

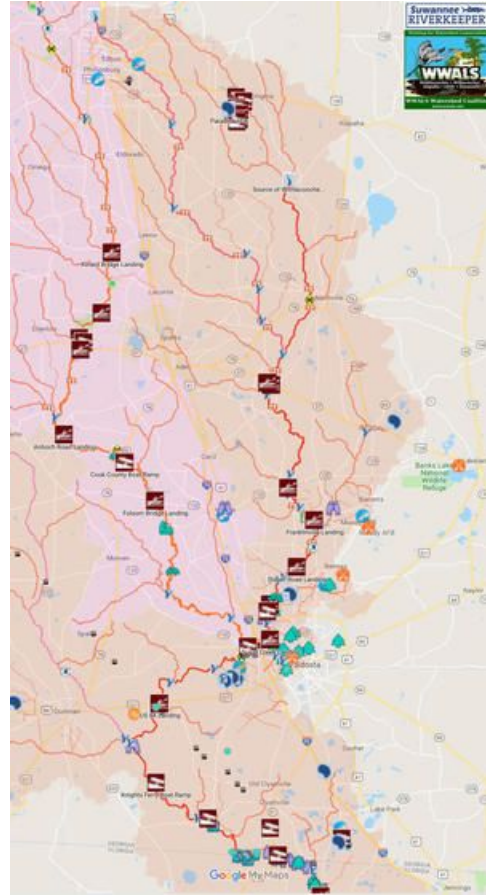
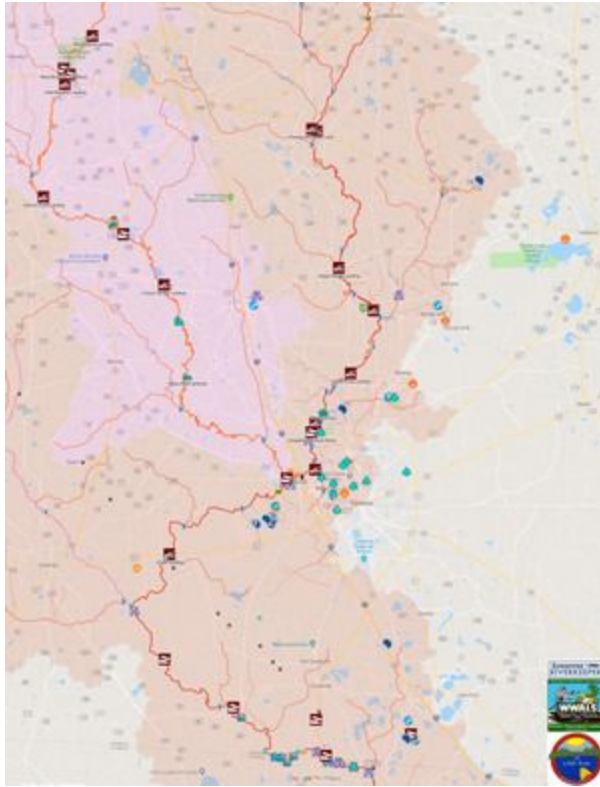
## Withlacoochee River, changing its Designated Use to Recreational

- *Name and length of the waterbody.*

Withlacoochee River. Of its 115 miles from Berrien County to the Suwannee River in Florida, 87 miles are in Georgia. Of the 97.7 miles of this river in the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT), 70 miles are in Georgia, from GA 37 between Adel and Ray City past Valdosta, Quitman, and Clyattville to the state line. At least those 70 miles of the Withlacoochee River on the WLRWT in Georgia should be reclassified as Recreational. Reclassifying the entire Withlacoochee River in Georgia would be better.

