

The following descriptions are offered as suggestions if you have your own boat and need ideas. We **don't offer support** on all of these trips, this is just an information-only page to give you other places to try on your own.

The river is dam-controlled, and the water levels are varied. We cannot guarantee what water levels may be. There is always the chance of rapidly rising waters during the weekdays and after 4pm on weekends. Be aware you only have seconds after the buzzer rings at the dam before water is released.

Lake Wylie Dam to River Walk

Note that River Walk and River Park are two separate locations on the Catawba River...River Walk is downstream from the Dam, and River Park is further downstream from River Walk

Difficulty: Easy!

Miles: 3.62 Float time: 1.5 to 2 hours in kayak/canoe depending on your paddle/play style
3 hours floating on a tube

Trip: This float begins at the Lake Wylie Dam in Fort Mill SC and passes under the I-77 bridge, ending at River Walk just past the 21 bridge in Rock Hill SC. This is a beautiful stretch of river - we've seen eagles, deer, otters, geese, osprey, heron and lots of fish. Most beginners do well on this section, but be aware there is moving water and plenty of rocks to maneuver around. Depending on water level, you may get a few fun riffles or rapids, but mostly this is a pretty calm, flat stretch of water with lots of big rocks. After your float, you may want to enjoy the beautiful Riverwalk park for a picnic or walk the trails along the river. The river is dam-controlled, and the water levels are varied. We cannot guarantee what water levels may be. There is always the chance of rapidly rising waters during the weekdays and after 4pm on weekends. Be aware you only have seconds after the buzzer rings at the dam before water is released.

Lake Wylie Dam to River Park

Difficulty: *Moderately Easy, suitable for adventuresome beginners...Our Most Popular Trip!

Miles: 6.50 Float time: 2 to 3 hours in kayak/canoe

Tubing time: 5 hours approximately, in a tube

Trip: This float begins at the Lake Wylie Dam in Fort Mill SC and passes under the I-77 and US 21 bridges (past Riverwalk), and ends at River Park in Rock Hill SC. This is a beautiful stretch of river - we've seen eagles, deer, otters, geese, osprey, heron and lots of fish. Most beginners do well on this section, but be aware there is moving water and rocks to maneuver around. Depending on water level, you may get a few fun riffles or rapids, but mostly this is a pretty calm, flat stretch of water with lots of big rocks. The river is dam-controlled, and the water levels are varied. We cannot guarantee what water levels may be. There is always the chance of rapidly rising waters during the weekdays and after 4pm on weekends. Be aware you only have seconds after the buzzer rings at the dam before water is released.

River Park to Landsford Canal State Park

Miles: 18.21

Float time: 6-10 hours depending on water level

Difficulty: Moderate, mostly because of length of float

Description: This is a beautiful and long float, beginning at River Park in Rock Hill and ending at Landsford Canal State Park in Chester. Trip goes past Catawba Indian Nation, Sun City, Hwy. 5 and Bowater. Need to launch early to make it to Landsford before closing time, make sure you take more water and sunscreen than you expect to need, several people have come back parched and sunburned and hungry. Take this on only if you are a very experienced long-distance paddler. The river widens and deepens after River Park, resulting in very little current in most sections, so you will be paddling for many miles, not cruising. Definitely not for beginner paddlers or tubing!

Landsford Canal State Park Trips

(The lilies typically bloom mid-May through mid-June, but these trips are awesome anytime)

For trip information, visit our Landsford Canal State Park page.

If you are doing this trip with your own boats, here are some suggestions:

Two Suggestions for DIY paddlers:

(1) Bring two vehicles...leave your boats at the launch location in the main park, then drive a car down to the take out parking area (Canal Road) and then drive your other car to the main park.

(2) Drive through main park down to the river parking area (where bathrooms/log cabin/playground located) and hit the water. After your float you can walk the 1.25 mile easy path back to the main park to your car, then drive back down to the take out to grab your boats.

Check in with park rangers for how to find the hidden take-out creek and what signs to look for. NOT a trip for newbies.

Highway 9 to Cane Creek

Miles: Undetermined - depends on you!

Difficulty: Super easy

Description: Put in at public boat landing at Hwy. 9 bridge. Paddle upstream for a while (3 miles) and then back down, or head down 1 mile to Cane Creek on river left. You can paddle Cane Creek for a few miles, a wide, gorgeous creek that becomes almost tropical in feel. You'll see many birds and other wildlife. ANY age, ANY experience level. You don't need us for this float, it's a "round trip."