



# Project Riverway

**2006 and 2007 Final Report of Project Riverway**  
Summer 2006 Study of the Lower Chattahoochee River Corridor  
Summer 2007 Study of the Lower Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers

Project sponsored by the Fanning Institute and The Alliance for Quality Growth

Produced by the University of Georgia(UGA), Fanning Institute, College of Environment & Design (CED), and Center for Community Design and Preservation (CCDP).

# Project Riverway

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## Report Editors

### Danny Bivins

Fanning Institute, UGA  
bivins@fanning.uga.edu

### Leigh Askew

Fanning Institute, UGA  
laskew@fanning.uga.edu

### Laura Evans (2006)

Fanning Institute, UGA

## Report Design & Layout

### Eleonora Machado

Center for Community Design and  
Preservation, College of Environment and  
Design at University of Georgia  
emachado@uga.edu





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# PROJECTS DEVELOPED DURING THE SUMMERS 2006 & 2007 CHATTAHOOCHEE STUDIO @ UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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## 07 2007 PROJECTS:

- Hiking Trail map/brochure
- Action Plan for Riverway South
- Brochure templates
- Lake Seminole plant brochure
- Historic roadways: signage
- Historic roadways: Federal Trail
- Chattahoochee passport for the LACF
- Southern rivers birding trail  
guide adapted for the Web site
- Native American sites list
- Promotional postcards for the LACF
- Captain John Davis river tour
- Corridor signage: Chattahoochee Trace
- Riverway South's Web site redesigned (see page 58)

## 23 2007 DNR SITES:

- Kolomoki tour brochure
- Kolomoki Park new concepts
- State Parks stationery
- Plants tour brochure
- Interactive Map of the  
ACF Watershed Area
- Downloadable video tours:  
Kolomoki Mounds and  
Bagby State Park plant walk

## 33 2006 CHARRETTE:

Charrette Recommendations:

- Land use
- Affordable housing
- Downtown revitalization
- Street planting
- Youth development center
- Recreation development
- Community pool
- Pedestrian corridor
- Phenomenon trail:
  - Overview
  - Playground and beach access
  - Municipal docks for public water access
  - Interpretive center
  - Signage and trail materials
  - Paving materials for paths
  - The missing link: bridge design
  - Covered bridge outlook

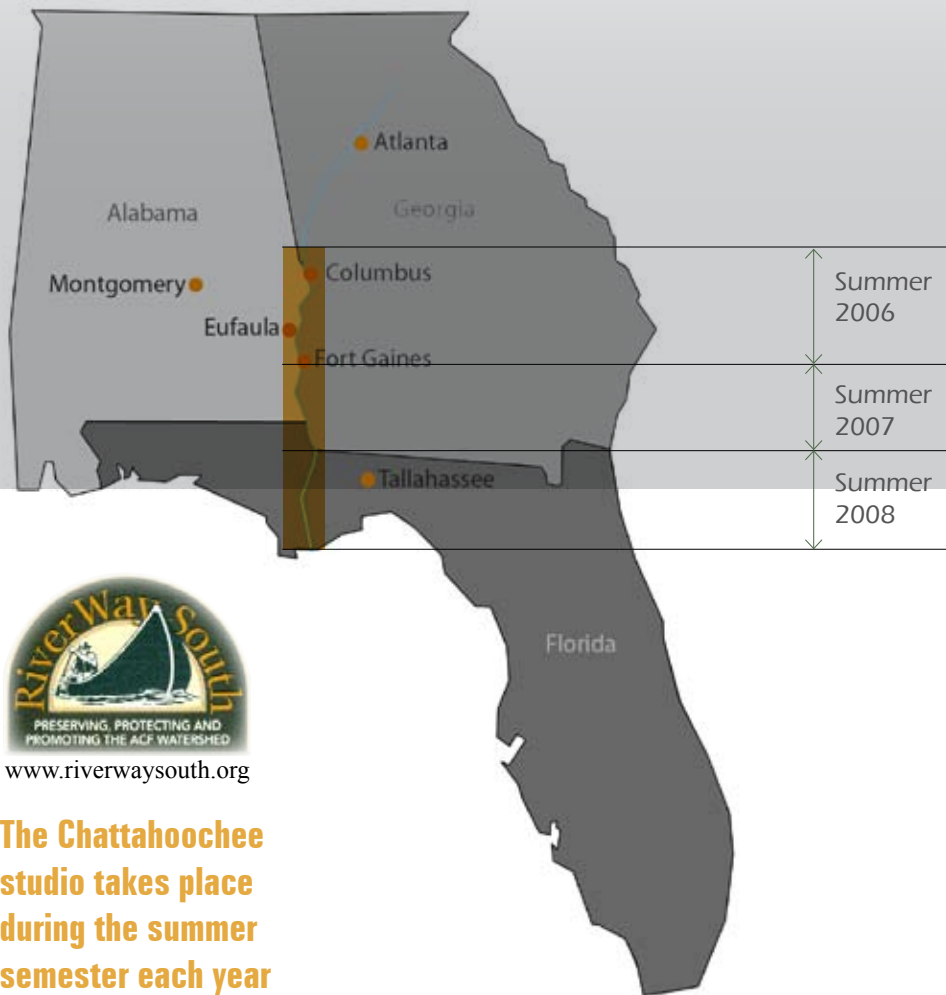
## 49 2006 PROJECTS:

- Environmental and natural resources guide
- Historic sites and museums guide
- Opening doors through the outdoors
- Cotton trail tourism brochure
- Fishing tournaments for kids: fishing derby
- Web site development: RiverWay South
- Revitalization plan: indian heritage center
- Low impact river access
- Access & bait shops locator

*Project Riverway*

# project RIVERWAY

@ LOWER APALACHICOLA, CHATTAHOOCHEE, AND FLINT RIVERS



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[www.riverwaysouth.org](http://www.riverwaysouth.org)

**The Chattahoochee studio takes place during the summer semester each year and each session focuses on a different region of the river.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On June 11, 2006, Project Riverway, a multidisciplinary service learning project was launched. Project Riverway seeks to re-engage communities along the lower Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint with the rivers. With a focus on economic development, including affordable housing, downtown redevelopment, and providing recommendations for community amenities, Project Riverway also seeks to provide communities with real tools and products to attract tourists to the region. Heritage and Eco-tourism efforts focus on the environmental assets of the area, most notably the rivers, along with the significant historic and cultural remnants. Protecting the resources that exist, utilizing them as an economic engine, and providing opportunities for growth are vital to this region since current poverty rates are among the highest in Georgia.

The course is led by Danny Bivins and Leigh Askew from the Fanning Institute with support from Alfie Vick with the College of Environment and Design, Leara Rhodes with the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, and Jennifer Lewis and Eleonora Machado of the Center for Community Design and Preservation. Project Riverway also works closely with its regional not for profit partner RiverWay South. Ultimately, the work will be implemented by RiverWay South.

Project Riverway takes place during the University of Georgia's summer semester. It began in 2006 and will run through 2008. Each session focuses on a different region of the river. To date Project Riverway has gone from Columbus, Georgia/ Phenix City, Alabama to Chattahoochee, Florida. Students participate in the project for course credit and/or internship credit. They begin by generating creative ideas and designs for communities in the region as a whole. Next, multi-disciplinary final projects are developed. As an example of a final project, some students developed conceptualized plans for a regional cotton museum incorporating the locations of Bibb City, Ga., Eufaula, Ala., and Fort Gaines, GA. Visitors to the museum travel to each attraction – including a cotton gin and a plantation tour – via a barge on the Chattahoochee.





Omaha Fort

“Cotton has been such an essential part of the whole Chattahoochee culture,” said Melissa Tufts, a landscape architecture graduate student. “Its history is also a story of slavery and of poverty that was a consequence of the failure of cotton in the early twentieth century. It’s a powerful lens into Georgia’s past.”



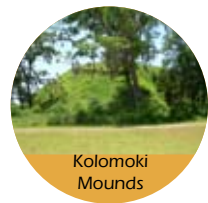
Downtown Fort Gaines

Other projects include a book promoting nature tourism in the region, plans for a redesign of a now-neglected Native American heritage monument in Fort Mitchell, Alabama, and an interactive web site that allows visitors to the area to create a custom map of attractions suited to their specific interests. Downloadable walking tours, customized stationery and postcards, hiking trail maps and flyers, and conceptual regional tourism signage round out some of the prototype projects students have developed.



Lake Eufaula

Each summer begins with the students taking a six-day trip to meet with residents in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia and learn about the area’s local heritage and natural resources and to gather information for their projects. They learn first-hand what matters most to residents, as well as what valuable local assets that aren’t being used to their fullest potential – but might be if looked upon from a new view point.



Kolomoki Mounds

During the first summer, the class provided a fresh perspective with a charrette – a short, intensive creative design session that generated ideas for a single community – at the end of the summer. The charrette, which focused on Fort Gaines, Georgia, produced a wide range of sketches, maps



Bainbridge

and plans for improving the community.

“What we hope to do is create a greater sense of community pride for what they have – the resources already there,” said Danny Bivins, the project coordinator.

Students’ products included designs for the boat docks that could boost economic vitality, plans to improve recreation for children, and, because the town is a prime spot for retirees looking to build homes, suggestions for neighborhoods that are designed and built to conserve the area’s environmental assets.

Jennifer Lewis, a historic preservation specialist at the Center for Community Design and Preservation, described a charrette as “a tornado in reverse.” “It’s a whirlwind of activity with a definite end point,” she said. “We start out with information coming from lots of different directions, and it eventually comes together in one spot, one final presentation.”

The charrette also produced suggestions for building materials and interpretive signage along the town’s proposed “Phenomenon Trail,” which will physically link George T. Bagby State Park – an important part of the town’s economy – with downtown Fort Gaines. The charrette was timely, since the trail was in its initial planning stages and town planners can now more easily incorporate ideas for minimizing the impact on the surrounding environment. The trail, which will wind along the Chattahoochee River, will also showcase rare geology and vegetation.

“We’re trying to take their visions and be a catalyst – help them further along and provide technical assistance,” Bivins says.

Collaboration is an essential component of Project Riverway, as the project has crossed departmental boundaries and state boundaries, among others. Aside from the resources provided by the University, an additional organization – RiverWay South provided vital assistance.

### The Chattahoochee Studio

This course began in 2006 as a result of the vision and funding of the Fanning Institute. It will continue each summer through 2008 as part of an ongoing effort to help the communities along the lower Chattahoochee River corridor find ways to develop without destroying their unique environments. This studio is literally a step through time. Students explore Native American sites as well as the effects of King Cotton—how it was grown, shipped and harvested, and the mills along the river— and the culture it produced. Recreational opportunities abound, including hiking, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this studio course is the people encountered along the way. From Columbus to Chattahoochee, FL students and faculty met interesting people with diverse and colorful stories to tell. Fieldwork was complemented by weeks of presentations by people involved in all aspects of planning and land use, lending a real-world view of the complexity of sustainable design.

# *Project Riverway*

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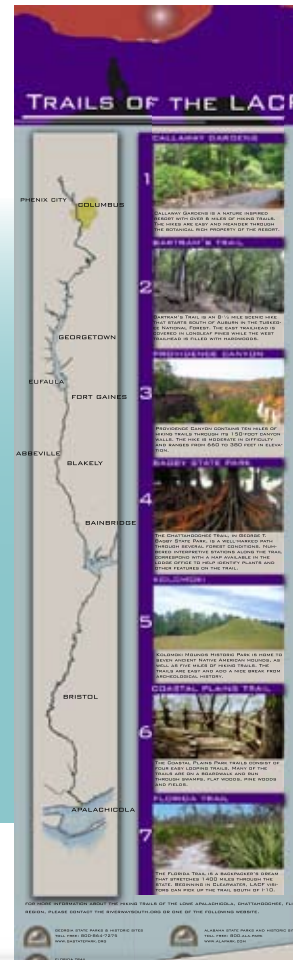
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Riverway South's Web site redesigned (see page 58)

# Hike the Hooch

BROCHURE

The Hike the Hooch brochure is a fold out map used to locate and direct locals and tourists to the hiking trails and nature walks within the lower Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint region. Seven major trail sites, which stretch from Georgia to Alabama and down to Florida, are located on the map. One side of the map shows the general geographic location of each site and brief accompanying description of the trail's difficulty, length, and environment. The opposite side of the map contains a longer overall description, a larger picture and more specific location of the trail sites. This brochure can be placed at rest stops and welcome centers to allow for high visibility of the map.





# project RIVERWAY



## Riverway South | 2007 Action Plan

DEVELOPED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# Action Plan

## FOR RIVERWAY SOUTH

This 31-page Riverway South 2007 Action Plan is intended to identify ways to help RiverWay South (RWS) preserve, protect, and promote the unique heritage of their region while infusing new economic life into the communities. This plan is conceptual and presents ideas and directions for RWS to consider, adopt, or modify as seen fit.

The Lower Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint (LACF) region has a rich natural and human history, a unique character, and much to offer to the rest of the region and nation. Within this plan, we have identified ways for RWS to inventory, conserve, enhance, and publicize these resources.

Project Riverway

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### 4. GOALS

Through its partnership with RWS, Project Riverway hopes to unite the LACF communities and promote leadership in the region while respecting its culture, history and environment. The overall goals of Project Riverway are: to develop and promote a strategy to increase economic opportunities and community development for the entire region; and to serve as a guide for new product and sustainable to market ecologically sensitive and sustainable tourism throughout the region. It will take strong regional leaders to achieve these goals.

Project Riverway has identified five categories of interest:

1. Natural Resources Goal
2. Cultural Resources Goal
3. Economic and Community Development Goal
4. Education and Interpretation Goal
5. Recreation Goal

### 6. IMPLEMENTATION

Project Riverway has identified a number of concepts to help RWS achieve its goals and further developed a few of them as examples. These may be implemented as presented or modified, but the hope is that they increase local participation in promoting and protecting the future regional participation for the efforts of RWS to succeed in meeting its goals. In order for RWS to advance in meeting its goals, it needs to produce tangible products on an ongoing basis.

#### RESOURCES

- A database should be developed to identify the existing resources. This database should be in a format so that it can be edited or modified by multiple agencies and available throughout the website. One possibility is that it is developed in an open user friendly format and able to be downloaded by website users as www.riverwayouth.com. Types of resources to be identified may include the following:
- State and local parks
  - Existing trails
  - Historic properties
  - Historic landmarks
  - Cultural resources
  - Public recreation facilities
  - Recreational areas
  - RV hook-up facilities
  - Landmarks
  - Historic buildings
  - Museums and



Wingard's Lodge provides an excellent spot to view the river and the surrounding resources including a historic building and RV hook-up.

