



Ramsey Creek Beach – Lake Norman

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study and Project Updates

Public Recreation Area Planning and Management





FERC and Hydroelectric Project Recreational Development

- ▶ 1935 – Section 10(a) of the Federal Power Act was amended to require the consideration of public recreational use in hydro project licensing
- ▶ 1963 – Order issued requiring the filing of a recreation resource plan for all major license applications filed after June 1, 1963
- ▶ 1965 – Order No. 313 issued ensuring license-related recreational development is consistent with regional needs

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

- The CW RMP* provided for a 20 year build out of public recreation improvements which were negotiated in the CRA**
- Recreation Use and Needs Study is required every 10 years on the CW Project
- Study of all aspects of usage at publicly available recreation sites on the river chain
- This includes sites owned by Duke Energy and other public parks and facilities
- 64 Duke Energy sites included in the 2025 study
- Study period was March 1st - October 31st
 - Primary season is defined as April 1-September 30
- Report will be filed with the FERC in August 2026



Springs Park Picnic Shelter

*RMP = 2016 Recreation Management Plan

** CRA = 2006 Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Data Collection

- Traffic and trail counters were deployed at most sites
- Vehicle Spot counts were taken at parking lots throughout the season to determine parking lot usage types and capacity
- On-site clerks interviewed users on key dates throughout the season (holiday weekends, weekends, weekdays)
- Online surveys were posted at all sites
- Lessee questionnaires and site provider surveys
- The study results help inform Duke Energy of how much our sites are being used, get user input, identify sites operating over capacity, and determine any needs
- Comprehensive site facility inventories



NITROLEE

COMMUNITY RECREATION SURVEY

What do you like to do here? What can be improved?
 Let us know by taking 5 minutes to complete this online survey.
 Your feedback will help Duke Energy understand recreation use at this site and plan for future needs and improvements.

Survey is open from March 1 to October 30

For more information or to check lake levels, visit duke-energy.com/Lakes or contact Duke Energy's Recreation Planning Team at PublicRecreation@duke-energy.com. You may also reach out to Duke Energy's Lake Services group at 800.443.5193 for lake related concerns.

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Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Data Collection Summary

Survey Counts

- In-person interviews at Access Areas – 2,341
- QR Code online survey responses – 211
- On-site vehicle spot counts at Duke Energy recreation sites – 1,215



Buster Boyd Parking Lot

Common Themes from interviews

- Were satisfied (27%) or very satisfied (54%) **(81%)**
- Felt the site was Very Crowded or Extremely Crowded **(13%)**
- Felt unsafe or Very Unsafe **(2%)**
- Dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the facilities **(4%)**
 - Primary sources of dissatisfaction related to restrooms (needing more or the cleanliness of the existing restrooms), trash, and lighting (lack of lighting or lights not functioning)

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Data Collection Summary Highlights

Busiest 5 Sites – based on traffic counts

1. Buster Boyd AA – Lake Wylie
2. Lovelady AA – Lake Hickory
3. Beatty's Ford AA – Lake Norman
4. Wittenburg AA – Lake Hickory
5. Fort Mill AA – Lake Wylie tailrace

Top 5 Activities

1. Boating -1,004
2. Boat Fishing – 588
3. Shoreline/Pier Fishing - 391
4. Relaxation - 191
5. Exercise - 164

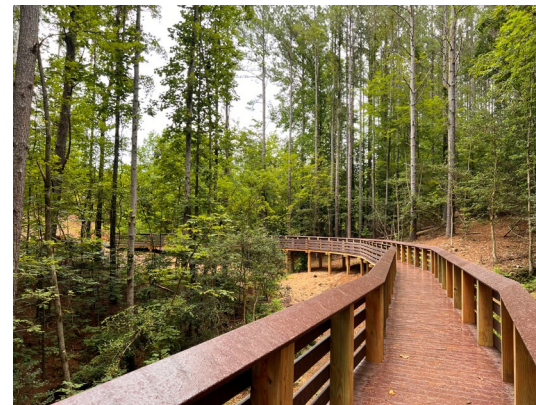
McCrary Creek Boat Ramps



South Point Swim Beach



Conley Creek Trail



Black Bear Day Use



Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Data Collection Summary Highlights

