

WACCAMAW RIVER

SOUTH CAROLINA



American Rivers

Project Name: Waccamaw River Water Trail

Project Type:

- Acquisition/Easement/Protection
- Education
- Recreation (Water Trail)

Project Description: The Waccamaw River is a coastal plain river, fed from the surrounding wetlands whose rich organic waters provide the black waters that the River is known for. The black waters provide physical and chemical characteristics that

have resulted in a unique collection of species that make up this biologically diverse and nationally significant watershed. Despite its unique qualities, the Waccamaw River is relatively unknown outside of the local area. The Waccamaw River watershed is facing ever increasing threats that have the potential to negatively impact this unique natural resource.

Establishing a water trail will help to reconnect the communities to this resource, promote outdoor recreation opportunities, be an economic driver for increasing tourism in the region as well as serve as a model for protecting a threatened national resource. The water trail will produce multiple community benefits including: allowing access to an array of scenic landscapes, providing habitat protection for diverse and significant fish and wildlife populations, preserving traditional uses such as hunting and fishing, and serving as an economic engine for those communities located along the river corridor.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Non-Federal Partners:

- American Rivers
- Pee Dee Land Trust
- Winyah Rivers Foundation

Outcomes for 2012:

- Designation of the Waccamaw River National Water Trail
- Identify potential river access points along the 100 miles of river corridor in South Carolina
- Hold a kayak outing event on the water trail
- Extend South Carolina river resource mapping to include North Carolina data