Project Riverway


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).
Projects Developed during

Three Summers 2006-08

Chatthahoochee Studio
@ University of Georgia

2008 Projects:

APALACHICOLA
Riverfront Park: 3 designs
Riverwalk Park: 3 designs
City Square: 5 designs
Marks Memorial: 5 designs
Battery Park: 2 designs
Boardwalk Design: 3 designs
Quick Fixes:
1: Storefront Revitalization
2: Apalachicola Exchange
3: Waterfront Infill
4: Improving High Cotton
5: The Sounds of Apalachicola

CHATTAHOOCHEE
Chatthahoochee Greenways
Old Victory Bridge
Gholson Park
Hopkins Park
Chatthahoochee Inn
Bio-retention Garden
Welcome Center

Hiking Trail map/brochure
Action Plan for Riverway South
Brochure templates
Lake Seminole plant brochure
Historic roadways: signage
Historic roadways: Federal Trail
Chatthahoochee 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 128)
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

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

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

Summer 2006 Study of the Lower Chattahoochee River Corridor
Summer 2007 Study of the Lower Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers
Summer 2008 Study of the Lower Chattahoochee and Apalachicola
In June of 2006, the Fanning Institute launched Project Riverway, a three year service-learning based course designed to re-engage communities along the lower Chattahoochee River with the river itself. Relying on community engagement and focusing on asset-based community development, Project Riverway brought students from the University of Georgia to towns and cities like Columbus and Ft. Gaines, Georgia, Ft. Mitchell, Alabama, and Chattahoochee and Apalachicola, Florida. By spending time in the region and talking to the residents, students were able to gain insights as to the wants and needs of these communities, seeing for themselves how time has forgotten many of these places and how poverty has taken over. This is the sense of place information often not available when only sitting in a classroom, and it is vital to creating and developing plans with a community and not just for them.

During year one, projects focused on celebrating the region: its rich Native American history and the recognition of the cotton industry that once dominated the area. From addressing the housing needs of low income residents and the recreational needs of young community members, Project Riverway sought to build communities up by using their existing assets and planning for a brighter future.
As year two took Riverway students further downstream, their work again focused on the assets in place, and how they could be used to once again benefit the communities. Myriad opportunities exist for exciting and new tourism opportunities. From Kolomoki Indian Mounds to the “Little Grand Canyon” to the Chattahoochee River itself, students developed hiking trail maps, downloadable podcasts of regional assets, and driving tours of the region. Conversations with residents and business owners in the area strongly influenced the students’ work, and provided the communities with usable tools for real economic development.

The third and final year of Project Riverway brought the students and faculty across state lines into the Florida towns of Chattahoochee and Apalachicola. As we changed states, the Chattahoochee River became the Apalachicola River as it flows out of Lake Seminole, and in both communities, students looked at opportunities for community redevelopment, from downtown streetscapes to riverside parks to a riverwalk along the Apalachicola Bay.

As the Fanning Institute concludes this three-year project, we recognize that it would not have been possible without internal and external support. Our partners in this effort included: Riverway South, UGA College of Environment and Design, UGA Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, UGA Office of Service-Learning, UGA Vice President’s Office for Public Service and Outreach, the cities of Columbus, Ft. Gaines, Chattahoochee, and Apalachicola, and every person and organization that provided invaluable assistance along the way. While this final report does not truly capture the essence of this journey, it presents to you the work that was done by students for and with these communities. We thank all involved and encourage you to begin your own journey down the Chattahoochee and discover for yourself the amazing people and places you are sure to encounter along the way.

The Chattahoochee Studio

This course began in 2006 as a result of the vision and funding of the Fanning Institute. It continued 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 Apalachicola, 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.
**APALACHICOLA**

Apalachicola, a sleepy Florida town on the “Forgotten Coast,” is a remarkable place. Once one of the busiest port cities on the Gulf of Mexico, timber and then cotton were once shipped down river from Georgia and Alabama, following the Chattahoochee River to its confluence with the Flint, where it becomes the Apalachicola River. Following the collapse of “King Cotton,” Apalachicola turned its focus to its own unique resource as an economic engine: the oyster. The seafood industry has brought great acclaim to this small town, and its still working waterfront makes it a unique and intriguing place to visit. And as more and more people visit Apalachicola to bask in its charm, the city has started to focus on community improvements that will benefit residents and visitors alike. The charge to Project Riverway students was: to create site specific designs for existing parks and newly purchased lands; to create a riverwalk that connects one side of town to the other along the waterfront; and to make recommendations for building revitalization and reuse. Students spent several days in Apalachicola: talking with city leaders, business owners, and interested residents about their visions for the community; documenting the specific locations that would be their project sites; and embracing the sense of place that is uniquely Apalachicola. Their designs tell only part of the story of this wonderful community, and for the rest of the tale, you’ll need to pack a bag and head downriver.
Projects Developed during the Summer 2008 Apalachicola Studio @ University of Georgia

Riverfront Park: 3 designs
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This is Apalachicola’s central park; situated on the water, between Avenues D and E, it is the closest open space the city’s commercial core. There are two main issues facing the park, but they are ultimately closely related. The first is views. The views down Avenues D and E, and to a lesser extent through a parking lot mid block between them, are highly valued. The view of open sky above the water is particularly important. Secondly, the site has no shade. A single round Christmas Tree is the most prominent vegetation on site; otherwise it is mostly turf. We found the park to be an uncomfortable place to linger during the summer, due to this lack of shade. Providing shade while maintaining views is the challenge we faced.

By placing small trees in two groups, the first between Avenue D and the parking lot, and the second between Avenue E and the parking lot, we felt we could meet both needs. These trees would serve to frame the view through the parking lot, while keeping each avenue’s view open.

We explored three different options for the site’s design, focusing on the idea of flow, mimicking the Apalachicola river. Another possibility we explored was the fate of the parking lot across the street, which is currently used for bank parking. An infill development which was situated on the northern half of the lot and left the southern half as a plaza would create a space that is on axis with the center of the park, further tying it into the city. In all the plans, the Christmas Tree remains as a distinct focal point.
SITE FEATURES

LEAVINS SEAFOOD
Active Oyster Processing Facility

CHRISTMAS TREE
Used for Community Holiday Gatherings

OLD BOAT
Photo-Op for Tourists

COTTON EXCHANGE
Community Arts Building

MID BLOCK PARKING LOT
Owned by Bank across the Street

GRADY MARKET
Retail

EMPTY BUILDING
No roof remains. Currently full of plants.

PHOTO INVENTORY

Using one of the three proposed options as reference, this inventory illustrates relevant existing features of the site and the adjacent areas, as well as views into and out of the site.
VIEW AND SHADE STUDY
The scheme below was used to determine appropriate places for shade trees.

Vertical Garden
Use plants on a vertical surface to screen buildings on either end of the park, which don’t contribute to the space. These features can have a sculptural quality, and be illuminated at night. Seen from Avenues D and E, they will have a narrow profile, which is seen as a vertical element.

View Preservation
Note that the shade trees and vertical gardens do not affect the view of water and sky.
**OPTION A**
The sinuous curves of this plan resemble the Apalachicola’s course as it flows into the bay. Shade trees are planted in raised beds, with seating walls around the edge. These seating walls face into the space on one side, and out to the street or the boardwalk on the other, providing a variety of scenes to watch. To screen the sides of adjacent buildings, vertical gardens could be erected at either end of the park.

