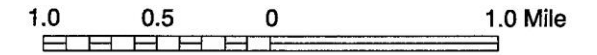
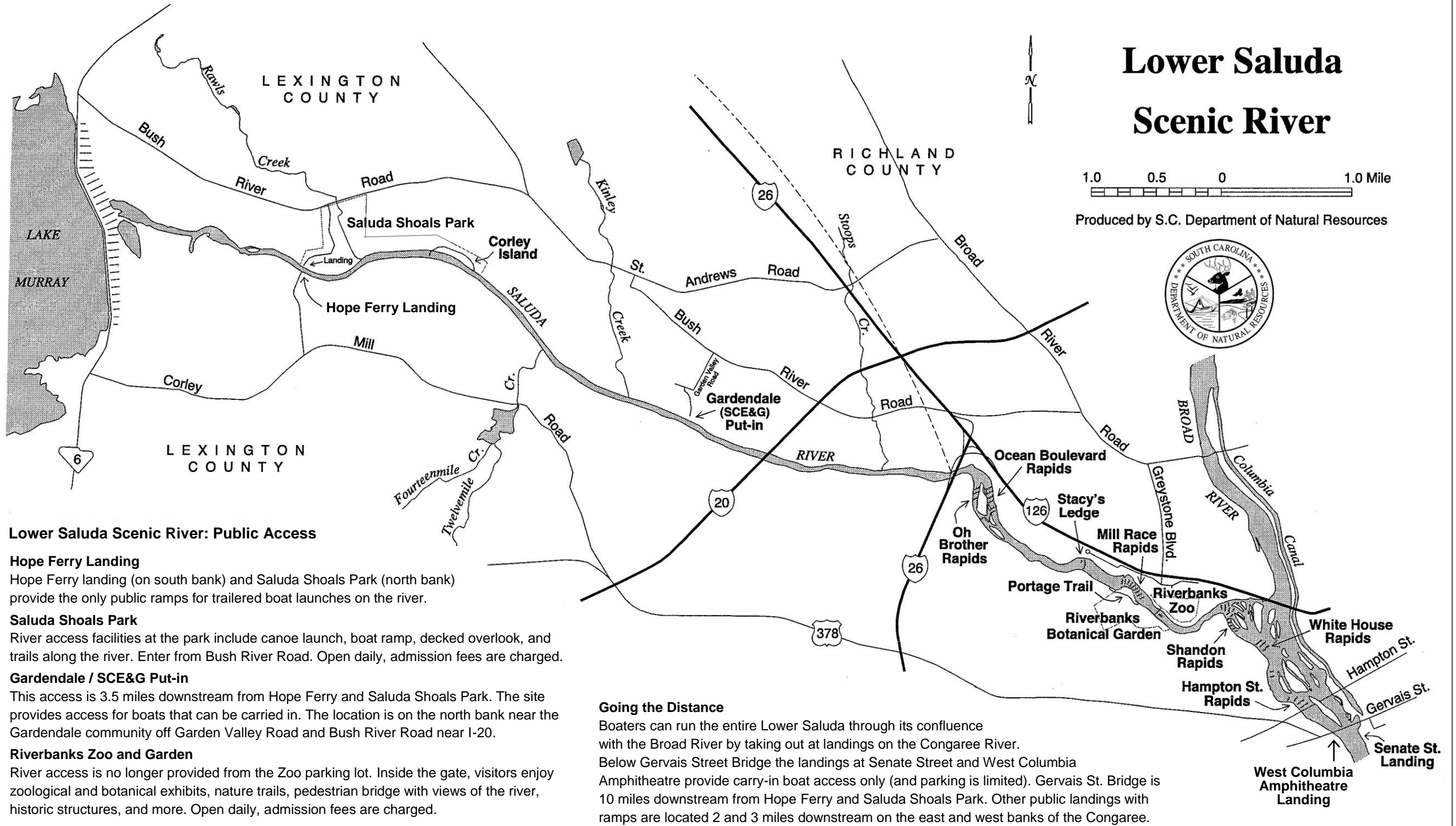


Lower Saluda Scenic River



Produced by S.C. Department of Natural Resources



Lower Saluda Scenic River: Public Access

Hope Ferry Landing

Hope Ferry landing (on south bank) and Saluda Shoals Park (north bank) provide the only public ramps for trailered boat launches on the river.

Saluda Shoals Park

River access facilities at the park include canoe launch, boat ramp, decked overlook, and trails along the river. Enter from Bush River Road. Open daily, admission fees are charged.

