



Paddle # 8

# Duckpond

## West Lake Moultrie

[www.BerkeleyBlueways.com](http://www.BerkeleyBlueways.com)

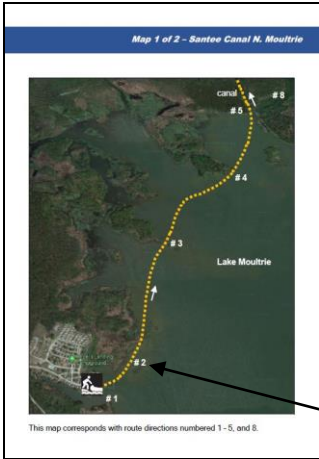
Distance: 2.5-3 miles, round-trip

Time: 1.5-2.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy



# Convenient Functionality Built into This Guide





## On Map Pages:

Using your phone (or touch-screen enabled device), tap any of the route numbers to bring up a map of the exact location!



Route - Santee Canal N. Moultrie

Route Directions	
1	From the boat ramp at Angel's Landing Marina, turn left, heading in a northeast direction. <b>LOOK →</b>  <i>Click on individual route directions to bring up map of exact location!</i>
2	At 0.1 mile, pass by island of tall grass. It's best to pass on the left side, closest to the mainland. Continue in slight northeast direction.
3	Pass by tip of island at 0.6 miles. Begin  even more northeastern direction towards another large island 0.3 mile away.
4	At 0.9 mile, paddle around southern tip of island, head into center of bay, paddling towards upper right corner of bay. This is where the canal opening is located.
5	Enter Santee Canal at 1.4 miles. This is a narrow, shallow waterway (no more than 20 yards wide and maintains a depth of 4-5 feet). Enjoy the calm waters of the Santee Canal. Keep an eye out for wildlife, including alligators, deer, wild boar and a variety of waterfowl!
6	Come to railroad crossing over the canal at 2.8 miles. The canal will begin to narrow shortly after the railroad crossing.
7	At 3.2 miles, come to the obvious end of the canal. <b>Return the same way you came.</b>
8	Option: Turn a hard left when leaving the canal and head into a field of lilies. This is picturesque and worth the extra 20-30 minutes, particularly when everything is in bloom!

## On Route Direction Pages:

Tap anywhere in the individual direction boxes to bring up a map of the exact location!

## Duckpond – W. Lake Moultrie



Date Paddled: \_\_\_\_\_

# 8



*It's all smiles at Lake Moultrie's Duckpond!*

### Summary

The area of Lake Moultrie known as the Duckpond is a large enclosed bay that opens to a smaller area of a cypress swamp that contains abundant wildlife, cypress and tupelo trees, and tall grasses. It is home to numerous wading birds, as well as large osprey and bald eagles. About midway between the boat ramp and the Duckpond is a nice sandy beach that can even be used for primitive camping!

### Difficulty

Easy

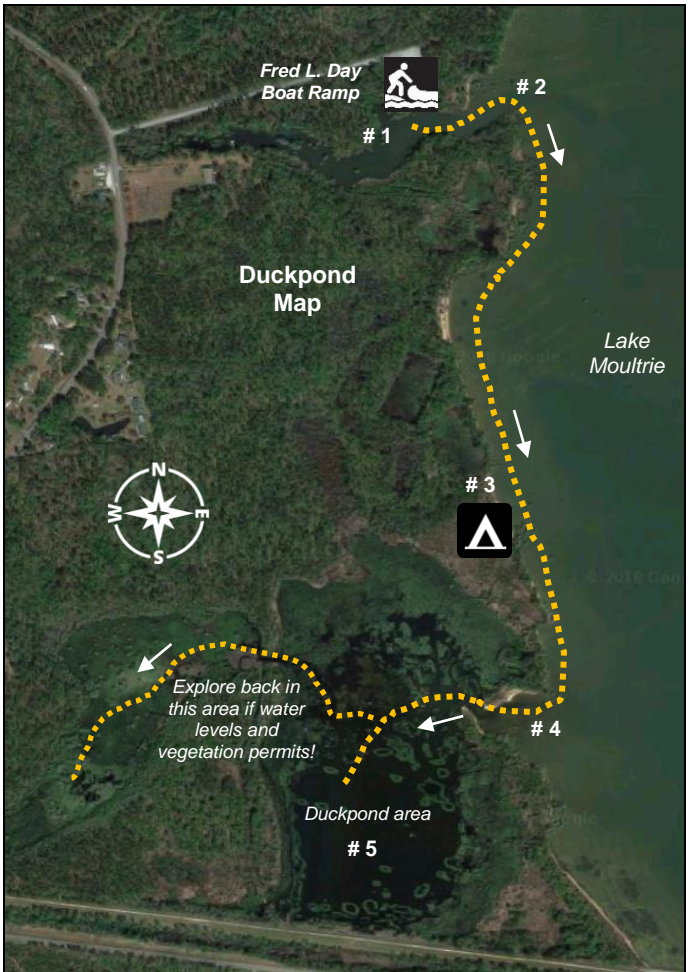
### Distance

2.5 - 3 miles, roundtrip, varies based on exploration

### Time

1.5 - 2.5 hours

<b>Crowds</b>	Moderate. The area can be popular with anglers.
<b>Boat Type</b>	Kayaks or canoes 10 feet or longer. Paddle boards are not recommended.
<b>Put In / Take Out</b>	Fred L. Day Boat Ramp, Boat Landing Way, Cross, SC 29436.  GPS: 33.295429, -80.156345 33°17'43.5"N, 80°09'22.8"W  <u>Directions:</u> All GPS and mapping applications recognize this address.
<b>Fees/Permits</b>	None
<b>Current</b>	Negligible, generally south direction
<b>Tidal Influence</b>	None
<b>Precautions:</b>	You'll have protection from some winds with a once you reach the Duckpond, however, if winds are above 10 MPH expect some waves and whitecaps on the paddle to the area.  There are many of tree stumps just inches below the water's surface. These can flip a paddler if a boat gets wedged on top. <b>Tip:</b> these stumps can usually be seen with polarized sunglasses.



This map corresponds with route directions numbered 1 - 5 on page 6.

<b>Route Directions -- see map on page 5</b>	
<b>1</b>	From the boat ramp, turn left, heading towards the open area of Lake Moultrie. This is an area of frequent boat traffic.
<b>2</b>	After approximately 500 feet, turn right, following the shore/treeline in a generally south direction.
<b>3</b>	At 0.5 mile, there's a nice 150-ft. long sandy beach area fronted by a small grove of cypress trees that's a great place for lunch, swim or primitive overnight camping.
<b>4</b>	At nearly 1.0 mile, turn right into bay, paddle another 400-ft through the narrow entrance into the Duckpond.
<b>5</b>	<p>You can now explore the Duckpond. It's approximately 0.3-mile in width (south to north) by 0.2-mile wide (east to west). This area offers abundant places for photography, bird viewing and fishing.</p> <p>Option: On the west side of the Duckpond, there's an obvious 20-ft. wide opening that goes back further (see map). If water levels and vegetation permit, it's worth further exploration. In Spring and early Summer, you're likely to see hundreds of nesting Anhinga chicks. This area extends approximately 0.5 mile.</p> <p><b>Return the same way you came.</b></p>



*Look around, and up. You're almost guaranteed to see nesting birds.*



*There are more than just ducks! Nesting Aninga chicks in late June.*