## Wayne County

Wayne County Paddle Trails consist of over 70 miles of interconnected rivers, streams, and tributaries that twist and wind throughout Wayne County.

The main artery of water, the Neuse River, is the 2nd

largest estuarine system in the United States. The Neuse is a flat, slow moving body of water that is ideal for paddling. Dense canopies of trees drape across the narrower sections of the river, and an abundance of wildlife can be seen along its sandy banks.

wildlife can be seen along its sandy History in rich along the Neuse River. The river has carved its puth throughout eastern North Carolina for more than 2. million years. Tuscavera, Coree, Neusiok, and Secotan tribes stetled along the Neuse's banks over 14,000 years ago. In 1584, two English captains, Arthur Barlowe and Phillip Armadas, were commissioned by Sir Walter Raleight occupions.

by Sir Walter Raleigh to explore
the area. In their report to
Raleigh, they wrote favorably of the Indian population in
"...the country Neusiok, situated upon a goodly river
called Neuse". In 1709, John Lawson led a small
expedition along the Neuse River. He published an
account of his travels and named it A APew Hoyage to
Carolina. After a brief visit back to England, Lawson
sometimed to the activities. In 1811 to 181 Carolina After a brief visit back to England, Lawson returned to the territory in 1711 with his associate, Christopher von Graffenied. They were captured by Tuscarora Indians while ascending the Neuse River. The Tuscarora three released von Graffenied, but Lawson was tortured and killed. Shortly thereafter, tensions between Indians and settlers crupted into the bloody conflict known as the Tuscarora War.

After the war, supplies and cargo could be transported safely by boats, rafts, and eventually, steamboats on the river. Settlements began to spring up along the river. The two largest were Seven Springs and Waynesborough.

In 1781, Cornwallis and his troops marched across the Neuse in the vicinity of Waynesborough on their way to Yorktown. Waynesborough was incorporated as the County Seat in 1787 and continued to thrive until the 1840s. When the Weldon Wilmington rai was built in 1839 just a few miles away, river traffi was built in 1839 just a rew miles away, nver trartic slowed. Businesses began to leave Waynesborough and settled along the rail at Goldsborough Junction. In 1847, Goldsborough became the new County Seat, and Waynesborough became a virtual ghost town.

became a virtual ghost town. The Neuse River played a major role in the Civil War. On October IT, 1862, a contract was signed between the Confederate Navy Department and the ship building firm of Howard & Ellis to construct an ironclad gunboat. The vessel Neuse, as it would later be identified, was one of 22 ironclads constructed and commissioned by the Confederate Government.

Confederate Government.

Remainst of the intocaled can still be seen at the CSN Neare State Historic Site in Kinton. Two months later, in Decomber of 1862. General John G. Foster marched his Union forces from New Bern to Goldstoongli. The Union desperses of Seven Springs). Jestive the State State of Seven Springs). Jestive the State State of Seven Springs). Jestive the CSN Neare, and proceed by shorter route to destroy the CSN Neare, and proceed by shorter route to destroy the CSN Neare, and proceed by shorter route to destroy the CSN Neare, and a superior defensive position. The Confederate had an appear defensive position, and from crossing. The Union samy speat most of the day of December 16 bondsheding the town with artillery fire to destroy the Confederate defenses and to attempt to destroy the Confederate defenses and to attempt as the Confederate defenses and to attempt and supplies of the Confederate defenses and to attempt and the Confederate defenses and to attempt to the Confederate defenses and the Confederate defense and the Confederate defense and the Confederate defenses and the Confederate defense an

Near the end of the day on December 16, the Union abandoned their attempt to cross the river at Whitehall and withdrew to the west. They crossed the Neuse River between Whitehall and Mount Olive and continued on netween wattenan and snount Curve and continues on to the engagement at Goldsborough. Foster's army arrived at the railroad bridge south of Goldsborough on the moming of December 17. After two days of intense fighting, the vital railroad bridge near Goldsborough was destroyed, temporarily halting the flow of supplies from the Deep South and the port at Wilmington to Virginia. Because of the importance of the Goldsborough Bridge to the Confederate chain of supply, men and engineers were rushed to the site and the bridge was rebuilt in a

Points of Interest Along the Way:

Cherry Research Farm – Part of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS). One of the nation's largest centers for the study of environmentally sustainable farming practices. CEFS is a cooperative effort with NCSU, NCA&T, and the NC Department

201 Stevens Mill Road

Cherry Hospital Museum — Opened in 1880 by the state for African Americans with mental illness, Cherry Hospital was opened to all races in 1965. The museum depicts over a century of history with photographs, log books, and a variety of authentic medical equipment. Call to schedule an appointment.