**PLAZA OPTION**
An infill building on the northern half of this parking lot could help to frame this plaza, and give it life; restaurants which open into the plaza could have outdoor dining areas with views of the river. A gurgling fountain would mask the noise of traffic, and make the space feel cooler. Sitting under shade trees in the plaza, with views of the sunny center of the park across the street would create a sense of prospect and relief. A raised crosswalk which connects this plaza with the park would link the two spaces.
OPTION B

This option places the shade trees on small berms, rising a few feet above the grass, like bluffs along a river in miniature. The mounds jut into the sidewalk, and the boardwalk comes right up to their edge. Designed as a relaxing place to sit and relax, these are situated so that each has a unique view, and relationship to the street and boardwalk. Between the two lines of hills is a river of grass, flowing from the intersection of Water Street and Avenue D toward the Christmas Tree. When travelling north on Water Street, the view of the Christmas Tree will be framed, inviting users to pass through the space. Two mounds are set into either end of the park, anchoring it where it meets the adjacent property.
**OPTION C**
This represents a blending of elements from each. The axis from Water Street to the Christmas Tree is maintained from Option B. The vertical gardens and raised planters with seating walls from Option A help define the space. Unique to this design is a rectangular fountain, which balances out the Christmas Tree. The space is generally very open, maintaining the loose feel that the park currently has. The simple rectangular forms of the design mimic the overall shape of the site; their relationship to each other, floating in the park, is reminiscent of boats on the water.
Apalachicola’s Central Park

IDEAS FOR RIVERFRONT PARK

LIGHTING CONCEPT
(Shown with Option A) Illuminate Vertical Garden and Christmas Tree all year round. Light the ground and boardwalk with low level path lights. Provide light under trees.

LIGHTING DETAIL
Fixture shapes inspired by shells
Apalachicola’s Riverwalk Park

Riverwalk Park: Location

The site for Riverwalk Park is located west of downtown and seen as a major gateway to the riverfront in this area of town. To the left of the property is the popular restaurant and store, Papa Joe’s, as well as Scipio Creek Marina. Further upstream is the Scipio Creek Mooring Basin, which, in the future, may serve as a unloading station, repair shop, fuel shop, and market for the town. Currently, the Estuarine Research Center is also near this location which brings an important environmental education source to the community. To the east of the Riverwalk Park site is the Water Street Inn and Marina which serves as one of the primary places for tourists to stay in Apalachicola.

The main access road to the site and the adjacent points of interest is Market Street. Across the street from Riverwalk Park is the Chapman Botanical Gardens which has recently been turned over to the state, and they have received funding to revamp the gardens, making it a more desirable destination. The Orman House, across Market Street, is a state owned historical site that is open five days a week and showcases an important era in Apalachicola’s history. Right now, construction of the new Veteran’s Memorial Park is being built directly in front of the Orman House in homage to fallen service members.

The Riverwalk Park site is surrounded by activities that can be utilized in a number of ways by both locals and tourists alike. There are three proposed options on how to best use the site to suit the town’s needs and although each one is different, they each meet a particularly unique function for the town.
Apalachicola’s Riverwalk Park

OPTION A: EDUCATION IS THE MAIN THEME

Learn Your Watershed Feature

In this option, education is the main theme. Taking inspiration from Mud Island in Memphis, Tennessee, the park could showcase a “Learn Your Watershed” feature that would allow visitors to walk the Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers downstream to Apalachicola and the Gulf of Mexico. Educational signage displaying important facts about the history of the rivers and the towns along it would be an interactive destination for locals and visitors alike. The trail would flow to the shrimp boat water feature which represents Apalachicola and terminates at the marsh that signifies the Gulf of Mexico and the end of the watershed.

Plant Material

While visiting Apalachicola, the historical presence of orange trees was mentioned and Riverwalk Park is an excellent space to showcase them. Not only could they be a unique snack source for park visitors, but their placement along the access road serves as a directional guide to the park and a calming transition for pedestrians coming from the somber Veterans Memorial. Cypress trees are also included in the planting plan as a reforestation project and educational feature highlighting their historical significance to the coastal communities.

Connectivity to Surroundings

A raised crosswalk would be constructed across Market Street connecting the access road to Riverwalk Park and Martin Luther King Drive. As a design feature, the material choice for the crosswalk would be the brick pavers, similar to those used in Veterans Memorial Park. The meadow along front of Market Street could be seeded with native wildflowers drawing a connection with the Chapman Botanical Gardens which is located across the street. The fan detail that is found in the boardwalks of Apalachicola, is unique and lends itself to a radial design vocabulary for the park. These small details intend to link the park to Apalachicola as a whole and provide a unified style in the architecture of the town.

Vehicular and Parking Access

Due to the complexity and variety of activities surrounding the new park space, it was fitting to utilize the easement connecting Commerce Street as a thoroughfare for vehicular traffic and as a way to link up all the points of interest. The city’s new parking lot is underused due to lack of signage but if remedied through the addition of signs, it could meet the parking needs for the Riverwalk Park and the surrounding points of interest. Parking for Riverwalk Park would be limited to handicap parking and temporary loading and unloading for people using the fish cleaning stations.
Apalachicola's Riverwalk Park

Option A: Education is the Main Theme

**Water Feature**
The seafood industry is a distinguishing characteristic of Apalachicola, and what better inspiration to use for a wading pool and water feature, than the shrimp boat. This design feature gives a place for locals to cool down and play during the summer months and serves as a unique point of interest for tourists too.

**Shade Sail Structures**
Incorporating these shade structures draws back to the nautical characteristic of the town and provides greatly desired shade for visitors to the park. Movable tables and chairs in this space will allow for groups of all sizes to sit comfortably and interact with each other.

**Tower**
The lookout tower is a fun feature that allows visitors the opportunity to view the town from a different perspective. The design of tower resembles the pier detail used along the boardwalk which links the Park to the waterfront.

**The Building**
The proposed building on the site would serve as a Welcome Center, house the bathrooms, fish cleaning stations, pole pickup, and a bait vending machine for fishing while on the boardwalk. The location of the building would serve as a gateway into the park while allowing easy access for the community fish cleaning stations. The exterior would be wooden clad to reflect the historic architecture of the town.
Apalachicola’s Riverwalk Park

Option B: Dog Park Concept

The Program
This highly programmed concept for a new Riverwalk Park addresses several key needs of the community. The first is a welcome center, located centrally, that will serve to educate and greet visitors arriving in Apalachicola and at the park. This center could also function as a gathering space for members of the community. Adjacent to the building will be a large wooden patio and a viewing tower, which will give visitors a great vantage point of the riverfront.

Welcome
The entrance to Riverwalk Park is oriented to Market Street. The emphasis is on the pedestrian, and a very tranquil, shady walkway leads visitors onto the site. The vehicular entrance is minimized using plant materials as a visual screen.

