



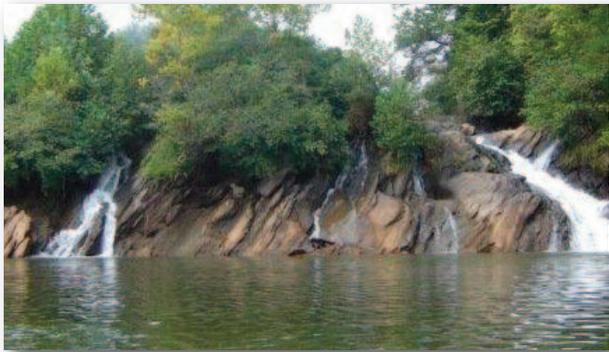
## Experience the Blue Ridge from the Blueway

Breathtaking views, peaceful waters, abundant wildlife and miles of paddling await in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The Philpott Blueway is a system of water trails easily accessible from surrounding parks, boat launches and campgrounds.

Covering parts of Henry, Franklin and Patrick Counties, the Blueway explores points of interest stretching over 25 miles accessible to both paddlers and motorized watercraft. The individual water trails range from 1.5 miles to 9 miles in length. You can spend a few hours or several days on adventures at Philpott Lake. Informational signage can be found at each access point that includes a water trail.

The 3,000-acre lake is surrounded by 100 miles of pristine shoreline and 7,000 acres of mostly unspoiled wilderness.

Philpott Lake is just a short drive from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Here you will find your secluded escape whether camping, paddling, boating or hiking. Exploring the Philpott Blueway is the perfect way to relax and enjoy unique scenery, history and a lifetime of memories.



## Safety on the Water



A journey on the lake is exciting and fun; please follow these simple guidelines to ensure that your trip is a safe one.

- ◆ Always wear your life jacket when on the lake.
- ◆ Paddle with others if possible.
- ◆ Carry a spare paddle.
- ◆ When paddling in wind, stay close to the shore.
- ◆ Use caution when launching or landing on slippery rocks or muddy areas.
- ◆ When entering or exiting a canoe use three points of contact with the boat and land using hands and feet.
- ◆ If you capsize, stay calm. Hold onto boat, paddle and move to shallow water.
- ◆ Do not attempt to stand up in moving water deeper than knee deep.
- ◆ If air and water temperatures combined total less than 120 degrees, wear a wetsuit.
- ◆ Check weather forecasts to ensure a safe experience.

**Call 911 in an emergency.**



*Brought to you by these Blueway Partners*

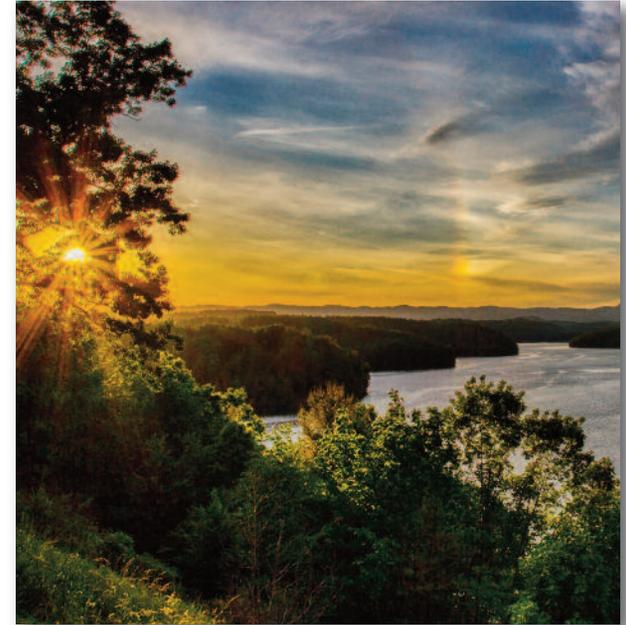
**US Army Corps of Engineers**



**Martinsville**  
HENRY COUNTY VIRGINIA  
Fun in Record Time.



**Franklin County**  
A Natural Setting for Opportunity



## Experience the Blue Ridge from the Blueway



Franklin, Patrick & Henry Counties  
**VIRGINIA**



### **Philpott Dam**

In 1944, Congress authorized construction of Philpott Dam to tame the Smith River and control flooding. That authorization also included providing hydropower and recreation, as well as the responsibility for environmental stewardship of the 3,000-acre lake formed by the dam, 100 miles of pristine shoreline, and the 7,000 acres of forested land surrounding the lake.

