

MAP LEGEND

See reverse side for detailed listings

Information

River Access Points

River Gauge

Civil War Sites

Overmountain Victory Trail

Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Upper Yadkin Byway

Leaf to Vine Scenic Byway

N.C. Bike Route 2

N.C. Bike Route 4

Surry Scenic Bikeway

MAP TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Yadkin River State Trail
A designated Blue Trail that begins at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir and flows to the Uwharrie River where it turns into the Pee Dee River.

Mile Marker
Assigned to a river access based on the closest whole mile. Mileage starts at the confluence of the Uwharrie and Yadkin Rivers and increases as one travels up stream.

River Access
A developed area where public boaters are allowed to access the river.

River Junction
An area, often the public right-of-way, where roads and bridges connect to the water. May be used for drop-off access only. Vehicles must stay within the public right-of-way and not trespass on private property.

Navigation Areas of Interest
Locations in the river where a boat must navigate some type of obstacle. These obstacles change and vary based on the flow of the river.

INFORMATION

riverfacts.com

yadkinriverkeeper.org

americanwhitewater.org

Camping

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir
reserveamerica.com

Crater Park
336.258.8917

Yadkin Shores Access
336.849.7909

Pilot Mountain State Park
336.444.5100

Streamflow

waterdata.usgs.gov

River Gauge

For information on current river levels:

waterdata.usgs.gov

FUNDING PROVIDED BY

Golden LEAF FOUNDATION

Rural Center

Part of the BLUE RIDGE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

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it starts with a river...

A Upper Yadkin River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 6 miles
Difficulty: Class III-V
River Junction Points: SR 1372 & US 321, Caldwell County
Notes: This area should be run by experienced and expert boaters in wet weather only. A typical "drop pool," technical white water section requiring excellent scouting and boat handling skills. There are 5 - 6 navigation areas of interest which are Class IV to Class IV+ rapids often with step ledges, blind entrances, or blocked with downed trees. Scout carefully.

B Yadkin River from Patterson to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 15 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Accesses: Yadkin Valley Community Park Ramp, Caldwell County; Marley's Ford Ramp, Ferguson, NC
River Junction Points: Whisnant Road and Highway 268, Patterson, NC; Walsh Road and Indian Grave Road, Happy Valley, NC; Highway 268, Buffalo Cove, NC; Grandin Road, Laytown, NC; and Highway 268 Bridge, Ferguson, NC
Notes: 6 navigation areas of interest with narrow passages and low hanging limbs. Camping options at W. Kerr Scott Lake.

C Buffalo Creek
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 6.3 miles
Difficulty: Class II-III
River Junction Points: Road shoulder at Route 1503 Bridge in Buffalo Cove, NC (accessed by NC Highway 268); Yadkin Valley Community Park downstream at the confluence of the Yadkin River in Ferguson, NC. The park has a parking lot, river access, and restrooms.
Notes: 8 - 9 navigation areas of interest with small, drop pool rapids that may be blocked by downed trees and tree limbs. Runnable following rainy weather periods through a remote and deep river gorge. Ideal river level is between 150 CFS - 300 CFS. Above 500 CFS the river becomes a Class III-IV run.

D Elk Creek
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 8.4 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II (III)
River Junction Points: Near Leatherwood Mountains Resort, Route 1148, Darby, NC; NC-268 Bridge at Elkville, NC
Notes: 3 navigation areas of interest, with 2 low-water bridges requiring portage, and 1 Class III rapid in the gorge just above the junction of the Highway 268 Bridge. Excellent for beginners. River gauge is located on the river left bank after the last rapid before the take out. Ideal river level is between 1.5 ft. and 2.3 ft. Above 3 ft. the gorge rapid becomes a Class III-IV rapid with several big holes below the ledges. Scout on river left.

E Lewis Fork Creek North and South Prongs
A tributary of the Yadkin River
Distance: 7 miles
Difficulty: Class II-III
River Junction Points: SR 1304 in Purlear, NC; SR 1307 in Wilkes County, NC
Notes: Approximately 6 navigation areas of interest, that include tight passages, over hanging limbs and fast, shallow gravel bars. The North Prong is an excellent wet-weather run containing numerous Class II and III rapids. (An optional extended stretch (.8 mile) on South Prong is available by continuing to Route 1156 near US 421.)

