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## 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](http://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.

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### 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/](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

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## 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

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## **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](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](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.

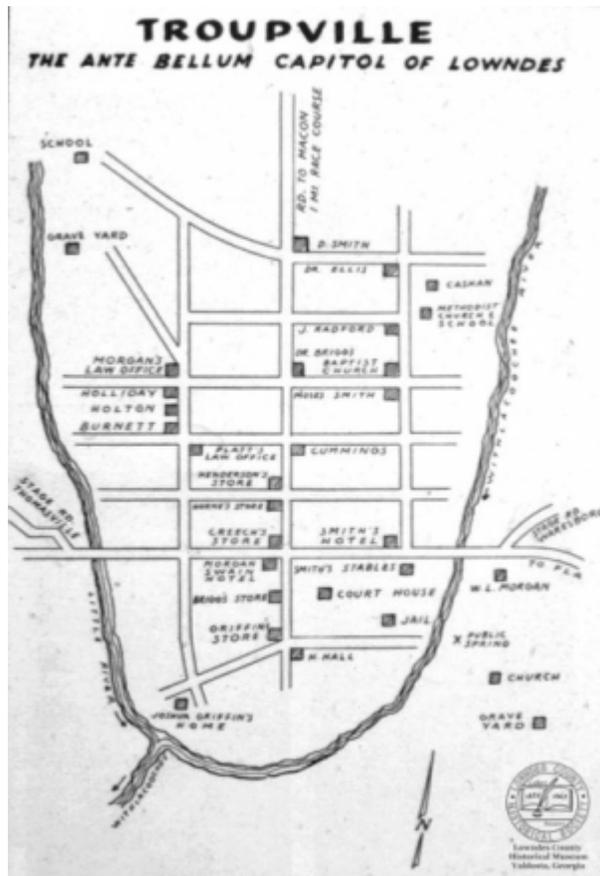
"So it came about that where the wine-red waters of the Ockolochoochee and the black current of the Withlacoochee meet at the end of a long sandbar and go tumbling and writhing, eddying and curving down the long reach of moss-grown trees, like two huge serpents struggling for the mastery, the plat of 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):**

