



NORTH CAROLINA Smoky Mountain Blueways

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOST OF NORTH CAROLINA | SOUTHWESTERN COMMISSION | DUKE ENERGY | BLUE RIDGE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.SMOKYMOUNTAINBLUEWAYS.COM

We've given you public access points, which means not all shoreline is open to the public. Please respect private property.

Do not leave valuables in sight inside your car. Do not leave a note on your car indicating how long you will be on the water. Protect your valuables by taking them with you or hiding them in your car.

If you are interested in learning more about land and water conservation or want to get involved, contact the Mainspring Conservation Trust, Friends of Lake Glenville, Watershed Association of the Tuckasee River, or Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition.



• THE CHEOAH RIVER

The Cheoah River, 20 miles long, is located in the extreme southwestern corner of North Carolina, near Robbinsville. Unique in its features, the Cheoah is one of the most physically-demanding rivers in the world and the perfect challenge for the most adventurous paddlers.

For seventy years, the nine-mile section between the Santeetlah Dam and Lake Calderwood was dewatered. American Whitewater along with the Western North Carolina Paddlers advocated for releases which began in the fall of 2005. Each year, there are at least 18 releases for paddlers to enjoy for the next 40 years.

The Cheoah is unusual for rivers of its volume in the Southeast in that its gradient is relatively constant, meaning with the exception of 2 or 3 half mile sections, it is unusually more continuous than anything else with a similar volume of water in the Southeast. Some call it "warm western-style paddling".

On release days, sections of the Cheoah offer challenging Class IV and V rapids making the Cheoah a fantastic whitewater experience. The lower section has numerous "classic drops" according to whitewater enthusiasts, with the largest one at approximately eight feet. All who have paddled the Cheoah have agreed it will become one of the crown jewels of the whitewater world.

Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit https://www.brookfieldrenewable.com/content/recreation_and_flow/cheoah-40250.html to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER

The Little Tennessee, a 135-mile river, and its immediate watershed comprise one of the richest archaeological areas in the southeastern U.S., containing substantial habitation sites dating back to as early as 7,500 B.C. Cyrus Thomas, who conducted a survey of earthwork mounds in the area for the Smithsonian Institution in the 1880s, wrote that the Little Tennessee River was "undoubtedly the most interesting archaeological section in the entire Appalachian district."

The Little Tennessee drains portions of three national forests—Chattahoochee, Nantahala, and Cherokee, and provides the southwestern boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Known to the avid fisherman for its for its Smallmouth Bass, this river is a popular spot for canoeing, fishing and floating. Travelers and locals alike enjoy Franklin's Little Tennessee Greenway as it winds along the river.

Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit <https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels/Fontana> to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• THE NANTAHALA RIVER

The Nantahala rises near the border of Georgia and North Carolina, close to the Southern Nantahala Wilderness and the Appalachian Trail. It empties into the Little Tennessee River at Fontana Lake.

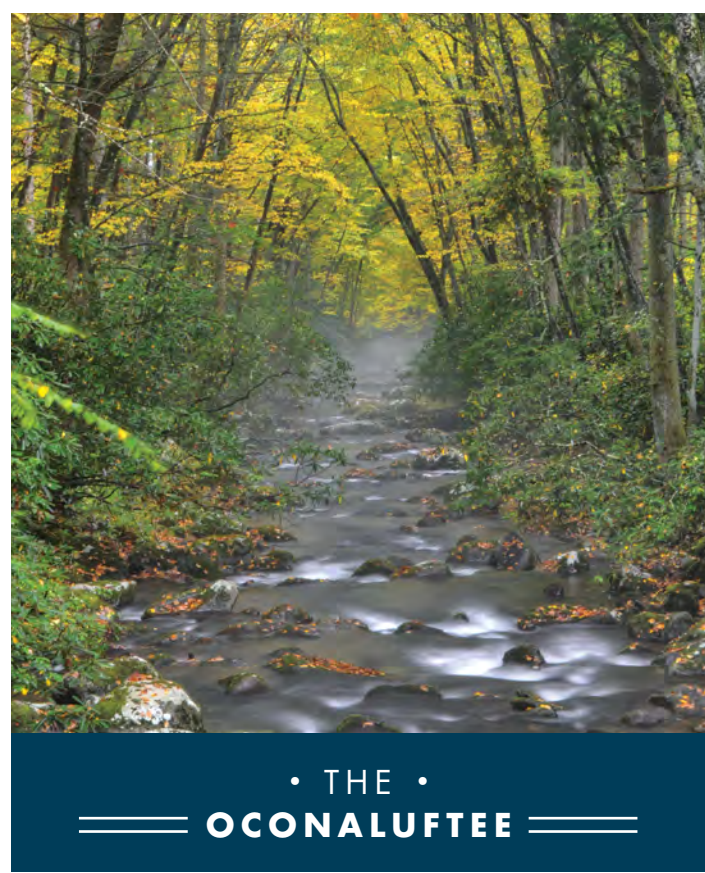
The word "Nantahala" comes from the Cherokee language and means "Land of the Noonday Sun". The river runs through a narrow and steep gorge where in some areas the sun only reaches the ground when it is directly overhead during the middle of the day.