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

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



- *Any 305(b)/303(d) impairment(s) &/or TMDL(s).*
  - Little River to Okapilco 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](https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/EPD_Final_Suwannee_Lead_TMDL_2017.pdf)
  - See also TMDLs for tributaries including the New River and several creeks.  
<https://epd.georgia.gov/suwannee-river-basin-tmdl-reports>
  - Fecal coliform TMDL, June 2000  
[https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/EPD\\_Withlacoochee\\_River\\_Fecal\\_TMDL\\_2000.pdf](https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/EPD_Withlacoochee_River_Fecal_TMDL_2000.pdf)
  - Numerous Fecal coliform and E. coli incursions in recent years; see the daily GA-EPD Sewage Spills Report  
<http://wwals.net/2018/12/21/ga-epd-posts-spills-online-2018-12-21/> as collected here:  
<http://wwals.net/issues/vww/ga-spills/>
  - See also Valdosta water quality test results demonstrating Fecal coliform and E. coli getting into the Withlacoochee River when there are no reported spills. <http://wwals.net/issues/testing/#results>
- *Current users of the waterbody, including but not limited to*
  - *businesses or industries,*
    - See attached letter from Georgia Beer Co., Valdosta, GA.
    - [Southern Paddling Guide](#), between Moody AFB and Valdosta in Lowndes County, GA, at the top of Cherry Creek, rents boats and guides excursions.
    - [FOSS](#) at Moody Air Force Base rents boats (military or veterans only), in Lowndes County, GA, between the Withlacoochee and Alapaha Rivers.
    - [CORE](#) at Valdosta State University rents boats (renter must have some association with the university) in Lowndes County, GA, near the Withlacoochee River.
    - Valdosta, the biggest city in the Suwannee River Basin, is located on the Withlacoochee River.

- Tifton, the second biggest city, is at the headwaters of its tributary the New River.
      - Moultrie, the third biggest city, is at the headwaters of Okapilco Creek, which flows past Quitman into the Withlacoochee River.
      - Adel is on a tributary of the Withlacoochee River, and Cook County is bounded by the Little River on the west and the Withlacoochee and New Rivers on the east.
      - Similarly, Lowndes County's west border is the Little River and the Withlacoochee River.
      - WWALS organizes frequent paddle outings on the Withlacoochee River; see <http://wwals.net/events-2/outings-events/>
    - *parks within the waterbody and watershed,*
      - Paradise PFA has five boat ramps on 68 lakes with 528 acres of water, in Berrien County just west of Enigma, upstream of the Withlacoochee River. <https://georgiawildlife.com/paradise-pfa>
      - Drexel Park next to Valdosta State University with 11 acres on One Mile Branch, which flows into Sugar Creek and then the Withlacoochee River <http://vlpra.com/168/Large-Parks>
      - Azalea City Trail for miles along One Mile Branch in Valdosta. <http://www.l-a-k-e.org/blog/?p=5013>
      - Langdale Park with Langdale Park Boat Ramp and miles of Withlacoochee River frontage in 168 acres (GA DNR and Valdosta-Lowndes Parks & Recreational Authority or VLPRA) <http://vlpra.com/168/Large-Parks>
      - Sugar Creek Landing, a sliver of Lowndes County land from Gornto Road to the Withlacoochee River. <http://wwals.net/2018/01/29/gornto-road-valdosta-access-to-withlacoochee-river-2018-01-24/>
      - Knights Ferry Boat Ramp in 2 acres (VLPRA) <http://vlpra.com/230/Knights-Ferry-Boat-Ramp>
      - Clyattville-Nankin Boat Ramp in 1 acre (VLPRA) <http://vlpra.com/232/Nankin-Boat-Ramp>
      - State Line Boat Ramp on GA 31 right of way (GA DNR and VLPRA) <http://vlpra.com/233/Madison-Highway-Boat-Ramp>
      - Numerous other VLPRA and Valdosta city parks <http://vlpra.com/>
      - Grassy Pond, a lake with Grassy Pond Boat Ramp in 451 acres near Lake Park, open to the public, owned and operated by Moody AFB. <http://moodyfss.com/grassy-pond/>
    - *and any "blue trails" on the water for water-craft recreation activities.*
- The WWALS Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail has nineteen landings on those rivers in Georgia, of which ten are on the Withlacoochee River. <http://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/>
- *Letters of support from:*
    - *dischargers, domestic &/or industrial, to the reach.*

