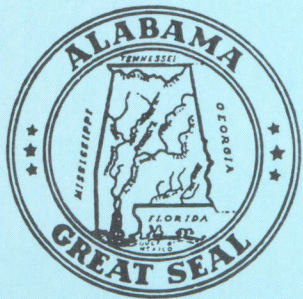


Executive Summary

ALABAMA OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

OCTOBER 1976





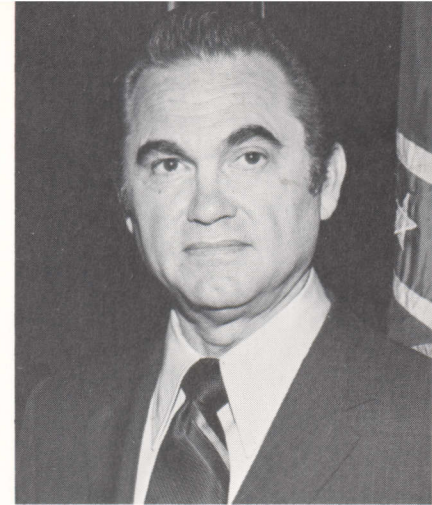
STATE OF ALABAMA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

MONTGOMERY

GEORGE C. WALLACE
GOVERNOR

October 1, 1976



To the Citizens of Alabama:

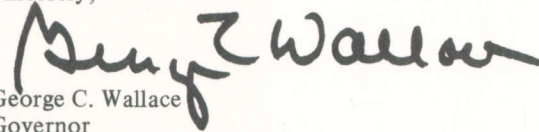
This summary of Alabama's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is submitted as a means of informing you about the State's recreational program—its current status and needs and plans for the future. I hope the material presented will create a new awareness of the importance of recreation for a full and satisfying life, and that it will challenge each of you to support government and private enterprise in efforts to develop a system of recreation that will fully serve the people of the State and visitors in the years ahead.

The plan described on the following pages is the State's official guide for acquisition of needed space and development of appropriate facilities for recreational purposes. Receiving equal emphasis is the need for protecting the wealth of high quality land and water resources that abound in Alabama. Generations to come will have the opportunity to enjoy these outstanding gifts of nature only through conservation efforts of the present generation.

While the past and present are important, this report focuses on the future. It presents an accurate accounting of what will be needed in the future, and points out steps that will be necessary by specific governmental and private agencies to meet these future needs. High on the list is the need for adequate funding for continued development, operation and maintenance of State Parks and other State operated recreational sites.

You are invited to review this summary of the Alabama Outdoor Recreation Plan and to offer your comments and suggestions. Your assistance is needed as further study, planning, and action are undertaken to achieve the stated goals.

Sincerely,


George C. Wallace
Governor

Implementing the Recreation Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1975 Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

OCTOBER 1976

PREPARED BY

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

PREFACE

This publication is dedicated to the multitudes of Alabamians – public officials and private citizens alike—who are concerned about their State's recreational situation and are willing to work to make it Number One in the nation. It reports up-to-date facts about Alabama's current supply of outdoor recreational resources, presents a statistical and descriptive accounting of what will be required to meet recreational needs in 1980 and 2000, and concludes with a roll call of governmental and private agencies involved in recreational planning and development, specifying their roles in meeting future needs.

Information in this publication represents a summary of findings from a study conducted by Auburn University Agricultural Experiment Station under contract with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Under supervision of the late R. W. Thrasher, Chief of the Department's Outdoor Recreation Section, the study was part of the State's 5-year continuant planning program. Three volumes of detailed data make up the 1975 Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Information on the complete plan can be obtained from Outdoor Recreation Section, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

Development and printing of this report were financed in part through a planning grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, under provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578). Auburn University staff members with major responsibilities for preparation of this report were R. E. Stevenson, D. A. Burleson, R. M. House, Doyce Yates, and J. Homer Blackstone as project leader.

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Introduction

Recreation is one of the major components necessary for a full and satisfying life. Both physical and mental well-being are enhanced by wholesome recreational activities that provide a change of pace from hectic day-to-day living that characterizes the 1970's. While strenuous exercise is recognized as a must for good health of people whose work is not physical in nature, less strenuous, or even passive, activities are equally important to the elderly or handicapped. But regardless of the personal characteristics of different people, every person has a need for recreation adapted to meet his or her specific situation.

While there are many recreational activities that can be enjoyed indoors, recreation to Alabamians generally means outdoor activities—boating, hiking, swimming, sightseeing, picnicking, playing sports, hunting, fishing, water skiing, camping, or any of several other activities that can be enjoyed in the outdoors. And there's good reason for this outdoor orientation among Alabama residents. Because of the State's wealth of natural resources and a climate that permits almost year-round outdoor fun, outdoor recreation is simply a characteristic of the people who live in the State. Younger generations of Alabamians have grown up with the idea that the weekend is a time for getting away from the cares of school or work by going to the lake or beach or mountains for camping, fishing, swimming, hunting, or whatever appeals to a particular family. This search for enjoyment reaches a peak in summer, when school is out, with vacations and holidays providing extra time for recreation.

There's another angle to recreation that cannot be overlooked: Its importance as an income-producing industry. In 1975, according to reports by the State Bureau of Publicity and Information, expenditures for recreation and tourism in Alabama reached \$846 million, up from \$423 million in 1967. This is an average annual increase of 12.5 percent. Cash receipts for Alabama's recreation and tourism industry are projected to reach \$1.4 billion for 1980. The jobs created and the income generated by Alabama's recreation and tourism industry have made a tremendous impact on the overall economy of the State. Likewise, it will remain an important part of the State's future economic growth and development.

Magnitude of recreation is difficult to comprehend on a statewide basis, but consideration of annual participation rates helps bring the picture into focus. Figures for 1973 show a total of more than 500 million activity occasions that year. (An activity occasion is the participation by one person in any one recreational activity for 30 minutes or more during a day, while away from home.) This figures out to an average of 126 such occasions per person for all Alabama residents during a year, plus some extra for visitors from out of state.

Comparison of these latest participation figures with data from previous years is not valid because only 21 activities were studied in 1967 and 1970, as

compared with 84 outdoor activities in 1973. In the earlier studies only 600 families were interviewed, while 1973 data were collected from 2,586 households containing 9,185 individuals. However, comparison of selected activities for the various time periods shows significant per capita increases in participation as well as high rates of participation for activities not previously studied.

But the future promises even greater demand, with a growing population boosting the market for recreation and increased emphasis on recreation causing greater per capita participation. Projected figures for 1980 show annual participation going up a full 20 percent to more than 600 million activity occasions. A further increase of 56 percent is expected to take place by the year 2000. The total that year will be nearing the one billion mark, according to best estimates. The economic magnitude of the industry will increase in proportion, or maybe even at greater rates as the growing affluence of Alabama citizens provides more funds to be spent for leisure activities.

While a certain amount of recreation will take place under even the worst circumstances, recreational participation like that taking place in Alabama and foreseen for the future does not happen by chance. Recent year growth that has occurred in Alabama recreation required many new and expanded or improved facilities, reflecting effective planning and coordinating efforts of governmental and private agencies and individuals. Even more detailed planning and coordination will be needed in the future to meet the ever increasing demand for quality sites and facilities where Alabamians may go to enjoy nature and participate in activities that appeal to them.

Meeting Alabama's recreational needs of the future is the subject of this report. Discussions will center around (1) a review of detailed planning that has been done at the State level to determine just what the needs will be at specific future times, (2) details about what is currently available for use in meeting needs of the future, and (3) precise outlining of what must be done by appropriate agencies, businesses, and individuals to assure that residents of all parts of the State have suitable recreational opportunities to satisfy their needs and desires. While successes of recent years will be recognized, major emphasis will be on the future—on needs and how to fill them.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALABAMA PLAN

Specific steps recommended for implementing Alabama's Recreation Plan are based on detailed data collected in a comprehensive statewide study. This research inventoried resources available for recreation and determined as accurately as possible what Alabama residents and out-of-state visitors will desire for future recreational enjoyment. It then related one set of data to the other to paint a word and statistical picture of the situation at designated

future time periods. The study was made by Auburn University Agricultural Experiment Station, under contract from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This same Alabama team had cooperated in preparing previous plans that were useful in decision-making, and the current plan reflects the experience and spirit of team work that had carried over from previous projects.

A characteristic of the current Alabama Plan, and one that stood out in previous plans, is the relating of data to a "people basis." This personal touch has been maintained despite the extremely large numbers that are dealt with in describing statewide situations, or even district totals. A major reason for

this is that much of the data were gathered on an individual county basis, and this was then converted into district and finally into State totals. Recreational sites were inventoried individually to provide information about available resources and, by the same token, current and future participation rates were obtained by surveying individuals and families about their part of the overall recreational picture. As a result, the combined data are truly representative of what Alabama has to offer and what will be required to satisfy the future market for all types of recreation. Suggested actions for specific groups or agencies are based on these meaningful data to provide a realistic approach to filling the needs.

What Alabama Has To Offer

Tourism advertisements that claim "Alabama has it all" are generally accurate. Alabama does indeed have the natural resources to appeal to almost any whim of recreationists. The diversity in landscape encountered in going from the Tennessee line to the Gulf Coast is like a fast moving travelogue that has a new and different scene around each bend of the road. There are rugged mountains, fertile valleys, rolling plains, hilly woodlands, swamps and deltas, and sandy beaches; large cities, small towns, sleepy villages, farming communities, and mile after mile of land inhabited only by wildlife; free flowing streams, rivers harnessed for power production with resultant lakes, and creeks that meander through the countryside; caves, canyons, cliffs, and

Sunshine and water are key ingredients for enjoyable recreation by people of all ages who take part in water-oriented activities.



overlooks; and a feeling of history that permeates the countryside from one end of the State to the other.

But there's a lot more than just what nature provided. Man-made developments that complement the natural attractions have been developed in large numbers by government agencies and individuals. These run the gamut from museums depicting life in the distant past to attractions that concern man's quest for outer space. Numerous sites that provide for swimming, boating, hiking, picnicking, trail riding, playing sports, and other active recreational pursuits cash in on the natural resources that are necessary for enjoyable outdoor play.

The latest Alabama study inventoried a total of 4,580 outdoor recreational sites in the State. These were classified according to their one major recreational enterprise, as listed below:

<i>Major enterprise</i>	<i>Number of sites</i>
Campgrounds	122
Field sport areas	2,010
Fishing waters	920
Golfing facilities	194
Historic and archaeological sites	51
Hunting areas	443
Natural and scenic areas	43
Picnic areas	202
Race tracks, motor courses	40
Recreational resorts	22
Rockhounding areas	0
Rodeos, zoos, amusement parks, and outdoor theaters or movies	132
Shooting preserves	15
Snow-ski areas	0
Trails	33
Vacation farms or dude ranches	1
Water sport areas	352
TOTAL	4,580

Operators of the recreational sites listed above include various levels of government, commercial enterprises that are operated as profit-making businesses, and private or semi-private enterprises not operated for profit. Numbers of each type identified in the inventory are as follows:

<i>Type of operator</i>	<i>Number of sites</i>
Federal	185
State	265
County	907
City	1,204
Combination	14
Commercial for profit	1,124
Private or semi-private, nonprofit	881

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal government is an important partner in Alabama's total outdoor recreational supply network, furnishing many resources and services that would be unobtainable through State or local government or private enterprise. Among these resources are National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, reservoirs and lakes, parkways, and various other recreational services. The magnitude of the Federal contribution is masked by the figures on total numbers of sites, which show only 185 sites (4 percent of the State's total) as being Federal. Large acreages of land and water are included in these 185 sites—735,740 surface acres, or 18 percent of the State's total—which offer recreational opportunities for large numbers of people. Most of this acreage available for recreation is operated by the departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Interior, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

On the basis of one major type of recreational facility offered at a specific site, Federal sites were classified as follows: campgrounds, 1; field sport areas, 9; fishing waters, 49; golfing facilities, 4; historic and archaeological sites, 4; hunting areas, 22; natural and scenic areas, 2; picnic areas, 25; recreational resorts, 1; trails, 3; and water sport areas, 65.

Department of Agriculture

Along with its major functions relating to agriculture and rural development, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is also concerned with recreation. USDA agencies carrying out recreational functions in Alabama are Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Cooperative Extension Service.

U. S. Forest Service

There are four National Forests in Alabama, one of which has two locations: William B. Bankhead National Forest in north Alabama; Talladega National Forest, with its Talladega Division in east Alabama and Oakmulgee Division in west central Alabama; Tuskegee National Forest in east Alabama; and Conecuh National Forest in extreme south Alabama. Total purchase area covers 1,270,897 acres, of which about half is owned by the Federal government and available for use in that agency's program of recreational development.

Recreational facilities on the 19 areas maintained for public recreational use include 316 campsites, 590 acres of ponds and lakes for fishing and swimming, several streams, and 123 picnic tables. All of the Forests' Federal land is open to the public, providing opportunities for hiking, nature walking, fishing, hunting, or other activities.

The five wildlife management areas within National Forest boundaries in Alabama represent a valuable hunting resource, under operation of the Alabama Game and Fish Division as part of its wildlife management program. Some 238,346 acres of land (229,038 acres of Forest Service land) are in these wildlife management areas: Black Warrior, in the William B. Bankhead National Forest; Oakmulgee, in the Oakmulgee Division of the Talladega National Forest; Choccolocco and Hollins areas in the Talladega Division of the Talladega National Forest; and Blue Springs, in the Conecuh National Forest.

Fishing, boating, swimming, and camping opportunities are provided by the 400 miles of rivers and streams in the National Forests of Alabama. Part of the Alabama Power Company's Lewis Smith Lake is in the William B. Bankhead National Forest. A wealth of plant and animal life is available in these areas for viewing or studying by students or other interested persons.

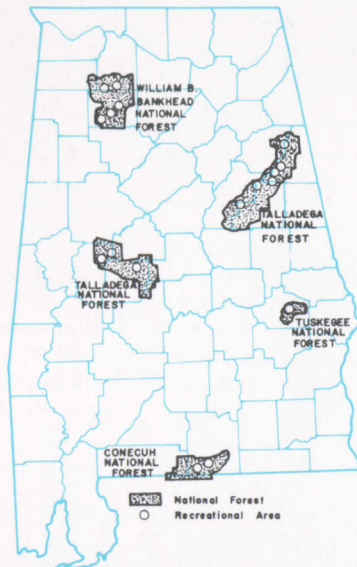
The Talladega Scenic Drive being built in the Talladega Division of the Talladega National Forest will offer opportunities for sightseeing and access to several recreational sites. New and improved hiking trails are being added in two National Forests, which will supplement the unpaved roads now being used for hiking, horseback riding, and driving.

National Forests in Alabama received a boost in January 1975 when President Ford signed a law making the 12,000-acre Sipsey Wilderness in the Bankhead Forest a part of the National Wilderness Program. Other legislation put into effect provided for a study of the West Fork Sipsey River, which is also related to the Bankhead Forest, for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. Also, a 500-acre tract of forestland in the Talladega National Forest (Bibb County) has been designated a part of the Nationwide Research Natural Area by the Forest Service. The tract, known as the Reed Brake Research Natural Area, is noted for its longleaf-scrub oak timber stand. The area will be maintained in its natural condition.

Other USDA Agencies

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has developed watershed projects in Bullock, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Hale, Jackson,

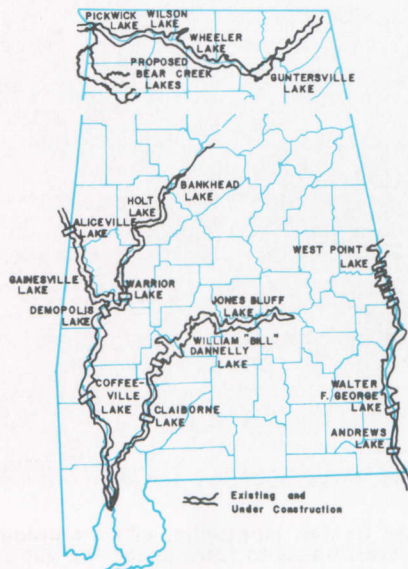
Federally Operated Recreational Sites



NATIONAL FORESTS



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES



TVA LAKES

CORPS OF ENGINEERS LAKES



NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES



Soil Conservation Service programs have encouraged landowners to develop feed and cover on land to improve hunting potential.

Lawrence, Madison, Marengo, Perry, Randolph, and Talladega counties that have areas used for water-oriented recreation, and others are under construction or being planned. Three USDA agencies, the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and Economic Research Service, are developing water and related resource plans for the Alabama, Tombigbee, Northeast Gulf, and Black Warrior river basins in cooperation with the Alabama Development Office. These plans will examine outdoor recreation needs through 2020 and identify opportunities for meeting these needs through USDA and other programs.

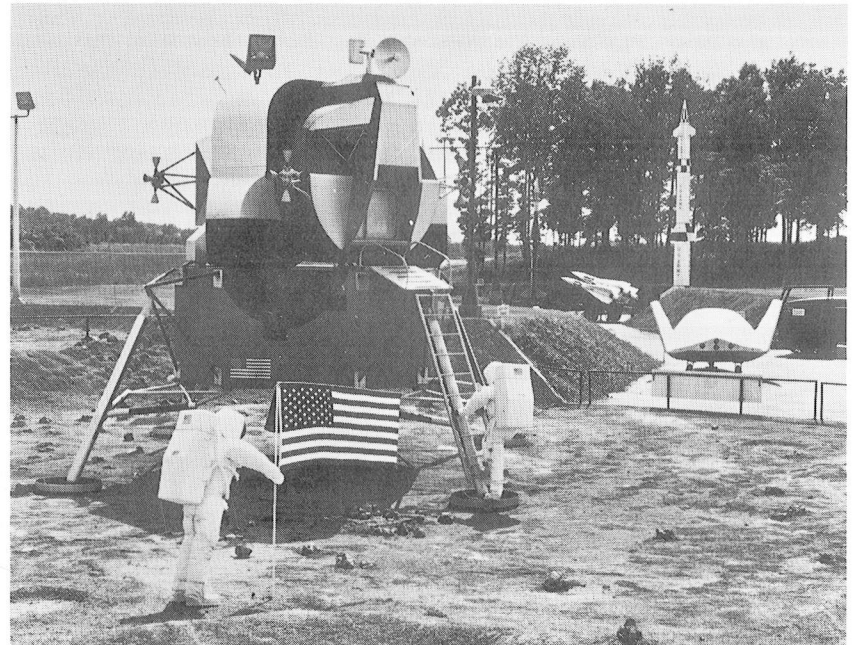
Assistance to private landowners in developing recreational facilities is offered by Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and SCS. The Cooperative Extension Service provides leadership and assistance to public groups and agencies and private organizations in developing recreational facilities.

Department of Defense

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the major component of the Department of Defense that supplies recreational facilities and opportunities in Alabama. However, military bases in the State cover 180,000 surface acres and furnish such recreational facilities as water areas, playfields, playgrounds, golf courses, fishing and hunting areas, and trails for military personnel and their dependents. Military land is used for the Alabama Space Center and for numerous special events, which add to Alabama's recreational resource.

Corps of Engineers

Recreational development is a function of the Corps of Engineers' civil works program, along with such duties as waterway development, flood control, power generation, shore protection, water supply, water quality, and fish and wildlife enforcement. With 11 existing stream impoundments (147,330 acres of water) wholly or partially in Alabama providing resources for both water and land activities, the Corps of Engineers represents a major



The Alabama Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, offers a unique opportunity for tourists and other recreationists to learn about the nation's space program while enjoying themselves.

supplier of recreational opportunities. And the 115 public use areas established on these sites offer boat launching ramps, marina concession facilities, fishing decks, picnic tables, picnic shelters, grills, camping spaces, swimming beaches, overlooks, hunting land, and hiking and nature trails. This is in addition to the fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, and waterfowl hunting that take place on the lakes themselves.

