

Thanks for your consideration of an agenda item about water trails.
My apologies for taking so long to send this to you.
I realize it is probably too late for tomorrow's County Commission meeting,
but perhaps you could put it on the agenda for December.

Please find attached a draft resolution to support the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail.

If it is relevant, please note that similar resolutions have been passed by Brooks County, Adel, Hahira,
and Valdosta.

<http://www.wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/#Sponsor>

In another message I will send information about the proposed Troupville River Camp.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®
229-242-0102
contact@suwanneeriverkeeper.org
www.suwanneeriverkeeper.org

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
850-290-2350
wwalswatershed@gmail.com
www.wwals.net
PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632

WWALS is the WATERKEEPER® Alliance member
for the Suwannee River and all its tributaries.

WWALS is a member of
Georgia River Network, Georgia Water Coalition,
Waterkeepers Florida, Floridians Against Fracking,
and national River Network.

You can join this fun and work by
[becoming a WWALS member today!](#)



Thanks again for your consideration for an agenda item about water trails.

In a previous message, I send a draft resolution for the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail.

Please find attached to this message information about the proposed Troupville River Camp, downstream from Cook County at the Little River Confluence with the Withlacoochee River, just west of Valdosta.

Paddle trips downstream from Cook County to Troupville Boat Ramp make a lot of sense, seeing as Cook County has five access points on the Little River (Kinard Bridge Landing, Red Roberts Landing, Reed Bingham State Park East, Antioch Road Landing, and Cook County Boat Ramp @ GA 76) and one on the Withlacoochee River (Youngs Mill Creek Landing @ GA 37). I know of people who have done this on both rivers, continuing all the way to the Suwannee.

Attached is a summary of the project:
troupville-river-camp-summary.pdf

- Concept Plan by ASA Engineering
- context map showing Troupville River Camp in the center of the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail
- text narrative from the pre-application
- letter from Valdosta-Lowndes County Chair Myrna Ballard
- letter from landowner Helen Tapp
- Project Timeline
- draft Budget

And the pre-application as submitted:
2019-10-31--WWALS-GOSP-Troupville-River-Camp-pre-application-filed.pdf

There's also a summary on the WWALS website:
<http://wwals.net/2019/11/05/troupville-river-camp-center-of-little-and-withlacoochee-river-water-trail-2019-10-31/>

If Cook County would write a letter of support, that would be quite helpful. While the nominal deadline for the pre-application was the end of October, DNR says the real deadline for such letters of support is the end of the year.

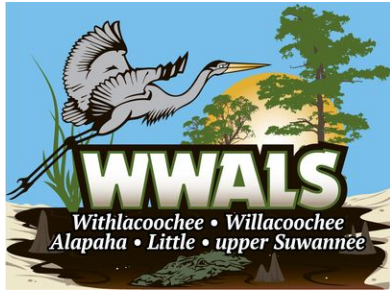
While I realize it is probably too late for tomorrow's County Commission meeting, perhaps you can get Troupville River Camp and the water trail on the agenda for the December meeting.

Thanks again for your consideration.

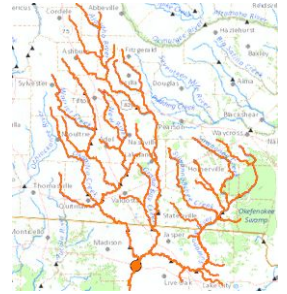
For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®

229-242-0102



WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
 the WATERKEEPER® Alliance Affiliate for the upper
 Suwannee, Withlacoochee, and Alapaha Rivers
 a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity
 PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632
 850-290-2350
 wwalswatershed@gmail.com
 www.wwals.net



October 3, 2016

To: Cook County Commission

Re: Signs for landings on Water Trails

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking an interest in the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT), which starts at Kinard Bridge Road in Cook County and flows downstream to the Withlacoochee River confluence with the Suwannee River. WLRWT is a project of WWALS Watershed Coalition, which is the watershed organization for the upper Suwannee Basin, including the Little, New, Withlacoochee, Alapaha, and upper Suwannee Rivers in south Georgia and north Florida.

This water trail already benefits Cook County by drawing in boaters from near and far, who spend money locally, and who look after the rivers. Note the prominent writeups on river etiquette and safety in the printed pamphlet and on the WLRWT website,
<http://www.wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/>.

The only missing pieces to be listed as a Georgia Water Trail are signs so more people will be able to find the water trail. They are of two kinds:

1. Road signs on the highway, a pair at each landing. Georgia Department of Transportation has agreed on a price of approximately \$300 per pair (the prices may vary slightly due to the length of the landing name). Each road sign actually has the three parts pictured:
 - a. The name of the water trail (Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail)
 - b. The landing name (for example Red Roberts Landing) and the county name (Cook County)
 - c. A directional arrow, which is the only difference between the pair.



2. One kiosk near the river at each landing, to display water trail etiquette and a map of what boaters can expect to find upstream and downstream, and with a holder for water trail brochures and other literature such as county tourist brochures. A kiosk of the kind used at state parks costs about \$1,000. The prices can be less if labor is donated, for example as a school project. And it can be even less if the lumber or other supplies are donated.

Cook County has five public landings on the Little River. As you probably know, some of these have several names and even more than one address:

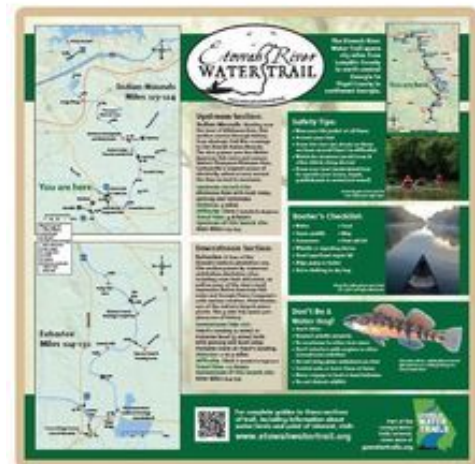
- Kinard Bridge Landing,
2640 Kinard Bridge Rd, Lenox, GA 31637
- Red Roberts Landing,
4727 Rountree Bridge Rd., Adel, GA 31620
- Reed Bingham State Park (east)
542 Reed Bingham Rd, Adel, GA 31620
- Adel-Moultrie Landing @ GA 37*
2 GA 37, Adel, GA 31620
(In Colquitt County, but needs a road sign in Cook County)
- Antioch Road Landing
On Antioch Road
- Cook County Landing @ GA 76
966 Quitman Highway (GA 76), Adel, GA 31620

In addition on the Withlacoochee River:

- Youngs Mill Creek Landing @ GA 37*
13766 Highway 37, Adel, GA 31620
- Ray City Landing @ GA 37*
1 GA 37, Nashville, GA 31639
(In Berrien County, but needs a road sign in Cook County)

*Name still being discussed. Berrien County 911 has agreed to Ray City Landing.

Once we finish discussions with 911 centers and other offices in all the counties, WWALS will be printing a brochure larger and more informative than the pamphlet you've already seen. We have \$500 towards that printing from the Valdosta-Lowndes Tourism Authority, and only a small amount more would pay for 5,000 copies, similar to the printings of the Alapaha River Water Trail (ARWT) brochure, which were funded by V-L Tourism and the Hamilton County, Florida, Tourist Development Council.



Since each of these landings is on a county line, that's eight road signs needed in Cook County, which would come to $\$150 * 8 = \1200 . Six of these landings are in Cook County, so that's six kiosks needed, and $\$1000 * 6 = \$6,000$ for kiosks. Signs and kiosks would total \$7,200. WWALS would like to ask Cook County to fund all or part of that amount.

It would be convenient to get agreement from the other county across the river in each case before planting road signs, because GDOT would prefer to place them as pairs.

If only a smaller amount of funding is available, we'd like to start at Red Roberts Landing, as one of the most popular landings in Cook County on the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail.

If kiosk funding is not available, we'd like to go ahead and put a much less expensive option at each landing: a literature box on an electric fence post, pictured on the right. WWALS can buy those for less than \$20 each and install them at all the landings on both rivers. All we need is permission from the county to do so.

