

The Ocmulgee Water Trail...



...It's Your River To Explore

The Ocmulgee Water Trail



- The Ocmulgee River Water Trail encompasses approximately 252 miles of water trail stretching from Lake Jackson to the river's confluence with the Altamaha River.
- The OWT is the LONGEST continuous water trail in the State of Georgia.
- The Ocmulgee River Water Trail Partnership (OWTP) consists of fifteen counties from Butts to Telfair.
- The National Park Service found that paddlers spent between \$27-\$63 per day in communities along water trails.
- The OWTP is now a non-profit organization.

Ocmulgee Water Trail

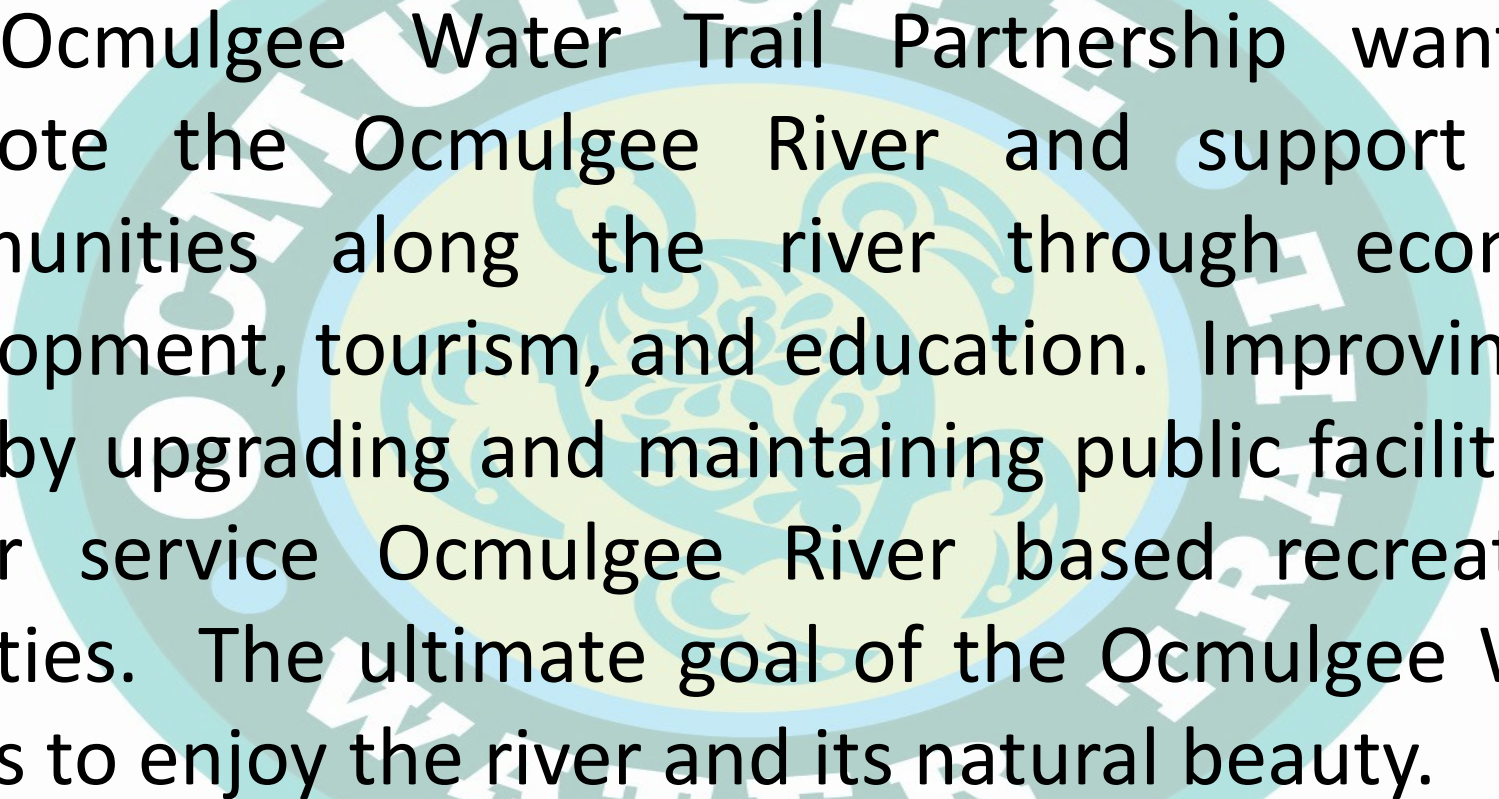
www.ocmulgeewatertrail.com



Vision Statement: The 200 mile Ocmulgee River Water Trail will be a premier destination for paddlers and river enthusiasts that will provide a variety of recreational activities and promote local and regional economic improvements.