Parking
Parking spaces are provided in order to comply with ADA requirements and allow for emergency vehicle access. However, there are very few spaces to encourage pedestrian entry into the space.
Apalachicola’s Riverwalk Park

Option B: Dog Park Concept

Man’s Best friend
Another feature of the site is the large dog park. This area will provide a space for animals and their owners to socialize and exercise. The perimeter of the dog area will provide shade while the open field will give the animals space to play and roam. An agility course is also planned, providing another level of canine activity.

Where the Fun Is
Providing open space for human play and interaction was another concern. A large, green lawn is proposed behind the Welcome Center to allow people to have picnics, throw a frisbee, or lounge in the sun. A ship-inspired playground is proposed between the waterfront and the dog park. Here, the children of Apalachicola, as well as those visiting children, can let their imaginations set sail.
A Simple Solution
Due to the other, highly programmed designs for Riverwalk Park, we felt that a more passive option is needed. In this design, which borrows from the fan motif seen in many of Project Riverway’s proposals, a radiating series of sidewalks are connected by two large arcs. The use of large shade trees, preferably Live Oaks, provides copious amounts of shade in an otherwise very open space. The walkways subdivide the park, creating several different outdoor rooms, with the trees acting as both walls and rooftops. As the walkways travel away from the center of the park, the density of the canopy decreases, creating more open space for activity while still providing shade.
Apalachicola’s Riverwalk Park
Option C: Passive Use Concept

Sit Back
Benches, located along paths, as well as private pavilions allow visitors to sit back, read, watch and relax.

Passive Leisure
Nearest the waterfront, an open green lawn is proposed to give space for more active activities, like playing bocce. The fish cleaning shack will remain as an entrance to the boardwalk, as well as a place to rent fishing poles and purchase bait. In essence, this design for Riverwalk Park would allow people small, shady areas that create a sense of privacy, as well as open space for leisure and play.
The original plan for the city of Apalachicola called for a series of 6 squares, based on the design of Philadelphia, PA, which called for four neighborhood squares, with a single square in the center. The central square of Apalachicola, Washington Square, is the largest, covering a four block area. It is unique in that it is completely bounded by streets, whereas the other squares are set with their centers at the intersection of two streets. The original use of Washington Square was for the courthouse, but it is now the site of a hospital. Madison, Franklin, Chapman, and Gorrie Squares correspond to Philadelphia’s four neighborhood squares, arrayed in a square around the center. City Square is Apalachicola’s sixth square, and it is uniquely set off from the organized plan of the other five. Adjacent to City Square is the Chestnut Street Cemetery.

Historically, buildings were oriented toward these squares on all sides, but over time, this feature of the city’s design was lost. Currently, only Trinity Episcopal Church at Gorrie Square upholds this part of the city’s original plan. When roads were paved, they were paved directly through the center of the squares, dividing them into four separate corners. Because the square was no longer a complete whole, but instead fractured, may have contributed to the lack of new architecture fronting onto the square. The network of streets and alleys surrounding each square suggests a plan similar to Savannah, GA squares for circulation in these spaces.

Once divided by roads, these squares are now vacant corners, mostly city-owned, and used for various purposes. Some corners are still vacant, and others are used for a variety of things including: a skate park, a library, a museum, a memorial, basketball courts, and even a water tower. The sub-dividing of the squares has taken away any distinct sense of place they might have had, leaving them to be developed in a piece-meal fashion.

Although highlighting City Square, which is the least developed of the squares, this project is focused on a new method of thinking about the squares of Apalachicola. Long-term goals for the city include redevelopment of other squares, with City Square serving as the model. The concepts presented are intended to be a flexible solution, which can be adapted to each of the other squares depending on the issues on site.
The most obvious way in which to redevelop City Square is to create a true square, based on the template created by James Oglethorpe for Savannah, GA. By giving the public space a distinct edge with the peripheral streets, it becomes a more well-defined place. This seems to reflect the historic intent, and relates well to the existing circulation. However, this option might not be the best for City Square because of issues it would create: first, the proximity of houses to what would be new roads would be too close; second, it would create an uncomfortable 90-degree turn to the cemetery; and finally, City Square has few trees, with the majority on the edge closest to the cemetery, and most of these trees would be lost if the roads were realigned to produce an Oglethorpe inspired square.
The solution that best addressed these issues is what we call the ‘Circle in the Square’. It takes the most important element of the Oglethorpe square, the space’s defined edge, but allows more flexibility. The concept of a circular park rather than a square is not new; the Savannah neighborhood of Chatham Crescent contains five of these circles.

By establishing auto circulation in a circle around the square, the corners are left open, buffering the adjacent residential areas, and preserving more of the trees adjacent to the cemetery. The exterior space around the circle can be used for community gardens. These garden plots, rented out by the city, would serve as a semi-public buffer between the public circle and adjacent private property. The added benefit of these plots is that each garden tenant’s personality is allowed to show, through plant choices, garden style, and fencing materials. This eclectic collection of gardens can showcase the unique personality of Apalachicola.

Land adjacent to the cemetery can be incorporated into it, with a new gate, which will serve as yet another fence texture. The circular pattern allows the cemetery to be on equal footing with the four roads into the square, giving it a prominent position in the space, rather than being tucked in the corner.
The programming for the center of either the square or the circle will depend on individual neighborhood needs.

We felt that the best way to consider this choice was by asking two questions: Will the space be formal or informal, and will the space be used for active or passive recreation?

This creates four distinct possibilities for what might happen there. A formal active use might be a rectangular playfield for games of football, kickball, or frisbee; on the other hand, an informal passive use might be a duck pond with shady trees and a small knoll to sit on.
Ultimately, this method of thinking is what we think will best determine the future of Apalachicola’s squares.

It is simple, in that it requires 3 steps:
1) Circle or Square circulation;
2) Active or Passive recreational uses;
3) Formal or Informal design.

By weighing these options carefully, the community will be able to produce designs for each square uniquely tailored to the neighborhood. In the case of City Square, we felt the circular pattern was the most appropriate, with a formal design that appropriately responds to the Chestnut Street Cemetery.
Marks Memorial

Plan A: An Opportunity to Reinforce Community Identity through Iconic Design and Architecture

The intent of this design is to incorporate the existing Marks Memorial monument and grounds into the fabric of Apalachicola. The existing relationship between the monument and County Courthouse (across Market Street) was exploited by the addition of a raised crosswalk that connects the sidewalk adjacent to the Courthouse with a new pedestrian area surrounding the monument.

Also, the raised crosswalk serves as a traffic calming measure for cars exiting the hwy 98 bridge from Eastpoint. The design features a continuation of the paving material infront of the courthouse (scored concrete) and the addition of two benches that face the monument to its north and south.

Also, where the landscape surrounding the monument is currently comprised of a few small hollies and white balustrades connected with white chain, this design creates an entrance sequence that highlights the surrounding architecture—namely the Gibson Inn and the County Courthouse.

Four tall palms situated at the four corners of the newly created plaza resonate with the existing palms of the Courthouse landscape and visually link the two spaces, enlarging both. Low plantings (all native and sun tolerant) provide a measure of physical protection from the three surrounding roads, and provide a colorful greeting to the City of Apalachicola.
Marks Memorial

Plan A: Viewsheds and Pedestrian Circulation

Illustration of Pedestrian Circulation

Illustration of Important Viewsheds

- pedestrian access encouraged
- proposed crosswalk

view out

view in
Illustration used to list a suggested palette of native plants. All plants listed are native to this general area and will do well in sandy soil and full sun.