F Reddies River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 10 miles
Difficulty: Class I-III (IV)
River Junction Points: County Road 1546 Bridge at Wilbar, NC; 13th Street Access via Yadkin River Greenway, North Wilkesboro, NC; County Road 1540 Bridge and County Road 1517 (Suncrest Orchard Connector Bridge) Wilbar Street, North Wilkesboro, NC
Notes: Most of the whitewater on the Reddies River including Mill Pond rapid is in the first 2 miles of the section. The Mill Pond is a 3-tier ledge rapid which will approach Class IV in difficulty when the stream flow is at a higher level. Scout or portage on river left. Watch for the 20-foot dam just before take out in North Wilkesboro. Portage on rivers left. (An optional shorter trip of 2 miles can be made by taking out at County Road 1540.)

G Roaring River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 2 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II (III)
River Accesses: Kapps Mill, Mountain Park, NC; Burch Station, Elkin, NC
River Junction Points: Poplar Springs/ Cummings Road, Elkin, NC
Notes: Easternmost native trout waters with some of the highest water quality. Approximately 11.4 miles of river between accesses. Prepare for a remote setting.

H Mitchell River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 20.4 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Accesses: Kapps Mill, Mountain Park, NC; Burch Station, Elkin, NC
River Junction Points: Poplar Springs/ Cummings Road, Elkin, NC
Notes: Easternmost native trout waters with some of the highest water quality. Approximately 11.4 miles of river between accesses. Prepare for a remote setting.

I Fisher River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 21 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II (III)
River Accesses: Fisher River Park, Old Highway 601, Hamlin Ford, and Bray Ford, Dobson, NC
River Junction Points: Turkey Ford Road and Buck Ford Road, Dobson, NC
Notes: Half-day and full-day trips. Remote area with narrow passageways. (Approximately 22.7 miles of river from Bray Ford Access to Shoals Access with many river junction points.) Prepare for a remote setting.

J Ararat River
A tributary of the Yadkin River
River Distance: 27.7 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Accesses: Riverside Park, H. B. Rowe Park, and Tharrington Park, Mount Airy, NC; Highway 268 East, Pilot Mountain, NC
River Junction Points: Sheep Farm Road, Mount Airy, NC; Radar Road, Ararat, NC; Quaker Church Road, Siloam, NC
Notes: No junction points crossing this river for 8.9 miles. Approximately 15 miles of river from Highway 268 East Access and Shoals Access. Approximately 15 miles between Tharrington Park Access and the Highway 268 East Access with few river junction points. Prepare for a remote setting.

Additional Small Creek Runs
Stoney Fork Creek in western Wilkes County
Difficulty: Class II (IV)
Big Bugaboo Creek in eastern Wilkes County
Difficulty: Class IV (V)
Big Elk Creek in eastern Wilkes and western Surry County
Difficulty: Class II-III

Yadkin River Tributaries
Many of the Yadkin River tributary streams do not have public access ramps and/or public parking areas. These access points are referred to as "junction" points which are often bridges or road shoulders near the stream. If private property and not a Department of Transportation right-of-way, it is recommended that the paddler request permission prior to parking a vehicle near the access point.

1 W. Kerr Scott Tailwater Access to Smoot Park Mile Marker 163
Distance: 7.1 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Put In: Kerr Scott Dam, 202 Ranger Road, Wilkesboro, NC
River Take Out: 832 Main Street, North Wilkesboro, NC
Junction Points: Browns Ford Road, Curtis Bridge Road, and NC 18/NC 268 Bridge in North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro, NC
Notes: 8 navigation areas of interest located at the bridge junctions. Watch for and avoid low hanging tree limbs.

2 Smoot Park to Roaring River Community Access Mile Marker 156
Distance: 15.1 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Put In: 832 Main Street, North Wilkesboro, NC
River Take Out: 9214 Elkin Highway, Roaring River, NC
Junction Points: NC 115 Bridge in North Wilkesboro, NC; Red White and Blue Road, Roaring River, NC
Notes: 11 navigation areas of interest including Church's Rock, a large rock outcrop on river left approximately halfway through this stretch. Two large islands in this section of river. The first island should be navigated river left, and the second island should be navigated river right. Watch for and avoid low hanging tree limbs.