County Board Members: Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Coffee, Dodge, Jeff Davis, Pulaski, Telfair, Twiggs, Wilcox

OWTP Mission



The Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership wants to promote the Ocmulgee River and support local communities along the river through economic development, tourism, and education. Improving the river by upgrading and maintaining public facilities to better service Ocmulgee River based recreational activities. The ultimate goal of the Ocmulgee Water Trail is to enjoy the river and its natural beauty.

OWTP History—Phase 1

- Began in 2013.
- Twiggs, Houston, Bleckley and Pulaski Counties.
- 54 miles of river connected by 7 existing public boat launch sites.
- 3 overnight camping sites.
- New signs at the landings with same graphics.
- Improvements to the landings.
- Coordinated marketing efforts.

OWTP—Phase 2

- Macon to the Altamaha River.
- 199 river miles.
- Connecting points already exist.
- Add commercial or private sites as necessary to fill in gaps between existing public sites.
- Each county along the river was invited to evaluate their existing public access for inclusion on the trail.
- Existing DNR boat ramps will provide the majority of the access to the river.

OWTP—Phase 3

- Expansion of the trail north adding approximately 50 miles to the trail.
- Counties have expanded from ten to fifteen.
- Increase public awareness and education on the river through paddle events.
- Public education efforts through presentations and participating in other organizations paddle events.
- River safety through signage & new program to be named later!

Economics

Revenue generation from the canoe trail:

- Increased spending in the local area.
- Existing businesses increase profits--restaurants, outfitters, lodging.
- New businesses develop to support the trail.
- Purchases of gear & equipment increase and support business.
- Festivals and events around the trail support the local community.
- More value from local government support.



Initial Landings Along the Ocmulgee Water Trail

[illegible]

Signage to the River



Signage on the River

**J. DYKES MEMORIAL PARK LANDING
BLECKLEY COUNTY**

32° 24' 50.547" N 83° 28' 57.594" W



River Mile 141.0



**PROVIDED BY
OCMULGEE WATER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP**

Website Creation





[Home](#) [Plan Your Trip](#) [Vision Statement](#) [County Information](#) [Water Trail](#) [Map](#) [Gallery](#) [Events](#)

EXPLORE AND ENJOY THE OCMULGEE WATER TRAIL

Plan Your Trip

Safety

- The river levels can change significantly based on rainfall amounts. Make sure you know if there are potential flood conditions on the river before you start your trip.
- Drought conditions can also affect your ability to safely paddle. Low levels expose sunken snags and other submerged objects. Sand bars can also become problems. Evaluate the water levels and speed of the river before your trip.
- Carry a deck compass, or GPS and map of the trail. Know where you are, where your access points are and how to get out in an emergency.
- If you are camping, make sure you know the approved camping locations. Know if the camp sites are primitive or developed and pack the appropriate equipment.

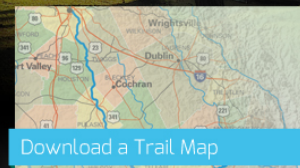
Communications

- Notify friends or family of your paddle itinerary. Make sure they know who to contact if you don't return on time. Write

- For emergencies, call 911, but assume the cell coverage will be inadequate.
- If you are planning for an extended trip, consider a satellite phone, a VHF Marine radio, or a SPOT Personal satellite tracking system (can give outgoing message where cell phones do not work). Make sure everyone in your party knows how to operate the emergency equipment. Consider what power source to use for this equipment.
- Carry a marine whistle, bell or horn within easy reach for low visibility conditions.
- Carry flashlights and visual signal device or light sticks, or flare gun and flares.
- Carry Waterproof GPS and extra batteries

Equipment

- Wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (pfd) and keep it snug.
- Assess your boat's flotation needs. For flotation to work effectively it must fit



[Download a Trail Map](#)



[Upcoming Events](#)



[View the Gallery](#)

THE OCMULGEE WATER TRAIL PARTNERSHIP



THE OCMULGEE WATER TRAIL

Membership

Ocmulgee Water Trail Membership Form



The 250 mile Ocmulgee River Water Trail is a premier destination for paddlers and river enthusiasts that provides a variety of recreational activities and promotes local and regional economic improvements.