The Aliceville and Gainesville lakes are now under construction on the Tombigbee River. These will provide recreational opportunities similar to those available on existing Corps lakes: Bankhead Lake, Holt Lake, Warrior Lake, Demopolis Lake, Jones Bluff Lake, William "Bill" Dannelly Reservoir, Coffeeville Lake, Claiborne Lake, Walter F. George Lake, George W. Andrews Lake, and the newly completed West Point Lake. Although West Point, Walter F. George, and Andrews lakes are only partially in Alabama, their entire surface area of 72,670 acres of water is fully accessible from the Alabama shoreline.

Recreation was considered a primary purpose of the West Point Lake during its planning and construction, and this emphasis is obvious. Eight of its recreational sites, encompassing 3,000 acres, are wholly or partially in Alabama, one of which is the Burnt Village Park.

Camden State Park was built totally on Corps leased land on the shoreline of the William "Bill" Dannelly Reservoir, and Lakepoint Resort State Park now under construction is partially on land leased from the Corps on Walter F. George Lake. The Fort Toulouse site, on Jones Bluff Lake, is being developed cooperatively by the Corps and the Alabama Historical Commission. Also on Jones Bluff Lake, the Powder Magazine site is being developed jointly by the Corps and the City of Montgomery. Leasing of Corps land by the State, counties, cities, and marina concession operators has made possible development of recreational sites with outstanding water and land resources that would not have been possible without such cooperative action. The Demopolis Wildlife Management Area (7,054 acres) is leased by the Corps to the Alabama Game and Fish Division.

Tennessee Valley Authority

TVA lakes have made north Alabama a truly outstanding area for water-related recreation. The four reservoirs resulting from the agency's multi-purpose water control program (Pickwick, Wilson, Wheeler, and Guntersville lakes) provide 200,830 acres of water (summer pool) and 2,662 miles of shoreline. These four lakes extend the entire width of the State, offering an unparalleled variety of scenic beauty, with water surfaces ranging from broad, open expanses to deep, winding waters with rugged shorelines of wooded mountain slopes. In a cooperative effort with the Bear Creek Development Authority, TVA has constructed two small reservoirs in the Bear Creek Watershed area, and two additional reservoirs are now under construction. The four lakes will provide a total of 8,280 acres of water, which will further enlarge recreational opportunities in this area.



This scene is typical of what can be seen on TVA lakes across north Alabama as State residents and out-of-state visitors take to the water for recreation.

A wide array of recreational facilities is in operation on TVA lakes, under the ongoing program whereby TVA makes land and water available for recreational development. The list includes a National Parkway, a National Wildlife Refuge, 3 State Parks and numerous State access areas, 8 State wildlife management and public shooting areas, 8 county parks, 13 city parks, and some 50 private recreational sites (boat docks, marinas, rental cabin areas, motels, fishing resorts, camps, and recreational areas). Activities provided for on and near TVA lakes include swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, camping, hiking, nature walking, horseback riding, hunting, golfing, and picnicking. In addition to making recreational sites available for others to develop, TVA is now providing such basic facilities as parking and picnic areas, launching ramps, and sanitary facilities where needed for safety and protection of users and protection of lake ecology.

Department of the Interior

Importance of the Department of the Interior to the nation's recreation is emphasized by its custody of 750 million acres of land nationwide.

Coordination of Federal and state programs is provided through its Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Specific duties involving development and conservation of fish and wildlife resources and operation of scenic and historic resources are handled through the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.

National Park Service (NPS)

NPS maintains three areas in Alabama that cover 4,600 acres of land—Russell Cave National Monument in Jackson County and Horseshoe Bend National Military Park near Dadeville, both of which are completed, and the yet to be completed Natchez Trace Parkway across the northwest corner of the State.

Russell Cave preserves 8,000 years of man's history in the rugged areas of Jackson County. Facilities there include a small land area, the cave, a museum, a hiking trail, a picnic area, parking area, and employee homes.

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is a 2,400-acre facility established in 1959 on the site where Andrew Jackson and his troops won their decisive victory over the Creeks at the Horseshoe Bend of the Tallapoosa River. Plans call for reconstructing the log breastwork to add to the current attractions of picnic areas, nature trails, and museum.

Restoration and operation of the historic district on the campus of Tuskegee Institute has been added to NPS responsibility in Alabama. Although legislation assigned this duty in 1975, adequate funds have not yet been made available for carrying out the planned program.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Three National Wildlife Refuges in Alabama are used by the Fish and Wildlife Service in its major duty of conserving wild birds, animals, and sport fish for recreational and economic values. The three are in extreme northern, southeastern, and southwestern regions of the State.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, a 35,000-acre holding, is located on TVA's Wheeler Lake on the Tennessee River. About equally divided between water and land area, the Refuge provides resources for fishing, hunting, picnicking, swimming, skiing, and boating. Major recreational attractions are fishing, sightseeing, nature walking, and waterfowl observation. There are only five picnic tables and no designated swimming areas, which limit these activities, and camping is permitted during the day only. Hunting is limited to specific times during the hunting season, while year-round fishing is permitted. Four boat launching ramps are available in the Refuge.

Beaverdam Creek Swamp (Limestone County) is located within the Refuge. This a 503-acre prime tupelo gum swamp that is listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks.

The Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge covers 11,160 acres of land and water, including 8,000 acres in Alabama and 3,160 acres in Georgia. Located on the Corps' Walter F. George Lake on the Chattahoochee River, it offers fishing and sightseeing throughout the year and limited hunting. Bird

watching and photography are drawing cards at this Refuge where 185 species of birds have been identified.

The Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge is smaller than the others, having 4,128 total acres with 1,500 acres of open water. Only fishing and sightseeing are currently allowed in the Refuge located in Choctaw County on the Corps' Coffeeville Lake. Future hunting is dependent on acquisition of additional land.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also operates a fish hatchery at Carbon Hill to produce fingerlings for stocking various fishing waters.

Other Federal Programs

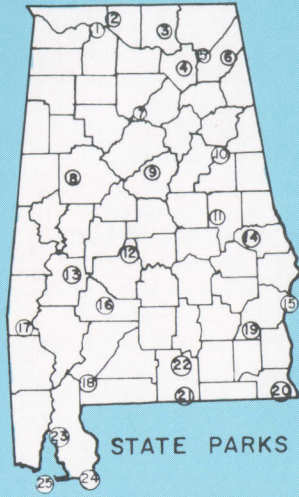
Several other Federal agencies offer a helping hand to recreational developments in carrying out their particular assigned duties of service. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development aids cities in acquiring land for recreation through its open-space land program; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare helps in assuring sanitation of water resources for recreation; the Department of Transportation cooperates with the Alabama Highway Department in developing highways that serve for sightseeing and for access to recreational areas; the Small Business Administration cooperates with banks to provide loans for local developments, of which recreational developments are eligible. Loans, grants, or appropriations have been received for recreational development from the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Dingell-Johnson Act, the Pittman-Robertson Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Revenue Sharing, and the Community Development Block Grant Funds.

STATE GOVERNMENT

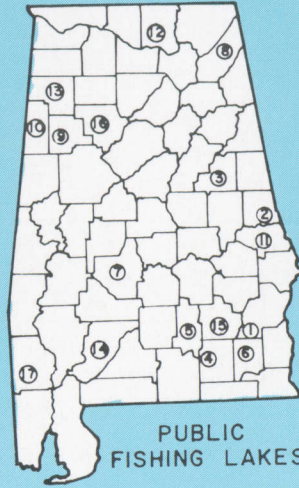
Major recreational responsibilities seem to be in the realm of State services. This includes not only a major role in planning and coordinating, but also in developing and supplying needed recreational facilities. Much attention to recreation needs have been given at the State level in recent years, with resulting additions and improvements to State-furnished resources. Results of these concerted efforts are obvious at State Parks, historic sites and landmarks, highway rest areas, fishing lakes, and other type facilities operated by the State.

Inventoried in 1974 were 265 recreational sites operated by State agencies. Although this was only 5.79 percent of the total number of sites in Alabama, the 767,852 acres in these sites (much of it leased) accounted for nearly 19 percent of all recreational land in the State. Classification of these sites according to one major recreational enterprise showed the following: campgrounds, 2; field sport areas, 10; fishing waters, 26; golfing facilities, 3; historic and archaeological sites, 9; hunting areas, 44; natural and scenic areas, 5; picnic areas, 86; recreational resorts, 4; trails, 3; and water sport areas, 73.

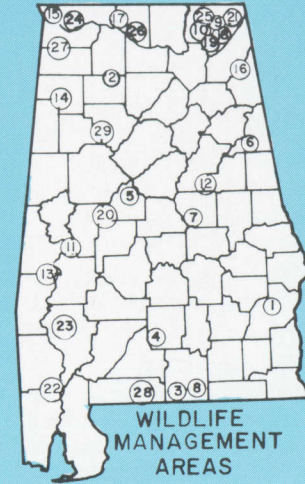
State Operated Recreational Sites



STATE PARKS



PUBLIC
FISHING LAKES



WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
AREAS

Name and map number	Location, county	Acreage
1. Joe Wheeler	Lauderdale-Lawrence	2,820
2. Elk River	Limestone	80
3. Monte Sano	Madison	2,140
4. Lake Guntersville	Marshall	5,835
5. Buck's Pocket	Jackson-Marshall-DeKalb	2,000
6. DeSoto	DeKalb	4,950
7. Rickwood Caverns	Blount	380
8. Lake Lurleen	Tuscaloosa	1,625
9. Oak Mountain	Shelby	9,940
10. Cheaha	Cleburne	2,719
11. Wind Creek	Tallapoosa	1,354
12. Paul M. Grist	Dallas	1,080
13. Chickasaw	Marengo	540
14. Chewacla	Lee	696
15. Lakepoint Resort	Barbour	1,220
16. Camden	Wilcox	200
17. Bladon Springs	Choctaw	357
18. Little River	Escambia	960
19. Blue Springs	Barbour	103
20. Chattahoochee	Houston	596
21. Florala	Covington	35
22. Lightwood Knot Creek	Covington	2,050
23. Meaher	Baldwin	300
24. Gulf State	Baldwin	6,160
25. Fort Morgan	Baldwin	535

Name and map number	Acreage	
	Water	Site
1. Barbour County	75	250
2. Chambers County	184	636
3. Clay County	65	360
4. Coffee County	80	202
5. Crenshaw County	53	240
6. Dale County	92	355
7. Dallas County	100	306
8. DeKalb County	120	300
9. Fayette County	60	255
10. Lamar County	68	195
11. Lee County	132	268
12. Madison County	105	317
13. Marion County	45	317
14. Monroe County	94	245
15. Pike County	45	407
16. Walker County	163	297
17. Washington County (J. Emmett Wood)	84	245

Name and map number	Acreage	Type game ¹
1. Barbour	23,985	WF-BG-SG
2. Black Warrior	96,580	BG-SG
3. Blue Spring	22,500	WF-BG-SG
4. Butler	20,200	BG-SG
5. Cahaba	22,000	BG-SG
6. Choccolocco	39,424	BG-SG
7. Coosa	38,360	BG-SG
8. Covington	22,344	BG-SG
9. Crow Creek Refuge	2,512	SG
10. Crow Creek	2,161	WF-SG
11. Demopolis	7,133	WF-BG-SG
12. Hollins	36,342	BG-SG
13. Kinterbish	13,614	BG-SG
14. Lamarion	25,600	WF-BG-SG
15. Lauderdale	19,890	BG-SG
16. Little River	18,000	BG-SG
17. Mullard-Fox Creek	2,460	WF-SG
18. Mud Creek	8,193	WF-SG
19. N. Sauty Refuge	5,200	SG
20. Oakmulgee	43,500	BG-SG
21. Raccoon	7,080	WF-SG
22. Frank W. and Rob M. Boykin	24,015	BG-SG
23. Scotch	20,480	BG-SG
24. Seven-Mile Island	4,685	WF-SG
25. Skyline	35,327	BG-SG
26. Swan Creek	6,194	WF-SG
27. Thomas	30,320	BG-SG
28. T. R. Miller	37,230	BG-SG
29. Wolf Creek	31,000	BG-SG

¹BG = big game; SG = small game; WF = waterfowl. Data updated to July 1974.



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

State Parks Division

Alabama's State Park system ranks right at the top among all states in the South. Its 22 fully operational parks literally blanket the State with high quality attractions that are as varied as the State's topography. One can climb high mountains, descend deep canyons, enjoy clear blue lakes, or play on sparkling Gulf beaches—all in a beautiful Alabama State Park. And the man-made components of these parks are equally impressive, offering magnificent dining rooms, luxurious living accommodations, functional meeting spaces, and fully equipped recreational areas. These fully operational

Joe Wheeler State Park, located on TVA's Wheeler Lake, is one of the State Parks that received extensive development in the recent modernization program.

and staffed State Parks are located so that at least one is in relatively easy traveling distance of each Alabama municipality, as shown by the map on page 12. Three other non-staffed parks with limited facilities and two unlisted small, isolated, and undeveloped sites bring total surface area of Alabama State Parks to 48,794 acres. This amounts to 13.77 acres of land per 1,000 residents, close to the recommended goal of 15 acres per 1,000 persons.

Joe Wheeler State Park. The major park improvement program just completed made significant additions and improvements to this northern Alabama park in Lauderdale and Lawrence counties. Addition of a beautiful new lodge and support buildings, marina, golf course, swimming pool, roads, and sewage facilities added much potential to the facility that already had cabins, picnic facilities, boat access sites, playfields, and a swimming area. It



Horseback riding is offered at Monte Sano State Park, a facility with a relaxing atmosphere just minutes away from downtown Huntsville.

now attracts meetings, while still drawing recreationists who come to enjoy water-related activities on the 2,820-acre park on TVA's Wheeler Lake. Wheeler Dam and powerhouse are related drawing cards. Campsites are under construction.

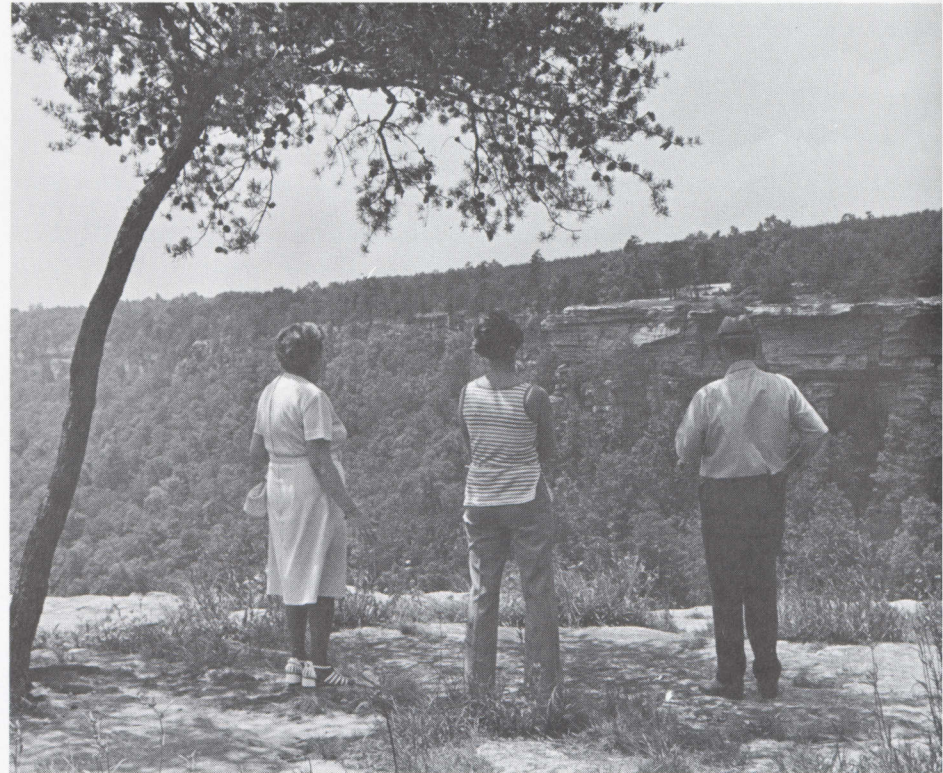
Monte Sano State Park. Located atop Monte Sano Mountain in Madison County, Monte Sano State Park is almost in the middle of the large population center in and around Huntsville. Cabins and other buildings on this 2,140-acre facility were constructed during the CCC era of the 1930's, with picnic area, horseback riding trails, stables, hiking trails, amphitheater, playfields, and vista points added later. It also has a small undeveloped camping area.

DeSoto State Park. The recent park improvement program added a motel,

restaurant, additional cabins, campground, and a new parking area at DeSoto State Park, which assures even greater use of this 4,950-acre site that is known for its spectacular beauty. Located mainly in DeKalb County atop the Lookout Mountain range, it is characterized by rugged mountain terrain softened by dense forest growth. The park extends about 28 miles along Little River, with DeSoto Falls and Little River Canyon serving as major attractions. Older facilities include cabins, picnic areas, rental boats, swimming area, hiking trails, small playfields and play areas, and vista points.

Lake Guntersville State Park. This completely modernized park is probably unequaled in the South or the United States. The spectacular lodge, restaurant, and meeting facilities recently completed offer a breathtaking view of Lake Guntersville, which is available for popular water sports with facilities furnished by the park. A golf course, clubhouse, pool, beach, campground, and cottages were also added to supplement existing picnic areas, rental boat area, boat access area, and hiking trails. The 5,835-acre

Little River Canyon continues to serve as a major attraction for recreationists who visit Desoto State Park and surrounding area.





This game room at Lake Lurleen State Park illustrates success of efforts to provide a wide variety of opportunities for visitors to Alabama State Parks.

facility was originally called Little Mountain State Park, but the name was changed to Lake Guntersville to make it easier for potential users to locate.

Cheaha State Park. Perched atop Alabama's highest mountain, Cheaha State Park offers spectacular scenery for recreationists who come to enjoy its crisp mountain air while relaxing in the new lodge, swimming pool, cabins, or camping areas, or savoring a meal in the appealing new restaurant. Located 25 miles north of Talladega and 29 miles south of Anniston, Cheaha encompasses 2,719 acres that have been a favorite for nature lovers since its development during the CCC era. In addition to the housing and eating facilities, this park has a 6-acre swimming lake in the valley, a spring-fed reservoir on top of the mountain, picnic areas, swimming beach, bathhouse, rental boats, fishing area, hiking trails, vista points, and concessions.

Oak Mountain State Park. Located just 16 miles south of Birmingham, Oak Mountain State Park has recently received major improvements aimed at making it suitable for heavy day use. Provided in its 9,940 acres of rugged, hilly to mountain terrain are four recreational lakes, campgrounds, cabins, demonstration farm, golf course, picnic area, playgrounds, riding stables, and boating facilities.

Lake Lurleen State Park. A 250-acre lake is the focal point of the 1,625-acre Lake Lurleen State Park that is used mainly for water-related activities. Facilities available include a concession building, fishing piers, swimming beach, bathhouse, rental boats, and campground. Formerly known as Tuscaloosa County Lake, the park is 12 miles west of Tuscaloosa.



This luxurious restaurant at Cheaha State Park, with its breathtaking mountain view, represents a new concept in State Parks for Alabama, a concept that has received enthusiastic approval by visitors from a wide area of the United States.



Meeting facilities at Lake Guntersville State Park are typical of the expanded services offered by the outstanding system of State Parks in Alabama.

Wind Creek State Park. Formerly operated as a private park, Wind Creek State Park encompasses 1,354 acres on Lake Martin in Tallapoosa County. Water sports are the main attraction at this facility that provides access to the 39,000-acre Alabama Power Company lake. Facilities include resources for camping, swimming, water skiing, picnicking, nature walking, fishing, boating, and related activities.

Chewacla State Park. Built in the 1930's under the CCC program, Chewacla State Park is located near Auburn in Lee County, convenient to Interstate 85. Sitting astride the Fall Line separating the Piedmont and Coastal Plains areas, this park has interesting geological features in its 696 acres of forested land that varies from flat to hilly and rugged. A 26-acre lake impounded above a picturesque waterfall is a focal point for the facility that is equipped for picnicking, swimming, hiking, and viewing of the wealth of plants and other scenic points of interest. Cabins, bathhouse, covered and open picnic areas, boat access area, and playground are provided.