- **Virginia Sweet Spire**
  - Latin Name: *Itea virginica*

- **Variegated Fetterbush**
  - Latin Name: *Leucothoe axillaris* 'Dodd’s variegated'

- **Sea Oats**
  - Latin Name: *Uniola paniculata*

- **Button Bush**
  - Latin Name: *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

- **Sea Oats**
  - Latin Name: *Uniola paniculata*

- **Fothergilla**
  - Latin Name: *Fothergilla gardenii*

- **Creel’s Gold Star**
  - Latin Name: *Hypericum densiflorum*

- **Red Basil**
  - Latin Name: *Satureja coccinea*

- **St. John’s Wort**
  - Latin Name: *Hypericum reductum*
Plan A: An Opportunity to Reinforce Community Identity through Iconic Design and Architecture

Utilization of the existing symmetry with the courthouse creates a natural gateway into Apalachicola.

A crosswalk provides a traffic calming measure on Market Street as well as an element that strengthens the visual axis. Also, utilization of the existing symmetry with the courthouse creates a natural gateway into Apalachicola and expanded hardscape lends an increased sense of the memorial and provides a gathering place.

Gibson Inn is highlighted by a simple planting of four tall palms at the corners of the Marks Memorial plaza.

The plantings and the Gibson Inn work together to frame the approach to Market Street.

This image is from the steps of the County Courthouse to the Marks Memorial. The design incorporates a raised crosswalk to provide a traffic calming measure on Market Street as well as an element that strengthens the visual axis. Also, utilization of the existing symmetry with the courthouse creates a natural gateway into Apalachicola and expanded hardscape lends an increased sense of the memorial and provides a gathering place.

The intent of this image is to show the view from a car that has just come across the hwy 98 bridge across the bay from Eastpoint and is almost to the County Courthouse (barely visible on right). The main point is that four tall palms will ‘mark’ the location of the Marks Memorial, as well as highlight the Gibson Inn. Taken together, the Gibson Inn and the palm trees serve as a visual boundary, enclosing the view to Market Street, and forming a ‘gateway’ into Apalachicola.
**Plan A: An Opportunity to Reinforce Community Identity through Iconic Design and Architecture**

This image shows the view from the existing and retained parking area north to Market Street. It shows benches that provide seating spaces (as well as on the monument itself) and the low plantings that provide a level of physical protection and relief from the surrounding roads.

In addition to the symmetrical axis between the courthouse and Marks memorial, the relationship is reinforced through similar plantings.

The existing parking is retained, and curbs are added to protect the planted areas beyond.

This image shows the view from the existing parking area across Marks Memorial plaza to the courthouse. The intent is to show that the parking was retained in this design, but curbing has been added. Also, this image shows the repetition of palm trees between the existing trees at the courthouse, and the proposed trees near Marks Memorial. Lush ground cover plantings are also shown.
Marks Memorial

Plan B: A Brick Plaza

This plan highlights Marks Memorial by surrounding it with a brick plaza, edged with benches and creating a small gathering spot that provides seating for visitors in this space. Providing shade through carefully organized plantings will allow visitors to linger at the plaza, protected from the hot Florida sun.

The design also creates a semi-private location with tables and chairs that allows workers from the courthouse, the Gibson Inn and other locations, a quaint setting in which to eat lunch or enjoy a break outside.

With the Memorial’s proximity to both the courthouse and the Gibson Inn, brick crosswalks have been embedded in the streets to provide a visual cue to drivers, particularly those coming off the Gorrie Bridge, that the speed limit has changed, and this is a pedestrian-heavy area.

Connecting the Franklin County Courthouse and the Memorial site with a crosswalk will allow workers to more safely cross the street to enjoy the parklike space.

The crosswalks integrated in each of the proposed designs will provide visual clues to drivers that this is a pedestrian area, and speed limits should be carefully observed.
Plan C incorporates a meandering path that instills in visitors a feeling of walking along a nature trail. The large boulders are placed along the path to provide a place for visitors to sit and relax. The palm trees frame the important view of the Gibson Inn as drivers enter Apalachicola from the Gorrie Bridge. Other elements of the plan include a plant palette of native species that can easily withstand the dry, hot conditions of the site. Using low-growing species directly adjacent to the Memorial will provide a visual clue to visitors that it is not to be climbed upon.

One of the first views for visitors entering downtown Apalachicola from the Gorrie Bridge is the Gibson Inn, and any tree plantings at Marks Memorial should strive to frame the Inn, creating a picturesque entrance into the city.

This photograph, taken from the courthouse entrance, shows that the monument in Marks Memorial is directly on axis with the courthouse doors.
Marks Memorial
PLAN D: MAKING THE MEMORIAL VISIBLE

One of the key elements of this design is the addition of crosswalks that connect the Memorial to the Gibson Inn and the Courthouse. The materials used in the crosswalks provide the visual clue to drivers that pedestrians are in the area, and also focus attention to the Memorial through the significant connections to these two busy sites.

Plants surround the Memorial to protect it from human mischief; the lawn area creates a park-like feel; and benches provide seating for a break from a busy day.

Instead of having Marks Memorial remain flat, it could be turned into a small hill where the memorial will be visible to all that pass it.
This design provides for a densely planted landscape that creates a single path that meanders through the site. The rich, native foliage creates an enticing space, encouraging visitors from the Gibson Inn and beyond, and it also provides those entering from the Gorrie Bridge an introduction to the beauty of Apalachicola.

Keep in mind that The Gibson Inn is what visitors will first see when they make their approach into Apalachicola. The landscape can be used as a device to bring all of these jewels to light. The Gibson Inn takes up a large city block in the middle of Apalachicola’s Historic District.
Battery Park
A Recreational and Community Hub: Option 1

Design concept
Battery park is one of the most used public spaces in Apalachicola and while it is a popular place to for people to gather there are needed changes to the park. Parking should be relocated to create functional circulation for automobiles and pedestrians. The softball field is replaced by an open lawn area which can be used for festivals or passive use. The arching paths that run through the lawn are representative of the softball field that use to be there. The softball field will be placed on the multi-purpose lawn that can also be used for other sports.

VISITOR CENTER
- A redesigned visitors center will add aesthetic quality to Battery Park. Placing the center at the entrance to the park will create a gateway to the park and encourage park use.

OPEN LAWN
- An open lawn can replace the outdoor theatre. Three arching paths add connectivity from one side to the other. Trees line the paths to create a formal environment with an open area in the middle to serve as a gathering space.

PUBLIC FACILITIES
- Adding public bathrooms to Battery Park will add tremendous value to this public space.

MULTI-PURPOSE LAWN
- A Recreational and Community Hub: Option 1

PARKING
- Trailer and car parking should be relocated to increase the number of available spaces and the park's overall circulation.
Battery Park

A RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY HUB: OPTION 2

Battery Park is located east of downtown Apalachicola beneath the Gorrie Bridge. While currently housing an vast array of amenities including a mooring basin, a shaded playground, outdoor stage, and a popular fishing pier, this space is primed for further community based development. Much of the space has been left unprogrammed to accommodate larger events, like the annual seafood festival. These high traffic events can be harmful to soil conditions including erosion and compaction as well as a pattern of unregulated parking.