Please also find attached a draft resolution of support for the WLRWT.

I look forward to discussing water trails with you at your Monday October 3rd 2016 Work Session. WWALS looks forward to collaborating with Cook County on this outdoor recreation, conservation, and economic project for the benefit of the county the county and her citizens.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

[/s]

John S. Quarterman, President

Attachment: draft water trail resolution



WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Upper Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities



Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program: Pre-application

Deadline for submission: On or before midnight on Thursday, October 31, 2019

Please utilize the GOSP/Conserve Georgia Program Manual available at www.gadnr.org/gosp (<https://www.gadnr.org/gosp>) for direction on how to complete this application. If you have questions that are not satisfied by the manual, contact Rob Stokes, Program Coordinator at 404-463-8570, or Shelia Lenoir, GOSP Grant Specialist at 404-463-0288 for further assistance.

Part 1 – Pre-application Demographics

Applicant Name:

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.

Entity Characterization:

Nongovernmental Entity

Nongovernmental entities are defined as any nonprofit primarily concerned with the protection and conservation of land and natural resources, as evidenced by its organizational documents. For eligibility purposes, please provide the organizational documents that show this primary concern..

FINAL_WWALS_By-laws_06_12_2012.pdf

Applicant Address:

PO Box 88

Applicant City:

Hahira

Applicant State:

US-GA

Applicant Zip:

31632

Applicant County:

Lowndes

Congressional District:

This link takes you to an outside governmental resource website where you can enter in your address to find out what Congressional, State House, and State Senate districts you reside in:
https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/

GA-08, GA-01

State Senate District:

8, 7, 13, 11, 3

State House District:

177, 176, 175, 174, 172, 171, 170, 169, 155, 152, 148, 139, 180

Main Point of Contact:

Gretchen Quarterman

Phone Number:

229-834-1945

Email:

wwalswatershed@gmail.com

Chief Elected Official, Director or President:

John S. Quarterman

Phone number:

229-242-0102

Email:

jsqgoog@gmail.com

Chief Financial Officer:

Gretchen Quarterman

Phone number:

229-834-1945

Email:

gretchen.quarterman@gmail.com

Part 2 – Pre-application Project Questionnaire

Project Category:

If you are unsure of your Project Type, please use this link to ensure you are making the correct selection: <https://gadnr.org/sites/default/files/dnr/pdf/gospflowchart.pdf> If you have any questions, please contact a Grants Specialist.

Local Parks and Trails of Regional Significance

Project Type:

Combination of acquisition and stewardship

Number of Acres:

74

Project Title:

Troupville River Camp

Site Address (If no address exists, enter either a parcel number or GPS Coordinates):

Lowndes County parcel 0057 003; GPS: 30.851251, -83.347229; Immediately south of Troupville Boat Ramp, 19664 Valdosta Hwy, Valdosta, GA 31602: on GA 133 off I-75 exit 18, in Lowndes County, GA, at Confluence of Little River with Withlacoochee River.

Site City:

Troupville

Site State:

US-GA

Site Zip:

31602

Site County:

Lowndes

Are you requesting grant or loan funding for this project?

Grant funding

Please identify each of the following total dollar values. The Total Project Cost should be the sum of the Match Commitment Total and Total Amount of Funding Requested. Match must be at least 25% of the Total Project Cost and correspond with the answer provided in Question #1 in Part 3 of this application.

Total Project Cost:

\$650,000

Total Amount of Funding Requested:

\$500,000

Match Commitment Total:

\$162,500

Match % Calculation

0.25

Project Narrative:

Please provide a description of the proposed project and the need for assistance. The narrative should be clear and concise.

A Troupville River Camp will attract paddling and fishing enthusiasts of all ages. The property is located at the Confluence of the Little River with the Withlacoochee River, off of I-75 and GA 133 just west of Valdosta, the biggest city in the Suwannee River Basin. Proposed amenities include air-conditioned bathrooms, hot and cold running water, five screened sleeping platforms, picnic tables and benches, outdoor fire pits, and paddle boat racks for canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards, with river access near the Confluence.

The location is historic, where Troupville was the former Lowndes County seat before Valdosta, from 1833 to 1860. The property has been privately owned since then and is now available for purchase for this purpose.

The Land Between the Rivers has white sand beaches, palmetto thickets, cypress stands, and towering oak and longleaf pine trees. Situated between two blackwater rivers that also have histories of transportation and recreation, the site offers a genuinely "wild" experience within a mile of an interstate highway. The property is large enough to hold both a secluded paddle-in-only River Camp and hiking and biking trails, and even a frisbee golf course. It is an ideal outdoor classroom for classes on art, history, and the natural environment.

The bathrooms will provide environmental benefit, preventing much unfortunate use of the woods, and keeping the rivers cleaner. The property will serve as a center for water quality testing, which could help resolve the stigma of Valdosta's chronic wastewater spills, which have affected the Little, Withlacoochee, and Suwannee Rivers all the way to the Gulf.

The private owner of these 74.14 acres of floodplain and 1.3 miles of river frontage is actively promoting selling it for this project, including on TV and in presentations to local elected and appointed boards. The property is next to the existing 49.36 acre park immediately to the north at Troupville Boat Ramp, operated by Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority (VLPRA), for 120+ acres of park destination for locals and traveling outdoors enthusiasts.

Most maintenance will be by a caretaker in exchange for RV parking space. Thus a relatively small initial capital investment will enable long-term eco-tourism with economic and environmental advantages, at little operational cost.

Our model is the five existing River Camps on the Suwannee River in Florida that have long been popular as part of the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT). This Troupville River Camp will facilitate paddle trips on our Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT), starting upstream from this Confluence, on either the Little or Withlacoochee Rivers, continuing down the Withlacoochee to Florida and the Suwannee River, connecting with the SRWT River Camps.

This Troupville River Camp will be a significant public relations boon, not just to Lowndes County or Valdosta, but to the entire region and the states of Georgia and Florida. We have support from the City of Valdosta and several surrounding counties in Georgia and Florida, plus cooperation from personnel at several agencies of both states.

See also: <http://wwals.net/?p=49834>

Are you aware that this project must adhere to all required American with Disabilities (ADA) guidelines, as mandated by law?

Yes

Part 3 – Evaluation Criteria

1. Can you provide matching funds greater than 25% of the total project cost? (10 points)

No

2. Does this project satisfy priority needs, as identified in a formalized planning document? (10 points)

Yes

Name of Planning Document(s):

Greater Lowndes County Comprehensive Plan

Upload the cover page and sections that are applicable to your project. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload Planning Document (1):

2016-Lowndes-Comp-Plan-Extracts.pdf

Upload Planning Document (2):

Upload Planning Document (3):

Note: Acceptable forms of documentation include but are not limited to: comprehensive plan; recreation master plan; county or regional master plan; trail system plan; capital improvements plan; regional water plan or land/use management plan.

3. Has any pre-project planning occurred and is the project ready to proceed? (10 points)

Yes

Describe how your project is ready to proceed. Please provide any project plans and drawings, project timeline, required permits, etc.

We draw on the plans used by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) in building the original five River Camps on the Suwannee River in Florida.

Please see uploaded Concept Plan provided pro bono by ASA Engineering, and a draft timeline.

Upload Pre-Planning Documents. There is no forfeiture of potential points if the upload feature is not used.

Upload Pre-Planning Document (1):

2019-Troupville-River-Camp-Timeline-Draft.docx

Upload Pre-Planning Document (2):

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

Upload Pre-Planning Document (3):

Upload Pre-Planning Document (4):

Upload Pre-Planning Document (5):

4. Will these funds be used as leverage when applying for an external grant(s) outside of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act Program? (5 points)

Yes

Will the project associated with the external grant be completed within two years of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program award, if successful?