Total Number of cars over all sites

Count Type	January - December
Vehicle	1,248,574
Trail	124,924

Winter months were calculated at 30% of peak summer usage to generate an annual estimate

Total number of traffic counters deployed

- Vehicle – 65
- Trail – 18

Total number of traffic counters replaced

- Vehicle – 25
- Trail – 6



Black Bear Day Use

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Data Collection Highlights

- **Sites exceeding 80% capacity usage**
 - Linville AA – Lake James
 - Lovelady AA – Lake Hickory
 - Riverbend AA – Mountain Island Lake (single car parking was over 100% on many occasions)
- Linville and Riverbend have planned expansions or improvements that directly address user needs for added capacity
- Lovelady AA will be studied to address capacity shortage as part of the addition of the fishing pier improvement project
- **All remaining sites operated at 66% capacity usage or less**



Beatty's Ford Fishing Pier

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Recreation Management Plan Projects
Currently Under Construction
Estimated Completion 2026-2027

- Fonta Flora AA – Lake James
- Riverbend AA – Mountain Island Lake
- Upper Lookout Shoals AA – Lookout Shoals Lake
- Lower Great Falls Canoe/Kayak Access – Lower Great Falls Reservoir
- Dearborn Island Portage – Lower Great Falls Reservoir/Cedar Creek Reservoir

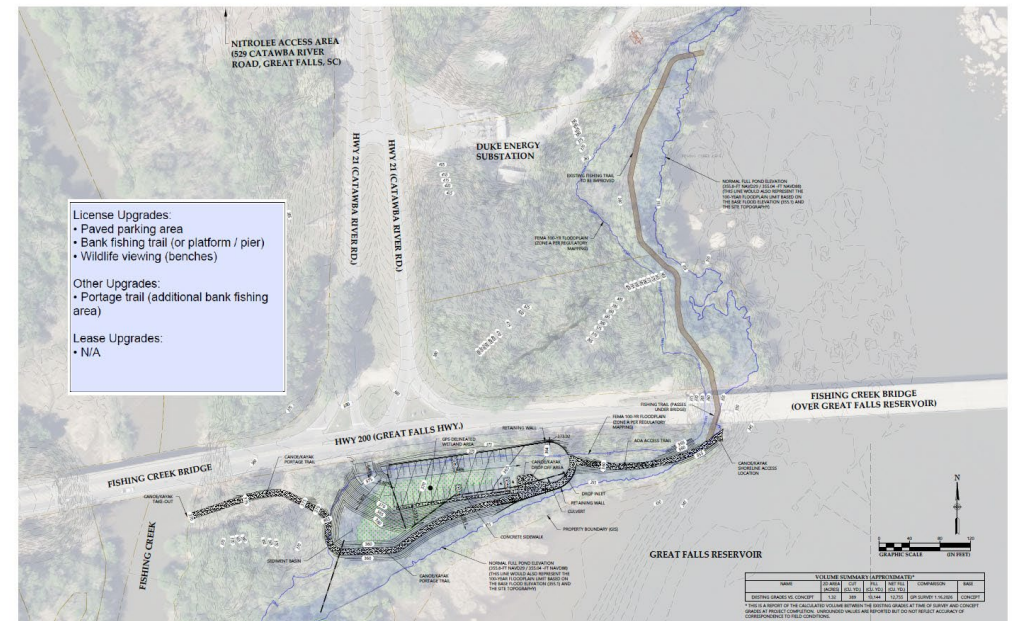


Lower Great Falls Canoe/Kayak Access and
Pedestrian Bridge Site Construction

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Recreation Management Plan Projects Currently In Design/Permitting Phase Planned Completion - 2027

