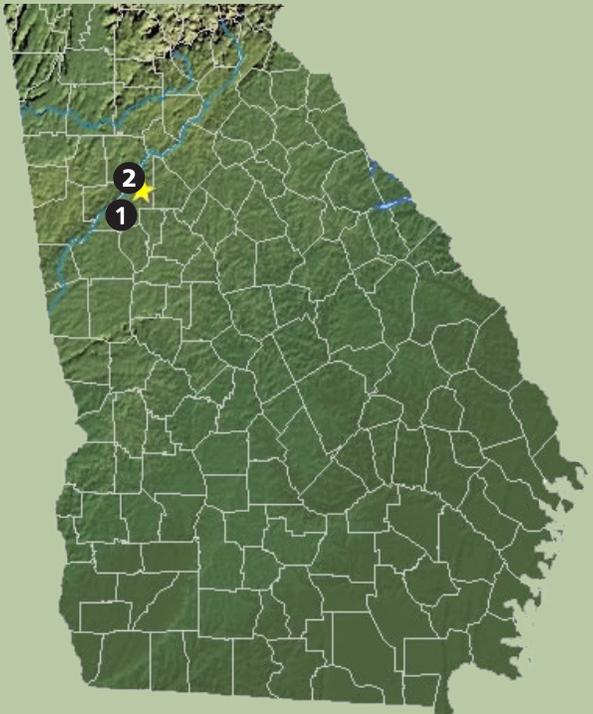




Georgia News

Paddlers canoe down the Ocmulgee River. Photo: Georgia Canoe Training, Marie Short

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. South Bend Park
Charlotte Gillis
2. Groundwork Atlanta
Groundwork USA

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Ocmulgee River Water Trail Moves Forward, October, 2014

The National Park Service Rivers, Trail, and Conservation Assistance program and one of its primary nonprofit partners, the Georgia River Network, have been collaborating to assist communities throughout the state in the development of water trails as a way to boost economic development, bring in tourism, and increase recreational opportunities. Because of this partnership, communities, businesses, local governments, watershed groups, and local citizens are beginning to realize the economic and social benefits of water trails and some have formed similar multicounty partnerships to achieve this goal. Water trail projects are expanding across the state.

The Ocmulgee Water Trail Partnership (OWTP) is one such project. The partnership received technical assistance to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a water trail connecting Bullard Landing in Twiggs County to Sandy Hammock Landing in Pulaski County. As a result of that study, a larger effort emerged to create the 11-county OWTP and extend the trail to a total length of 200 miles, linking Macon to the start of the Altamaha River near Lumber City. The officers for the OWTP board were elected in January, 2014.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide 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.

continued on next page

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

Charlotte Gillis

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2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

Recently the National Parks Conservation Association, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, awarded funding to seven of the OWTP member counties for the purchase of 30 new directional signs that identify the public access for 12 of the landings on the Ocmulgee River Water Trail. The grant will allow signs to be placed in Ben Hill, Bleckley, Dodge, Houston, Pulaski, Telfair, and Wilcox Counties to improve access to the trail. See www.ocmulgeewatertrail.com

Current Projects

1. South Bend Park

Project Partner: Southtowne Economic and Environmental Development (S.E.E.D.), Inc.

NPS Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Location: Atlanta, GA

Congressional District: GA - 5

Project Goal

Clean a section of the stream in the park that is covered in kudzu and other invasive plants and replant it with native materials. This section of stream is in an open meadow area that will also be managed for invasive plants. A hiking trail will be aligned along the stream buffer setback and through the meadow to provide for a community trail that will connect to other trails in the park.

NPS Role

Work alongside Southtowne Economic and Environmental Development, Inc. to create the hiking trail in the South Bend Park of southeast metropolitan Atlanta. Provide guidance for invasive plant removal, locate the hiking trail, provide technical guidance for the design and construction of the trail, and create a vegetation management plan that focuses on the removal of invasives and the planting of native materials.

2. Groundwork Atlanta

Project Partner: Groundwork USA

NPS Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Location: Atlanta, GA

Congressional District: GA - 5

Project Goal

Form the nonprofit Groundwork Atlanta, create the new board, and hire an executive director. Prepare the Launch Strategy that will guide the Transition Team and the new board for the first 18 months.

NPS Role

Assist the Groundwork Atlanta Transition Team as the new nonprofit board is formed and an executive director is hired; co-direct the process until the new board is selected and the nonprofit status is confirmed in the State of Georgia. Then serve in an advisory capacity to the board.



Ocmulgee River