Nantahala offers river rafting and kayaking through family-friendly rapids and is a popular spot for the amateur as well as the Olympic paddler. It features eight miles of Class II rapids before spashing through the exciting Class III whitewater of Nantahala Falls. This is one of America's most popular whitewater runs that hosted the 2013 International Canoe Federation's Freestyle World Championships!

The Nantahala is also a very popular trout fishing destination. North Carolina Game and Fish named the Nantahala one of North Carolina's ten best trout streams. It is also recognized as one of the area's premier trout streams. The trout fishing on the Nantahala is so good in fact that Trout Unlimited included it on their list of the top 100 Trout Streams in the U.S.

Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit <https://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/Nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp> to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• THE OCONALUFTEE RIVER

The Oconaluftee, considered "sacred waters" by the Cherokee, and known as the "Luce," is a beautiful, freestone river that drops 2,000 feet over 10 miles. It flows through downtown Cherokee and Qualla Boundary, the homeland of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, before joining the Little Tennessee on the way to Lake Fontana. Wading, tubing, fishing and canoeing are all popular here. However, the Luce is most famous for its abundant healthy Rainbow, Brook and Brown Trout. In fact it holds the North Carolina Record Brown Trout weighing in at 15.9 pounds.

This pristine river is one of the best Smoky Mountain Blueways for catching North Carolina mountain trout. The river is heavily stocked, 300,000 per year, by the Cherokee Fisheries & Wildlife Management. The easily accessible streams on the reservation are stocked twice weekly. A special fishing permit is required from the Cherokee Reservation.

Check for fishing regulations specific to this river at www.fishcherokee.com and www.ncwildlife.org.

Visit <https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels/Fontana> to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• THE TUCKASEE RIVER

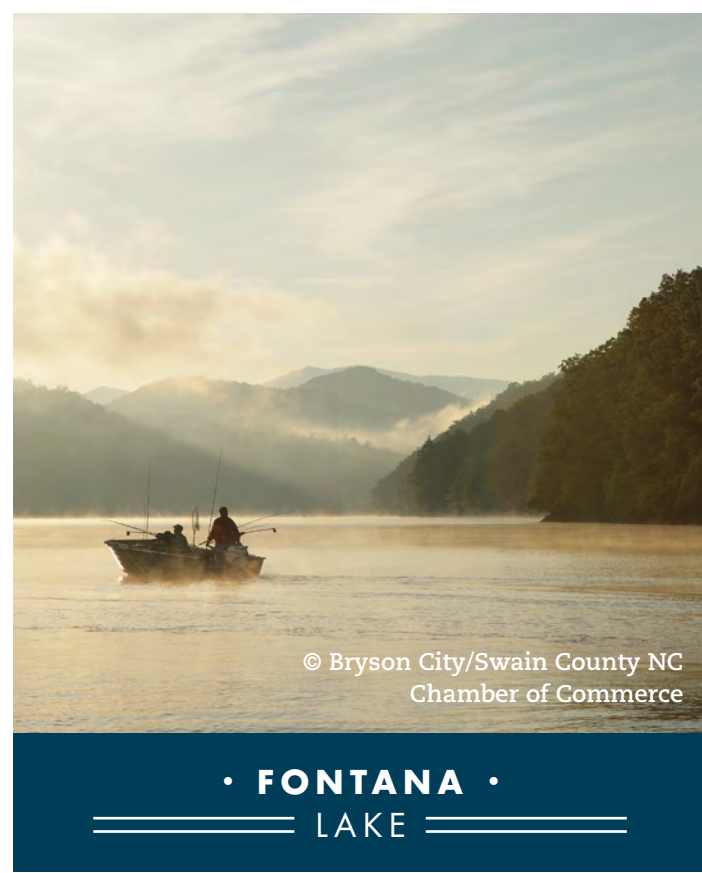
The Tuckasee, known as the "Tuck," originates around Cashiers and runs through Sylva, Dillsboro and Bryson City on its way to Fontana Lake. The name Tuckasee may be an anglicisation of the Cherokee language word [daksiyi—takhšiyi] in the local Cherokee variety—"Turtle Place." The river is dotted with stone fishing weirs built by Native Americans; this practice may have preceded the Cherokee in the area. The weirs are most easily viewed when water levels are low.