Camden State Park. Site of the new 200-acre Camden State Park is the shore of the William "Bill" Dannelly Reservoir, a 17,500-acre Corps of Engineers impoundment. Opening of this new park with its 9-hole golf course, cabins, boat access area, campground, playground, and bathhouse filled a void in this area of the State that had limited recreational facilities.

Lakepoint Resort State Park. Although still under construction, Lakepoint Resort State Park already has its 18-hole golf course and 190-site campground

open and other facilities in limited use. When completed it will have a lodge, motel, cabins, marina, swimming area, and related areas associated with water activities. This new facility is located on the Corps' Walter F. George Lake in Barbour County, with its 1,220 acres split by U.S. 431 at the former Cowikey Creek Park and Landing Area. It joins the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, which will permit some joint use of Refuge land for wildlife viewing and trail walking by park users.

Blue Springs State Park. This 103-acre park in Barbour County has picnic areas, swimming pool, wading pool, camping area, a small fishing lake, bathhouse, and tennis courts. Major attractions are the natural springs and lake.

Gulf State Park. The beautiful Gulf beach provides the greatest drawing card for the spectacular Gulf State Park, at Gulf Shores, but the Gulf is only one component of this major recreational and vacation facility. It offers more different outdoor recreational activities than any other in the State, with an 18-hole golf course, campgrounds, cabins along the fresh water lake, picnic areas, salt and fresh water swimming areas, boat access, playfields, and fishing pier. Focal point and major attraction of Gulf State Park are new additions provided by the recent modernization program—a new motel, convention



Oak Mountain State Park, near Birmingham, offers unique opportunities for city youngsters to make friends with various farm animals, while providing varied recreational attractions for other member of the family.



Although the luxurious lodge and convention center are major drawing cards for Gulf State Park, the public beach area offers low cost recreation to thousands throughout the summer season.

center, pavilion, and Gulf fishing pier. Five related coastal areas operated by the State also help attract sightseers and tourists to the park. These are Romar Beach, Alabama Point, an unnamed narrow strip of land extending from Alabama Point eastward to the Florida line, Dixie Graves Parkway, and a 160-acre area on Mobile Bay.

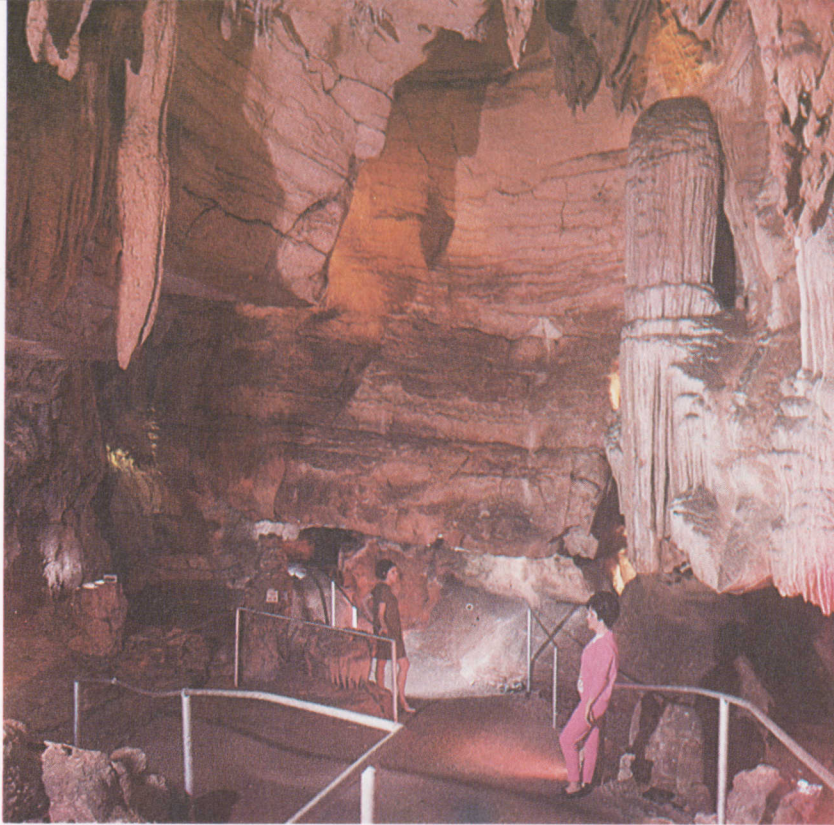
Other State Parks. Further extending the park system are the new Buck's Pocket State Park in DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall counties that was dedicated in 1971, Elk River State Park in Limestone County, Rickwood Caverns in Blount County, Paul M. Grist State Park in Dallas County, Chickasaw State Park in Marengo County, Bladon Springs State Park in Choctaw County, Meaher State Park and Fort Morgan State Park in Baldwin County, Little River State Park in Monroe and Escambia counties, Florala State Park and Lightwood Knot Creek State Park in Covington County, and Chattahoochee State Park in Houston County. Although less developed and

offering fewer uses than the ones described in more detail, these parks are valuable components of the overall recreational supply in Alabama.

Game and Fish Division

Through its management of public fishing lakes, public water access areas, and wildlife management areas, the Game and Fish Division serves as a major supplier of recreational services. Fishing, hunting, and boating rank high in popularity among recreational activities, and these pursuits are served by this Division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Public Fishing Lakes. There are 17 public fishing lakes in Alabama that furnish thousands of "fishing trips" for residents and out-of-state visitors. Charges for fishing, rental of boats available at the lakes, and for launching personal boats are low enough to make these facilities available to people of all economic situations. Some of the lakes offer picnic facilities. Bass and bream are major species in the public lakes, although some also have catfish and others include black crappie. Major facilities of these lakes are described, with numbers corresponding to numbers on the map on page 12.



Among the many fascinating caves that visitors may enjoy in Alabama is Rickwood Caverns State Park, near Birmingham.

1. Barbour County Lake, a 75-acre impoundment on a 250-acre tract, is 7 miles north of Clayton on County Highway 49. Open since 1958, it has a concession stand, restrooms, 13 picnic tables, 12 boats for rent, three earthen boat launching areas, and a pier.

2. Chambers County Lake, located between LaFayette and Cusseta on County Highway 55, is a 184-acre lake on a 636-acre tract that was opened in 1963. It has a concession stand, restrooms, 22 picnic tables, 24 boats for rent, concrete launching ramp, and pier.

3. Clay County Lakes consist of three lakes totaling 65 acres on a 360-acre area 2 miles west of Delta and 30 miles south of Anniston. First opened in 1951 with just one lake, the site has a concession stand, restrooms, 16 picnic tables, and 13 boats for rent.

4. Coffee County Lake is located 4 miles northwest of Elba. Opened in 1951, the 202-acre facility has an 80-acre lake, concession stand, restrooms, 30 boats for rent, 25 picnic tables, and two earthen launching ramps.

5. Crenshaw County Lake is a 53-acre impoundment on 240 acres, 5 miles

south of Luverne on U.S. Highway 29. It has a concession stand, 25 picnic tables, 18 boats for rent, and a launching site.

6. Dale County Lake, a 92-acre lake on a total area of 355 acres, is located 2 miles north of Ozark. Opened in 1959, it has a concession stand, 20 boats for rent, 20 picnic tables, and a concrete launching ramp.

7. Dallas County Lake, located 15 miles south of Selma near Sardis, has a concession building, restrooms, primitive camping area, eight picnic tables, nine boats for rent, and an earthen launching ramp. The lake is 100 acres in size, in a 306-acre site.

8. DeKalb County Lake features a 120-acre lake with concession building, restrooms, picnic tables, rental boats, and launching ramps. The 300-acre site is ½ mile from Sylvania.

9. Fayette County Lake, opened in 1950, has 60 acres of water in total area of 255 acres. Located 4 miles southwest of Fayette on County Highway 35, it has a concession stand, restrooms, 23 picnic tables, 21 boats for rent, and an earthen launching ramp.

10. Lamar County Lake, a 68-acre impoundment located 5 miles west of Vernon, was opened in 1953. Facilities at the 195-acre site include a concession stand, restrooms, 31 boats for rent, and 19 picnic tables.

11. Lee County Lake, located about 8 miles from both Auburn and Opelika, has 132 acres of water in the 268-acre site. It has a concession stand, picnic area, rental boats, and a concrete launching ramp.

Primitive camping is enjoyed in rugged Buck's Pocket State Park by many who prefer "back to nature" camping rather than luxury camping.



12. Madison County Lake has 105 acres of fishing water on a 317-acre site 10 miles northwest of Huntsville. Opened in 1962, it has a concession stand, 31 boats for rent, and a concrete launching ramp.

13. Marion County Lake is a 45-acre lake located 5 miles south of Hamilton on U.S. Highway 31. Opened in 1962, the 317-acre site has a concession stand, restrooms, 12 boats for rent, 42 picnic tables, and two earthen launching ramps.

14. Monroe County Lake was opened in 1969. Located 1 mile from Beatrice, the 245-acre site has a 94-acre lake, concession stand, restrooms, rental boats, picnic tables, and a launching ramp.

15. Pike County Lake, located 4 miles south of Troy, has 45 acres of water on total area of 407 acres. Opened in 1953, this facility has a concession stand, four picnic tables, 11 boats for rent, two earthen launching ramps, and outdoor toilets on one side of the lake.

16. Walker County Lake is a 163-acre impoundment on an area of 297 acres 2 miles south of Jasper. It has a concession stand, restrooms, 49 boats for rent, earthen launching ramp, and pier.

17. J. Emmett Wood Lake in Washington County, southwest of Millry, was opened in 1967. The 245-acre tract has an 84-acre lake, concession building, restrooms, 20 boats for rent, and an earthen launching ramp.

Wildlife Management Areas. With much private land either closed to hunting or restricted to hunting by club members or friends of owners, the 29 wildlife management areas in Alabama represent the sole source of hunting sites for many residents and out-of-state visitors. These 29 wildlife management areas encompass a total of 666,349 surface acres, most of which is not owned by the State but is under contractual arrangement for development and operation by the State. Most of the areas offer both big game (deer, turkey) and small game (squirrel, rabbit, quail, dove). Waterfowl hunting is available on 10 of the areas. Special programs offered include bow and arrow seasons for antlerless deer and special hunts designed for population control of game species when needed. Despite limitations imposed by the need for large blocks of land, the wildlife management areas are located near enough to population centers to serve the State's hunters, as indicated by the locations shown on the map on page 12.

Marine Resources and Water Safety Divisions

Although these two divisions of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources supply only limited recreational facilities directly, their work helps assure satisfying recreational experiences in many areas.

The Marine Resources Division has the responsibility of protecting salt water fish and other seafood for both sport and commercial fishing. Along with constant efforts to prevent pollution of coastal waters, the Division

Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan, at the mouth of Mobile Bay, are historic sites that attract the serious student of history as well as the casual visitor.

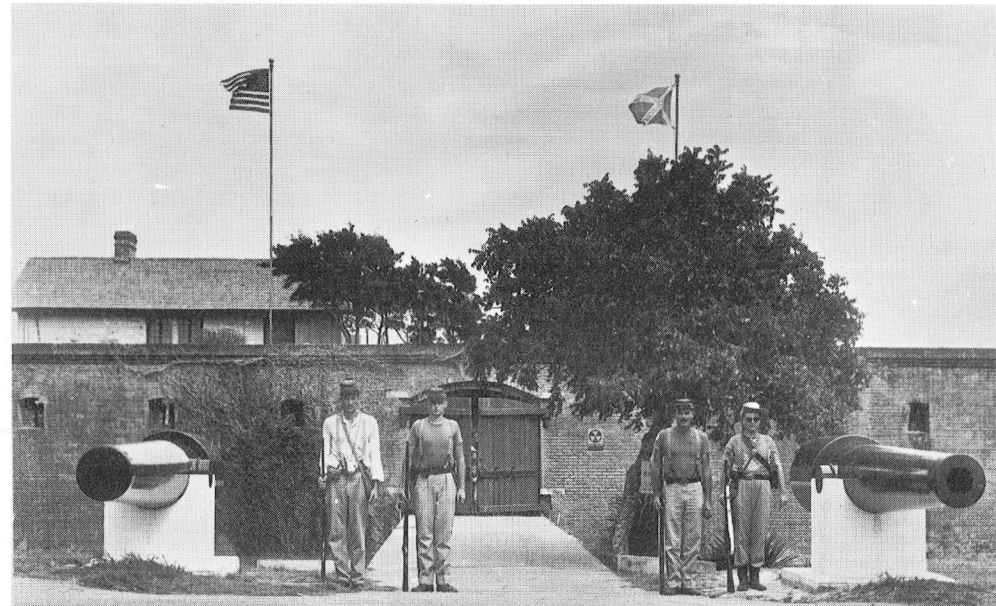
coordinated the formation of offshore and inshore fishing reefs made by sinking five World War II Liberty Ships and numerous barges. These artificial reefs are credited with increasing both salt water and brackish water fishing in Alabama.

The Water Safety Division is involved in water safety in numerous ways. In addition to enforcement efforts, educational programs are being conducted to reduce accidents by the boating public. The Division also places and maintains buoys and signs to aid navigation on many waterways of the State.

Alabama Historical Commission

Recent-year interest in Alabama's historical background, which reached a peak during observance of the nation's bicentennial, has boosted visibility of the work of the Alabama Historical Commission and made it more important to the State's recreational supply. While maintaining and operating 10 sites itself, the Commission has located hundreds of others that are of significant historical value and coordinated the efforts of city and county governments and private individuals and organizations in preserving and using such historic sites.

More than 4,400 structures, several hundred archaeological sites, and numerous objects have been recorded in the Statewide Plan of Historic





Veterans of the American Revolution organized this Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. The old slave gallery will still be seen in the historic structure.

Preservation, thanks to efforts of the Commission staff and local volunteers. Several hundred of the more important landmarks have been preserved by government or private individuals and groups, and these are among the State's popular tourist attractions.

As of April 1975, Alabama had 184 entries on the National Register of Historic Places. Sixteen of these sites or structures have been named as National Historic Landmarks, indicating their national significance. These are: Barton Hall and Wilson Dam, in Colbert County; Moundville Mississippian

Ceremonial Center and St. Andrews Church, in Hale County; J.L.M. Curry Home and Swayne Hall, in Talladega County; Tuskegee Institute (20 structures), in Macon County; Gaineswood, in Marengo County; Fort Morgan, in Baldwin County; City Hall-City Market, in Mobile County; Fort Toulouse, in Elmore County; William Lowndes Yancey Law Office, Alabama State Capitol, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, and the Powder Magazine, in Montgomery County; and Apalachicola Fort, in Russell County.

The National Register of Natural Landmarks includes six Alabama sites: Shelta Cave in Huntsville; Cathedral Caverns near Grant; Beaverdam Creek Swamp in the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge; Dismal Gardens in Franklin County; Newsome Sinks Karst Area in Morgan County; and the Mobile-Tensaw Rivers Bottom Land that includes the Mobile Delta Area. The Bald Rock Environmental Study Area near Wadley, operated by Southern Union State Junior College, is one of 16 sites in the United States designated as a National Environmental Education Landmark.

Other State Agencies

Several other State agencies play an active role in Alabama's recreational program, even though non-recreational pursuits represent their major efforts.

The Forestry Commission provides, under contract to the State Parks Division, a State forest area containing a lake, picnic area, swimming area, trails, and other minor recreational facilities, for use as a park. Another such tract is used in a wildlife management area program by the Game and Fish Division, and other State forests get limited trail and other recreational uses.

The Alabama Highway Department provides access roads to parks and within State Parks and helps assure that interstate highways are planned so as to include entrance-exit points for current and planned parks. It develops parkway systems for the State, furnishes roadside picnic tables, and works with Federal programs to provide rest areas on interstate and other highways. Some 61 interstate safety rest areas with developed picnic facilities and seven welcome stations are planned for Alabama's interstate system, a few of which are already completed.

The State Department of Education provides some recreational resources on the "16th sections" of land it owns. Most institutions of higher education permit public use of recreational facilities when not being used in student programs.

The State Health Department owns several parcels of land that are being used as recreational sites by other agencies. Grounds of many hospitals have recreational facilities for patient use.

The Bureau of Publicity and Information produces educational and promotional materials to inform the public about recreational facilities and services available to residents and tourists. Interstate rest areas and welcome centers are often used for distributing such materials to incoming visitors.



Recreational facilities at educational institutions across the State, like these tennis courts at Auburn University, are available for public enjoyment when not being used in student programs.

Other State agencies contributing to outdoor recreation, some of which operate sites, include the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Commission, Fort Morgan Commission, Mound State Monument, Cahaba Commission, LaGrange Historical Commission, Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Gorgas Memorial Board, Richmond Pearson Hobson Memorial Board, Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, Tannehill Foundry and Furnace Commission (Tannehill Historic State Park), and the Alabama State Fair Commission.

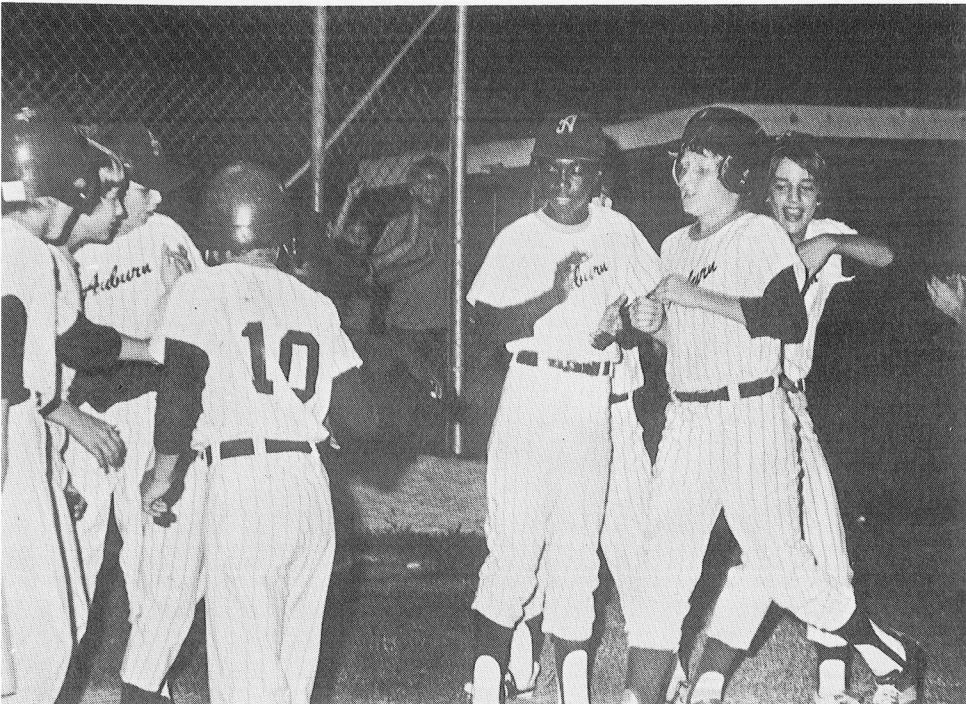
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Types of recreational facilities provided by local governments in Alabama vary widely, just as do the areas which the governments serve. Some towns or counties furnish only a few crude resources, while others have responded to

strong interest in recreation by establishing a well-financed recreational program that meets needs of the people with well-developed parks, playgrounds, playfields, and school recreational areas. Local governments in Alabama include those in 417 incorporated cities, towns, and small communities and 67 counties. Also, there are 128 public county and city school boards which own property that can be, and often is, used for public recreation.

County Governments

Field sport areas were the one major type of recreational facility found to be provided by Alabama's 67 county governments. This type site accounted



Field sport areas in cities offer opportunities for both organized league sports and individual, pick-up games.

for 850 of the total 907 sites reported. Water sports areas were second with 32. Other types inventoried were 5 campgrounds, 6 fishing water sites, 5 picnic areas, 3 historic and archaeological sites, 3 in the rodeo, zoo, amusement park, outdoor theater-movie classification, 1 golfing facility, 1 natural and scenic area, and 1 trail facility. Total land area in the 907 sites was 11,217 acres. High density land accounted for almost half of the acreage (5,725 acres), with there being only 468 acres of water-oriented land.

