

A journey along the lower Cape Fear River offers travelers a glimpse into the delightful beauty of southeastern North Carolina's varied coastal vegetation and wildlife. Cypress and live oak trees, marsh grasses and cattails all thrive along the banks. Herons, hawks, turtles, crabs, otters, --even the occasional alligator may be spotted!

**CAUTION:** River conditions and currents vary on this stretch according to weather and season. Canoeing can be a challenge, especially near Wilmington and points south. Paddlers are urged to use discretion and extreme caution. Tidal effects are felt in the lower portion of the river and the traveler is advised to consult tide tables when traveling this stretch. Users should also note that access upriver under the US Hwy 17 bridge from John D. Long Park is limited to small boats, as the bridge is low.

# THE LOWER CAPE FEAR

(Lock and Dam #1 to Fish Factory Road/Oak Island)

Access Site Information

- 8. Lock and Dam #1:** Site offers picnic shelter and restroom facilities overlooking river. (Totable boat portage trail around lock is available.) Please note additional information about locks and dams, including locking schedule, on reverse. Note especially information on hazards and safety precautions. Site is located approximately 7 miles north of Riegelwood on NC 87. Watch for US Army Corps of Engineers signage.
- 7. Davis Creek Boat Access:** Site features walking pier and gazebo, with small amount of natural area for site users. From US Hwy 17/74: Take Hwy 133 exit in Leland; turn North onto Village Rd., NE. Go .6 mi. and turn right onto S. Navassa Rd. Follow S. Navassa Rd. 1.5 mi. to fork. Bear left at fork and cross railroad tracks. Go 0.7 mi to park entrance. Turn right onto dirt/gravel road at entrance, boat ramp is at end of road.
- 6. John D. Long Park:** (NOTE: Users should be aware that this site is located off the Cape Fear River and on the Brunswick River. Travelers should also note that access up river under U.S. Hwy 17 bridge is limited to small boats, as the bridge is low). John D. Long Park is a relatively new site with ample parking and amenities. Picnicking facilities and pier provide an excellent view and enjoy-

ment of the Brunswick River. From US Hwy 17/74: Take Leland/Belville/NC 133 exit. Turn South on NC 133 towards Southport. Park is approximately 0.9 miles down on the left.

**5. River Front Park:** Site is located along the river front in downtown Wilmington, and extends from the base of Market St. north to the Coastline Inn. Floating docks are located near Hilton and Coastline Inn. Docking is available first-come, first-served, and the first 48 hours are free. Fee thereafter (call City of Wilmington Public Services and Facilities Administration, 910/341-7855). From Cape Fear Memorial Bridge: Take Third St. north 0.7 miles to Market St. Left on Market St. Park begins 0.2 miles down on river front and extends north to the Coastline Inn.

**4. Dram Tree Park:** Park is a small site located just upstream of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, on east side of the river. The site features two boat ramps, floating docks, benches overlooking river, and parking. Restrooms available at nearby offices of Cape Fear River Watch, 617 Surry St., (diagonally across from park), 8-5 M-F. From Wilmington side of Cape Fear Memorial Bridge: Take Third St. north 0.3 miles to Castle St. Left on Castle. Park is at the base of Castle St.

**Mileage Note:** Paddle distances below Dram Tree Park will vary according to the route taken along the river. The Cape Fear River widens below Dram Tree, offering paddling options to the user according to skill level and desired routing. Distances between access points will vary according to these factors, and thus distances shown on the chart are approximate ranges only.

