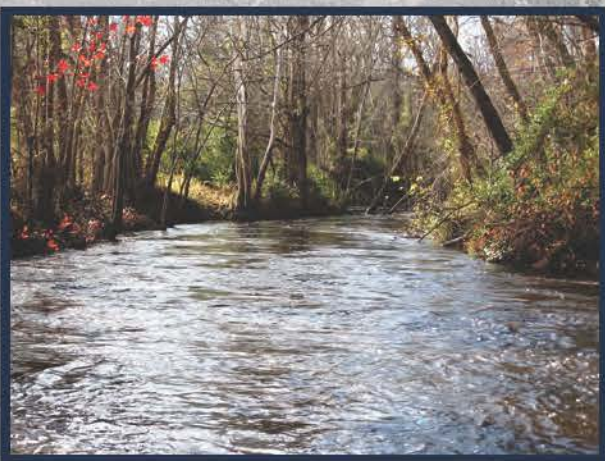


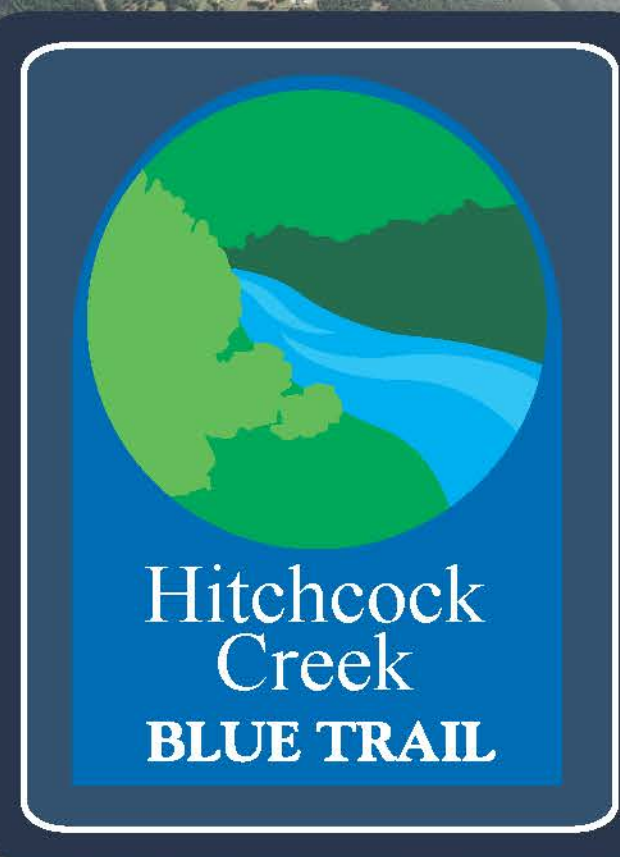
**ROBERDEL MILL**  
 Built circa 1884 and rebuilt in 1890 after a flood damaged much of the original structure, Roberdel Mill produced textiles until its closing in 1946. In 1957, the mill reopened producing paper products until it closed in the 1980's



**Roberdel Access**  
 Trail Mile 0  
 34.97003, -79.74509



Hitchcock Creek



*Hitchcock Creek Blue Trail*

The 14 mile Hitchcock Creek Blue Trail starts in Rockingham, NC and offers paddlers an opportunity to learn about the area's unique natural places and history. Diverse floodplain forests, remnants of historic mills, and rare plants and animals all call the creek home.

Blue Trails help people discover rivers, provide a connection between communities and the outdoors, and are economic drivers that benefit local businesses and quality of life. To learn more about Blue Trails visit:

[www.AmericanRivers.org](http://www.AmericanRivers.org)



*White Cedar Forest*

The white cedar forest, one of the largest tracts of its kind in the state, lies in the rich floodplain along the upper part of Hitchcock Creek. The forest supports a variety of important wetlands, including pocosins (an evergreen shrub bog found between coastal freshwater and deepwater swamp forests), and rare plants such as Bog Oatgrass and Chapman's yellow-eyed grass.

**PEE DEE MILL #1**  
 Built circa 1875 by the Pee Dee Manufacturing Company, the mill was originally known as the Pee Dee Textile Mill and was the third major textile mill built in Richmond County. The mill was demolished in 2003.