City Governments

The 417 incorporated places in Alabama reported 1,204 total recreational sites. Again, field sport areas were the runaway leader, accounting for 1,006 of the total. Acreage available for recreation was much higher than the county totals—47,747 acres. Water-oriented land accounted for 30,072 acres, making this the leading type. High density and general outdoor lands were about equal, both with 7,000+ acres. In addition to the large number of field

sport areas, the cities had 66 water sport areas, 56 picnic areas, 33 fishing waters, 21 natural and scenic areas, 11 golfing facilities, 9 historic and archaeological sites, 1 campground, and 1 rodeo, zoo, amusement park, or outdoor theater-movie.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Importance of the private sector to Alabama's total recreational industry is well illustrated by supply data that credit the sector with furnishing 2,005 individual sites. This amounts to about 44 percent of the State's total. As far as surface area is concerned, the private sector accounts for 60 percent of total acres (2,453,166 out of a total of 4,079,138 acres). Land classification



The natural beauty of the canyon area and unique rock formations are prime attractions at Hurricane Creek Park, near Cullman, but recreational enjoyment is enhanced by a nature trail, swinging bridge, cable car ride, and other activities.



Alabama Power Company's Lake Martin provides enjoyment for thousands of recreationists who enjoy water skiing, sailing, boating, swimming, fishing, and other water-related activities.

showed major differences between public and private areas, with 56 percent of high density land, 61 percent of general outdoor (environmental) land, and nearly 63 percent of the natural environment land operated by the private sector.

Inventory data reveal that the private sector operates more than half of all campsites, farm fish ponds, fish camps or other fish-water type enterprises, golf courses, hunting areas, racing facilities, recreational resorts, horse riding areas or rodeo sites, areas for shooting stocked game, areas for walking and riding trails, and water-oriented sport sites and boat marinas.

The private recreational sector is divided into two distinct groups: (1) The commercial enterprise group, which includes individual and family businesses, partnerships, and corporations operated to make a profit. Types of businesses are farm fish ponds open to the public for fee fishing, riding stables, amusement parks, and lakes developed by utility companies. This group is designated as "private, profit." (2) Private or semi-private organizations, not operating to make a profit. These include camps operated by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, YWCA, 4-H clubs, or church or service clubs; country clubs; clubs and other facilities for employees of operating industries; and hunting and fishing clubs. This group is referred to as "private, nonprofit."

Private, Profit Sector

Nearly one-fourth (24.5 percent) of all recreational sites inventoried were found to be supplied by the private, profit sector, but these utilized only 9 percent of total surface acreage in recreational sites. Of the 1,124 sites in this sector, classified by one major recreational enterprise, fishing water sites accounted for 691, over half of the total. Numbers of other types of sites were: campgrounds, 55; field sport areas, 25; golfing facilities, 68; historic and archaeological sites, 12; hunting areas, 20; natural and scenic areas, 10; picnic areas, 6; race tracks-motor courses, 37; recreational resorts, 13; rodeos, zoos, amusement parks, and outdoor theaters or movies, 80; shooting preserves, 7; trails, 22; vacation farm or dude ranches, 1; and water sport areas, 77.

The largest single private supplier of water-oriented outdoor recreational resources in the State is Alabama Power Company. Reservoirs created by its 11 hydroelectric projects on the Warrior, Coosa, and Tallapoosa rivers provide water-oriented recreation to a large percentage of Alabama's population and many out-of-state visitors. This company's contributions to the State's recreation is emphasized by the large proportion of water-oriented sites among the available private, profit facilities, but this fails to adequately pinpoint its importance.

Alabama Power Company operates a 60-acre park near H. Neely Henry Dam on the Coosa River, and land areas owned by the Company in connection with its reservoirs are used as sites for vacation homes, cabins, trailers, campgrounds, fishing lodges, marinas, and wildlife management areas. Wind Creek State Park is an example of publicly-owned recreational facilities located on Alabama Power Company impoundments. Further, private home and recreational complex developments on Logan Martin Lake and Martin Lake greatly contribute to recreational fulfillment by Alabamians who live in areas near the lakes. Alabama Power Company lake locations are designated on the map at right, with summer pool water acreages and miles of shoreline associated with them listed below the map.

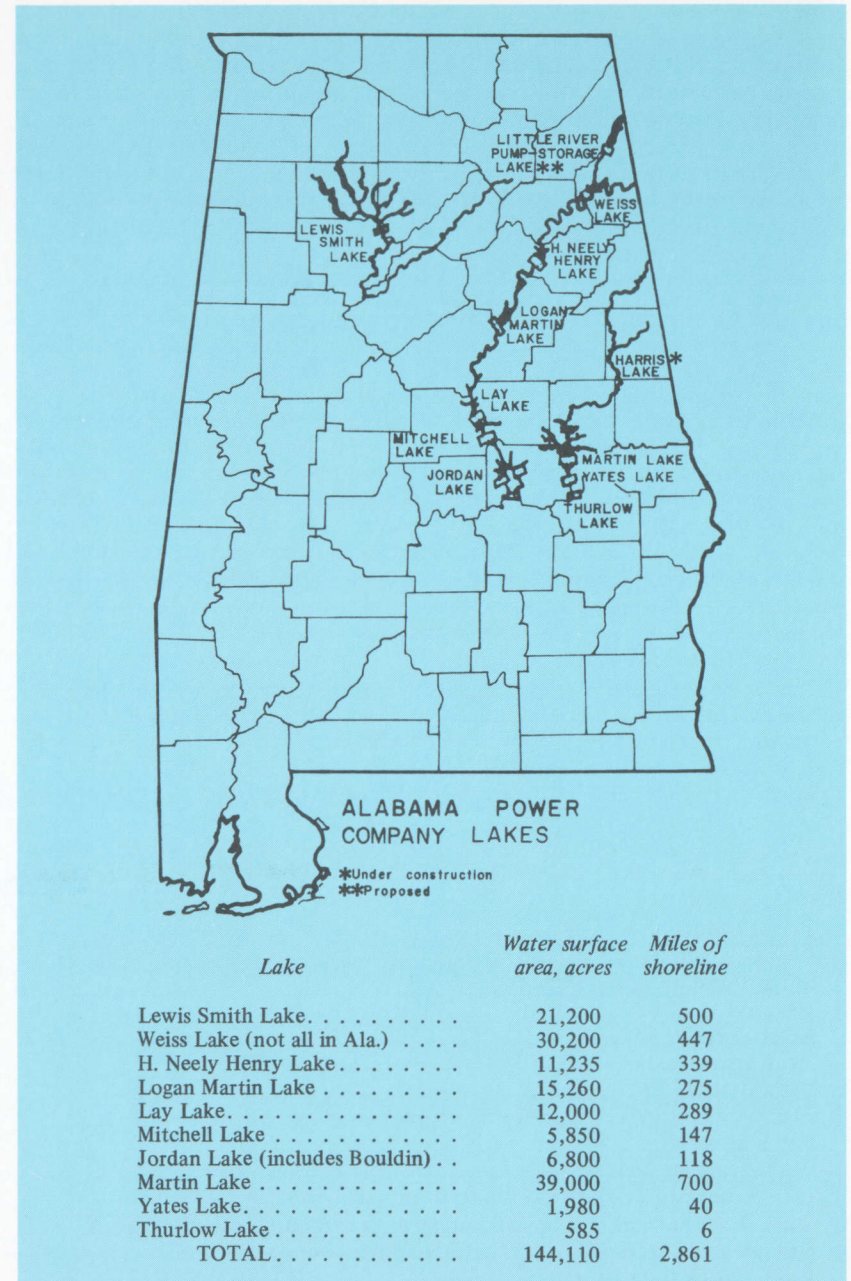
Private, Nonprofit Sector

Nonprofit agencies making up this sector seem to specialize in supplying types of recreational resources that are not available through other sources. For example, this sector supplied nearly 90 percent of all group camping facilities, 80 percent of the natural features land, more than half of all golf courses, hunting land, horse show and rodeo sites, rental horses, and pond swimming water, and lesser percentages of many other sites. Contributions of hunting clubs, country clubs, youth organizations, and other agencies organized to serve specific groups are obvious.

On the basis of land acreage for recreational use, the private, nonprofit sector accounts for about 53 percent of the State's total. The 881 recreational sites on this acreage are classified by one major type of enterprise as follows: campgrounds, 58; field sport areas, 104; fishing waters, 113; golfing facilities, 106; historic and archaeological sites, 13; hunting areas, 357; natural and scenic areas, 4; picnic areas, 23; race tracks-motor courses, 3; recreational resorts, 4; rodeos, zoos, amusement parks, and outdoor theaters or movies, 47; shooting preserves, 8; trails, 4; and water sport areas, 37.

SPECIAL PROGRAM SUPPLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Alabama's resources that are suitable for use in special programs, such as wild and scenic rivers, natural areas, environmental education, and trails, represent a valuable part of the overall supply of resources necessary for a complete recreational program. However, these are types of resources that



cannot be inventoried in specific units of measure. An unspoiled river or other area may be viewed and enjoyed by people at many locations and under various ownerships, but none of the sites might be identified as a recreational area or facility. Nevertheless, such valuable resources must be considered in an overall look at what Alabama has to offer in the way of recreational supply. A general description of resources that are appropriate for these special programs should serve as a general type of inventory that can be useful to recreational planners or to persons involved in multi-level governmental coordinating and planning for special program implementation.

Natural and Scenic Areas

Although areas exhibiting unspoiled examples of the natural world are steadily disappearing under population pressures, Alabama still has a number of sites that fit this description. The National Register of Natural Landmarks currently lists six Alabama sites: Shelta Cave in Huntsville, Cathedral Caverns near Grant, Beaverdam Creek Swamp in the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Dismal Gardens in Franklin County, Newsome Sinks Karst Area in Morgan County, and the Mobile Delta and related river bottom region. Each is a different type of natural treasure to be maintained, and together the six represent tremendous potential for one phase of the State's recreational program. Also of great importance is the 12,000-acre Sipsey Wilderness in the Bankhead National Forest.

Without reducing the importance of the seven sites listed above, however, it can be said with certainty that Alabama has many other natural and scenic areas that must be considered when evaluating the available resources for recreation. This untapped potential was illustrated by a recent county-by-county study made to locate and identify natural and scenic resources that might be suitable for either a local, State, regional, or national site.

A total of 356 sites was identified as potential for some special program, with almost every county having at least one on the list. Classification of the sites was as follows:

- Swamp areas—9
- Canyons, gorges, gullies—14
- Springs and natural wells—21
- Waterfalls—21
- Rivers, creeks, canals—24
- Mountain areas with natural sites and scenic views—21
- Vista points—25
- Lakes, dams, and surrounding environment—37
- Bay and beach areas—10
- Wildlife areas—10
- U.S. Forests and other large State or private forest land—16
- State Parks and other large land areas with recreational facilities—14
- Unique areas, especially those with virgin timber—5
- Unique rock formations—8

- Small private areas with natural and/or scenic qualities—3
- Small parks with recreational developments—14
- Mine developments and potential areas—12
- Mill sites—14
- Trout farms—6
- Scenic drives—16
- Trails with gardens, hatcheries, and sanctuaries—9
- Covered and natural bridges—13
- Caves—24
- Miscellaneous—10

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Although there has been widespread impoundment of Alabama rivers, many miles of free-flowing streams remain that represent a valuable resource for recreational uses. Thirteen watercourses were studied during 1971 to determine their potential for wild and scenic rivers classification. Two of these—the Cahaba in the sections not affected by impoundments and the West Fork Sipsey (also known as Sipsey Fork)—were included for study as potential National Wild and Scenic Rivers in the bill signed by President Ford in January 1975. The other 11 in the Alabama study, while not presently designated for national study, are nevertheless valuable for recreation by residents and out-of-state visitors, as is evident from the descriptions that follow.

Cahaba River

Inclusion of the Cahaba River among those being considered for the national program justifies the general belief that this is one of the outstanding rivers of the Southeast. Characteristics of the Cahaba vary as it flows through coal bearing land, through a section of primarily flat rocks and coarse rocky shoals, through limestone and dolomitic formations, and finally through the Tuscaloosa, Eutaw, and Selma chalk formations of the Lower Coastal Plains. Recreationists who "float the Cahaba" are treated to a changing array of plants, including some unique ones, and breathtaking sheer rock bluffs or walls and other interesting geologic formations. The Cahaba's fish population is both unique and inclusive. It has all but 25 of the State's 148 known species, but also rare species such as the Cahaba shiner, stargazing shiner, goldline darter, blue sucker, and river redhorse.

West Fork Sipsey (Sipsey Fork)

One of three tributaries making up the Warrior River, the West Fork Sipsey is the headwaters segment of the stream located in the Bankhead National Forest. It is an outstanding mountain stream, with waterfalls and deep gorges. This area has geological features, plants, and birds that are reportedly rare in the United States. Portions of this stream are located in the 12,000-acre Sipsey Wilderness.

Little River

A major component of the recreational area that centers around DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon, Little River has remained an unpolluted and natural stream. The portion south of State Highway 35 bridge to the mouth of the Canyon has been designated as a State Wild and Scenic River. All of this stream is a valuable component of the surrounding area that has much historic and natural value for various recreational uses.

Hatchet Creek

A tributary of the Coosa River, Hatchet Creek has its headwaters within the Talladega National Forest. The upper half of this free-flowing stream has the typical ruggedness of a Piedmont Plateau stream, but the lower half contains calmer water. Fishing and floating are popular recreational pursuits enjoyed on this scenic stream. (A bill before Congress, if passed, would study this stream for inclusion in the national program.)

Escatawpa River

Plants, fish, and wildlife abound in and along the Escatawpa River, a stream that flows entirely in the Coastal Plains (in Mobile and Washington counties). The stream is famous for its many white sandbars and shallow banks in Mobile County, and for the cypress trees that line its banks through much of its course. (A bill before Congress, if passed, would also study this stream for inclusion in the national program.)

Locust Fork

The Locust Fork of the Warrior River is a scenic river with important Indian and Civil War history. It is spanned by one of Alabama's 17 remaining covered bridges (Swann Covered Bridge). Floaters get a thrilling ride on this stream during months of adequate water. Many people take advantage of the stream in its 61-mile flow through Blount County, but it offers even greater potential for recreational use.

Shoal Creek

Located largely within the Talladega Division of the Talladega National Forest, Shoal Creek is made up of a series of slack pools and shoals. Its main feature is its rugged steepness that limits access. The stream is of high quality, with no industries in the immediate area to contaminate its waters. Major sport fish are spotted bass and rock bass, and wild game abounds in the area. Recent small watershed developments have altered the flow of this stream.

Cypress Creek

Cypress Creek, in Lauderdale County, has its headwaters in Tennessee. It has several species of fish, including the slackwater darter that is known only in a few streams. The hellbender, a giant salamander found only in the Tennessee Valley area, also lives in the watershed of Cypress Creek. The

Natchez Trace Parkway parallels the Creek for one mile. Several historic sites are located along this stream. Small watershed developments have been recommended for this stream by SCS.

Sipsey River

The Sipsey River is a free-flowing stream in northwest Alabama that empties into the Tombigbee River. The first 25 miles of the 92-mile-long river—beginning in Franklin, Marion, and Winston counties—is in a mountainous area with sandstone and slate bluffs 15-80 feet high in places. Upstream from its junction with the Tombigbee, the Sipsey flows through a gorge 20 to 100 feet deep, with bluffs of blue limestone rock providing a unique appearance. It is not a navigable river, although barge traffic was attempted before the turn of the century.

Tallapoosa River

Although the Tallapoosa River has three major impoundments in its lower segment, its middle segment is presently a free-flowing stream. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is near the lower end of the free-flowing segment. The section of the River described above is within 50 miles of the population centers of Anniston, Auburn, and Opelika, and less than 100 miles from Montgomery, Phenix City, Birmingham, and Gadsden. Harris Lake is presently under construction on this stream.

Conecuh River

Beginning as a small stream near Union Springs, the Conecuh River flows southwest through Escambia County and into Florida. It is not a free-flowing stream throughout its length, having two impoundments for power production in Covington County. Most recreational use of the Conecuh River occurs in the two impoundments.

Perdido River

Headwaters of the Perdido River are a series of small streams east of Bay Minette. It flows southeast and then south and southwest to its junction with the Styx River before emptying into Perdido Bay near the Alabama-Florida line. It flows through a sparsely settled area of low lying wetlands, mostly woodland and marsh. Water quality is classified as fish and wildlife.

Styx River

An intrastate stream, the Styx River is a 37-mile-long, coastal river that originates south of Bay Minette and, after joining with the Perdido, empties into Perdido Bay. Many species of fish and wildlife are found in this area, including the rare Cockaded Woodpecker, which survives by feeding on insects that live in the wood of old pine trees infected by red heart disease. Many recreationists travel from Perdido Bay up the Perdido River and into the Styx, mainly for fishing and sightseeing.

The first part of the Bartram Trail opened in Alabama--a segment in the Tuskegee National Forest--is already getting heavy use.

Historic and Scenic Trails

Several important historic trails in Alabama were identified in a 1972 study, and these could be the basis for a recreational program that would provide a link with the past for history-minded Alabamians and out-of-state visitors. Hiking and nature study could be important uses for trails such as the Natchez Trace, Bartram, DeSoto, and numerous Indian trails. Tie-ins with such trails as the Southern Appalachian and Cumberland could complement these potential trails.

Natchez Trace Trail. The main route from Nashville to Natchez until after the Civil War, the Natchez Trace Trail was officially named in the National Trails Acts for potential entry into the national program. The proposed foot trail would be operated in conjunction with the Natchez Trace Parkway, which is now under development for auto travel, and would extend some 35 miles across Colbert and Lauderdale counties.

The Bartram Trail. The Bartram Trail, the route followed by naturalist William Bartram in the late 1700's as he studied flora and fauna of the Southeast, is of much historic and botanical interest to Alabamians. Already a portion of the trail has been officially designated a National Recreational Trail and opened in the Tuskegee National Forest, and efforts continue to identify the route all the way from the Georgia line in Russell County to the Mobile Delta. The route followed by Bartram is near Montgomery and other Alabama cities, and portions of the 215-mile route follow Interstate Highways I-85 and I-65 for ease of access by users. A 20-mile Bartram Canoe Trail has been established in the Mobile Delta.

DeSoto Trail. The route followed by DeSoto and his band of explorers provides a valuable resource for developing. This trail begins in Jackson County, on the Tennessee River, where DeSoto entered the State, and travels southwest all the way to Choctaw Bluff in southern Clarke County, and then north and northwest to Lamar County where the explorers crossed into what is now Mississippi. A trail along this general route could provide access to many recreational areas, such as TVA lakes, Buck's Pocket and Lake Guntersville State Parks, Coosa River lakes, Fort Toulouse, Alabama River lakes, Camden State Park, Tombigbee River lakes, and local attractions in many regions.

Trail Extensions. Extension of the Southern Appalachian Trail, a National Scenic Trail extending from Maine to Georgia, could be extended into Alabama to cover the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to near Sylacauga. Another possible trail extension would be to establish an Alabama portion of the Cumberland Trail from Cumberland Gap in east Tennessee. This was an Indian trail that reportedly extended into Alabama.



Environmental Education

Public awareness programs concerned with educating people about their environment have approached the problem in many ways, with several projects establishing sites where examples about nature may be viewed. Among these are the following:

The Bear Creek Watershed Environmental Education Project has an outdoor area on Bear Creek for use in its teaching program.

The Mobile County Outdoor Education Center has an outdoor classroom consisting of 640 acres of land with a 19-acre lake.

