

Landsford Canal

STATE  PARK

Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies typically reach peak bloom in mid to late May.

Park Hours

Sunrise to sunset, daily

Office Hours

11 a.m. – noon, daily

Admission

\$6 Adults • \$3.75 SC Seniors • \$3.50 Children ages 6 – 15
Age 5 & younger free



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- NATURE TRAIL** — This trail is 0.75 mile long and ends at the popular Lily Viewing Area (number 5 on the map). It takes about 15-25 minutes to walk to the viewing area. You can either turn around and walk back from here, or continue on the Canal Trail.
- CANAL TRAIL** — This trail is 1.5 miles one-way. Round-trip travel time is between 45-60 minutes.
- BLUFF TRAIL** — This trail is 0.25 mile one-way. It begins at the boat launch and ends at the Lockkeeper's House, taking about 15 minutes to walk both ways.
- HISTORIC LANDSFORD CANAL** — The green line on the map represents Landsford Canal, a 2-mile-long canal built in 1820-23 to bypass rocky shoals on the Catawba River.

1. DIVERSION DAM — This dam was designed to funnel a sufficient water supply through the canal during low water and to prevent boats from being washed downstream during floods.

2. GUARD LOCK — This stone structure was built to protect the canal from flood damage when the river level rose above normal.

3. FOOTBRIDGE — This was the first of four bridges that crossed the canal on its two-mile path beside the river — it was the only one supported on specially constructed masonry supports.

4. EAGLE'S NEST — Bald Eagles have nested and raised their young here since the mid-1990s.

5. SPIDER LILIES — This is the largest known stand of Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies, which only grow in South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

6. CULVERT — This arch culvert was built to avoid damage to the fragile canal bed.

7. CONSTRUCTION OF LANDSFORD CANAL — Mainly dug by hand, this canal was created through labor-intensive work using the same methods employed by builders for thousands of years.

8. MILL COMPLEX — Near its midpoint, the canal passes a mill owned by the family of William Richardson Davie. Completed in 1810, the mill ground grain and sawed lumber using waterpower.

9. LIFTING LOCKS — The locks were the canal's most striking feature. Built from a 16th-century design, the locks allowed boats to overcome a 36-foot fall in elevation without the danger of traveling through the shoals of the river.

10. BUILDING THE LOCKS — The lifting locks were built primarily with rough-cut stones and fieldstones, and faced with finished granite.