### 7. INITIAL STEPS

The most necessary step is to increase your organizational capacity to implement the suggested projects. Considering the financial circumstances of an area, you may wish to consider long term strategies to increase RWS's workforce. To that end, Project Riverway recommends hiring workers long term from the Columbus State University student body. Students could receive a small stipend for their work as an agreement for class credit could be worked out between RWS and the University. It would count as a wage for students. RWS success in capacity and the worker receives great experience for an unpaid work. Once RWS increases its workforce, the ability to complete the following over the next nine months would be possible:

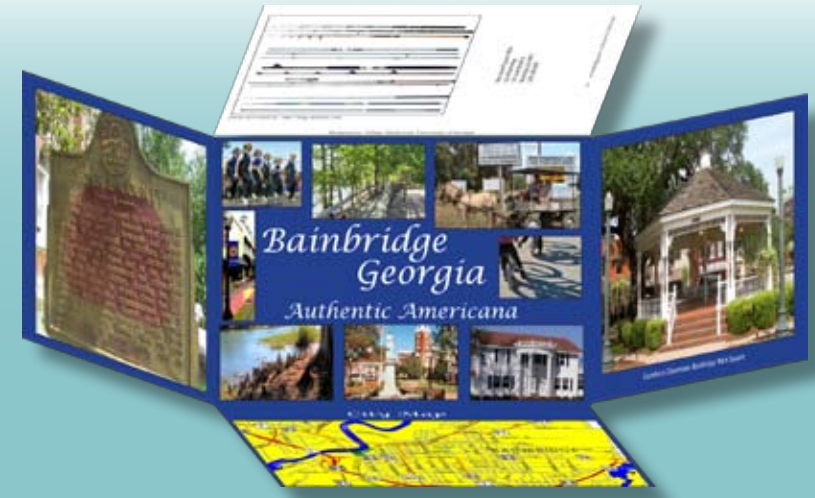
- 1. INVENTORY DATABASE & WEBSITE**  
It is critical to progress the results of the local public forums to let people know that RWS has local residents' best interests at the heart of the organization. RWS should also create ways to engage residents with the information that the database should be developed with the end use of the website in mind. Therefore, all the resources can be categorized into the well defined interactive menu based on the website. The website could then have the ability to give detailed information about local resources and generate brochures and general business tools.
- 2. PUBLIC FORUM RESULTS**  
It is critical to progress the results of the local public forums to let people know that RWS has local residents' best interests at the heart of the organization. RWS should also create ways to engage residents with the information that the database should be developed with the end use of the website in mind. Therefore, all the resources can be categorized into the well defined interactive menu based on the website. The website could then have the ability to give detailed information about local resources and generate brochures and general business tools.
- 3. VOLUNTEERS**  
RWS should create volunteer opportunities to work with their goals and projects. These volunteers may include college or graduate students or members of high school students through the area. The local residents will increase RWS's capacity to complete the following over the next nine months would be possible:
- 4. TOURS**  
Specific sites, such as Paradise Canyon, should be identified and tours should be made to create links through the area. The local residents will increase RWS's capacity to complete the following over the next nine months would be possible:



# Promoting local attractions

## BROCHURE TEMPLATES

The brochure template created by Project Riverway will give communities a starting point in the realm of marketing. Communities should utilize the template to promote local attractions, as well as their county or city as a whole. The brochure's cover appears to be a postcard and when flipped over unfolds into four flaps that provide basic information about the destination that a visitor would need. The **Kolomoki brochure** provides a model for a site specific brochure displaying rates and amenities, whereas the **Bainbridge brochure** highlights the main attractions in the area. The duplication of the postcard brochure layout between communities will connect them and give visitors a familiar layout to look for in the region. The template given for the postcard brochure is easy to replicate and implement.



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# Historic Roadways SIGNAGE

Historic Roadways within the LACF region should be identified and marked so that the unique history of the area is made evident to people traveling through, and to provide an opportunity for tourists to seek them out.

**Once identified, the roads should be marked with a consistent hierarchy of signs.**

**Primary Signs** should be located at the beginning of each route segment, where it enters or exits a significant town. These signs should provide the roadway name, a brief narrative of the history, and the roadway icon.

**Secondary Signs** should be located at each road intersection, so that travelers can easily follow the route. These signs should include the roadway name and icon.

**Tertiary Signs** should be located at regular intervals, such as every two miles, to reassure travelers that they have remained on the correct route. These signs should include the roadway icon. All signs should include the Web site address for RWS as a means of getting further information.



**Primary Sign illustration**



**Secondary Sign illustration**



**Tertiary Sign illustration**



**Conceptual Primary Sign**



**Conceptual Secondary & Tertiary Signs**

# Historic Roadways

## FEDERAL TRAIL



Approximate Route of the Federal Trail

One example of a historic roadway in the region is the **Federal Trail**. It follows the route of early Indian trails, and got its name from use by US troops during the early 1800s, especially to supply Fort Scott, Fort Recovery, and Fort Gladsen. General Andrew Jackson marched his troops down this road to fight the Seminoles in Florida in 1818.

The approximate route of the Federal Trail starts in present-day Albany, follows Old Highway 19 to River Road and Highway 311 into Bainbridge. From Bainbridge it follows Highway 97 down towards the Florida State Line, through the area around Recovery.

(Source: Historic Indian Trails of Georgia. Marion Hemperley, 1989.)



Sign illustration



# Chattahoochee Passport

FOR THE LACF



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With a "Passport" similar to that of the National Parks Service, RiverWay South could identify significant parks, cultural attractions, and commercial locations unique to the LACF, and encourage tourism through the collection of stamps unique to each location. The passport itself would be a small booklet, perhaps 4" by 6", with a page for each location. Each location page would include information such as a description, contact information, and photographs of various attractions. The passport should include an index of sites and a map showing the locations throughout the region.

This product is intended for a wide audience, from children to adults. The general idea is that they would visit each location to collect each unique stamp. The production should be of such quality that the booklet would be a collectible item.

## Locations

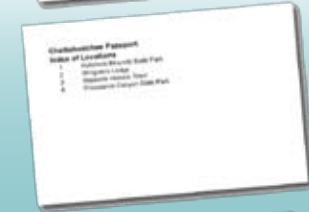
Locations should be chosen to highlight the diversity of the region, and may include places such as Kolomoki Mounds State Park, Bagby State Park, historic properties and courthouses. Commercial locations, such as Wingate Lodge or Long Farms, could be included for a fee.

## Stamps

The stamps, if possible, should be unique to each site. Different color inks could be used, for different types of properties (i.e. historic vs. recreational), or each location could choose their own. Stamps may include such things as the site name, logo, date, or location.

## Production Quality

RWS should evaluate the market and production costs to determine the print quality for the Passport. If possible, the booklet should be of high quality with heavy weight paper to create a true collectible item. The costs associated with this may limit the options, and it is important that the price not exclude participation.



# Southern rivers birding trail

## 17-PAGE PARKS AND SITES GUIDE



Come take a trek of discovery along Georgia's Southern Rivers Birding Trail. The trail winds its way from the rolling hills of the Georgia Piedmont, southward across the broad expanse of the Coastal Plain before curling eastward and eventually reaching trails end in the Okefenokee Swamp, the Land of the Trembling Earth.

The 30 sites situated along the trail have been carefully selected to provide the wildlife watcher with a broad spectrum of wildlife viewing experiences. If you take the time to visit all of these sites, you will have opportunity to see some of the region's most beautiful and diverse natural communities.

*Project Riverway*



# Native American Sites

IN SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

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## Albany, Georgia

<http://heritagecenter.org/about.html>

### Thronateeska Heritage Museum

100 West Roosevelt Avenue  
Albany, Georgia 31701-2325  
Phone: (229) 432-6955

### Hours of Operation:

**Administrative Office** - Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Museum Hours** - Thursday-Saturday Noon-4:00 p.m.

**Planetarium Showtimes and Discovery Center**

Thursday-Friday 2:45 p.m. / Saturdays 12:30, 1:30, 2:30

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## Blakely, Georgia

<http://gastateparks.org/info/kolomoki/>

### Kolomoki Mounds Historic Park

205 Indian Mounds Rd  
Blakely, GA 39823-4460

**Located** 6 miles north of Blakely off U.S. Hwy. 27.

**Attraction:** 7-8 Indian mounds. Some of earliest in recorded history.

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## Columbus, Georgia

<http://www.columbusmuseum.com/>

### The Columbus Museum

1251 Wynnton Road  
Columbus, Georgia 31906  
(706)748.2562

**Hours of Operation:** Monday: Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. / Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Attraction:** 1700's through contemporary Native American Art, Yuchi Indian artifacts.

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## Thomasville, Georgia

<http://www.thomasvillega.com>

### Thomas County Museum of History

**Mailing Address:** P. O. Box 1922  
Thomasville, GA 31792

**Street Address:**

725 North Dawson Street  
Thomasville, GA 31792

### Hours of Operation:

Mon-Sat 10-12 and 2-5; Closed holidays

**Admissions:** \$5 Adults; \$1 Youth(18 and younger.)

**Description:** The Thomas County History Museum includes on information on plantations; Victorian; Resorts; Civil War; historic buildings; including a 1893 bowling alley; and more.



**Valdosta, Georgia**

<http://www.valdostamuseum.org>

**Lowndes County Historical Museum**

Mailing address:  
305 W. Central Ave.  
Valdosta, GA 31601  
(229) 247-4780

**Hours of Operation:** Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

**Location:** We are located at 305 W. Central Ave. in the former Carnegie Library Building.

**Omaha, Georgia**

<http://www.gastateparks.org/info/flormarin/>

**Florence Marina State Park**

Route 1, Box 36  
Omaha, GA 31821  
1-800-864-7275

**Attraction:** Rood Creek Mounds Indian tour every Saturday.

**Located** 16 miles west of Lumpkin at the end of Ga. Hwy. 39C.

**Albany, Georgia**

<http://www.parksatchehaw.org>

**Chehaw Festival**

The Parks at Chehaw  
105 Chehaw Park Road  
Albany, Georgia 31701  
229-430-5275

**When:** This festival is held every November on the beautiful Parks at Chehaw grounds, an 800 acre facility. The festival includes Native American dancers performing traditional, fancy, jingle, shawl, hoop and many other dances. Art vendors are there as well.

**Hamilton, Georgia**

<http://www.ossahatchee.org>

**Ossahatchee Indian Festival & Pow Wow**

**When:** Held on the Harris Co Soccer Field, GA Hwy 116E, Hamilton, GA Always the third weekend in October

**TEN NATIVE AMERICAN TOWNS SOUTH OF COLUMBUS ON THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER:**

- 1. McIntosh Town
- 2. Coweta Town
- 3. Broken Arrow Town
- 4. Cusseta Town
- 5. Yuchi Town

- 6. Chiaha
- 7. Oswichee
- 8. Hitchitee Town
- 9. Apalachicola Town
- 10. Oconee Town

# Lower Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint Region

POSTCARDS



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Inspired by vintage prints from the 1920s and 30s, these postcards will serve as promotional prints that can be used by locals and tourists in the Lower Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint region. Each card will represent a city meant to attract tourists to the many destinations within the LACF. In order to meet the demands of both the tech savvy and purist populations, these cards can be printed from a home computer or sent by electronic mail. The postcards will be customized to individual experiences in the LACF through simple designs with interchangeable options.

Stock photos, available on RiverWay South's web site, can be swapped for a more personalized postcard to correspond with each visitor's trip.

These designs will allow for increased postcard options. They are designed with the idea that each postcard creator can choose a different style depending on personal taste or mood.

On the back of each postcard, there will be a few lines of information to correspond with the represented city or location.



# Captain John Davis River Tour

Take a historic tour down the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers with Captain John Davis, the only Merchant Marine Captain who has explored the area for over 40 years! Follow the plots on a self guided tour that allow you to go at your own pace.



# Captain John Davis RIVER TOUR

Take a historic boat ride down the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers with Captain John Davis, the only Merchant Marine Captain who has explored the area for over 40 years! Follow the plots on a self guided tour that allows you to go at your own pace.

Sights included on the tour range from Fort Gaines, GA to Omussee Creek, giving you the opportunity to see wildlife, historic buildings, Native American sites and Civil War locations. Few tours allow you access to so many different places along the Chattahoochee. There is something here for everyone in the family.

Project Riverway

### Capt. John Davis Tour of the Chattahoochee

- 1. Ft. Gaines, GA** - a fort was first established at this location during the Creek wars in 1813. The Confederate army also had a fort here during the Civil War. The earthen fortification from this Civil War fort still exists on the bluff. These earthworks originally housed three cannons which covered the river approaches below the bluff. One of these cannons remains in place today. Today Ft. Gaines is a charming small town populated with antebellum homes and historic structures. (Mile 73.2)



Historic Courthouse (photo provided by: www.hwy27.com)

- 2. Kolomoki Creek** - this creek leads to the Kolomoki Mound Complex, the best preserved site of its kind on the LACF. Standing at 56 feet high the Temple Mound is one of the largest in the United States. (Mile 66.9)



- 3. Three Notch Trail** - the advance scouts for Andrew Jackson's army cut three notches on trees to mark the trail for the main army to follow as they moved through the LACF in 1813. While there were many branches of this trail one of these ran across Factory Creek here. (Mile 60.7)

- 4. Freeman's Bend** - for centuries this horseshoe bend in the river was a large town for many Native Americans. This fact was revealed in 1992 when the river flooded and removed several feet of soil. After the water receded the field was covered with hundreds and hundreds of shards of pottery. Soil was soon hauled back in to restore the field for farming so many of the pottery pieces still remain under several feet of soil. For more than 25 years there has been a buzzard roost on both sides of the river at this location. The buzzard wings have a slight V shape on the front and back edges. These birds are often seen flying overhead or on tree limbs along the river. Since 1990 a pair of bald eagles has also roosted at this spot. This is just one of the many pairs of bald eagles that nest along the rivers of the LACF. (Mile 54.5)

- 5. Cobelee Creek** - one mile from the river an old Indian path crossed the river. This same path was later used by the Spanish to go from the San Luis mission at Tallahassee to Ft. Apalachicola. One of the last covered bridges in the area is located in a park 1/2 mile up the creek. The bridge was built in 1883 and is in good repair. (Mile 50.8)



- 6. Columbia, AL** - this is one of the oldest towns in Southeast Alabama. Throughout the 1800s this was a major steamboat landing and the banks here housed large brick cotton warehouses. (Mile 48.9)

- 7. Omussee Creek** - this creek housed one of the few Yamasee villages on the river and almost certainly got its name from a corruption of the Yamasee name. Yamasee means "gentle and quiet" in the language of the Creek Indian Nation. The site still houses a mound and an Indian trail that was also used by both the Spanish and Andrew Jackson's army. A little ways up the creek there is a cave and some stone crypts. This creek also housed the first sawmill built in Southeast Alabama and Southwest Georgia.

In 1986 a woman of Creek and Yamasee descent related a story to Captain Davis that had been passed down through her family. In 1813 a fight occurred here between female occupants of this village and some of General Jackson's scouts. Only females and children were in the village because the men had gone south to fight General Jackson's scouts. The females attacked General Jackson's scouts who were travelling south along the river. The women killed everyone, cut off their private parts and buried the bodies in unmarked graves. (Mile 47.9)

- 8. The Wedding Rock, the "City of Columbus" and the "J.C.F. Griggs"** - the large flat rock outcrop here was known as the Wedding Rock and was a very popular place for couples to get married in the 1800s. In March 1897 the steamboat "City of Columbus" went down here at midnight. The engine and other machinery are still on the bottom of the river. No lives were lost in the accident, but two days later the "J.C.F. Griggs" went down at the same spot. Ironically, the "J.C.F. Griggs" was the rescue boat sent to aid in the salvage of the "City of Columbus". Sadly, three lives were lost in this rescue mission. (Mile 41.3)

- 9. Confederate Naval Yard** - the C.S.S. Chattahoochee was built at this naval yard. This ironclad ship was built to attack Northern ships blocking ports in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly at Apalachicola. The C.S.S. Chattahoochee never fired a hostile shot though because its draft was too deep to cross the bar at Apalachicola Bay and therefore never made it to the Gulf of Mexico. Instead, the ship provided entertainment to the ladies in Chattahoochee, FL, by firing 32 pound rifled Dahlgren cannon off the bow.

