

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL NOMINATIONS

U.S. Department of the Interior, 2012

ALABAMA

Alabama State Lands Bartram Canoe Trail

The 154-mile Bartram Canoe Trail system provides opportunities for recreational boaters, specifically canoes and kayakers, to enjoy the rivers, streams, lakes, sloughs and bayous of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, our nation's second largest river delta. The Delta has over 50 rare and endangered plant and animal species known to inhabit its estuarine marsh, cypress-tupelo swamp and bottomland hardwood ecosystem.

Blevins Gap Nature Preserve Trail System

The Blevins Gap Nature Preserve is one of three Land Trust of North Alabama preserves located within the city limits of Huntsville. Each is larger than Central Park. This preserve features scenic vistas, rock overhangs, trails, and pristine forest. Its 10.5-mile trail system is composed of ten named trails and is a favorite of runners, mountain bikers, and hikers. The Land Trust of North Alabama works in partnership with Alabama's Forever Wild program to manage the preserve.

Dauphin Island Audubon Bird Sanctuary Trail System

Dauphin Island, a barrier island situated off the Alabama Gulf Coast, is one of the ten most globally important sites for bird migrations and one of the top four locations in North America for viewing spring migrations. The wide range of habitats within the Audubon Bird Sanctuary provides food and shelter for neo-tropical birds after a 600-mile flight across the Gulf of Mexico. The island is a birding hotspot with 347 species reported. Three miles of looped trails offer a safe, non-motorized way to enjoy the Sanctuary's treasures.

Goose Pond Colony Nature and Walking Trail

The Goose Pond Colony Walking Trail is located on the grounds of Goose Pond Colony, a public resort facility owned by the City of Scottsboro. The 2-mile loop trail winds through a wooded area adjacent to the Tennessee River/Guntersville Lake. The trail was constructed in 1990 with a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

Monte Sano Nature Preserve Trail System

The Monte Sano Nature Preserve offers 20.3 miles of trails for hiking, biking, environmental education, bird watching, picnicking, and reflection. This Land Trust of North Alabama preserve is the scenic backdrop for the city of Huntsville and is the home of the popular Wildflower Trail, the historic Three Caves Quarry, the Civil War landmark Trough Springs, and what remains of the Monte Sano Railway. Volunteers created and maintain this multi-use trail system of 27 named trails.

Oak Mountain Red Trail

In the foothills of the Appalachians, Double Oak Mountain lies at the core of Oak Mountain State Park, located 20 minutes south of Birmingham in Pelham, Alabama. The slopes and valleys of the parallel ridgelines serve up miles of blissful single track and technical diversity. The mountain bike trail system, dubbed the "Red Trail", is a stacked loop that offers several different mileage options. The Birmingham Urban Mountain Pedalers (BUMP) along with Alabama's DCNR State Park Division, Shelby County and the city of Pelham have worked hand in hand to elevate the caliber of the nearly 25 miles of mountain biking trail.

Scottsboro City Park Walking Trail

The 1-mile Scottsboro City Park Walking Trail hugs the shores of the Tennessee River/Guntersville with a constant view of the lake. Visitors can take a vigorous run or opt for a leisurely walk to enjoy the scenic and quiet beauty of the area.

Sokol Park Mountain Bike Trail System

This approximately 11-mile trail system in Tuscaloosa County is open to mountain bikers, trail runners, hikers, and those who enjoy walking on trails that are shaded by a dense canopy of mixed hardwoods and pines. The majority of the trails are rated intermediate (per International Mountain Biking Association rating criteria). The trails are maintained by West Alabama Mountain Bike Association (WAMBA) volunteers.

The Forever Wild Coon Creek Trail System

The Forever Wild Coon Creek Tract is located on the banks of Yates Reservoir on the Tallapoosa River. The trail system consists of two trails: the 4-mile Wood Duck Trail and the 1-mile Overlook Loop. Both trails are for use by the public and provide ample opportunity to observe wildlife including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, wood ducks, and several other bird species.

The Forever Wild Freedom Hills Trail System

The Forever Wild Freedom Hills Trail System is located on the Freedoms Hills Wildlife Management Area in Colbert County, near Barton and Cherokee, Alabama. Four loops offer 14.7 miles of diverse landscapes and conditions for horseback riding enthusiasts to enjoy.

The Forever Wild Shoal Creek Preserve Trail System

The Shoal Creek Preserve Tract in Lauderdale County has two hiking trails (the 2.4-mile Jones Branch Loop and the 1.8-mile Lawson Branch Loop) and a 2.1-mile horseback riding trail. The trail system navigates through several different habitat types including fallow fields, mature upland hardwood stands, and scenic creek bottoms.