A float trip on the Tuck is an exhilarating way to experience fly fishing in the Southern Appalachians. The river has areas that are as wide as many western rivers, offering plenty of room for back casting. The Tuck is also a popular river for tubing, floating and canoeing.

On most days with no recent rain storms, boating down the river without added water from dam releases can be slow going, with numerous opportunities to get out and push your boat off the rocks. On the other hand, high water is difficult for fishermen. During the summer, special days (usually Mondays) are set aside for low-water conditions for the benefit of anglers. Whether you are an angler or a kayaker, it is beneficial to know the water levels to enjoy your sport.

It is recommended to check the Daily Schedule of Flows Arrival and Recession Times by visiting www.duke-energy.com. Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit <https://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/Nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp> to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• FONTANA LAKE

Fontana Lake is a reservoir impounded by Fontana Dam on the Little Tennessee. The lake forms part of the southern border of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the northern border of part of the Nantahala National Forest. Depending on water levels, the lake is about 17 miles (27 km) long. The eastern end is the Tuckasee River near Bryson City. The lake has many inlets into the coves and islands created from former mountain peaks.

Short of a multi-day hike, Fontana Lake provides the only access into the most remote areas of the National Park. When the lake is at the normal summer level, a boat may be used to access remote trailheads such as Hazel Creek. From the observation tower on Clingmans Dome, on a clear day the lake can be seen nearly a mile below.

The lake is used by avid fishermen, boaters, floaters and flat-water kayakers. Some say that Fontana Lake offers the best smallmouth bass fishing in the United States.

Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit <https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels/Fontana> to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• LAKE GLENVILLE

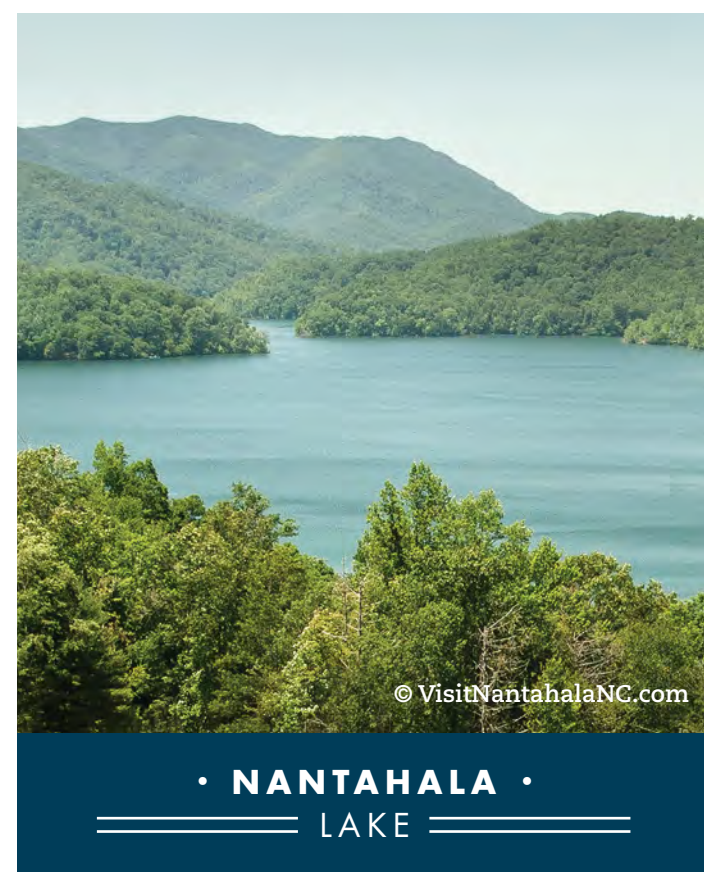
Lake Glenville is a reservoir located 8 miles from Cashiers, North Carolina. It was formed by the damming of the west fork of the Tuckasee River in 1941. Between 1951 and 2002, it was officially known as "Thorpe Reservoir". It is still listed as such on many maps.

