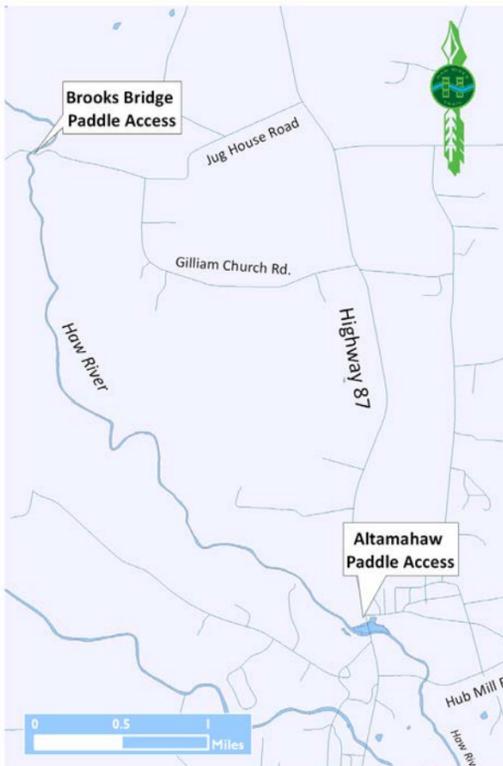


## Brooks Bridge Road to Altamahaw Paddle Access



Launch Point: Brooks Bridge Paddle Access

7403 Brooks Bridge Road, Gibsonville



Take Out: Altamahaw Paddle Access

2996 NC Hwy 87 N, Elon



Distance: 4.0 Miles/2.5 Hours

Skill Level: Intermediate

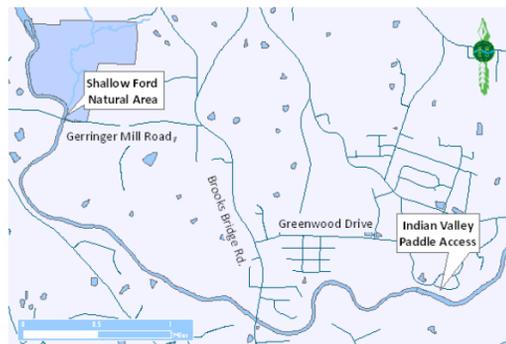
Minimum USGS Gauge Level: .75 ft. at Reedy Fork

Description:

At the Brooks Bridge put-in you get an amusing tease of what's to come a ways down river: a feisty Class I rapid that encourages some quick maneuvering from the rock slab put-in. From there, the intimate, narrow Haw, rarely more than 20 feet from bank to bank, hushes itself with a quiet passage beneath a bottomland forest canopy that blocks the sun and a dense understory that blots out the developing world beyond. A gentle flow carries paddlers for the first half of the trip. After the first 2 miles, as you pass into Alamance County, the dam below backs up water and requires the paddler to do all the work.

The dam at Altamahaw comes up quickly- once you pass the abandoned building on river right, keep an eye out, river left, for the brown sign for Altamahaw Paddle Access. Be advised, this section is cleared of fallen trees about once a year, but there is often an obstacle to two to overcome along the way.

## Shallow Ford Natural Area to Indian Valley & Indian Valley to Great Bend Park



Launch Point: Shallow Ford Natural Area

1955 Gerring Mill Road, Burlington



Take Out: Indian Valley Paddle Access

930 Indian Valley Drive, Burlington



Distance: 4.0 Miles/2.0 Hours Skill Level: Beginner

Minimum USGS Gauge Level: 2.0 ft at Haw River

Description: A good stretch of river for paddlers looking to advance from flat-water, this section includes seven Class I rapids. At the end of the paddle you will encounter Indian Valley Dam. It's only a two-foot drop, but a drop an inexperienced paddler would not want to attempt. The best option is to maneuver through a narrow tunnel in the dam support on river left. The only danger is the rock wall of the mill race that comes upon you quickly after you pass through the tunnel. Alternatively, portage is available just above the dam river right. Take out is river left below the dam.

Lauch Point: Indian Valley Paddle Access

Take Out: Great Bend Park at Glencoe

2348 Glencoe Street, Burlington



Distance: 1.5 Miles/1 Hour Skill Level: Beginner

Minimum USGS Gauge Level: 1.5 ft at Haw River

Description: This short, flat-water stretch is perfect for beginning paddlers. The water backed-up by the Glencoe Dam holds little or no current under normal conditions. The river is accessible from either Indian Valley or Great Bend Park and a round-trip is possible from either location. Both accesses require carrying the boats a short-distance, but the Indian Valley Access is closer to the parking area.