Ockoloccochee-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)**

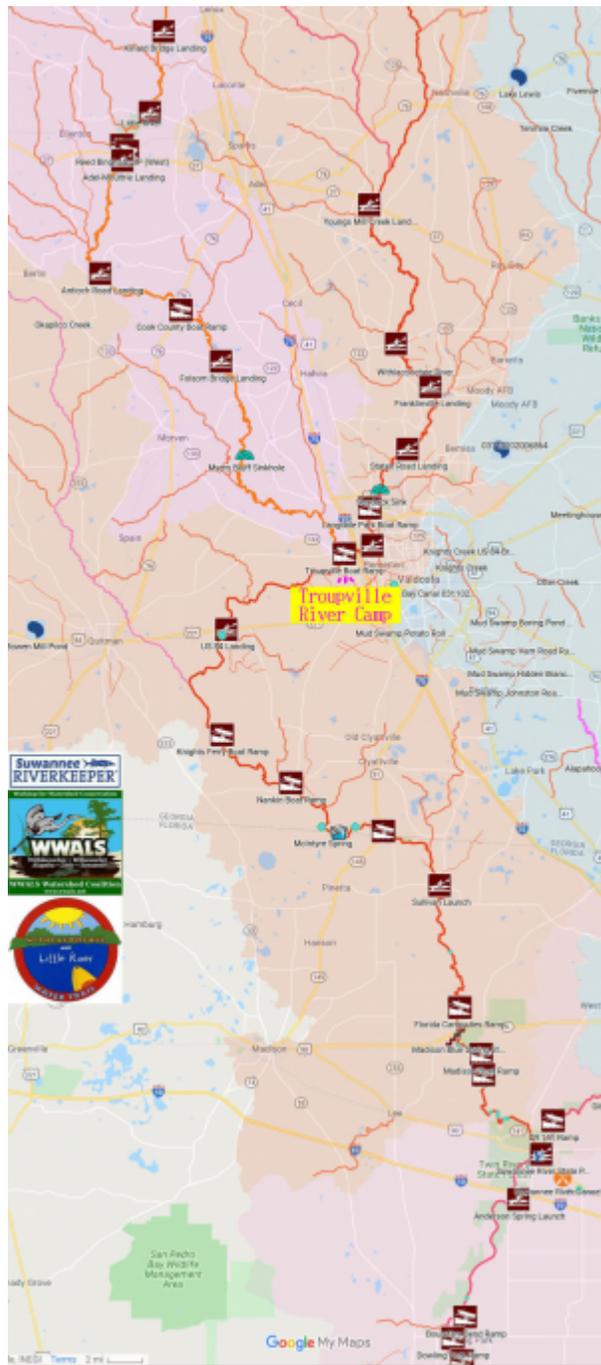
Yes

**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

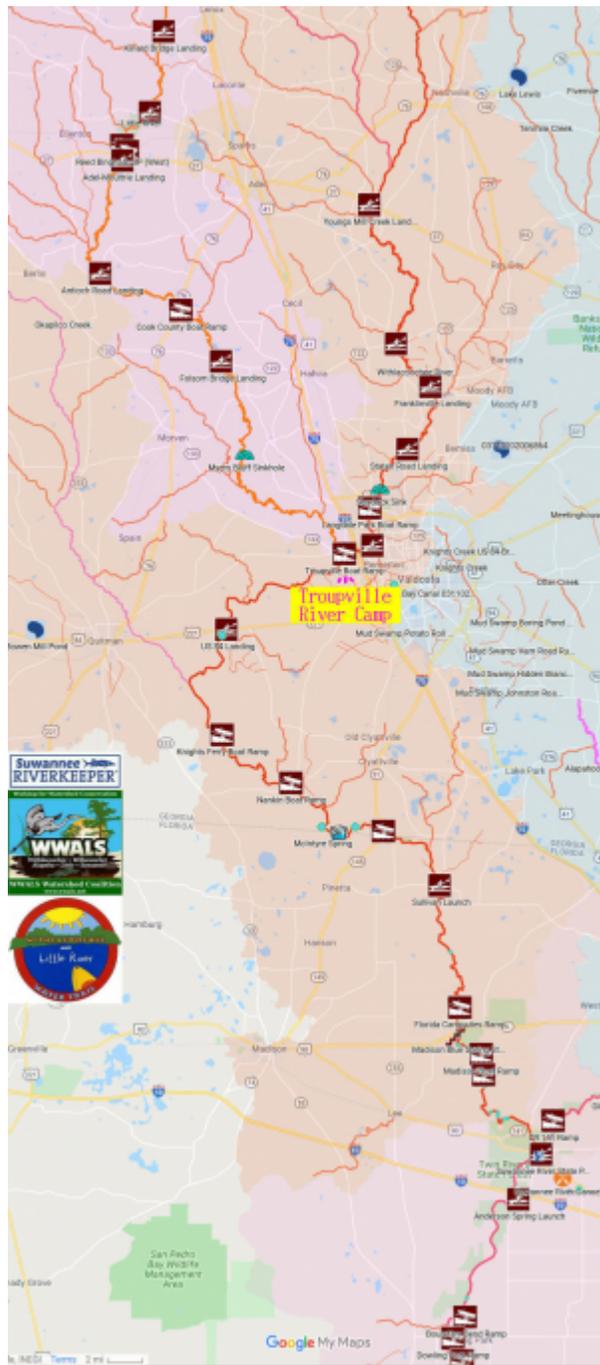
**Describe this project will improve or expand water access.**

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 (VLPRRA) 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):

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## 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),  
Bry Slaughter (Chair, Lowndes County Commission),  
Gwyneth Moody (Georgia River Network),  
John S. Quarterman (Savannah Riverkeeper and WWALS President). 30.8472140 -81.3476880

### Photo (2)



Landowner, Helen Tapp welcoming to Lowndes County 300 paddlers in Paldale, Georgia, coming down the Little River to its Confluence with the Withlacoochee River, 2019-06-15, 08:12:39, (384M) 30.8470880 -81.3475480

### Photo (3)



Paddlers departing from the Little River Confluence downstream on the Withlacoochee River, T2 & Mary Caroline Pindor depart, during Paldale Georgia, 2019-06-15, 09:14:29, 30.8470880 -81.3475480

**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)**