The Forever Wild Walls of Jericho Trail System

This 17-mile trail system is located within the Forever Wild Walls of Jericho Tract in Jackson County. Three hiking trails (Walls of Jericho Trail, Bear Den Point Loop, and South Rim Trail) and a horseback riding trail travel through terrain hosting caves, springs, rare plant species, rocky bluffs, and steep canyon walls. The box canyon known as the Walls of Jericho holds the breathtaking Limestone Cathedral, formed by the headwaters of the Paint Rock River.

The Forever Wild Wehle Trail System

The Forever Wild Wehle Tract in Bullock and Barbour Counties has options for hikers and horseback riders. Three walking trails at the Wehle Nature Center, each less than half a mile in length, are augmented with interpretive stations highlighting many local plants and animals. For the horseback riding enthusiast, the trail system offers over 12 miles of trail through open pine grasslands and mature hardwood bottomlands.

Wade Mountain Nature Preserve Trail System

The Land Trust of North Alabama's Wade Mountain Nature Preserve has 9.4 miles of trails created and maintained by volunteers for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The trail system allows for direct enjoyment and appreciation of the preserve's natural jewels including cedar glades atop the mountain that support unique species and the Devil's Race Track, a significant geologic feature, with views to Tennessee on a clear day.

ALASKA

Beaver Creek Water Trail

The 180-mile Beaver Creek Water Trail in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge flows through a beautiful, remote area of interior Alaska. Beaver Creek is a popular destination for river floaters. Depending on where one puts in and takes out, the float can take anywhere from 1 week to several weeks to complete. The last 16 miles of the 127-mile Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River correspond with the water trail's first 16 miles within the Refuge.

Kanatak Trail

The Kanatak Trail in Becharof National Wildlife Refuge captures a human story in a wild landscape. The route has been used for centuries to cross the coastal mountains of the Alaska Peninsula. The 5-mile trail climbs 1,000 feet over the Kanatak Pass between the Pacific Ocean and Becharof Lake. Accessible by floatplane or boat, the trail honors the resourceful people of the Peninsula, and provides an unusual recreational experience for today's wilderness visitor.

CALIFORNIA

Aliso Creek Regional Bikeway, Riding and Hiking Trail

Extending from the foothills of Orange County to the boundary of Laguna Beach, this bikeway and recreational trail combination travels through five cities, linking six schools, a community center, a large community church, three regional parks, and twelve community parks. The fifteen miles of trail is designed for hikers, bikers, and equestrians, with a soft, compacted soil trail mirroring a multi-use asphalt bikeway.

The Los Angeles River Trail (Greenway/Bike Path)

From Griffith Park to Downtown Los Angeles, the 7-mile bike path is used for commuting, provides public access to social, economic, natural, and historic/cultural resources, serves as a safe pathway to fitness and related public health benefits, and coincides with a segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The trail is maintained by a collaboration of city agencies, rangers of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and youth from the LA Conservation Corps serving as the "LA River Corps." This part of the LA River trail system is an area of focus in the "50 State Report" of the America's Great Outdoors initiative.

COLORADO

Sand Creek Regional Greenway

Called the "Wilderness in the City," this trail is a jewel in the necklace of trails that has made the metropolitan Denver area a national model for linked trail systems. The 14-mile Greenway connects the High Line Canal trail in Aurora with the South Platte River Greenway in Commerce City, completing a loop of 50 miles of off-street urban trails. The Greenway passes through one of the most diverse areas on the Front Range. All of the educational and directional signage is in both English and Spanish, and much of the outreach material has recently been translated into Spanish as well.

CONNECTICUT

Willimantic River Water Trail

The Willimantic River Water Trail provides more than 21 miles of paddling enjoyment and challenges between Stafford Springs and Windham in the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor (known as The Last Green Valley). Wildlife is abundant and the only traces of civilization are the remnants of old mills. Within an hour's drive of three of New England's largest urban regions, the trail provides opportunities for family-friendly, close-to-home outdoor adventures with a surprisingly remote feel.

FLORIDA

Aucilla River

The Aucilla River flows 50 miles through a rugged and sparsely populated slice of Florida's Big Bend region. The upper stretches pass through swamps, shaded hardwood forests, and high limestone banks. As it journeys to the Gulf, the river gradually widens, flowing through panoramic palm-fringed vistas of salt marsh. Boaters must take to the land for several miles as the river alternately disappears into the underlying karst and resurfaces. The best way to observe this geologic phenomenon is to hike along the Aucilla Sinks or River trails, popular segments of the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Cross Seminole Trail

The southern segment of the Cross Seminole Trail provides 13.9 miles of paved recreational trail from the Seminole County line in the south through Oviedo to State Route 434 in the north. Over half of the trail coincides with the Florida National Scenic Trail. Much of the trail corridor is heavily vegetated, providing a peaceful and picturesque experience for this beautiful urban trail.