The Chattahoochee's boiler exploded while chasing the Northern ship "Fashion" and she went down close to Blountstown, FL along with 16 of her crew. She was raised and taken back to Columbus to be repaired but was instead burned at the end of the war to keep her out of Northern hands. Some of her remains and artifacts were salvaged and can be seen at the Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus. There is a monument to the 16 men who died in Chattahoochee, FL. (Mile 33.3)







# Corridor Signage

## CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACE



With a focus on context, signage for the Chattahoochee Trace Corridor is designed to add to the scenery found around the Chattahoochee River. Cultural and natural features signify this landscape, featuring agriculture, Indian heritage, and unique wildlife. Signage directing like-themed tours should not direct attention from the subtlety of this environment. These signs attempt to blend in and utilize unique features like the roofs of old barns on roadside farmland. Birdhouses can also be painted in a similar fashion, and towers of hanging gourds can be adorned with directional signage while providing habitat for unique bird species. The Indians commonly used three notches to designate trails, and the same system can be applied to old wooden posts, becoming a part of the landscape much like an old wooden fence.

*Project Riverway*



# *Project Riverway*

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PROJECTS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC SITES

Kolomoki tour brochure  
Kolomoki Park new concepts  
State Parks stationery  
Plants tour brochure  
Interactive Map of the ACF Watershed Area  
Downloadable video tours:  
Kolomoki Mounds and  
Bagby State Park plant walk

# Kolomoki Mounds

POSTCARD/ BROCHURE

This unusual park sprawling over 1,293 acres with two lakes is an important archaeological site as well as a scenic recreational area. Seven earthen mounds within the park were built between 350-750 A.D. by the Swift Creek and Weeden Island Indians. The mounds include Georgia's oldest great temple mound, two burial mounds and four ceremonial mounds. The park's museum is partially situated around an excavated mound, providing an unusual setting for viewing artifacts and a film.

This brochure template provides a starting point in the realm of marketing. The brochure's cover appears to be a postcard and when flipped over unfolds into four flaps that provide basic information about the destination that a visitor would need. The brochure provides a unique means of distributing information about Kolomoki and maintains the recommended design for brochures in the region.



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**GREETINGS**  
FROM KOLOMOKI MOUNDS  
BLAKELY, GA

**CAMPING OPTIONS**

- Large Groups
  - 24 tent, trailer
  - RV campsites
  - Group Camp
- Small Groups
  - Pioneer Campgrounds

For more information  
call (229) 724-2150  
or visit [www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org)

**RECREATION OPTIONS**

- Fishing
- Boat & Canoe Rentals
- Swimming & Playgrounds
- Picnic Shelters
- Miniature Golf
- Museum

**KOLOMOKI MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC PARK BLAKELY, GA**

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

- 7:00am - 10:00pm Daily
- Office & Museum Hours: 8:00am - 5:00pm Daily
- \*Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, & New Years Day\*

**RATES**

- Adults (19-61 years) \$7.00
- Children (6-18 years) \$1.75
- Children (5 and under) FREE
- Adults over 62 \$2.50

\*Ask about our Pre-Scheduled Group Tour Rates\*

**GREETINGS**  
FROM KOLOMOKI MOUNDS  
BLAKELY, GA

The unusual park sprawling over 1,293 acres with two lakes is an important archaeological site as well as a scenic recreational area. Seven earthen mounds within the park were built between 350-750 A.D. by the Swift Creek and Weeden Island Indians. The mounds include Georgia's oldest great temple mound, two burial mounds and four ceremonial mounds. The park's museum is partially situated around an excavated mound, providing an unusual setting for viewing artifacts and a film.



# Kolomoki mounds TOUR



BLAKELY, GEORGIA

# Kolomoki Mounds TOUR

Due to its size and place in history, the Kolomoki Indian Mound site is one of the most remarkable Native American sites in the United States. This complex deserves to be showcased as an important legacy of Native American culture and heritage. To do this, it is necessary to improve the written materials associated with the site, update the facilities and make landscaping changes will make the site more accessible and informative.

*Project Riverway*

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*Kolomoki Mounds TOUR*

## Kolomoki Mounds

**BURIAL MOUNDS** SUCH AS THIS ONE ARE RARE AND THIS EXAMPLE WAS VERY COMPLEX AND INVOLVED HUMAN SACRIFICE. THIS MOUND CONTAINED 77 BURIALS AND MORTUARY POTTERY.

**THE LARGER TEMPLE MOUND** WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEAR AND COVERED WITH HARDENED CLAY. THIS MOUND MAY HAVE BEEN USED AS A TEMPLE OR AS A RESIDENCE FOR THE HEAD OF THE TRIBE. THERE WAS SOME KIND OF TEMPLE OR HOUSE ON TOP OF THE MOUND.

**THE PLAZA** BETWEEN THE MOUNDS HOUSED THE TOWN AND BALL FIELDS. THE TOWN AT KOLOMOKI WAS HOME TO HUNDREDS IF NOT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. HOUSES WERE CONSTRUCTED OF WATTLE AND DAUB WITH ROOFS OF THATCHED GRASS.

**AROUND 1400 A.D.** THE PEOPLE VANISHED FROM THESE MOUND COMPLEXES. SIGNS EXIST OF PURPOSEFUL ABANDONMENT BUT THERE IS NO ONE EXPLANATION FOR WHY THESE PEOPLE LEFT. DISEASE FROM CONTACT WITH WHITES IS ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.

**WHILE MANY QUESTIONS** STILL SURROUND KOLOMOKI, WHAT IS KNOWN FOR SURE IS THAT IT IS RARE FOR COMPLEXES OF THIS SIZE TO HAVE SURVIVED. MOST HAVE BEEN FARMED DOWN BY COTTON OR ARE UNDERWATER DUE TO DAMPING.

**KOLOMOKI** WAS A WELL-DEVELOPED COMPLEX THAT EXISTED FOR AROUND 700 YEARS IN THE MISSISSIPPIAN ERA. THE SITE CONSISTED OF 7 TO 9 EARTHEN MOUNDS BUILT BETWEEN A.D. 350 AND 750 AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE MOST POPULATED NATIVE AMERICAN SITE NORTH OF MEXICO.

**NOT MUCH IS KNOWN** ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT THESE MOUNDS; MODERN INDIAN PEOPLE SIMPLY CALL THEM THE ANCIEN TONES.

**A MOAT** WOULD NORMALLY HAVE SURROUNDED A TOWN SUCH AS THIS, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT A MOAT EVER EXISTED HERE.



## KOLOMOKI INDIAN MOUNDS STATE PARK EXISTING

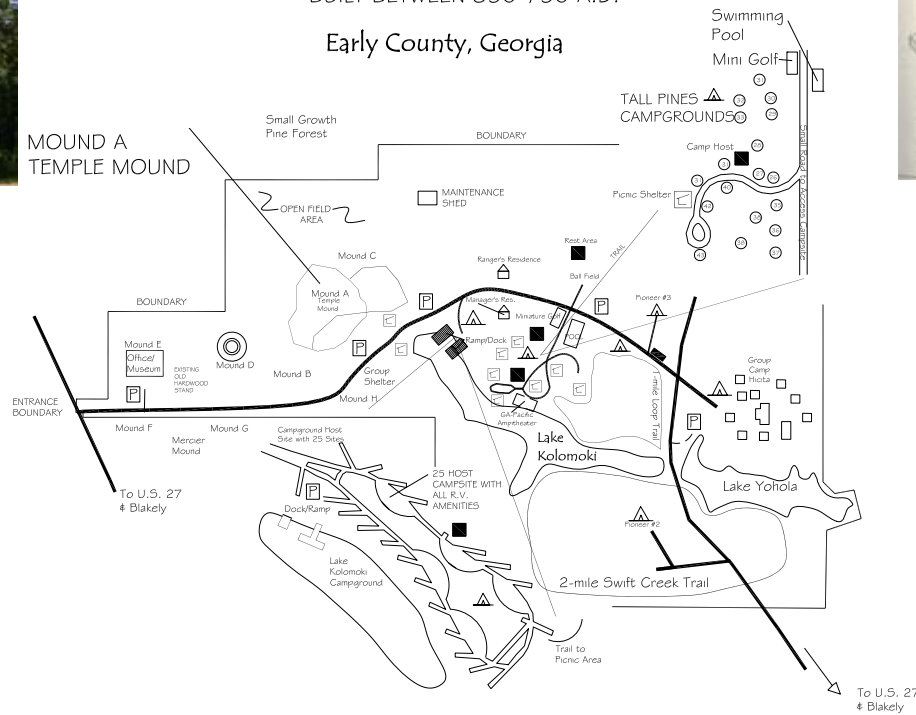
BUILT BETWEEN 350-750 A.D.  
Early County, Georgia



MOUND A  
TEMPLE MOUND



KOLOMOKI c. 550AD



LEGEND	
—	Trail
	Restroom
	Parking
	Picnic Shelter
	Camping
	Dump Station
	Rest Station
	Main Road



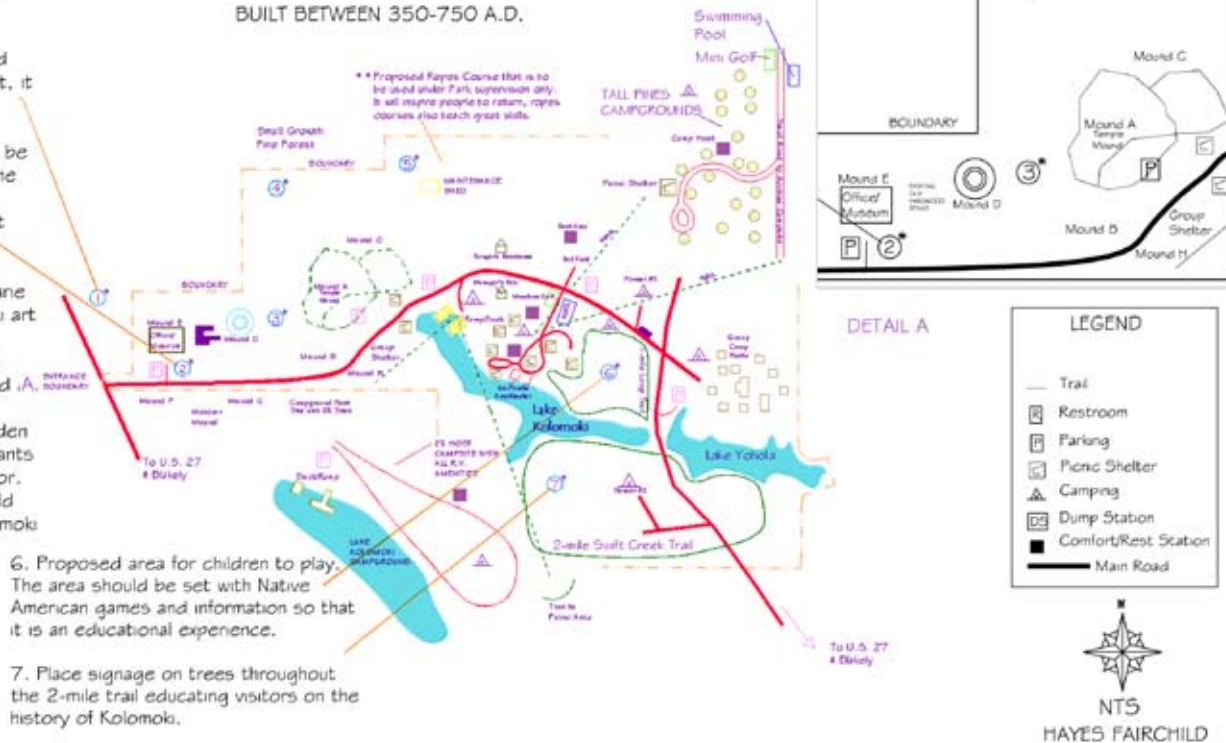
# KOLOMOKI MOUNDS STATE PARK NEW CONCEPTS

Early County, Georgia

BUILT BETWEEN 350-750 A.D.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR A BETTER KOLOMOKI:

1. New entrance signage should be constructed. At the moment, it is very difficult to view.
2. The museum/office needs to be more obvious and receptive. The circulation roads of Kolomoki should invite visitors to stop at the museum first.
3. Cut lawn or add different Prarie grass to illustrate the Kolomoki art sign meaning "welcome". The design will be perfectly viewed atop the Temple Mound, Mound A.
4. Plant a Native American garden with signage explaining what plants are and what they were used for. Perhaps the garden sheds could be reconstructions of old Kolomoki huts, showing what was once there.
5. Area for proposed ropes course. (Read number 5)
6. Proposed area for children to play. The area should be set with Native American games and information so that it is an educational experience.
7. Place signage on trees throughout the 2-mile trail educating visitors on the history of Kolomoki.



# Georgia State Parks STATIONERY

This concept creates the possibility for awareness and revenue generation for State Parks in the Chattahoochee area. Stationery featuring a simple character sketch of an iconic view featured in the park can be placed on the cover, and information about the park and the park system is located on the back. The stationery is both a souvenir for visitors and an invitation for those who haven't visited yet.

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# Plants of BAGBY STATE PARK

## Plants of Bagby STATE PARK BROCHURE

As a companion piece to the downloadable video tour, the Plants of Bagby State Park brochure provides written information on the legacy and lore of the native plants found in the park. In addition to photographs, Native American expert Billy Winn provides descriptive information on how the plants were traditionally used by Native Americans in the region.

*Project Riverway*

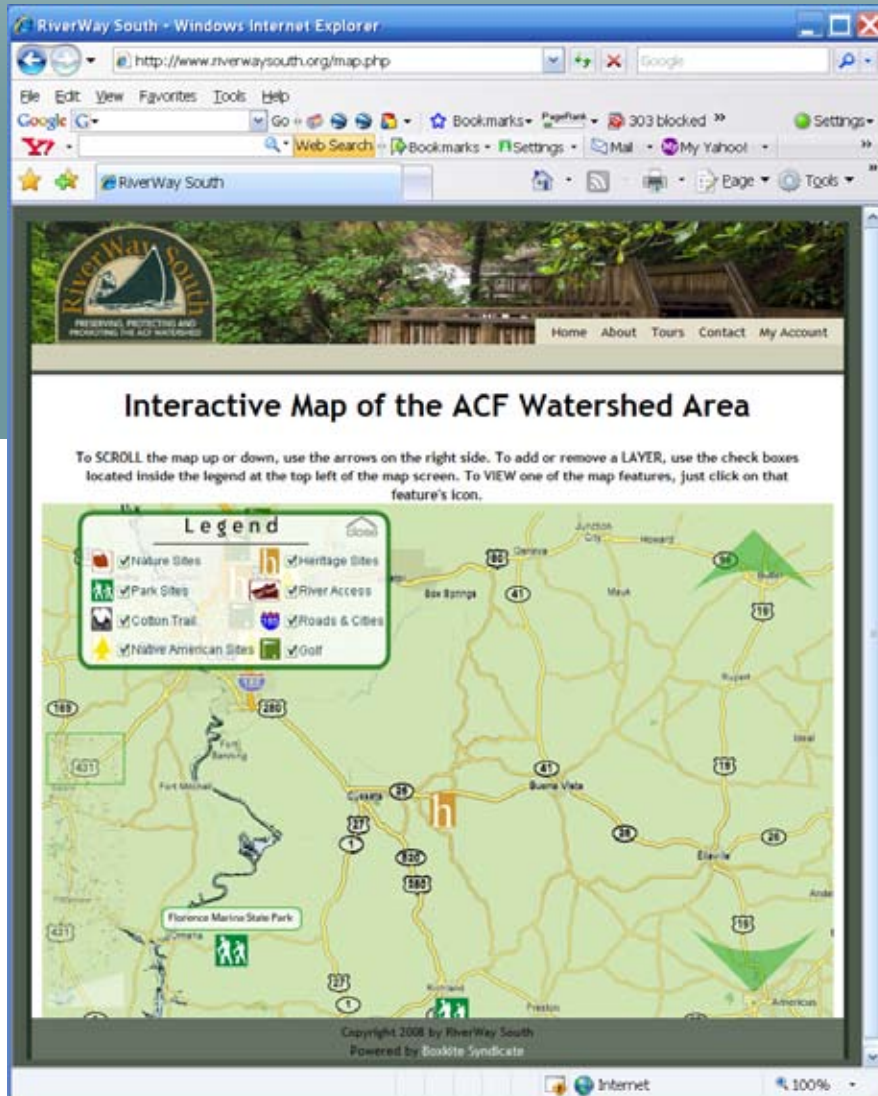
29



# Interactive Map OF THE ACF WATERSHED AREA

Go to <http://www.riverwaysouth.org/map.php>  
to scroll the map up or down, add or remove a layer and view map features, etc.