## Red Slide Park to Graham Paddle Access & Graham to Swepsonville River Park



Launch Point: Red Slide Park

389 Lang Street, Burlington



First Take Out: Graham Paddle Access

1124 Cooper Road, Graham



Distance: 3.5 miles/2.0 hours

Skill Level: Beginner

Second Take Out: Swepsonville River Park

2472 Boywood Road, Swepsonville



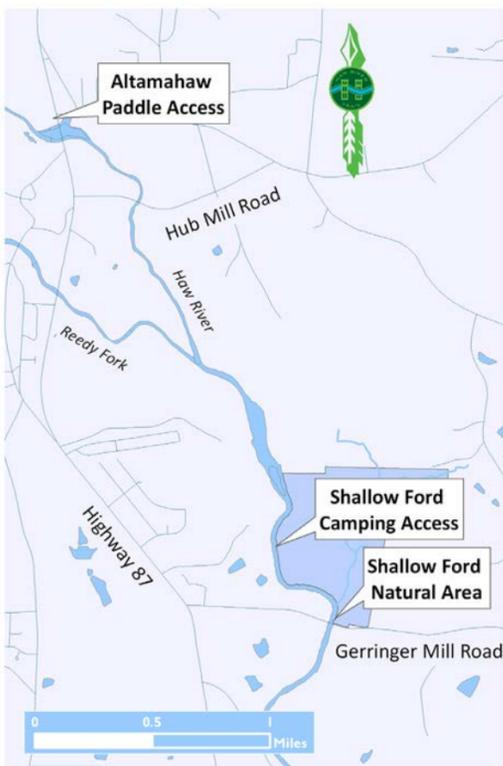
Distance: 2.0 miles/1.5 hours

Skill Level: Beginner

Minimum USGS Gauge Level: 1.7 ft at Haw River

Description: First impressions aren't always accurate, as you'll quickly discover on the 3.5-mile stretch of the Haw between Red Slide Park and the Graham Paddle Access. After putting in at Red Slide Park, you have about 20 yards to figure out how to attack a frisky Class I-II set of rapids that drops three feet within 30 feet, the result of a dam, now decommissioned, that once helped power the old Granite Cotton Mill. The easiest passage is on the far side of the river, river left. Once you pass beneath the NC 49 bridge, you've got about 3.2 miles of mellow paddling ahead. Graham Paddle Access, river right, comes upon you quickly after you pass under the NC 54 bridge. The way to Swepsonville features several Class I rapids including a challenging stretch at the Swepsonville-Saxapahaw Road bridge. The take-out is just river right.

## Altamahaw Paddle Access to Shallow Ford Natural Area



Launch Point: Altamahaw Paddle Access

2996 NC Hwy 87 N, Elon



Upstream:

Skill Level: Beginner

Minimum USGS Gauge Level: 1.5 ft at Haw River

Description:

For the flat-water paddler, the water above the Altamahaw Dam is always right for an up and back paddle. The dam backs up the water for nearly two miles and makes an excellent trip for beginners or during the dry summer.

Downstream:

Take Out: Shallow Ford Natural Area

1955 Gerring Mill Road, Burlington



Distance: 2.7 Miles/2.0 Hours

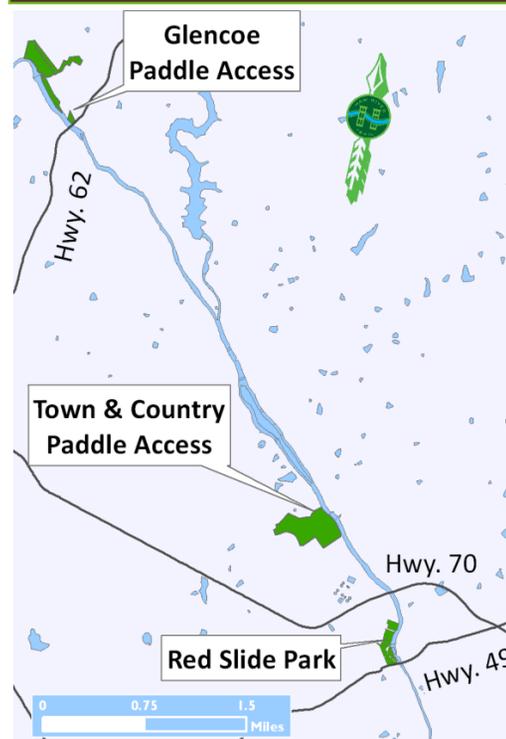
Skill Level: Advanced

Minimum USGS Gauge Level: 2.5 ft at Haw River

Description:

For more experienced paddlers, this section is one of the best on the river. Check the gates on the mill race before putting in- if they are open the first 100 yards will require some dragging until the water from the race comes back in. A significant drop is found river left at the old Hub Mill Dam raceway, although a calmer option is available in the main water channel. After the Hub Mill Road bridge, a nice stretch of Class II rapids leads to the take-out for the Shallow Ford Natural Area campsites at mile 2.3. Call 336/229-2410 for camping reservations. Main take out is .4 miles river left.

