

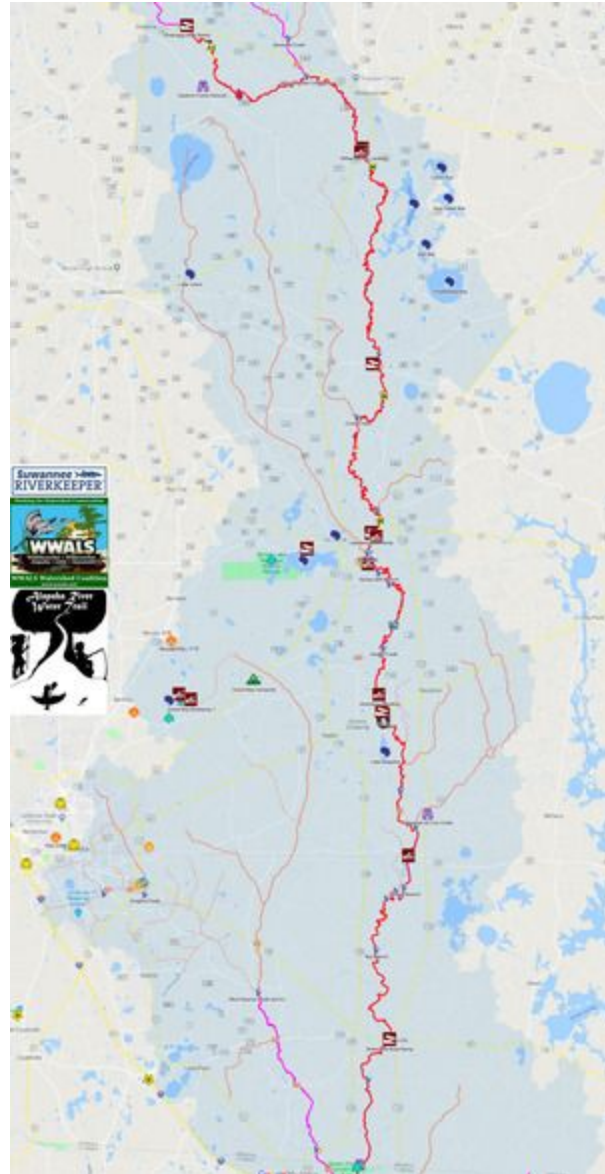
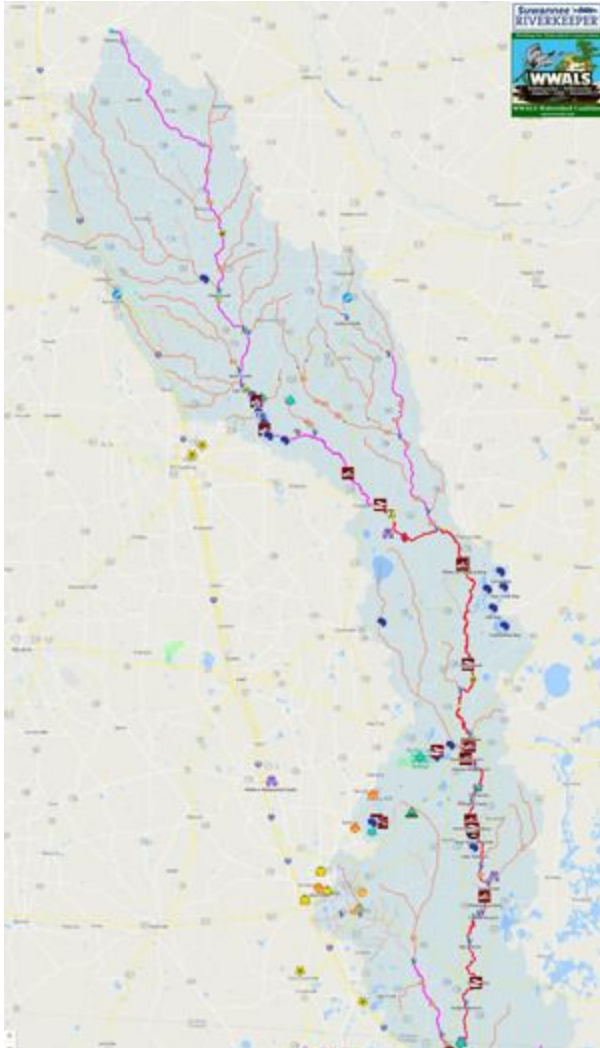
Alapaha River, changing its Designated Use to Recreational