An assessment of programmatic details such as recreational facilities, basic amenities, parking inventory, mooring basin and boating needs, and the current siting of these elements revealed opportunities to relocate some items and solve some of the basic parking issues in order to bring more activity to the waterfront and ultimately create a thriving community landmark.

The overall site design is focused on creating a town recreational center and community hub. In addition to the relocation of city hall to downtown, a new outdoor theater is proposed along the waterfront. Development of Battery Park as an eco-sensitive community hub will anchor the east side of town with the design of large flexible yet cohesive spaces for festivals, outdoor performances, community gatherings, as well as the every day park visitors including both locals and tourists alike. Some specific green design details include the restoring and preserving native marsh habitats which are scattered along the shoreline, native planted bio-swales, pervious paving in flexible space intended for oversized vehicular parking and/or other events such as a weekly local farmer and fish market and a new outdoor theater.

Other Programmatic Details Include:
- outdoor theater relocated; restrooms and snack stand in adjacent harbor building
- city hall relocated to downtown
- parking organized
- shaded pedestrian corridors
- connectivity of riverwalk to the site
- mooring basin uses: houseboats as permanent residents, water taxi, boat launch, daily/short term docking
- boat slips: requires either specific hours of marina access or staff on-site for operation/recreational facilities: rec. center in former city hall, baseball field, track, playground
Battery Park
A Recreational and Community Hub: Option 2

1. view of ballfield & bio-swale

2. view of park entrance

3. view of houseboat row

4. view of pier theater and harbor master
Battery Park
A Recreational and Community Hub: Option 2

Battery Crescent Theater

Nestled into the landscape by the existing fishing pier is the proposal for a new outdoor theater.

Visitors and concert goers will be able to bring their blankets along for an evening performance while looking out at the magnificent view beyond. Similar to Maya Lin’s design for the Vietnam veteran’s memorial wall in Washington D.C., the theater is like a ‘tear’ or ‘cut’ in the landscape. The ‘cut’ in this case is filled with the sounds of various concerts and theater performances and thus projects the heart and soul of the community.

The typical spherical form of a bandshell is combined with innovative design techniques and materials to create the focal point for battery park. Some of the green or sustainable elements on the site include a green roof, photovoltaic panels, marsh habitat restoration, rain gardens and bio-swales, as well as locally grown and manufactured materials.

New custom cast curved iron trusses support a domed green roof planted native marsh vegetation. These curved trusses recall details from the shrimp boats. Located directed above the main truss support are a row of photovoltaic panels collecting solar energy for performance lighting and sound systems. This gentle curve is the only visible element of the structure in plan.
Battery Park
A Recreational and Community Hub: Option 2

Battery Crescent Theater

plan

elevation

section

section
The Boardwalk
THREE DESIGNS FOR APALACHICOLA
THE BOARDWALK

The swell: an amphibious walkway winds its way through downtown linking together key landmarks.

Apalachicola, Florida

Project Riverway '08

View of pier tower:

Inspired by historic bayfronts of Apalachicola, these architectural details punctuate the pier at key locations along the boardwalk.

View of boardwalk entwines:

One of the most loved forms in the aesthetics of shrimping boats along the shoreline. The form of these gates is inspired by this beautiful and memorable site. To further enhance the quality of light, vintage glass lamps can hang from the gates and reflect their colorful light. These gates can also be used to grow vines and hang festival banners.
Apalachicola has a long, rich history centered on its dependence on and connection to the water. Various industries have come and gone dating back to its beginnings in the 1800s. Now looking towards the future, Apalachicola is seeking tourism as a means to sustain their much loved and unique community.

Named the swell, this design, derived by analyzing the character of Apalachicola by land and by water, draws on this strong interdependence between the two. Along the water, the swell's intensity reaches a peak at Battery Park. The waterway is continually increasing from Riverwalk Park down to Battery Park, thus the intensity of the water swell and water walk increases. Along the land, the swell reaches its peak downtown, by Veteran's Park. The land swell has a different pattern because it intensifies and then decreases again towards Battery Park and the residential neighborhoods beyond.

The path draws on this connection between land and water by weaving visitors between key landmasses from both perspectives. Thus the path becomes an experience unto itself. This design is not one continuous path, but rather a series of paths linked throughout the town via land and water. This model allows people to have varying experiences and encourages multiple visits.
In this design option, the goal is to link the boardwalk through detailing and common elements that remain consistent throughout the design. The boardwalk is broken down into public passive and active spaces and the connectivity between them. The fishing industry and waterfront business owners are a key concern for this design, as they represent critical elements to the economic viability and growth of Apalachicola.

Unique elements to this design include a tiered active space that can be used by the public for festival events, educational centers and general recreation. Other unique features to the boardwalk are sliding sunshades that also double as solar collectors and drawbridges that will allow for users to come in contact with the fishing industry without impeding the process. The drawbridges will also serve as gateways that will be unique to Apalachicola.
Boardwalk Gate Detail

The boardwalk gate encloses the area below the piers at Battery Park, allowing for private properties to be closed off at night while the observation piers remain open to the public at all times. Incorporating the gates into the boardwalk design will allow for safety concerns to be addressed in an aesthetically unified way along the waterfront.

Observation Piers

Small piers, built to receive visitors to observe the seafood industry in action without impeding the workers. They encourage interaction along the waterfront and serve to educate the community on the importance of maintaining a “working waterfront.”
In this design option, the goal was to link the city-owned Riverwalk, Riverfront and Battery Parks to as many waterfront property owners as possible while not impeding on the activities of the seafood industry. It is important to preserve the "working waterfront" aspect of Apalachicola and strengthen it by allowing locals and tourists the opportunity to observe the seafood industry in action when and where feasible. Fortunately, the city owns waterfront easements in close proximity to all the major waterfront seafood operations. At these access points along the waterfront, piers can be constructed with educational signage explaining what visitors are witnessing on each pier.

Linking the waterfront properties for a boardwalk will take compromise and lots of planning but if the city is committed to this option, then it is possible to make it a reality. While meeting with waterfront property owners and discussing a waterfront boardwalk, the issue of liability was raised. Business owners were concerned about damage to their property after hours and potential injuries on the boardwalk while technically on their property. There are two possible solutions: one is for the city to buy an easement along the waterfront properties and therefore retain all liability; or the boardwalk can include a series of gates that would provide individual owners with the ability to close off the portion adjacent to their business during particular hours.

As a result of the boardwalk plan, it is important to consider what the transition off the boardwalk back into town would be like. In the details shown, two examples of possible treatments and materials are explored. In the right detail, the boardwalk glides seamlessly onto the sidewalk with a smooth transition to Water Street. The plastic is set with bands of concrete that become the semi-permanent material above the sidewalk and then transition to concrete below. The plastic could either be bonded or compressed into a "tile" form. In the left detail, a strip of cushioned rubber blocks branches the multi-use sidewalk and doubles the sidewalk into two portions. The left side is comprised of the continued boardwalk material and continues on up the right side. Above the transition with the Water Street sidewalk, the upper panel would continue through, then drop down, while the boardwalk would be shown with the same two portions.
Quick Fixes for Apalachicola

Storefront Revitalization

Much of the charm of Apalachicola comes from the historic downtown buildings. While many are thriving as locally owned shops, restaurants and offices, some are run down and in need of revitalization. Repairing and bringing the existing structures back to a useful state, as opposed to tearing them down and replacing them with new construction, will help maintain the unique feel of Apalachicola.
Quick Fixes for Apalachicola
STOREFRONT REVITALIZATION
After years of neglect, little is left of the Apalachicola Exchange building: four walls still stand, but not as tall as they used to; the roof is gone; and there is no floor.

