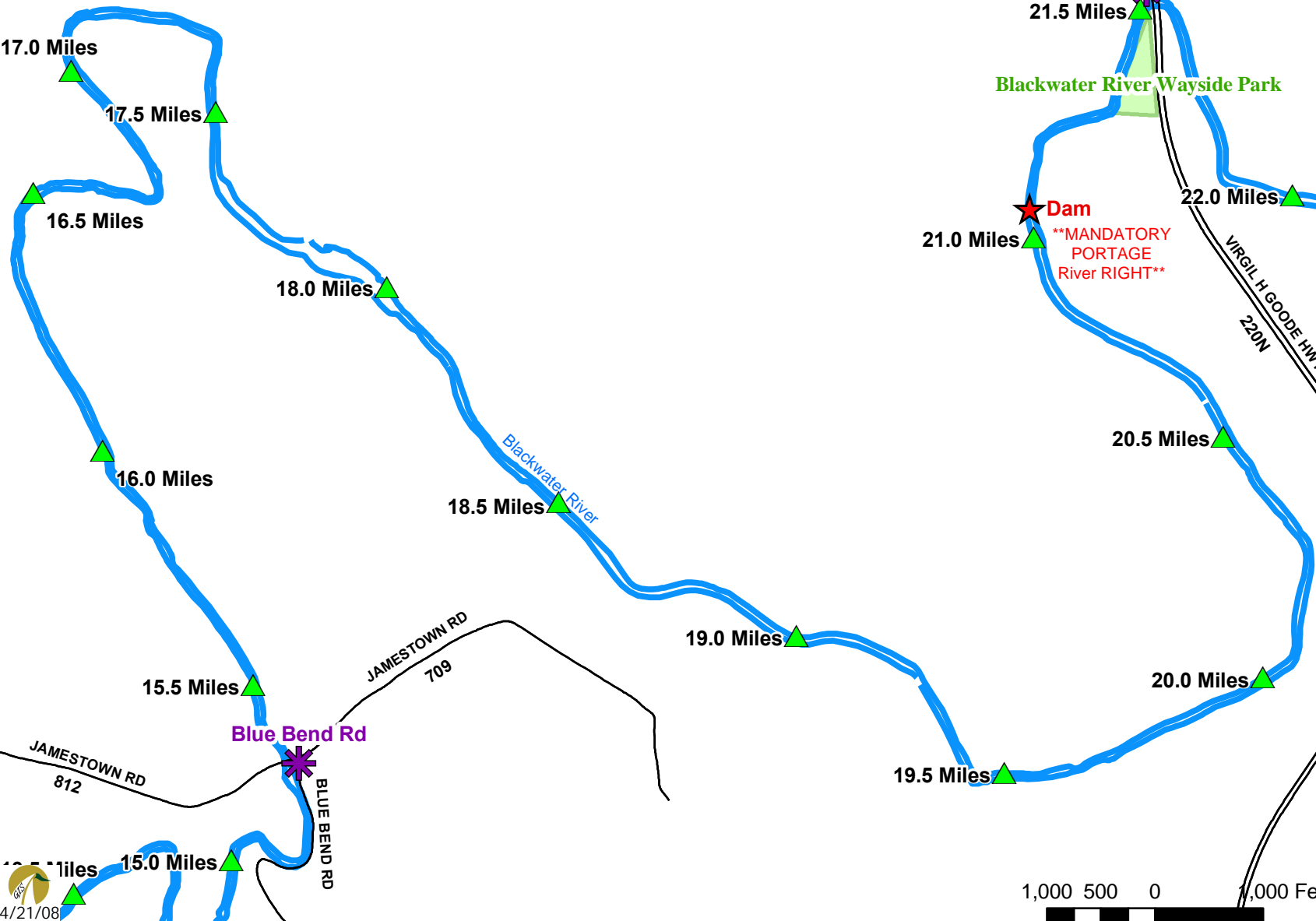


Blue Bend Section Upper Blackwater River Blueway



General Information

This section running from Blue Bend Road to US 220 Wayside has been host to the Breakfast on the Blackwater event. Floatable only when the Blackwater Rocky Mount Gauge reads at least 2.5 feet, this remote river section features massive rhododendrons, sheer cliffs, few small rapids, and one dangerous dam at the Rocky Mount water intake facility that must be portaged on river left. Though the river drops over 20 feet per mile on this section, it is remarkably free of major current. A pleasant float at high water levels, the portage of the dam and its relative remoteness requires that paddlers pay attention to their surroundings.

Legend

-  Blueway Access Points
-  Points of Interest
-  1/2 Mile Markers
-  Main Roads
-  Blackwater River
-  Recreation Areas

DIRECTIONS FROM ROANOKE(220 N): The US 220 south take out is directly after the Blackwater Bridge at the wayside. To Put In: Continue south on US 220 to first Rocky Mount Exit south on Business US 220. Take right at first light onto Grassy Hill Rd. Continue ~3 miles and take a right on Jamestown Road. Continue 3/4 mile and take a right on Blue Bend Rd. Park on right next to river.

DIRECTIONS FROM MARTINSVILLE/ROCKY MOUNT(220S): To Put In: Come up 220 N. After crossing Blackwater River bridge (two miles north of Rocky Mount), take first cut through and retrack to wayside on US 220 south. Follow directions above.

4/21/08