- *Name and length of the waterbody.*

Alapaha River. Of its 202 miles, 179 are in Georgia. Of the 129 miles on the WWALS Alapaha River Water Trail, 106 miles are in Georgia. At least the 106 miles from Sheboggy Boat Ramp (on US 82 east of Alapaha, GA) to the state line should be reclassified as Recreational. Reclassifying the entire 179 miles of the Alapaha River in Georgia would be better.

- *Location of the reach, shown on a map.*

See also <http://wwals.net/maps/alapaha-water-trail/>



- *Any 305(b)/303(d) impairment(s) &/or TMDL(s).*
 - Alapaha River Total Mercury TMDL [2002]
https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/AlapahaHgFinalTMDL.pdf
 - Turkey Branch Lead TMDL, June 2000,
https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/TurkeyBrPb.pdf
 - Turkey Branch also Cadmium, copper, zinc, dissolved oxygen, and toxicity TMDLs
<https://epd.georgia.gov/suwannee-river-basin-tmdl-reports>
- *Current users of the waterbody, including but not limited to*
 - *businesses or industries,*
 - Banks Lake Outdoors is an outfitter in the Alapaha River watershed.
<https://www.facebook.com/bankslakeoutdoors/>
 - The Lanier-Lakeland Chamber of Commerce advertises “the 60-miles of the Alapaha River that travels through the county” as a “Fisherman’s Paradise” first among Parks & Trails.
<http://www.lakelandchamber.org/parks-trails.htm>
 - WWALS organizes multiple paddle outings on the Alapaha River each year; see
<http://wwals.net/events-2/outings-events/>

- See also attached letter from Georgia Beer Co.
 - *parks within the waterbody and watershed,*
 - Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area, south of US 319, east of the Alapaha River, between Tifton and Ocilla, in Irwin County. <http://wwals.net/?p=22027>
 - Lakeland Boat Ramp at GA 122 aka GA 37 is advertised by the Lanier-Lakeland Chamber of Commerce among Parks & Trails. <http://www.lakelandchamber.org/parks-trails.htm>
 - Pafford's Landing slightly downstream from GA 122 is in a 19-acre tract owned by private nonprofit Lanier Parks Inc. and operated like a public park. <http://wwals.net/?p=36369>
 - Grand Bay WMA (see separate writeup on Grand Bay, reclassify as Recreational Use)
 - Naylor Boat Ramp, under construction by Lowndes County, is in a 4.35-acre park just upstream of US 84. <http://wwals.net/?p=6425>
 - *and any "blue trails" on the water for water-craft recreation activities.*

The WWALS Alapaha River Water Trail has eleven river landings in Georgia.

<http://wwals.net/maps/alapaha-water-trail/>

- *Letters of support from:*

- *dischargers, domestic &/or industrial, to the reach.*

See next bullet item (stakeholders) for Valdosta, Lowndes County, Berrien County, Lanier County, Atkinson County, and Echols County.