Naturally, in this state of decay, there has been an opportunity for a variety of plant life to flourish as the Exchange sits unused by people. There is now an opportunity for the community to reclaim this space. A careful and simple reuse of the space can transform a few overgrown walls into a unique outdoor event space.

Selectively clearing out the interior, preserving many of the healthy native plant specimens inside, and constructing a simple patio could create an interesting gathering space. With a movie screen placed on the back wall and temporary seating added, the Apalachicola Exchange could become home to occasional after-dark film screenings or other small gatherings.
Quick Fixes for Apalachicola Waterfront Infill

Redevelopment of properties along the river in Apalachicola’s popular waterfront commercial district presents opportunities to make new connections to the river for people in town. As this single block acts as the transition between the urban environment of the town and the natural realm of the river and bay, these properties can be developed to highlight the best that these have to offer. New regulations on building height in this area can guide some of the building and site designs that help create a healthy environment. For example, an elevated first floor can allow for shady off-street parking under buildings, screened from view on the street. Setbacks and the need for staircases may also allow for more landscaped areas and the opportunity to bring pedestrians off the sidewalk and onto the property. Structures can be designed with more outdoor space, such as balconies and decks, allowing for views of the town as well as the river. Creating more access to the riverfront with docks and boardwalks can strengthen the connection between people and the water.
This new development attempts to provide both retail and residential space in a new building that fits in with the historic buildings in town. Clad in brick with lots of windows, the building front features a balcony for the second story, providing welcome shade to the storefronts below. The design falls apart when it comes to how the building interfaces with the surrounding streets and sidewalks. The first floor is set several feet above ground-level and is accessible by narrow ramps at the very end of the building. This leaves all of the storefronts surrounded by black railing, giving the appearance that this is private area, fenced off from the public. Between the curb and building front, and landscape buffer planted with thick, heavy plants, creates even more of a visual buffer between the storefronts and the public realm. One important part of being open for business is letting people know it, but these stores are nearly hidden from view. Most stores benefit from a large sidewalk crossing directly in front of their windows, allowing pedestrians and drivers a view of what’s happening inside. However, these visual screens around High Cotton also act as a barrier for pedestrians. Approaching the development on the sidewalk, there is a feeling that ascending those ramps onto the front stoop would be intruding on private space, and it feels more comfortable to actually leave the sidewalk and walk on the street in front of the building. This is also easy since cars are seldom parked along this stretch of street. If you did park your car here, you would have to open your door into thick plantings, then you don’t even have a sidewalk nearby. The solution to these problems is simple, create a space that is designed for pedestrians, and do it in a way that people are accustomed to. All over town, sidewalks are where people get out of their cars and go into buildings. High Cotton would benefit from losing the out-of-scale landscape buffer along the curb and replacing it with a sidewalk, and connecting people on one side to the other. Relocating the ramps to the side of the building for handicap access would allow for a long set of stairs up to the first floor, opening the front of the building for all to see. Pedestrians could then leave their cars or walk the length of the block on a sidewalk, could see storefronts and what business is done there, and have easy access to all while feeling welcome.
The Apalachicola community is tasked with the design, preservation and promotion of the historical and contemporary benefits of this remarkable place. Sound is a notable element in any landscape, but is often overlooked. Competing or uncomely noise can be a detractor for even the most well-planned park. Additionally, strategic planning to encourage certain sounds can be a major boon for an area, as well as an attractive selling point for tourists and locals alike.
Project Riverway
Projects Developed during the

Summer 2008

Chattahoochee Studio

@ University of Georgia

Chattahoochee Greenways
Old Victory Bridge
Gholson Park
Hopkins Park
Chattahoochee Inn
Bio-retention Garden
Welcome Center
The city of Chattahoochee, Florida, is uniquely sited at the intersection of several regional transportation corridors and natural resources. This location makes it an ideal place to serve as a hub for regional tourism. The restoration of Old Victory Bridge, with a contemporary looking span, contrasting the existing historic parts, would be a visible symbol of Chattahoochee as a place rooted in the past, but ready for the future. An Old Victory Bridge, designed as a new pedestrian and bicycle route, could serve as not only a symbol of those regional linkages, but also as a physical connector, by providing pedestrian and bicycle access across the Apalachicola River. It would also make Chattahoochee a real icon along the interstate bicycle route which currently passes through the town.

The best approach to implementing these connections is incrementally, growing outward from the restored Victory Bridge. Initial efforts should focus on linking the existing resources around Chattahoochee, with long-term goals to connect Chattahoochee to more distant places such as Bainbridge and Apalachicola via trails.
**Phase 1:**
- Restore Old Victory Bridge
- Expand Riverside Park to South
- Link Gholson Nature Center to Riverside Park
- Place signs for on-road bike routes to Bainbridge, and Apalachicola

**Phase 2:**
- Expand Riverside Park north to Dam
- Create a Greenway along Mosquito Creek and the abandoned Rail-line to the existing park on the eastern side of the town

**Phase 3:**
- Continue trail from Old Victory Bridge to Sneads
- Create Park on West Bank of the river

**Long-term:**
- Create Trail to Three Rivers State Park
- Continue Rail-to-Trail to Jinks, Faceville, Fowlston, Climax
- Create Trail along Apalachicola River to Torreya State Park and beyond.
Under the Old Victory Bridge

FITNESS AND BIODIVERSITY UNDER A CHATAHOOCHEE LANDMARK

The Old Victory Bridge presents a wonderful opportunity to encourage exploration of the Chattahoochee landscape. The area under and immediately north of the bridge from North River Landing Road to the beginning of the bridge is shady, providing a space for walking and fitness throughout the year. Additionally, the inclusion of a mini-arboretum, with labeled plants maintained plant collections will enhance the experience and provide a tangible example of Chattahoochee’s unique character.

The fitness and nature trail would also serve as a pathway to lead visitors to the beginning of the Old Victory Bridge, and would extend the park into the shady natural areas north of the bridge.

The architecture of this historic bridge provides a meaningful backdrop for locals and visitors alike to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Chattahoochee area. A fitness trail is a welcomed addition, and will contribute to a network of fitness and walking trails throughout the region.
The start of the Victory Bridge Fitness and Nature Trail is denoted by a kiosk gateway that reiterates the architectural form of the bridge itself.

This section shows appropriate construction of a walking trail that is accessible for all citizens. Trails should be built at least 5’ wide, be contained by steel edging or landscape timbers, and made of compacted gravel fines or similar material. Additionally, the use of plant identification signs that include a iconic logo will serve to orient and educate visitors.
This natural spring was once a popular spot for locals. The original woman’s bathhouse was located up the far staircase, and the men’s bathhouse was opposite it by the park’s main entrance.
Part of the charm of this place is its “forgotten” nature. Ferns spring up in foundation cracks, fallen logs block pathways, layers thick of plant life line the pool’s edge. Although some elements should be removed for safety reasons, keeping these nature VS. Man elements in the landscape aid in retaining that charm. Enhance the imagination with stories and historic photos on signage platforms on-site.