Econfina River

The Econfina River offers paddlers a 16-mile journey on a remote, intimately-canopied dark water river in the sparsely populated Big Bend region of North Florida. The character of the Econfina changes dramatically as it winds through upland forests and meanders downstream to the palm-fringed salt marshes of the Gulf of Mexico. Wildlife viewing is excellent and the quiet observer may glimpse bobcat, Florida black bear, alligators, and numerous bird species.

Flagler Trail

Running south from the Geneva Wilderness Area to the county line in a rural area of Seminole County, the southern 8.7-mile segment of the Flagler Trail is located along an abandoned railroad once known as the Okeechobee Branch of the Florida East Coast Railway. Most of this unpaved trail is part of the Florida National Scenic Trail and is also designated for horseback riding.

Foster's Hammock Loop Trail

This 8-mile, single track mountain bike trail in Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park allows riders and hikers to explore the Upper Suwannee River Valley's diverse topography, including upland hills, floodplain swamp forests, high river bluffs, and limestone outcroppings, while protecting environmentally sensitive areas. The trail was designed and constructed by volunteer members of the Suwannee Bicycle Association (SBA), a local nonprofit bicycle organization.

North Bay Trail

A 6.5-mile multi-use recreational path that runs along the spectacular waterfront of St. Petersburg, the North Bay Trail connects many of the city's fitness, recreational, and cultural opportunities. Highlights include downtown, the marina district, Vinoy Park (home to some of St. Petersburg's biggest special events), North Shore Park and Pool, the Centennial Sundial located at Vista Point, and the manatees of Coffee Pot Bayou.

Seminole Wekiva Trail

Built over the route of the former Orange Belt Railway, the Seminole Wekiva Trail begins at the San Sebastian Trailhead in Altamonte Springs and continues 14 miles north to the Wekiva River. Quiet residential neighborhoods, lush woods draped with Spanish moss, pastures, open space, the Seminole County Softball Complex, entertainment, dining, shopping, and nightlife are some of the diverse experiences available along the trail.

Wacissa River

The Wacissa River, a tributary of the Aucilla River, is one of the most pristine rivers in Florida. Fed by twelve major springs, this well-loved river attracts swimmers, snorkelers, boaters, anglers, and paddlers as it winds its way through the Aucilla Wildlife Management Area. Beginning paddlers and families with children have rewarding excursions on the 15 miles of water trail. The sparkling waters also support an impressive array of wildlife.

GEORGIA

Bartram Trail at Thurmond Lake

J. Strom Thurmond Lake is the largest Corps of Engineers project constructed east of the Mississippi River. The natural beauty of the area along the shore is still intact and is enjoyed by the mountain bikers, hikers, and runners who explore the pine-carpeted 27-mile Bartram Trail. There are 6.5 "Gateway" miles for young riders and new cyclists, an advanced 9-mile portion of fast single track challenges, and nearly 8 miles of more technical obstacles.

Georgia Coast Saltwater Paddle Trail

Lush scrub oak forests and immense expanses of tidal marsh personify Coastal Georgia, but it is also home to many historic sites and natural protected areas. The Georgia Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail connects Cumberland Island National Seashore, four State Parks, six other state protected areas, 77 Historic Sites, National Monuments, and many city, county, and regional parks. The 189-mile route has been laid out to facilitate short, medium, and long paddle trips. Access points are denoted as well as the available amenities at each location.

Karina Miller Preserve Loop Trail

Located in Little Mulberry Park in Dacula, this multi-purpose 2.2-mile trail circles a beautiful lake and abuts open pastures and mature hardwood forests. The trail provides multiple access points to the lake including two designated fishing piers. The natural habitats offer opportunities for viewing birds and a variety of other wildlife species. The trail is also an access point to a National Register of Historic Places site which features pre-historic stone mounds.

ILLINOIS

Carlyle Lake Multi-Use Trail

A successful partnership between the city of Carlyle and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Carlyle Lake Project, this 10.3-mile multi-use trail system connects the city of Carlyle to Carlyle Lake. The trail passes through numerous recreation areas and diverse, scenic wildlife habitat ranging from lake, forest, agricultural fields, restored prairie, and wetland areas. Historical and interpretive points of interest along the way including the Carlyle Lake Dam, the General Dean Suspension Bridge (listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and the Goshen Trail.