Yes

Answer the following questions about the external grant(s). 1. Name of Grant 2. Organization Making Grant Available 3. Core Mission of the Secondary Grant 4. How the Grant Directly relates to the following: *Support of local parks and trails of state and regional significance* Provides stewardship of conservation land* The acquisition of critical areas for the provision or protection of clean water, wildlife, hunting, fishing, military installation buffering, or for natural resource-based outdoor recreation 5. Award date for the secondary grant

Input your data here:

1. Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
2. GA-DNR
3. Signage for Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT)
4. The Little River Confluence is on the WLRWT, and includes both the existing GA-DNR Troupville Boat Ramp and VLRPA park, as well as VLPRA's Langdale Park on the Withlacoochee River, and GA-DNR's Reed Bingham State Park on the Little River, as well as many Boat Ramps and launches along both rivers. The proposed acquisition of the Land Between the Rivers will promote WLRWT and the RTP grant proposal.
5. Fall 2020

5. Please list each natural resource-based outdoor activity provided by the acquisition or development of this property. You must upload a map to receive points. (25 points)

Fishing, Hiking, Biking, Boating/canoeing/kayaking, Camping, Wildlife viewing, Other

You must upload a map depicting the presence and location of each recreation activity to receive points.

If "other" please specify:

Other: cleanups. WWALS has repeatedly held cleanups at Troupville Boat Ramp, extending onto the subject property, in cooperation with VLPRA, other agencies, and local Boy Scout Troops. Such cleanups can be more frequent with the proposed public ownership of the subject property.

Other: frisbee golf. VLPRA notes, <https://vlpra.com/244/Disc-Golf>, that a local group, Disc Golf Valdosta, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/120506457990734/>, already plays regularly at VLPRA's Freedom Park.

Upload Outdoor Activity Map: Upload map identifying the location of all selected activities



6. Is this project located in one of the areas described below? (10 points)

For additional information about each of these characteristics, please see the Watershed Technical Appendix (https://gadnr.org/sites/default/files/dnr/pdf/Watershed_Technical_Appendix.pdf)

Yes

- A. The project is located in a Hydrologic Unit Code HUC-12 watershed, identified by Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) as a priority watershed for water quality purposes.
- B. The project is located in a HUC-12 or equivalent size area as impacted by or sensitive to hydrologic alteration.
- C. The project is located in a HUC-12 watershed identified by GAEPD as a healthy watershed.
- D. The project is located in a HUC-12 watershed with waters identified by GAEPD as impaired and with any of the following criteria: algae, biota impacted (fish community), biota impacted (macroinvertebrate community), bacteria, and dissolved oxygen.
- E. The project is located in one of the most significant groundwater recharge areas in Georgia.

Select all that apply

A., B., D.

You must upload at least one supporting document to receive points. For additional information about each of these characteristics, please see the Technical Appendix.

Upload Watershed Location Document (1):

Withlacoochee_WIP_0311020304_Y2013.pdf

Upload Watershed Location Document (2):

Consent-Order-Valdosta-GA-EPD.pdf

Upload Watershed Location Document (3):

Upload Watershed Location Document (4):

7. Will any of the below listed Best Management Practices be used for any improvements, restoration, or management activities associated with the project? (5 points)

For additional information about each of these characteristics, please see the Watershed Technical Appendix (https://gadnr.org/sites/default/files/dnr/pdf/Watershed_Technical_Appendix.pdf)

Yes

A. Protection or restoration of vegetated riparian buffers in a condition appropriate for the region.

B. Restoration of streambanks and natural hydrologic processes.

C. Protection of wetlands and riparian zones, with minimization of impacts from improvements and management activities.

D. Use of green infrastructure (bioretention areas, grass swales, and trails constructed with mulch, gravel or other pervious materials rather than concrete or asphalt.)

Select the Best Management Practices that apply:

A. Vegetated Riparian Buffers, B. Streambanks and hydrologic processes, C. Wetlands and riparian zones, D. Green Infrastructure

Please describe how you plan to utilize and implement the selected Best Management Practice(s)?

The subject property was almost bought and turned into a private shooting range. Preserving it mostly in its wild state as a local park would support all of these BMPs. In addition, building a River Camp is green infrastructure, encouraging people who actually care about the rivers and wild places to take care of them.

8. Does the project include the acquisition or stewardship of land with a cultural or historical value? (10 points)

Yes

Describe how this project adds to or enriches the local, regional, or state-wide cultural and/or historical value of the property. Provide support showing how it is formally recognized, such as DNR Historic Preservation Division documents, Georgia/National Register of Historic Places listings, etc.

The subject property was part of Troupville, the Lowndes County seat before Valdosta, from 1833 to 1860. The courthouse, jail, a hotel, and some stores and houses were on the subject property. At one point Troupville residents attempted to send a boat (a barge or a paddlewheel steamer; accounts vary) down the Withlacoochee River to Ellaville on the Suwannee River, and maybe all the way down the Suwannee to Cedar Key, to establish regular river traffic. They didn't allow for State Line Rapids. They sold the boat and cargo, probably at Ellaville, and walked home. The Little River historically has been known as Ockolochoochee River, Alacoochee River, and even Suwanee River (the upper Suwannee River in 1832 was known as Little Suwanee River). The Withlacoochee River was often un-named on early nineteenth century maps, with the name Withlacuchee in various spellings applied instead to Okapilco Creek.

"So it came about that where the wine-red waters of the Ockolochoochee and the black current of the Withlacoochee meet at the end of a long sandbar and go tumbling and writhing, eddying and curving down the long reach of moss-grown trees, like two huge serpents struggling for the mastery, the plat of a town was drawn, and it was called after Georgia's great chevelier governor, "Troupville," with a strong accent on the "ville." They had not learned to say "Troupvul" then, and it was such a high sounding title that they lingered lovingly on the pronunciation." —Atlanta Constitution, January 29, 1889, Pg 12., quoted in Ray City History Blog, 18 October 2010, "More About Troupville, GA and the Withlacoochee River," illustrated with period maps in "Ockolochoochee, Little River 1889-01-29," by John S. Quarterman, WWALS, March 16, 2018.

Upload any supporting documentation that supports the cultural or historical significance of this project. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (1):

Map of Old Troupville, GA with Notes on the Residents _ Ray City History Blog.pdf

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (2):



Upload Cultural/Historical Document (3):

Ockoloccoochee-Little-River-1889-01-29-WWALS-Watershed-Coalition.pdf

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (4):

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (5):

9. Does the project include the acquisition or stewardship of land with a significant ecological value? (15 points)

Yes

Describe the significance of the project's ecological value, such as scenic features present and visibility of such; the openness and accessibility to the public; the unique natural features present and the visibility of such; native plant and animal species of a conservation concern; and/or the increased access in habitat connectivity/connection to other greenspaces, particularly those that include a stream buffer.

The site is covered with natural vegetation and wildlife at the confluence of two rivers next to the largest city in the Suwannee River Basin, within a mile of an interstate highway. The viewshed at the Little River Confluence often astonishes locals who see it for the first time, upstream on both rivers and downstream on the blackwater Withlacoochee River, with sand beaches and Spanish-moss-laden oaks and cypresses overhanging the blackwater tea-colored rivers.

The site is readily accessible off of GA 133 from I-75 exit 18, yet there is enough space to seclude the River Camp with paddle-boat river access near the Little River Confluence, while having public hiking and biking trails accessible from GA 133 through the access road to the existing GA-DNR Troupville Boat Ramp.

We will gate that existing access road and call it the Water Oak Trail. People with handicap stickers on their vehicles will be able to ask the live-in groundskeeper to let them in the gate to go to as far as the Confluence. That road will also provide emergency vehicle access.

The Cypress Trail will be the hiking and biking trail up the Withlacoochee River.

The Troupville River Camp site includes 1.3 miles of river frontage on two rivers, and thus forms a huge stream buffer.

The site abuts the 49.36 acre Troupville Boat Ramp park, forming a total of 123.5 acres of parkland.

You may upload supporting documentation, such as photographs; maps; publications; etc. There is no forfeiture of potential points if the upload feature is not used.

Upload Ecological Value Document (1):



Upload Ecological Value Document (2):



Upload Ecological Value Document (3):



Upload Ecological Value Document (4):



Upload Ecological Value Document (5):

10. Do you have an existing plan or budget to maintain and manage this property after the project is complete? (15 points)

Yes

Provide documentation such as proof of dedicated funding for maintenance; resolution of support for long-term maintenance, etc. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload management plans, budgets, documents, etc. here (1):

2019-10-29-Troupville-River-Camp-Timeline-Draft.pdf

Upload management plans, budgets, documents, etc. here (2):

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

Upload management plans, budgets, documents, etc. here (3):

11. Will this project be completed within a two-year timeline? (10 points)

Yes

Detail all phases of work that will completed during the two-year timeline. Applicant may provide engineering plans, letters of awarded contracts/vendors, as well as a narrative of public involvement, if applicable.

