Parking Area
98 Lyman Street, Pelzer, SC 29669

The Lower Pelzer Mills dam creates lake-like paddling conditions here, which offers the opportunity to use Lyman Street Landing as the put-in and take-out. Lyman Street Landing is open from dawn to dusk and has a large paved parking lot and a boat ramp. Paddlers should use this as a put-in and take-out as there is no portage around the W.S. Lee Steam Plant Dam.

Lyman Street Landing Boat Ramp (right) and Parking Area (left)

Caution! The Lower Pelzer Mills Dam

Avoid the dam entirely! Portage is available river-right. Follow the dirt road, which turns in to Dunlap Road. Past the dam, bear left onto the path leading to the dam's facilities and re-enter the river below the brick building. Although portage around this dam is available, there's not a downstream take-out above nor portage around the Lee Steam dam. At this time, we recommend paddlers use Lyman Street Landing as a put-in and take-out, and check www.gopaddlesc.com for updates on this section of the river.

Caution! W.S. Lee Steam Station Dam

Avoid the dam and its facilities entirely! No take-out or portage is available at Lee Steam Dam at this time. Please check www.gopaddlesc.com for updates.

Cooley Bridge Road River Access and Roadside Parking
2250 Belton Hwy, Belton, SC 29627

This access is river-right, south of the Cooley Bridge Road/Belton Highway bridge. The Holliday dam creates lake-like paddling conditions here, which offers the opportunity to use Cooley Bridge Road as the put-in and take-out. Portage around the Holliday Dam is not currently available.

Caution! The Holliday Dam

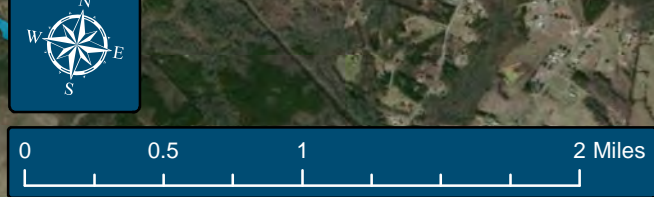
Avoid the dam entirely! Portage is not available at this time. Please take-out at Cooley Bridge Road and re-enter using the Holliday Dam Road river access downstream of the dam and its facilities.

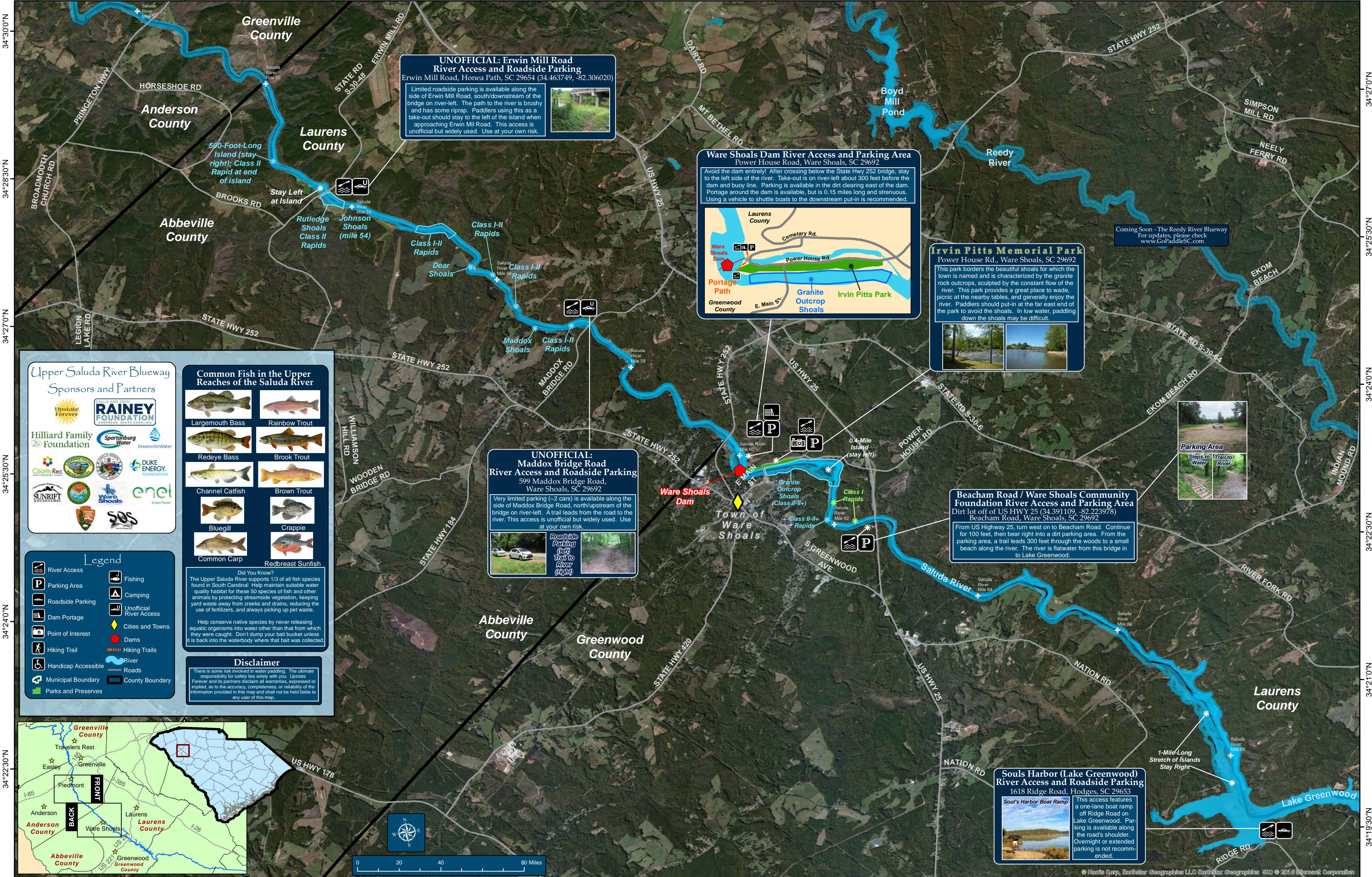
Looking upstream at Holliday Dam

UNOFFICIAL: Holliday Dam Hydroelectric Station River Access and Parking Area
910 Holliday Dam Road, Honea Path, SC 29654