Purpose of Membership

The Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership (OWTP) would like to encourage membership to help promote the Ocmulgee River and support local communities along the river through economic development, tourism, and education. Improving the river by upgrading and maintaining public facilities to better service Ocmulgee River based recreational activities. The ultimate goal of the Ocmulgee Water Trail is to enjoy the river and its natural beauty.

Become an OWTP member today!



Join us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/ocmulgeepaddle/

www.ocmulgeewatertrail.com

Members Receive Benefits

- ✓ Discount on Annual Paddle Event
- ✓ Invitation to Monthly Meetings
- ✓ OWT Decal
- ✓ Invitation to Annual Meeting
- ✓ E-mail Alerts



Memberships must be renewed on an annual basis.

✓ Yes, I would like to support the Ocmulgee Water Trail today!

- ☐ \$25 – Student
- ☐ \$30 – Military
- ☐ \$35 – Individual
- Annual Company Membership:
 - ☐ \$100 - Bluegill
 - ☐ \$250 - Sunfish
 - ☐ \$500 - Large Mouth Bass
 - ☐ \$1,000 - Ocmulgee River Turtle

Total

☐ Check enclosed

Member Information:

Name/Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____



Pay via PayPal: OWTPINC@gmail.com

Mail or email completed membership form to the address below along with payment or include PayPal receipt of payment.

Send to: Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership, 39 Dogwood Lane, McRae-Helena, GA 31055

Email: owtpinc@gmail.com **Phone:** 478.951.6680

OWTP Paddle Events

- 2016 – Dykes Landing to Hawkinsville
- 2017 – Half Moon Paddle - Dodge County Landing to Abbeville
- 2018 – Paddle the Forks – Lumber City to Towns Bluff
- 2019 – Dykes Landing to Hawkinsville



2018-2019 Accomplishments

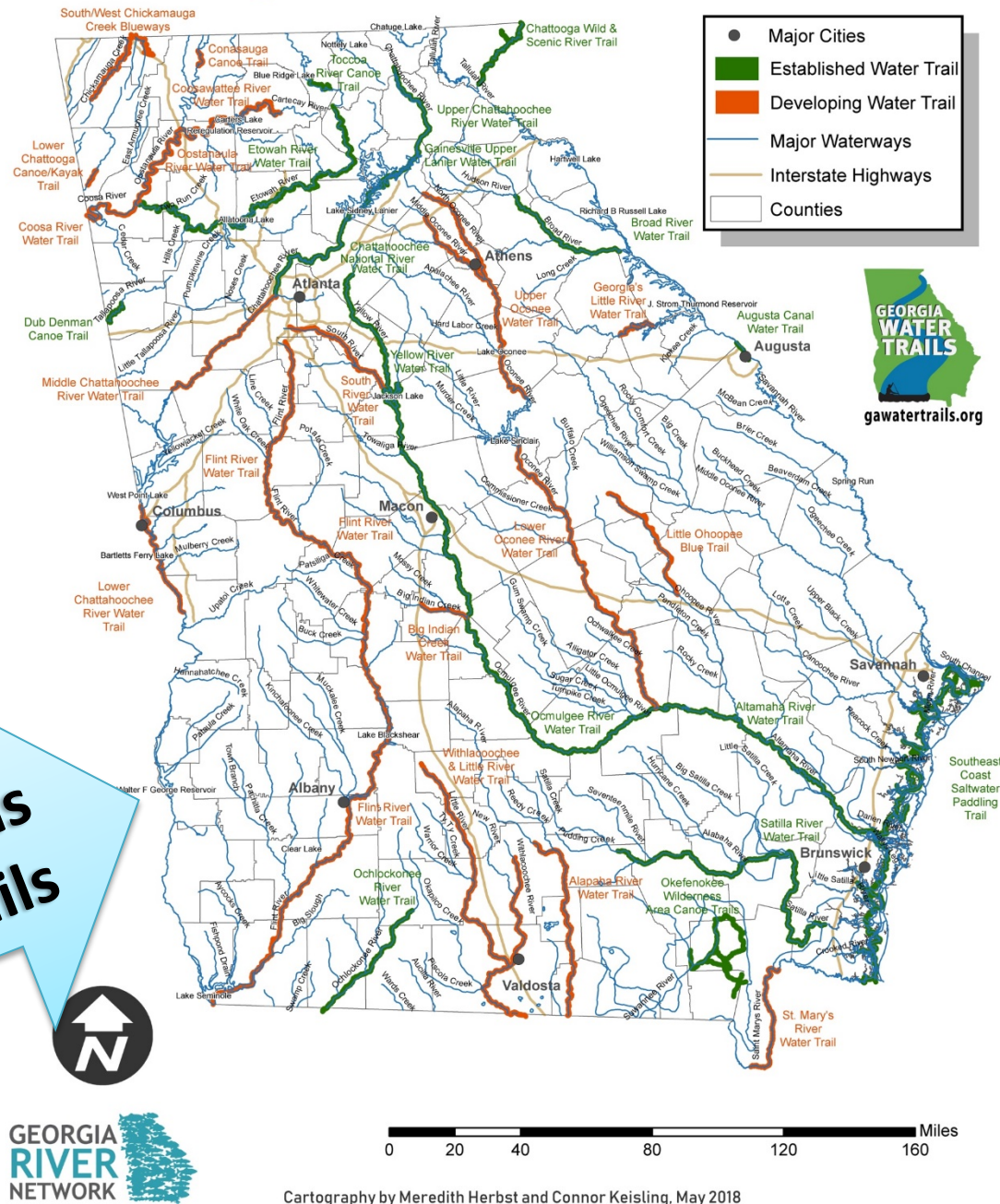
- River Signage
- Brochure Update
- OWTP Members assisted with transporting kayaks and canoes for the annual Paddle Georgia Event and donated funds to the Georgia River Network to aid in the development of a detailed Ocmulgee River Users Guide.
- Calendar Fundraiser- Calendar was created from river photos submitted by citizens who love the river. Proceeds were used to purchase a marketing banner and tent for the OWTP.
- Riverboat Run Paddle Event