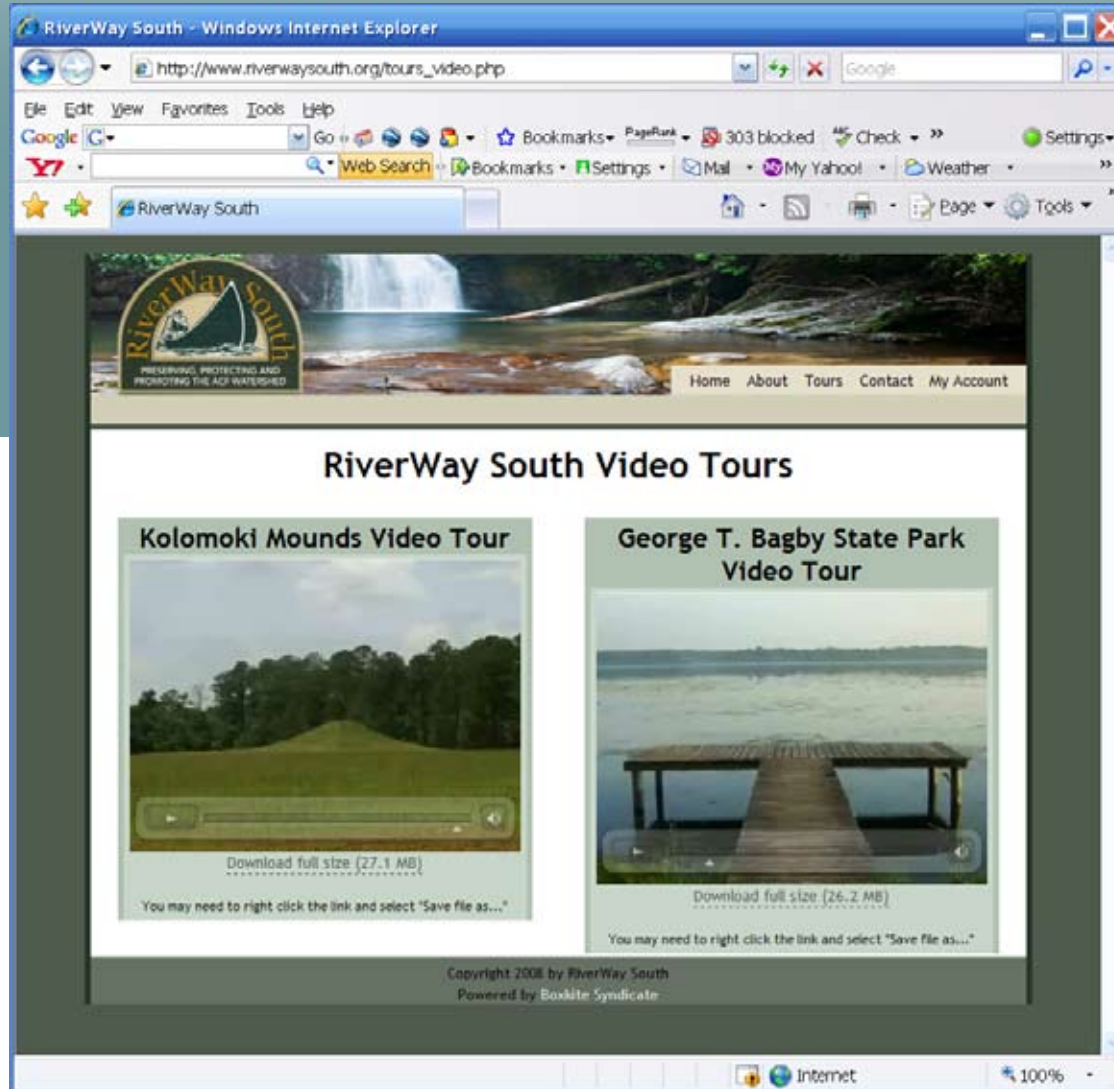
30



# Video Tours

## KOLOMOKI MOUNDS AND BAGBY PARK

Go to [www.riverwaysouth.org/tours\\_video.php](http://www.riverwaysouth.org/tours_video.php) to download the videos.





# *Project Riverway*

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# PROJECTS DEVELOPED DURING THE 2006 FORT GAINES COMMUNITY DESIGN CHARRETTE

## CHARRETTE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Land use
- Affordable housing
- Downtown revitalization
- Street planting
- Youth development center
- Recreation development
- Community pool
- Pedestrian corridor
- Phenomenon trail:
  - Overview
  - Playground and beach access
  - Municipal docks for public water access
  - Interpretive center
  - Signage and trail materials
  - Paving materials for paths
  - The missing link: bridge design
  - Covered bridge outlook

# Fort Gaines

## COMMUNITY DESIGN CHARRETTE OVERVIEW



We kicked off **Project Riverway** with a four-day trip exploring the Chattahoochee River corridor from Columbus to Fort Gaines, Georgia.



This trip down the river served as an orientation to the communities along the river as well as the natural and cultural context that surrounds them. As an integral part of our experience, it allowed us to develop a personal connection with the people and places along the Lower Chattahoochee River.



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**“Charrette”** is a French word that translates to “little cart.” At the leading architecture school of the 19th century, the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, students were assigned a tough design problem to work out under pressure of time. They continued sketching as fast as they could until little carts (charrettes) carried their drawing boards away to be judged and graded.

“Today, ‘charrette’ has come to describe the rapid, intensive, and creative work session, usually lasting a week or more, in which a design team focuses on a particular design problem and arrives at a collaborative solution.”

“Charrettes for New Urbanism,”  
Victor Dover

We used this method in Fort Gaines, GA to visualize solutions to the issues of the town. Though most charrettes take place on site, this project was worked on entirely in-house with the assistance and input of experts in various fields of interest.

# project RIVERWAY

9 STUDENTS.

1 BIG RIVER.



# Fort Gaines

## COMMUNITY DESIGN CHARRETTE OVERVIEW

### Mission Statement:

Project Riverway will communicate new ways to revitalize and reconnect River with Community by creating a confluence of University design resources at the City of Fort Gaines along the Chattahoochee River. This will be accomplished through principles of quality growth, including:

- A. Protect and promote healthy water resources.
- B. Develop without depleting non-renewable resources.
- C. Explore a healthy mix of affordable, durable and market rate housing alternatives.
- D. Encourage tourism infrastructure and destinations that are least intrusive to the resources we are promoting.
- E. Include education in all passive and active recreation opportunities through sensitive site selection and on-going funding for programs.
- F. Create minimal-impact access to natural resources
- G. Perpetuate a traditional town feel through the development, protection, and preservation of existing historic buildings and archeological resources.
- H. Maintain and showcase but do not deny access to the rural and natural character of the region.
- I. Revolutionize thinking and policy implementation based on a conservation strategy.

### What we will produce: (in no particular order)

1. Conceptual draft master plan for the Fort Gaines area.
2. Recreation system for Fort Gaines.
3. Affordable housing analysis.
4. Water resource analysis and stewardship campaign.
5. Executive summary and conservation approach justification.
6. Site specific dock design.
7. Downtown revitalization plan.



Project Riverway

# Fort Gaines

## LAND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that Fort Gaines adopt a land use plan that allows for managed growth while successfully maintaining its **small-town feel**. To achieve this goal, we recommend that downtown Fort Gaines become the focus of future development. We suggest that Fort Gaines adopt **downtown revitalization** procedures that will ensure pedestrian safety and will promote **town connectivity**.

Suggested methods include expanding sidewalks and crosswalks and adding selective plantings of trees and shrubs.

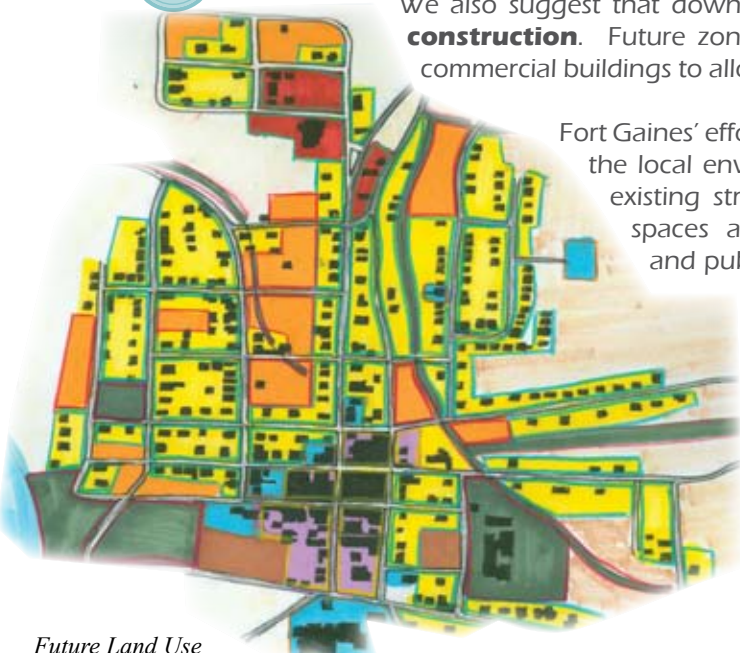
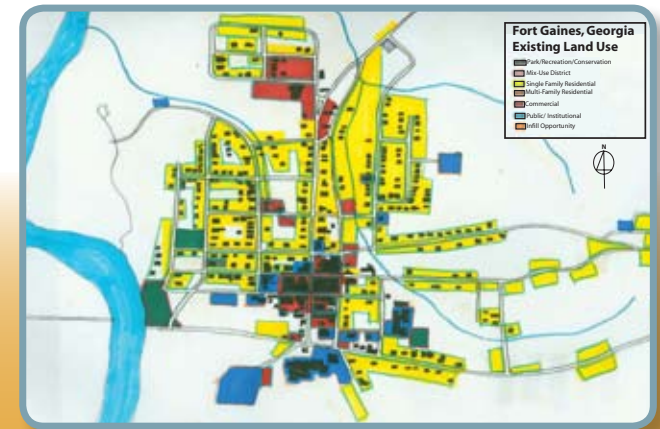
In order to promote a downtown residential population, we suggest that Fort Gaines encourage single-family residential development within the town core. Future residential development should reflect the **town's historic density and pattern**. Fort Gaines will benefit most from encouraging residential development that incorporates existing street networks and locates new homes within walking distance of the commercial district.

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We also suggest that downtown Fort Gaines be rezoned to **promote infill construction**. Future zoning should also allow the **mixed-use** of existing commercial buildings to allow for residential use within the business district.

Fort Gaines' efforts to **plan for future growth** also should protect the local environment by placing conservation buffers around existing streams. We recommend efforts to expand public spaces and community parkland. Recreational facilities and public parks should be within walking distance of the majority of the residents.

**This recommended land use plan will result in a compact, walkable community that is safe, comfortable and ecologically sustainable.**



Future Land Use





# Fort Gaines AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Project Summary

## GOALS

Promote safe, adequate and affordable housing and maintain and enhance existing residential areas for family centered living.

### Objective 1:

-Conserve existing housing units through rehabilitation and improvement.

### Policies:

- Adopt and enforce county and city building and housing codes in support of housing improvements.
- Provide assistance, financial support, and encouragement to owners of substandard housing units to improve their properties.

### Objective 2:

-Encourage and support construction of new housing to meet local housing demand to help the area become a more desirable place of residence.

### Policies:

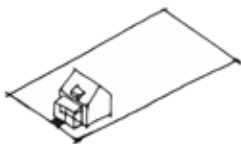
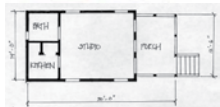
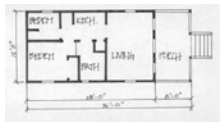
- Encourage innovative housing that complies with new policies.
- Promote affordable housing.
- Encourage infill housing construction and development designed to fit the context of the existing neighborhoods in Fort Gaines

### Objective 3:

-Protect residents from significant hazards to health, safety, and welfare.

### Policies:

- Discourage residential development in areas having critical environmental hazards such as floodplains, severe slopes, and wetlands.
- Prohibit dense development in areas mapped as significant groundwater recharge areas.
- Encourage the location of residential development where public facilities are available.
- Require construction practices designed to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, including requirements for revegetation during and following construction.



## HOUSING PROBLEMS

- Mobile home use in Fort Gaines has increased by **318%** between 1980 and 1990. Due to a lack of housing codes, many of these mobile homes are substandard and unsightly. A set of enforced codes would prevent people from moving into these houses.
- The number of traditional single-family housing units has decreased in Fort Gaines.
- 12% of the houses in Clay County are worth \$25,000 or less (well below the state average).
- Smaller homes, which are easier to maintain than the older large homes typically found in the area, are more suitable for the aging population of Fort Gaines.
- 15% of the housing in Fort Gaines is considered substandard or deteriorated. These units are mostly found along Suttons Corner at the junction of U.S. Highway 27 and Ga. Highway 37, Washington Street, the southeast corner of the city, and the northern-most tip of the city.
- The median housing cost for Fort Gaines in 1990 was \$31,100, around \$30,000 less than the rest of Georgia.
- The illustrations on the left are derived from the "Cusato Cottage," better known as the "Katrina Cottage." Designed as a substitute for FEMA trailers distributed to Hurricane Katrina victims on the Gulf Coast, the Katrina Cottage model is comparable in cost and size to FEMA trailers, but is attractive and sustainable.



Housing Type	Price	Value
Mobile Home	\$30,000	Decreases over time like automobiles
Cusato Cottage	\$30,000	Increases; built with sustainable, long lasting materials



# Fort Gaines

## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION



A community's downtown is the most visible indicator of community pride, along with its economic and social health. It should be an asset in the effort to recruit new residents, new businesses and industries, retirees, tourists, and others to the community, and to keep those already there. Fort Gaines can use preservation-based revitalization tools to enhance Downtown as a destination. Sensitive stewardship and revitalization of its historic buildings showcases its heritage. Shade trees and sidewalks will enhance the small town quality of life and walkability of Fort Gaines.