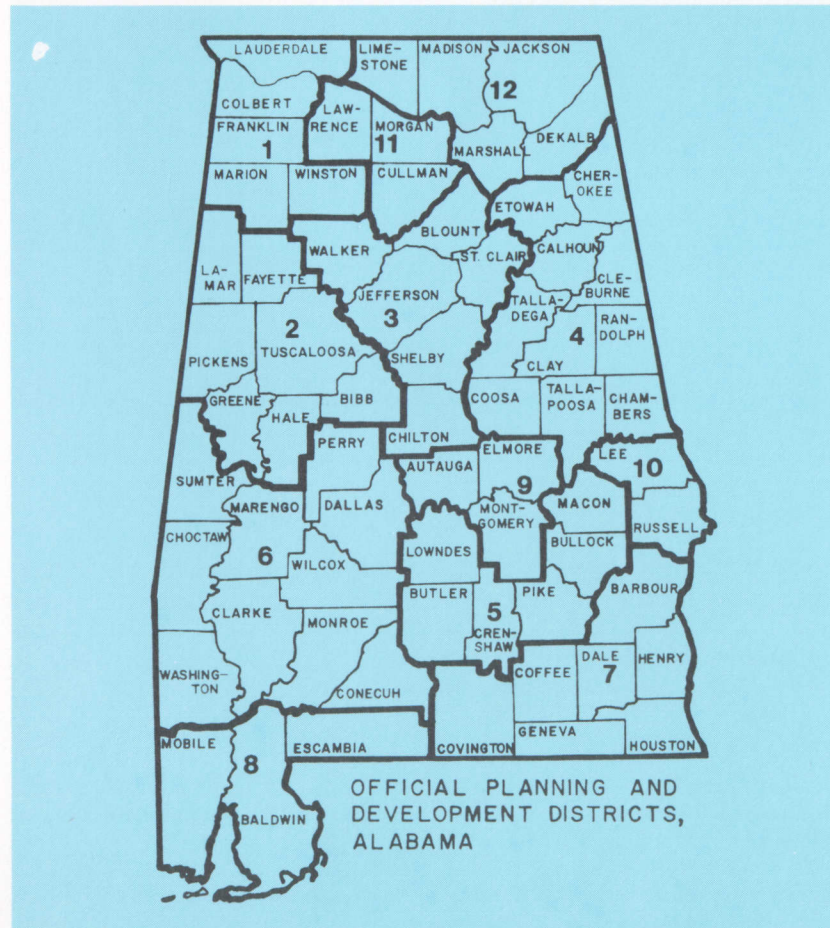
Bald Rock Project, of Southern Union State Junior College, has an 80-acre site in use as an outdoor classroom. It is a registered National Environmental Education Landmark.

The described programs and others being operated in the State are maintaining nature areas that could be drawing cards for recreational groups interested in nature.

INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT RESOURCES PINPOINTED

Recreational planning must be done on the basis of providing facilities near to where people live. Therefore, planning units smaller than an entire state are necessary to provide meaningful data. For purposes of this study, the 12 official Alabama planning and development districts were used as the planning units for Alabama's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (see map below). These multi-county districts are also used for many other planning efforts.

Participation data were developed from a household study within each of the planning districts, with each district serving as a universe. Likewise, all available recreational resources were inventoried by counties within each



district. From these findings, demand data were then developed for each district, so that demand and supply could be compared to illustrate what needs to be done in the years ahead. The formula used was one of demand minus supply equals needs.

The pages that follow present this district-by-district data in concise form, using (1) a brief word description of the district and its natural resources, present and projected population, and a summary of land and facilities available for recreation; (2) a map showing major physical features, highways, and selected recreational and historic sites; and (3) a table showing district facility and land needs for recreation for 1973-74, 1980, and 2000.

The table showing land and facility needs requires some explanation for proper interpretation. The 1973-74 column shows land and facility resources that should be added to meet demand at that time. The 1980 and 2000 columns show what will be needed to meet projected demand for those years, again on the basis of specific activities. A plus (+) sign preceding the number means that the district has a surplus and does not presently need any of this specific resource for the year indicated. This type situation may exist for 1973-74, while increasing demands may indicate a specific need by 1980 and 2000. Such a case is illustrated by data on pool swimming resources in District 1. A surplus for 1973-74 is indicated by the + sign preceding the number of square feet of pool space needed, but 1980 and 2000 will need significant additions (number not preceded by +). Since the study year (1973-74) is in the past, priority should be placed on acquiring land and developing resources shown as needed by 1980.

In some cases a specific resource may be shown as not having a need even in 1980 (number preceded by +). Such a situation needs careful evaluation, since the multi-county data may be misleading. One part of a district might have more resources than needed for a specific activity, but a distant area in the same district might have a shortage of the same resource. Unfortunately, the surplus in one part of the district would be of no value in the area of shortage. For example, a districtwide surplus may be shown for playgrounds. Investigation might show some urban areas of the district have provided open space playgrounds to not only serve present needs but for future growth, while some smaller towns in the district need more playgrounds. It would not be practical to transport children daily to the urban area with the surplus, so the small town might find it desirable to develop some acreage of playgrounds. A different situation might exist if the surplus were in picnic tables. The small town probably would not add picnic tables since families going on a picnic would likely be driving to a site, so a few extra miles would make little difference.

Since the study regarding needs was a districtwide analysis, not all problems within a district could be properly evaluated. Local people and agencies within a district can best solve problems of less than districtwide magnitude. However, any 1980 resource showing a plus should be carefully evaluated to determine if the districtwide data actually represent all parts of the district. This within-district evaluation can assure that scarce financial resources are used to supply high priority facilities with the greatest needs.

District 1

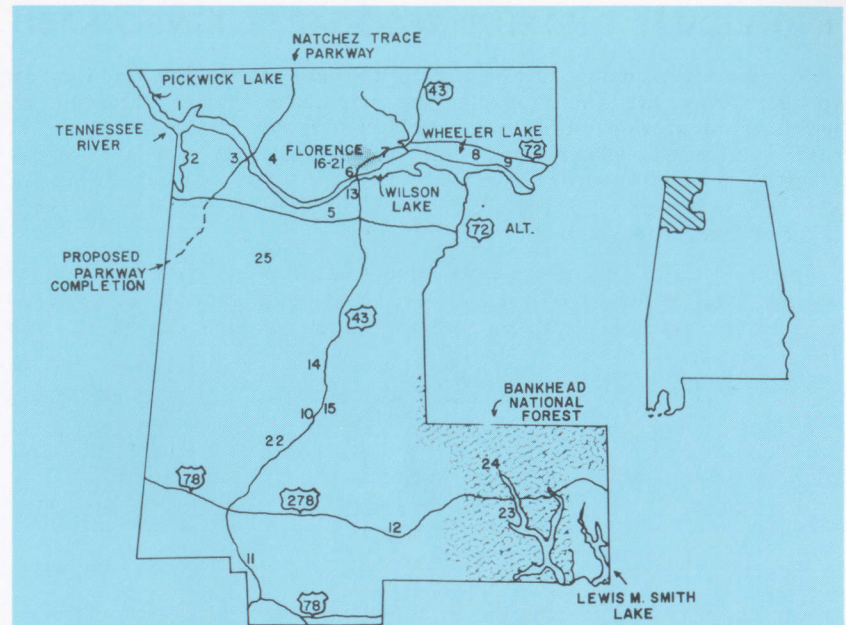
District 1 is a five-county region located in extreme northwestern Alabama. It has a surface area of 2,156,800 acres, of which 96.1 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 182,118 people—55 percent rural and 45 percent urban. Much of the urban population is concentrated in the Quad Cities of Florence, Sheffield, Tuscumbia, and Muscle Shoals. The district's population is projected to reach 199,000 by 1980 and 235,400 by 2000.

In 1974 District 1 had 302 public recreational sites containing 265,702 acres, classified as follows: high density, 1,868 acres; general outdoor, 4,299 acres; natural environment, 197,676 acres; natural features, 55,323 acres; primitive, 34 acres; historic and cultural, 2,809 acres; and water oriented, 3,693 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Pickwick, Wilson, Wheeler, and Smith lakes. Major recreational resources are identified on the map.

District 1 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	+327	+323	18
Archery	positions	+12	+10	57
Tennis	courts	+36	15	104
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	+15	2	14
Softball	diamonds	+6	1	17
Basketball	courts	+53	+48	3
Volleyball	courts	6	8	14
Track and field	fields	+9	+8	+4
Picnicking	tables	432	446	685
Roads for sightseeing	miles	+54	+50	+33
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	2	4	12
Pool swimming	square feet	+19,359	16,141	64,041
Pond or lake swimming	acres	20	25	35
Vacation camping	campsites	134	300	816
Group camping	beds	+522	+508	+424
Hunting land	acres	57,668	157,688	234,168
Fishing waters	acres	+55,053	+50,270	+35,470
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	23	146	283
Trails for horseback riding	miles	81	95	140
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	+5	+2	2
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	1	10
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	9
Firearm shooting	ranges	+43	+42	+38
Transient camping	campsites	+109	42	369
Boat launching	ramps	+13	+3	28
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	1,440	1,940	3,490
Land, local governments	acres	1,488	1,618	2,346
Land, State Parks	acres	488	585	1,131
Land, other agencies	acres	8	365	2,367

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 1

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Waterloo City Park | 14. Cedar Creek Furnace Ruins |
| 2. Colbert County Park | 15. Overton Farm |
| 3. Colbert Ferry Park | 16. Florence Indian Mound and Museum |
| 4. Lauderdale Park | 17. W.C. Handy House, Florence |
| 5. Helen Keller's Birthplace | 18. Karsner-Kennedy House, Florence |
| 6. McFarland Park | 19. Larimore House, Mars Hill College |
| 7. Point Park | 20. Pope's Tavern, Florence |
| 8. Wheeler Dam | 21. Wesleyan and Rogers Hall, University of North Alabama |
| 9. Joe Wheeler State Park | 22. Big Springs Campground |
| 10. Dismal Wonder Gardens | 23. Houston Log Jail |
| 11. Marion Wildlife Management Area | 24. Sipsev Wilderness |
| 12. Natural Bridge | 25. Key Underwood Memorial Coondog Cemetery |
| 13. Colbert County Courthouse Square, Tuscumbia | |

District 2

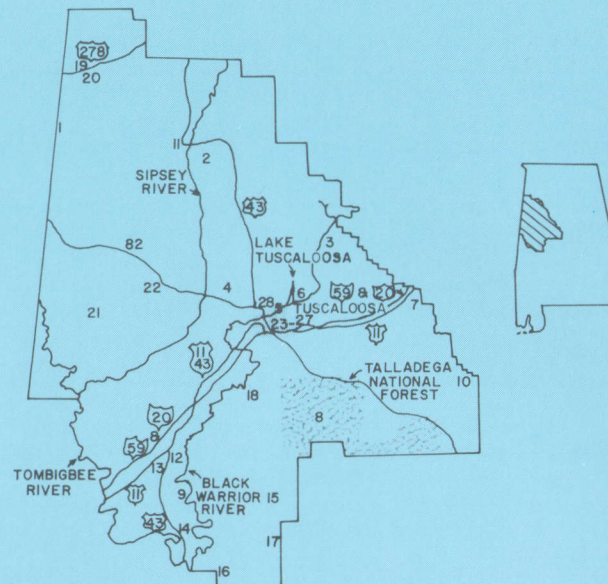
District 2 is a seven-county region located in west-central Alabama. It has a surface area of 3,464,320 acres, of which 98.7 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 207,292—52 percent rural and 48 percent urban. Tuscaloosa, the district's one large city, contains most of the urban population. The district's population is projected to reach 225,200 by 1980 and 264,700 by 2000.

In 1974 District 2 had 385 public recreational sites containing 501,990 acres, classified as follows: high density, 2,143 acres; general outdoor, 8,888 acres; natural environment, 471,544 acres; natural features, 625 acres; primitive, 4,500 acres; historic and cultural, 444 acres; and water oriented, 13,846 acres. There are several major water impoundments along the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers. The Oakmulgee Division of the Talladega National Forest is one of the important recreational resources of the district. Major recreational resources are identified on the map.

District 2 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity,
1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	164	173	378
Archery	positions	+43	+41	37
Tennis	courts	154	181	223
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	42	76	102
Softball	diamonds	205	218	232
Basketball	courts	276	311	326
Volleyball	courts	83	94	109
Track and field	fields	+3	+2	1
Picnicking	tables	+96	+86	157
Roads for sightseeing	miles	28	34	56
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	50	53	78
Pool swimming	square feet	64,030	95,730	171,930
Pond or lake swimming	acres	32	45	60
Vacation camping	campsites	+45	57	364
Group camping	beds	655	766	933
Hunting land	acres	1,334,094	1,630,094	1,951,094
Fishing waters	acres	7,745	14,195	41,295
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	178	206	316
Trails for horseback riding	miles	234	256	324
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	+2	0	2
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	2	9
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	0	9
Firearm shooting	ranges	10	12	19
Transient camping	campsites	+213	+133	65
Boat launching	ramps	9	22	70
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	2,413	3,063	5,463
Land, local governments	acres	3,066	3,256	4,046
Land, State Parks	acres	1,611	1,753	2,345
Land, other agencies	acres	+1,955	+1,433	739

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 2

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Lamar County Lake | 16. St. Andrews Church on the Prairie, Gallion |
| 2. Fayette County Lake | 17. Newbern Community |
| 3. Bankhead Lock and Dam | 18. Mound State Park |
| 4. Lake Lurleen State Park | 19. Bankhead Family Birthplace, Sulligent |
| 5. University of Alabama | 20. Ogden House, Sulligent |
| 6. Holt Lock and Dam | 21. Carrollton Historic Square |
| 7. Tannehill State Park | 22. Gordo Jail |
| 8. Oakmulgee Wildlife Management Area | 23. Friedman House, Tuscaloosa |
| 9. Warrior Lock and Dam | 24. Gorgas-Manley Historic District, University of Alabama |
| 10. Brierfield Furnance | 25. Jemison (Friedman Library), Tuscaloosa |
| 11. Fayette County Courthouse | 26. Museum of Natural History, University of Alabama |
| 12. City of Eutaw historic homes (ride-by tour) | 27. The Tavern and Strickland Home, Capitol Park, Tuscaloosa |
| 13. Coleman-Banks Home, Eutaw | 28. North River Historic District, near Northport |
| 14. Rosemount, near Forkland | |
| 15. Magnolia Grove, Greensboro | |

District 3

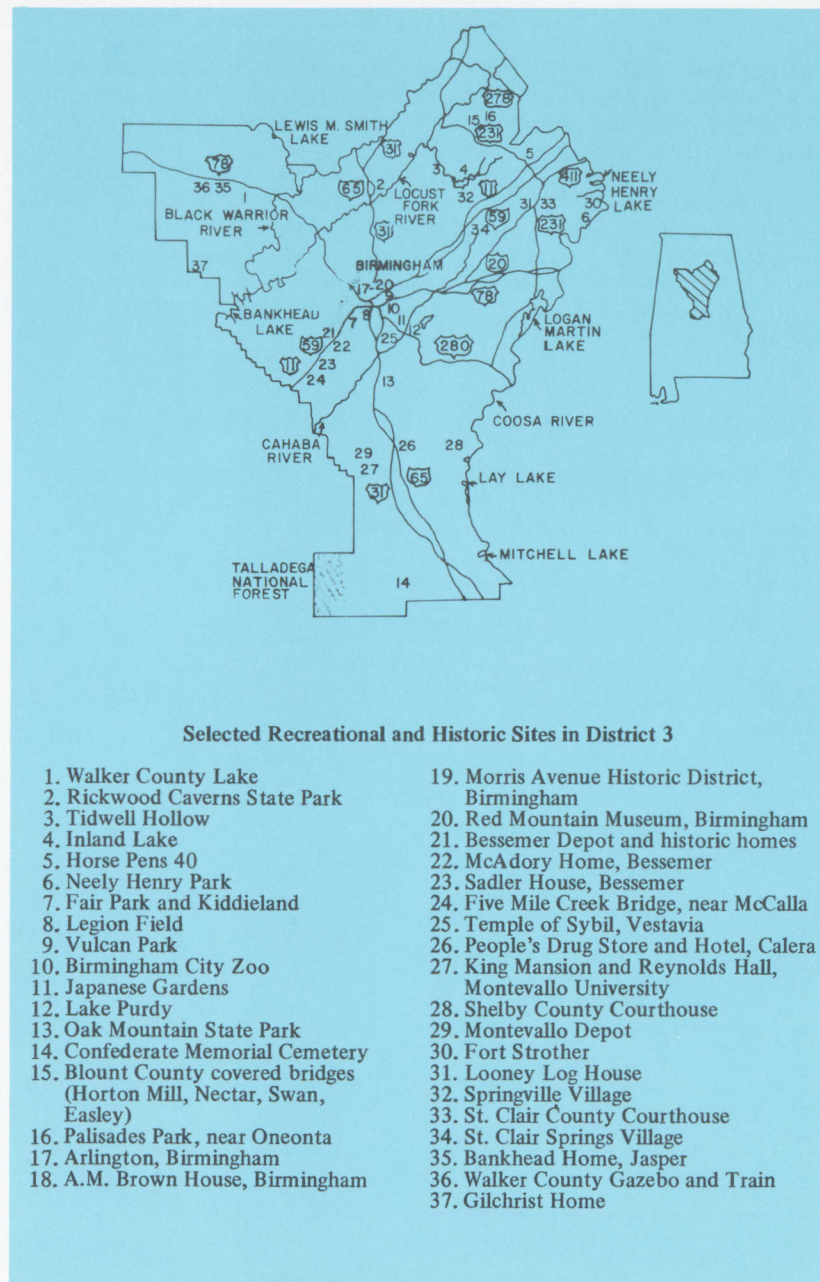
District 3 is a six-county region located in north-central Alabama. It has a surface area of 3,029,120 acres, of which 98.3 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 819,263—74 percent urban and 26 percent rural. Much of the urban population is concentrated in Birmingham and surrounding cities. The district's population is projected to reach 894,800 by 1980 and 1,063,000 by 2000.

In 1974 District 3 had 637 public recreational sites containing 281,792 acres, classified as follows: high density, 6,660 acres; general outdoor, 3,691 acres; natural environment, 251,691 acres; natural features, 387 acres; primitive, 1,796 acres; historic and cultural, 110 acres; and water oriented, 17,457 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Bankhead, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Smith, and Mitchell lakes. A portion of the Talladega National Forest is located in one corner of this district. Major recreational resources are identified on the map.