See draft timeline.

Applicant may upload supportive documentation, such as plans, contract documents, project timelines, etc. to support this criteria. There is no forfeiture of potential points if the upload feature is not used.

Upload support of timeline here (1):

2019-10-29-Troupville-River-Camp-Timeline-Draft.pdf

Upload support of timeline here (2):

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

Upload support of timeline here (3):

12. Describe the regional significance of this project including how the project serves a greater community beyond the local area, adds value to neighboring or distant communities, draws interest from neighboring or distant communities, adds to or enhances Georgia's state-wide resources, or any other factors that contribute to the regional significance of this project. (15 points)

In June 2019, 300 Paddle Georgia participants started paddling at Troupville Boat Ramp, bound downstream for Florida and the Suwannee River, in seven days of paddling and camping on 92 miles of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers in Georgia and Florida. WWALS assisted by signing in paddlers, getting permission for downstream river access from the Langdale Company, guiding a port-a-potty company in to the site, etc. Lowndes County printed and planted metal road signs at three Boat Ramps downstream in time for Paddle Georgia, and WWALS printed and planted metal signs at Troupville, Knights Ferry, Nankin, and State Line Boat Ramps, all signs being for the WWALS Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT).

The paddlers stopped Little River Confluence to learn about Land Between the Rivers and the proposed River Camp. <http://wwals.net/?p=49589> They were welcomed by landowner Helen Tapp, Lowndes County Chairman Bill Slaughter, Valdosta City Council Tim Carroll representing Valdosta Mayor John Gayle, Don Davis for the Valdosta-Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum, and Ed Hightower, a Greater Lowndes Planning Commissioner. WWALS organized a golf cart to shuttle the dignitaries down to the Confluence, and also that evening and the following morning to and from Spook Bridge, the next Paddle Georgia stop.

Downstream in Florida, at the invitation of WWALS, Suwannee County Chairman Ricky Gamble and two representatives of the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) spoke at the Final Feast for Paddle Georgia, which WWALS also catered, with musical entertainment.

The next month, citing Paddle Georgia, the chair and executive director of the dozen-downstream-county Florida Task Force about Valdosta sewage asked Suwannee Riverkeeper to speak to them and the Valdosta City Council about eco-tourism, which he did, including describing the Troupville River Camp. Several Florida counties promised assistance. <http://wwals.net/?p=49665#ecot>

The Troupville River Camp will attract paddlers from upstream at least as far as Colquitt, Cook, and Berrien Counties, Georgia. Some of whom will continue downstream into Florida, like paddler Burt Kornegay did in March 2018. <http://wwals.net/?p=43236> The River Camp will make it easy for less experienced paddlers to make such trips.

The site is where the two rivers join in the WWALS Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT), which has signed resolutions of support from Brooks County and the cities of Adel (in Cook County), Hahira, and Valdosta (both in Lowndes County), as well as a letter of support from the Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority, and financial support from the Valdosta-Lowndes Tourism Authority. <http://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/#Sponsor>

13. Will this project create opportunities to expand or enhance the local economy? (15 points)

Yes

Describe how this project will create growth in your local economy.

Some of the paddlers stopping or staying at the Troupville River Camp, will contribute to the local economy, for example by buying supplies in the numerous stores nearby at I-75 exit 18. They can get there by contacting local outfitters, who will be happy to transport them for a small fee.

See the Greater Lowndes County Comprehensive Plan, and resolutions of support for the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT) from the city councils of Adel, Hahira, and Valdosta, the letter of support from the Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority, and financial support from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Tourism Authority.

<http://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/#Sponsor>

See also recent letter of support for this project from the President and CEO of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, which says in part:

"One of our Chamber's top priorities for the past 20 years is building the type of community where young professionals and amenity-seeking retirees want to live. An essential ingredient in creating a 'cool community' which would attract such newcomers is being able to offer a variety of both active and passive recreation venues. I am quite familiar with the property being considered for this project, and believe it is ideal for this intended use."

You may upload cover sheet and applicable pages of documentation showing support of economic growth, such as current comprehensive plan; current recreation master plan; current master plan; etc. There is no forfeiture of potential points if the upload feature is not used.

Upload support for economic growth here (1):

2016-Lowndes-Comp-Plan-Extracts.pdf

Upload support for economic growth here (2):

2019-10-30--VLCoC-Letter.pdf

Upload support for economic growth here (3):

14. Will this project provide access to, or a connection to other outdoor recreation facilities? (10 points)

Yes

Describe the connections made possible by this project.

The subject 74.14 acres acquisition property adjoins the 49.36-acres VLPRA park including the GA-DNR Troupville Boat Ramp. The project will add paddle boat access on the Withlacoochee River near the Little River Confluence, leading inland to the Troupville River Camp. The Troupville River Camp will be at the center of the Georgia part of the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail, <http://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/>, connecting a dozen boat ramps and landings upstream to another dozen downstream in Georgia and Florida, and further on the Suwannee River, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, including to the existing River Camps on the Suwannee River.

Upload a conceptual map of the proposed project, highlighting the outdoor recreation facility(ies) to be connected and/or access created. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload a conceptual map here:



15. Will this project promote the stewardship of natural resources? (20 points)

Yes

Describe how these funds will promote effective conservation and sustainable practices, assist the property in remaining relevant to the community, and encourage visitation and participation by providing a safe recreational experience for future generations.

By preserving 74.14 acres of wooded floodplain with 1.3 miles of blackwater river frontage, readily accessible from I-75 and the largest city in the Suwannee River Basin, yet large enough to seclude the Troupville River Camp for paddlers, while connecting paddle outings all the way from Tifton to the Gulf of Mexico, this project will provide a safe recreational experience for all generations.

To quote the President of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce:

"One of our Chamber's top priorities for the past 20 years is building the type of community where young professionals and amenity-seeking retirees want to live. An essential ingredient in creating a 'cool community' which would attract such newcomers is being able to offer a variety of both active and passive recreation venues. I am quite familiar with the property being considered for this project, and believe it is ideal for this intended use."

That letter is uploaded under "13. Will this project create opportunities to expand or enhance the local economy?"

16. Will this project improve or expand existing water access or provide access where none is currently available? (10 points)

Yes

Describe this project will improve or expand water access.

The Troupville River Camp will encourage more paddlers to use both the Little and Withlacoochee Rivers, by landing at the Confluence to get to the River Camp, augmenting the existing Troupville Boat Ramp to get to the Camp.

It will also encourage paddlers to start upstream in Georgia to stop here, and to continue downstream to the River Camps on the Suwannee River in Florida.

Upload a conceptual map of the proposed project, detailing where the new or expanded water access occurs on the property. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload conceptual map here (1):



Upload conceptual map here (2):

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

Upload conceptual map here (3):

Upload conceptual map here (4):

Upload conceptual map here (5):

17. Will this project fill a void for a specific nature-based recreation opportunity in the area? (10 points)

Yes

Describe how the project will offer a specific nature-based recreation opportunity that currently does not exist in your area

There is no River Camp in the state of Georgia like the ones on the Suwannee River. This Troupville River Camp is uniquely located to connect paddlers down the Withlacoochee River with the River Camps on the Suwannee, engaging local communities as far upstream as Tifton, Georgia, and as far downstream as the Gulf of Mexico through Florida. The site offers additional hiking, biking, birding, and nature-studying opportunities.

Local people often complain there is not enough to do outside. Troupville River Camp and its hiking and biking trails, located only a few miles from Valdosta Mall, on one of the busiest local state highways, very near Wiregrass Technical College, and not much farther from Valdosta State University and downtown Valdosta, should provide recreational opportunities. Troupville River Camp will provide a convenient end point (or waypoint) for paddlers coming downstream from several Withlacoochee River access locations in or right next to the Valdosta City limits.