## Plant suggestions include:

### Trees

*Quercus virginiana* (Live oak)

*Acer rubrum* (Red maple)

*Quercus alba* (White oak)

*Platanus occidentalis* (Sycamore)

*Amelanchier arborea* (Serviceberry)

*Ulmus parvifolia* (Chinese elm; not native)

### Shrubs

*Itea virginica*

*Vaccinium corymbosum* (Highbush blueberry)

*Fothergilla gardenia*

### Flowering plants for medians

*Eupatorium dubium* (Joe Pye weed)

*Echinacea pupurea* (Purple coneflower)

*Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susan)

*Hemerocallis* (Daylily)

# Fort Gaines

## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

### Recommendations for Street Plantings



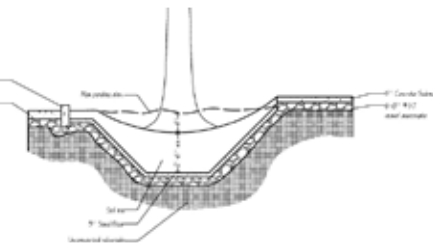
Fort Gaines has a unique down-home feel that development should use to its advantage. Street plantings can add to this feeling and also serve to cool down paved areas. Currently, there are medians in the main roads that border residential and commercial districts. These should

be tended and upgraded. Interesting native plants might enliven the streetscape in these areas. Colorful perennials will add more interest.

To preserve the unique quality of the main commercial district roads, we suggest trees be planted on the sides of the roads, rather than creating medians. Live oaks, maples, sycamores, and white oaks are native to the area and would provide much needed shade and relief. By planting trees on the side, the broad main street character can be protected.

### Rain Gardens

We recommend a rain garden be constructed in the new tree islands. With all of the impervious surfaces in downtown Fort Gaines, a significant amount of runoff runs into the Chatahoochee. These rain gardens can retain water long enough to allow for infiltration. Allowing the water to infiltrate back into the ground helps to reduce potential erosion and rid the water of non-point source pollutants. Not only will these rain gardens help improve the quality of water, they will improve the aesthetic quality of downtown Fort Gaines.



# Fort Gaines

## RECREATION DEVELOPMENT



Having recreational facilities and activities within a community provides opportunities for citizens to engage in myriad activities. As of now, the Fort Gaines area provides tennis courts, a basketball gymnasium, and a softball field to serve some of the community's recreational needs. Additional facilities could provide for a successful after-school program and youth sports leagues.



There are also several recreational possibilities along the river and lake, like fishing and boating. However, we feel that these facilities are not meeting their full potential and could be improved to increase the leisure experiences of the community. By implementing some of the following suggestions, local recreational activities can become even more enjoyable.

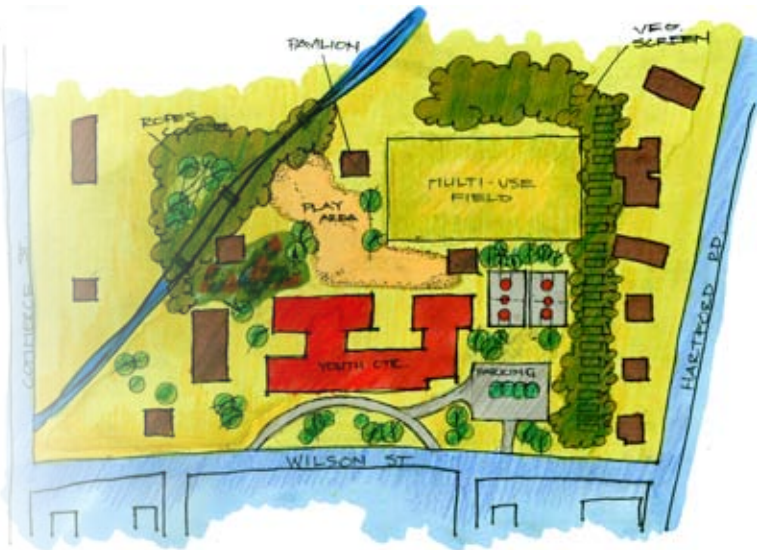


40

### Youth Development Center

**There is a large youth population in Fort Gaines with no real hub to congregate and socialize**, so we have suggested a Youth Development Center to provide a place for recreation and learning. Youth Development centers, such as a Boys and Girls Club or YMCA, are **places filled with opportunities to cultivate leadership skills, provide constructive uses of time, and gain a sense of community**. By creating a place for the youth, the community can instill pride in its younger generations.

We suggest that the **old high school** house such a facility because of its ideal size and central location. The building easily has the capacity to host after school programs (such as mentoring, tutoring, Girl Scouts, 4-H, etc.), while a campus improvement plan to install updated basketball courts, a playing field that can be used for football or soccer, a playground and a children's garden could pique interest for recreational uses. Again, by creating a location that serves as a youth gathering place, the community as a whole will benefit from a more engaged youth population.

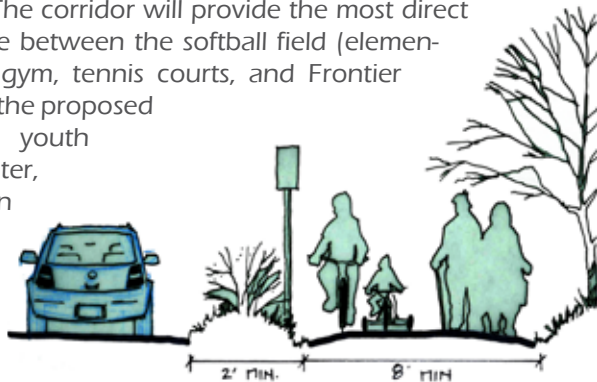




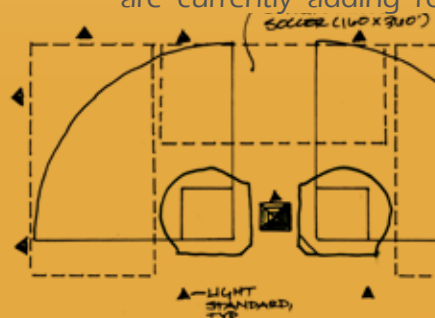
# Fort Gaines RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

## Pedestrian Corridor

In order to physically link existing and proposed recreational amenities, we suggest a pedestrian corridor that would provide a safe and pleasant form of connectivity (see red dashes connecting sites on map page 37). The corridor will consist of wide sidewalks (a minimum of 8 feet) that can accommodate walkers, cyclists, etc. There will also be a planting buffer (at a minimum of 2 feet) between the sidewalk and road to further ensure the safety of the corridor's users. The corridor will provide the most direct and efficient route between the softball field (elementary school), old gym, tennis courts, and Frontier Village, as well as the proposed community pool, youth development center, and Phenomenon Trail.



While there is a great foundation of recreational facilities in Fort Gaines, there are some immediate needs and improvements that should be addressed in order to maintain regular use of these facilities. The local tennis courts (located near Bluff Street) are currently adding restrooms for its players, a



great addition considering the courts' location at the edge of town. The court complex would also benefit from a resurfacing project. Though this is a potentially costly endeavor, it is necessary to maintain a playable facility. The softball

Multi-use Field

## Community Pool

Considering Fort Gaines is in the deep south, nothing is more refreshing during the hot summer months than a swimming hole. While the river is regarded warily as a place to swim, a community pool could serve as a place where the public feels safer and more at ease when swimming. A community pool, suggested along Troupe Street, is designed in a recreational complex that includes a bathhouse, picnic pavilion, sand volleyball courts, and playground. More exciting possibilities include elements of a water park, like water slides and wading pools, in the pool area.



field at the elementary school is in dire need of field lights. Again, an expensive addition, but considering the active little league and softball league, lights are necessary to accommodate more games. Another possible suggestion is to include another field adjacent to the existing one to allow for simultaneous games during the season. The fields can be designed to accommodate additional uses such as football or soccer for the elementary school or other recreational leagues.

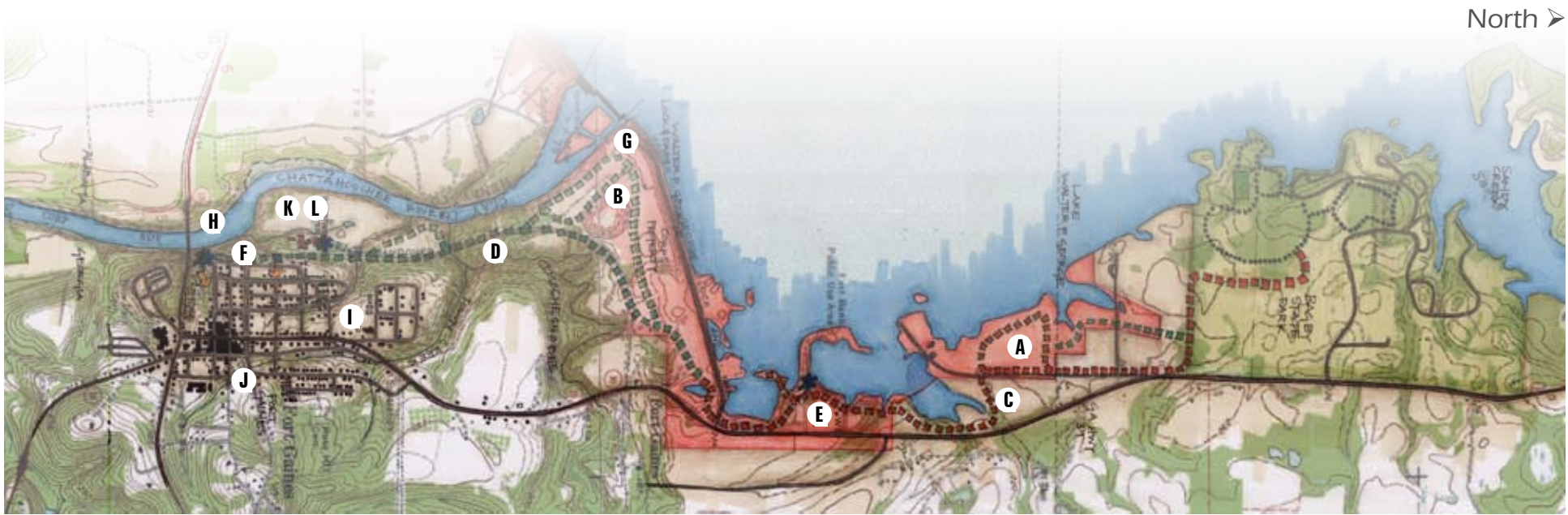


Project Riverway

# Fort Gaines

## THE NATURAL PHENOMENON TRAIL

- A**  existing trail
- B**  raised boardwalk
- C**  handicap accessible trail
- D**  existing bridge footing
- E**  plan of playground and recreation area
- F**  proposed overlook
- G**  walter f. george lock and dam
- H**  otis micco statue
- I**  historic building restoration and urban infill
- J**  proposed street tree plantings
- K**  proposed interpretive center
- L**  existing cotton mill





# Fort Gaines

## THE NATURAL PHENOMENON TRAIL

The proposed Phenomenon Trail system has great potential to expose users to the unique beauty and variety of amenities that lie along the Chattahoochee River. Beginning at Bagby State Park, the proposed route for phase one of the trails was created based on a previous study of the site. A variety of environments unfold along the route, from the shores of the river to woodlands and farmsteads. A possible amendment to phase one is to connect to Corps property earlier to avoid crossing private property. This portion of the trail could be used either as the route for the main trail or as a spur connecting with the main trail further south.

Phase two begins at Walter F. George Lock and Dam. This portion of the trail can quickly be linked with existing, unimpaired roads and an old railbed. The reuse of the road and railbed would require minimal grading, thus reducing the cost of construction and damage to the environment. Porous concrete is recommended for this portion of the trail, and if kept up properly, is allowed by the Department of Transportation. This section also provides users with cultural and historical elements in addition to the natural landscape. The old railway can be interpreted and tied to refurbished buildings including an old cotton gin and warehouses. Various spurs have been added to key points of interest such as the lock and dam system, an overlook of the Chattahoochee River, a playground and recreation area, and an interpretive center for the trail. Native plant systems will be protected by designated boardwalks and pathways and educational kiosks will explain and interpret the uniqueness of the ecosystem.

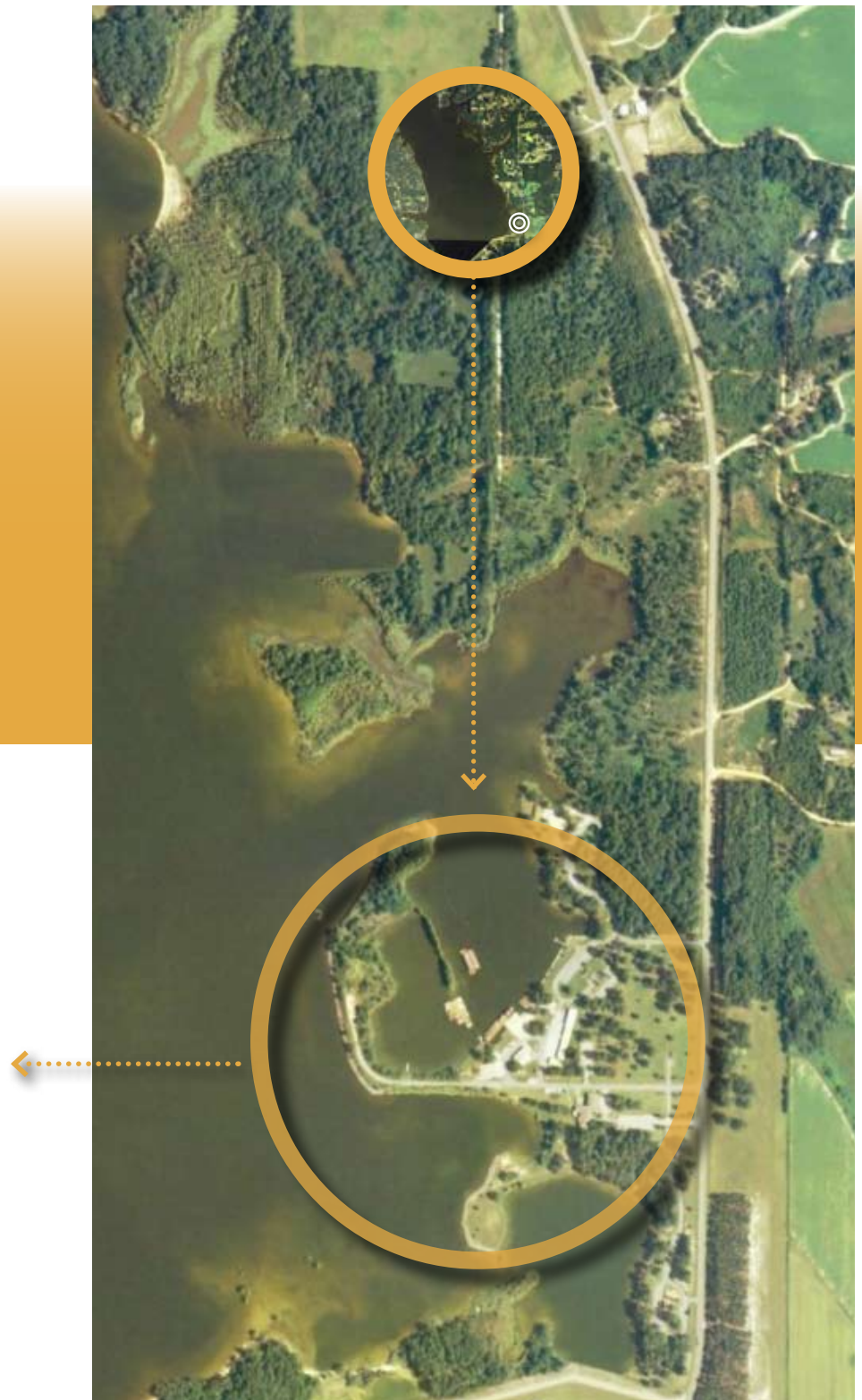
The end destination of the trail is downtown Fort Gaines. The trail is connected to downtown through several routes, one of which will lead through the interpretive center. These routes will serve both the residents of Fort Gaines and tourists who come to the area seeking a unique experience. Signage and information kiosks will help visitors pick their routes. Economic invigoration, education, and environmental appreciation should result from this new trail experience.