3 Roaring River Community Access to Ronda Access Mile Marker 145
Distance: 5.2 miles
Difficulty: Class I-II
River Put In: 9214 Elkin Highway, Roaring River, NC
River Take Out: 135 Clingman Road, Ronda, NC
Notes: 4 areas of interest to navigate. Easy, short, scenic section. Watch for and avoid low hanging tree limbs.

4 Ronda Access to Crater Park Access Mile Marker 140
River Distance: 6.8 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 135 Clingman Road, Ronda, NC
River Take Out: 310 Standard Street, Elkin, NC
Junction Points: Clingman Road Bridge at Ronda, NC; NC Highway 21 Business (North Bridge Street) Bridge, Elkin, NC
Notes: Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 14 navigation areas of interest to navigate. Paddle-in camping available at Crater Park access.

5 Crater Park Access to Burch Station Access Mile Marker 133
River Distance: 6.1 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 310 Standard Street, Elkin, NC
River Take Out: 116 Greenwood Circle, Elkin, NC
Notes: Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 8 areas of interest to navigate. Burch Station is located river left of an island and can be missed easily.

6 Burch Station at Mitchell River Access to Yadkin Shores Access Mile Marker 127
River Distance: 4.7 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 116 Greenwood Circle, Elkin, NC
River Take Out: 8420 US 601, Boonville, NC
Notes: Approximately 14 navigation areas of interest to navigate. Some of these areas are consecutive.

7 Yadkin Shores Access to Shoals Access Mile Marker 122
River Distance: 16.7 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 8420 US 601, Boonville, NC
River Take Out: 4454 Shoals Road, East Bend, NC
Notes: Day-long section with 2 river junction points: Rockford and Siloam. Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 26 navigation areas of interest. Shoals Access, considered the river section of Pilot Mountain State Park, is wide and shallow, and is located river right before a large group of islands. Paddle-in camping is available downstream of the access river right of the islands.

8 Shoals Access to Donnah Access Mile Marker 105
River Distance: 6.9 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 4454 Shoals Road, East Bend, NC
River Take Out: 6131 Donnah Park Road, East Bend, NC
Notes: Donnah Access CLOSED through fall 2023. Long stretch of shoals, ledges, and islands in this section with many lines to choose from. Approximately 34 navigation areas of interest with some consecutive. Paddle-in camping is available downstream right of the islands.

9 Donnah Access to Old 421 Access Mile Marker 99
River Distance: 6.6 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 6131 Donnah Park Road, East Bend, NC
River Take Out: 7695 Yadkinville Road, Lewisville, NC
Notes: Donnah Access CLOSED through fall 2023. Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 7 navigation areas of interest. Mandatory portage river right approximately 2.5 miles downstream of the double islands.

10 Old 421 Access to Huntsville Access Mile Marker 92
River Distance: 5.4 miles
Difficulty: Class I - II
River Put In: 7695 Yadkinville Road, Lewisville, NC
River Take Out: 5600 Courtney-Huntsville Road, Yadkinville, NC
Notes: Long stretches of flatwater with approximately 4 navigation areas of interest.

11 Huntsville Access
River Put In: 5600 Courtney-Huntsville Road, Yadkinville, NC
Notes: Last access point in the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor. For more information visit: trails.nc.gov and yadkinriverkeeper.org

BREAKING DOWN SECTIONS OF THE RIVER
RIFLE: Shallow and rocky with surface disturbance
EDDY: Swirling reverse current
STRAINER: Tree in the current that water flows through
TAILOUT: Shallow area at end of pool
RUN: Deeper water with smooth, uniform currents
POOL: Deep, calm water

Note: Yadkin Valley is a predominately rural region. GPS coordinates may not be accurate. All locations on map are approximate.



Photo: Sam Deam



Located in northwestern North Carolina within an easy day's drive of anywhere in the state, the Yadkin Valley commences at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains and sprawls eastward into the Piedmont.



Photo: Sam Deam



explore. engage. experience.

The natural beauty of the Yadkin River Valley and the experience of enjoying a float trip along the Yadkin River or one of its tributaries makes the region a fun-filled destination for paddlers.

On the upper section of the river activities include canoeing and kayaking the Class I to Class IV rapids and fly fishing for trout. The sections of river below W. Kerr Scott Dam in Wilkes County and then flowing down through Surry and Yadkin Counties contain rapids rated at Class I and II and are ideal for easy float trips by canoe, kayak, or even paddleboard.

