

GET OUT *and Play!*

ON THE SOUTH FORK OF HOLSTON RIVER

The cool tailwaters of South Holston dam create world-class trout fishing and paddling opportunities for kayakers and rafters.

Boating, fishing and skiing are still the most popular types of recreation on TVA lakes. But more and more people are getting interested in the world of tailwater sports—such as kayaking, rafting and trout fishing—that can happen in the water below the TVA dams.

Whether you are fly fishing, stepping into your boat, or going for a hike having a little back-pocket information is key. Here is some basic information about 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 that the Tennessee Valley remains one of the best places in the country to live, work and play.

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 for the state you are hunting in. 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 www.tva.com/undeveloped, or call the TVA's Public Lands Information Center at (800) TVA-LAND.



TVA'S DAMS

In 1991, TVA built a weir below South Holston Dam to add oxygen to the river. Oxygen-rich water helps create a sustained habitat for aquatic insects, vegetation and fish—especially trout.

South Holston Reservoir is on the South Fork Holston River in northeast Tennessee. It extends 24 miles east of the dam into Virginia. Construction of the dam began in 1942 but was halted in favor of other wartime construction efforts. Building resumed in 1947 and was completed in 1950.

South Holston is operated for several purposes, including flood damage reduction, power production, aquatic ecology and augmentation of the flow of water during drier periods.

The South Holston Tailwater is home to a thriving wild brown trout fishery making it a destination for fisherman from all over the world.

A footbridge from the parking lot below the dam leads to Osceola Island and its 1.8 mile-loop wildlife trail. Early in the morning or late in the evening are the best times to sight waterfowl, deer and other wildlife. Other nearby trails offer hiking, fishing, biking and wildlife viewing.

When recreating 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>. You can also check out information for South Holston Dam releases at <https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels> or download TVA's Lake Info app. Or you can call (800) 238-2264 (toll-free) and select option 4 for predicted unit schedules (for water release) and 01 for South Holston Dam information by phone.



It is important to understand the water release schedule before paddling or fishing the river as the water's current and depth can change rapidly.

Trip Essentials

- ☐ Map
- ☐ Whistle or other sound signaling device
- ☐ Certified life jacket for each person
- ☐ Photo identification
- ☐ Drinking water (no glass, please)
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Insect repellent and sunscreen
- ☐ Extra clothes and waterproof bags
- ☐ Mobile phone (coverage subject to availability)
- ☐ Camping supplies, if camping
- ☐ Fishing license, if fishing
- ☐ Other personal items as needed

TROUT FISHING THE TVA TAILWATERS

Like to fish, but bass aren't your bag? Try the more meditative art of trout fishing. Here's a Q + A guide to where and how to safely fish for trout in the Tennessee Valley.

Where are the best places to go trout fishing in TVA tailwaters?

Trout need cold water to thrive, so the optimal conditions are found below TVA dams on tributary reservoirs where low water intakes pull cold water from the bottom of the reservoir. The tailwaters below Norris, South Holston, Wilbur, Apalachia and Blue Ridge dams all offer excellent opportunities for trout fishing. Other locations with good trout fisheries include Tims Ford, Chatuge, Fort Patrick Henry, Normandy, Nottely, Fontana and Cherokee.

What do I need to do in preparation for my fishing trip?

First of all, you'll need a fishing license and a trout stamp from the wildlife resource agency of the state in which you plan to fish. It's also a good idea to check the fishing regulations, as special wild trout regulations—with reduced creel and size limits—are in place for many tailwaters. Water released through the tributary dams can be very cold even during the summer, so you'll need a good pair of warm waders if you plan to wade-fish. In some locations, access to the river can be difficult. Use designated public access areas, or obtain landowner permission in advance. You can also hire a guide, as many are available around popular fishing spots.

Where can I get information about trout stocking?

Because of the popularity of trout fishing, most states stock selected streams with rainbow and brown trout to maintain acceptable catch rates. Stocking schedules are generally available from state web sites (e.g., Tennessee.gov) or by calling your state wildlife resource agency.