Active duty personnel at nearby Moody Air Force Base are among those who complain about lack of outdoor activities. Moody AFB personnel considering retiring here may be swayed by this additional recreation opportunity.

Upload a map identifying nearest neighboring proposed recreation. You must upload a map to receive points.

Upload map here:

2019-04-29--Troupville-Boat-Ramp-Sign.pdf

18. Is this project being developed by two or more governmental entities or in conjunction with a nongovernmental entity with a core mission of conservation? (15 points)

Yes

For all partnering governmental and/or nongovernmental entities, explain how these entities' core mission supports outdoor recreation or resource conservation. Also, describe the scope and participation level of each entity, as well as the monetary impact that each partnership provides.

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. is an NGO 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity whose Mission is: "WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities." WWALS wrote most of the pre-proposal, and will handle water quality monitoring at the site, including using the site as a base for incubating bacterial results from other monitoring stations. WWALS will provide in-kind services including water quality monitoring as part of the match.

The city of Valdosta, Lowndes County, and the local Tourism Authority are likely sources of funds for the match.

It matches their Comprehensive Plan (see uploaded excerpts).

They are all also sponsors via resolutions or financial support of the WWALS Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT), in the center of which this Troupville River Camp will be located. The cities of Adel and Hahira and Cook County are also WLRWT sponsors, and the Valdosta-Lowndes Development Authority wrote a letter of support for the WLRWT.

<http://wwals.net/maps/withlacoochee-river-water-trail/#Sponsor>

Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreational Authority (VLPRA) is a Georgia state Authority that already runs numerous parks, as well as baseball, softball, and other tournaments, and five Boat Ramps, including the Troupville Boat Ramp next to the subject property.

ASA Engineering has provided a Conceptual Plan pro bono (see uploaded).

The President of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce has provided a letter of support (see uploaded).

Upload proof of how each entity's core mission supports outdoor recreation or resource conservation. Also, upload letters describing commitment through volunteer hours, donation or cash or materials, or professional services, etc.

For each partner identified, you must upload at least one document testifying to their core mission and one letter of commitment to receive points.

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (1):

FINAL_WWALS_By-laws_06_12_2012.pdf

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (2):

2016-Lowndes-Comp-Plan-Extracts.pdf

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (3):

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (4):

2019-10-30--VLCoC-Letter.pdf

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (5):

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (6):

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (7):

Upload proof of participation or proof of core mission here (8):

Note: All contributions must be included in the budget. Partner contributions must have some level of monetary impact on the project.

19. Will this project receive support from partners (other than government or nongovernmental entity conservation partners)? (10 points)

Yes

For all partners, describe the scope and participation level of each partner, as well as the monetary impact that each partnership provides.

ASA Engineering is preparing the Conceptual Plan pro bono, with that work to be included as in-kind in the match.

Please upload letters of participation, letters of commitment of donation or volunteering, etc. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload supporting documentation here (1):

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

Upload supporting documentation here (2):

2019-10-30--VLCoc-Letter.pdf

Upload supporting documentation here (3):

Upload supporting documentation here (4):

Upload supporting documentation here (5):

Upload supporting documentation here (6):

Note: All contributions must be included in the budget. Partner contributions must have some level of monetary impact on the project.

20. Is there documented public support for the project? (5 points)

Yes

Provide proof that shows that this project is needed or supported publicly, such as letters of support from elected officials; citizens or user groups; public meeting minutes; proof of a public comment period; petitions; etc. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload proof of public support here (1):

2019-07-10--vcc-florida-counties-task-force-eco-tourism.pdf

Upload proof of public support here (2):

2019-06-15--valdosta-lowndes-land-between-the-rivers.pdf

Upload proof of public support here (3):

Upload proof of public support here (4):

Upload proof of public support here (5):

Upload proof of public support here (6):

21. Do you have a plan to keep this area protected and secured? (15 points)

Yes

Describe how you plan to keep this property secure from vandalism, loitering, crime, etc. Your narrative should include the methodology in which you plan to achieve this (i.e. video surveillance, patrols, enforcement on site, smart lights, controlled access at night, etc.). Upload a formal security plan if you have already developed it.

There is only one way in from the public roads, and the Lowndes County Sheriff Department already patrols the Troupville Boat Ramp.

We will add surveillance cameras and a gate on the path to the Troupville River Camp.

A camp maintainer will live on-site in an RV in exchange for maintenance.

We will advertise that vehicles with handicapped stickers can call the camp maintainer to request access to drive down to the Confluence viewscape.

You will not forfeit points if the upload feature is not utilized.

Upload security plan here if applicable:

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

22. Does this project overlap with the goals and plans included in Georgia's current State Wildlife Action Plan or State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan? (15 points)

Yes

Describe how the subject property overlaps with the goals and plans included in Georgia's current State Wildlife Action Plan or State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and upload a copy of the page(s) that support this finding.

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) says:

"Special Mention: Trails

One consistent message received from the results of the survey, focus groups, public comments and other sources

underscored the popularity and importance of trails. Support was strongly expressed for all kinds of trails – from

water trails, to paved trails, backcountry passages and others.

Trails have enjoyed very strong support over the last decade. Fortunately, when compared to many kinds of

recreation facilities, trails can be comparatively inexpensive to design, construct and maintain when strategically

placed and supported by local communities. Trails support a wide range of outdoor recreation activities (e.g.,

walking, hiking, biking, roller-blading, etc.); all of which can serve as gateway activities for engaging other

activities. Trail systems can increase access to adjacent outdoor recreation areas as well as providing important

habitat corridors for wildlife. Moreover, trail systems can often be established in urban environments that would

otherwise no longer be suitable for conventional, large-area parks....

The combination of strong support, modest start-up costs coupled with low maintenance demands help to make

trails systems an increasingly popular choice for recreation professionals to pursue."

The same SCORP page 27 recommends "a narrow hiking trail on natural surface or a hand-launch boat ramp might be

considered a 'nature-based' park."

See also SCORP page 41:

"Sampler of How Outdoor Recreation is Big Business in Georgia (2015)

•Paddle Sports = \$11.3 Billion"

The Troupville River Camp will be a nature-based park with hand launching for paddle boats and hiking and biking trails.

It will promote paddle sports down both the Little and Withlacoochee Rivers, located next to an interstate highway and the biggest city in central south Georgia and the entire Suwannee River Basin.

It will connect communities upstream in Georgia, and downstream in both Florida and Georgia.

And it will do all this with "modest start-up costs coupled with low maintenance demands".

You must upload a copy of each plan cover page and page number/chapter for reference to receive points

Upload plan here (1):

Statewide_Comprehensive_Outdoor_Recreation_Plan-SCORP-cover-trails-paddle-boating.pdf

Upload plan here (2):

Part 4 – Additional Required Documentation

Please provide a copy of the following, which are required for consideration for approval. If you need to submit an updated version of any uploaded document, you must do so prior to the application period close date. After that time, all applications become locked and are submitted for scoring and review.

A. Application Cover Letter, on official letter head, and signed by a ranking authorizing representative of the entity (Board Chair, Commissioner, Mayor, etc.)

2019-10-20--WWALS-Resolution-GOSP-Troupville-Boat-Ramp.pdf

B. Location map



C. Preliminary Site Plan / Conceptual Plan

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

D. Plat/Parcel map and legal description

plat-legal.pdf

E. Project Budget Worksheet

2019-10-31--Project_Budget_Worksheet_WWALS_Troupville_River_Camp.xlsx

F. Resolution adopted by the governing entity of the applicant authorizing the application

2019-10-20--WWALS-Resolution-GOSP-Troupville-Boat-Ramp.pdf

G. Current copy of Deed

deed.pdf

H. Signed statement from landowner(s) expressing support (this is applicable if the Applicant and owner are not the same) (1).