### **Bowens Creek Falls**

At the upper end of Bowens Creek Branch, this beautiful waterfall is only accessible by paddle craft. Too shallow for most motorboats and only a short 30-minute paddle from Bowens Creek Park, this is an opportunity to see something that most visitors to Philpott Lake miss. And, in the hot summer, it's a great little resting spot that is several degrees cooler than out on the main lake.

### **Deer Island**

Scenic and secluded, Deer Island is the largest of several islands and boasts an island campground. It is only accessible by boat. You can register for camping on Deer Island at Salthouse Branch Park.

### **Fairystone Lake Falls**

Visit these scenic falls that were created by the damming of Goblintown Creek in the 1930's where Fairystone Lake spills into Philpott. Beneath Fairystone Lake lies the remains of the historic mining town of Fayerdale. Fairystone Park and Lake are named after the cross shaped crystals of staurolite found in the surrounding hillsides. Local legends say these stones were created by tears from angels.

### **Jamison Mill**

The park was named for the historic mill site, now underwater, built by Thomas Fleming Jamison in the late 1880's. The mill was in operation until 1949 when the area was evacuated to make way for the lake. Jamison Point is accessible by boat from the access ramp and is a beautiful spot for picnicking and taking in scenic views of the lake.

### **Blue Falls**

These "bluish tinged" rock cliffs are the site of historic Blue Falls on the Smith River, now under the lake. In the 1800's, the falls were the upper limit of Batteau navigation on the Smith River from Ryans Branch. The cliffs, are just a short paddle around the point and under the Union Bridge.

### **Calico Rock**

Calico Rock is a 200 foot cliff that towers along the shoreline not far from Runnet Bag. The coloration of the rocks give this site its name and are best viewed from the water.

### **Emberson Falls**

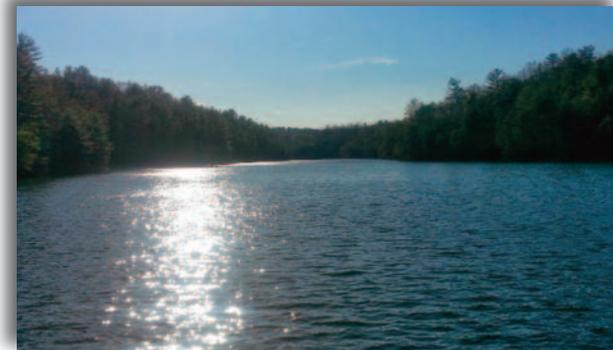
Where the Smith River is just below the surface, the waters of Emberson Falls tumble down lichen covered rocks and flow into a small cove surrounded by thick patches of Rhododendron. Accessed only by water, plan for a full day of paddling out and back from Ryans Branch or Runnet Bag. Not recommended for motorized boats due to shallow water and rocks. An additional 1.5 miles upstream is White Falls.

### **Smith River / White Falls**

The Smith River gives life to Philpott Lake. It begins its journey as small springs on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains and winds its way through pristine forest and historic farmlands. The river cascades over Black Falls and White Falls, then slows to form Philpott Lake. After dropping through the turbines in the Philpott Dam Powerhouse, the Smith River once again flows wild and free, a major trout fishery for another 45 miles to join the Dan River near Eden, North Carolina.

## ***Water Etiquette***

- ◆ Obey all rules and regulations, respect private property and be considerate of others.
- ◆ Give fisherman and other boaters a wide berth.
- ◆ Please do not litter. Do your part to keep the lake clean and carry out your trash and other trash if you find it.
- ◆ Avoid taking disposable containers; pack it in, pack it out.
- ◆ Never float or paddle near the dam, avoid fallen trees and other obstructions.
- ◆ Do not stand up in a canoe or kayak, and avoid weight shifts that may cause capsizes.
- ◆ Never go boating or tubing while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ◆ Carry a supply of food and water adequate for your trip length.
- ◆ Avoid weather or water conditions beyond your skill level.
- ◆ Plan for emergencies, carry a basic first aid kit and learn rescue skills necessary to assist others.
- ◆ Learn more about your route in advance and inform others of your trip plan.
- ◆ Respect wildlife; stay clear of nests, dens, and rookeries, leave rocks and plants untouched.
- ◆ Human food is unhealthy for wildlife. Please do not share your food with animals.