See next bullet item (stakeholders) for Brooks County, Adel, Hahira, and Valdosta.
  - *municipalities, county Board of Commissioners, other affected governmental bodies, and other stakeholders who live in the watershed.*
    - [Valdosta – Lowndes Tourism Authority](#): \$500
    - 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. One of them is Ray City Landing on the Withlacoochee River at GA 76. <http://wwals.net/?p=43927>
    - 2016-11-07 Brooks County, GA: resolution, <http://wwals.net/?p=27495>
    - 2018-01-16 Adel, GA: resolution, <http://wwals.net/?p=41284>
    - 2018-02-01 Hahira, GA: resolution, <http://wwals.net/?p=42023>
    - 2018-02-20 Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority letter of support, <http://wwals.net/?p=42452>
    - 2018-04-05 Valdosta City Council: resolution, <http://wwals.net/?p=43297>
    - The Final adopted 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update for Tift County and the Cities of Omega, Tifton, and Ty Ty says "Greater Tift County's natural resources should be marketed by the Tourism Department to increase economic and tourism opportunities in the community. Assets of the community are the Little River Corridor, the New River Corridor, Southside Branch and Westside Branch Rivershed, and Ty Ty Creek.... 1.2 Sustainable areas need to be set aside for 2 boat paddle trails. Policy 1.2.1: Encourage public and private participation and partnerships between all communities in Tift County and including the State to work on opportunities for river access." <https://www.sgrc.us/documents/localgovernmentservices/comprehensiveplans/Off1e13346601ed599dc6c6f356003fb.pdf>
    - The 2016 Greater Lowndes Comprehensive Plan lists the Withlacoochee River 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>
    - The Adopted 2017 Joint Brooks County and Cities of Barwick, Morven, Pavo, and Quitman Comprehensive Plan Update says "Brooks County can boast three springs of a type usually thought to be

only in Florida. Of only about six second magnitude springs in Georgia, three are downstream from US 84: Wade or Blue Springs, sadly defunct; McIntyre Spring, large and easily accessible in the right bank emerging from 4610 feet of caverns back under Brooks County; and Arnold Springs, actually three small springs in the left bank. Second magnitude springs average 10 to 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) of discharge. While they are widespread in north Florida, apparently there are only about six in Georgia [1]. Since the county line is on the east bank, all three springs in the Withlacoochee River are in Brooks County. (There is only one first magnitude spring (more than 100 cfs) in Georgia, Radium Springs near Albany.) The biggest is McIntyre Spring, next to the west or right bank, with about 46.42 cfs[1], about river mile 31.46. Cave diver Guy Bryant says he and others have explored it with scuba gear 4610 feet back under Brooks County. Land access to McIntyre Spring is privately owned and closed, but the spring itself is readily accessible in the river. Smallest is the cluster of three springs known as Arnold Springs, on the north or left bank, at 30.641185, - 83.336079, about river mile 29.06, owned by a family corporation based in Valdosta. The most famous, Blue or Wade Spring just south of US 84 and the railroad tracks and north of Blue Springs Road, was once a famous resort, with a custom-built railroad. It was actually two springs, one inland at the resort and one in the river, measured in 1937 at 19.9 and 23.21 cfs[1]. The past tense is because according to a reliable source attempts to improve the spring by digging it out destroyed it.”

<https://www.sgrc.us/documents/localgovernmentservices/comprehensiveplans/7a3d5e53cf7beb85f963e3463c07c193.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.*

In Georgia on the Withlacoochee River there are Youngs Mill Creek Landing on GA 37, with paved access by Cook County, and Ray City Landing at GA 37, which Berrien County agreed to name that and to authorize WWALS to plant signs.

Lowndes County has promised to make and plant road signs at all river landings in Lowndes County, which on the Withlacoochee River include Hagans Bridge Landing at GA 122, Franklinville Landing, Staten Road Landing, Langdale Park Boat Ramp (VLPR) off of US 41, Sugar Creek Landing on Gormto Road, Knights Ferry Boat Ramp (VLPR), Nankin Boat Ramp (VLPR), and State Line Boat Ramp (GA DNR & VLPR).

VLPR: Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreational Authority.