

<https://wwals.net/?p=50614> The DNR grant also enabled WWALS to pay the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to make WLRWT road signs to go in Cook and Colquitt Counties. Lowndes County Public Works has already made and planted WLRWT road signs at three locations on the Withlacoochee River, and plans road signs for the rest of the dozen WLRWT locations in that county. Years ago WWALS already paid GDOT to make and plant road signs for all ARWT Georgia landings.

Lowndes County, Valdosta, and other public and private organizations are planning a Troupville River Camp at the Little River Confluence.

<https://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/wrwt-map/wrwt-points/#trouville-river-camp>

They are also planning a Troupville River Park to add 77 acres of now-private land to the existing 44-acre Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority (VLPRA) park at the GA-DNR Troupville Boat Ramp, off of GA 133 at I-75 exit 18, on the site of historic Troupville, the former Lowndes County seat.

<https://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/wrwt-map/wrwt-points/#trouville-river-park>

The main impediment to these River Camp and River Park plans has been lack of funds to purchase the privately-owned land. There is good reason to believe those funds are now in hand, given that the Mayor of Valdosta said so on his radio talk show Monday a week ago. Such a land purchase can be used as much of the match for a grant proposal to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program, and such a grant could pay for the bulk of the River Camp and River Park.

For a previous GOSP proposal, WWALS collected support letters for Troupville River Camp from the City of Valdosta and Lowndes County, as well as the local Chamber, and Tourism Authority, a prominent architect and an engineering firm (both of whom invested significant time in preliminary work), two geology professors at Valdosta State University, and the local Disc Golf Association, as well as the private landowner, Helen Tapp. We even got letters from Florida: Madison and Hamilton County and the Suwannee River Water Management District. All those organizations thus support recreation on the Little and Withlacoochee Rivers near Valdosta. <https://www.wwals.net/pictures/2019-10-31--wwals-gosp-trouville-river-camp/>

Meanwhile, back in 2018 began the One Valdosta-Lowndes initiative:

<https://onevaldostalowndes.com/about-the-project/>

*...to guide community and economic development for the next 15 years through an overall vision for the “end in mind”. The ultimate goal is to create a Valdosta-Lowndes Community and Economic Development Strategy.*

The Mayor also mentioned on that same radio show that the stakeholders in One Valdosta-Lowndes recently met and decided on priorities. Top of their list, number one, by unanimous consent, is Troupville River Camp. The stakeholders, according to the One Valdosta-Lowndes web page is:

*Partners in the strategy’s development include City of Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia Power, the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority, Valdosta State University, the Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce and South Georgia Medical Center.*

So all those public and private organizations support Recreational use of the Withlacoochee and Little Rivers near the Little River Confluence.

Related to that, VLPRA is finishing an update to its Master Plan. VLPRA’s consultant on that