INDIANA

B-Line Trail

Created from a former railway corridor, the 3.1-mile B-Line Trail promotes recreation, fitness, economic development, and community activities in the heart of Bloomington. Eight focal art pieces strategically placed along the trail maximize user enjoyment and interaction. Interpretive signs, plazas, and three fitness stations enhance the trail experience. Area companies support the trail by sponsoring benches, large flower pots, trees and other amenities through the "B-Line Backer" program.

IOWA

Tallgrass Trail

In their journals, early pioneers and emigrants noted that the prairie plants reached the bellies of horses and children got lost in the high vegetation. Over 3,500 acres have been reconstructed or restored to native tallgrass prairie and oak savanna on the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. In July and August, when the grasses and flowering plants reach their greatest height, visitors can view bison from the 2-mile Tallgrass Trail and experience for themselves the impact of the tallgrass prairie.

Veterans Trail

The Veterans Trail at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Coralville Lake Project near Iowa City is a ¼-mile, barrier-free trail. Individuals of all abilities can view the flora and fauna or experience quiet reflection as the trail meanders among mature oak, hickory, and maple trees. Memorials and monuments collectively honor Johnson County veterans from the Civil War to present conflicts. Features dedicated to individual veterans include a bird observation area, a flower garden, rest areas, and a bridge.

MICHIGAN

North Central State Trail

Through rolling farmlands, forest lands, and resort communities, 62 miles of multi-use rail-trail connect the northern Michigan communities of Gaylord, Vanderbilt, Wolverine, Indian River, Topinabee, Cheboygan and Mackinaw City. Water views and access are featured along the Sturgeon River, Mullett Lake, and the Straits of Mackinac. The trail is open to all non-motorized users year round and to snowmobilers in the winter.

MINNESOTA

Finger Lakes Canoe Trail

The 5.2-mile Finger Lakes Canoe Trail near Kellogg is the second trail in a series of four trails on the Winona District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Paddlers can experience spectacular fishing while enjoying views of the Upper Mississippi River bluffs and the serenity of the mighty river's backwaters. The trail was designed and signed as an Eagle Scout project in 2011.

Halfmoon Lake Canoe Trail

The third of four canoe trails on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, this trail near Kellogg offers scenic bluffs, mature floodplain forest, opulent backwaters, and close-encounters with river otters. Paddling the 4.7-mile trail in the fall allows the opportunity to see the thousands of migrating waterfowl, including tundra swans. Rated moderate to difficult, the trail was developed and signed as an Eagle Scout project in 2007.

Verchota Canoe Trail

The fourth in the series of four trails on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, this 11-mile canoe trail near Winona is recommended for experienced paddlers. The trail provides an opportunity to explore off the main commercial navigation channel. Lotus beds, side channels, and a slower pace evoke an experience reminiscent of the days of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

MISSISSIPPI

Bailey's Woods Trail

The Bailey's Woods Trail connects the University of Mississippi Museum to Rowan Oak, William Faulkner's residence. Visitors can walk, run, exercise with their pets, geocache, and observe fall foliage along this 0.6-mile nature trail. Students use it for biology field studies and surveys, artistic inspiration, and art installations. The University of Mississippi Museum and Historic Houses extends an invitation to witness great art of the past and present, walk through nature, and write your own story at Rowan Oak.

NEW MEXICO

High Desert Trail System

Atop the mesas overlooking Gallup, the High Desert Trail System engages riders and runners of every skill level. Fast and fun single-track trails with great vistas and cap rocks go from easy beginner to intermediate to technical in a series of three stacked loops. The 11.2 miles of trails also connect two low-income communities and serve as a backbone among many cultural and recreational resources. The system, named after the late Charles High, is the culmination of a unique, multi-partner effort.

NEW YORK

Zim Smith Trail

Named after the late trail advocate Zimri Smith of Saratoga Springs, the Zim Smith Trail traverses 4 towns (Clifton Park, Halfmoon, Ballston and Malta) and 2 villages (Ballston Spa and Round Lake) and serves as the backbone for the Saratoga County Trail network. Nine miles of year-round, multi-use trail provide a non-polluting transportation alternative, a tourism amenity, and a safe recreational route for children and families.

NORTH CAROLINA

Overmountain Victory Trail

At the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, 13 miles of trail flow past lake views, dip deep into the woods, and traverse steep hillsides with mature hardwoods and boulder outcroppings. The Overmountain Victory Trail follows the general route used by patriots from the area in October 1780 and is part of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. The trail is managed for multiple-use – hiking, running, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, environmental education, fishing, and hunting.

