

project invited WWALS to write up a WWALS Vision for Lowndes County Waterways, which is attached and online here: <https://wwals.net/?p=54946> The various participants in the VLPRA process agreed to incorporate all of that WWALS vision into the VLPRA Master Plan. The largest items in that WWALS Vision are the Troupville River Park and River Camp. Thus Valdosta, Lowndes County, VLPRA, and other participants such as the Chamber, endorse Recreational use of the Withlacoochee and Little Rivers near Valdosta. You won't find swimming or diving mentioned much, because it is simply assumed that where there is boating in our rivers, there will be swimming and diving.

Speaking of Georgia Power, as One Valdosta-Lowndes did, Georgia Power's Southwest Region has for the second year provided a substantial grant to WWALS for water quality testing, which we use on the Withlacoochee, Little, and Alapaha Rivers. Here is the WWALS press release, showing the Southwest Director's wife and child recreating in the Alapaha River at Naylor Park Beach: <https://wwals.net/?p=55918>

Naylor Park Beach is in the park that was built to include Naylor Boat Ramp, which was paid for by a Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), approved by the voters of Lowndes County, and paid by everyone who shops in Lowndes County, which includes people from a hundred miles around.

You will probably get a letter from the Mayor of Valdosta about recreational investments in our rivers, including possibly the largest of all: the \$100 million Valdosta has spent so far in upgrading its sanitary sewer system, including for example recently building a catch basin at the entrance to its Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lowndes County has contributed funds to these upgrades, in addition to substantial investments in the county's own sewer system. Many of those Valdosta sewer system improvements were also funded by SPLOST, which means they were approved by the voters, who thus also support recreational uses of these rivers.

Thank you for your consideration,

John S. Quarterman
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®
/s
WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.

Attachments:

- WWALS-Recreation-Data-for-GA-EPD.xlsx
- 2019-2020-WWALS-composite-spreadsheet-of-GA-FL-water-quality-Little-Withlacoochee-Alapaha-and-Suwannee-Rivers.xlsx
- 2021-06-30--WWALS-composite-spreadsheet-of-GA-FL-water-quality-Little-Withlacoochee-Alapaha-and-Suwannee-Rivers.xlsx
- 2020-08-02--WWALS-Water-Quality-Situation.pdf
- trouville-river-camp-summary.pdf
- 2021-03-01--WWALS-to-VLPRA-Master-Plan.pdf