District 3 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity,
1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	1,641	1,732	3,125
Archery	positions	232	256	342
Tennis	courts	21	207	497
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	68	113	205
Softball	diamonds	+12	7	58
Basketball	courts	+173	+62	154
Volleyball	courts	20	38	79
Track and field	fields	9	16	36
Picnicking	tables	1,226	1,538	2,383
Roads for sightseeing	miles	121	142	215
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	76	97	191
Pool swimming	square feet	304,855	429,055	677,455
Pond or lake swimming	acres	91	115	169
Vacation camping	campsites	180	536	896
Group camping	beds	+1,623	+1,387	+803
Hunting land	acres	433,213	590,713	855,213
Fishing waters	acres	1,406	11,006	48,789
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	359	469	1,277
Trails for horseback riding	miles	129	198	326
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	13	22	35
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	3	35
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	33
Firearm shooting	ranges	50	58	79
Transient camping	campsites	4	211	835
Boat launching	ramps	15	40	130
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	4,196	5,446	9,946
Land, local governments	acres	3,012	4,090	7,454
Land, State Parks	acres	2,294	3,102	5,625
Land, other agencies	acres	35,686	38,650	47,901

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 3

1. Walker County Lake
2. Rickwood Caverns State Park
3. Tidwell Hollow
4. Inland Lake
5. Horse Pens 40
6. Neely Henry Park
7. Fair Park and Kiddieland
8. Legion Field
9. Vulcan Park
10. Birmingham City Zoo
11. Japanese Gardens
12. Lake Purdy
13. Oak Mountain State Park
14. Confederate Memorial Cemetery
15. Blount County covered bridges (Horton Mill, Nectar, Swan, Easley)
16. Palisades Park, near Oneonta
17. Arlington, Birmingham
18. A.M. Brown House, Birmingham
19. Morris Avenue Historic District, Birmingham
20. Red Mountain Museum, Birmingham
21. Bessemer Depot and historic homes
22. McAdory Home, Bessemer
23. Sadler House, Bessemer
24. Five Mile Creek Bridge, near McCalla
25. Temple of Sybil, Vestavia
26. People's Drug Store and Hotel, Calera
27. King Mansion and Reynolds Hall, Montevallo University
28. Shelby County Courthouse
29. Montevallo Depot
30. Fort Strother
31. Looney Log House
32. Springville Village
33. St. Clair County Courthouse
34. St. Clair Springs Village
35. Bankhead Home, Jasper
36. Walker County Gazebo and Train
37. Gilchrist Home

District 4

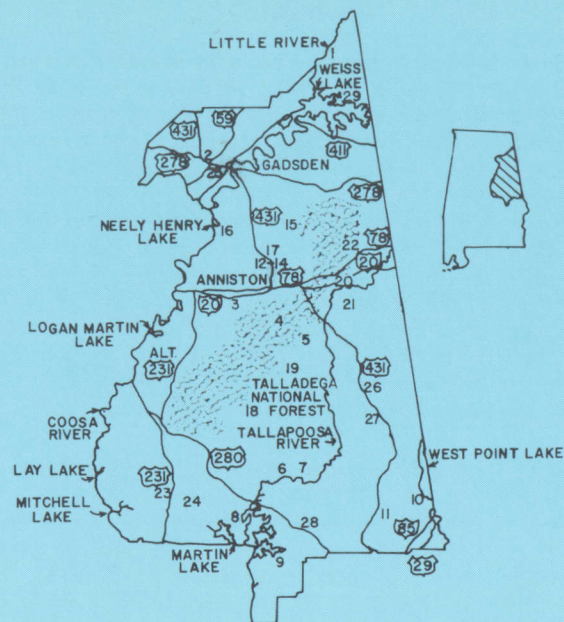
District 4 is a 10-county region located in eastern Alabama. It has a surface area of 4,037,760 acres, of which 97.2 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 400,943—52 percent urban and 48 percent rural. Much of the urban population is in Anniston, Alexander City, Gadsden, Sylacauga, and Talladega. The district's population is projected to reach 436,100 by 1980 and 515,200 by 2000.

In 1974 District 4 had 670 public recreational sites containing 526,530 acres, classified as follows: high density, 7,262 acres; general outdoor, 7,279 acres; natural environment, 499,587 acres; natural features, 4,611 acres; historic and cultural, 310 acres; and water oriented, 7,481 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, Martin, Weiss, and West Point lakes. All of the Talladega Division of the Talladega National Forest is in this district. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 4 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	281	375	1,084
Archery	positions	+27	+18	102
Tennis	courts	+9	48	242
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	+45	+21	5
Softball	diamonds	+59	+52	+34
Basketball	courts	+90	+61	28
Volleyball	courts	+50	+39	+6
Track and Field	fields	1	4	11
Picnicking	tables	227	150	925
Roads for sightseeing	miles	67	84	135
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	64	70	90
Pool swimming	square feet	+15,156	53,744	174,244
Pond or lake swimming	acres	68	89	145
Vacation camping	campsites	+32	225	1,155
Group camping	beds	+29	96	596
Hunting land	acres	130,762	530,262	812,762
Fishing waters	acres	+26,699	+13,832	35,484
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	332	384	618
Trails for horseback riding	miles	154	175	296
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	+3	5	17
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	1	25
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	12
Firearm shooting	ranges	+7	+4	6
Transient camping	campsites	+190	256	1,581
Boat launching	ramps	50	82	204
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	6,050	7,650	13,750
Land, local governments	acres	4,506	5,162	6,744
Land, State Parks	acres	977	1,469	2,655
Land, other agencies	acres	+3,256	+1,452	2,898

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 4

1. Little River Canyon Mouth Park
2. Noccalula Falls
3. Alabama International Motor Speedway
4. Cheaha State Park
5. Clay County Lake
6. Horseshoe Bend Hiking Trail
7. Horseshoe Bend National Military Monument
8. Wind Creek State Park
9. Bama Park
10. Burnt Village Park
11. Chambers County Lake
12. Tyler Hill District Riding Tour, Anniston
13. Anniston Inn Kitchen
14. St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church, Anniston
15. Dr. Francis' Office and Apothecary, Jacksonville
16. Village of Ohatchee
17. Aderholt's Grist Mill
18. Hugo Black Home, Ashland
19. Lineville Water Works
20. Cleburne County Courthouse and Heflin Depot
21. Arbacoochie Store and Gold Mine
22. Shoal Creek Log Church
23. Old Coosa County Jail
24. Oakachoy Covered Bridge
25. Alabama City Library, Gadsden
26. Perry House (ride-by), Wedowee
27. Roanoke Depot and Downtown District
28. City of Dadeville Historic District
29. Cornwall Furnace

District 5

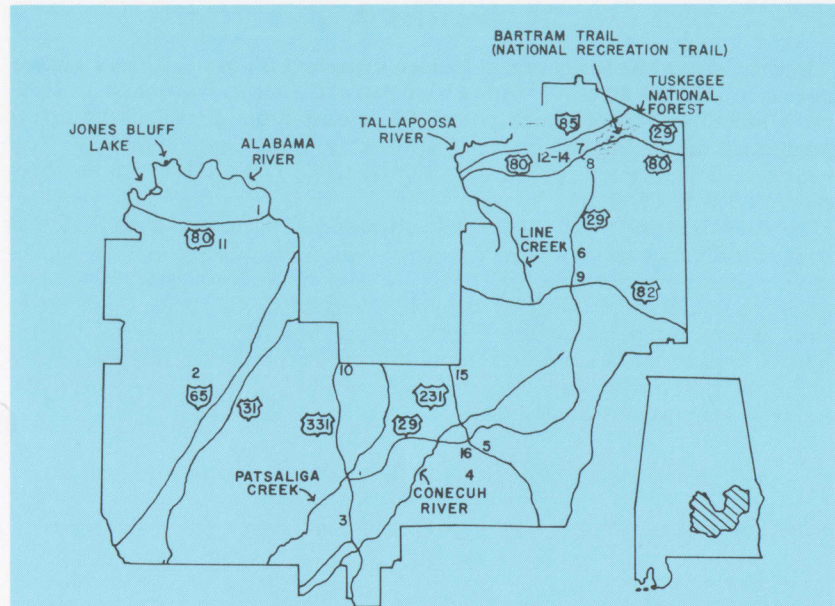
District 5 is a six-county region located in southern Alabama. It has a surface area of 2,564,480 acres, of which 99.2 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 109,795—66 percent rural and 34 percent urban. Much of the urban population is in Greenville, Troy, Tuskegee, and Union Springs. The district's population is projected to be 111,700 in 1980 and to reach 119,100 by 2000.

In 1974 District 5 had 171 public recreational sites containing 156,249 acres, classified as follows: high density, 1,133 acres; general outdoor, 1,866 acres; natural environment, 143,794 acres; natural features, 5,955 acres; historic and cultural, 1 acre; and water oriented, 3,500 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Jones Bluff Lake and the Tallapoosa and Conecuh rivers. A portion of the Bartram Trail, running through the Tuskegee National Forest, has received much attention in recent times. This and other selected recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 5 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity,
1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	+16	24	92
Archery	positions	+22	+21	17
Tennis	courts	+35	+5	48
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	+12	+3	8
Softball	diamonds	+15	+14	+11
Basketball	courts	+58	+56	1
Volleyball	courts	+22	+20	+14
Track and field	fields	+2	0	1
Picnicking	tables	107	123	260
Roads for sightseeing	miles	+16	+13	+5
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	+9	+8	1
Pool swimming	square feet	+31,225	+20,025	3,575
Pond or lake swimming	acres	5	8	14
Vacation camping	campsites	+1	8	59
Group camping	beds	208	222	250
Hunting land	acres	151,675	328,675	439,675
Fishing waters	acres	+842	2,191	12,675
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	22	86	145
Trails for horseback riding	miles	13	17	29
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	+4	+3	+2
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	1	3
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	0	3
Firearm shooting	ranges	4	4	6
Transient camping	campsites	+19	6	50
Boat launching	ramps	25	31	49
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	1,525	1,825	2,725
Land, local governments	acres	1,144	1,178	1,326
Land, State Parks	acres	1,650	1,676	1,786
Land, other agencies	acres	2,522	2,616	3,022

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 5

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Lowndesboro historic sites | 9. Union Springs Downtown District |
| 2. Lake Sherling | 10. Highland Home Institute |
| 3. Crenshaw County Lake | 11. Lowndes County Courthouse |
| 4. Pike County Lake | 12. Grey Columns, Tuskegee |
| 5. Troy State University | 13. Macon County Courthouse |
| 6. Sedgefields Plantation | 14. Downtown Tuskegee Historic District |
| 7. Tuskegee Institute | 15. Orion Village |
| 8. Tuskegee City Lake | 16. Pike County Museum |

District 6

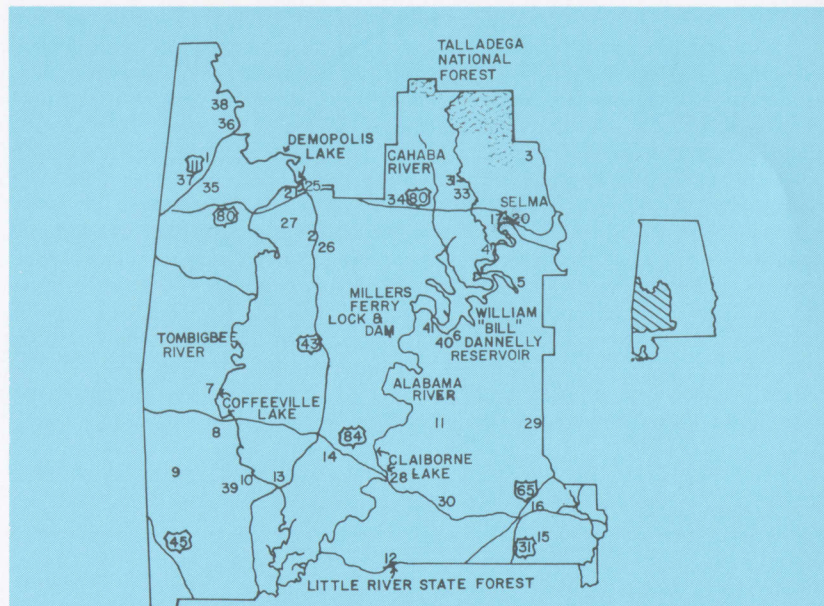
District 6 is a 10-county region located in southwestern Alabama. It has a surface area of 6,187,520 acres, of which 98.3 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 223,862—72 percent rural and 28 percent urban. Much of the urban population lives in Demopolis, Selma, Marion, Livingston, Jackson, and Monroeville. The district's population is projected to reach 230,100 by 1980 and 239,000 by 2000.

In 1974 District 6 had 560 public recreational sites containing 915,969 acres, classified as follows: high density, 1,994 acres; general outdoor, 4,217 acres; natural environment, 900,996 acres; natural features, 39 acres; primitive, 30 acres; historic and cultural, 71 acres; and water oriented, 8,622 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Demopolis, Coffeetown, Dannelly, and Claiborne lakes. Portions of the Talladega National Forest and Little River State Forest are located in this district. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 6 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	+744	+682	+496
Archery	positions	9	16	56
Tennis	courts	110	122	130
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	42	43	54
Softball	diamonds	239	253	267
Basketball	courts	456	375	397
Volleyball	courts	43	52	61
Track and field	fields	15	17	21
Picnicking	tables	239	267	371
Roads for sightseeing	miles	+14	+8	9
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	42	45	51
Pool swimming	square feet	12,434	49,934	128,734
Pond or lake swimming	acres	86	105	116
Vacation camping	campsites	104	182	378
Group camping	beds	555	597	666
Hunting land	acres	671,696	971,696	1,434,696
Fishing waters	acres	+38,837	+31,687	2,513
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	169	195	289
Trails for horseback riding	miles	113	125	157
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	+2	+1	0
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	1	10
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	0	7
Firearm shooting	ranges	85	84	100
Transient camping	campsites	+28	89	349
Boat launching	ramps	+20	+6	60
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	2,935	3,635	6,935
Land, local governments	acres	2,772	2,954	3,132
Land, State Parks	acres	948	1,085	1,218
Land, other agencies	acres	4,700	5,201	5,690

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 6

1. Livingston University
2. Chickasaw State Park
3. Paul M. Grist State Park
4. Cahaba Ruins — site of first State Capitol
5. Dallas County Lake
6. Camden State Park
7. Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge
8. Bladon Springs State Park
9. Lake J. Emmett Wood
10. Saint Stephens historic site
11. Monroe County Lake
12. Little River State Park
13. Confederate Salt Works
14. Fort Sinquefield
15. Jay Villa Plantation
16. Evergreen Depot
17. Selma historic sites
18. Sturdivant Hall
19. John Tyler Morgan House
20. Water Avenue Historic District
21. Gaineswood, Demopolis
22. Bluff Hall and White Bluffs
23. Glover Mausoleum
24. Demopolis Town Square
25. Robertson Banking Company, Demopolis
26. Linden Courthouse
27. Jefferson Village
28. Claiborne Historic District
29. Federal Road Tavern
30. Monroe County Courthouse
31. City of Marion and Institute
32. Perry County Courthouse
33. Marion Female Seminary
34. Uniontown Historic District
35. Alamuchee Covered Bridge
36. Fort Tombecbee
37. Sumter County Courthouse
38. Gainesville Antebellum Village
39. New St. Stephens Memorial Lodge
40. City of Camden Historic District
41. White Columns

District 7

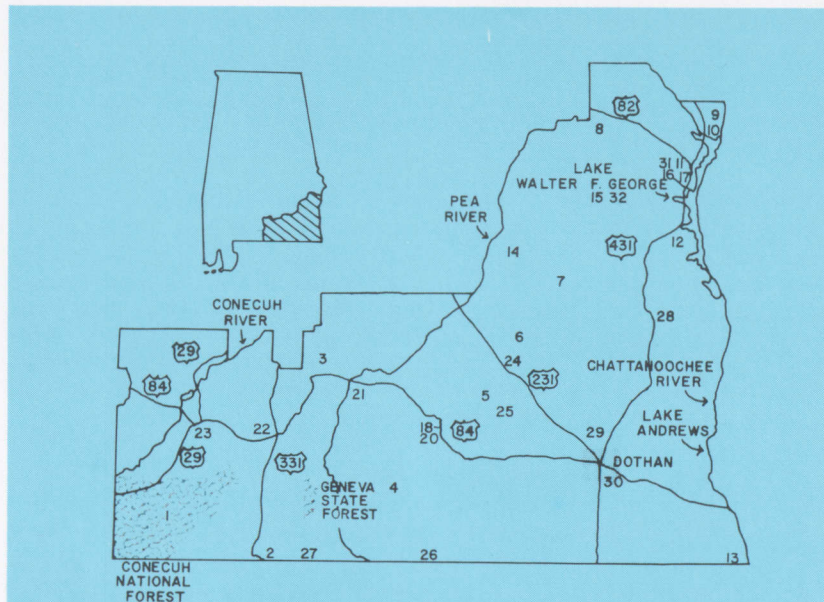
District 7 is a seven-county region in extreme southeastern Alabama. It has a surface area of 3,131,520 acres, of which 98.8 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 236,184—56 percent urban and 44 percent rural. Much of the urban population is concentrated in Andalusia, Dothan, Enterprise, Eufaula, and Geneva. The district's population is projected to reach 251,900 by 1980 and 296,500 by 2000.

In 1974 District 7 had 342 public recreational sites containing 312,230 acres, classified as follows: high density, 5,347 acres; general outdoor, 5,925 acres; natural environment, 281,763 acres; natural features, 1 acre; primitive, 7,679 acres; and water oriented, 11,515 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Lake Walter F. George, Lake Andrews, Elba Lake, Gantt Lake, and Point A Lake. Other major resources include State Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, and county fishing lakes. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 7 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	+707	+702	+313
Archery	positions	+1	5	70
Tennis	courts	14	50	130
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	+22	+4	23
Softball	diamonds	+35	+31	+18
Basketball	courts	+54	+45	5
Volleyball	courts	8	14	34
Track and field	fields	8	11	17
Picnicking	tables	379	382	690
Roads for sightseeing	miles	75	83	108
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	40	46	75
Pool swimming	square feet	+37,850	6,650	66,650
Pond or lake swimming	acres	2	12	33
Vacation camping	campsites	88	157	434
Group camping	beds	+36	47	491
Hunting land	acres	270,462	502,462	755,462
Fishing waters	acres	+8,881	+4,781	6,203
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	414	485	475
Trails for horseback riding	miles	+6	+1	32
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	0	3	7
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	1	11
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	7
Firearm shooting	ranges	+4	+3	0
Transient camping	campsites	+60	178	823
Boat launching	ramps	4	14	35
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	1,334	1,834	2,884
Land, local governments	acres	3,161	3,373	4,265
Land, State Parks	acres	+384	+226	444
Land, other agencies	acres	4,309	4,892	7,345

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 7

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Blue Pond | 17. Shorter Mansion, Eufaula |
| 2. Florala State Park | 18. Boll Weevil Monument, Enterprise |
| 3. Coffee County Lake | 19. Enterprise Railroad Depot |
| 4. Geneva County Lake | 20. Martin's Drug Store, Enterprise |
| 5. Fort Rucker Army Aviation Museum | 21. Coffee County Courthouse, Elba |
| 6. Dale County Lake | 22. Channell (Alex Hart) House, Opp |
| 7. Blue Springs State Park | 23. Covington County Courthouse |
| 8. Barbour County Lake | 24. Clay Bank Log Church, near Ozark |
| 9. Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge | 25. Baptist Collegiate Institute, Newton |
| 10. Lakepoint Resort State Park | 26. River Junction Park |
| 11. Eufaula historic sites | 27. Fink's Grist Mill |
| 12. White Oak Creek Park | 28. Kennedy House, Abbeville |
| 13. Chattahoochee State Park | 29. Murphy Grist Mill |
| 14. Barbour County High School, Clio | 30. Dothan Opera House |
| 15. Clayton historic homes | 31. Wellborn House Art Museum |
| 16. Fendall Hall, Eufaula | 32. West-Mize Historic Museum |

District 8

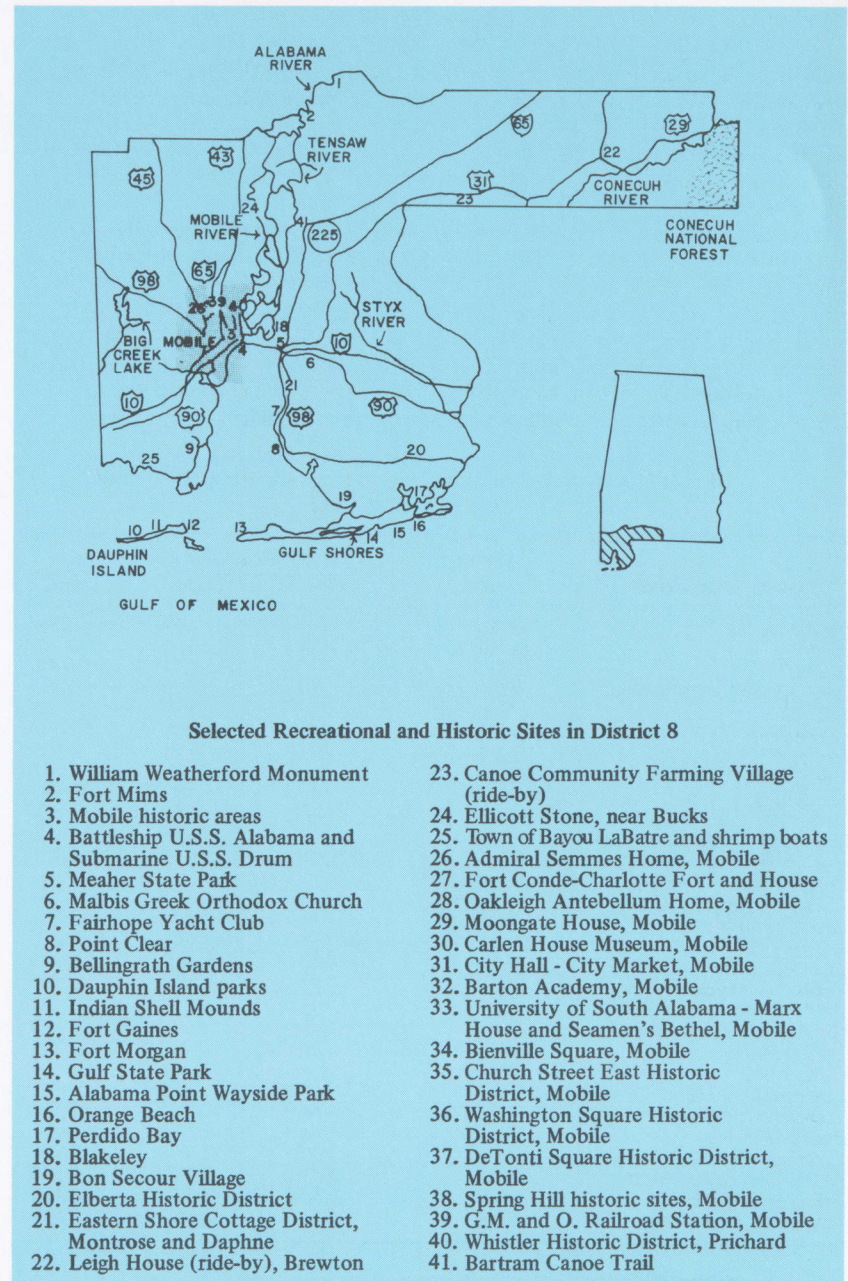
District 8 is a three-county region in extreme southwestern Alabama. It has a surface area of 2,501,760 acres, of which 78.3 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 411,596—71 percent urban and 29 percent rural. Much of the urban population is concentrated in Mobile, Prichard, Bay Minette, and Atmore. The district's population is projected to reach 473,000 by 1980 and 554,700 by 2000.