As part of the nation's war efforts entering World War II, the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) needed more electricity to keep up with and increase production. In June 1940, Nantahala Power and Light, then owned by ALCOA, began constructing a dam on the west fork of the Tuckasee River at Onion Falls. They completed it in late 1941, filling a new lake called Thorpe Reservoir or Lake Glenville. It encompassed the entire valley north of Cashiers, flooding the town of Glenville, including schools, homes, businesses, and farmlands to a depth of 300 feet.

The lake bottom plunges as steeply as the mountains that meet the shore. The depth a short distance from the water's edge may register 80 feet (24 m) or more. The lake also has 26 miles (42 km) of shoreline and is the highest elevation lake east of the Mississippi encompassing 1,452 acres. Over the years, its waters have become a tourist destination for kayakers, canoers, waterskiers and pleasure boat enthusiasts who found a cool retreat in the Southeast's otherwise boiling summers.

Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit <https://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/Nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp> to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• NANTAHALA LAKE

Nantahala Lake, regulated and maintained by Duke Energy, is a major source of hydroelectric power to the region. Located at 3,000 feet in the Nantahala National Forest, the lake sits above the Nantahala Gorge and is known for its scenic beauty and crystal clear waters. The lake has 29 miles of shoreline, much of which is undeveloped and managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

The lake offers recreational opportunities that include swimming, boating, skiing, and many other activities. Anglers can catch largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, trout, salmon, catfish, and many different species of panfish. The lake is also the only place to find freshwater Kokanee salmon in the Southeast. The water is very clear with almost no dissolved silt/clay.

It is recommended to check the Daily Schedule of Flows Arrival and Recession Times by visiting www.duke-energy.com. Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit <https://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/Nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp> to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• LAKE SANTEEHLAH

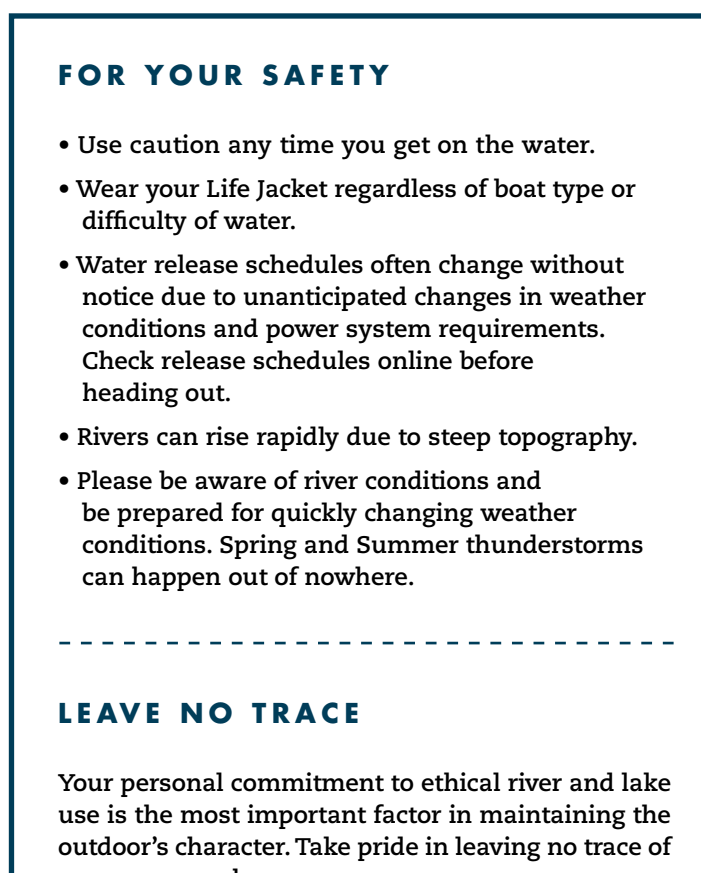
Lake Santeetlah was created in 1928 when Alcoa dammed the Cheoah River as a means of generating hydroelectric power. The reservoir is surrounded by the Cheoah District of the Nantahala National Forest.