- 3. River Road Park:** Located along the east side of the river, this park offers an attractive and unique recreational experience. A pier, picnic shelter, restroom facilities, and playground exist on the site. Carry-in access only -- no boat ramp. From junction of Hwy 421 and 132: Follow 421 South approximately 1 mile to Sanders Rd. Right onto Sanders. Proceed 0.9 mile to junction with River Rd. Left on River Rd. Park is 0.6 mile on right.
- 2. Carolina Beach State Park:** Park is located along the Cape Fear River and the southern shoreline of Snow's Cut (AIWW). The park offers boating, picnicking, hiking, camping and fishing on its 712-acre site. (Fee for use of boat ramp and camping.) Contact Carolina Beach State Park Marina, 910/458-7770.) Park is approximately 10 miles south of Wilmington. Take US 421, cross Snow's Cut (Intracoastal Waterway) Bridge, look for Dow Rd. to the right. Take Dow Rd. approximately 0.2 mi. State Park entrance is on right.
- 1. Fish Factory Road/Oak Island Access:** Site features boat ramps, docks, and large gravel parking area. From intersection of NC 211 and NC 133: Follow NC 133 South for 1.3 miles and turn left on SR 1101 (Fish Factory Rd.). Area is 0.5 miles on left (look for NC Wildlife signage).

Swimming is not encouraged at any of these sites.

Site	Approximate mileage by river downstream to next site	Open	Locked After Dark	Boat Ramp	Restrooms	Potable Water	Parking	Picnicking	Hiking	Camping
<b>8. Lock and Dam #1</b> (910)655-2605 US Army Corps of Engineers, Lock and Dam #1 Road, Riegelwood, NC 28456	33	24 hrs		•	•	•	•	•		
<b>7. Davis Creek Boat Access</b> (910)371-2432 Town of Navassa, 334 Main St., Navassa, NC 28404	4 See Routing Note	24 hrs		•			•			
<b>6. John D. Long Park</b> (910)371-2456 Town of Belville, 175 Main St., Belville, NC 28451	10 See Routing Note	8:00 a.m./sundown	•	•	•	•	•	•		
<b>5. River Front Park</b> (910)341-7855 City of Wilmington, Public Services and Facilities, 302 Willard St., Wilmington, NC 28401	1 See Routing Note	24 hrs			•	•	On Street Only	•		
<b>4. Dram Tree Park</b> (910)341-7852 City of Wilmington, Public Services and Facilities, 1702 Burnett Blvd., Wilmington, NC 28401	9-12 See Mileage Note	24 hrs		•			•			
<b>3. River Road Park</b> (910)341-7181 New Hanover Co. Parks, 414 Chestnut St., Room 103, Wilmington, NC 28401	5-8 See Mileage Note	Dawn to dusk	•		•	•	•	•		
<b>2. Carolina Beach State Park</b> (910)458-7770 P.O. Box 475, Carolina Beach, NC 28428	18-25 See Mileage Note	Varies with season-call	•	•(fee)	•	•	•	•	•	•(fee)
<b>1. Fish Factory Road/Oak Island Access</b> (919)715-3155.x2 NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 512 N. Salisbury St., 1720 Mail Service Ctr., Raleigh, NC 27699	0	24 hrs		•			•			

## Cape Fear River Trail Map

A Canoeing, Kayaking, and Small Boating Access Guide To The Cape Fear River

CAPE FEAR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Cape Fear River offers a delightful adventure to paddlers and small boaters as it winds from Fayetteville southeast to the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy miles of unmatched natural beauty ranging from quiet blackwater creeks to tidal marshes to bustling river harbors. This guide to access points on the river is designed to assist you in planning your journey along one of North Carolina's most significant and intriguing waterways.

**FOR YOUR SAFETY:** This map should not be used for navigational purposes. It is intended as a general orientation and route guide only. Real distances may vary from scale. The user may also wish to consult highway maps, county maps, and topographical maps for more detailed information.

Users should note that river conditions and currents vary along the river according to weather and season. Canoeing can be a challenge, especially near Wilmington and points south. Paddlers are urged to use discretion and extreme caution. Tidal effects are felt in the lower portion of the river, and the traveler is advised to consult tide tables when traveling this stretch. Users should also note that access upriver under the US Hwy 17 bridge from John D. Long Park is limited to small boats, as the bridge is low. Caution is also advised at the Elwell Ferry site, where there is a low-lying cable.

Every effort has been made to verify the information in this map, which was current at the time of printing. For updated information regarding these sites, please use the phone numbers listed herein.

