



Alabama Scenic River Trail
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Alabama Scenic River Trail announces Tallapoosa River expansion

The Alabama Scenic River Trail – one of the nation’s longest river trails spanning 650 miles from northeast Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico – has added the Alabama portion of the Tallapoosa River.

This new 200-plus mile segment includes 13 primitive campsites donated by Alabama Power, including four portages allowing paddlers to walk their canoes or kayaks around the four Alabama Power dams on the Tallapoosa.

“The portages and the campsites open up probably the most spectacular part of the river as far as unencumbered, beautiful, stunning paddling,” said Jim Felder, executive director of the ASRT.

“It’s critical for paddlers to have campsites they can legally use, and this gives people a place to camp who otherwise would have no place to overnight while traversing the Tallapoosa,” said ASRT founder and president Fred Couch.

The expansion of the trail is seen as an economic development and tourism opportunity, said Shane Harris, Tallapoosa County coordinator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

“Our goal is to create an informational brochure-map detailing these river trails and the different runs people can explore so when they do these trips, they will have more information and be safe,” Harris said.

“Bald eagles, deer, turkey, otters – they’re in abundance,” said Harold Banks, a 66-year-old veteran paddler from Dadeville who has travelled the entire Tallapoosa. “It’s a wilderness experience almost any stretch you choose to travel.”

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AlabamaScenicRiverTrail.com

Tallapoosa broadens ASRT to more than 3,000 miles

Felder said the Tallapoosa River is a microcosm of the ingredients that make Alabama rivers unique.

“The Tallapoosa River embodies some of the very best of all the aspects of the rivers of Alabama, including quality of water, quality of the experience, the beauty of the surroundings. The fact you can go so many miles through this very history-rich region and not see anything but eagles and fish is really spectacular,” Felder said.

Since its inception in 2008, ASRT officials have broadened the overall trail to include 3,000 miles of creeks and other water sources in Alabama. The ASRT has been designated a National Recreation Trail and one of several National Water Trails.

For more information on the Alabama Scenic River Trail, visit AlabamaScenicRiverTrail.com.

Alabama Scenic River Trail Facts

Mission Focus:

- Create tourism travel in Alabama for all boaters, both human and motor powered.
- Strengthen tourism economies of communities through travel on nearby waterways.
- Extend recreational opportunities by promoting the waterway via cooperation between public and private entities, volunteer organizations, municipalities and counties.
- Highlight the historical significance of these waterways from early Indian trade to the present.

Navigable trail miles:

- Alabama River - 320 miles
- Coosa River - 270 miles
- Tallapoosa River – 200-plus miles
- Tensaw River – 41 miles
- Tennessee River – 168 miles
- Cahaba River – 194 miles
- Mobile-Tensaw Delta – 45 miles
- Terrapin, Hatchett and Weogufka creeks – 117 miles

Counties:

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|------------|--------------|
| • Autauga | • Etowah |
| • Baldwin | • Lowndes |
| • Calhoun | • Mobile |
| • Chambers | • Monroe |
| • Cherokee | • Montgomery |
| • Chilton | • Randolph |
| • Clarke | • Shelby |
| • Cleburne | • St. Clair |
| • Conecuh | • Talladega |
| • Coosa | • Tallapoosa |
| • Dallas | • Wilcox |
| • Elmore | |

Sponsors of the Tallapoosa River addition

- Alabama Cooperative Extension System – Tallapoosa County office
- Alabama Power
- Middle Tallapoosa River Basin Clean Water Partnership
- Tallapoosa County Commission