## Glencoe Paddle Access to Town and Country Paddle Access & Red Slide Park



Launch Point: Glencoe Paddle Access

2348 Glencoe Street, Burlington



First Take Out: Town and Country Nature Park

501 Riverside Drive, Burlington



Distance: 3.5 Miles/2.0 Hours

Second Take Out: Red Slide Park



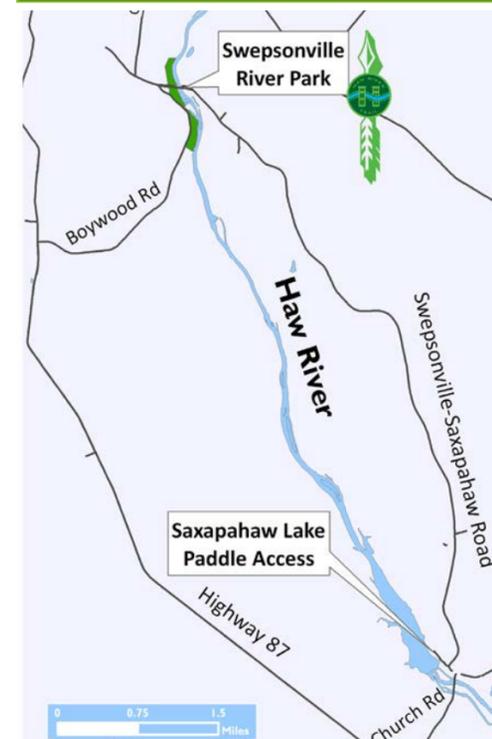
389 Lang Street, Burlington

Distance: 1.5 miles/1.0 hour Skill Level: Intermediate

Minimum USGS Gauge Level: 2.25 ft at Haw River

Description: The five miles from Glencoe to Haw River is truly one of the Haw River's showcase paddles. Rocky ledges make the paddling challenging while a solid current removes all trace of drudgery. This stretch of river was the first to be populated by Europeans 300 years ago, yet the only sign of civilization is historic textile mills that tower over the river. At just under 2.5 miles the river cleaves around Goat Island. Nearly a mile long, Goat Island is the longest island on the Haw, and probably the most celebrated, with a history that includes an abandoned school bus, an abandoned 18-wheeler, goats, and Chris-Chris, an ape-like monster said to be a full-time resident. The first take out is at mile 3.5, river right at the Town & Country Paddle Access. A little over a mile later, you're at Red Slide Park and the take-out, river right.

## Great Alamance Creek to Swepsonville River Park & Swepsonville to Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access



Launch Point: Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access

2229 S. Main Street, Graham



First Take Out: Swepsonville River Park

2472 Boywood Road, Swepsonville



Distance: 2.0 miles/1.0 hours

Skill Level: Beginner

Second Take Out: Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access

6096 Jordan Drive, Saxapahaw



Distance: 5.5 miles/3 hours

Skill Level: Beginner

Minimum USGS Gauge Level: 1.5 ft at Haw River

Description: Any of these 3 access points make a great place for a beginner's first paddle, as two dams create a calm lake in this section of the Haw. From Swepsonville River Park it's 0.7 miles downstream to the Puryear Dam, or you can paddle upstream on Great Alamance Creek. From the Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access you can paddle five miles upstream before hitting the Puryear Dam. In both instances it's an easy paddle upstream against a mellow, almost imperceptible current. If you proceed downstream from Great Alamance Creek or Swepsonville, note that portage of Puryear Dam is available river left. With little current, it is a long paddle to Saxapahaw. Make sure you have ample energy before crossing the Puryear Dam.