In 1974 District 8 had 490 public recreational sites containing 748,696 acres, classified as follows: high density, 3,779 acres; general outdoor, 6,843 acres; natural environment, 727,510 acres; natural features, 47 acres; historic and cultural, 149 acres; and water oriented, 10,368 acres. Major water areas include 144,616 acres of fresh water. Numerous historic sites are among the outstanding recreational resources of this Gulf Coast region. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 8 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	22	79	1,081
Archery	positions	+31	+24	127
Tennis	courts	70	125	332
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	40	65	105
Softball	diamonds	+106	+89	+24
Basketball	courts	49	123	295
Volleyball	courts	22	40	73
Track and field	fields	+9	+4	8
Picnicking	tables	2,450	2,441	3,022
Roads for sightseeing	miles	134	158	221
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	51	67	96
Pool swimming	square feet	44,505	78,105	128,505
Pond or lake swimming	acres	83	93	110
Vacation camping	campsites	483	863	1,852
Group camping	beds	510	788	1,121
Hunting land	acres	+34,982	224,518	485,518
Fishing waters	acres	+465,256	+425,952	+206,086
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	494	559	661
Trails for horseback riding	miles	+18	+3	59
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	13	27	55
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	3	20
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	11
Firearm shooting	ranges	+22	+20	+10
Transient camping	campsites	+505	+254	359
Boat launching	ramps	53	84	239
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	5,532	7,082	14,832
Land, local governments	acres	3,115	4,027	5,661
Land, State Parks	acres	+1,473	+789	436
Land, other agencies	acres	8,836	11,344	15,837

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



District 9

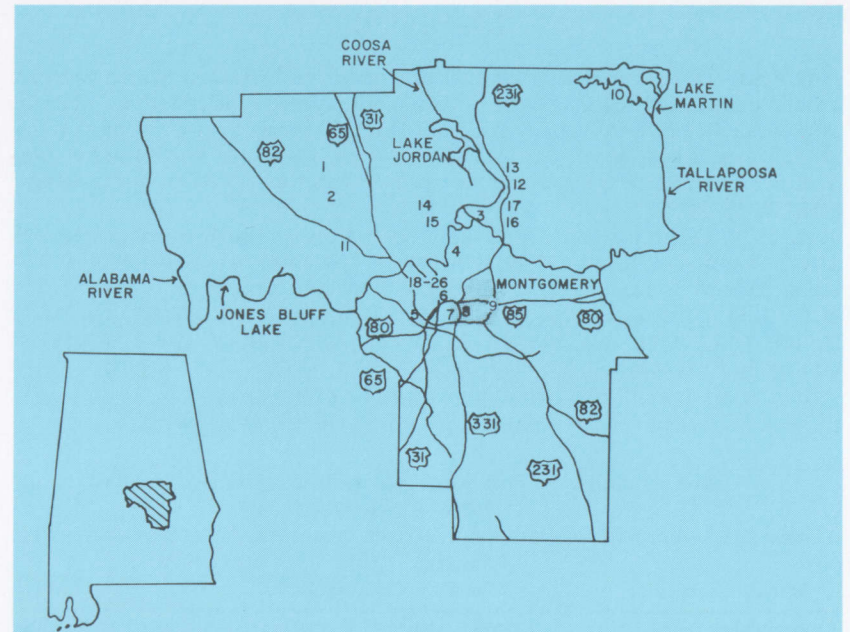
District 9 is a three-county region in south-central Alabama. It has a surface area of 1,317,120 acres, of which 96.3 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 225,787—71 percent urban and 29 percent rural. Much of the urban population is concentrated in Montgomery, Wetumpka, and Prattville. The district's population is projected to reach 242,300 by 1980 and 291,200 by 2000.

In 1974 District 9 had 295 public recreational sites containing 49,153 acres, classified as follows: high density, 2,092 acres; general outdoor, 1,953 acres; natural environment, 41,133 acres; natural features, 210 acres; primitive, 60 acres; historic and cultural, 24 acres; and water oriented, 3,681 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Martin, Jordan, Yates, Thurlow, and Jones Bluff lakes. There are numerous historic sites associated with the State Capitol in Montgomery that are valuable resources for this district. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 9 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	425	460	969
Archery	positions	+20	+17	71
Tennis	courts	+33	26	197
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	36	39	62
Softball	diamonds	+34	+28	+4
Basketball	courts	+22	6	108
Volleyball	courts	+18	+14	2
Track and field	fields	4	8	14
Picnicking	tables	879	878	1,208
Roads for sightseeing	miles	49	58	93
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	5	10	43
Pool swimming	square feet	117,592	160,692	251,192
Pond or lake swimming	acres	29	35	52
Vacation camping	campsites	4	20	84
Group camping	beds	+471	+429	+179
Hunting land	acres	393,485	442,985	491,485
Fishing waters	acres	+965	4,452	34,818
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	171	198	345
Trails for horseback riding	miles	17	24	44
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	+9	+8	+5
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	4	12
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	8
Firearm shooting	ranges	+15	+14	+12
Transient camping	campsites	+42	+4	136
Boat launching	ramps	47	58	109
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	2,901	3,451	6,001
Land, local governments	acres	3,436	3,530	4,508
Land, State Parks	acres	3,564	3,634	4,368
Land, other agencies	acres	4,211	4,469	7,159

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 9

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Camp Tukabatchee | 15. William Wyatt Bibb Grave, Coosada |
| 2. Bridge Creek Lodge | 16. Jasmine Hill |
| 3. Fort Toulouse | 17. Wetumpka Historic District (ride-by) |
| 4. Greer Farm and Lakes | 18. Archives and History Museum, Montgomery |
| 5. Maxwell Field Air Force Base | 19. Court Square Historic Area, Montgomery |
| 6. First White House of the Confederacy | 20. Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery |
| 7. State Capitol | 21. Rice-Semple-Haardt House and Lurleen B. Wallace Museum, Montgomery |
| 8. Oak Park | 22. Ordeman-Shaw House Complex, Montgomery |
| 9. Arrowhead Golf Course | 23. Perry Street Historic District, Montgomery |
| 10. Kowaliga Beach | 24. Teague House, Montgomery |
| 11. Daniel Pratt Industrial District, Prattville | 25. Union Station, Montgomery |
| 12. Alabama State Penitentiary - first state prison | 26. Murphy House, Montgomery |
| 13. McGillivray Plantation site, near Wallsboro | |
| 14. Robinson Springs Methodist Church | |

District 10

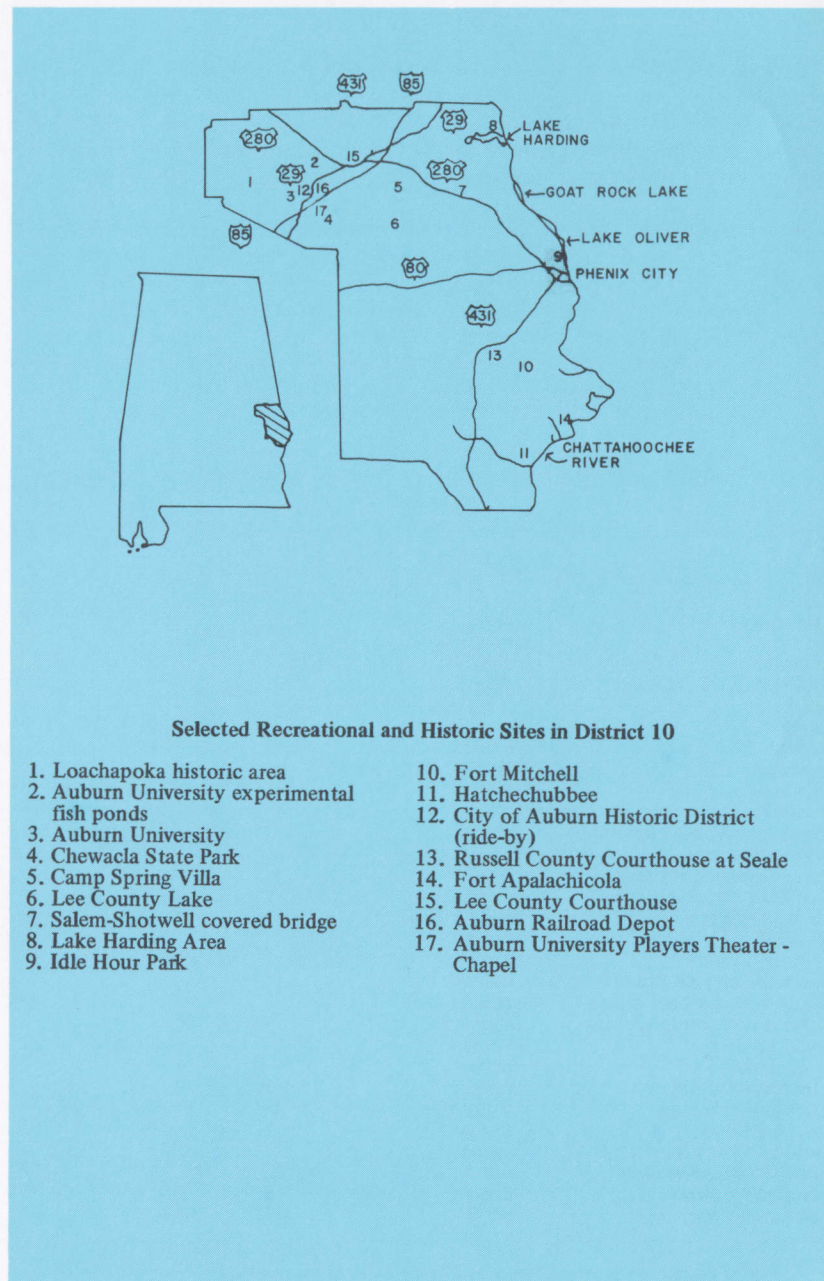
District 10 is a two-county region in east-central Alabama. It has a surface area of 805,120 acres, of which 96.8 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 106,662—63 percent urban and 37 percent rural. Much of the urban population is concentrated in Auburn, Opelika, and Phenix City. The district's population is projected to reach 119,500 by 1980 and 150,400 by 2000.

In 1974 District 10 had 102 public recreational sites containing 13,829 acres, classified as follows: high density, 900 acres; general outdoor, 245 acres; natural environment, 9,701 acres; historic and cultural, 27 acres; and water oriented, 2,956 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Hardin, Goat Rock, Oliver, Bartletts Ferry, and two city water supply lakes. Numerous sites associated with Auburn University and various historic locations are among the better known recreational attractions of this small district. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 10 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	71	72	278
Archery	positions	+43	+42	4
Tennis	courts	17	38	84
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	5	13	23
Softball	diamonds	+18	+17	+14
Basketball	courts	+33	+24	6
Volleyball	courts	+10	+7	1
Track and field	fields	+3	+2	+2
Picnicking	tables	28	102	198
Roads for sightseeing	miles	33	36	52
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	2	4	17
Pool swimming	square feet	34,115	47,515	79,715
Pond or lake swimming	acres	+5	+4	+2
Vacation camping	campsites	22	36	87
Group camping	beds	492	547	644
Hunting land	acres	217,720	280,720	315,220
Fishing waters	acres	+23,043	+9,493	5,907
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	30	71	183
Trails for horseback riding	miles	+41	+40	+34
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	+3	+2	+2
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	1	4
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	3
Firearm shooting	ranges	+3	+3	+2
Transient camping	campsites	+73	71	293
Boat launching	ramps	+3	18	46
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	65	1,115	2,515
<i>Land, local governments</i>	<i>acres</i>	<i>+158</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>712</i>
<i>Land, State Parks</i>	<i>acres</i>	<i>908</i>	<i>1,096</i>	<i>1,560</i>
<i>Land, other agencies</i>	<i>acres</i>	<i>4,073</i>	<i>4,765</i>	<i>6,465</i>

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



District 11

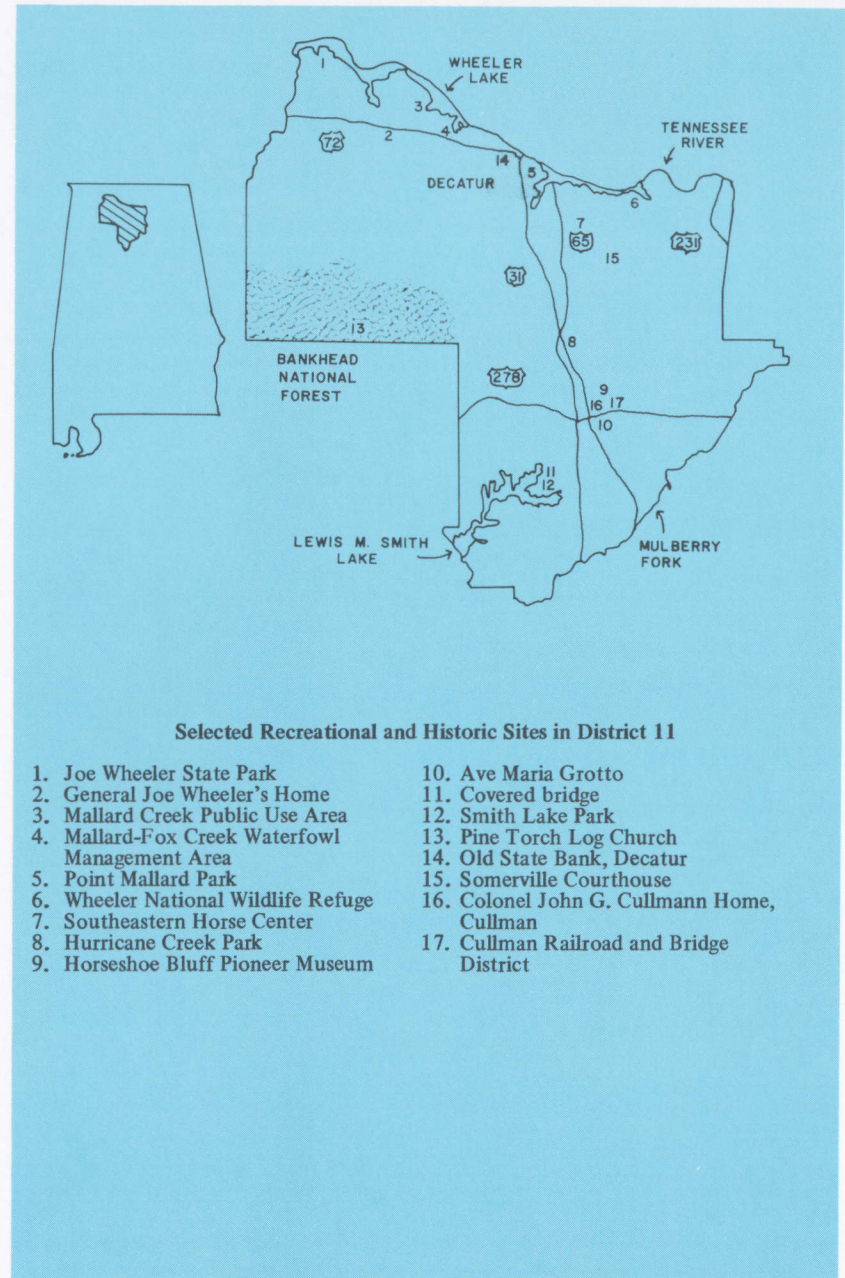
District 11 is a three-county region in northern Alabama. It has a surface area of 1,309,440 acres, of which 96.8 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 157,032—63 percent rural and 37 percent urban. Much of the urban population is concentrated in Decatur, Cullman, and Hartselle. The district's population is projected to reach 198,600 by 1980 and 318,600 by 2000.

In 1974 District 11 had 170 public recreational sites containing 180,877 acres, classified as follows: high density, 1,662 acres; general outdoor, 945 acres; natural environment, 158,210 acres; primitive, 1,200 acres; historic and cultural, 11 acres; and water oriented, 18,849 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Wheeler and Smith lakes and a segment of the Tennessee River. Other important recreational resources include facilities associated with the bodies of water and a portion of Bankhead National Forest. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 11 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	194	196	917
Archery	positions	+2	0	101
Tennis	courts	+15	34	200
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	1	9	33
Softball	diamonds	0	6	29
Basketball	courts	+35	+25	15
Volleyball	courts	11	17	28
Track and field	fields	0	1	2
Picnicking	tables	713	815	1,295
Roads for sightseeing	miles	19	24	43
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	20	25	49
Pool swimming	square feet	+107,022	+77,522	+20,622
Pond or lake swimming	acres	8	9	12
Vacation camping	campsites	42	206	617
Group camping	beds	185	213	283
Hunting land	acres	+74,128	57,372	133,872
Fishing waters	acres	+19,674	+16,540	+1,207
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	64	82	383
Trails for horseback riding	miles	41	57	115
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	6	11	22
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	1	12
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	0	8
Firearm shooting	ranges	16	17	22
Transient camping	campsites	+33	36	214
Boat launching	ramps	+12	+7	23
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	834	1,084	2,584
Land, local governments	acres	1,169	1,757	4,157
Land, State Parks	acres	2,118	2,559	4,359
Land, other agencies	acres	+6,045	+4,428	2,172

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



District 12

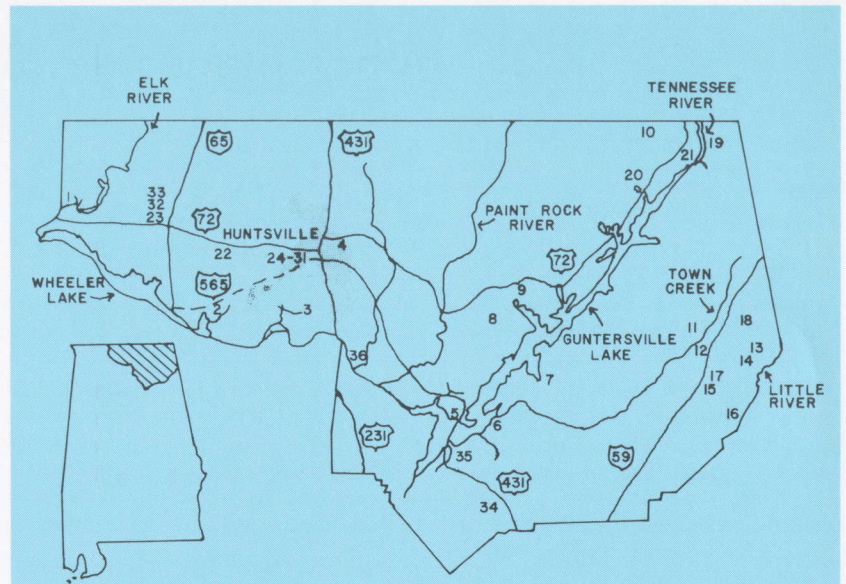
District 12 is a five-county region in extreme northeastern Alabama. It has a surface area of 2,524,800 acres, of which 95.2 percent is land. Population in 1970 was 363,633—57 percent urban and 43 percent rural. Much of the urban population is concentrated in Athens, Huntsville, Scottsboro, Fort Payne, and Guntersville. The district's population is projected to reach 430,300 by 1980 and 607,200 by 2000.