The lake boasts 76 miles (122km) of shoreline, and hosts a variety of fish including smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, walleye, crappie, bream, and lake trout. There are more than fifty primitive campsites scattered around the lake that include a picnic table and fire ring. These sites have no water or toilets but also require neither permits nor fees. There are over 200 miles (320 km) of hiking trails in the Cheoah District. Only an eight mile (13 km) hike from Lake Santeetlah leads to access of the Appalachian Trail. Approximately a mile from the town of Lake Santeetlah is Cheoah Point Recreation Area, which offers swimming, camping, and picnicking facilities as well as a boat ramp.

The U.S. Forest Service provides the swimming, camping, picnicking, fishing and boating facilities. Of special note is the adjoining Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, which was set aside in 1936 as a memorial to poet-soldier Joyce Kilmer, and is perhaps "the most impressive example of original, old growth forest" in the eastern United States.

Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to this river.

Visit https://www.brookfieldrenewable.com/content/recreation_and_flow/santeetlah-40272.html to see the most up-to-date release schedules.



• LAKE SANTEEHLAH

FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Use caution any time you get on the water.
- Wear your Life Jacket regardless of boat type or difficulty of water.
- Water release schedules often change without notice due to unanticipated changes in weather conditions and power system requirements. Check release schedules online before heading out.
- Rivers can rise rapidly due to steep topography.
- Please be aware of river conditions and be prepared for quickly changing weather conditions. Spring and Summer thunderstorms can happen out of nowhere.

LEAVE NO TRACE

Your personal commitment to ethical river and lake use is the most important factor in maintaining the outdoor's character. Take pride in leaving no trace of your presence here.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors
- Respect private land

© Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: www.LNT.org.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE

Improper human waste disposal creates one of the most disgusting conditions on the water. Human feces must be deposited in a six-inch-deep hole and covered with soil. No toilet use may occur within 100 feet of a camp or water source or within sight of a trail. Defecating behind a shelter or near a spring creates very unhealthy conditions. All toilet paper, sanitary napkins, and tampons must be packed out. Do not bury them.

The chart below shows where you can find different fish species. Check with North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org for fishing regulations specific to each river or lake.

FISH	RIVER/LAKE
RAINBOW TROUT	The Nantahala River The Oconaluftee The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
BROWN TROUT	Little Tennessee River The Nantahala River The Oconaluftee The Tuckasee Nantahala Lake
BROOK TROUT	The Nantahala River The Oconaluftee Nantahala Lake
SMALLMOUTH BASS	The Cheoah River Little Tennessee River The Oconaluftee The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
LARGEMOUTH BASS	The Cheoah River Little Tennessee River The Oconaluftee The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
WHITE BASS	The Nantahala River The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
WALLEYE	Little Tennessee River The Nantahala River The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
CATFISH	Little Tennessee River The Oconaluftee The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
SUNFISH	The Cheoah River Little Tennessee River The Oconaluftee The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
CRAPPIE	Little Tennessee River The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah
ROCK BASS	The Cheoah River Little Tennessee River The Oconaluftee The Tuckasee Fontana Lake Lake Glenville Nantahala Lake Lake Santeetlah

The chart below shows what recreation activity is permitted on each body of water.