OREGON

Tillamook County Water Trail System

The Tillamook County Water Trail is a countywide, non-motorized recreational water trail system encompassing the area's abundant rivers, sloughs, and bays. Five unique estuaries and their associated watersheds have a combined total of 1,820 square miles of water, over 250 of them navigable. A diversity of locales, scenery and experiences offers superior water-based recreational opportunities with paddling opportunities for every skill level from novice to advanced whitewater.

TENNESSEE

East Lakeshore Trail

The East Lakeshore Trail is the product of a successful partnership between the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Twenty-one miles of quality hiking trail traverse the undeveloped and forested east shore of Tellico Lake. The trail experience features a variety of landscapes and beautiful lake views as well as distant views of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Wolf River Greenway Trail

This 1.67-mile paved, shaded, accessible trail parallels the Wolf River. It is the first place in the city of Memphis where people can connect with the river in a peaceful, natural setting. Walkers, runners, cyclists, rollerbladers, and dog walkers encounter views of the river, several ponds, ample wildlife and lush timberlands. The trail has been well-received and heavily used by the community.

TEXAS

Leon Creek North Greenway

Collaborative public/private partnerships, an emphasis on preserving and restoring natural ecosystems, and safe, non-motorized connections distinguish the 13 miles of the Leon Creek North Greenway in San Antonio. Stout design and positive storm water management protect the riparian habitat. The trail transects different socio-economic and cultural enclaves, bringing diverse people together through recreation, exercise, and alternative transportation opportunities.

Medina River Greenway

Not far from downtown San Antonio, along the banks of the sinuous Medina River, is a beautiful, pastoral setting in which to enjoy nature, history, and recreation. Traveling 7 miles past working farms and areas of rich ecological diversity, the trail remind users of how important water is for human existence. This project has been able to get in front of the development wave to protect riparian habitat in a regional fluvial ecosystem at or near the convergence of 4 major ecological zones.

Tejano Walking Trails

In the working class East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood adjacent to downtown Austin, the 11 miles of the Tejano Walking Trails showcase a community dedicated to preserving its cultural history. Two trails highlight historical, cultural, and community gems: the Tejano Healthy Walking Trail focuses on historic structures and promotes healthy lifestyles; and the Tejano Music Legends Trail commemorates Austin's Latino music legends from the 1940's and 1950's through art.

WASHINGTON

Bennington Lake Trail System

Twenty miles of trails at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mill Creek Project provide different levels of difficulty for walking, running, biking, swimming, or practicing for a backpacking trip. Scenic views of the lake, Blue Mountains, and the fertile fields of the Walla Walla Valley unfold on the trails around Bennington Lake and along Mill Creek. The trail system hosts many special events throughout the year.

Foothills Regional Trail

In central Pierce County, an abandoned railroad right-of-way has been converted into a 12-foot wide asphalt path with an accompanying 5-foot wide equestrian trail. Walkers, hikers, bikers and horseback riders of all skill levels and capabilities enjoy views of South Prairie Creek, Mt. Rainier, rich farmland, and areas where open meadows meet forested hillsides. The 15 miles of trail access significant environmental areas and connect local historic and cultural landmarks, parks, schools, and other public facilities.

VIRGINIA

Warrenton Branch Greenway

This rails-to-trails gem stretches a distance of 1.48 miles along a portion of the old Warrenton Branch, a spur of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad line. Completed in 1852, the spur was in service for 136 years and witnessed many historic Virginia events. A perfect trail for learning how to ride a bike, skate, or just get some fresh air, this combination path and historic area has become a focal point for downtown Warrenton.

WEST VIRGINIA

Sunrise Carriage Trail

A short walk across the Southside Bridge from downtown Charleston leads to the Sunrise Carriage Trail, a meandering 0.65 gravel trail which gently rises 200 feet through a forested haven. Originally constructed in 1905 for oxen hauling construction stone for the Sunrise mansion, the trail is a welcome respite with cool breezes, abundant bird song, fragrant and flowering shrubs and trees, and numerous varieties of wildflowers.

WISCONSIN

Nelson-Trevino Canoe Trail

This 4.8-mile trail, located between Nelson, WI and Wabasha, MN, is the first (upstream most) in a series of four trails designed to take paddlers into the backwater areas of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The trail was developed as an Eagle Scout project in the summer of 2010 and has provided paddlers with incredible fishing, breathtaking views, and bird watching opportunities.