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.

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 the office of Martinsville and Henry County Tourism, assume no liability for anyone’s use of this material or the land, rivers, and lakes.

All photos courtesy of Biram Williams
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 Truchtry 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 Frithry 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
2.4 miles to Marrowbone Creek
This section includes Eggleston Falls
1-1.5 hours • Class I - III Rapids

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

HENRY COUNTY
Bassett
Stanleytown
Fieldale
Martinsville
Ridgeway

FRANKLIN COUNTY

PATRICK COUNTY

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NC

STOKES COUNTY, NC

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, NC

Base map provided by West Piedmont PDC, April 2019. D.W. Rakes