

## Navigating the Lumber River

Navigation is planning your route of travel, often using maps and other instruments. Today we use cell phones, satellites and cars to navigate our roads. Technology helps humans navigate and adapt to their environment. For thousands of years before modern technology, humans made inventions that helped their communities grow along the Lumber River.

### American Indians Canoeing on the River

American Indians have been navigating rivers and lakes of North Carolina for over 5,000 years. The dugout canoe was an important form of technology that moved



*Drawing of Indians building a dugout canoe near Roanoke by English colonist John White in 1585.*

people and goods more easily than walking across the land. One artifact that gives archeologists clues about how American Indians lived along the Lumber River is a dugout canoe discovered near Lumberton. Dugout canoes were made from a single tree taken down by fire, carved out by letting coals burn on top and scraping with hand tools made of seashells.

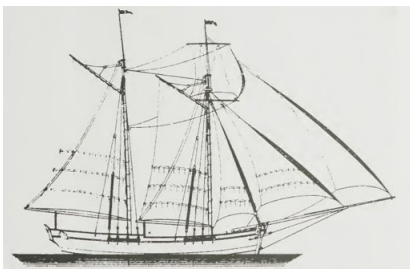


*You can see a dugout canoe artifact at the Museum of the Southeast American Indian in Pembroke, NC.*

American Indians still live along the Lumber River today. A majority of the residents of the town of Pembroke identify as Lumbee Indian. The Lumbee tribe has more than 50,000 members today. They call the river the Lumbee River.

### Early North Carolina River Town

The first European and African Americans navigated with sailboats, maps and compasses. Settlers established the town of Princess Ann by navigating ships up the river in 1796. Settlers adapted to their environment by choosing a site that was high on a bluff (cliff) where it would not be easily flooded. The Lumber River is prone to flooding, which is why it was called Drowning Creek in 1796. In 1809, the NC state legislature changed the name to the Lumber River. The new name brought attention the logging of trees, which was important to the economy along the river.



## Railroads Bring Change

Until the mid-1800s in North Carolina, boat navigation was the most important way to transport goods such as crops and lumber. Most major towns were along waterways, as horse and carriage could move fewer goods. The steam locomotive was new technology that changed where people lived throughout the nation. The first railroad opened in North Carolina in 1840. Railroads quickly became just as important as rivers for moving goods. Giant logs from the swamp forest were loaded onto rail cars and transported hundreds of miles in all directions. Towns along railroads starting to grow, such as Pembroke, NC.



*1903 logging train moving lumber in Georgia.*



*1919 workers building North Carolina highway*

## Modern Roads and Automobiles

In the early 1900s, the new technology of automobiles led to improved roads. The Lumber River became less important for transportation. The river became more of a transportation obstacle, as the state had to build expensive bridges across to connect people and business.

## Adapting to the River Environment

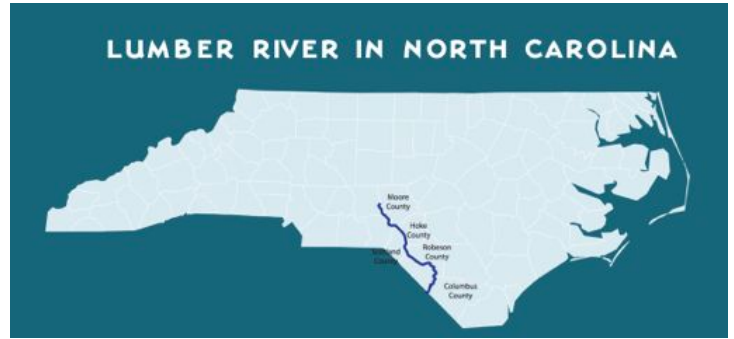
Throughout the thousands of years people have lived near the river, they have had to adapt to flooding. Protecting forests along the river helps reduce the strength of floods. Still, hurricanes and tropical storms bring destructive floods.



*2018 flooding in Lumberton after Hurricane Florence*

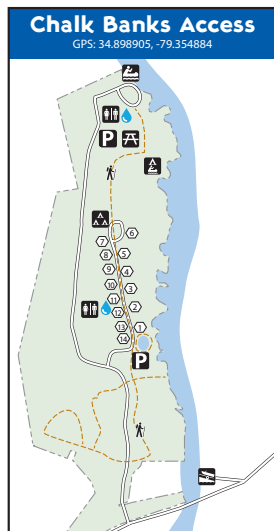
## Protecting the River for Recreation and the Environment

In the 1960s and 1970s, citizens of North Carolina got organized to help protect the environment. As a result of active citizens, the Lumber River was named a National Wild and Scenic River by the U.S. government. It received this title because it flows freely and without major dams or human changes. The Lumber River was North Carolina's first state designated Recreational Water Trail because it is great for fishing, canoeing and kayaking.



In 1989, Lumber River became a state park. This allowed new lands along 115-miles of river to be purchased and protected for the common good. The park is made up of many pieces of land along river, with places people can camp, hike, paddle and fish. We all own Lumber River State Park, and we all have the responsibility to help protect the river.

## LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK



LEGEND			
	Boat Ramp		Park Gate
	Footpath		Park Office
	Group Camping		Parking Area
	Hiking Trail		Picnic Area
	Hospital Emergency Dial 911		Picnic Shelter
	Lumber River		Primitive Campsite
	Observation Deck		Restroom
	Paddle Access		Road
	Paddle-In Camping		State Line
	Park Boundary		Water Spigot

