

Stop 6: Mulberry Island outhouse***

34.1954° -80.2031° 3.96 miles

Drive past the artesian well and you will see a single lane dirt road on your right. Take this short road to get to the outhouse.

This outhouse is elevated because sometimes the river even floods Mulberry Island. There were also 3 CCC fisherman cabins here on Mulberry Island. They were made of untreated wood and termites damaged them. The cabins were torn down in the 1960s. Remnants of the cabin area that the CCC built here include the bird house outhouse, artesian well, and campfire grills.



Mulberry Island cabin torn down in the 1960s

Stop 7: Sandhills

34.1954° -80.1900° 5.0 miles

You have now come back up and out of the floodplain and entered the sandhills of the park. These are riverine sandhills. About 6,000 to 7,000

years ago, there was a very long and intense drought. The Lynches River dried up. The sand that makes up a lot of the riverbed was blown up and out of that dry riverbed and landed here to create the sandhills. You can also find riverine sandhills created during this same drought in Georgia. The sandhills are hotter in summer and cooler in winter than the surrounding habitats. There are many lichen and plants in this area adapted to these weather extremes like reindeer lichen, old man's beard lichen and prickly pear cactus.



Reindeer lichen

End of tour—return to the Loop Road crossroads
5.25 miles

***During times of flooding, stops 3-6 will be inaccessible.

Have questions about the park, park amenities, history, nature etc?
Contact the park staff at lee@scprt.com or (803) 428-5307

LEE STATE PARK

Loop Road Trail Guide



Lee State Park's Mission

To protect and preserve the significant natural and cultural resources of the park while promoting stewardship through educational activities that emphasize the Lynches River, and sandhills habitat, and other important features of the park.

487 Loop Rd
Bishopville, SC 29010
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www.SouthCarolinaParks.com

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Lee State Park is located on I-20 near Bishopville, South Carolina. Containing 2,839 acres, the park was acquired in 1935 and officially opened to the public in 1941. Most of the park contains excellent examples of sandhills and wetlands. Development on the park includes areas for swimming, picnicking, camping, and fishing. There are trails on the park designed for nature study, hiking, horseback riding.

Begin your tour at the 4-way intersection heading north toward the campground. Reset your trip odometer to 0.0 (phone app or car odometer) or locate stops using the latitude and longitude.

Stop #1 Loop Road crossroads

34.1965° -80.1858° 0.0 miles

The Loop Road was completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The CCC arrived here in the summer of 1935 to begin construction of Lee State Park. The Loop Road was just one of their building tasks. It is almost 5 miles long and goes through the park's uplands and lowlands. An upland portion of the Loop Road existed before this land became a state park. Families farmed this upland that you will see between stops 1 and 2.

Stop 2: Primitive Youth Group Camping Area

34.2110° -80.2029° 1.90 miles to cabin

The CCC developed this area as a place for fishermen to come and stay overnight. The cabin is the 4th and last cabin to be built on the park and it is the only one still standing. It was designed to be spartan—no plumbing inside, a small table and chairs and a bunkbed. This cabin is no longer used for this purpose and the furniture was removed decades

ago. Please go in and look around. Visitors used the artesian well for drinking water, an outhouse as the restroom and campfire grills for cooking.



Cabin #4 and artesian well

Stop 3: Bottomland Hardwood Wetland Floodplain***

34.2122° -80.2055° 2.16 miles

You have now dropped down in elevation into the Lynches River floodplain. When the river floods, the extra water flows into this habitat. The river will begin flooding at 9 feet. River depth during Hurricane Florence in 2018 was measured as high as 18 feet. Stop and look around. Can you imagine that much water right here?

Stop 4: Lynches River***

34.2032° -80.2096° 3.03 miles

The Lynches River is to your right. The CCC built the Loop Road to parallel the river's course for a few miles for scenic beauty and to give access to the river for recreation like fishing. For more

information about the river, see wayside at stop #6.

Stop 5: Mulberry Island and artesian well***

34.1962° -80.2018° 3.83 miles

Mulberry Island is only a true island when the river starts flooding the surrounding floodplain. Look closely and you will notice that the plants that grow on Mulberry Island are not the same kind that live out in the floodplain. It all depends on what conditions the plants are adapted to survive in. Typical floodplain plants include river oats and switch cane. Typical upland plants on the island include beautyberry and pines.

This is one of the 7 artesian wells drilled by the CCC at the park. Read the wayside to learn more about how these wells work. This specific well was completed in 1938. The well at the cabin was completed in 1939. How many years ago was that?



River cane