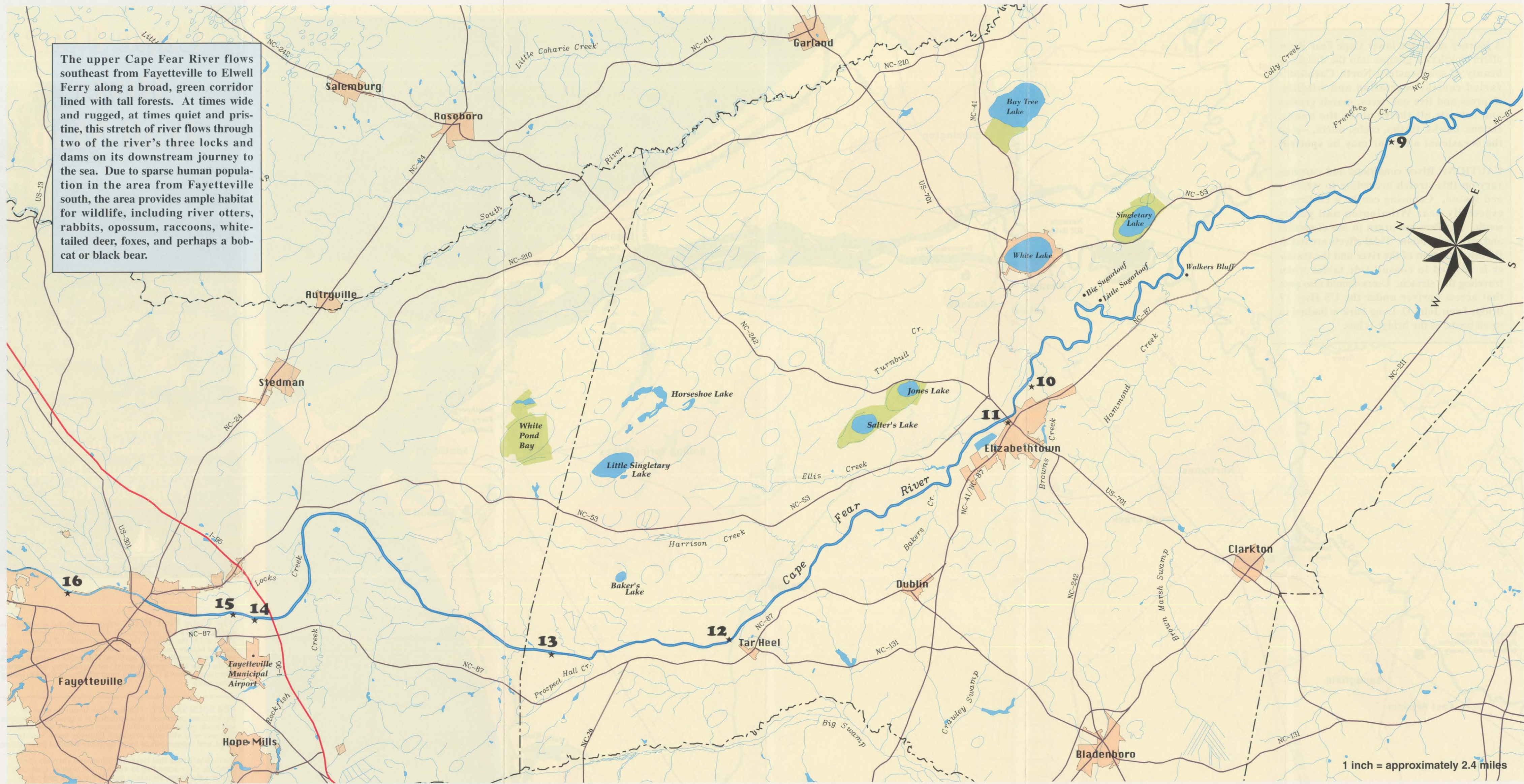
The Cape Fear River Trail map was produced by the Cape Fear River Reserve Committee, staffed by the Cape Fear Council of Governments. Funding was provided by a grant from the Adopt-A-Trail program of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, the NC Chapter Soil and Water Society, and Mike Glancy. Special thanks to J. Clark Hipp, Chairman, Cape Fear River Reserve Committee, and to participating agencies, including: Brunswick County Parks and Recreation; Cape Fear RC&D; Cape Fear River Watch; Cape Fear Rowing Club; City of Southport; City of Wilmington; Columbus County; Cumberland County Parks and Recreation; DARE, Inc.; Fayetteville Parks and Recreation; New Hanover County Parks and Recreation; New Hanover County Planning Department; NC Division of Parks and Recreation (NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources); Pender County Parks and Recreation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

