

Suwannee River, changing its Designated Use to Recreational

- *Name and length of the waterbody.*

Suwannee River. Of its 250 miles, about 35 miles are in Georgia, plus its three branches in the Okefenokee Swamp.

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

See also <http://wwals.net/maps/suwannee-river-wilderness-trail/>



- *Any 305(b)/303(d) impairment(s) &/or TMDL(s).*
 - Suwannee River Mainstem: Suwannee Canal in Okefenokee Swamp to State Line, Total Mercury in Fish Tissue Residue TMDL, 28 February 2002, <http://arm-permit2k.dep.state.fl.us/psd/1210471/U0001195.pdf>
 - Jones Creek and Suwannoochee Creek, Lead TMDL, April 2017
https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/EPD_Final_Suwannee_Lead_TMDL_2017.pdf
- *Current users of the waterbody, including but not limited to*
 - *businesses or industries,*
 - Suwannee River Outfitters & Lodge, in Fargo, Clinch County, GA, near the Suwannee River.
<https://www.facebook.com/Suwannee-River-Outfitters-Lodge-279952618695172/>
 - Griffis Fish Camp, located on the Suwannee River just downstream of the swamp, does a thriving business with campers, boaters, and fishers.
 - WWALS often organizes outings on the Suwannee River; see <http://wwals.net/events-2/outings-events/>
 - See also attached letter from Georgia Beer Co.
 - *parks within the waterbody and watershed,*
 - GA DNR's Stephen C. Foster State Park is located on the Suwannee River within
 - the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (designated by Congress in 1936 and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS),
 - as is the Okefenokee Wilderness (designated by Congress in 1974 and also managed by USFWS).
 - *and any "blue trails" on the water for water-craft recreation activities.*
 - The Suwannee River Wilderness Trail extends from the Okefenokee Swamp into Florida, with four landings in Georgia. <http://wwals.net/maps/suwannee-river-wilderness-trail/srwt-map/srwt-access>
 - The Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trails cover the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, entirely in Georgia. <http://wwals.net/water-trails/okefenokee-wilderness-area-canoe-trails/>
- *Letters of support from:*
 - *dischargers, domestic &/or industrial, to the reach.*

See next bullet point (stakeholders) for Fargo, Clinch County, Waycross, Echols County, and Valdosta.

- *municipalities, county Board of Commissioners, other affected governmental bodies, and other stakeholders who live in the watershed.*
 - Fargo, in Clinch County, is at the access road to the Okefenokee, with numerous references to that swamp.
 - Waycross, part of which is in the Suwannee River Basin, in Ware County, bills itself as Gateway to the Okefenokee.
 - Valdosta, in Lowndes County, the biggest city in the Suwannee River Basin, advertises itself as a route to the Okefenokee, and there are signs on I-75 indicating that.
 - The Adopted 2015 Joint Clinch County and Cities of Argyle, Du Pont, Fargo, and Homerville Comprehensive Plan Update says “Encourage private operators to explore opportunities for tourism on the Okefenokee and the Suwannee River. The advertising of natural resources and the Eco-Lodge could increase environmental tourism and environmental research.... In collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, continue to conduct a marketing campaign to promote the Suwannee River Eco-Lodge and golf course packages.... Build a boardwalk to connect businesses to the Suwannee River Eco-Lodge.” <https://www.sgrc.us/documents/localgovernmentservices/comprehensiveplans/4d34fa006d652aba24fe1ab27b3d61e2.pdf>
 - The 2015 Echols County Comprehensive Plan Update says “The Suwannee River, Grand Bay Creek, Alapahoochee River, and Toms Creek could possibly be utilized a lot for recreational and/or tourist uses.” <https://www.sgrc.us/documents/localgovernmentservices/comprehensiveplans/033e0522f82ac2b2ea4cf26b71988d21.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 boat ramps on the Suwannee River in Georgia at GA DNR’s Stephen C. Foster State Park in Charlton County and at Fargo in Clinch County at US 441. There is riverbank access at the Suwannee River Sill and at Griffis Fish Camp, both off of GA 177 between Fargo and the Park. See next section, on Okefenokee Park, for extensive investments.