201 Stevens Mill Road www.cherryhospital.org/museum 919-731-3417

Waynesborough Historical Village – This recreated village borders the Neuse River and the Little River. Step back in time and wander through the 11 structures

that comprise the park, dating back to the 1800s. Enjoy a picnic, hike, or fish. Waynesborough Village has over 150 acres to enjoy with five miles of walking trails, boat launches, and fishing sites. Camping and restroom facilities are also available

801 US 117 South www.waynesboroug 919-731-1653

Goldsborough Bridge Battlefield - Located on 32 Goldsborough Bridge Battlefeld – Located on 32 series of the original B&C battlefelds it. The rail fenced parking area contains a Civil War Trails historical marker which details some of the events of Foster's Raid and the Battle of Goldsborough Bridge. An informational kook provides visitors with a battlefeld map and further information. Walking trails surround the battlefeld. Two sets of well preserved earthworks may be viewed, as well as the site of the Willingston & Welden Railmond Bridge, the objective of the & Welden Railmond Bridge, the objective of the

Old Mt. Olive Highway

Seven Springs – Nestled along the banks of the Neuse River, Seven Springs is the oldest town in Wayne County. Visit Seven Springs United Methodist Church or the "Church on the Hill." This historic building was built in 1874 and overlooks the village. Feast on mouth-watering "down home" cooking at one of the downtown restaurants or enjoy one of our local festivals.

Town of Seven Springs 301 W. Spring Street, Seven Springs, NC 28578 www.sevenspringsnc.org 252-569-5241

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park - The cliffs, too

multicolored cliff face reveals layers of sand, clay, seashells, shale, and gravel. The 751-acre park is on the NC Birding Trails, www.ncbirdingtrail.org. In addition to year-round bird watching, Cliffs of the Neuse to year-round bard watening, Chiris of the Neuse State Park offers hiking, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, picnicking, and camping. During the summer months, an eleven-acre, man-made lake provides enjoyment to swimmers, sunbatthers, and paddlers. An interpretive museum is open year round and features cr dioramas and audiovisuals, which depict the geology and natural history of the area. The park is home than 420 plant species and a host of animal spe

345-A Park Entrance Road Seven Springs, NC 28578 www.ncparks.gov 919-778-6234



For more information on ourse security festivals, lodging, and restaurants, visit festivals, lobertone, com or call 866-440-2245.

## Mill Creek Trail:

Mill Creek begins in Johnston County near Benson as Hannah Creek. Northwest of the Tuscarora Box Scout Reservation, Hannah Creek, joinst Mill Creek and assumes the name of Mill Creek. The creek, up to this point, is fairly narrow and in many places it is difficult to determine the channel of the stream.

s determine the channes of the stream. ust east of the bridge crossing Mill Creek on Richardson tridge Road (SR 1201), Mill Creek becomes the oundary between Johnston and Wayne Counties. The ounty boundary follows Mill Creek eastward to its uncture with the Neuse River.

The Wayne County section of Mill Creek begins at the Mill Creek Bridge on Richardson Bridge Road (SR 1201) in Johnston County. The trail terminates at its juncture with the Neuse River approximately 3.7 miles downstream. To continue the trail from this point, the paddler will follow the Neuse River approximately

2.5 miles eastward to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) access at Ferry Bridge Road (SR 1224).

A bridge crosses Mill Creek on Mill Creek Road (SR 1200), approximately 2.75 miles below Richardson Bridge Road.

Mileage: 6.2 Miles (3.7 Mill Creek, 2.5 Neuse River) Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate Difficulty: Easy/Moderate Time Required: 3 to 5 Hours

Access Points: (1) Richardson Bridge Road (SR 1201) (2) Mill Creek Road Bridge Crossing (SR 1200) (3) Ferry Bridge Road (SR 1224) NCWRC Access

## Falling Creek Trail:

The Falling Creek Trial begins at Old Grantham Road (SR 1219) near the Wayne County community of Grantham, southwest of Goldboors. From the bridge crossing on Old Grantham Road, the paddler will paddle in a northerly direction towards the Neuse River.