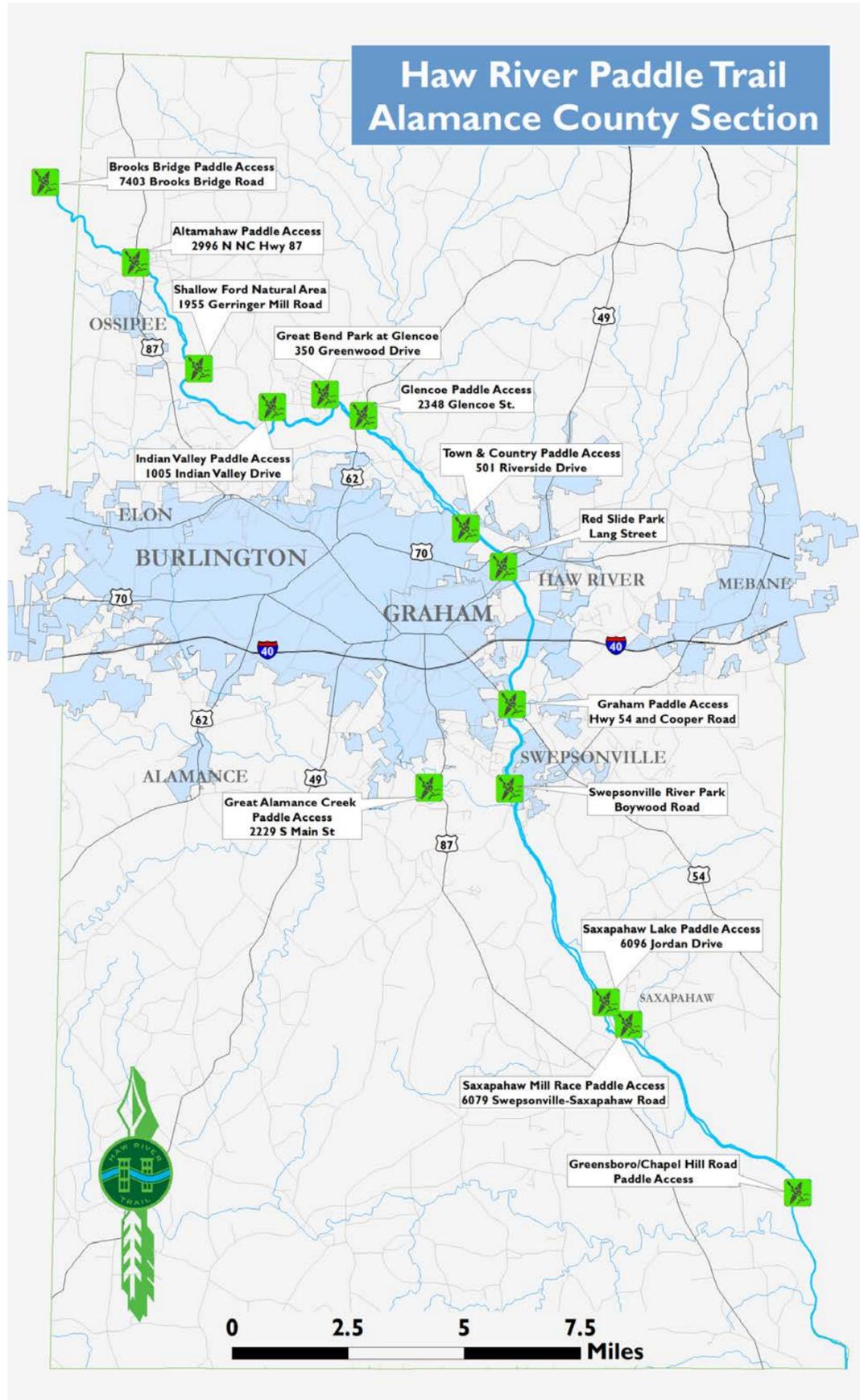
# About the Haw River Trail

The Haw River Trail Partnership was formed in 2006 with the express goal of helping the public enjoy and conserve the natural resources of the Haw River Corridor. The Haw River Trail is being built on the belief that the first step to conservation is appreciation, and that allowing the community to experience the Haw River first hand via land and paddle trails will create respect and interest in the River. At the heart of that effort are the Haw River Trail and Haw River Paddle Trail. The trails follow the 70 mile journey of the Haw connecting Haw River State Park in Guilford and Rockingham Counties to Jordan Lake State Recreation Area in Chatham County. For over 40 miles of the journey, the Haw River Trail will combine with the statewide Mountains-to-Sea Trail beginning at Clingsman's Dome on the North Carolina/Tennessee border and ending at Jockey's Ridge on the Outer Banks. In addition to trail building, our conservation efforts help to improve water quality, create habitat for the river's plants and animals and improve property values in the region. Thanks for helping us protect the future of the Haw River.



