

The Franklin News-Post

http://www.thefranklinnewspost.com/news/philpott-lake-blueway-offers-new-perspective-of-county-s-other/article_912c712e-8bed-11e6-a6eb-b758bd09763e.html

FEATURED

Philpott Lake Blueway offers new perspective of county's other lake

Brochure provides map and guide to help paddlers discover best launch points

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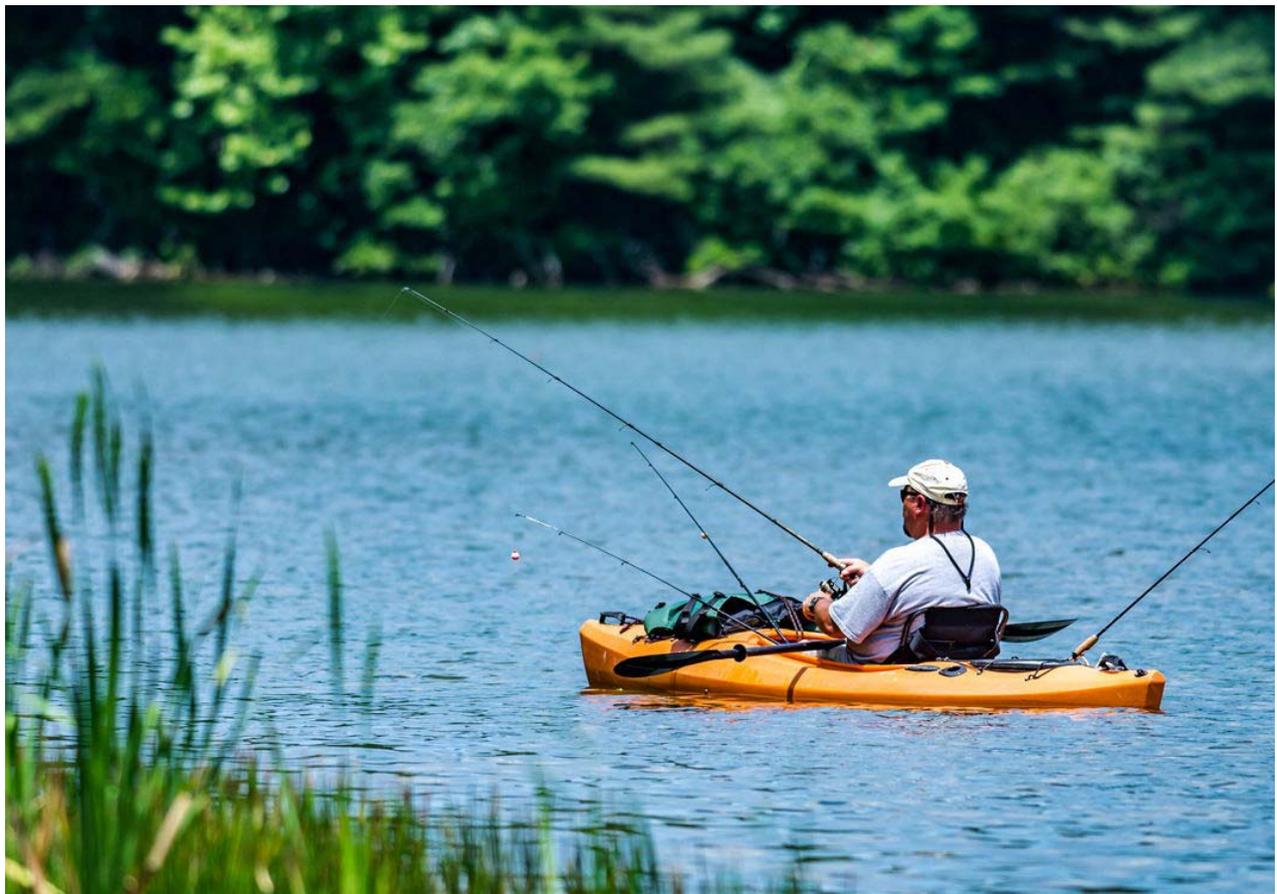


Photo Courtesy of Franklin County Division of Tourism & Film

The Philpott Lake Blueway brochure will help paddlers discover new perspectives of the lake.

Paddlers have a new guide for discovering the best launch points to navigate Philpott Lake.

A new brochure with a folded map and guide is now available for the recently established Philpott Lake Blueway, according to the Franklin County Division of Tourism & Film.

The water route was developed through the cooperation of several agencies and organizations, coordinated by the staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Philpott Lake in collaboration with the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA).

Other partners included Franklin County, Martinsville-Henry County, Patrick County, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Patrick Henry Community College Environmental Club and the Virginia Master Naturalist program.

The brochure was developed to help paddlers determine the best launch points to see specific things on Philpott Lake, based on how much time they have available for a paddling experience, according to Craig "Rocky" Rockwell, operations project manager for Philpott Lake.

Patrick County EMS contributed funds to cover costs for identification signs at access points, as the locations could help with prompt emergency services in the event of accidents or injuries.

"This project was truly a group effort with many outstanding partners," said Tiffany Haworth, executive director of the DRBA. "Philpott Lake is a unique and beautiful asset in our region, and this blueway will help attract more tourism to our area. Even people who have loved Philpott for years will discover something new on this blueway."

"With two lakes and four rivers, water based outdoor recreation is a vibrant component to Franklin County's tourism draw – as well as a quality of life factor to those who live here," said David Rotenizer, tourism development manager for Franklin County. "Philpott Lake is a special treasure and the guide will help folks to explore and get to know the place even better."

The Philpott Lake Blueway features nine access launch sites, six of which are located in Franklin County (Salthouse Branch, Twin Ridge, Horseshoe Point, Jamison Mill, Ryans Branch, and Runnett Bag). The blueway includes nine interpretative points of interest locations – three of these sites are in Franklin County (Deer Island, Jamison Mill, and Calico Rock).

Mile marker locations are included in the map with distances from the Philpott Lake Dam. It is estimated that paddlers should schedule about 30 minutes per mile (or two miles per hour) for a leisure pace. The brochure is printed on waterproof paper.

A limited number of the brochures should be available for download at DanRiver.org/Philpott.

Brochures will also be available at Boones Mill Town Hall, Blue Ridge Institute and Museum, Franklin County Public Library and Westlake Branch, Rocky Mount Community & Hospitality Center, Smith Mountain Lake Regional Visitor Center, Essig Center and Franklin County Parks and Recreation offices.

For more information, go to VisitFranklinCountyVA.org or call the Franklin County Division of Tourism & Film at (540) 483-3030.