At approximately 3.2 miles, approach the bridge ng on Stevens Mill Road (SR 1008). After pa crossing on Stevens Mill Road (SK 1008). After passing the bridge, continue on the trail for approximately two more miles, where Falling Creek joins the Neuse River. The mouth of Falling Creek is approximately 0.2 miles east of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) access at Ferry Bridge Road, where the paddler can paddle upstream to the access to end the paddline outine.

Mileage: 5.3 Miles (5.1 miles on Falling Creek Mileage: 3.3 Miles (3.1 miles on Fal and 0.2 miles on the Neuse River) Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate Difficulty: Easy/Moderate Time Required: 3 to 5 Hours

Ilme recomment.
Access Points:
(1) Old Grantham Road Bridge Crossing (SR 1219)
(2) Stevens Mill Road Bridge Crossing (SR 1008)
(3) Ferry Bridge Road (SR 1224) NCWRC Access

To provide continuity of the Little River Trail from its beginning to end, the mileage of the Wayne County section will begin at mile marker 63 at the Rains Mill/

portage to flow trees. Traversing through Wayne County, the Little River flows through the rural country side of the county. Large segments of the trail pass through pine and hardwood forcests that provide glimpses of beautiful agriculture fields, peppered with rural homesites. Little River Trail: The Wayne County section of the Little River Trail is divided into five sections and are described as: While the Little River flows through Wayne County,

wante the Little River Hows through Wayne County, it begins in Franklin County near the Town of Youngsville. On its way to Wayne County, it passes through Wake and Johnston Counties. It also passes near towns such as Wake Forest, Zebulon, Wendell, and Princeton. Section 1: Raines Mill/Pikeville Princeton Road to apps Bridge Road — 5.5 Miles — The first st the Wayne County Little River Trail begins at the Rains Mill/Pikeville-Princeton Road (SR 1002) bridge at mile marker 63.

Pikeville-Princeton Road (SR 1002) bridge crossing. The Wayne County section of the Little River Trail is 24 miles long.

Just west of Wayne County/Johnston County, the Little

River Trail can be accessed at the Little River Bridge crossing on the Rains Mill/Pikeville-Princeton Road

the beginning of the Little River Paddle Trail in Wayn

The river around the Rains Mill/Pikeville-Princeton

Road (SR 1002) bridge is a rock garden area, with many large boulders in the waterway, forming several Class I and Class II rapids. During low water, these rapids may

Almost one mile below the Rains Mill/Pikeville-Princeton Road (SR 1002), a small island divides the

river into two separate channels. Either of the channels should be passable, although they may require a short

be difficult to run due to the lack of water flow

(SR 1002) in John

portage for down trees.



## Little River Continued:

At mile marker 64, the trail will skirt Edwards Road (Johnston County SR 2372), as it continues eastward. Continuing east on the Little River Trail it will cross Capps Bridge Road (SR 1234) at mile 68.5.

Mileage: 5.5 Miles Skill Level: Intermediate/Expert Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult Time Required: 3 to 5 Hours

Access Points:
(1) Raines Mill/Pikeville-Princeton Road (Johnston County SR 1002)
(2) Capps Bridge Road (SR 1234)

Section 2: Capps Bridge Road (SR 1234) to NC 581 6 Miles — Section 2 of the Wayne County Little River Trail begins at the Capps Bridge Road (SR 1234) at mile 68.5 and continues eastward to NC 581 to mile 74 5

Mileage: 6 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 3 to 5 Hours

Access Points: (1) Capps Bridge Road (SR 1234)

Section 3: NC 581 to US 70 — 8.25 Miles — Section 3 of the Wayne County Little River Trail begins at NC 581 at mile 74.5 and con es eastward to US Highwa 70 to mile 82 75

Mileage: 8.25 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 3 to 5 Hours

Soction 4: US Highway 70 to NC 581 (Cherry Hospital)

— 1.5 Miles — Section 4 of the Wayne County Little
River Trail begins at US Highway 70 and continues
eastward to NC 581 (Cherry Hospital) to mile 84.2.