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it starts with a river...

- fishing
- canoeing
- kayaking
- rafting
- tubing
- picnicking
- camping

map your river adventure.

The Yadkin River Valley region, designated as the Yadkin Valley Heritage Corridor, is located in the beautiful rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you'll find a thriving, vibrant area with charming, historic small towns and stunning vistas teeming with outdoor recreational opportunities.

With scenic waterfalls and lush native plants and wildlife along the riverbanks, you'll find the Yadkin Valley offers abundant opportunities to connect with and enjoy the outdoors.

Whether you're looking for a day float trip or a weekend excursion, plan your Yadkin River adventure with our map to help you easily locate your destination as well as nearby amenities, activities, and points interest.

it starts with a river.

The Yadkin River and its tributaries offer an abundance of river-based recreation through the four-county region of Caldwell, Wilkes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties in North Carolina.

From its headwaters near the Blue Ridge Parkway's Thunder Hill Overlook, the Yadkin River flows over 200 miles southeast into South Carolina, making it one of the longest rivers in North Carolina.

Cover photo: Julian Charles
Fly fishing, waterfall and biking photos courtesy of Tourism Partnership of Surry County



play it safe

- Before taking your first boat trip, learn the basics
- Plan your trip carefully, stay off flooded rivers
- Wear an approved personal floatation device (PFD)
- Never boat alone
- Do not overload your boat
- Carry a map and emergency phone numbers
- Share your river location and return time
- Carry a first aid kit, repair kit, and flashlight
- Take sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses, brimmed hat
- Take rain gear, change of clothes

play it safe

- Wear non-slip shoes
- Tie an extra paddle to the boat
- Secure a 10' painter line to the bow and stern
- Place food, clothes, etc., in containers tied to the boat
- Be aware of weather conditions and risks
- Avoid downed trees and strainers
- Use portage trail around dams
- Complete your trip before dark (2-3 miles per hour boating in normal conditions; twice as long for tubing)
- Plan your shuttle
- Do not trespass on private property

play it safe

Know the Conditions Check the weather forecast and never paddle during flood conditions. Be aware that hypothermia is possible even in warm weather if the water is cold. A good rule of thumb is that if the water temperature plus the air temperature is less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, then hypothermia may occur.

Avoid Downed Trees and Strainers Downed trees and strainers are a dangerous hazard on any river. Avoid paddling close to a downed tree or any structure that could trap you between the object and your boat.

Respect Property The rivers are public but flow through private property. Do not trespass, abuse, or litter the waters, banks, or shorelines. Collect your refuse and dispose of properly when your trip is over. Do not cut or damage plant life on the riverbanks. Refer to the public access point shown on the brochure map.

information

- Yadkin Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center**
257 Standard Street, Elkin, NC 28621
336-526-1111 ExploreElkin.com
- Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center**
200 North Main Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030
336-786-6116 mountairyncchamber.org
- Wilkes Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center**
717 Main Street, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-838-8662 ExploreWilkes.com
- Northwest North Carolina Visitor Center**
2121 East Highway 421, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-667-1259 wilkescountytourism.com
- Yadkin County Chamber & Visitor Center**
205 S. Jackson Street, Yadkinville, NC 27055
336-679-2200 yadkinchamber.org
- Jonesville Welcome Center**
1503 NC Highway 67, Jonesville, NC 28642
336-835-2000 visittheyadkinvalley.com
- I-77N North Carolina Welcome Center**
Southbound I-77 Milepost 105, Dobson, NC 27017
336-320-2181 visitnc.com
- Caldwell County Chamber & Visitor Information Center**
1909 Hickory Boulevard SE, Lenoir, NC 28645
828-726-0616 caldwellchambernc.com
- Pilot Mountain Visitor Center**
124 W. Main Street, Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
336-368-2247 ncparks.gov

- information
- river access
- picnicking
- hiking
- camping
- biking
- lodging
- dining
- restrooms
- outdoor outfitters
- scenic area
- water activities
- fishing
- disc golf
- historic site
- parking

