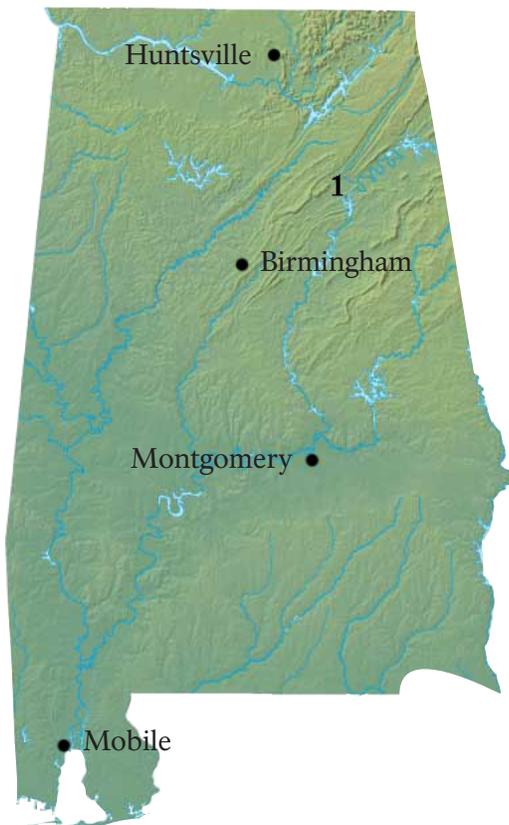




# ALABAMA

View along Proposed Alabama River Trail near Selma, AL

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



**1. Alabama Scenic River Trail**  
Alabama Scenic River Trail, Inc.

## Recent Successes

In June 2008, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne designated the trail a National Recreational Trail. The Scenic River trail is billed as the nation's longest one-state river trail. Across the country, about 1,000 trails have received the designation. They are compiled in an Internet database, and listed trails are eligible for technical assistance and possibly grants.

*“to have [RTCA], such a knowledgeable advisor as a project team member, opened our eyes to creative funding strategies and new partnerships.”*

- Fred Couch, President  
Alabama Scenic Rivers Trail, Inc.

Fred Couch, president of the group that spearheaded creation of the Alabama trail, said the national designation has helped spur interest from around the country. "I'm getting a lot more orders for guidebooks and inquiries," he said. While the trail is open and maps and -guidebooks are available through its Web site: [www.alabamascenicrivertrail.com](http://www.alabamascenicrivertrail.com), the trail is still being developed. Backers are hoping that more cities, towns and landowners along the river corridor will come forward to provide areas for camping and for canoe put-ins and take-outs.

A boater can travel sections of the trail that range from flat water in the Alabama Power lakes, whitewater on a section below Jordan Dam north of Wetumpka, a meandering paddle through swamps of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, and into the brackish waters of Mobile Bay.

**Could your Project benefit from  
RTCA Staff Assistance?  
Contact us to find out.**

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## **THE RTCA PROGRAM**

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate. By investing in the protection of special places, recreation, tourism, and well planned development, local leaders can bring long-lasting economic and quality of life benefits to their communities.

**[www.nps.gov/rzca](http://www.nps.gov/rzca)**

# Current Projects

## **1. Alabama Scenic River Trail**

Project Partner: Alabama Scenic River Trail Inc.

RTCA Contact: Jeff Duncan  
423.266.1150

### **Project Goal**

Imagine journeying down our nation's longest single state water trail—at 631 miles, the Alabama Scenic River Trail is just that. The Trail begins on the Coosa River at the Georgia-Alabama state line and terminates at historic Ft. Morgan on Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. This new water trail offers a cross-section of Alabama countryside as it follows the Coosa River out of the Southern Appalachians to its confluence with the Alabama River near the state capitol of Montgomery, crossing under the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge (known for its role in the Selma-to-Montgomery March) before reaching the Mobile River Delta and ultimately the Gulf. In 2007, the Alabama Scenic River Trail became incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit.

### **RTCA Role**

The RTCA Program has been providing technical assistance relating to the development of a comprehensive map, establishment of a membership and volunteer program, and in setting the stage for designation as a National Recreational Trail.



Kayakers ride down the Alabama Scenic River Trail



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