Mileage: 1.5 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 1 to 2 Hours Access Points: (1) US Highway 70

(2) NC 581 (Cherry Hospital)

(2) NC S81 (Cherry Hospital)
Section 5: NC S81 (Cherry Hospital) to Waynesborough Park — 2.8 Miles — Section 5 of the Wayne County Latte River Trait begins at NC S81 (Cherry Hospital) and continues eastward to the mount of Little River with the Neuse River and continues downstream to Waynesborough Park. The Little River section is 1.8 miles, and the Neuse River section is 1.8

Mileage 2.8 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 1 to 2 Hours Access Points

1) NC 581 (Charpe Hornital)

Neuse River Trail: Treuts Treut:

The Wayne County section of the Neuse River Paddle

Trail begins where Mill Creek joins the Neuse River,
approximately 80.5 miles below the Falls Lake Dam.

The paddle trail follows the Neuse River through

Wayne County to Seven Springs, which is located

at mile 143.5. The total distance for the Neuse River

Paddle Trail through Wayne County is 44 miles.

Section 1: Option 1 – Richardson Bridge Road to Ferry Bridge Road — 7.2 Miles — There are two options for beginning the Neuse River Paddle Trail in western Wayne County. The paddler can begin the trail on the Neuse River at the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWIC) access at Richardson Bridge Road (SR 1201), located at mile point 76.1. From there were the contract of the Richardson Bridge Road (SR 1201), located at mile point 76.1. From there the paddler can paddle down the Neuse River to the NCWRC access at Ferry Bridge Road (SR 1224), which

> Mileage: 7.2 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 3 to 5 Hours

Access Points: (1) Richardson Bridge Road (SR 1201) NCWRC

The paddle trail is divided into the following sections

(2) Ferry Bridge Road (SR 1224) NCWRC Access

Section 2: Option 2 – Mill Creek to Ferry Bridge Road — 3.6 Miles — The second option is to begin the paddle trail at the Mill Creek Bridge (SR 1200) and the padule trail at the Mill Creek Bridge (SK 1200) and paddle to the NCWRC access at Ferry Bridge Road (SR 1224). The Mill Creek Bridge is located approximately 0.75 miles upstream of the creek's intersection with the Neuse River. The mouth of Mill Creek is located at mile point 80.5 on the Neuse River The NCWRC access at Ferry Bridge Road is located at mile point 83.3 on the Neuse River.

Mileage: 3.6 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 1.5 to 2 Hours

Access Points: (1) Mill Creek Road Bridge (SR 1200) NCWRC

Access
(2) Ferry Bridge Road (SR 1224) NCWRC Access

(2) very indage food fox 1223 N. WMC. Access
Sheetina 5. Ferry lineige food to Stevens Mill Road
NCWRC access — 8.5 Miles — The public will
launch at the NCWRC access a Ferry fledge food, at
Neues River mile point 83.3 and public downstream,
will pass Proprise Energy's H.E. Lee Prover Pleast
and its large ponds. This section of the river provides
muncross opportunities for viewing brain. Continuing
past the Power Plant facility, the public will approach
to NCWRC access at Stevens Mill Road at mile
NCWRC access at Stevens Mill Road at mile

Mileage: 8.5 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 2.5 to 3.5 Hours

Section 4: Stevens Mill Road NCWRC access at Waynesborough Park — 8.2 Miles — Leaving the access at mile point 91.75 continue downstream towards Goldsboro. At mile point 92.4, cross under towards Gousson. At line point 92.4, Goos indi-the bridge on Stevens Mill Road (SR 1008). Continue downstream. At the 95.8 mile point you will approach a four-way cross in the river. Take the left or northern nile point 99.6, you will pass the mouth of the Little mile point 100.6 and you will approach Waynesborough Historical Village, located on the left side of the river Step back in time and wander through the 11 structures that date back to the 1800's. The structures include Grange Hall, a doctor's office, a Quaker Meeting House, a print shop, a schoolhouse, and a workin black smith shop. Waynesborough Village has over 150 acres to enjoy with hiking trails, picnic areas, restrooms, and overnight camping facilities. For more information, call 919-731-1653 or visit online,

Mileage: 8.2 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 2.5 to 3.5 Hours

Access Points:
(1) Stevens Mill Road (SR 1008) NCWRC Access
(2) Waynesborough Park

Soction 5: Waynesborough Park to Goldsboro (US 117 South) NCWRC access — 2.1 Miles — Leaving the park at mile point 100.6, continue paddling downstream. As you approach mile point 102.7 you will see the Goldsboro (US 117 South) NCWRC access on the left.