2019-Ltr-of-Support-for-Conserve-Ga-PreApp-10-18-19.pdf

Letter of landowner support (2)

2019-Ltr-of-Support-for-Conserve-Ga-PreApp-10-18-19.pdf

Letter of landowner support (3)

2019-06-17--WCTV-Local-conservationist-looking-to-transform-70-acres-for-the-public.pdf

Letter of landowner support (4)

Letter of landowner support (5)

Letter of landowner support (6)

I. Photo Map of Site (1)

Troupville-River-Camp-Exhibit-1.pdf

Photo (1)



*At the Little River Confluence with the Withlacoochee River, 2019-06-15, 08:32-17, left to right:
Dan Davis (Valdosta-Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum),
Helen Tapp (landowner, Land Between the Rivers),
Tim Carroll (Valdosta City Council and delegated by Valdosta Mayor),
BN Slaughter (Chair, Lowndes County Commission),
Gwyneth Moody (Georgia River Network),
John S. Quarterman (Savannah Riverkeeper and WWALS President) 30.8472140 -83.3475480*

Photo (2)



Landowner Helen Tapp welcoming to Lowndes County 300 paddlers in Paddles Georgia, coming down the Little River to its Confluence with the Withlacoochee River, 2019-06-15, 08:12:39, (384M) 30.8470330 -83.3475480

Photo (3)



*Paddlers departing from the Little River Confluence downstream on the Withlacoochee River,
T2 & Mary Caroline Pindar depart, during Paddles Georgia, 2019-06-15, 09:14:29, 30.8470330 -83.3475480*

Photo (4)



Photo (5)



Photo (6)

J. Georgia Environmental Policy Acts Checklist

This document is not required for the Pre-application, but if already completed, please upload.

This document is required if invited to the Second-Level Application.

K. Phase 1 Environmental Assessment

This document is not required for the Pre-application, but if already completed, please upload.

This document is required if invited to the Second-Level Application.

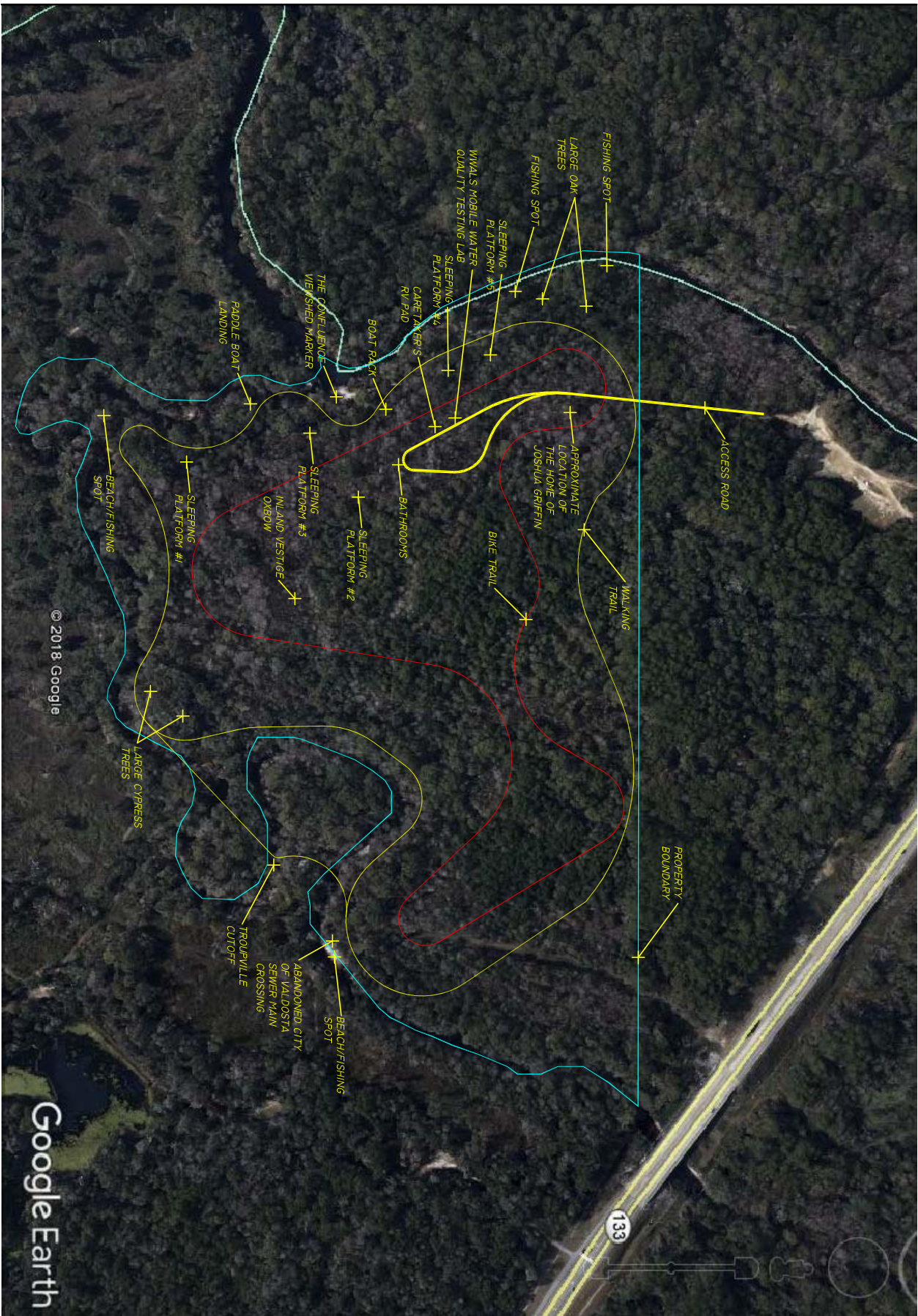
L. Appraisal 1 (Acquisition Only)

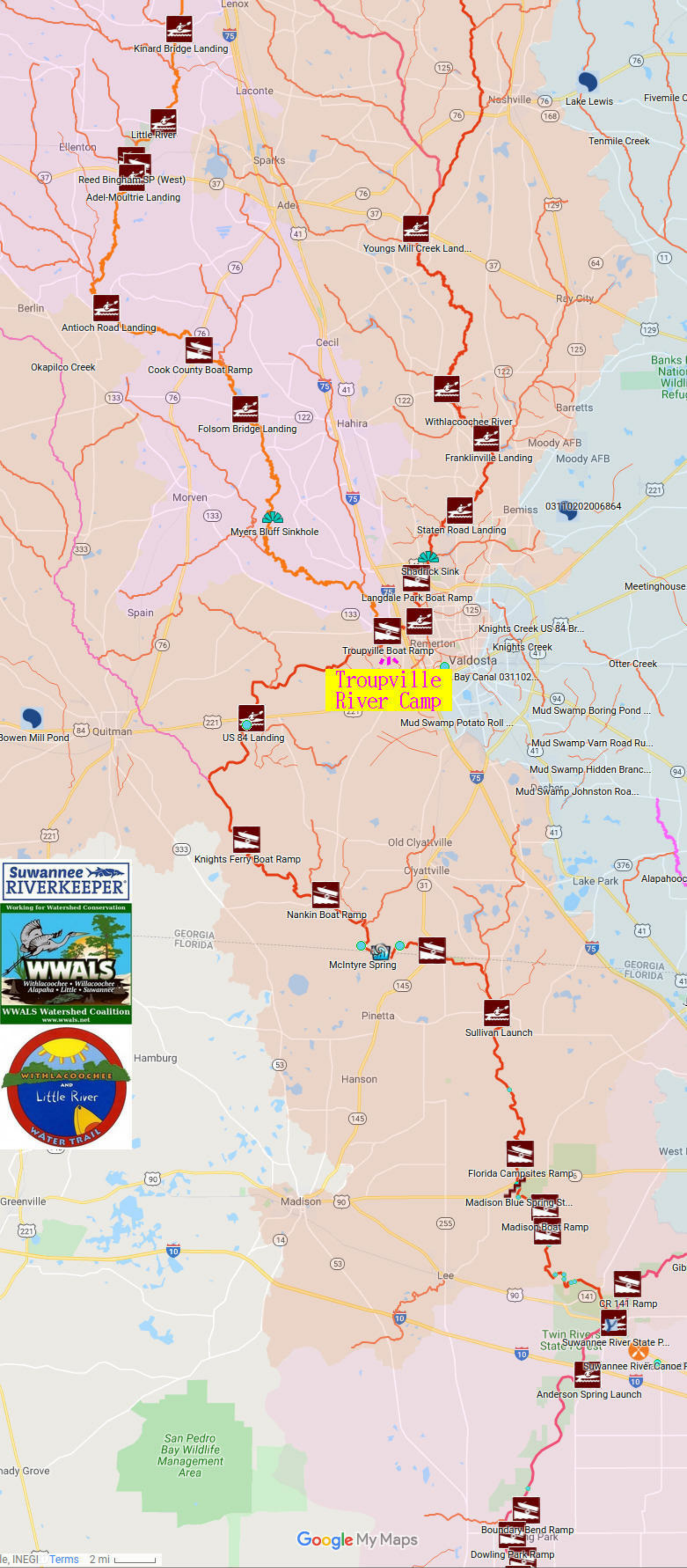
2929--Tapp-Estate--Between-Rivers.pdf

M. Appraisal 2 (Acquisition Only)

DATE: 10/31/19
DRAWN BY: JCS

CONCEPT PLAN
TROUPVILLE RIVER CAMP
LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA





Troupville
River Camp

Working for Watershed Conservation

WWALS Watershed Coalition
www.wwals.net

Match % Calculation

0.25

Project Narrative:

Please provide a description of the proposed project and the need for assistance. The narrative should be clear and concise.

A Troupville River Camp will attract paddling and fishing enthusiasts of all ages. The property is located at the Confluence of the Little River with the Withlacoochee River, off of I-75 and GA 133 just west of Valdosta, the biggest city in the Suwannee River Basin. Proposed amenities include air-conditioned bathrooms, hot and cold running water, five screened sleeping platforms, picnic tables and benches, outdoor fire pits, and paddle boat racks for canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards, with river access near the Confluence.

The location is historic, where Troupville was the former Lowndes County seat before Valdosta, from 1833 to 1860. The property has been privately owned since then and is now available for purchase for this purpose.

The Land Between the Rivers has white sand beaches, palmetto thickets, cypress stands, and towering oak and longleaf pine trees. Situated between two blackwater rivers that also have histories of transportation and recreation, the site offers a genuinely “wild” experience within a mile of an interstate highway. The property is large enough to hold both a secluded paddle-in-only River Camp and hiking and biking trails, and even a frisbee golf course. It is an ideal outdoor classroom for classes on art, history, and the natural environment.

The bathrooms will provide environmental benefit, preventing much unfortunate use of the woods, and keeping the rivers cleaner. The property will serve as a center for water quality testing, which could help resolve the stigma of Valdosta’s chronic wastewater spills, which have affected the Little, Withlacoochee, and Suwannee Rivers all the way to the Gulf.

The private owner of these 74.14 acres of floodplain and 1.3 miles of river frontage is actively promoting selling it for this project, including on TV and in presentations to local elected and appointed boards. The property is next to the existing 49.36 acre park immediately to the north at Troupville Boat Ramp, operated by Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority (VLPRA), for 120+ acres of park destination for locals and traveling outdoors enthusiasts.

Most maintenance will be by a caretaker in exchange for RV parking space. Thus a relatively small initial capital investment will enable long-term eco-tourism with economic and environmental advantages, at little operational cost.

Our model is the five existing River Camps on the Suwannee River in Florida that have long been popular as part of the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (SRWT). This Troupville River Camp will facilitate paddle trips on our Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail (WLRWT), starting upstream from this Confluence, on either the Little or Withlacoochee Rivers, continuing down the Withlacoochee to Florida and the Suwannee River, connecting with the SRWT River Camps.

This Troupville River Camp will be a significant public relations boon, not just to Lowndes County or Valdosta, but to the entire region and the states of Georgia and Florida. We have support from the City of Valdosta and several surrounding counties in Georgia and Florida, plus cooperation from personnel at several agencies of both states.

See also: <http://wwals.net/?p=49834>



VALDOSTA-LOWNDES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADVOCATE | BUILD | CONNECT | PROMOTE

October 30, 2019

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Board of Trustees and Staff of the
Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program
c/o Taylor Brown
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1370 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Letter of Support for Conserve Georgia Grant Pre-Application for Land Acquisition and
Development of Troupville River Camp, Lowndes County

Dear Ms. Brown and Trustees:

Please accept this letter as an indication of my wholehearted support for the WWALS Watershed Coalition's pre-application for grant assistance regarding the Troupville River Camp project.

One of our Chamber's top priorities for the past 20 years is building the type of community where young professionals and amenity-seeking retirees want to live. An essential ingredient in creating a 'cool community' which would attract such newcomers is being able to offer a variety of both active and passive recreation venues. I am quite familiar with the property being considered for this project, and believe it is ideal for this intended use.

Thank you for your consideration of this pre-application, and let me know if additional supporting documentation of support would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Myrna H. Ballard
President/CEO

Helen Preston Tapp

300 Mountain Creek Trace, NW ☞ Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328
HPTapp@gmail.com ☞ 404-909-1089

18 October 2019

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Board of Trustees and Staff of the
Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program
c/o Taylor Brown
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1370 East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

**Subject: Letter of Support for Conserve Georgia Grant Pre-Application
for Land Acquisition and Development of Troupville River Camp, Lowndes County**

Dear Ms. Brown and Trustees:

I am the sixth-generation owner of the 74 acres at the confluence of the Little and Withlacoochee rivers, a tract adjacent to land held by the Valdosta Lowndes Parks and Recreation Authority that includes the Troupville boat ramp. I have long loved the black water, white sand, cypress stands, palmetto thickets and wildlife in this area, and hope that it can become a public park. Unfortunately, I cannot afford to donate the land, but am willing to sell it at fair market value to a conservation buyer for public use. I fully support the proposed acquisition of this land, its permanent conservation, use for water quality and stormwater control, and improvement with low-impact river campsites and other amenities appropriate for public recreation, environmental education and historical interpretation.

This land is important to me at several levels. First, as a steward of family lands, it is important to me that at least a remnant of what was "Wildwood Plantation" remain in a natural state. Second, as a professional regional land planner with experience around the southeast for more than three decades I recognize land that has a unique combination of significant attributes worthy of public attention. Third, as director of the Trust for Public Land's Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama offices for almost five years I understand the importance (and challenges) of preserving land for people and nature. Fourth, as a former member of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, I am keenly aware of how historic sites once lost are rarely recoverable. Finally, as an advocate for state support for land conservation I would be thrilled to see this project receive funding in the inaugural round of Conserve Georgia funding.

The many reasons this proposal merits serious consideration for state support include:

- **One-of-a-kind site**, ecologically, recreationally, historically significant with established vehicular access, close to Valdosta and the region's residents as well as visitors travelling on I-75
- **Ecological value** of maintaining natural areas for water quality, native plant and animal habitat, and stormwater management along two rivers that form one of the Suwannee River's headwaters.
- Opportunity for a signature **Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail** with amenities that attract paddlers from throughout the watershed and beyond. (In June 2019 almost 300 canoeists and kayakers put in at the Troupville boat ramp and enthusiastically saluted the property on their way to the Suwannee River during the annual Paddle Georgia water trail trip.)
- Chance to **leverage** existing local and state investments in outdoor recreation. Adjacent to VLPRA's Troupville boat ramp funded by DNR, this site will consolidate public land offering more activities for residents as well as a significant tourism attraction. The resulting 120+ acre destination park will provide both passive and active recreation opportunities.

- Example of **collaboration and cooperation** between public and non-governmental organizations such as the City of Valdosta, Lowndes County, the Valdosta-Lowndes Parks & Recreation Authority and WWALS Watershed Coalition, Suwannee Riverkeeper, Lowndes County Historical Society, Keep Lowndes Beautiful, Valdosta State University, and others.
- **Educational value** of historic site and “outdoor classrooms” for all age levels and all disciplines, from science to environment, art, history and culture.
- **Aesthetic value** of increasingly rare publicly accessible natural rivers and woods.
- **Health benefits** of more choices for physical activity.
- **Community pride** for preserving historic and natural heritage.
- **Economic impact** of eco-tourism, with local businesses capitalizing on of fishing, paddling, camping activities, and the increasing number of outdoor enthusiasts seeking new adventures.