To order additional copies of this map, please contact the Cape Fear Council of Governments at (910) 395-4553 (x215) or write us at 1480 Harbour Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401.

The Cape Fear Council of Governments and all cooperating agencies and individuals accept no responsibility for inaccuracies in the information provided herein, or liability for injury or property damage arising from the use of this guide.

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THE UPPER CAPE FEAR  
(Clark Park/Fayetteville to Elwell Ferry)  
Access Site Information

**\*16. J. Bayard Clark Park:** Wonderful natural area and nature facility on 76 acres adjacent to Cape Fear River. Facility consists of nature trails, picnic area, 50-ft. waterfall, canoe launch (carry-in access only via hiking trail), group camps and a 4,500-sq. ft. Nature Center. *From I-95: Take Exit 52 to Hwy 24 West, right onto Hwy 401 North (Ramsay St.). Follow Ramsay north 2 miles, take right onto Sherman Dr. Park is located at the end of Sherman.*

**\*15. Arnette Park:** Park is a scenic, wooded 100-acre facility with athletic fields, tennis courts, 18 hole disc golf course, picnic areas, children's playground, horseshoes, volleyball court, and a restroom building. Boating is carry-in access only, via river hiking trail. Park is located approximately 4 miles south of downtown Fayetteville. *From Hwy 87: Take Exit 100, exit to the East. Take a right (South) on Wilmington Hwy. Follow signage to park, which is located 0.4 miles on left.*

**14. Hwy 87 Boat Access:** Rustic area with ample parking, located on west side of river. Area is located approximately 5 miles south of downtown Fayetteville. *From Hwy 87: Take Exit 100, and exit to the East. Take a right (South) on Wilmington Highway. Site is located 1 mile down on the left (look for NC Wildlife Resources Commission signage).*

**13. Lock and Dam #3 (William O. Huske Dam):** Site offers picnic shelter and restroom facilities overlooking river. (Torable boat portage trail around lock is available.) Please note additional information about locks and dams, including locking schedule, on this page. Note especially information on hazards and safety precautions. Area is approximately 20 miles south of Fayetteville on NC 87 South. *From Bladen/Cumberland County Line on NC 87: Go 2.8 miles south. Turn left onto Glengerry Hill Rd. (SR 1355). Go 0.6 mile, and turn right onto SR 1364 (Bill Hall Rd.) Proceed 1.4 miles to site.*

**12. Tarheel Boat Access:** Site with ample parking, located under bridge on east side of river. *From junction of NC 20 and NC 87, take NC 87 South 4.6 miles to SR 1316 (located at stoplight) in Tarheel. Turn left onto SR 1316, and go 1.6 miles to Wildlife Landing Dr. (watch for NC Wildlife Resources Commission signage). Turn left, and backtrack approximately 1 mile to site, which is located under bridge.*

**11. Tory Hole Park:** Access site is located adjacent to park offering a wooded environment with trails, playground and picnic shelter (small fee for group picnics). The park is open from 8:00 AM-dark, and is operated by the Town of Elizabethtown (910-862-3979). Boating access site is open 24 hours. *From Junction of NC 87*

*(Business) and US 701 in downtown Elizabethtown, take US 701 North approximately 0.2 miles. Entrance to area is on left. Area is located under bridge that crosses Cape Fear River, on west side of the river.*