With some basic restoration to existing stone retaining walls, coordinated informational signage, and light landscape management, This space can serve a nice relaxing getaway.

**spring source** (site of women’s bathhouse)

**Park entry** (site of men’s bathhouse)
Outlined here are proposed improvements to the current boat ramp and dock at Hopkins Park. While the existing ramp is well built and placed, some improvements could be made to assist in ease of loading and unloading watercraft. Also proposed is a dock revitalization that would allow for both better mooring of boats as well as fishing.

The boat ramp at Hopkins Park is located in an extremely advantageous location for not only motorized watercraft, but canoes and kayaks as well. By encouraging these boaters in addition to motorboaters, Chattahoochee could discover itself as a major hub for eco-tourists wishing to travel down the river. While the primary attraction to Hopkins Park is the boat ramp, many people use the shoreline to fish. Some improvements to the dock would make the structure much more inviting to individuals and families.

A new dock with seating and shade for those wishing to fish or simply watch the river would increase the Park’s attendance and provide some relief from the heat or rain.
A center pier added to the boat ramp would ease the loading and unloading of boats. Also proposed here are piers flanking the ramp providing more locations to moor boats after unloading.

Two floating docks, attached to the fixed piers by hinged, handicapped accessible ramps, would provide places for non-boaters to drop their lines in the water. Simple, fixed benches with roofs would allow those fishing to get out of the sun.

A small shaded fish cleaning shack would provide a convenient, clean area to turn the day’s catch into tonight’s dinner.

These propositions are not unattainable. By making these additions, Hopkins Park and the city of Chattahoochee could see an increase in fishing and eco-tourism all while providing its inhabitants a pleasurable place to relax.
The Chattahoochee Inn sits condemned and unused, even having the best view in the city. A wonderful view of Lake Seminole can be seen from the Inn. It would be a wonderful place for visitors to stay that would ensure a long-lasting impressionable memory of the City of Chattahoochee.

As you can see by the map of Chattahoochee, the Inn is located on a premier real estate spot in the city. [The Chattahoochee Inn is represented by the red star]. The Inn offers remarkable views.

With some landscaping and streetscape, the area around the Chattahoochee Inn could be a bustling part of the city.
The Chattahoochee Inn could possibly be turned into a mixed use area where people could live, work, and shop in the same building. The mixed-use ideology is a big trend in development which helps to promote ecological health.
This bio-retention concept is designed to better control storm water runoff and provide aesthetic beauty to downtown Chattahoochee, Florida. Essentially the project will provide retention space for runoff and slowly distribute it back into the water table. This can reduce the risk of flash floods, clean runoff in a natural no-cost manner, increase the plant material in the downtown area and slow traffic through the historical district.

This concept responds to the Chattahoochee’s need for urban trees and stormwater management. With the inability to widen the existing road bisecting the downtown district, these bio-retention gardens will utilize existing parking space that are under used.
DETAILS
Bio-retention Rain Garden:

- Each rain garden will occupy one parallel parking spot in the downtown area and will effectively serve as a barrier between pedestrians and automobiles. By utilizing the sparsely used parking spaces, the existing road and sidewalk can remain virtually undisturbed.

- The rain garden will receive runoff from the street and retain it in a vegetated basin.

- A concrete curb with several openings will give the bio-retention garden defined space and allow runoff to gather in the basin without blockage.

- The bio-retention gardens can be placed every two to three spaces or as the city sees fit.
The gas station located in downtown Chattahoochee is a prime location for a new Welcome Center for the town. The building has excellent visibility from the main road and situation in the heart of the historic district.

No assessment of the interior condition of the building could be made so all recommendations are for exterior improvements only. The transom windows are historic but the lower windows by the door and the side have been replaced giving the building a more residential feel. Replacing those windows to single pane will be a simple change that will have a great impact on the overall appearance of the building.

For consistency, historic transoms could be reinstalled above the existing window. The far corner window is also new but does not reflect the same shape or appearance of the others so replacing it is recommended. The current garage door is no longer fitting for the space but could be replaced by an all glass garage door that will maintain the character of the building but have more functionality.

New signage is necessary to signify the space as one of interest and encourage people to stop in. Also, removing the strip of asphalt between the road and sidewalk could become a planting strip. This would add color and seasonal interest that expand on new planters in town. A bike rack is proposed to allow parking for the numerous bikers who pass through town.

Along the backside of the building there is a fair amount of erosion problems that could easily be addressed. Through installing a french drain along the back of the building, the runoff could be redirected to the planting strip for a means of passive water harvesting. Also, Porous pavers could be installed to create parking spaces for the employees allowing for more infiltration of runoff.
Projects Developed during the
Summer 2007
Chattahoochee Studio
@ University of Georgia

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 128)
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.
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.
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.
Lake Seminole
A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF LAKE SEMINOLE’S AQUATIC PLANTS & THEIR CONTROL

Lake Seminole is a reservoir with large areas of shallow, clear water. This, combined with the region’s mild climate, creates conditions that are almost ideal for growing aquatic plants. The large number of submerged trees in the reservoir make some control methods impractical. The stable water levels and slow water movement allow muck to accumulate in some shoreline areas, promoting the growth of cattail. Nutrients in the water from upstream sources such as cities and agriculture fertilize the plants, enabling them to grow very rapidly. Many of the weeds are exotic plants, which have been able to rapidly cover large areas of the lake because the fish or insects that feed on them in their native waters are not present in Lake Seminole.

What are the effects of aquatic plants on Lake Seminole?
Aquatic plants affect Lake Seminole in a number of ways. One of the most important is the way they change the shape of the bottom. Shallow, clear water is almost ideal for growing aquatic plants. This, combined with the region’s mild climate, creates conditions that are almost ideal for growing aquatic plants.

Nutrients in the water from upstream sources such as cities and agriculture fertilize the plants, enabling them to grow very rapidly. Many of the weeds are exotic plants, which have been able to rapidly cover large areas of the lake because the fish or insects that feed on them in their native waters are not present in Lake Seminole.

What is the history of Lake Seminole’s aquatic plants?
Lake Seminole, a reservoir with large areas of shallow, clear water, is almost ideal for growing aquatic plants. This, combined with the region’s mild climate, creates conditions that are almost ideal for growing aquatic plants. The large number of submerged trees in the reservoir make some control methods impractical. The stable water levels and slow water movement allow muck to accumulate in some shoreline areas, promoting the growth of cattail. Nutrients in the water from upstream sources such as cities and agriculture fertilize the plants, enabling them to grow very rapidly. Many of the weeds are exotic plants, which have been able to rapidly cover large areas of the lake because the fish or insects that feed on them in their native waters are not present in Lake Seminole.

Nutrients in the water from upstream sources such as cities and agriculture fertilize the plants, enabling them to grow very rapidly. Many of the weeds are exotic plants, which have been able to rapidly cover large areas of the lake because the fish or insects that feed on them in their native waters are not present in Lake Seminole.

