



Chattahoochee River



“It’s one of the most beautiful places in our country, extremely valuable to all those who know it, who live near it, and who appreciate the quiet and seclusion and the beauty and the value of this river... It’s a rare occasion when within the city limits of one of our major cities, one can find pure water and trout and free canoeing and rapids and the seclusion of the Earth the way God made it. But the Chattahoochee River is this kind of place.”

President Jimmy Carter
August 15, 1978

The Chattahoochee River and its valley is a place rich in natural and cultural resources. Sometimes the river is clear, cold, and slow-moving, while at other times it is a muddy torrent, plunging through rocky shoals. The valley contains a rich, diverse mix of plants and animals that represent an environment much larger than itself. For centuries, humans have been drawn to this river valley for life's basics: food, water, and shelter as well as transportation and power to support the increasing numbers of mills and factories. By the 1970's, the resources that made the river valley a special place to so many people were being threatened. On August 15, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the legislation that set aside a 48-mile stretch of river with a series of parklands to preserve a part of the river valley for future generations.

Today the river valley attracts us for many reasons. Take a solitary walk to enjoy nature's display, raft leisurely through the rocky shoals with friends, fish the misty waters as the sun comes up, reflect on a mill worker's day as a chipmunk scurries over the paper mill ruins, or have a picnic on a Sunday afternoon. Experience *your* Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

The Experience

Canoeing, kayaking and rafting should be the first activities that come to mind when you think of the Chattahoochee River NRA. But don't sell yourself short. There are over 50 miles of trail to be covered on leisurely hikes with family and friends. Joggers also use these trails, although most use the flatter trails found in the flood plains. If your mode of travel is of the two-wheeled mountain bike variety, then there are a few trails in the Cochran Shoals unit for you to explore. Regardless of how you travel, take time to enjoy the natural and cultural resources that you see. Of course a river wouldn't be complete without its share of fish, fishermen, and fish tales. Spring may be the best season to view the diversity of plants that the area is known for, but at any time of the year you can enjoy the expanse of wild animals that call the river valley their home. Also, there are the ruins of mills and weirs to tell you stories of the peoples that shared the valley before you.

Vickery
Creek

Island
Ford

Gold
Branch

Johnson
Ferry

Cochran
Shoals

Palisades

Jones
Bridges

Holcomb
Bridge

Bowmans
Island

Orrs
Ferry

Settles
Bridge

McGinnis
Ferry

Suwanee
Creek

Abbotts
Bridge

Medlock
Bridge

Directions

Start your visit to the recreation area at the Island Ford Visitor Contact Station. Here you will be able to pick up maps, as well as the latest information on the park.

Northbound GA 400 - Take exit #6 (Northridge Road). Coming off the exit, stay in the right lane, cross over GA 400, and turn right onto Dunwoody Place. Go 0.5 miles to Roberts Drive. Turn right and proceed 0.7 miles to the park entrance on your right.

Southbound GA 400 - Take exit #6 (Northridge Road). Continue straight ahead at the traffic light onto Dunwoody Place. Go 0.5 miles to Roberts Drive. Turn right and proceed 0.7 miles to the park entrance on your right.

Parking Fee Charged

For additional information contact:
Superintendent
Chattahoochee River NRA
1978 Island Ford Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30350
678-538-1200

<http://www.nps.gov/chat>

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