## History on the Haw River Trail

The Haw River Paddle Trail allows novice and expert paddlers alike to experience the Haw as it was meant to be seen. For locals, seeing their home from the river provides a new perspective and a rediscovery of the natural beauty that surrounds them. For visitors, paddling the Haw is an exciting way to experience the natural and historical features of the Haw River Corridor. The Haw River has been the driving force of the region for centuries. The banks of the Haw were home to the first Native American communities, and the first European settlers to the area. In the 1800s, the Haw powered grist mills for the communities that sprung up alongside it, and pushed the turbines that carried the Industrial Revolution to the Piedmont. The factories and villages on the Haw River shaped who we have become, and much of that history remains waiting to be discovered. Brochures are available at the paddle accesses that detail the history and natural features of the Haw along our most popular paddle routes. These guides are meant to be taken in the boat with you, and are keyed to mile markers visible from the water. Be sure to pick one up for your next trip.



## Camping

Overnight camping is available at the following parks:

### Shallow Ford Natural Area

Three primitive backcountry campsites are available by reservation. Campsites are located approximately one mile from the parking area, or via a dedicated paddle access on the Haw River. Water and restrooms are available only at the parking area. Camping is \$10/night. Reservations can be made by calling 336/229-2410 during normal business hours.

### Swepsonville River Park

Four primitive campsites are available on a first come first serve basis. Restrooms are available at the parking area. No water is available.

### Additional Camping Areas Operated By Private Businesses

#### Spirit Island

Operated by the Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co., Spirit Island is accessible only via canoe or kayak on the Haw River. The island is located approximately one mile south of Swepsonville River Park. The island features two camping platforms and can be reserved by contacting Haw River Canoe and Kayak Co. at [www.hawrivercanoe.com](http://www.hawrivercanoe.com) or 336/260-6465.

#### River Landing Inn

River Landing Inn is a full service bed and breakfast located in Saxapahaw. The Inn also offers trail users a place to camp on the property. Contact River Landing Inn at [www.riverlandinn.com](http://www.riverlandinn.com) or (919) 602-0296.

## Flat Water River Sections

Part of the beauty of the Haw River is that it offers multiple types of paddling within very close proximity to each other. The shallow rocky sections create excellent rapids for paddling when the water is at normal level. However, these same features make some sections of the Haw difficult to paddle during low water periods.

Due to the historic dams left from the river's manufacturing past, several sections of the river are backed up to create a lake-like "flat water" paddling experience. These areas are excellent places for beginners to try their first river paddle and are a good choice for dry summer days when the water is low. For flat-water paddling, look for the following sections:

- Altamahaw Paddle Access - Upstream
- Indian Valley to Great Bend Park (either access)
- Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access
- Swepsonville Paddle Access (downstream to Saxapahaw or up Great Alamance Creek)
- Saxapahaw Lake Paddle Access

## Park Rules

The following actions are prohibited at all Haw River Trail facilities:

- Possession or Use of Alcohol or Illegal Drugs
- Use of Motor Vehicles Outside of Parking Area
- Littering or Defacing of County Property
- Possession of Firearms in Violation of State Law
- Solicitation of Any Kind
- Failure to Have Pets on a Leash
- Fishing from Boat Launch Area
- Removal of Plants or Other Natural Materials
- Hunting or Trapping of Wildlife
- Cooking Fires are Permitted Only in Designated Areas
- Camping is Allowed in Designated Areas by Permit Only

## Park Hours

January 1- February 28	8:00am – 5:00pm
March 1 - April 30	8:00am – 7:00pm
May 1 - August 31	8:00am – 8:00pm
September 1 - October 31	8:00am – 7:00pm
November 1- December 31	8:00am – 5:00pm

Gated accesses are locked at closing time. Do not leave your vehicle parked at a trailhead after the posted closing time.

## Safety On Water

Although the Haw River is a wonderful river to paddle under normal conditions, the river is subject to extreme changes in water level and flow amounts during periods of rain or drought. During high water events, the Haw River is extremely dangerous.

### Immediately prior to your trip:

Check the USGS river gauge for the section of the river you are paddling. Rough guidelines for minimum and maximum water levels are listed in the section descriptions. However, these levels are not one size fits all. Use your judgment before leaving- if the river feels too dangerous for you, postpone your trip.

Real-time water level information can be found at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/>

The gauges are located at the following sites:

- Reedy Fork near Greensboro
- Haw River south of Red Slide Park
- Bynum

### If you encounter trouble on the water:

Dial 911 and report the most recently passed mile marker to the operator.

## Paddle Trail Map



## Mountains to Sea Trail

## North Carolina

*a part of the*

## Haw River Trail

## Haw River Trail

for more information visit

[www.thehaw.org](http://www.thehaw.org)  
or contact

Haw River Trail Coordinator  
336/229-2380  
[info@thehaw.org](mailto:info@thehaw.org)