**10. Lock and Dam #2:** Site offers picnic shelter and restroom facilities overlooking river. (Torable boat portage trail around lock is available.) Please note additional information about locks and dams, including locking schedule, on this page. Note especially information on hazards and safety precautions. Site is located approximately 1 mile south of Elizabethtown. *From downtown Elizabethtown: Take 87 (Business) South approximately 1 mile. Turn left onto SR 1703 (Locks Rd.). Watch for signage.*

**9. Elwell Ferry Boat Access:** Small access area at site of DOT ferry crossing. (Caution: Beware of low-lying cable). Access area is located on the west side of river. *Take NC 87 South out of Elizabethtown approximately 16 miles to Carvers. Turn left onto SR 1730 (Elwell Ferry Rd.) and follow for 2.7 miles to area near Elwell Ferry.*

Swimming is not encouraged at any of these sites.

**\*Carry-in, but directions should be obtained at site. Users are advised to call ahead for specific directions.**

Site	Approximate mileage by river downstream to next site	Open	Locked After Dark	Boat Ramp	Restrooms	Potable Water	Parking	Picnicking	Hiking	Camping
<b>16. J. Bayard Clark Park</b> (910)433-1579 Fayetteville Parks & Rec., c/o Clark Park Nature Center, 631 Sherman Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28301.	5	8:00-4:30 M-Sat/1:00-4:30 Sun	•		♿•	•	♿•	♿•	•	•
<b>15. Arnette Park</b> (910)485-3161 Cumberland County Parks & Rec., 2165 Wilmington Highway, Fayetteville, NC 28306	2	Apr-Oct: 9-9/ Nov-Mar: 9-5 M-F, 9-6 SS	•		♿•	•	♿•	♿•		
<b>14. Hwy 87 Boat Access</b> (919)715-3155, x2 NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 512 N. Salisbury St., 1720 Mail Service Ctr., Raleigh, NC 27699	17	24 hrs		•			•			
<b>13. Lock &amp; Dam #3</b> (910)483-7746 US Army Corps of Engineers, Lock and Dam #3, 1248 Bill Hall Road, Fayetteville, NC 28306	7	24 hrs		•	•	•	•	•		
<b>12. Tarheel Boat Access</b> (919)715-3155,x2 NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 512 N. Salisbury St., 1720 Mail Service Ctr., Raleigh, NC 27699	15	24 hrs		•			•			
<b>11. Tory Hole Park</b> (919)715-3155,x2 NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 512 N. Salisbury St., 1720 Mail Service Ctr., Raleigh, NC 27699	2	24 hrs		•	In park	In park	•	In park	In park	
<b>10. Lock &amp; Dam #2</b> (910)862-2347 US Army Corps of Engineers, Lock and Dam #2, 745 Locks Road, Elizabethtown, NC 28337	24	24 hrs		•	♿	•	♿	♿		
<b>9. Elwell Ferry Boat Access</b> (919)715-3155,x2 NC Wildlife Resources Commission, 512 N. Salisbury St., 1720 Mail Service Ctr., Raleigh, NC 27699	9	24 hrs		•			♿	•		

### Hazards of The Locks and Dams on the Cape Fear River

- Lock and Dam No. 1
- Lock and Dam No. 2
- William O. Huske Lock and Dam

#### Locking Schedule

Monday-Friday 0800-1700  
Saturday, Sunday & Federal Holidays 48 hours notice required-3 boat minimum

Picnic Areas & Boat Ramps  
Open 24 Hours Each  
Day-7 Days a week

Swift currents can sweep you over the dam. Stay at least 300 feet from the dam on the up stream side. You can be pulled to the dam from the down stream side...therefore stay at LEAST 200 FEET from the dam on the down stream side. Beware that even though water may cover one dam during flood stages, the other dams may have a waterfall with dangerous conditions below the dams.

For a safe voyage, please call one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lockmasters (at phone numbers listed on site chart) for the latest river conditions. The lockmaster can also provide additional information you may need to help plan your trip.