- *municipalities, county Board of Commissioners, other affected governmental bodies, and other stakeholders who live in the watershed.*
 - 2014-11-05: Letter of support from Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce
 - 2014-11-05: \$500 check from Valdosta-Lowndes County Tourism Authority
 - 2015-01-21: Letter of support from the Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority
 - 2016-09-14: Letter from Berrien County authorizing WWALS to put signs on county land at landings in Berrien County. In a letter to WWALS about that, the county named all four of those landings with names suggested by WWALS. Three of them are on the Alapaha River. <http://wwals.net/?p=43927>
 - 2018-01-08: Resolution of support from the Lanier County, Georgia Board of Commissioners
 - 2018-01-18: Resolution of support from the Atkinson County, Georgia Board of Commissioners
 - 2018-03-06: Berrien County Commission vote to rename two landings to become Sheboggy Boat Ramp and Berrien Beach Boat Ramp.
 - 2018-04-05: Resolution of support from Valdosta Mayor and City Council.
 - 2018-04-07: "Alapaha River Beauty should Not be Hidden," unsolicited video testimonial by Lanier County Emergency Management. <http://wwals.net/?p=43742>
 - Lowndes County is building Naylor Boat Ramp at US 84, will be planting road signs there when it's complete.
 - The 2015 Echols County Comprehensive Plan Update says "The Alapaha River flows north to south on the west side of the County and has 1 boat ramp with a second under construction. This information needs to be placed in the State Tourism Brochure as one of the cleanest rivers to attract visitors.... The public boat ramp located on the Alapaha River is valuable and could be better used as an asset to the community. The addition of the second boat ramp could create a loop to attract more tourists." <https://www.sgrc.us/documents/localgovernmentsservices/comprehensiveplans/033e0522f82ac2b2ea4cf26b71988d21.pdf>
 - The 2016 Greater Lowndes Comprehensive Plan lists the Alapaha River and Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area and Wetland Education Center among "Important parts of the local economy which should be better promoted and utilized". <https://www.lowndescounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/1512/2016-Greater-Lowndes-Comprehensive-Plan-PDF>
 - 2015 Joint Berrien County Comprehensive Plan Update For Berrien County And The Cities of Alapaha, Enigma, Nashville and Ray City, says "Coordinate with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Georgia Department of Transportation and other applicable state agencies to establish more public access points along the Alapaha River." <https://www.sgrc.us/documents/localgovernmentsservices/comprehensiveplans/7f2ae9ce012196e973473969fe4f2c46.pdf>
 - The 2018 Joint Comprehensive Plan Update, Atkinson County, The City of Pearson & City of Willacoochee, says "The Alapaha and Satilla Rivers could support a canoe and kayak rental business." https://www.dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/atkinson_county_w_cities_of_pearson_and_willacoochee_plan_update_2018.pdf

- *Investments, both completed and pending, for improved use of the waterbody such as boat ramps, parks, trails, or drinking water systems. Include the amount of the investment, as well as who funded the project(s) and for what purpose.*

There are four public boat ramps on the Alapaha River in Georgia, and another being constructed:

- Sheboggy Boat Ramp, at the US 82 bridge east of Alapaha in Berrien County, with concrete recently repoured by Berrien County for \$2,000 plus labor. *
- Berrien Beach Boat Ramp, on GA 168, northeast of Nashville in Berrien County, apparently maintained by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). *
- Lakeland Boat Ramp, on GA 122, east of Lakeland in Lanier County, maintained by GDOT. *
- Naylor Boat Ramp, upstream of US 84 in Lowndes County, being constructed by Lowndes County, using funds approved by the voters of Lowndes County in the 2013 SPLOST election, plus labor supplied by the county.
- Statenville Boat Ramp, on GA 94 west of Statenville in Echols County, maintained by GA DNR. *

In addition there are six public riverbank landings:

- Nashville Landing, at GA 135, east of Nashville in Berrien County, maintained by Berrien County. *
- Willacoochee Landing, at GA 135, south of Willacoochee, in Atkinson County, maintained by Atkinson County. *
- Pafford's Landing, south of GA 122, east of Lakeland, in Lanier County, owned by private Lanier Parks Inc. *
- Burnt Church Landing, off of GA 135, south of Lakeland, in Lanier County, owned by Lanier County.
- Hotchkiss Road Landing, on Hotchkiss Road north of US 84, in Lanier County. *
- Mayday Landing, on Howell Road, in Echols County, maintained by Echols County. *

* WWALS paid approximately \$3,000 for water trail signs at these nine locations on the Alapaha River. At each location, there is a pair of signs (one for each direction of approach). Each pair of signs has three parts on the same pole: a sign saying Alapaha River Water Trail and with appropriate icons, a sign naming the landing and the county, and a directional arrow.

Lowndes County has promised to make and plant road signs at Naylor Boat Ramp when it is completed.