Gardendale / SCE&G Put-in

This access is 3.5 miles downstream from Hope Ferry and Saluda Shoals Park. The site provides access for boats that can be carried in. The location is on the north bank near the Gardendale community off Garden Valley Road and Bush River Road near I-20.

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden

River access is no longer provided from the Zoo parking lot. Inside the gate, visitors enjoy zoological and botanical exhibits, nature trails, pedestrian bridge with views of the river, historic structures, and more. Open daily, admission fees are charged.

Going the Distance

Boaters can run the entire Lower Saluda through its confluence with the Broad River by taking out at landings on the Congaree River. Below Gervais Street Bridge the landings at Senate Street and West Columbia Amphitheatre provide carry-in boat access only (and parking is limited). Gervais St. Bridge is 10 miles downstream from Hope Ferry and Saluda Shoals Park. Other public landings with ramps are located 2 and 3 miles downstream on the east and west banks of the Congaree.

Lower Saluda Scenic River

The Lower Saluda River is an outstanding natural and recreational resource within the urban setting of metropolitan Columbia. This stretch of river begins below the Lake Murray Dam and flows 11 miles to its end at the Congaree River in the city of Columbia. Both fishing and boating are popular on the Lower Saluda. The cold and fluctuating waters support a trout and striped bass fishery and a range of paddling experiences from whitewater (class II to V rapids) to flatwater. These factors, combined with the rolling topography, rock outcrops, and forested landscape make the Lower Saluda River corridor a special place.

Many local citizens, conservation groups, landowners, and government agencies have worked together to protect and promote this river as a community asset. In 1991 the significance of the Lower Saluda River was highlighted when the State Legislature designated approximately 10 miles as a State Scenic River to be managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) according to the South Carolina Scenic Rivers Act.

The Lower Saluda Scenic River Advisory Council is a group of river landowners and river users established to assist the DNR in the protection and management of the river. Both the Advisory Council and DNR are seeking to promote conservation of the natural and scenic qualities of the river and safe, responsible use by the public.

How do you get there?

There are several public access points on the Lower Saluda. Check the river map (on the reverse side) to get your bearings. Before going to the river, beware of its potential hazards!

TAKE CAUTION...

Beware of Potential River Hazards Dangerous Water Conditions

Safety Considerations

Before using this river be aware of...

- rapidly changing water levels
- strong currents
- cold water
- large rapids

Some visitors to this river have drowned, lost boats and equipment, or have required rescue because they did not understand or avoid the hazards of the river. Water flow conditions can quickly become dangerous because of releases at Lake Murray Dam. Daily river flows may range from 400 to 18,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and water levels range from 2 to 10 feet.

The river water comes from deep within Lake Murray and it is cold, about 60 degrees F. Swimmers can experience hypothermia even in the summer.

Major rapids, up to class IV-V, begin downstream of the I-26 bridge. Many rapids have large hydraulics.

Mill Race Rapids is dangerous...

Walk around It!

A portage trail (shown on the map) begins in a power line right-of-way just upstream of Mill Race Rapids on the right bank (south side) of the river.

Wear a life jacket... all river users who are boating, swimming, or wading should wear a life jacket

How much water's in the river?

Water flows change all the time. For the latest information contact:

- SC Electric and Gas Company – Saluda Dam Operations online - www.sceg.com/about-us/lower-saluda-river
- The US Geological Survey for streamflow data – waterdata.usgs.gov/sc/nwis/current/?type=flow
Look for two gaging stations:
 - > Saluda River Below Lk Murray Dam
 - > Saluda River Near Columbia, SC

River Contacts

Lower Saluda Scenic River Project
SC Department of Natural Resources
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 734-9096

Search for Lower Saluda Scenic River at www.dnr.state.sc.us

Local River Groups & Attractions

Congaree Riverkeeper
Phone: (803) 760-3357

<http://congareriverkeeper.org>

Trout Unlimited
www.saludatu.org

Palmetto Paddlers
PO Box 984, Columbia, SC 29202
www.palmettopaddlers.org

Canoeing for Kids
114 Riverchase Ct, Lexington, SC 29272
(803) 791-1727

www.canoeingforkids.org

Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
Phone: (803) 779-8717
www.riverbanks.org

Saluda Shoals Park
by Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission
Phone: (803) 731-5208
<http://www.icrc.net/saluda-shoals-park>

Three Rivers Greenway
by The River Alliance
Phone: (803) 765-2200
www.riveralliance.org

- R E M E M B E R -
Do your part to keep the river clean
Take out all trash
Do not litter

March 2016

Lower Saluda Scenic River

River Map and Information Sheet

Provided by

South Carolina
Department of Natural Resources

&

Lower Saluda Scenic River Advisory Council