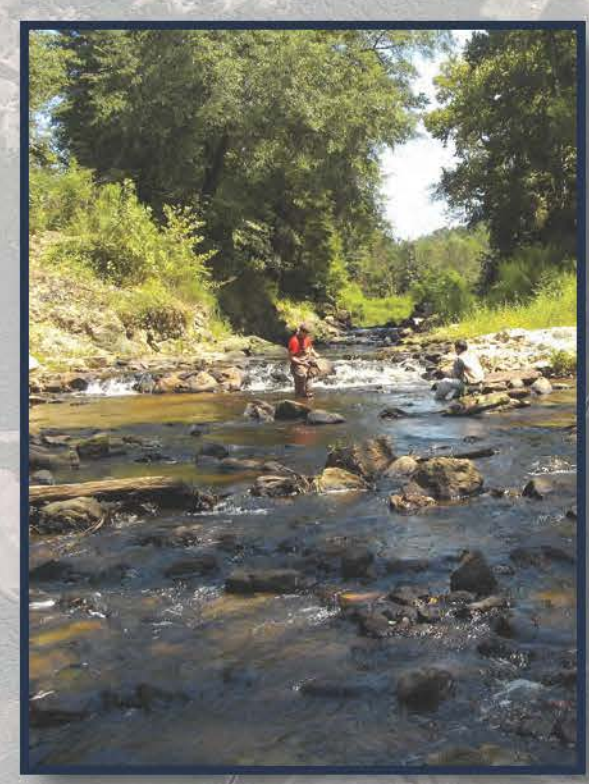
**Steele Street Access**  
 Trail Mile 3.67  
 34.94855, -79.77240



Steeles Mill Before Dam Removal

**PEE DEE MILL #2**  
 Built in 1900 by the Pee Dee Manufacturing Company and purchased by J. P. Stevens Co. in 1959, the plant produced textiles until it closed in the early 2000's. The mill was demolished in 2005 and the brick and heart pine lumber salvaged.

**GREAT FALLS MILL**  
 Built circa 1869, the mill operated until 1930. The building was destroyed by fire in 1972.



Steeles Mill After Dam Removal

**MIDWAY DAM**  
 Built circa 1884, the Midway Dam forms a pond on Hitchcock Creek that provides water for Cascades Industries, Inc.

**LEWARAE MILL**  
 Built circa 1883, the mill was named for the three families involved - Leak, Wall, and McPae. The mill converted from textiles to paper products during the Great Depression and is still in operation as part of Cascades Tissue Group.

**Do not approach the dam!**  
 Paddlers should avoid the dam and portage on river right immediately after the Midway Road Bridge



*Legend*

- P** PARKING
- CANOE ACCESS
- CAMPING
- CAUTION
- HIKING TRAIL

0 0.25 0.50  
 Miles

Map Scale is Approximately 1:18,000

Portage around gas lines may be necessary depending upon creek water level

Caution! Portage required around former dam site. Follow signs as you approach

**STEELES MILL DAM**  
 Steeles Mill Dam was removed in 2009 to improve water quality, restore stream habitat and improve boating access and safety in Hitchcock Creek through collaborative efforts of the City of Rockingham, State of North Carolina, American Rivers and NOAA Restoration Center.

**STEELES MILL**  
 Named for the Steede family which played a prominent role in Richmond County textiles, the mill still operates today by Von Drehle Corporation producing paper products. The 110 year old dam was removed in 2009 to help restore the creek and provide passage for fish such as American shad.

*Geology*

Richmond County straddles the boundary between the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. The Coastal Plain portion of the county lies in the Sandhills Region, named for the deep deposits of sandy soils. Hitchcock Creek is a unique feature of Richmond County because it is one of only four streams that originate in the Coastal Plain and flow westward into the Piedmont, instead of eastward towards the ocean.



