Esri, Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, GSA (GS)

0

M

U

(1)

5

0

S

D

on D

A Blue Trail is a dedicated stretch of river that enjoys special clean water safequards and is a destination for fishing, boating, and other recreation. Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore the land, Blue Trails help people discover rivers. Blue Trails provide a fun, exciting way to get kids outdoors, connect communities to treasured landscapes, benefit local businesses and contribute to a high quality of life.

The Tuckasegee River Blue Trail meanders for nearly 60-miles from the headwaters in Panthertown Valley through Cullowhee, Dillsboro, and Bryson City ultimately joining the Little Tennessee River. The Tuckasegee River, often called "the Tuck," offers serene flatwater and exciting whitewater sections, and multiple well-maintained boat launches make access easy. Riverside picnic areas at some access areas offer places where families and other groups can gather. The Tuck is a destination for fishing and home to the native Southern Appalachian brook trout, as well as other wildlife. Additionally, the Tuck and its tributaries provide drinking water for the town of Sylva, Bryson City, and Western Carolina University. This river supports life for people and nature and is a priority for conservation so all its outstanding values can be enjoyed for generations to come. View our online Blue Trail map and learn how you can protect the Tuck and other rivers by visiting: www.AmericanRivers.org/Tuckasegee

This map was generously funded by The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. The map is free for educational purposes and is not for sale.





Rivers, USGS, Esri Living Atlas.











Tuckasegee River Blue Trail

1. Deep Creek

Located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Deep Creek is known for waterfalls, trails, swimming, tubing, and fly fishing. Deep Creek also supplies drinking water to the town of Bryson City. Rivers and streams like this one provide almost twothirds of the drinking water in the United States. Clean rivers equal healthy communities.

2. Swain County Storm Water Wetland

When it rains, pollutants often get washed

through storm drains. Green infrastructure

solutions address this problem by capturing

over paved surfaces into our waterways

and filtering water. Examples include rain gardens, green roofs, and downspout disconnection. These nature-based approaches reduce runoff and pollution, decrease flooding, and keep our water

clean. Swain County's stormwater wetland

is a great example of a solution to pollution.

National

National Park Service

Recognized as the place of origin for the Cherokee People, this site was established about 10,000 years ago. GreatSmoky

National Parl

3. Kituwah

4. Oconaluftee Visitors Center

n 2001, elk were reintroduced to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for the first time since the late 1700's when they were extirpated from over-hunting and habitat loss. The Oconaluftee Visitors Center is a hotspot to see the elk roam once again.

7. Pinnacle Park

Formerly Sylva's water supply, this site is now a 1,000-acre permanently protected town park that includes a stunning 3.4-mile hike to the Pinnacle. The trail follows an old logging road for most of its length, through a grass ridge and then up a short rocky trail to the Pinnacle where panoramic views of Sylva and Scott's Creek valley await.

removed to restore the Tuck to its natural 6. Monteith Farmstead & free-flowing state in 2010. The Dillsboro **Community Park** The Watershed Association of the dam once produced hydropower for the local community, but like many other dams Tuckasegee River created the Discovery on our waterways, the dam became Trails at Monteith Farmstead Park along outdated and was no longer needed. The Scott's Creek, a tributary to the Tuckasegee benefits of the dam removal include and feature interpretive signs to showcase improved public safety, enhanced life in and along the river. recreation, and expanded habitat for

Appalachian elktoe, expanded into the newly free-flowing habitat. Removing the outdated

5. Dillsboro Drop

Now known as the "Dillsboro Drop", this

aquatic life. After the dam was removed, an

endangered freshwater mussel, the

site is where the Dillsboro Dam was

Dillsboro dam made the Tuckasegee River better for people and nature.

Visible at low water in the Tuck, historic V-

culture and heritage connected to our

"to herd fish like sicklefin redhorse to the

center of the V and into a waiting trap for

community to reenact the usage of these

Cherokee traditions and support efforts to

collection. Today, the Eastern Band of

Cherokee Indians work with the local

ົງfish weirs so people can learn about

bring back native fish.

shaped rock structures remind us of the rich

rivers. These Cherokee structures were built

8. Fish Weirs

9. Trout Fishing

The Tuckasegee River, home to the first Fly Fishing Trail in the country, offers abundant opportunities for trout fishing both along the mainstem and in its tributaries and features several special designations including delayed harvest and wild trout waters. Bryson City, Sylva, Webster, and Dillsboro are designated as Mountain Heritage Trout Water Cities by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and several sites in Jackson and Swain Counties offer loaner rods to

make fishing more accessible for those without their own equipment. More informatio and a free waterproof map of the WNC Fly Fishing Trail® can be found online at www.flyfishingtrail.com.

2. Stop soil erosion. Sedimentation from erosion is a major impact to the Tuck. Build smart with erosion control and cover

and pollinator habitat.

10 Simple Ways You Can Help Keep the Tuck Healthy

1. Plant a rain garden to clean stormwater and provide butterfly

- exposed soil with thick mulch or vegetation. 3. Volunteer at a local river cleanup. www.AmericanRivers.org/
- 4. Reduce water waste and install water efficient fixtures.
- 5. Keep our trout water cool with Shade Your Stream. www.ShadeYourStream.org
- **6.** Fertilize yards responsibly. Use only as much as your plants need and avoid applying before a big rain event.
- 7. Own an outdated, unwanted dam? Financial and technical resources to help willing landowners remove dams are available through American Rivers. Contact us today!
- **8.** Pick up pet waste. Pet waste washing into streams causes unsafe-for-swimming water.
- 9. No dumping. Storm drains go directly into our rivers. Dispose of oil, chemicals, or hazardous materials at hazardous waste
- **10.** Take a child fishing. You only protect what you love, so take someone fishing, boating, or exploring along the river's edge so they connect with a river!

10. Give Rivers Room to Move

Floodplains are an integral part of healthy rivers and floods are a natural occurrence on rivers. Small floods are very important to the health of a river and the land around it because they nourish life in and around rivers. The fish, wildlife and plants that live in or along a river, or floodplain, often need floods to survive and reproduce. During big floods, healthy floodplains benefit communities by slowing and spreading dangerous flood waters that would otherwise flood riverside communities, harming people and property. Healthy floodplains are nature's flood protection. Giving rivers room to move is our best protection against floods and is a great way to help keep rivers healthy

Nantahala

National

Forests

11. Panthertown Valley Here, the Tuckasegee River begins at the confluence of Greenland and Panthertown creeks. Panthertown is over 10,000 acres of protected public land within the Nantahala National Forest and these protected headwaters are critical to Tuckasegee River's health. Known for hiking, Panthertown has many stunning trails, granite domes and waterfalls to explore, but be sure to bring a map and compass to avoid getting lost on the many unmarked trails. Never climb in or around waterfalls as they can be dangerous. Maps are available at www.panthertownmap.com

Esri, Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community

₩ Water Intakes U.S. Forest Service ---- Hiking Trail Qualla Boundary ₩ Water Outtakes Other Protected Lands County

Conservation POI