Mileage: 2.1 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 1 to 2 Hours



Seedin & Goldshorn (US 117 South) NCWICE access to Price's Landings NCWICE access - 16.8 Miles — Learning Goldshorn (US 117 South) NCWICE access at mel point 10.72, continue poldling downstream. At mile point 10.32, you will approach the 15.11 Priceige and mile point 10.52 you will approach the Serio price of the point 10.52 you will approach the Serio price of the point 10.52 you will approach the Serio field point 10.52 you will approach the Serio field point 10.52 you will approach the Condicherough the point 10.52 you will price the Condicherough the price of the Section 6: Goldsboro (US 117 South) NCWRC

the battle is held in December. For more information

Continuing east, you will pass the bridge on Arrington Continuing east, you will pass the bridge on Arrington Bridge Road. Jast past the bridge, you will be approaching Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, which will be located on your left. On your right is the City of Goldsboro Water Treatment Plant. You will leave the Air Force Base as you paddle past mile point 107. Continue paddling downstream and you will approach the Pric's Landing XVMPE access an mile point 109.5, which will be on your right. The access is located just most the NYS 118 Incident. past the NC 581 Bridge.

Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 3.5 to 5 Hours

Access Points:
(1) Goldsboro (US 117 South) NCWRC Access
(2) Price's Landing (NC 581) NCWRC Access

(2) Price's Linding (NC-331) NC-WRC. Access to Slick Rock Road — 4.25 Miles — Leaving Price's Landing continue paddling downstream. This section of the river is mostly undeveloped and offers many opportunities for wildlife and bird viewing. At mile point 103.75 the Neuse River will parallel Slick Rock Road (SR 2050).

Mileage: 4.25 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 2 to 4 Hours

Access Points: (1) Price's Landing (NC 581) NCWRC Access (2) Slick Rock Road (SR 2050)

Soction B: Slick Rock Road (SR 2050) to NC Highway 111 South Breadharst Bridge — 2.4 Miles — Leaving Slick Rock Road (SR 2050) continue paddling downstream. At mile point 116.1 you will approach NC Highway 111 and the Broadhurst Bridge.

Mileage: 2.4 Miles Skill Level: Beginner/ Intermediate

Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 1 to 2 Hours

Access Points: (1) Slick Rock Road (SR 2050) (2) NC Highway 111 South Broadhurst Bridge

(2) NC Highway 111 South Broadhurst Bridge to Seven Springs NCWRG access — 110 Miles — Leaving NC Highway 111 Broadhurst Bridge to online paddling downstream, Paddling downstream, Paddling downstream, Paddling downstream, Paddling downstream, Paddling downstream, Padgling downst

sace, which ruses 90 teet above the river.

The cliffs were formed when a fault in the earth's crust shifted millions of years ago. The Neuse River followed this fault line and, over time, cut its course through layers of sediment deposited by shallow seas that had earlier covered the constal plain. A portion of the river took a bend against its bank and the water's crossive action slowly carved Cliffs of the Neuse.

Continue paddling downstream towards Seven Sprin Contines paddling downstream towards Seven Springs.

On the way, you will past she site of the old Seven Springs Hotel, and the spring waters that supposedly cured "whatever ailed you." You will arrive at the NCWRC access at Seven Springs. The access will be located on your right, just "down from main steed". Seven Springs. The town is a wooderful place to experience small town America, and a couple of local restaurants will repletish your energy!

Difficulty: Moderate Time Required: 6 to 10 Hours

Access Points:
(1) NC Highway 111 South Broadhurst Bridge
(2) Seven Springs (Main Street, SR 1731) NCWRC
Access

The Seven Springs access is the last access point to the Neuse River in Wayne County. At mile point 126, the river enters into Lenoir County. At mile point 126.7, NC Highway 903 crosses the Neuse River.