# Phenomenon Trail

## PLAYGROUND AND BEACH ACCESS

We propose a public use area on the East Bank near the Corps of Engineers buildings. With public beach access and lines and pipes connecting buildings to utility grids, this is a logical site for this project. We suggest the creation of a parking lot, playground area, beach access, and restrooms. The parking lot will allow parking for those accessing the Phenomenon Trail. Because this site is located midway along the trail, it provides an additional access point with convenient parking.

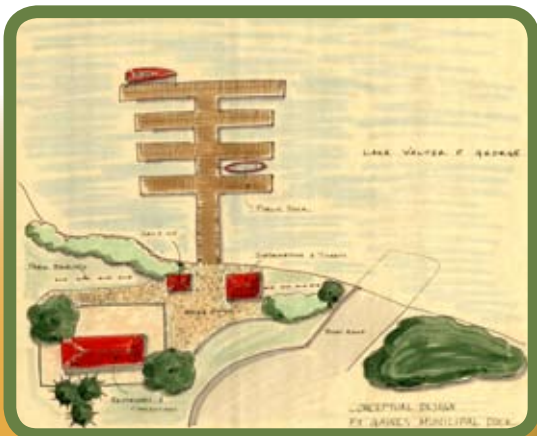
44



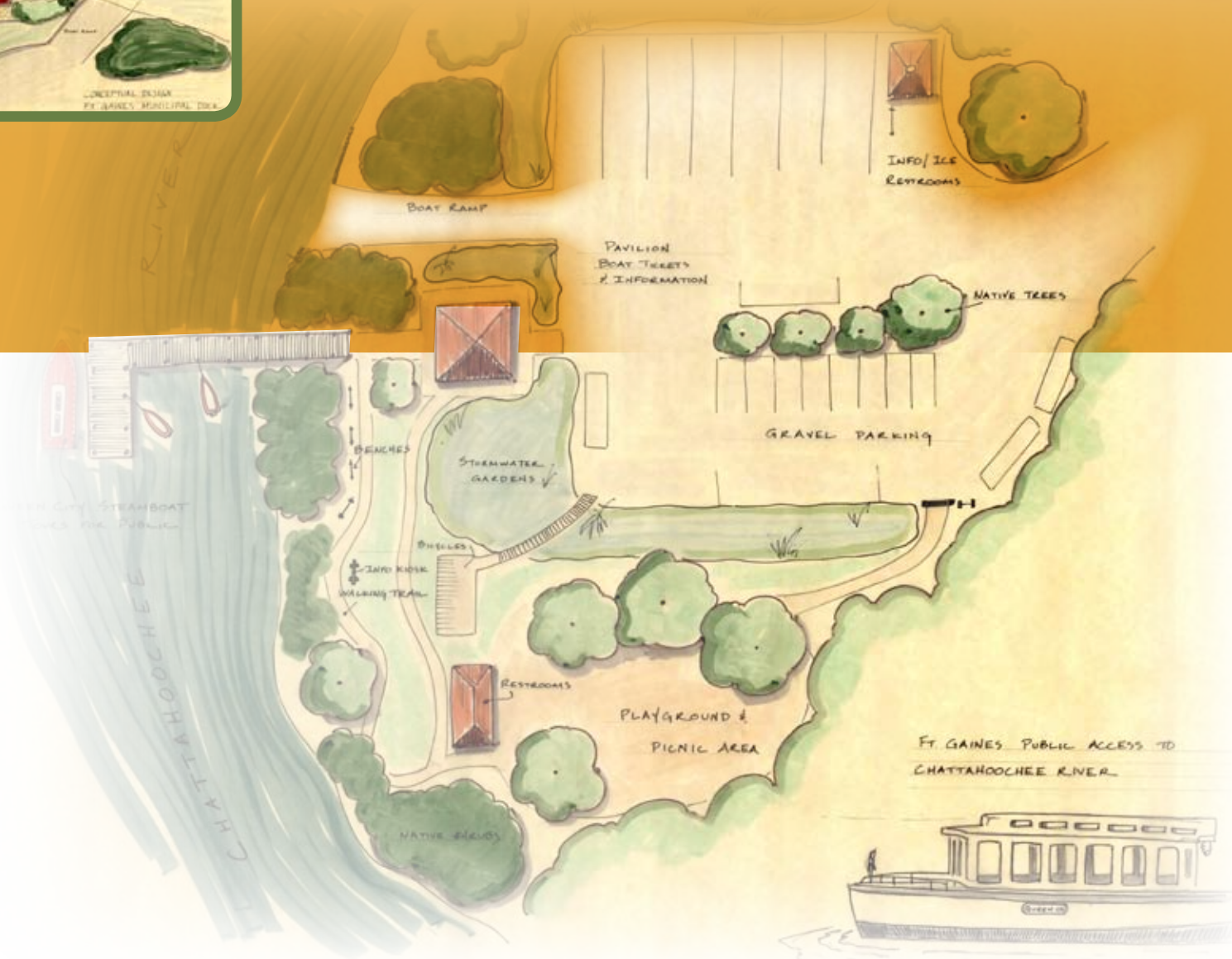


# Phenomenon Trail

## MUNICIPAL DOCKS FOR PUBLIC WATER ACCESS



The Phenomenon Trail will benefit by taking advantage of the proximity of the Chattahoochee River and Lake Walter F. George. In an attempt to keep the number of private docks down, larger public docks provide access to all. One dock is on the lake, and another is at the end of the Phenomenon Trail in walking distance from downtown Fort Gaines.



*Project Riverway*

# Phenomenon Trail

## SIGNAGE AND TRAIL MATERIALS



**Interpretive signage** is located at both at historical and natural sites along the Phenomenon Trail. Interpretive signs can be placed in areas featuring Relic Trilium, at Native American mounds on the Cemochechobee, as well as other sites.



**Directional signs** are located at the head of any spur trail branching off the Phenomenon Trail.

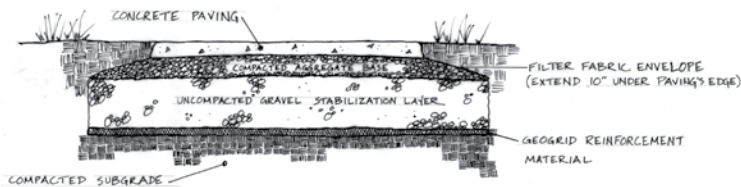


**Regulatory signs** are located approximately every 100 feet on the section of trail along the railroad bed. The sign could read: "Please don't go off the established paths and trails in order to protect the natural vegetation in this area."

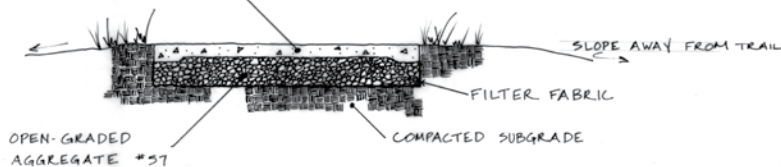
46

### PAVING MATERIALS FOR PATHS:

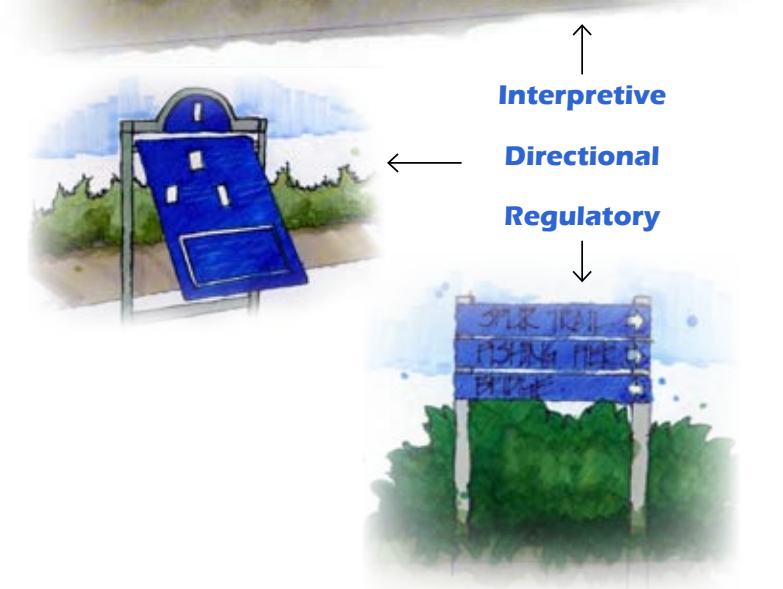
STABILIZED TRAIL FOR SATURATED SOIL CONDITIONS



POROUS CONCRETE:  
OPEN-GRADED AGGREGATE  
BOUND BY PORTLAND CEM.



POROUS CONCRETE MORE EFFECTIVE IN AREAS WITH WELL-DRAINED SOILS



↑  
**Interpretive**  
**Directional**  
**Regulatory**  
↓





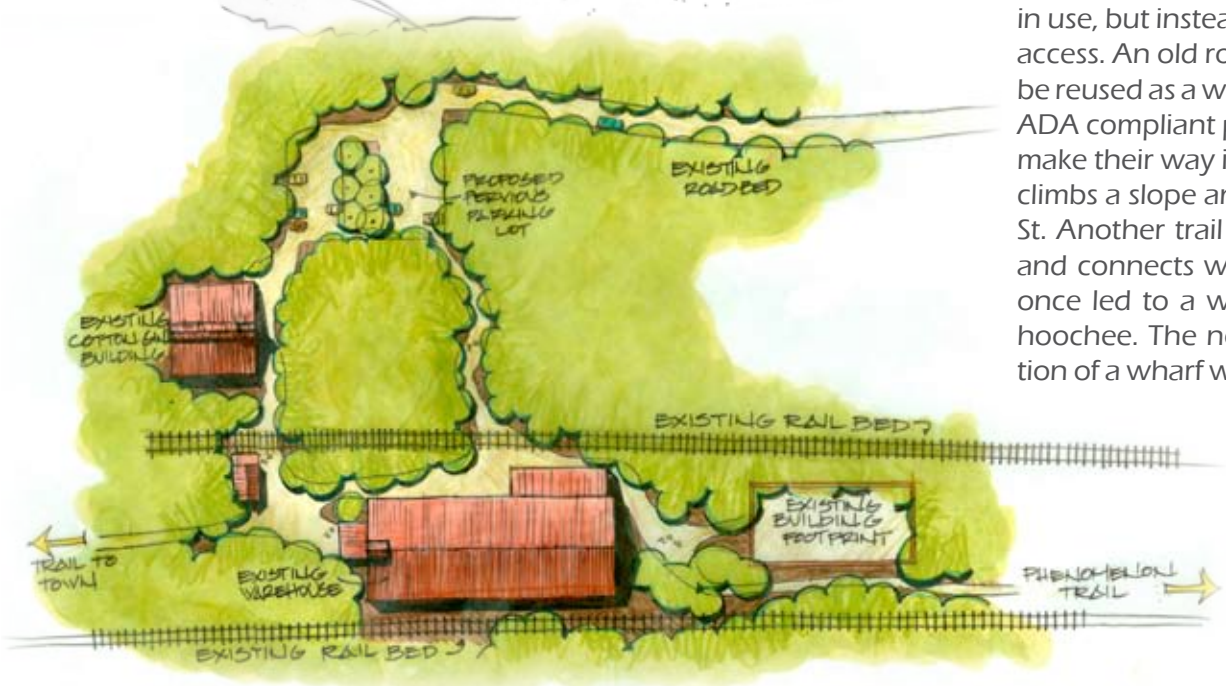
# Phenomenon Trail

## INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The southern terminus of the Phenomenon Trail is located at the site of Fort Gaines' riverside cotton mill complex. Today, a number of the structures still stand but are in danger of deteriorating beyond use if they continue to be ignored. Along the abandoned railbed, there is a long red warehouse which was once a cotton gin. A small structure that may have been used as an office also remains. Through a process of natural ecological succession these buildings tell the history of Fort Gaines in this overgrown, densely wooded area.

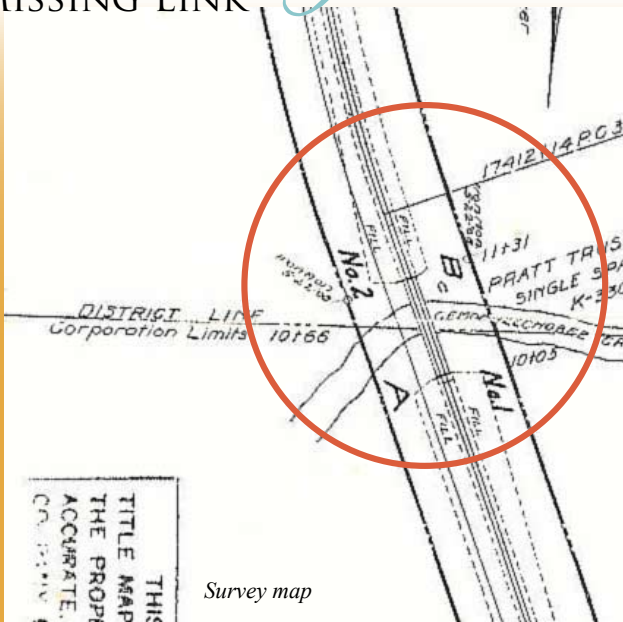
We propose the reuse of these structures to preserve the historic site and educate residents and visitors about the area. If given a mild rehabilitation, the structures can be saved from decay and used as an interpretive center, providing information and simple facilities for users of the Phenomenon Trail. The site will not be completely cleared of the existing hardwood forest, as it would have been in the days when the facility was in use, but instead selectively cleared to provide adequate trail access. An old roadbed that once provided access to town will be reused as a way to link the historic buildings with a previous, ADA compliant pavement. Pedestrians have several options to make their way into town. A branch off the Phenomenon Trail climbs a slope and connects to the northern dead end of Bluff St. Another trail continues south from the interpretive center and connects with the abandoned roadbed that once led to a wagon bridge over the Chattahoochee. The nearby river was once the location of a wharf where cotton barges unloaded

and delivered cotton to the gin. A dock for public access could be constructed on the bank of the river, with both pedestrian and vehicular access from the interpretive center.



# Phenomenon Trail

## THE MISSING LINK



Survey map



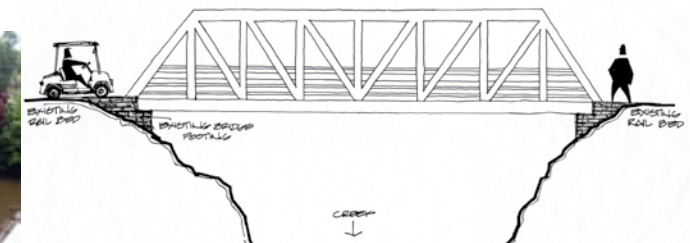
The Pratt Truss bridge type, identifiable by diagonal members slanting down and in towards the center, is considered to be one of the very best and economical designs, allowing for thinner diagonals. Following the railbed at this point, the Phenomenon Trail could cross a newly installed Pratt Truss bridge that utilizes existing historical bridge footings.



