



# A blueway trail that is also green

The Smith River bisects Henry County, running nearly 45 miles from Philpott Dam in the northwest to the North Carolina border in the southeast. This section of river is home to the Smith River Blueway, which includes a scenic riverway with 10 access points and more than 20 miles of greenway. Enjoy a calm float or more adventurous paddling on the river, with Class I, II, and III rapids. Kayaking, fishing, hiking, and many other outdoor activities can be found on the blueway. Visit the riverside towns of Bassett, Stanleytown, Fieldale, Martinsville, and Ridgeway to explore the history of American textiles and furniture manufacturing.



## Respect Nature

While enjoying the Smith River Blueway, please respect the river, land, and wildlife.

- Dispose of your waste properly. If you bring it, take it back with you.
- Leave the land the way you found it or better.
- Respect the wildlife in our area for their safety and yours.
- Be considerate of other people.
- Respect the privacy and rights of private landowners.
- Volunteer to help us keep our scenic land and waterways clean and safe.



All photos courtesy of Biram Williams

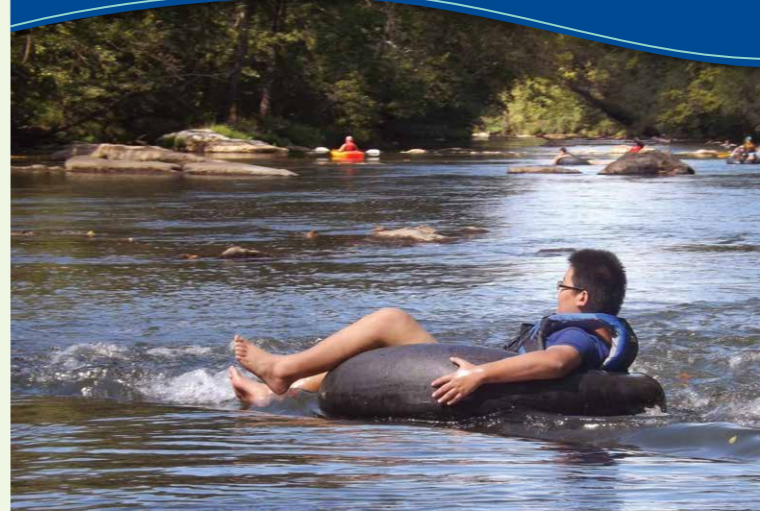
## Paddling Etiquette

- At put-ins and take-outs, be friendly and be helpful to those who might need assistance.
- Maintain spacing upstream and downstream of others, especially in rapids.
- When entering a rapid, the upstream craft has the right of way. Always yield to paddlers already in the current.
- Always provide assistance to others who are in trouble or who are injured.
- Stay in the main flow of the river whenever possible while paddling past anglers.
- In areas that are being fished, paddle past consistently with minimal splashing or interference, and avoid shouting or being loud.



## Emergencies

In case of emergency, call 911. The local hospital is Sovah Health. Its phone number is 276-666-7200, and its address is 320 Hospital Drive, Martinsville, VA.



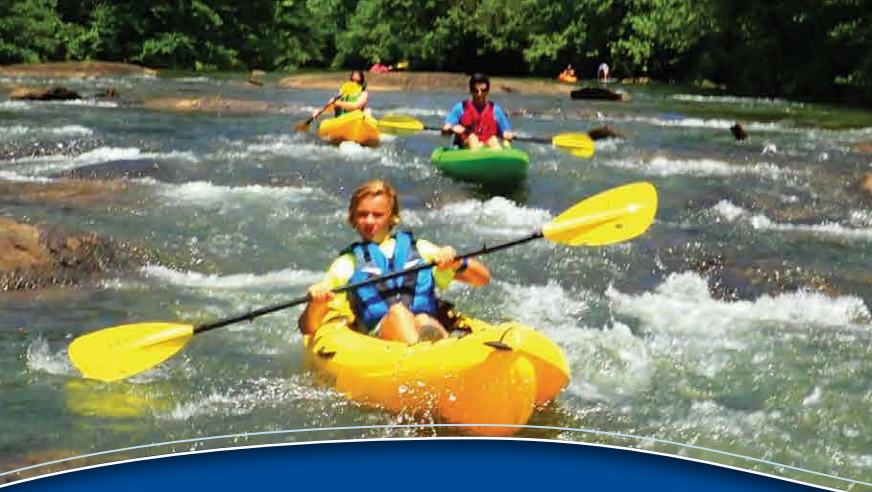
Water activities can be dangerous and can result in personal injury, property damage, and death. Take proper precautions by knowing the risks and your skill level. The information provided here is for informational purposes only and may not be the most current information available. Henry County Parks and Recreation, along with office of Martinsville and Henry County Tourism, assumes no liability for anyone's use of this material or the land, rivers, and lakes.



# The River is Calling







## Safety Information

- Always wear a PFD (lifejacket) while on the water.
- Dress appropriately — water temperatures are 45 - 70 degrees.
- Avoid water conditions beyond your skill level.
- Carry food, water and a first-aid kit for your trip.
- Water levels can change rapidly with releases from Philpott Dam. Call (276) 629-2432 for generation schedule.
- Flow rates can vary from 65 CFS to 1400 CFS based on releases.
- Travel times vary based on flow and river conditions.

## Smith River Access Points

### 1. PHILPOTT DAM ACCESS - Henry County

740 Dam Spillway Road, Bassett, VA  
6.4 miles to Bassett  
2-3 hours • Class I - III Rapids

### 2. PHILPOTT DAM ACCESS - Franklin County

Riverbrook Road, Henry, VA  
6.4 miles to Bassett  
2-3 hours • Class I - III Rapids

### 3. BASSETT RIVER ACCESS

271 Trenthill Drive, Bassett, VA  
5.0 miles to The Great Road  
2-3 hours • Class I - II Rapids

### 4. GREAT ROAD RIVER ACCESS

4313 The Great Road, Fieldale, VA  
3.3 miles to Fieldale  
1-2 hours • Class I - II Rapids

### 5. FIELDALE RIVER ACCESS

3521 River Road, Fieldale, VA  
5.0 miles to Doe Run  
2-3 hours • Class I Rapids

### 6. DOE RUN RIVER ACCESS

303 DuPont Road, Martinsville, VA  
This is the last access before Martinsville Dam  
No portage. Next access downstream is located below the dam at South Martinsville River Access.

### 7. SOUTH MARTINSVILLE RIVER ACCESS

280 Tensbury Road, Martinsville, VA  
1.6 miles to Frith Drive  
1 hour • Class I - II Rapids

### 8. FRITH DRIVE RIVER ACCESS

425 Frith Drive, Ridgeway, VA  
3.0 miles to Smith River Sports Complex  
2-2.5 hours • Class I - II Rapids

### 9. SMITH RIVER SPORTS COMPLEX RIVER ACCESS

1000 Irisburg Road, Axton, VA  
2.4 miles to Marrowbone Creek  
This section includes Eggleston Falls  
1-1.5 hours • Class I - III Rapids

### 10. MARROWBONE CREEK RIVER ACCESS

2120 Eggleston Falls Road, Ridgeway, VA  
3.4 miles to Mitchell Bridge  
2-3 hours • Class I - II Rapids

### 11. MITCHELL BRIDGE RIVER ACCESS

2404 Mitchell Road, Ridgeway, VA  
7.3 miles to Morgan Ford Bridge, which is not an official access  
5-6 hours • Class I Rapids  
Eden-Island Ford Landing is 6.3 miles and 4-5 hours past Morgan Ford Bridge.  
Must portage around Spray Dam on river left.