PARTNERS:

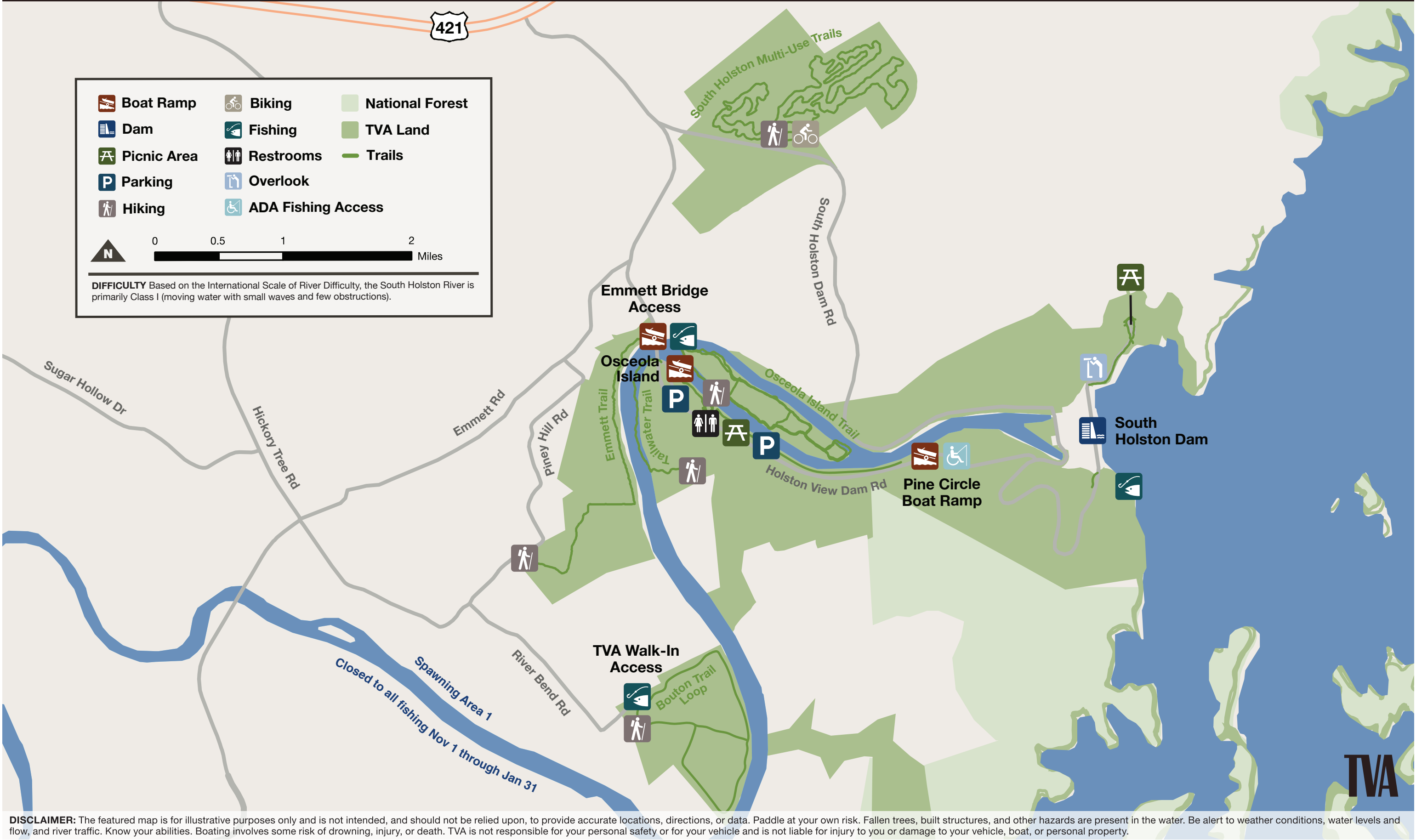


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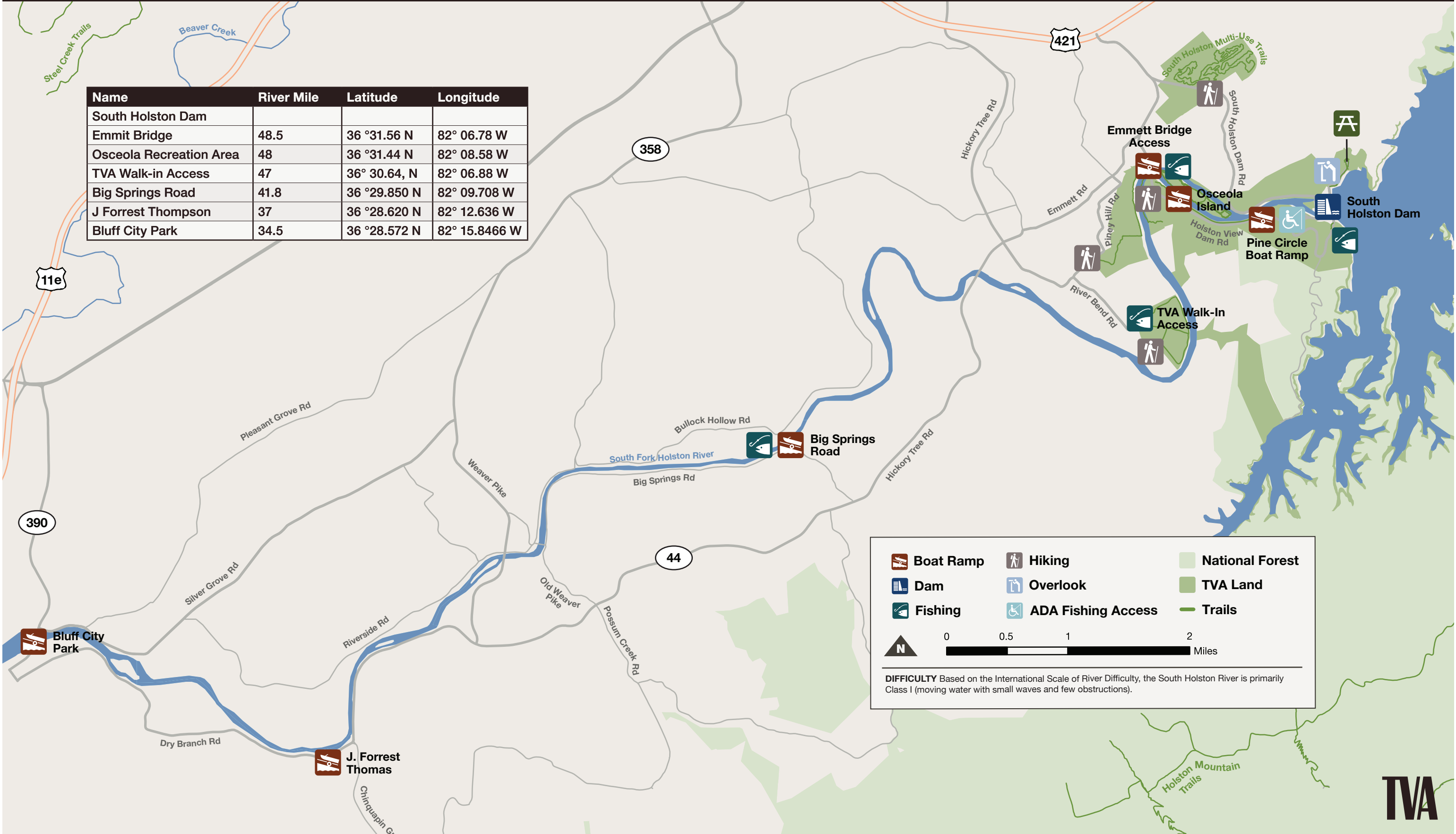
SOUTH HOLSTON DAM RESERVATION



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.

SOUTH HOLSTON TAILWATER FISHING AREA

Name	River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
South Holston Dam			
Emmit Bridge	48.5	36 °31.56 N	82° 06.78 W
Osceola Recreation Area	48	36 °31.44 N	82° 08.58 W
TVA Walk-in Access	47	36° 30.64, N	82° 06.88 W
Big Springs Road	41.8	36 °29.850 N	82° 09.708 W
J Forrest Thompson	37	36 °28.620 N	82° 12.636 W
Bluff City Park	34.5	36 °28.572 N	82° 15.8466 W



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