YADKIN RIVER RUNS

- W. Kerr Scott Tailwater Access to Smoot Park**
- Smoot Park to Roaring River Community Access**
- Roaring River Community Access to Ronda Access**
- Ronda Access to Crater Park Access**
- Crater Park Access to Burch Station Access**
- Burch Station at Mitchell River Access to Yadkin Shores Access**
- Yadkin Shores Access to Shoals Access**
- Shoals Access to Donnaha Access**
- Donnaha Access to Old 421 Access**
- Old 421 Access to Huntsville Access**
- Huntsville Access**

YADKIN RIVER TRIBUTARY RUNS

- Upper Yadkin River**
- Yadkin River from Patterson to W. Kerr Scott Reservoir**
- Buffalo Creek**
- Elk Creek**
- Lewis Fork Creek - North and South Prongs**
- Reddies River**
- Roaring River**
- Mitchell River**
- Fisher River**
- Ararat River**



Trout Waters
Many streams offer excellent opportunities for trout fishing such as:
Upper Yadkin River
Buffalo Creek
Lewis Fork Creek
Elk Creek
Stoney Fork Creek
Reddies River
Roaring River
Big Elk Creek
Mitchell River
Fisher River
Ararat River
...and other smaller streams

Delayed Harvest
October 1 until the first Saturday in June
Only single-hook artificial lures, no possession. All other times hatchery-supported regulations apply.

Hatchery Supported
First Saturday in April until last day in February
No lure or size restrictions. Seven fish daily limit.

The Blue Ridge Parkway
Hatchery supported streams on the Blue Ridge Parkway are stocked by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission but are regulated by the Blue Ridge Parkway. To check the current regulations for the Parkway, call 336-373-8568.

NC Trout Stream Information
ncwildlife.org



SAFETY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Rapid Classification System
Class I Rapid: Easy. Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Little risk.
Class II Rapid: Novice. Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels. Easy to maneuver. Little risk.
Class III Rapid: Intermediate. Rapids with moderate, irregular waves with complex maneuvers. Some risk.
Class IV Rapid: Advanced. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids that require skill and experience with risks including the possibility of injury.
Class V Rapid: Expert. Extremely long, obstructed, or violent rapids where risks may result in severe injury or death.
Class VI Rapid: Extreme and exploratory rapids. Rarely attempted. Extreme difficulty, unpredictable, and dangerous. Risk of errors are severe, and rescue may be impossible.

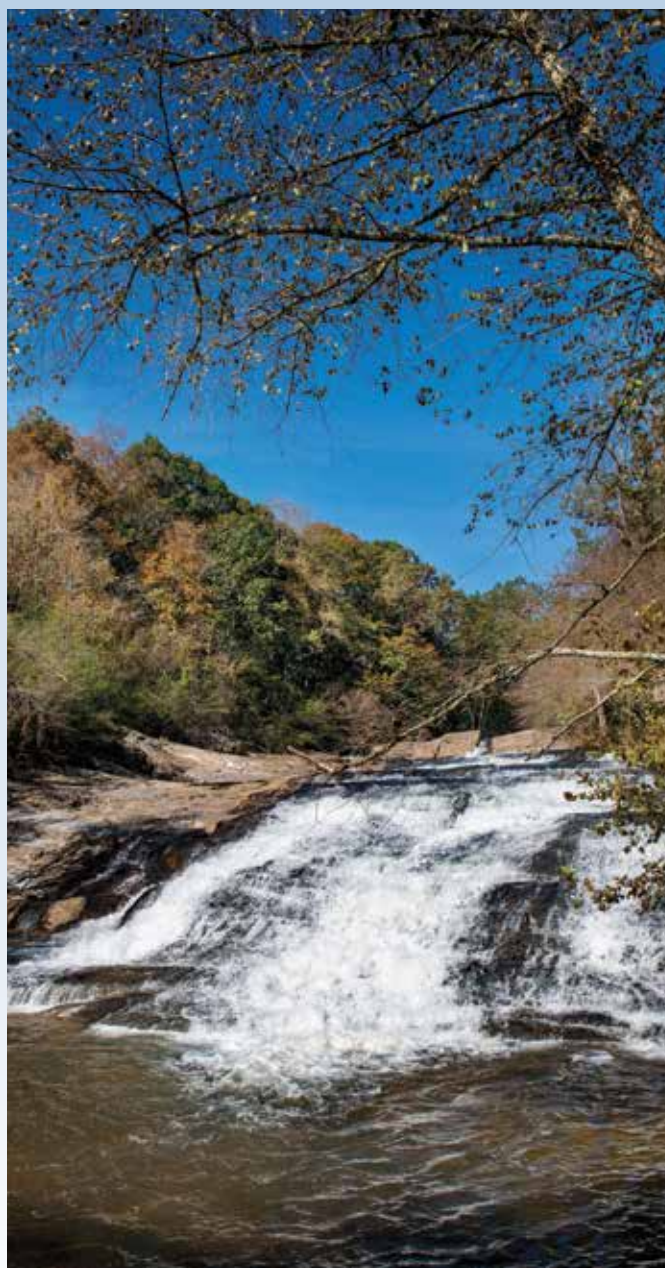
SAFETY GEAR
Dry Bag: A waterproof, sealable bag that keeps contents dry.
First Aid Kit: A set of materials and tools used for giving emergency treatment to an injured person.
Helmet: A hard or padded hat that protects the head.
Painter: Usually 10 feet long, a line attached to the bow and stern of a boat to aid in boat rescue and to secure the boat to the shoreline.
PFD/Lifejacket: Personal Floatation Device in the form of a vest or suit to prevent drowning.
River Knife: Small knife used to cut small lines or use as a tool.
Spray Skirt: A piece of waterproof material that fits around a paddler and opening of a kayak to prevent water from entering the craft.
Throw Bag: A rescue device with a rope stuffed loosely into a bag that can be thrown to a paddler or swimmer in trouble.