**Cordova Access**  
 Trail Mile 9.32  
 34.91794, -79.83047

Trail Mile 9.32  
34.91794, -79.83047



Cordova Access

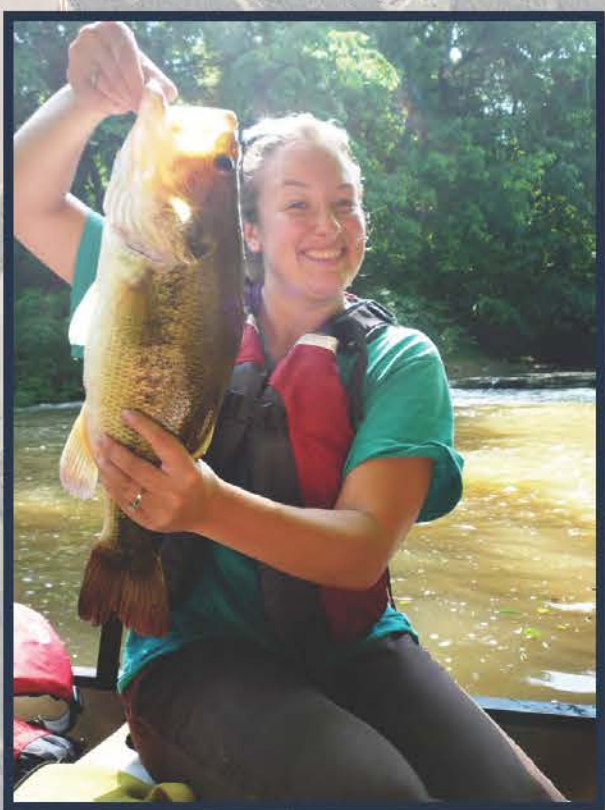
HITCHCOCK CREEK/  
PEE DEE RIVER SLOPE  
SIGNIFICANT NATURAL  
HERITAGE AREA



Portage around gas lines  
may be necessary depending  
upon creek water level

CORDOVA

Confluence of Hitchcock Creek  
and Pee Dee River  
Trail Mile 10.74



Largemouth Bass

### Pee Dee River Slopes

Where the creek enters the Pee Dee River, the topography steepens to form slopes made from a rare type of bedrock. This area features rocky slopes, steep ravines, floodplain forests, and a unique association of plants from both the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. Rare plants and migrating songbirds, including the uncommon Swainson's warbler, can be found.

### wildlife

Hitchcock Creek is a vibrant corridor for a diversity of fish and wildlife. It drains a portion of the 57,000 acre Sandhills Game Land, which is one of the best examples of old growth longleaf pine forest in North Carolina. Common wildlife along the creek includes whitetail deer, wild turkey, gray and white squirrels, raccoons, gray and red foxes, rabbits, a diverse population of birds and waterfowl, and a variety of reptiles including venomous and non-venomous snakes.

The creek is home to more than 45 native fish species, including redlip shiner, piedmont darter, blackbanded sunfish, longnose gar, spotted sucker and more. Another uncommon species is the two-toed amphium, the longest salamander in the U.S., which can grow to four feet long. A half dozen rare and protected freshwater mussel species also are found here. Starting north of Interstate 74, Hitchcock Creek is designated a Lower Pee Dee River Aquatic Habitat Significant Natural Area.

### LEAVE NO TRACE

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Respect private property and be considerate of other visitors

For more information about Leave No Trace principles, visit: [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

### SAFETY

- Always wear a life jacket
- Be prepared for the weather, expect to get wet and dress appropriately
- Avoid wearing cotton clothing
- Know fishing and boating regulations
- Leave a float plan with friends or family
- Understand your skill level and plan your route accordingly
- Bring plenty of water and safety equipment
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat unless it presents a life threatening situation
- Avoid river hazards including strainers
- Be prepared for water levels
- Carry a cellular telephone and emergency numbers
- Never boat alone

PEE DEE RIVER  
MARSH PONDS  
SNHA

North Carolina Wildlife  
Resource Commission  
DIGGS TRACT

GRAVEL  
ACCESS  
ROAD

Last trail take out. Next public  
river access. 12 miles, in  
Cheraw, South Carolina



Diggs Tract Access  
Trail Mile 14.75



Diggs Primitive  
Campground

### Pee Dee River Access & Marsh Ponds

The access site on the Pee Dee supports unique marsh ponds, which are high quality examples of natural beaver wetlands. Due to the number of Coastal Plain species in the Piedmont, these wetlands may be ecologically unique in North Carolina. Marsh ponds and the adjacent slopes and ravines harbor rare plants, including several sedges, floating water-pennywort, mosquito fern, and creeping burhead.



### Disclaimer

While considerable effort has been made to provide accurate information, we take no responsibility for any errors or omissions. There is risk involved in river recreation. The ultimate responsibility for safety lies solely with the individual.