What can I do to help control the plants?
There are several ways you can help control the plants in Lake Seminole. Visit the US Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Information System (APIS) website for more information on aquatic plants and their control.

Prevent the introduction and transfer of plants by thoroughly washing your watercraft and trailer before and after using it in Lake Seminole. This can help prevent the spread of aquatic plants to new areas.

For more information on aquatic plants and their control, visit the US Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Information System (APIS) website.
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.

**Federal Trail**

Federal Trail follows the route of earlier Indian trails. It got its name from use by US troops during the early 1800’s, especially to supply Fort Scott, Fort Recovery, and Fort Gladsen. General Jackson marched his troops down this road to fight the Seminoles in Florida in 1818.

[Conceptual Primary Sign]

[Conceptual Secondary & Tertiary Signs]
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.)
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 collectable item. The costs associated with this may limit the options, and it is important that the price not exclude participation.
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.
### Native American Sites in Southwest Georgia

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone/Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Albany, Georgia</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thronateeska Heritage Museum</td>
<td>100 West Roosevelt Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31701-2325</td>
<td>Phone: (229) 432-6955, <a href="http://heritagecenter.org/about.html">http://heritagecenter.org/about.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blakely, Georgia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Columbus, Georgia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Columbus Museum</td>
<td>1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia 31906</td>
<td>Phone: (706) 748.2562, <a href="http://www.columbusmuseum.com/">http://www.columbusmuseum.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thomasville, Georgia</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas County Museum of History</td>
<td>Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1922, Thomasville, GA 31792</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Valdosta, Georgia

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

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

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

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 CHATTOHOOCHEE 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
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.
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 allows you to go at your own pace.

Sights included on the tour range from Fort Gaines, GA to Oimussee Creek, giving you the opportunity to see wildlife, historic buildings, Native American sites and Civil War locations. Few tours allow you to access so many different places along the Chattahoochee. There is something here for everyone in the family.
Where will the Hooch take you
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
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.
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.
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 Prance grass to illustrate the Kolomoki art sign meaning "Welcome". The design will be perfectly viewed atop the Temple Mound, Mound

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.
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.
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.

**Plants of Bagby State Park**

**Cat Tails**

This was one of the primary foods of the Indians and early settlers. The root stock tastes similar to asparagus and baskets were woven from the reeds. Stuffing for beds and pillows was made from the cigar along with fetching for blow gun darts.

**Smilax**

Known to Native Americans as Kuntee, the root stock was often used to make bread and pudding. Women would spend approximately 50% of their time digging the root which contains the same briars as the shoots.

**Sassafras**

The shoots are used to make root beer. The leaves are dried and ground to make file powder, a common spice in Creole and Cajun cuisine. Was sometimes used by Native Americans to make their bows.

**River Cane**

Known to the Cherokee nation as 'i-hi', river cane stems were used for blowguns, chairs, baskets, pipe systems and for shining clay pots. To make a blow gun, the whole cane was used and was hollowed out using hot coals.

**Grey Willow**

Was a sacred plant of the Creek Indians and was used in their religious ceremonies. A broth was made from the roots that was an excellent pain reliever.

**Sweetgum**

Dried sweetgum leaves were used to make milder forms of tobacco. The fire from sweetgum wood produced much less heat than other woods such as hickory.

**Hickory**

This tree was used by Native Americans both for its oil as well as its wood. The oil was a popular salad oil and was part of the preparation of many types of food. Hickory oil was a flavoring for many foods and was sometimes used in cooking and smoking meats. Hickory wood was the best for cooking and making night fires. This is because the fires were hot and would not smoke excessively and the coals could be easily rekindled in the morning.
Interactive Map of the ACF Watershed Area

Go to http://www.riverwayssouth.org/map.php to scroll the map up or down, add or remove a layer and view map features, etc.
Video Tours
Kolomoki Mounds and Bagby Park

Go to www.riverwaysouth.org/tours_video.php
to download the videos.
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.

“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.
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.
5. Executive summary and conservation approach justification.
6. Site specific dock design.
7. Downtown revitalization plan.
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.

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.
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Home</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Decreases over time like automobiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cusato Cottage</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>Increases; built with sustainable, long lasting materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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 Chattahoochee. 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.
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.

**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.
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 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.

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.

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.
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

Map of Fort Gaines

North ➤
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.
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.
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.
Interpretive signage is located at both at historical and natural sites along the Phenomenon Trail. Interpretive signs can be placed in areas featuring Relic Trillium, 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.”

Paving Materials for Paths:

- Stabilized Trail for Unstable Soil Conditions
- Concrete Paving
- Uncompacted Silt Stabilization Layer
- Geosynthetic Reinforcement Material
- Porous Concrete: Open-Graded Aggregate Bound by Portland Cement
- Filter Fabric
- Slope Away From Trail
- Open-Graded Aggregate
- Porous Concrete: More Effective in Areas with Well-Drained Soils
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 pervious, 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.
The current proposal for the Phenomenon Trail has a missing link. That missing link is a bridge that spans Chemocheechobee 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 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.

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.
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
Projects Developed during the
Summer 2006
Chattahoochee 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
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.
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 eco-tourism, which encourages understanding and appreciating whole ecosystems, is the need for local residents to think regionally, but unifying 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.
A tour of the history of cotton on the Chattahoochee River! Go from fields to mills and back again through today's tour of the cotton industry and economies of the Chattahoochee River!
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.
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.”

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.

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.

*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

Interpretive Signage
Pokeweed, Phytolacca americana
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.

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 ball field intended to traditional Pokkecheta ball play but also may be utilized for soccer or football play.
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.
Interpretive signs for Rood’s 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.
**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. Biddles 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

**River Access**
1. Uchee Recreational Area
2. Bluff Creek Park
3. Hahannahatchee 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. Patula Creek Park
17. Patula 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
Thank you to all the people who made this experience possible!

2006 Credits Project Riverway
Interns
Leah Evans, Mike Sutton, Trevor Satter, Scott Herzog, Amy Edington, Joe Pung
Students
Kelsey Williamson, Anna Day, Melissa Tufts
Faculty
Lee T. Ayers, Danny Bivins, Jan Coyne, Pat Cavity, Liz Kramar, Jennifer Lewis, Eleonora Machado, Lea D. Rhodes, Alie Vick

2007 Credits Project Riverway
Students
Thomas LeBlanc, Tiffany McGowan, Brian Ray, Hayes Fairchild, Lydia Doyle, Mike Sutton
Faculty
Jennifer Foss, Eleonora Machado, Lea D. Rhodes, Alie Vick
Lead Faculty
Leigh Ayers, Danny Bivins

2008 Credits Project Riverway
Students
Megan Bogie, Mikaela Urgo, Hayes Fairchild, Jennifer Walker, Thomas Berge, Kevan Williams, Diana Coakle
Faculty
Jennifer Lewis, Eleonora Machado, Duncan Biel, Brian LaHaie, Alfie Vick, Greg Coghlan
Lead Faculty
Leigh Ayers, Danny Bivins

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Report Design & Layout
Eleonora Machado
Center for Community Design and Preservation, CED, UGA emachado@uga.edu
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To download an electronic copy of this report visit us at: www.riverwaysouth.org or call Danny Bivins at (706) 583.0856

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