RIVER/LAKE	BOAT
THE CHEOAH RIVER	
LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER	
THE NANTAHALA RIVER	
THE OCONALUFTEE	
THE TUCKASEE	
FONTANA LAKE	
LAKE GLENVILLE	
NANTAHALA LAKE	
LAKE SANTEEHLAH	

KEY
MOTOR BOAT
CANOE
KAYAK
RAFTING
TUBING
SWIMMING
PADDLE BOARD

PARTNERS

MISSION STATEMENT
A non-regulatory collaborative partnership committed to the coordination, interpretation and promotion of resource conservation, public access and recreational opportunities in the rivers and lakes of the Upper Little Tennessee Watershed for the purpose of increased human, watershed and economic health.

VISION STATEMENT
The rivers and lakes of the North Carolina Smoky Mountains will be known as the premier outdoor water recreation area in the Southeastern United States.

VALUES
Accessible Waterways
Clean Water
Healthy Environment
Vibrant Economy

PARTNERS

Smoky Mountain Host of North Carolina | Southern Commission | Duke Energy | Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
To learn more, visit www.smokymountainblueways.com

This map is designed to guide you to your surroundings to make your visit fun, safe and memorable!

First-time visitors are encouraged to take a guided tour of the park and enjoy the scenic views of the mountains and lakes. The park offers a variety of recreational activities for all ages and abilities. Visitors are encouraged to stay on designated trails and to respect the natural resources of the park.

For more information, please contact the park office at www.smokymountainblueways.com.

YOUR GUIDE TO NORTH CAROLINA SMOKY MOUNTAIN'S WATER

As you plan your trip in the North Carolina Smoky Mountains, use this guide to find the best river and lake access areas to your preferred type of water recreation.

To the right, you'll find information that will let you know what to expect when you get to each access point. On the reverse side of this map, you'll see which fish species you can expect on each body of water as well as which type of boat is allowed. All spots highlighted have ample room for parking.

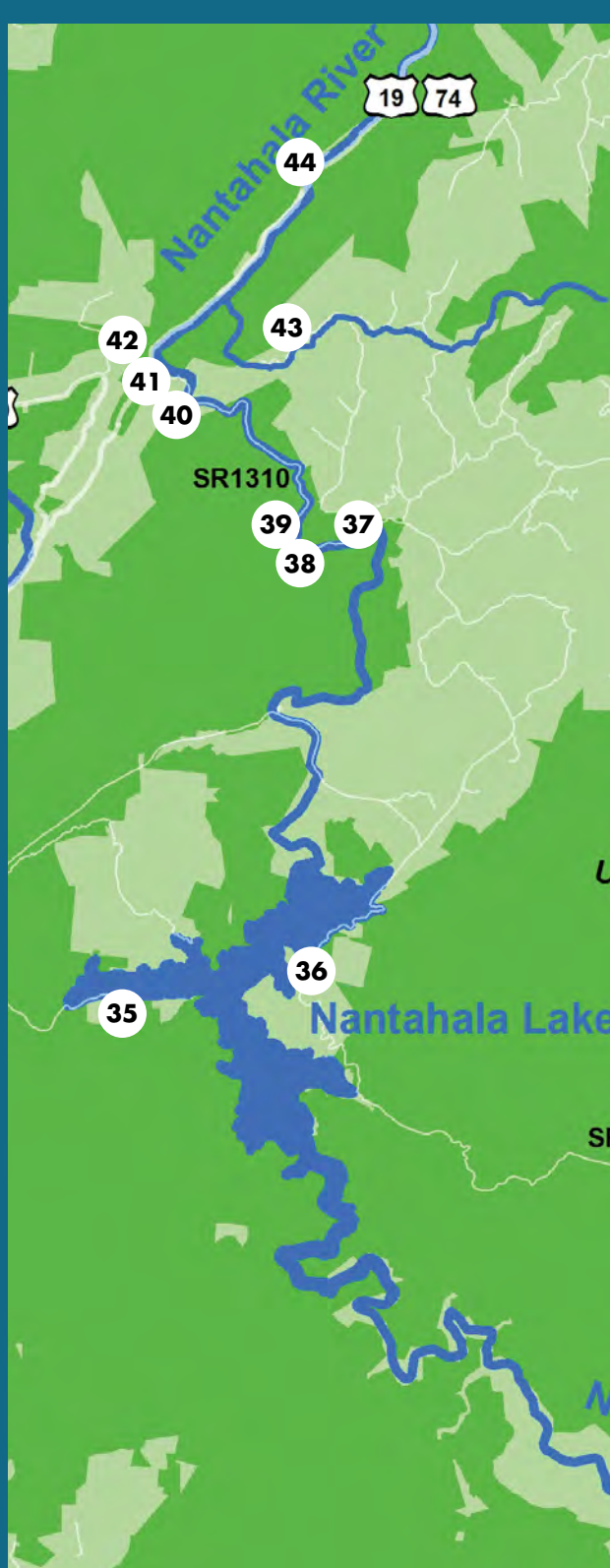
Please note! Water release schedules often change without notice due to unanticipated changes in weather conditions and power system requirements. Use caution near dams. A large amount of water may be discharged without warning at any time. Your safety depends on obeying all posted safety regulations and warnings. On the opposite side of this map, information is provided to check release schedules online.