This access is downstream of the Holliday Dam and the road. It is located southwest of the hydroelectric facility, which should be avoided. A 250-foot long trail leads from the parking area to a beach and river access on the left side of the island separating the hydroelectric station from the Saluda River. This access is unofficial but widely used. Use at your own risk.

Dam Channel DO NOT ACCESS!
Holliday Dam Hydroelectric Station



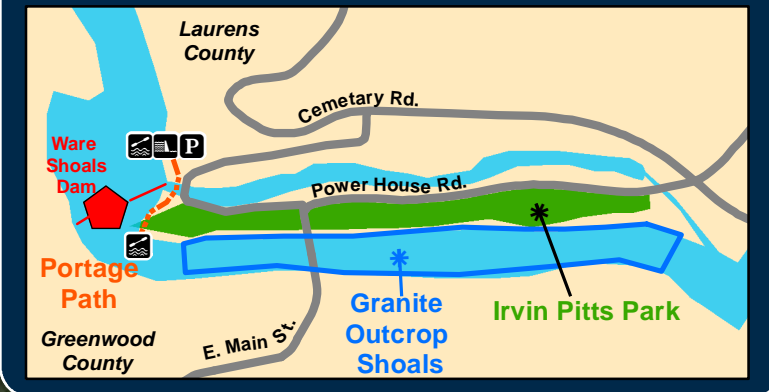


UNOFFICIAL: Erwin Mill Road River Access and Roadside Parking
 Erwin Mill Road, Honea Path, SC 29654 (34.463749, -82.306020)

Limited roadside parking is available along the side of Erwin Mill Road, south/downstream of the bridge on river-left. The path to the river is brushy and has some riprap. Paddlers using this as a take-out should stay to the left of the island when approaching Erwin Mill Road. This access is unofficial but widely used. Use at your own risk.

Ware Shoals Dam River Access and Parking Area
 Power House Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

Avoid the dam entirely! After crossing below the State Hwy 252 bridge, stay to the left side of the river. Take-out is on river-left about 300 feet before the dam and buoy line. Parking is available in the dirt clearing east of the dam. Portage around the dam is available, but is 0.15 miles long and strenuous. Using a vehicle to shuttle boats to the downstream put-in is recommended.



Irvin Pitts Memorial Park
 Power House Rd., Ware Shoals, SC 29692

This park borders the beautiful shoals for which the town is named and is characterized by the granite rock outcrops, sculpted by the constant flow of the river. This park provides a great place to wade, picnic at the nearby tables, and generally enjoy the river. Paddlers should put-in at the far east end of the park to avoid the shoals. In low water, paddling down the shoals may be difficult.

Coming Soon - The Reedy River Blueway
 For updates, please check www.GoPaddlesC.com

UNOFFICIAL: Maddox Bridge Road River Access and Roadside Parking
 599 Maddox Bridge Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

Very limited parking (~2 cars) is available along the side of Maddox Bridge Road, north/upstream of the bridge on river-left. A trail leads from the road to the river. This access is unofficial but widely used. Use at your own risk.

Beacham Road / Ware Shoals Community Foundation River Access and Parking Area
 Dirt lot off of US HWY 25 (34.391109, -82.223978)
 Beacham Road, Ware Shoals, SC 29692

From US Highway 25, turn west on to Beacham Road. Continue for 100 feet, then bear right into a dirt parking area. From the parking area, a trail leads 300 feet through the woods to a small beach along the river. The river is flatwater from this bridge in to Lake Greenwood.

Souls Harbor (Lake Greenwood) River Access and Roadside Parking
 1618 Ridge Road, Hodges, SC 29653

This access features a one-lane boat ramp off Ridge Road on Lake Greenwood. Parking is available along the road's shoulder. Overnight or extended parking is not recommended.

Upper Saluda River Blueway Sponsors and Partners

Common Fish in the Upper Reaches of the Saluda River

Did You Know?
 The Upper Saluda River supports 1/3 of all fish species found in South Carolina! Help maintain suitable water quality habitat for these 50 species of fish and other animals by protecting streamside vegetation, keeping yard waste away from creeks and drains, reducing the use of fertilizers, and always picking up pet waste.

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

Upper Saluda River Blueway Sponsors and Partners

Legend

- River Access
- Parking Area
- Roadside Parking
- Dam Portage
- Point of Interest
- Hiking Trail
- Handicap Accessible
- Municipal Boundary
- Parks and Preserves
- Fishing
- Camping
- Unofficial River Access
- Cities and Towns
- Dams
- Hiking Trails
- River
- Roads
- County Boundary

Disclaimer

There is some risk involved in water paddling. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies solely with you. Upstate Forever and its partners disclaim all warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the information provided in this map and shall not be held liable to any user of this map.