Bridge with overlook featuring interpretive signage

The current proposal for the Phenomenon Trail has a missing link. That missing link is a bridge that spans Chemocheechee Creek. Historically, a bridge crossed the creek on the now-abandoned Central of Georgia Railway. Inspection of the railroad's survey map shows that at this location in Fort Gaines, the bridge was a single span Pratt Truss.

The bridge may feature an overlook deck, providing users a vantage high above the creek. To give the bridge a historic feeling and to blend it with the environment, a weathered steel finish is suggested.





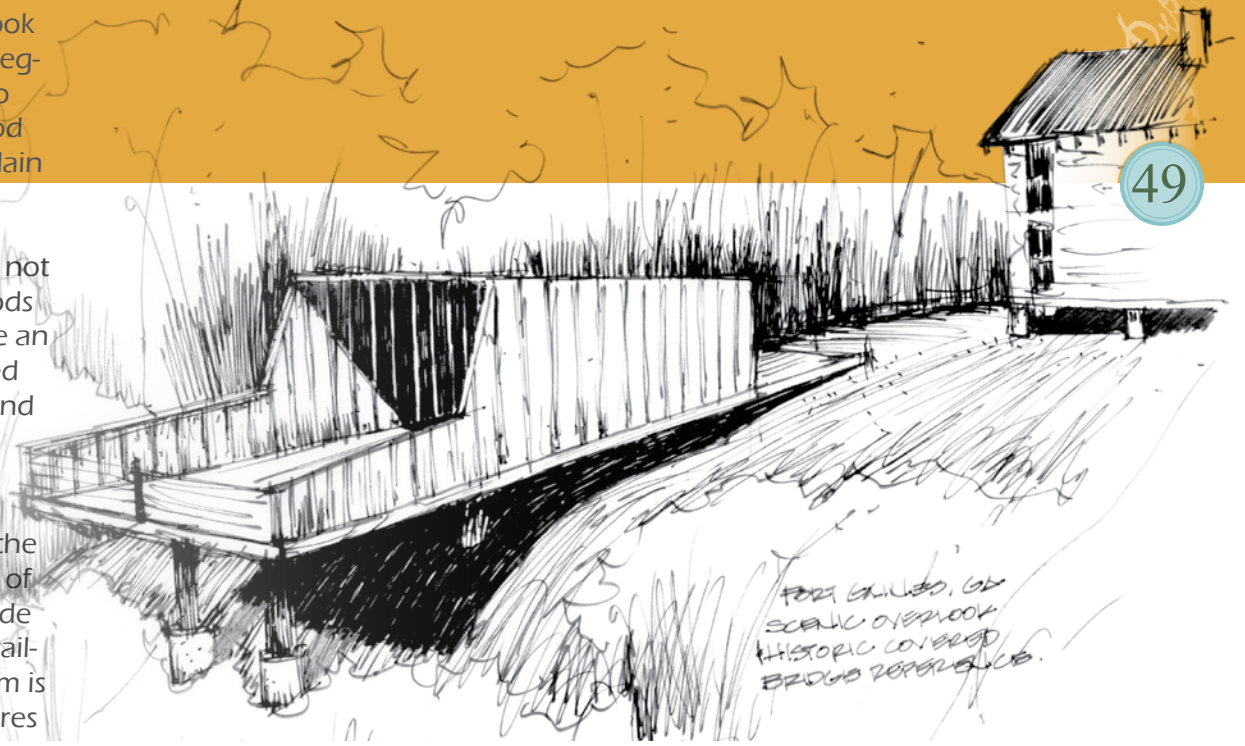
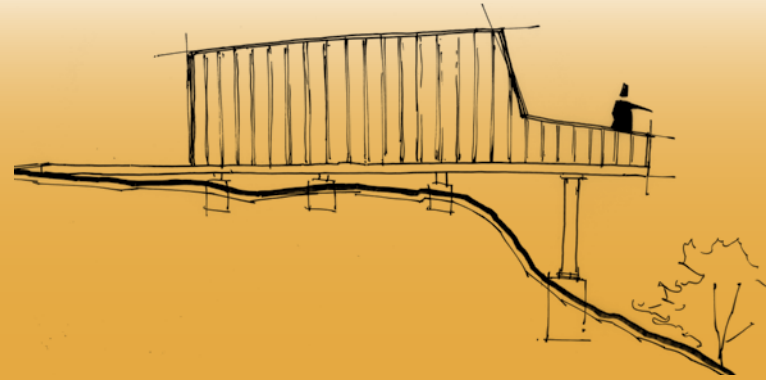
# Fort Gaines

## COVERED BRIDGE OUTLOOK

Historically, the gap between Fort Gaines and Alabama over the Chattahoochee River was connected by a large covered bridge. It was constructed in the Town-Truss style. Fort Gaines is perched atop a bluff that is higher than the Alabama bank, and it appears that a road leading partly down the bluff was the starting point of the bridge. However, the top of the bluff affords fantastic views of the river and is the location of the interesting cultural resources of the Frontier Village. To take advantage of the location, this scenic overlook aims to provide even better views with no vegetative obstructions while harkening back to the amazing bridge structure that once stood nearby. Informative signage on site will explain the history.

The structure itself is simple. Though it does not mimic the exact form or construction methods of the historic bridge, it is designed to create an interesting experience for users. It is accessed by an open wooden platform over flat ground that leads straight to the overlook end.

The entrance to the covered portion of the structure has a lower roof than the end, so the user experiences an opening, or expansion, of view as they move along. The ends of the side walls are slightly sloped down to solid side railings. However, when the end of the platform is reached, the railing is high tension metal wires attached with turnbuckles. This less intrusive barrier allows for a broader view over the river.



# *Project Riverway*

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PROJECTS DEVELOPED DURING THE  
SUMMER 2006  
CHATTAHOOCHE STUDIO  
@ UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Environmental and natural resources guide  
Historic sites and museums guide  
Opening doors through the outdoors  
Cotton trail tourism brochure  
Fishing tournaments for kids: fishing derby  
Web site development: RiverWay South  
Revitalization plan: indian heritage center  
Low impact river access  
Access & bait shops locator

# Chattahoochee Trace

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES GUIDE & HISTORIC SITES AND MUSEUMS GUIDE

These two guides to the Chattahoochee Trace region illustrate a selection of the many regional attractions available to visitors. The guides focus on the heart of the Chattahoochee Trace, which, in its entirety, crosses three states—Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Each of the guides is perforated by attraction so attractions can be separated and used as postcards. The Chattahoochee Trace offers endless opportunities for visitors to enjoy historic, scenic and recreational attractions.

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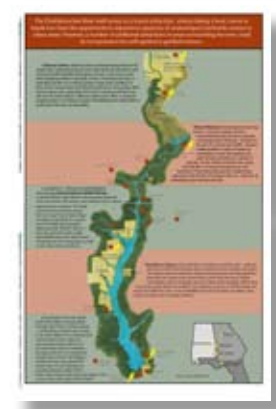
# Nature Tourism

## TOOLS FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Project RiverWay



The book "Opening Doors Through the Outdoors" covers a wide range of topics, from potential sources of funding to basic definitions of nature tourism and ecotourism, and includes two-page map highlighting potential lodging and attractions along the river. Those sites include F.D. Roosevelt State Park, Callaway Gardens, Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, Bluff Creek Park, Briar Creek Park, River Bend Park, Hatchechubbee Creek Park, Florence Marina State Park, Roanoke, GA, Roods Creek Indian Mounds, Providence Canyon, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Lakepoint Resort State Park, White Oak Creek Recreation Area, George T. Bagby State Park, Blue Springs State Park, Walter F. George Lock and Dam and the Phenomenon Trail. Other topics include possible applications for technology in the nature tourism industry and tips and suggestions for protecting natural resources and greenways.



**"Opening Doors Through the Outdoors - Nature Tourism in the Lower Chattahoochee Region"** is a 22-page tool for local stakeholders who have the potential to boost tourism in the Lower Chattahoochee region. Nature tourism is a viable industry: in 2001, wildlife-watching expenditures alone totaled \$38 billion in the U.S., according to a survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And the Lower Chattahoochee has valuable resources that make the area a prime spot for a nature tourism effort. Tourists seeking opportunities in birding, kayaking, boating, canoeing, hiking and fishing can find a wide range of activities to satisfy their interests.

But for any nature tourism effort to succeed, collaboration is essential. The Chattahoochee region is so full of boundaries, from state and county lines to city and personal property boundaries, that it seems natural to encourage a divide between communities. Inherent in ecotourism, which encourages understanding and appreciating whole ecosystems, is the need for local residents to think regionally, but uniting residents and businesses in three states seems out of reach without a central entity with the ability to join their efforts. RiverWay South, a nonprofit based in Columbus, GA, is that entity.

The potential partners for a nature tourism effort are endless, but possible partners include: Georgia Department of Economic Development, Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (a division of the Department of Natural Resources), Land Trusts, Convention and Visitors Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, Regional Advisory Councils, Southwest Georgia Tourism, Regional Development Centers, local school systems, military, private businesses, Georgia Canoeing Association, Department of Agriculture, genealogical associations, Georgia Geocachers Association, Army Corps of Engineers, state parks, Great Lakes of Georgia, Southern Rivers, Historic South, Presidential Pathways, Southwest Georgia Escapes, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge and the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.



# Cotton Trail

## TOURISM BROCHURE



Cotton Crown



Cotton Fan

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Cotton Trail Map

**Cotton Gin Tour**  
Fort Gaines, GA is home to a historic, working cotton gin at the end of the Phenomenon trail.  
Open Daily.



**Plantation Tour**  
Visit by mule-drawn wagon the Smith-Eagle Plantation in Eufaula, AL. This working plantation will be open to the public for tours on weekends 10-5 and weekdays by appointment.

**Chattahoochee Cotton Trail**  
TOUR THE HISTORY OF COTTON ON THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

**King Cotton**  
King Cotton can reign again! Go from fields to mills and back again from history and today. Cotton can be made king again through touring cotton mills, plantations, and cotton gins. Revive the cotton industry and economies of the communities the Cotton King created through today's tour of the history of cotton on the Chattahoochee River!

**Walking tour starts at the Bibb Mill Cotton Exposition**

**From Columbus to Fort Gaines, Georgia**

**River Barge Tour**  
Travelers can experience the laid-back pace of barge travel on the Chattahoochee River daily from 9-12.

**Cotton Gin Tour**  
Fort Gaines, GA is home to an historic, working cotton gin at the end of the Phenomenon trail. Open daily.

**Cotton Mill Tours**  
Visit Bibb City Mill, Columbus, GA. The refurbished mill will house the Columbus School of Art and Design, two museums, and nine retail stores featuring cotton products. Modern lofts provide residences for students and craftsmen. Self-guided walking tours of existing mill town, Bibb City.

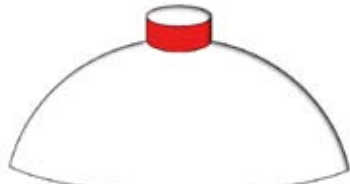
**Plantation Tour**  
Visit by mule-drawn wagon the Smith-Eagle Plantation in Eufaula, AL. This working plantation will be open to the public for tours on weekends 10-5 and weekdays by appointment.

**Chattahoochee Cotton Trail**

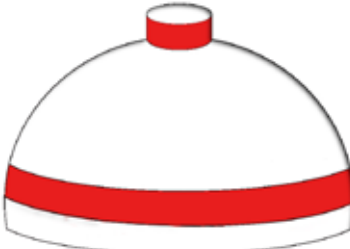
OUTSIDE OF BROCHURE

INSIDE OF BROCHURE

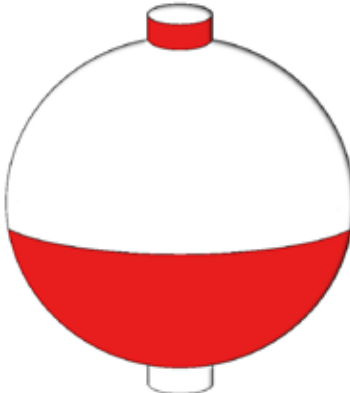
Fishing Derby Invitation Design - Layer 1



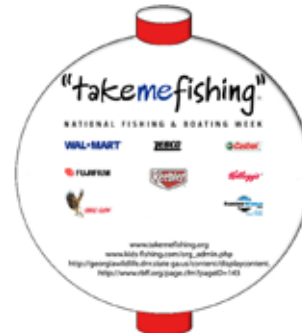
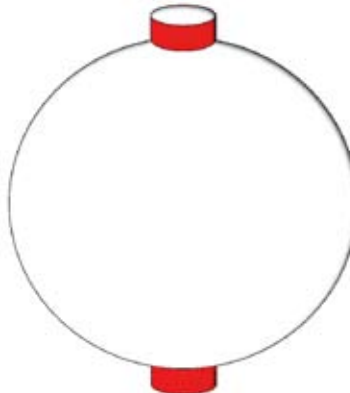
Layer 2



Layer 3



Layers 4, 5 and 6



# Fishing Derby

## FISHING TOURNAMENT FOR CHILDREN

A fishing derby is a sponsored fishing event where children get the chance to catch fish with their parents or a state park ranger. A designated area on the river will be chosen and children will be given an allotted amount of time to fish. Equipment will be provided for those who don't have their own. An educational session will be given before fishing begins. Afterwards, refreshments and awards will be given.

We chose a fishing derby for its ability to get children involved with the river and the outdoors. Getting children involved in fishing at a young age teaches them proper etiquette and safety around the river. It also teaches them to be good stewards of the river. Also, if children are involved with the river they will be more likely to speak up when they see people misusing it.

Project Riverway



# Chattahoochee INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER | REVITALIZATION PLAN



Interpretive Signage  
 Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*



(1)\*

The Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center was built to “celebrate the culture and accomplishments of the Indians who inhabited the Chattahoochee River Valley until their removal west in the 1830’s.” This monument is intended to be a “gesture of friendship and reconciliation” to the Creek Indians who have been displaced and act as a “tangible representation of expanding awareness and greater understanding among people who once believed themselves bitter enemies.”



(2)\*

CIHC showcases a marble and steel sacred fire sculpture, reaching 20 feet high. The sculpture is located in the center of an open plaza that displays a paving pattern representative of traditional Creek dances. East of the plaza lies an overlook intended to provide views to the ball field below.



(3)\*

The existing site is rarely visited more than a few times per year, possibly because it offers little protection from the intense South Georgia heat. Views of the nearby ball field has been blocked by pines planted in an attempt to control erosion. The ball field also receives little use.



(4)\*

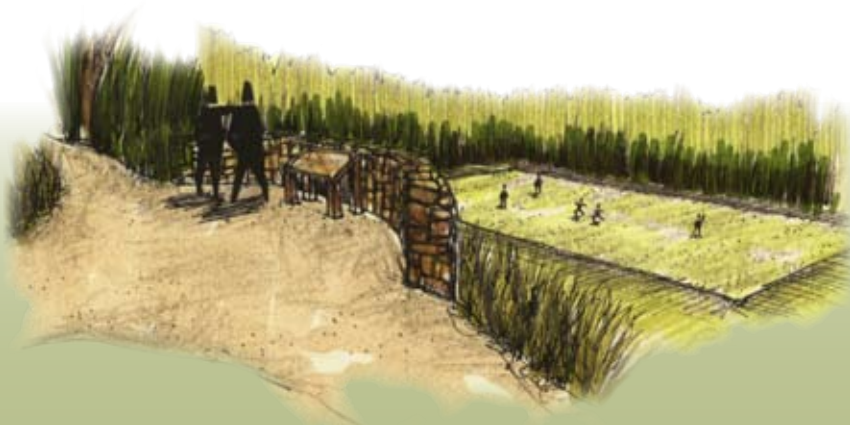


(5)\*



\*Traditional Native American Plant Species: (1) Greenbriar, *Smilax rotundifolia* (2) Pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana* (3) Tobacco, *Nicotiana tabacum* (4) Staghorn Sumac, *Rhus typhina* (5) Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*





#### OVERLOOK TO BALLFIELD

Hillside to be planted by low-growing, native species to prevent erosion as well as allowing view to ball field below. Multi-use ballfield intended to traditional *Pokkecheta* ball play but also may be utilized for soccer or football play.

