

GET OUT *and Play!*

ON THE NOLICHUCKY RIVER

The Nolichucky River headwater begins in North Carolina and flows into Tennessee for over 115 miles and is a tributary to the French Broad River. It is a popular whitewater destination in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee and also a fun flatwater float through Greene County, TN. It flows through the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests, where there are many hiking trails and camping opportunities, including the Appalachian Trail.

The Nolichucky Dam on the Nolichucky River in east Tennessee creates David Crockett Reservoir, named for the famous frontiersman who was born nearby.

The Cherokee National Forest lies just to the east of Nolichucky Dam, with trails and forests that visitors can explore.

Whether you are stepping into your boat, going for a hike, or gearing up for the hunt having a little back-pocket information is key. Here is some simple information about some of this area's best recreational opportunities—where to show up, how to get there and what to bring along. One of the most amazing things about the Tennessee River system and its tributaries is how easy it is for you to get to places to relax and recreate. As part of its mission of service, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) manages its public lands and waters to support recreation so the Tennessee Valley remains one of the best places in the country to live, work and play.

BE A GOOD STEWARD

The Nolichucky River is known for its clean water and pristine rural shorelines. Here's how you can help play a part in keeping the river beautiful:

- **Stay on the path.** Shorelines are fragile ecosystems; please restrict launching and landing to designated areas only.
- **Leave no trace.** No littering. Pack it in, pack it out. For more info visit www.lnt.org.
- **Look, don't touch.** Do not disturb any natural or cultural resources you may encounter.
- **Respect private property.** Do not trespass above the high water mark.
- **Be a happy camper.** Camp only in designated areas.
- **Don't play with fire.** No campfires unless otherwise designated.



TVA PUBLIC LANDS

The public lands entrusted to TVA for stewardship are available for hiking, birdwatching, camping, fishing, hunting and other informal recreational pursuits. Some important regulations to protect the resources and your safety should be followed. Camping in a primitive campsite on TVA lands is allowable up to 14 days. You should follow all state hunting seasons and regulations. In addition, motorized vehicles, cutting or removing vegetation, target shooting or removal of cultural artifacts are not allowed on TVA public lands. For more information visit <https://www.tva.com/environment/recreation>, or call the TVA's Public Lands Information Center at (800) TVA-LAND (toll-free).

State Parks There are four Tennessee State Parks (Sycamore Shoals, Roan Mountain, Rocky Fork, and David Crockett) within this region. Please visit <https://tnstateparks.com/> for detailed information.

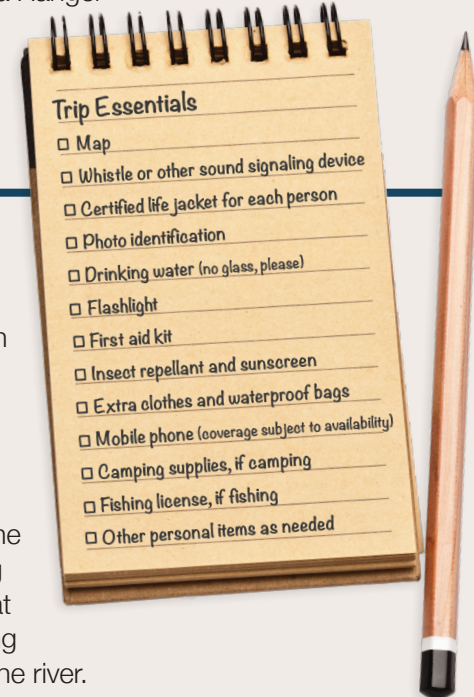
Forest Service The Bald Mountain, Unaka Mountain, Roan Mountain, and Watauga Lake Zones make up some of the US Forest Service lands in the Erwin, TN area. There are a little over 180,000 acres in the Unaka Ranger District located in Cocke, Greene, Unicoi, and Washington counties. The Watauga Ranger District is approximately 170,000 acres located in Carter, Sullivan, and Johnson counties. Some of the popular hiking trails include the Appalachian Trail, Chestoa Overlook, Sill Branch Falls, Rock Creek Falls, Margarette Creek Falls, and Pete's Branch Falls. There are several trailheads and recreation areas in Unicoi County, with Rock Creek Recreation Area offering camping. Please remember that the use of motorized vehicles behind gated/closed roads and trash dumping on US Forest Service Lands is illegal. You can report any illegal dumping online at tinyurl.com/littertool. The Watauga Ranger District's Ranger Station is located at 4400 Unicoi Drive and the phone number (423) 735-1500. The Unaka Ranger District's Ranger Station is located at 4900 Asheville Hwy, Greeneville and the phone number is (423) 638-4109. Please call ahead to ensure offices are open.

TVA'S DAMS

Nolichucky Dam was built in 1913 as a hydropower project. However, due to siltation of the reservoir, the dam was taken out of service in 1972, and the reservoir was converted into a wildlife management area. Boat access and camping are available at nearby Kinser Park.

The Nolichucky River below the dam is one of the best in East Tennessee for catching smallmouth bass. A parking area and boat ramp are located below the dam, providing access for fishing along the banks or on the river.

When paddling near a dam, please know: Water release schedules can change without notice due to unanticipated changes in weather conditions and power system requirements. The depth and swiftness of the river can change rapidly. Your safety depends on obeying all posted safety regulations and warnings. Information about the recreation releases can be found on <https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Recreation/Recreation-Release-Schedules>.



PADDLE POINTERS

Follow these 12 tips to help keep your next paddle trip safe:

Know Your Limits—Paddle water that is appropriate to your skills. Not sure about where to find it? Talk to a local paddle shop owner about good places to paddle for every skill level.

Keep an Eye on the Weather—Storms can spring up quickly in the south bringing lightning, high winds and choppy water. Point your bow toward shore whenever you hear thunder, no matter how distant.

Follow the Law for recreational vessels of the United States.

Bring Flotation—Always wear a Coast Guard-approved lifejacket, type II or III at minimum. Children under 12 years of age must wear a lifejacket.*

Wear a Helmet—If you fall in, a helmet can protect your head from hard or sharp objects that may be lurking below the surface.

Watch for River Hazards—Watch for fallen tree limbs, barbed wire, bridge piers and other hazards that can snare or entangle you.

Be Visible...and Audible—Keep alert to other boats. If you believe another boat has not seen you, blow your whistle* and wave your paddle to alert the other boat. A flashlight* is required if you plan to paddle after sunset.

Dress for Success—Wear clothing sufficient to prevent hypothermia and/or sunburn.

Wear Sunscreen—The CDC recommends applying a sunscreen with a SPF of at least 15 to help prevent sunburn and skin damage.

Don't Paddle Alone—Paddling is an activity that is always better with friends and family anyway.

Never Drink and Paddle*—Alcohol impairs coordination and judgment.

Communicate Your Plan in Advance—Plan ahead, and let someone who's not going to be aboard know your paddling agenda. Be aware that some sections of the river have no cell phone service.

*U.S. Coast Guard Requirement



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NOLICHUCKY RIVER



DISCLAIMER: The featured map is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended, and should not be relied upon, to provide accurate locations, directions, or data. Paddle at your own risk. Fallen trees, built structures, and other hazards are present in the water. Be alert to weather conditions, water levels and flow, and river traffic. Know your abilities. Boating involves some risk of drowning, injury, or death. TVA is not responsible for your personal safety or for your vehicle and is not liable for injury to you or damage to your vehicle, boat, or personal property.