To see photos and more information about the access points, visit our mobile-friendly website smokymountainblueways.com.

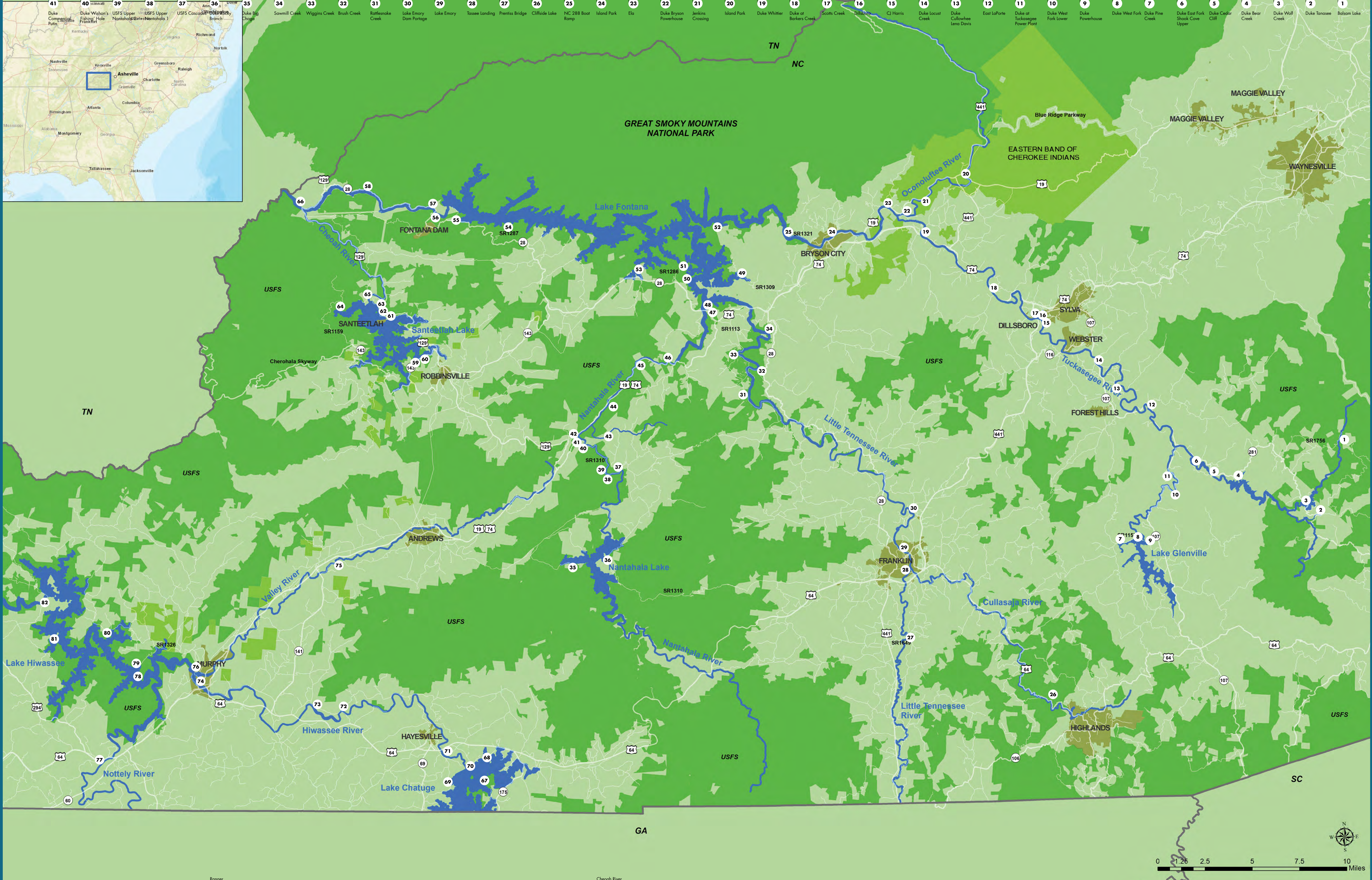
LEGEND

- # PUBLIC ACCESS
- RIVERS
- LAKES
- TOWNS
- EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS
- PUBLIC LANDS

ENLARGED PUT-IN VIEW



GPS (latitude, longitude)	35.74924	35.269241	35.248235	35.246991	35.247951	35.181891	35.179102	35.356369	35.339237	35.32754	35.306976	35.219556	35.189731	35.173693	35.122153	35.078828	35.430493	35.431284	35.452879	35.446079	35.4591	35.4776	35.432812	35.388083	35.367618	35.367261	35.363899	35.33393	35.314808	35.282254	35.247653	35.233695	35.195312	35.197657	35.194546	35.254259	35.246411	35.243393	35.223302	35.216117	35.272858			
Water Type	River	River	River	River	River	Lake	Lake	River	River	River	River	River	Lake	River	River	Lake	Lake	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	River	Lake	River	Lake	River	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	
Launch Type	III-IV	III-IV	III-IV	III-IV	IV-V	I	I	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I	I-II	I-II	I	I	I	I	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II
Restrooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Universal Access & Time to Next Point								2 hours	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	8 hours	1 hour	1 hour	3 hours						No Boating	No Boating	2 hours	4 hours	3 hours	1 hour	1 hour	3 hours	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours	3 hours	1 hour	✓	4 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours	3 hours		