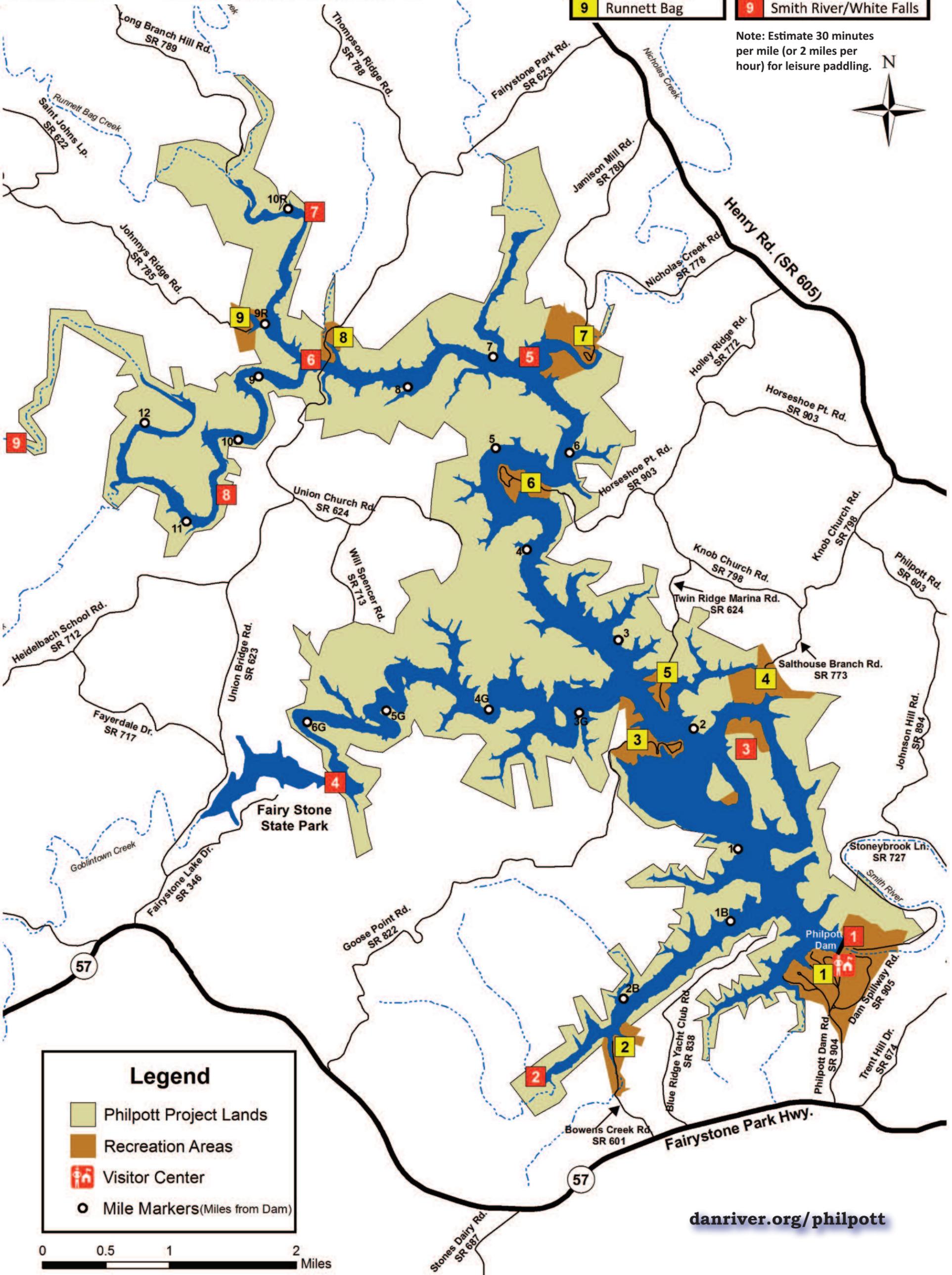
# Philpott Lake

## BLUEWAY

Launch Sites	
1	Philpott Marina
2	Bowens Creek
3	Goose Point
4	Salthouse Branch
5	Twin Ridge
6	Horseshoe Point
7	Jamison Mill
8	Ryans Branch
9	Runnett Bag

Points of Interest	
1	Philpott Dam
2	Bowens Creek Falls
3	Deer Island
4	Fairstone Falls
5	Jamison Mill
6	Blue Falls
7	Calico Rock
8	Emberson Falls
9	Smith River/White Falls

Note: Estimate 30 minutes per mile (or 2 miles per hour) for leisure paddling.



Legend	
	Philpott Project Lands
	Recreation Areas
	Visitor Center
	Mile Markers (Miles from Dam)