DESCRIPTIVE TERMS
Boat Scouting: Observing a rapid from a boat by judging multiple eddies at the top of and on the way down the rapid.
CFS/CMS: Cubic Feet Per Second/Cubic Meters Per Second
Hydrological terms for measuring water flow on a river.
Downstream/Upstream: The direction the current is flowing.
Downstream V: A tongue of dark water that loosely forms a "V" shape with whitewater at the edges that indicates the deepest and most obstacle-free entry into or path through a rapid.
Eddy: A river feature formed when the current flows around an obstacle and water flows back upstream to create a calmer and slower current. An area to rest, avoid the current, and scout.
Ferry: A river-running technique used to cross a downstream current to get from one side of the river to the other without being carried downstream with the current.
Gauge: Used to measure the water height of a river.

Gradient: Refers to the amount of drop or loss of elevation in a river from put in to take out.
Horizon Line: A point in the river where the current drops off, and the rapid below cannot be seen from upstream.
Hydraulic/Hole: Created when water flows over a rock or ledge forcefully downstream and water from downstream flows back upstream to fill in the depression.
Keeper Hole: Powerful hole or hydraulic in which the foam pile or backwash is so strong that it does not easily release boats, debris, etc., and recirculates them in the hole.
Open Water: A large body of water that is not protected from the wind by trees or shoreline. Should only be attempted by experienced boaters.
Portage: The act of carrying your boat around a rapid due to an obstruction or the route lacking a safe runnable passage.
Rapid: A section of river where the gradient increases causing the flow of the water to speed up creating more turbulence.
Reading Water: The technique used to decipher and recognize the safest paths through turbulent whitewater.
River Right/River Left: Describes the river reference when facing downstream.
Scouting a Rapid: The act of pulling over above a rapid, exiting the boat, and walking to the edge of the rapid to look at it from land, discern the safest path, and decide to continue or portage.
Standing Wave: A tall wave that has no foam pile and that water is flowing through quickly.
Strainer: A tree or tree branches in the current that allow for the water to flow through but that can trap a boat.
Swiftwater Rescue: Rescue techniques for situations involving current or fast-flowing water by specially trained personnel, ropes, and mechanical systems that are more robust than those used in standard rope rescue.
Wave: A feature formed when the gradient increases, the river constricts, or the current flows over rocks and other debris on the riverbed.
White Water: Formed when flowing water mixes with air creating aerated water. On rivers, white water is formed when water flows over obstacles such as rocks in the riverbed or when the gradient of a river increases, quickening the flow, and creating turbulence.

BOATING TERMS

Bow/Stern: Front and rear of the boat.
Deck/Hull: Top and bottom of the boat.
Outfitting: Adding additional features that improve comfort, fit, and convenience to a boat.
Put In/Take Out: The river access points where paddlers start and end their trip.
Shuttle: The ability to leave your boat and gear at your launch point and having a vehicle at your take out location to transport your boat, gear, and passengers.



yadkin valley