Safety & Other Notes		Accessible fishing pier	Whitewater-experts only	Whitewater-experts only	Whitewater-experts only	Whitewater-experts only	Whitewater-experts only									Swim beach, no boating																				Swim area	Swim area	Swim area	Swim area	Swim area	Swim area	Swim area	Swim area	Swim area



GPS (latitude, longitude)	35.146871	35.118548	35.123152	35.096887	35.090743	35.122248	35.094417	35.177675	35.084845	35.066468	35.064139	35.029518	35.019975	35.010335	35.027209	35.011231	35.452792	35.382236	35.372071	35.373637	35.371903	35.365747	35.349484	35.342223	35.466521	35.450994	35.445624	35.441631	35.437824	35.403472	35.438827	35.405622	35.395148	35.398866	35.376247	35.371562	35.333283	35.332912	35.302995	35.27848	35.27405					
Water Type	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake	Lake		
Water Class	I	I	I	I	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	I-II	
Launch Type	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Primitive	Primitive	Primitive	Drift	Motor	Primitive	Primitive	Drift	Drift	Drift	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	Motor	
Restrooms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Universal Access & Time to Next Point								7 hours		5 hours	1 hour	5 hours	1 hour					5 hours																												
Safety & Other Notes											Greenway hiking trail																										Private	Swim Beach	Hazard below NOC	3 hours	2 hours	Fee required	Fee required	Fee required		