Georgia Water Trails Network

What is a Water Trail?

A water trail is a section of river with public access used for recreational boating, canoeing, kayaking and fishing.

18 Established Water Trails
18 Developing Water Trails



Georgia Water Trails

18 Established Water Trails

- Altamaha River Water Trail
- Augusta Canal
- Broad River Water Trail
- Chattahoochee River NRA
- Chattooga Wild and Scenic River
- Etowah River Water Trail
- Gainesville Upper Lanier Water Trail
- GA's Little River Water Trail
- Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trails
- Ochlockonee River Water Trail
- Ocmulgee River Water Trail
- Dub Denman Canoe Trail (Tallapoosa)
- Toccoa River Canoe Trail
- Satilla River Water Trail
- Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail
- Upper Chattahoochee River Water Trail
- Withlacoochee & Little River Water Trail
- Yellow River Water Trail

18 Developing Water Trails

- Alapaha River Water Trail
- Big Indian Creek Water Trail
- Columbus Whitewater Park
- Conasauga Canoe Trail
- Coosawattee River Water Trail
- Coosa River Water Trail
- Flint River Water Trail
- Little Ohooppee Blue Trail
- Lower Chattahoochee Water Trail
- Lower Chattooga Canoe/Kayak Trail
- Lower Oconee River Water Trail
- Middle Chattahoochee River Water Trail
- Upper Oconee River Water Trail
- Oostanaula River Water Trail
- South River Water Trail
- St. Mary's River Water Trail
- Tugaloo River Water Trail
- W./S. Chickamauga Creek Blue Trail

Coming Soon...



Operation Paddle Wise™



Paddle Sports Project of the Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership

Operation Paddle Wise™



Goal

- Educate local **Ocmulgee Water Trail** users & Paddle Sports Enthusiast how to stay safe, be responsible boaters & help 1st responders in SAR type situations

Objectives

- Establish **Operation Paddle Wise™** as a Public Awareness Program
- Develop a River-Wide Safety Network
- Provide Boating Safety Education for the **Ocmulgee Water Trail**

Strategies

- Initiate Public Awareness program for **Operation Paddle Wise™**
- Engage SAR Teams To Support **Operation Paddle Wise™**
- Establish Community Action Support for **Operation Paddle Wise™**

Operation Paddle Wise™

Paddle Sports Boat Identification Program



Operation Paddle Wise™

If Found Contact Owner Listed Below

Primary Ph# _____

Mobile Ph# _____

Name: _____



Use Waterproof Marker

A Project of the Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership



Thank You

Mary Brooks & Kit Carson

Ocmulgee Water Trail

Partnership

mbrooks@geconsultants.com

sailmaker101@gmail.com