

Lake Living

Created from the Catawba River, which flows west of Charlotte, Lake Norman, Lake Wylie and Mountain Island Lake offer endless recreational opportunities. From boating and waterskiing to fishing and camping along the shores of these beautiful lakes, water enthusiasts are sure to be satisfied in the Charlotte region.

Lake Norman

Located just 20 miles northwest of Charlotte, Lake Norman is often referred to as the “Inland Sea.” With 520 miles of shoreline and a surface area of 32,475 acres, Lake Norman is the largest body of fresh water in the state. The lake was created in 1963 when Duke Power constructed the Cowans Ford Dam and was named after former Duke Power President Norman Cocke. Beyond the power it generates, Lake Norman is a major water source for Mooresville, Davidson, Huntersville, Charlotte and Lincoln County.

Fishing in Lake Norman is quite plentiful, with crappie, bluegill and yellow perch in addition to striped, largemouth and white bass.

Spanning 1,500 acres, Lake Norman State Park in Troutman includes 13 miles of shoreline, biking and hiking trails and camping along a peninsula that juts out into the lake. The park also offers a new lakefront swimming area and beach equipped with a lifeguard during the summer months.

Lake Norman Public Access Areas

Upper Section

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Long Island Access Area | 919-715-3155 |
| Lake Norman State Park | 704-528-6350 |
| Bill's Marina | 704-241-3438 |
| Long Island Marina | 828-241-4877 |
| Stumpy Creek Access Area | N/A |
| McCrary Creek Access Area | N/A |
| Pinnacle Access Area | 919-715-3155 |
| Marshall Fishing Area | N/A |
| North Bridge Marina | 704-663-4600 |
| River City Marina | 704-663-6000 |
| Skipper's Marina | 704-528-9880 |

Lower Section

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|--|--------------|
| Lake Norman Marina | 704-483-5546 |
| Mountain Creek Marina | 704-483-0077 |
| Lake Norman Motel, Restaurant and Marina | 704-478-2817 |
| The Boat Rack Marina | 704-478-2118 |
| Hager Creek Access Area | 919-715-3155 |
| Little Creek Access Area | 919-715-3155 |
| Westport Dry Storage | 704-438-5172 |
| Holiday Harbor | 704-892-0561 |
| Beatties Ford Access Area | 919-715-3155 |
| Jetton Road County Park | 704-896-9808 |
| Ramsey Creek Access Area | 704-892-7852 |
| McGuire Fishing Area | N/A |
| EnergyExplorium | 704-875-5600 |
| Blythe Landing County Park | 704-896-9808 |
| All Seasons Marina | 704-892-3478 |
| Stutts Bait and Tackle | 704-664-3106 |
| Inland Sea Marina | 704-664-4414 |

Lake Wylie

First created in 1904, Lake Wylie is the oldest lake on the Catawba and the first power-generating lake along the river. It's named after Dr. W. Gil Wylie who established the Catawba Power Company, the predecessor of Duke Power. In 1924, the Catawba Hydro Station near Fort Mill, S.C., was rebuilt, increasing the area of the lake to 13,443 acres and 325 miles of shoreline.

Southwest of Charlotte, Lake Wylie spans the N.C./S.C. border. With many creeks that feed into it, the lake is hailed for its excellent fishing opportunities. In fact, the lake was chosen to host the Bassmaster Classic in 2004.

McDowell Park, a 1,108-acre nature preserve along the shores of Lake Wylie, houses a nature center that features rare animals and plants. Its campground offers sites equipped with a grill, water and electricity as well as primitive sites.

Also part of McDowell Park, Copperhead Island offers its own boat launch, fishing pier and primitive camping sites.



Lake Living

Lake Wylie Public Access Areas

Upper Section

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Allen Fishing Access Area | N/A |
| South Point Access Area | 919-715-3155 |
| Stowe Botanical Garden | 704-825-4990 |

Lower Section

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Copperhead Access Area | 704-588-5224 |
| Buster Boyd Access Area | N/A |
| McDowell Park | 704-588-5224 |
| Lake Wylie Marina | 803-831-2101 |
| River Hills Marina | 803-831-7286 |
| Carolina Crossing Marina | 704-588-5463 |
| Allison Creek Access Area | N/A |
| Nivens Creek Access Area | N/A |
| Ebenezer Access Area | 803-366-6620 |
| Fort Mill Access Area | N/A |
| Lake Club Marina | 803-324-2232 |
| Tega Cay Marina | 803-548-3715 |

Mountain Island Lake

Created in 1924 with the construction of the Mountain Island Hydroelectric Station, Mountain Island Lake is the smallest of the three area lakes, with 61 miles of shoreline and 3,281 acres of surface area. Located about 15 miles northwest of Uptown Charlotte, Mountain Island provides drinking water for some 600,000 residents of Mount Holly, Gastonia and Charlotte.

Much of the area surrounding the lake is part of Latta Plantation Preserve and the Catawba Lands Conservancy. For this reason, Mountain Island is the least developed of the three lakes, and boat traffic is relatively light. Latta Plantation Preserve, a 1,343-acre park operated by Mecklenburg County, also houses Historic Latta Plantation and the Carolina Raptor Center. Sixteen miles of hiking and horse riding trails wind through the park, many of which provide scenic views of the lake.

Mountain Island Lake Public Access Areas

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| Neck Road Access Area | N/A |
| Cowans Ford Waterfowl Refuge | 704-875-1391 |
| Riverbend Access Area | N/A |
| Mountain Island Tailrace Fishing Area | N/A |
| Latta Plantation Park | 704-875-1391 |

For more information about area lakes, go to www.dukepower.com/community/lakes.

Boating Guidelines for Area Lakes

- A general speed limit is implied, depending on the conditions. Excessive speed that endangers persons or property is prohibited.
- Operating a watercraft with a blood-alcohol content 0.08 and greater is prohibited.
- Waterskiing is prohibited between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.
- Any vessel towing a skier must have a rear vision mirror or carry an observer.
- Watercraft entering, leaving or passing within 50 yards of a boating or fishing access area must observe a no-wake speed zone.
- The minimum age for operating a personal watercraft is 12. Those age 12-16 must pass an approved boating safety course.
- All recreational vehicles must have a personal floatation device for each person aboard. Recreational vehicles 16 feet and longer must have one throwable Type IV personal floatation device. All must be readily accessible.