This land between the rivers has always been a gathering place. Native Americans were first, a fact reflected in the Withlacoochee’s name. One hundred eighty-five years ago European settlers chose the confluence of the Little and Withlacoochee rivers to establish a community they called Troupville. But the town was relocated to Valdosta when the rail line bypassed Troupville, and most of the land has been in quiet private ownership since. Today the pressures of urbanization put its future at risk. I hope that its future will be one of public stewardship and enjoyment.

Grant applicants have a vision for a unique way to celebrate nature, history and outdoor fun. 74 acres of greenspace can be available for public Fishing, Water Trail Paddling, Camping, Hiking, Birding, Nature Journaling, Art, Historical Site Interpretation, Heritage Education, Ecological Studies, Watershed Protection, and more. I hope you will support that vision. For the first time in a century this land is available. Once sold for private use or subdivided, the opportunities for public use will be lost forever. Future generations deserve to know the beauty of this place.

I will be happy to host a tour of the property for anyone reviewing this application. In the meantime, and as a preview, I encourage you to look at www.landbetweentherivers.com.

Sincerely,



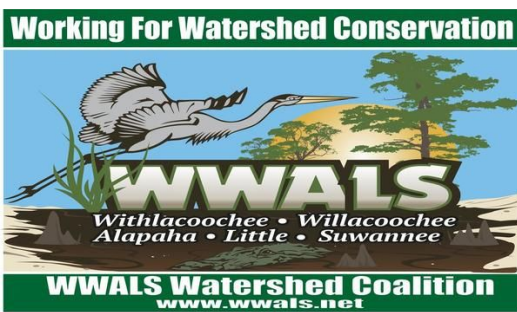
Helen Preston Tapp, AICP
Managing Partner
Between the Rivers, LLC
HPTapp@gmail.com
404-909-1089

Cc: City of Valdosta
Lowndes County
Valdosta-Lowndes Parks & Recreation Authority
Lowndes County Historical Society
South Georgia Regional Commission

Suwannee Riverkeeper
WWALS Watershed Coalition
Keep Lowndes Beautiful
Valdosta State University
The Conservation Fund

Project Title: Troupville River Camp

Project Sponsor: WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.



Withlacoochee
and Little River
Water Trail



River Camp
Campsites



Trails



Interpretative Stations

Forge Partnerships

Secure
Funding

Acquire Land

Site & Facility
Planning

Permitting &
Contracting

Construction

Ribbon
Cutting

Complete by

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2018-2019	Partners identified; WWALS & KLVB sponsor community clean-ups with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and others; landowner hosts site visits; VLPRA & local governments briefed; 300 Paddle Georgia paddlers visited in canoes, kayaks, and paddle boards, greeted by the Lowndes County Chairman, a representative of the Valdosta Mayor, the head of the Historical Museum, and a Planning Commissioner; local publicity on radio, TV, and newspapers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Summer - Fall 2019	Project elements refined; ASA Engineering is preparing Conceptual Plan pro bono; Florida examples studied; potential roles & responsibilities explored; Funding Proposal prepared
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall 2019 - Summer 2020	Secure Funding from Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program, with match from City of Valdosta, Lowndes County, or possibly other sources, plus in-kind water quality monitoring, pro bono services, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall 2020	Acquire Land from willing landowner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Summer – Fall 2020	Prepare Site & Facility Plans in conjunction with Advisory Committee, local & regional agencies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall 2020 – Winter 2021	Final Plans approved by VLPRA and WWALS boards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Winter 2021	Secure Permits from appropriate agencies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spring 2021	Bid proposals solicited & evaluated; Contractor selected
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spring 2021 – Winter 2022	Construction managed by VLPRA or other agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 st Quarter 2022	Ribbon Cutting & River Camp “launch” early Spring 2022

**GEORGIA OUTDOOR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COST ESTIMATE / PROJECT BUDGET FORM**

Project#: _____	Date Submitted: <u>October 31, 2019</u>
	Revision B, 2019-11-07
Applicant: <u>WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.</u>	Total Project Cost: <u>\$674,000</u>
	Total Funding Requested <u>\$504,000</u>
Project Name: <u>Troupville River Camp</u>	Total Match Commitment <u>\$170,000</u>

ITEM DESCRIPTION	GRANT FUNDS	MATCHING IN-KIND (\$)	MATCHING CASH (\$)	TOTAL
Design, Engineering & Environmental	60,000.00			60,000.00
Architectural Design	50,000.00	1,200.00	1,000.00	52,200.00
Contingency	55,000.00		5,000.00	60,000.00
Historical interpretation		2,000.00		2,000.00
Ecological & Geological interpretation		4,000.00		4,000.00
			Category Total	178,200.00
Direct Labor Costs				0.00
Trail improvements	25,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	27,000.00
River landing improvement	5,000.00	1,000.00		6,000.00
Campsite construction	120,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00	127,000.00
				0.00
			Category Total	160,000.00
Contractual Services				0.00
Electrical connection	6,000.00			6,000.00
Water and sewage	6,000.00			6,000.00
River scouting & deadfall clearing		2,000.00		2,000.00
Water quality testing		1,800.00		1,800.00
Geological examination		2,000.00		2,000.00
			Category Total	17,800.00
Materials or Supplies				0.00
Trail construction materials	12,000.00		4,000.00	16,000.00
River landing construction materials	6,000.00		1,000.00	7,000.00
Campsite construction materials	150,000.00		10,000.00	160,000.00
Interpretative signs	2,000.00	3,000.00		5,000.00
				0.00
			Category Total	188,000.00
Purchase or Rental of Equipment				0.00
Emergency and tour boat and motor	0.00			0.00
Dock for emergency and tour boat	2,000.00			2,000.00
Water quality test kits (10)	5,000.00			5,000.00
				0.00
			Category Total	7,000.00
Other (Must be Specific)				0.00
Land Purchase			123,000.00	123,000.00
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
				0.00
			Category Total	123,000.00
			Grand Total	674,000.00
Grant:	504,000.00	Match: 20,000.00	150,000.00	170,000.00

***Volunteers who donate job specific professional skills and/or equipment operation (grading contractors, plumbers, electricians, etc.) can value their time and/or equipment at their standard rates but may not exceed the rates outlined at <https://www.wdol.gov>. General labor rates (no professional skills required) must not exceed \$11.40 per hour.

Board of County Commissioners Madison County, Florida

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Dist. 1 **Alston Kelley** • 850-464-0896
476 NW Whispering Pines Loop
Madison, FL 32340
- Dist. 2 **Donnie Waldrep** • 850-464-4001
514 NW Hawks Ave • Greenville, FL 32331
- Dist. 3 **Ronnie Moore** • 850-948-2043
6513 NW Lovett Rd • Greenville, FL 32331



Madison County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Dist. 4 **Alfred Martin** • 850-464-4516
215 SW Summerset Way • Madison, FL 32340
- Dist. 5 **Rick Davis** • 850-971-5715
PO Box 291 • Madison, FL 32341

BOCC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
Phone 850-973-3179 • Fax 850-973-6880
mccoord@madisoncountyfl.com
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November 26, 2019

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Board of Trustees and Staff of the
Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program
c/o Taylor Brown
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1370 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

Subject: Letter of Support for the Development of the Troupville River Camp

Dear Ms. Brown and Trustees:

The Madison County Florida Board of County Commissioners is excited to provide this letter of support for the development of the Troupville River Camp.

The Board met during a special called meeting on November 26, 2019, to discuss this issue, and it was unanimously approved because this project will increase tourism and the recreational opportunities for locals in our area.

Although we live in Florida, Madison County views the Withlacoochee River as a shared resource with Valdosta, Lowndes County, and the State of Georgia, because the river crosses all political boundaries. In addition, we are very familiar with the River Camps that were built several years ago on the Suwannee River and know that these camps have worked extremely well to facilitate increased tourism. Therefore, the Madison County Board of County Commissioners is excited to provide this letter of support for the development of the Troupville River Camp.

Sincerely,

Chair Alston Kelley, District 1
Madison County Board of County Commissioners