





Information and Safety

Tips for River Users

Prepare your Gear

- \* Wear an approved personal floatation device (PFD) at all times.
- \* Tie an extra paddle to the boat.
- \* Secure a strong painter (rope) at least 10' long to the bow and stern.
- \* Carry a first aid kit, repair kit, and flashlight.
- \* Carry a map of the trail with emergency phone numbers.
- \* Take rain gear and a change of clothes in a watertight container.
- \* Take sunscreen and insect repellent, sunglasses, and a brimmed hat.
- \* Take your own litterbag. Never throw trash in or along the river.
- \* Before taking your first canoe or kayak trip, learn the basics so that you can use your boat safely.

Play it Safe

- \* Never boat alone. Two or more boats are preferred.
- \* Don't overload your craft. Plan no more than two adults per boat, and always center the load.
- \* Place food, change of clothes, etc, in containers tied to the boat.
- \* Wear non-slip shoes at all times as you may have to walk on sharp rocks on the river bottom.
- \* Plan your trip carefully. The extra time can make the difference a quality experience or a disastrous one.
- \* Don't forget that driving time is extra. Plan your shuttle.
- \* Allow ample time to reach your destination, 2-3 miles per hour canoeing or kayaking under normal conditions (twice as long tubing). It's better to complete the trip early than finish after dark.
- \* If your trip includes a section of the river with a dam, you must use the portage trail around the dam. It is there for your safety.
- \* Let someone know where you plan to be on the river and at what time you plan to return.

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 (f), then hypothermia may occur. (see graph below)

Hypothermia

Water Temperature (°F)	Survival Time (hrs.)
30	0.5
40	1.0
50	2.0
60	4.0
70	6.0

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.

Upper Mitchell R.

SCALE: 1" = 3360' +/-

Continued on panel below

Upper Fisher R.

SCALE: 1" = 5220' +/-

Continued on panel below

Upper Ararat R.

SCALE: 1" = 5710' +/-

Continued on panel below

River Access				
ACCESS	LOCATION	SPONSOR	PHONE	
Mitchell R.	A — SR 1330	Undeveloped	N/A	
	B — Mountain Park	Surry County Parks and Rec.	336-401-8235	
	C — SR 1001	Undeveloped	N/A	
Fisher River	D — Fisher River Park	Surry County Parks and Rec.	336-401-8235	
	E — SR 2258	Undeveloped	N/A	
	F — SR 1100	Undeveloped	N/A	
	G — Hamlin Ford	Surry County Parks and Rec.	336-401-8235	
	H — Bray Ford	Surry County Parks and Rec.	336-401-8235	
	I — SR 2223	Undeveloped	N/A	
Ararat River	J — Riverside Park	Mount Airy Parks & Rec.	336-786-8313	
	K — H. B. Rowe Park	Mount Airy Parks & Rec.	336-786-8313	
	L — Tharrington School Park	Mount Airy Parks & Rec.	336-786-8313	
	M — SR 2119	Undeveloped	N/A	
	N — SR 2026	Undeveloped	N/A	
	O — 268 E	Surry County Parks and Rec.	336-401-8235	
Yadkin River	1 — Ronda Park	Town of Ronda	336-835-2061	
	2 — Crater Park	Elkin Parks & Recreation	336-794-6478	
	3 — Burch Station	Surry County Parks and Rec.	336-401-8235	
	4 — Yadkin/Shore Shoals	Yadkin Co. Rec. Dept.	336-679-4228	
	5 — Pilot Mtn.	Pilot Mtn. S.P.	336-325-2355	
	6 — Donnaha	Yadkin Co. Rec. Dept.	336-679-4228	

Green indicates a river access or park. For more information on the facilities offered, visit: <http://yadkinvalleynec.com/>, or call the numbers shown. The undeveloped access areas are on public roads and offer no facilities. These sites shall be used for drop-off launch sites only, and vehicles and persons MUST STAY within public right-of-way.

Downtown Mount Airy

Greenway: Canoeing/Kayaking, Bike Route, River Access

Upper Yadkin Gaging Stations

User Map Index and U. S. G. S. Gage Stations

The user maps cover what is considered to be navigable and are drawn to different scales in order to fit the space available.

Station	River	Drainage
Elkin	Yadkin	869 Sq. Mi.
Ararat	Ararat	231 Sq. Mi.

To check current river levels, go to any major search engine and enter [usgs.nc.streamflow](http://usgs.nc.streamflow). Choose the entry that reads "north carolina streamflow - usgs water data for the nation". Scroll half way down the page to "03040101 Upper Yadkin", then to the gage station(s) of interest. A graph will display the present conditions (blue line) against the historical average (brown triangles).

For example, the graph below shows readings during an extreme drought. The user would probably want to avoid the upper reaches of the river during such low water. If the blue line was much above the brown triangles, the river could be dangerously high.

USGS 02112250 YADKIN RIVER AT ELKIN, NC

Date	Discharge (cubic feet per second)
Dec. 13	850
Dec. 14	850
Dec. 15	850
Dec. 16	850
Dec. 17	850
Dec. 18	850
Dec. 19	850
Dec. 20	850

Median daily statistics (52 years) Discharge

Lower Mitchell R.

SCALE: 1" = 3360' +/-

Continued from panel above

Lower Fisher R.

SCALE: 1" = 5220' +/-

Continued from panel above

Lower Ararat R.

SCALE: 1" = 5710' +/-

Continued from panel above

YADKIN ISLANDS AND BEAN SHOALS CANAL

The Shoals Access is located at the landing of the old Shoals ferry, and is about a quarter-mile upstream from the Yadkin shoals and islands. This two-mile stretch is arguably the most beautiful, and certainly the most unique, part of the river; however, it was an obstacle to river navigation.

The State of North Carolina (probably influenced by New York's Erie Canal, then under construction) chartered the Yadkin Navigation Company to build a three-mile canal around the shoals. In 1820, work started at the head of the shoals, where a low dam was built across the Yadkin River to raise boats to canal level, and to channel the vast amount of water required by the canal. The first of three planned locks was built at the head of the canal.

At first, the channel was dug in earth to a width of 45 feet, and probably four feet deep. About 2,000 feet downstream, a high bluff necessitated the first of two stone retaining walls where the canal narrowed to 15 feet. The walls were two-feet wide at the top and five to 20 feet high. They were built without mortar from stone quarried on the spot.

Canal section at the bluffs

The excavated stone was shaped and used for the retaining wall

The canal drawings are based on N.C.G.S. Bulletin #8, Waterpower in North Carolina, 1899

PILOT MTN. STATE PARK

How far construction extended downstream is uncertain. All sources agree on at least a mile. Linear depressions between the river and R.R. track indicate that it was considerably longer

Approx. location of Martin's Mill which would have been one of the few undershot mills in N.C.

This map emphasizes river travel and historical features. For information on park activities, visit: [www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov).