

Visit and Enjoy

...**but Leave No Trace** in order to protect the plants and animals that live along the Haw.

We're guests in their home.

State Park rules:

- Open sunrise to sunset, dogs must be on leashes
- No camping , or campfires and no alcohol
- No vehicles, including 4-wheelers and dirt bikes
- Don't take or pick anything from nature.
- Take your trash out with you - don't litter

Safety:

The Haw River can be dangerous- shallow water can drop into deep holes. Don't paddle or swim in high water, and be careful on slippery rocks.



What You Can See

Birds:

Bald eagles, ospreys (*at right*), egrets and great blue herons, ducks and geese can be seen along the river, and chattering kingfishers. The forest canopy is home to many owls, woodpeckers and songbirds -- and a great place to look for fall and spring migratory species.



Mammals:

Although many mammals are nocturnal or keep themselves hidden, you may see tracks or other signs of river otters (*rt.*) raccoon, white-tailed deer, squirrel, opossum, gray fox and coyote along the river. Look for beaver signs in gnawed trees and wood chips.



Fish, reptiles and amphibians:

The Haw River is home to largemouth bass, sunfish, catfish, white perch, carp and the endangered Cape Fear shiner. You may spot box turtles in the woods and water turtles like the yellow-bellied slider out on the rocks, as well as the northern banded water snake. Keep an eye out on the trail for the shy but poisonous copperhead snake. See if you can spot a salamander or frog.



Insects and other small "critters"

The Blue-tipped dancer damselfly and Stream cruiser dragonfly live here, and many other interesting insects in the water and air. Turn over a rock to see a mayfly nymph or caddisfly larvae. Crayfish, mussels and the plentiful Asian clam live here too.

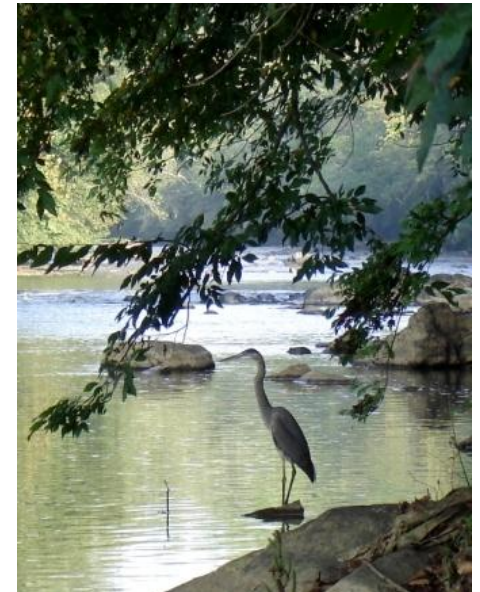
Trees and beautiful plants

Beech trees, willow oak, and sycamore all love the water's edge - the sycamore is recognized by its white upper trunk and branches. Pawpaw, ironwood, elderberry and button bush are also streamside, and each May beautiful flowers of the mountain laurel (*rt.*) are in bloom. March and April bring the forest wildflowers and late summer the yellow asters and nodding heads of river oats. Horsetail and river cane, both native, grow in colonies There are also invasive plants --from the oldest English ivy and privet, to newer arrivals like Japanese stiltgrass and Russian olive.



(This brochure is a publication of the Haw River Assembly, working to protect the river since 1982. Find out more on our website: hawriver.org)

The Lower Haw River State Natural Area



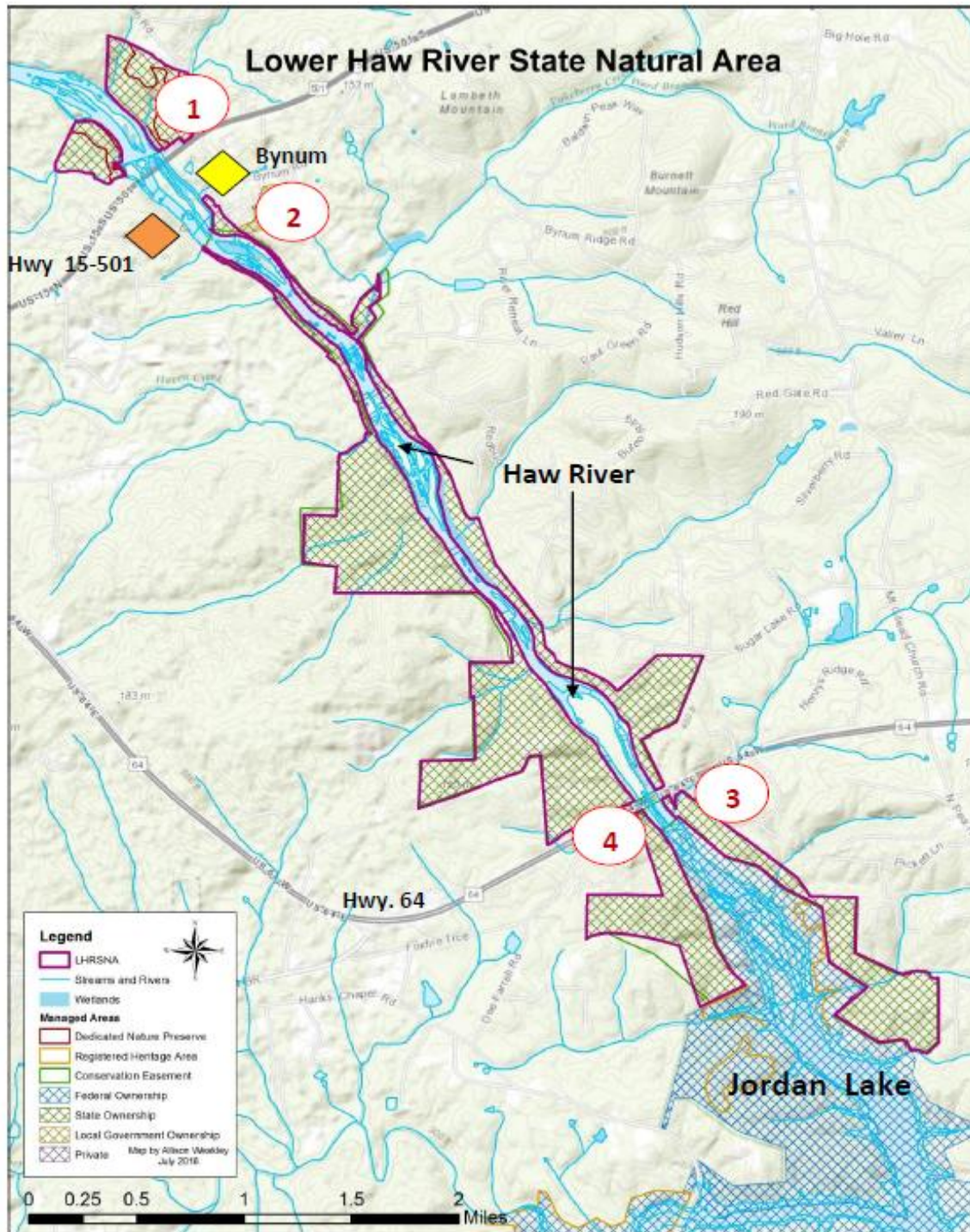
Great blue heron

The Lower Haw River State Natural Area is part of NC State Parks, protecting this special place for plants and animals.

It includes 1,100 acres along both sides of the Haw River in Chatham County, from above Hwy 15-501 near Bynum to below Hwy 64, where it meets the Jordan Lake State Recreation Area. Over four miles on each side of the river protect habitat for many species of birds, mammals, fish and bottomland forest.

The beautiful rugged scenery of boulders and white water tells the story of the ancient geology of this land. The rocks here began from volcanic mountains as far back as 500 million years ago, eroding into the Piedmont hills we see today.

It is a very special place.



Map Legend



LHRNSA Park Boundaries
(Lower Haw River State Natural Area)



Haw River and Jordan Lake



Bynum Beach Paddling and River Access
(Chatham County Parks) on Bynum Beach Rd. off the southwest side of Bynum Rd.



Bynum Bridge pedestrian walkway over the Haw River. There's a small parking lot next to the bridge at the end of Bynum Rd. (northeast side of ridge)

1

LHRNSA Parking lot -15-501 Access to land upriver of the dam, or to paddle flat water behind the dam going upstream on the Haw

2

LHRNSA Parking lot off Bynum Church Rd. Park to take the trail along the LHRNSA starting from the gravel road at the entrance to the parking area - easy hiking. This site is where the Bynum textile mill once stood, built in 1872, and closed in the 1970's.

3

LHRNSA Parking - East side of Hwy 64 Bridge This is a small gravel lot - turn right into it from the eastbound lane after crossing bridge. Walk downhill and then follow the trail upstream. Very scenic.

4

LHRNSA Parking - West side of Hwy 64 Bridge From the eastbound lane take a right on Foxfire Trace, then left onto the Haw River Access Rd. You can hike upstream for rugged beauty and high bluffs, or downstream along the scenic rapids.

(This map is a publication of the Haw River Assembly)
www.hawriver.org