The proposed revitalization plan includes several improvements targeted toward bringing new interest to the site as well as creating a more user friendly space. The largest improvement is the addition of the Educational Garden, displaying traditional edible and medicinal plant species used by the Creek people who once inhabited this area. The plant collection will be accompanied by interpretive signage identifying the species as well as explaining its traditional use. Within the garden, shade trees and tables will provide the visitor with a place to sit and reflect. To regain access to views from the overlook, this plan suggests the hillside between the overlook and the ball field be planted with low-growing, native species. The ball field below will retain its original use as the site for *Pokkecheta*, a traditional Creek ball game, but this plan also proposes the use of the field be extended to soccer and football games.



SCULPTURE GARDEN  
Sacred Fire Sculpture



EDUCATIONAL GARDEN  
Planted with traditional edible and medicinal species used by *Creek Indians*

# Web site Design

BY BOXKITE SYNDICATE

RiverWay South is designed to work with communities within the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint (ACF) watershed. The organization's long-range goal is to preserve, protect and promote the unique heritage of the watershed while infusing new economic life into those ACF communities struggling to survive. Although three states and three rivers are involved, ACF represents one magnificent river system.

RiverWay South is a not for profit organization funded by a USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant.

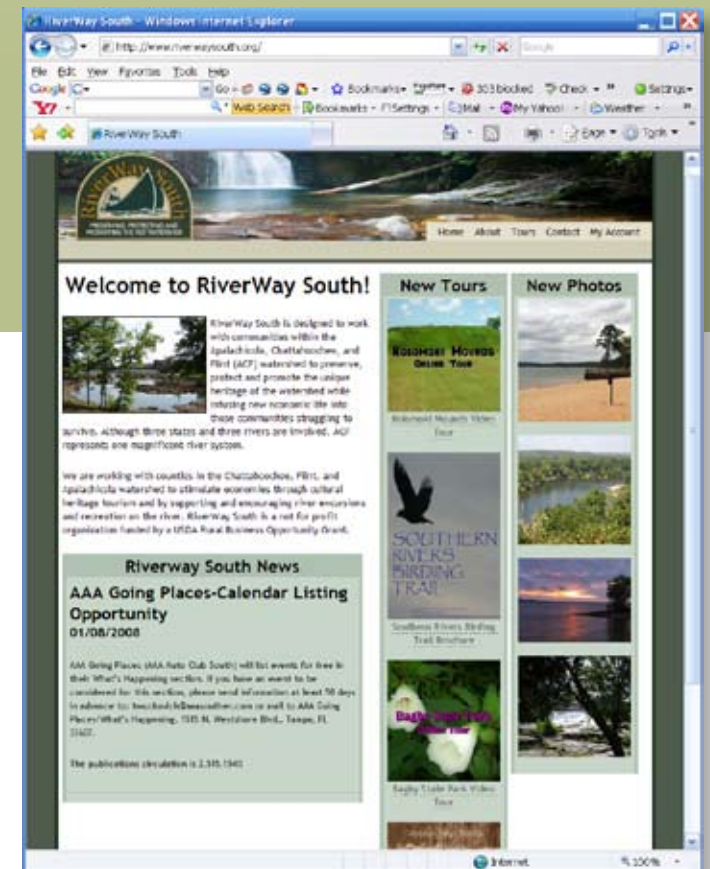
We are working with counties in the Chattahoochee, Flint, and Apalachicola watershed to stimulate economic activity through cultural heritage tourism and by supporting and encouraging river excursions and recreation on the river.



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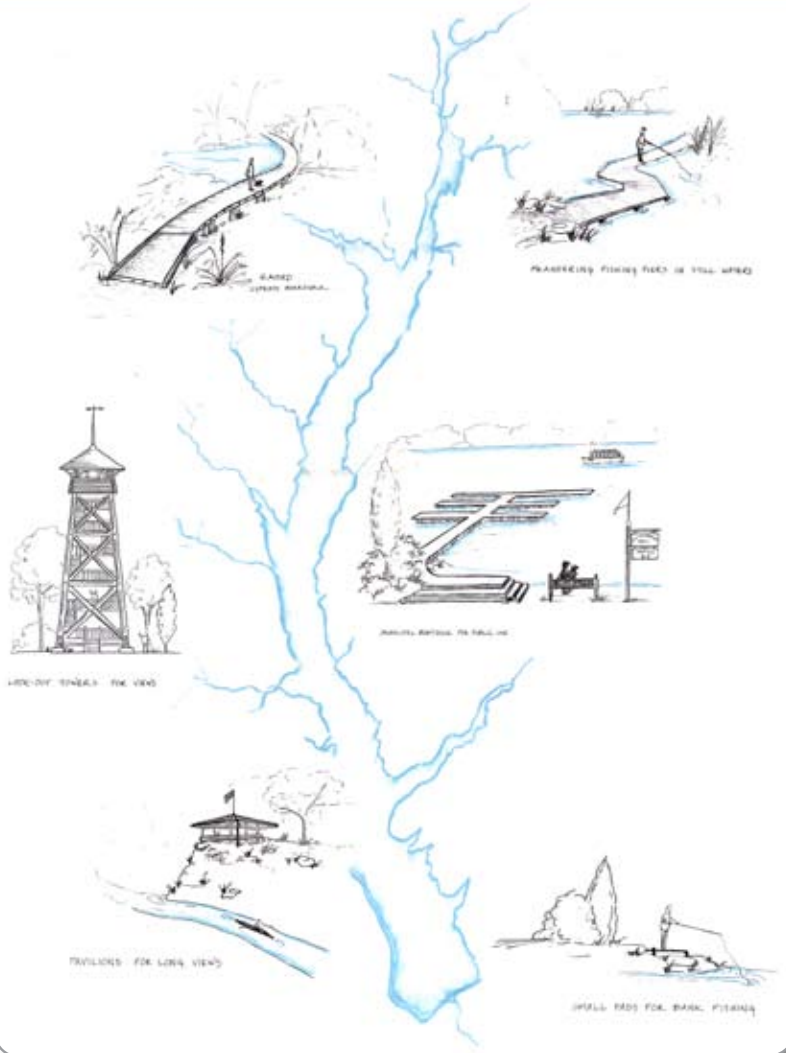
First Web site launched in 2006



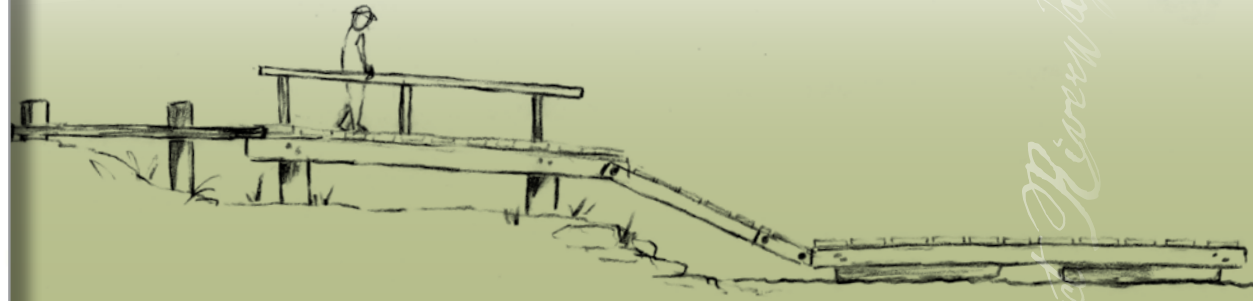
Current Riverway Web site



Low Impact River Access  
Chattahoochee River Corridor



Chattahoochee River  
LOW IMPACT RIVER ACCESS  
AND HISTORIC MARKERS



*Project Riverway*

HISTORIC MARKERS



Interpretive signs for Roods Indian Mounds and the City of Roanoke should be visible from both land and water if possible, so that boaters can read the signs without having to leave their boats. Locating these markers off-site but in the local vicinity allows visitors to be informed about the history of the sites, yet since they do not pinpoint exact locations, may help to protect them from damage or vandalism.



# Chattahoochee River

## ACCESS & BAIT SHOPS LOCATOR



### Bait Shops

1. Laney's Bait & Tackle
2. Bulldog Bait & Tackle
3. Bluff Creek Bait & Tackle
4. Kite's Grocery Bait & Supplies
5. Lake Eufaula Tackle Box
6. Driftwood General Store Bait & Tackle
7. Bee-Line Bait & Tackle
8. L & J Tackle
9. Little Al's Bait & Grocery
10. Bee-Line Bait & Tackle
11. Bee-Line Bait & Tackle
12. Hobo Pantry Bait & Supplies
13. Lakeside Oil Co. Bait & Supplies
14. Bee-Line Bait & Tackle
15. Midlake Bait & Tackle
16. Biddies Country Store Bait & Supplies
17. Wilson's Landing Bait & Supplies
18. Buddy's Corner Bait & Supplies
19. Tommy's Fish Center Restaurant
20. Bailey's Bait & Supplies

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### River Access

1. Uchee Recreational Area
2. Bluff Creek Park
3. Hannahatchee Creek Park
4. Hatchechubbee Creek Park
5. Florence Marina State Park
6. Rood Creek Park
7. Lakepoint Resort State Park
8. Old Creek Town Park
9. Lake Eufaula Campground
10. Chewalla Creek Marina
11. River Bluff Park
12. Barbour Creek Landing
13. Cool Branch Park
14. Cheneyhatchee Creek Park
15. White Oak Creek Park
16. Pataula Creek Park
17. Pataula Point
18. Wilson's Landing
19. Sandy Branch Park
20. Cotton Hill Park
21. George T. Bagby State Park  
Lake Walter F. George Lodge & Marina
22. Hardridge Access
23. Highland Park Recreational Area



**2006 Credits  
Project Riverway**

**Interns**

Laura Evans  
Mike Sutton  
Trevor Sarter  
Scott Herzog  
Amy Edgerton  
Joe Pung

**Students**

Keyes Williamson  
Anna Day  
Melissa Tufts

**Faculty**

Leigh Askew  
Danny Bivins  
Jan Coyne  
Pratt Cassity  
Liz Kramer  
Jennifer Lewis  
Eleonora Machado  
Leara D. Rhodes  
Alfie Vick

**2007 Credits  
Project Riverway**

**Students**

Thomas Barger  
Tiffany McGowan  
Brian Ray  
Hayes Fairchild  
Lydia Doyle  
Mike Sutton

**Lead Faculty**

Leigh Askew  
Danny Bivins

**Faculty**

Jennifer Lewis  
Eleonora Machado  
Leara D. Rhodes  
Alfie Vick

**2008 Credits  
to be continued...**

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE!

*Project Riverway*

## THANK YOUS

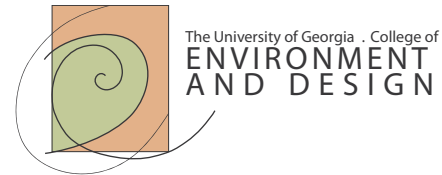
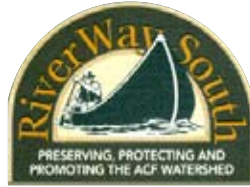
**BERT BRANTLEY**, Georgia Department of Economic Development | **CHERYL SMITH**, Georgia Department of Economic Development, Tourism | **HANNAH SMITH**, Athens/Clarke County Convention Center | **JIM YOUNGQUIST**, UGA-Fanning Institute, Regional Development | **JIM KUNDELL**, Carl Vinson Institute of Government | **SHANNON KETTERING**, Vice President, Ecos Environmental Design, Inc. | **JEANNE CYRIAQUE**, Historic Preservation Division | **ALLISON SLOCUM**, Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center | **DOUG PURCELL**, Executive Director, Historic Chattahoochee Commission | **DAVID CAMPBELL**, Owner and Curator, Sutton's Corner Frontier Country Store Museum | **EWELL BELL**, Property and Maintenance Manager | **AMELIA VALENCIC**, Director of Marketing and Development at Port Columbus | **BECKY CHAMPION** | **BILLY WINN** | **JAMES** | **CAROLE RUTLAND**, Executive Director Riverway South Bill Edwards, Executive Director, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper | **BILL KOCH** | **CAROLYN COPELAND** | **MITCH DRIEBE** | **KEN PENUEL** | **DANNY BIVINS**, Fanning Institute | **LEIGH ASKEW**, Fanning Institute | **JAN COYNE**, Fanning Institute | **PRATT CASSITY**, Center for Community Design and Preservation | **ALFRED VICK**, Professor, College of Environment and Design | **LIZ KRAMER**, Natural Resources Spatial Analysis Laboratory | **ELEONORA MACHADO**, Center for Community Design and Preservation | **JENNIFER**

**MARTIN LEWIS**, Center for Community Design and Preservation | **LEARA D. RHODES**, Professor, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication | **DONNA GABRIEL**, College of Environment and Design | **LEN NEIGHBORS**, Creative Director, Boxkite Syndicate | **ROY BEESON**, Videographer | **DR. CAROLE RUTLAND**, Columbus State University | **MR. BILLY WINN**, Columbus, GA | **MR. JACK WINGATE & WINGATE LODGE STAFF** | **MR. GERALD LONG**, Bainbridge, GA | **MRS. AMANDA GLOVER**, Bainbridge, GA | **CAPT. JOHN D. DAVIS**, Dothan, AL | **MR. ROD DODGEN**, George T. Bagby State Park | **MS. ANNETTE G. BRADLEY**, George T. Bagby State Park | **MR. MIKE ROBINSON**, George T. Bagby State Park | **MR. JAMES MCCLINTON**, Columbus State University | **EDDIE WOODHOUSE**, Columbus State University | **DONNA GABRIEL**, SED, UGA | **BECKY KELLEY**, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division | **ANGELYN R. MEWBORN**, Program Manager Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites | **JOHN THOMPSON**, Chief of Operations State Parks and Historic Sites | **SHANNON O'BRIEN WILDER**, Ph.D. Director Office of Service-Learning, UGA | **DR. ART DUNNING**, Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, UGA | **TRISH KALIVODA**, Associate Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, UGA | **DR. KAREN HOLT**, Director Fanning Institute, **SCOTT WEINBERG**, Interim Dean, CED, UGA

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Public Service and Outreach  
Office of Service-Learning

**External**  
Georgia State Parks and  
Historic Sites Division  
Riverway South  
Columbus Water Works (2006)



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## The University of Georgia

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This report was produced and coordinated by the  
University of Georgia's Fanning Institute,  
College of Environment and Design and  
Center for Community Design and Preservation

To download an electronic copy of this report visit us at:

[www.riverwaysouth.org](http://www.riverwaysouth.org)

or call Danny Bivins at (706) 583.0856

The project is part of the Alliance for Quality Growth (AOG), a university group designed to increase Georgians' awareness of efficient land use by pooling experts from across the University of Georgia campus.