

82°42'0"W 82°40'0"W 82°38'0"W 82°36'0"W 82°34'0"W 82°32'0"W 82°30'0"W 82°28'0"W 82°26'0"W 82°24'0"W



North Carolina
Greenville County
Pickens County
Marion County

- ### 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.

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.	

Suggested Trips (Headwaters)

NORTH SALUDA RIVER River Road to Highway 11 Trip Length: 1.8 mile Trip Level: <i>Beginner</i> Trip Duration: 1.5 hours	MIDDLE SALUDA RIVER Highway 11 to Pumpkintown Rd Trip Length: 6 miles Trip Level: <i>Intermediate</i> Trip Duration: 2-3 hours <small>*There is a high potential for woody debris in this section.</small>
NORTH SALUDA RIVER Les Mullinax Park to River Road Trip Length: 2.5 miles Trip Level: <i>Beginner</i> Trip Duration: 1-2 hours	

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 either in cubic feet per second (volume) or feet (height of river). Stretches of the North, Middle and South Saluda may be unrunnable in summer months due to low water levels.

South Saluda River USGS Site No. 02162290; South Saluda near Cleveland, SC Ideal Conditions: 50-1,000 cfs www.upstateforever.org/ssaluda	Middle Saluda River USGS Site No. 02162350; Middle Saluda near Cleveland, SC Ideal Conditions: 3-9 feet www.upstateforever.org/msaluda	North Saluda River USGS Site No. 021623975; North Saluda River above Slater, SC Ideal Conditions: 50-1,000 cfs www.upstateforever.org/nsaluda	Upper Saluda River USGS Site No. 02162500; Saluda River near Greenville Ideal Conditions: 2.2-10 ft (upper reaches); 2-18-8 ft (lower reaches) www.upstateforever.org/saluda
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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 into Lake Greenwood. The Saluda River is the longest river flowing through the Upstate and runs 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.

The Upper Saluda River Blueway

MAP 1
Headwaters (Front) and Section 1 (Back)

A Map and Guide to the Upper Saluda River Scenic Corridor
June 2016

This map was made possible by the generous support of the Callie and John Rainey Foundation.

Map designed by Upstate Forever. All rights reserved. This map was printed on waterproof paper. Pictures kindly provided by Upstate Forever staff, unless otherwise noted.

Caution! Jones Gap Section for Advanced Paddlers ONLY!

This is an advanced section with Class III-V rapids. You must obtain a permit from the Park's headquarters before paddling within Jones Gap. For more information on this section, please visit: www.upstateforever.org/paddleJG.

Caution! Woody Debris

Sticks, branches, and tree trunks in the river are called strainers and can be underwater or overhanging the river. Be prepared to encounter strainers, since woody debris can fall into a river at any time. Strainers constantly change; use caution and try to avoid strainers when possible. Strainers commonly occur in the North, Middle, and South Saluda River, especially when river levels are high.

High Potential for Woody Debris in these sections

High Potential for Woody Debris in these sections

High Potential for Woody Debris in these sections

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High Potential for Woody Debris in these sections

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles

82°42'0"W 82°40'0"W 82°38'0"W 82°36'0"W 82°34'0"W 82°32'0"W 82°30'0"W 82°28'0"W 82°26'0"W 82°24'0"W

UNOFFICIAL: Hunts Bridge Road River Access and Roadside Parking
 899 State Rd S-39-140
 Easley, SC 29640

Access is downstream of the Old Hunts Bridge Road bridge, river-right. The banks are steep; use caution. Park along Hunts Bridge Road, river-right. This access is unofficial but regularly used. Use at your own risk.



Saluda Lake Access and Parking Area
 322 Buckskin Road,
 Easley, SC 29640

This is the last take-out before the Saluda Lake Dam. There is a small fee to utilize this access. Open dawn to dusk.

Caution! The Saluda Lake Dam

Be advised that this dam is large and poses hazards to paddlers. Portage is not available at this time. Avoid the dam and its facilities.




Saluda Lake Landing Access and Parking Area
 605 Motor Boat Club Road,
 Greenville, SC 29611

This boat ramp and parking lot can be used for a small fee. If paddling downstream, the ramp is river/lake-left. The restaurant has seasonal hours. Please visit their Facebook page for more information, or call them at (864) 294-9061.



Saluda Dam Road River Access and Parking Area
 4014 Saluda Dam Road, Easley, SC 29640

The Saluda Dam Road River Access and Parking Area is located river-right north of the bridge. There is a small dirt parking lot and a fairly steep path leading to the river, downstream of the Saluda Lake Dam.




Saluda River Yacht Club
 1307 Old Easley Highway, Easley, SC 29640

This access is located river-right, downstream of the Old Easley Highway bridge and may be used by obtaining a free membership at the Yacht Club. Kayaks and tubes are available for rent. For more information, visit: www.saludariveryachtclub.com.

Dolly Cooper Park River Access and Parking Area
 170 Spearman Circle, Greenville, SC 29611

This Park offers an ADA accessible floating boat launch, allowing for easy access to the river for all. Additional features include ample paved parking and a grassy picnic area.



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 on the mouth of Big Brushy Creek. Although this access is unofficial, it is widely used. Use at your own risk.



Upper Saluda River Blueway Sponsors and Partners



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.

Suggested Trips (Section 1)

SALUDA RIVER Hunts Bridge Road to Saluda Lake Landing Trip Length: 6 miles Trip Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 3-4 hours	SALUDA RIVER Saluda Dam Road to Dolly Cooper Park Trip Length: 6.5 miles Trip Level: Novice Trip Duration: 2.5-3 hours
SALUDA RIVER Dolly Cooper Park to River Road Trip Length: 9.3 miles Trip Level: Beginner Trip Duration: 3-4 hours	SALUDA RIVER Saluda Dam Road to Dolly Cooper Park Trip Length: 6.5 miles Trip Level: Novice Trip Duration: 2.5-3 hours

Common Fish in the Upper Reaches of the Saluda River

 Largemouth Bass	 Rainbow Trout
 Redeye Bass	 Brook Trout
 Channel Catfish	 Brown Trout
 Bluegill	 Crappie
 Common Carp	 Redbreast Sunfish

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 water-body where that bait was collected.

Legend

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