- Linville Canoe/Kayak AA – Lake James
- Pocket Park AA – Lake James
- Bridgewater AA – Lake James
- Dusty Ridge Access Area – Lake Hickory
- Little Creek AA – Lake Norman
- Fort Mill Access Area – Wylie/Catawba River
- Fishing Creek Access – Fishing Creek Lake
- Fishing Creek Tailrace Access – Great Falls Reservoir
- Mud Cat Inn Access – Cedar Creek Reservoir

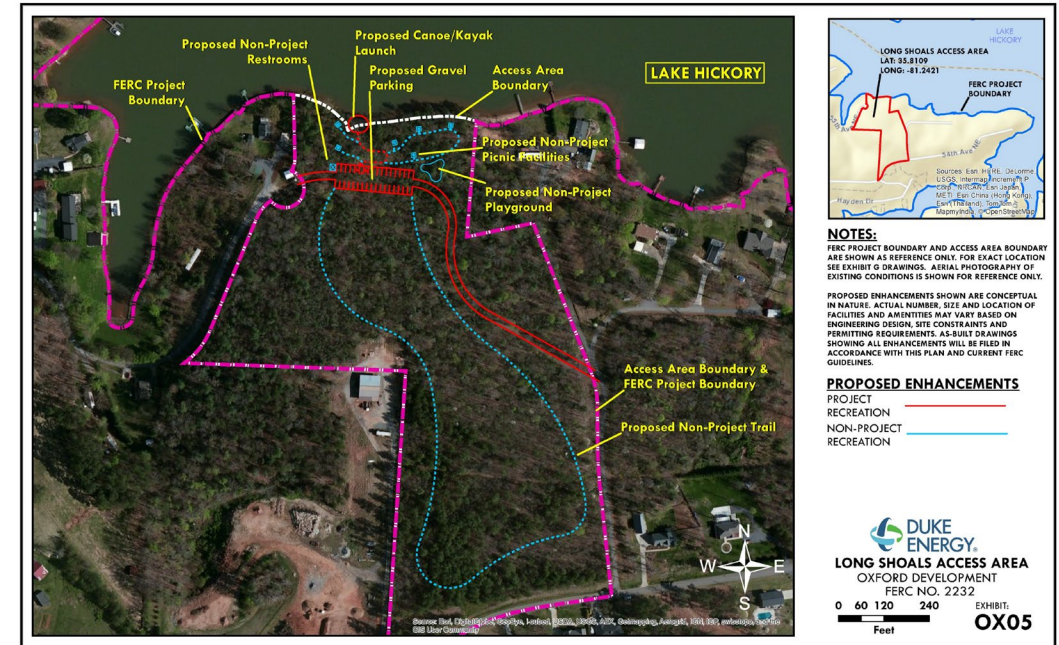


Fishing Creek Tailrace Access Concept Plan
Subject to Change

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Future Recreation Management Plan Projects 2028-2037

- Castlebridge AA – Lake Rhodhiss
- Lovelady AA – Lake Hickory
- Long Shoals AA – Lake Hickory
- Oxford Tailrace Fishing AA – Lake Hickory
- Oxford Canoe Portage – Lake Hickory
- Oxford AA – Lake Hickory
- Lookout Shoals Tailrace Fishing – Lookout Shoals Lake
- Lookout Shoals Canoe Portage – Lookout Shoals Lake
- Island Point AA – Lake Norman
- Lugoff AA – Lake Wateree



Long Shoals Access Area Concept Plan - 2032
Subject to Change

Catawba-Wateree Recreation Use and Needs Study

Task	Date
Data Collection	March 1 – October 30, 2025
Draft study report submittal to Duke Energy	February 2026
Final report for FERC submittal	August 2026
Final report for Recreation Stakeholders	August 2026
FERC Review and Response	Approximately 1 year
Revision to Recreation Management Plan	2027-2028
Implement Recreation Management Plan	2028+



Primitive Camp Site – Black Bear



Swim Beach – Rock Hill Park



Bath House– Allison Creek



Canoe/Kayak Launch - Nitrolee

CATAWBA-WATEREE RECREATION USE AND NEEDS STUDY

QUESTIONS