In 1974 District 12 had 456 public recreational sites containing 126,121 acres, classified as follows: high density, 5,311 acres; general outdoor, 6,022 acres; natural environment, 91,583 acres; natural features, 1,570 acres; primitive, 530 acres; historic and cultural, 541 acres; and water oriented, 20,564 acres. Major water areas include all or portions of Wheeler and Guntersville lakes. Adding to the recreational resources of the region are valuable sites associated with State Parks, Huntsville's space center, and numerous private attractions. Major recreational sites and resources are identified on the map.

District 12 Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	+665	+589	796
Archery	positions	+17	6	128
Tennis	courts	130	200	324
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	9	40	114
Softball	diamonds	9	24	79
Basketball	courts	+93	+58	50
Volleyball	courts	+60	+44	14
Track and field	fields	2	6	20
Picnicking	tables	702	996	1,862
Roads for sightseeing	miles	24	38	89
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	53	66	122
Pool swimming	square feet	80,113	148,213	393,413
Pond or lake swimming	acres	4	8	23
Vacation camping	campsites	+90	236	1,152
Group camping	beds	963	1,171	1,851
Hunting land	acres	379,975	626,975	780,975
Fishing waters	acres	+45,638	+34,422	17,161
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	126	162	726
Trails for horseback riding	miles	85	124	252
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	3	12	33
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	2	33
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	1	24
Firearm shooting	ranges	+21	+16	11
Transient camping	campsites	+302	205	1,332
Boat launching	ramps	19	45	146
Parking, boat access areas	spaces	4,620	5,920	10,970
Land, local governments	acres	4,154	5,196	8,734
Land, State Parks	acres	+8,332	+7,551	+4,897
Land, other agencies	acres	+1,654	1,212	10,941

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.



Selected Recreational and Historic Sites in District 12

1. Elk River State Park
2. Mooresville Historic District
3. Alabama Space and Rocket Center
4. Monte Sano State Park
5. Marshall County Recreation Area
6. Lake Guntersville State Park
7. Buck's Pocket State Park
8. Cathedral Caverns
9. Goose Pond Colony Park
10. Russell Cave National Monument
11. DeKalb County Lake
12. Sequoyah Cave
13. DeSoto Falls
14. DeSoto State Park
15. Manitou Cave
16. Canyonland Park
17. Fort Payne Opera House and Depot
18. Mentone Resort
19. DeSoto Trail entrance point
20. Stevenson Depot
21. Bridgeport Depot
22. Belle Mina Home and Village (ride-by)
23. Athens College and City District
24. Twickenham Historic District, Huntsville (ride-through)
25. Weeden House, Huntsville
26. Big Springs Park, Huntsville
27. Constitution Hall Park, Huntsville
28. Memphis and Charleston Railroad Depot, Huntsville
29. Rogers House, Huntsville
30. Burritt Museum, Huntsville
31. Union Chapel Church, UAH Campus
32. Athens Railroad Depot
33. Limestone County Courthouse
34. Albertville Railroad Depot and Historical Park
35. City of Guntersville Commercial District
36. Hobbs Island Archaeological Site

What Needs To Be Done In Alabama

A recognition of tremendous strides made in recent years seems in order as needs for the future are pinpointed. Certainly Alabama has made great progress in filling recreational needs since its first plan (the Statewide Interim Plan) was published in 1966. Extent of this progress becomes readily apparent upon review of deficiencies noted and recommendations made in that early report. While needs are still great in many areas, progress that has been made should be recognized and appreciated by all persons interested in Alabama's recreational development.

Although the past is important in providing guidance and orientation, this report focuses on the future. Needs are reported for specific recreational resources required to meet needs in 1980 and 2000. These needs are expressed numerically through the process of subtracting current supply from the demand requirement developed in the latest Alabama study, thereby providing data with sufficient accuracy to guide the expenditure of resources leading to the most needed activities and areas.

STANDARDS FOR PLANNING

Increasing demand for recreational facilities from year to year is the basis on which future land and facility needs are developed. Net demand for 1973-74 was found to total 505,510,000 activity occasions. Projections show a 20 percent increase by 1980 (to 605,221,000), with another 56 percent demand boost by the year 2000 (to 941,165,000 occasions). Anticipated increases by specific activity are reported in the following table.

Two types of standards were used in developing future needs that are given in this section: (1) space standards that designate minimum acreage for specific recreational areas and for population units, and (2) resource standards that establish carrying capacity of different type facilities. These were applied the same throughout the State, with no distinction between rural and urban needs.

The use of space standards for planning recognizes that land is the common ingredient for all recreational programs, and the base on which all developments begin. No concrete action can be taken to develop facilities for specific recreational activities until suitable land is available for use. This land orientation was obvious in the tables presenting individual district data in the preceding section. Not only were needs given in acres of land for many activities, but total land needs were given for local governments, State Parks, and other agencies.

The space standards used call for a minimum of 90 acres of recreational land (excluding hunting and other nonsupporting recreational land) per 1,000

residents. Representing the bare minimum, these standards should be exceeded wherever and whenever possible. Land needs should be considered on a district-by-district basis, since land in one district generally will not support recreational demand in another. This total per 1,000 population

Growing Demand for Specific Recreational Activities in Alabama,
from 1973-74 to 1980 and 2000

Activity	Net demand by years			Percent increase	
	1973-74	1980	2000	1973-74 to 1980	1980 to 2000
<i>Thousands of occasions</i>					
Picnicking	20,701	21,528	26,932	4	25
Driving for pleasure.	97,500	110,269	151,770	13	38
Walking for pleasure	74,132	84,468	128,663	14	52
Swimming	39,621	49,484	71,320	25	44
Family camping.	6,264	8,298	13,862	32	67
Group camping	710	799	1,037	13	30
Day use camping	215	260	468	21	80
Trail camping	168	244	498	45	104
Overnight stay at resorts	796	1,026	1,735	29	69
Playground use	13,504	14,385	27,545	7	91
Archery	1,384	1,640	4,654	18	184
Tennis	5,459	7,220	11,192	32	55
Firearm shooting	3,361	3,653	4,773	9	31
Playing games and sports.	37,549	43,299	58,469	15	35
Fishing	33,833	39,625	62,768	17	58
Hunting	11,122	14,573	16,867	31	16
Playing regular golf	4,753	5,242	12,104	10	131
Use of golf driving ranges	225	253	640	12	153
Miniature golf	586	645	1,379	10	113
Boating	9,013	11,434	18,824	27	65
Water skiing	2,571	3,571	6,431	39	80
Visiting sites and/or spectator at events	40,736	56,577	87,769	39	55
Use of trails on foot	9,633	11,256	15,373	17	37
Use of trails by riding.	5,914	10,366	33,424	75	222
Horseback riding, not on trails	8,804	10,325	15,245	17	48
Bicycling, not on trails	63,908	79,779	146,694	25	84
Recreational vehicles, not on trails.	9,947	11,733	16,806	18	43
Outdoor skating	3,101	3,269	3,923	5	20
TOTAL OR AVERAGE	505,510	605,221	941,165	20	56

should be furnished according to the following division: (1) local governments (county governing bodies, county school systems, incorporated cities and towns, and city school systems), 20 acres shared in a manner acceptable to local residents; (2) State Parks land, operated by the Division of State Parks, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 15 acres (on a district basis); and (3) "other" recreational land, 55 acres to be shared among Federal agencies, State agencies other than State Parks, and private enterprise, both profit and nonprofit types. These amounts of land should be distributed over counties and cities to provide a variety of resources near the people.

Resource standards provide a measure of carrying capacity based on such factors as capacity of a specific facility at one time (such as seating capacity at a picnic table), daily total of activity occasions for a given resource, the number of times in a day that a facility is used by different persons or groups, and length of season the facility is used. The standards used were developed on the basis of patterns of use, assuming a pleasant experience for the recreational user and conservation of the resource. Examples of space standards used include the following:

Picnicking—4 persons per table capacity, 1.5 daily turnover rate, and 180-day season, for a total of 1,080 occasions per table; on the basis of land, 7 tables per acre for capacity of 7,560 occasions per acre per year.

Canoeing—4 persons in canoes per mile of stream capacity, 6 daily turnover rate, and 180-day season, for a total of 4,320 occasions per mile of stream.

Hunting, small game—0.0136 person per acre capacity, 1 daily turnover rate, and 162-day season, for total of 2 occasions per acre of space.

Vacation camping—3 persons per site capacity, 1 daily turnover rate, and 150-day season, for total of 450 occasions per site.

Tennis—3 per court capacity, 6 daily turnover rate, and 150-day season, for total of 2,700 occasions per court.

Playing games—20 persons per field capacity, 3 daily turnover rate, and 75-day season, for total of 4,500 occasions per field.

Hiking—18 persons per mile capacity, 0.75 daily turnover rate, and 280-day season, for total of 3,780 occasions per mile of trail.

Driving for pleasure—25 persons per mile capacity, 30 daily turnover rate, and 140-day season, for total of 105,000 occasions per mile.

Playing golf (18-hole course)—72 persons per course capacity, 2.4 daily turnover rate, and 165-day length of season, for a total of 28,512 occasions per course.

How space and resource standards are used to convert data on population, supply, and demand into needs is illustrated by an example from District 1 (refer to table on page 29):

Population in 1974 was 192,500. With local government recommended to operate 20 acres of recreational land (excluding hunting land) per 1,000 residents, the requirement was for 3,850 acres of land needed by local governments. Supply data revealed a shortage of 1,488 acres for 1973-74.

Similarly, projections for 1980 and 2000 for populations of 199,000 and 235,400 increased the local government land deficiency to 1,618 and 2,346 acres, respectively, if no land is acquired prior to these future dates.

District 1 data for 1974 show a net demand for picnicking of 1,454,000 occasions. Dividing this demand by 1,080 annual occasions per table results in a requirement of 1,346 tables. The 1974 supply of tables in that district was only 914, which left a need for 432 above the 1973-74 supply inventoried. Increased needs brought on by population increases bring 1980 needs to 446 tables and 2000 needs to 685 tables.

LAND AND FACILITY NEEDS OF THE FUTURE

Present needs for outdoor recreational facilities are based on current demand and supply data. Needs for 1980 are based on projected increases in demand, but with the assumption that supply will remain static (future resource development cannot be projected as demand is projected). The statewide needs data in the following table are based on the use of projected demand data and current supply. Needs shown are "net" needs, which means that districts with a shortage in a specific activity are balanced against others with a surplus. This is a little misleading as to practical needs. This problem is overcome, however, by use of the individual district data presented in an earlier section.

The need for additional land by local governments, a need that will increase as population continues to grow, will be obvious in the discussions that follow about individual recreational activities. Magnitude of this need varies from place to place, being more urgent in some counties, cities, and towns than in others. Constant attention to land acquisition is needed to assure that a portion of the land allocated to new subdivisions, housing developments, and school sites is set aside for recreational uses. Bringing available land up to 90 acres per 1,000 population will require efforts of both the public and private sectors of recreation, on a district-by-district basis.

Trails for Pleasure Walking. Most walking for pleasure is nontrail walking, but part of this would shift to trail walking if facilities were available. Walking for pleasure is essentially an urban activity, so meeting this need is mainly a responsibility of city governments. Trails could be developed in some city parks for this purpose. Local agencies should also assist in the development of some long trails within each district which would be used by some people walking for pleasure as well as by hikers.

Trails for Bicycling. Bicycling follows walking for pleasure as the second leading activity in terms of resident demand, despite there being only 122 miles of developed bicycle trails. Even this limited supply has numerous limitations, since part of the mileage is in parks for use with rental bikes and some is multi-purpose trails not well suited for bicycles. For all bicycling to occur on trails would require 2,413 miles of trails. Even though much bicycling will continue to be on sidewalks and roadways, there is still a great need for developed bicycling trails in many areas of the State.

Net Outdoor Recreational Land and Facility Needs, by Activity,
Alabama, 1973-74, 1980, 2000

Activity or resource	Resource unit	Needs, by year ¹		
		1973-74	1980	2000
Playgrounds	acres	339	815	7,929
Archery	positions	23	110	1,112
Tennis	courts	388	1,041	2,511
Baseball (90' & 75' bases)	diamonds	149	372	748
Softball	diamonds	168	278	577
Basketball	courts	170	436	1,388
Volleyball	courts	33	139	395
Track and field	fields	13	47	125
Picnicking	tables	7,286	8,052	13,056
Roads for sightseeing	miles	466	586	983
Trails for pleasure walking	miles	396	479	825
Pool swimming	square feet	447,032	988,232	2,118,832
Pond or lake swimming	acres	423	540	767
Vacation camping	campsites	889	2,826	7,894
Group camping	beds	887	2,123	5,429
Hunting land	acres	3,931,640	6,344,140	8,690,140
Fishing, fresh & salt water	acres	+675,737	+555,133	+37,918
Trails for bicycle riding	miles	2,413	3,043	5,701
Trails for horseback riding	miles	802	1,027	1,740
Natural and scenic viewing	sites	7	64	164
Golf, 18-hole	courses	—	21	184
Golf, 9-hole	courses	—	8	134
<i>Land, local governments</i>	<i>acres</i>	<i>30,865</i>	<i>36,235</i>	<i>53,085</i>
<i>Land, State Parks</i>	<i>acres</i>	<i>4,369</i>	<i>8,393</i>	<i>21,030</i>
<i>Land, other agencies</i>	<i>acres</i>	<i>51,435</i>	<i>66,201</i>	<i>112,536</i>

¹ A plus sign (+) indicates that supply exceeds requirements.

Playing Games and Sports. All districts have a deficiency in some types of playfields, and demand continues to grow for playing sports and games such as baseball, softball, football, tennis, archery, volleyball, and basketball. A major need is for more facilities that can be used for activities of both male and female participants.

Playgrounds. Acreage needed for playgrounds shows only a relatively small need at present, but the shortage will be large in the future unless major additions are made. Five of the 12 districts show a current surplus in playground acreage, but the large deficit in District 3 (Birmingham) illustrates the critical need in urban areas. Location of playgrounds is a critical factor in effective supply, since these facilities must be readily available for children in the neighborhoods where they live.

Roads for Sightseeing. Although Alabama has roads available for pleasure driving in all parts of the State, its mileage of scenic drives, roads within



Playgrounds represent a critical need in urban areas of Alabama, but location in reference to where people live is a prime consideration in filling this need.

parcs, and parkways amounts to only about half of that needed at present and even smaller proportions of 1980 and 2000 needs. Roads like the Talladega Scenic Drive should be completed, although not all of the needs require new road construction. Many miles of existing roads could be developed into desirable scenic drives to fill demands of the future.

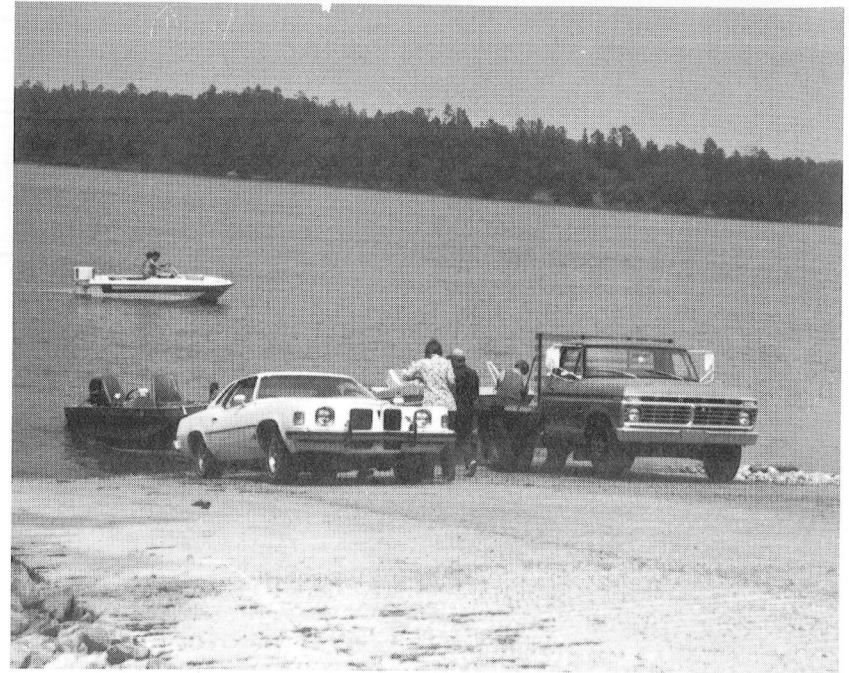
Swimming. Despite the variety of resources used for swimming—ponds, creeks, rivers, pools—there is a big need for suitable facilities to service this activity, the fifth ranking one in Alabama. Boosting this need for swimming facilities is the need to shift swimming from streams, many of which are not suitable because of health hazards involved, to pools and developed beach areas. While certain districts have a current surplus of pool area, the statewide

total need is large and will be considerably larger by 1980, and especially so by the year 2000, unless significant additions are made.

Fishing Water. Fishing is one activity for which resources (fresh and salt water combined) show a surplus to the year 2000, on a statewide basis. The major problem is in District 3, where there is not enough fishing water to satisfy demands of this district's heavy population. District 2 also has been a deficit area, but Corps of Engineers impoundments under construction will help to overcome this. Farm fish ponds could do much to fill the need in all districts by 1980 if such facilities could be profitable for farm pond operators.

Picnicking. Only one district in the State was inventoried as currently having adequate numbers of picnic tables, with the statewide net need

Farm fish ponds could do much to fill the need for fishing opportunities in areas where there is a deficit, provided such facilities prove profitable for operators.



Providing extra access areas and parking spaces could increase opportunities for boating and other water-related activities on Alabama lakes.

amounting to 7,286 tables. Tables are not essential for all picnicking, however, so fewer tables than the net need shown could be adequate to meet practical needs. The highly populated districts 3 and 8 urgently need additional picnic tables immediately. All districts will need additional tables by 1980, especially for high weekend demand.

Trails. Trails suitable for horseback riding, operating off-road vehicles, nature walking, and hiking are in short supply. Although there are 271 Alabama sites with trails, their average length of just under 5 miles indicates part of the problem. Restricted use of others (provided only for persons attending certain events or using specific sites) further illustrates the scarcity. Short trails do not provide for long trail needs.

Hunting. Alabama has the needed land acreage to provide for much more hunting than is projected for either 1980 or 2000, but there is a shortage of hunting land available to the public. Federal and State agencies do not have control of enough land to provide the hunting area needed, so the bulk of all hunting land must be supplied by the private sector. The net shortage of hunting land in 1973-74 amounted to 3.9 million acres, and this is projected to more than double by 2000. Changing land use, and resulting decreases in



game habitat, probably represent greater problems than simply hunting land acreage, particularly in northern Alabama.

Boating. Alabama has the water resources to provide for all activities that are broadly defined as boating—power boating, water skiing, canoeing, and sailboating—but problems exist in multiple use of areas by boaters, swimmers, and fishermen. Certain regulations may be needed for peak use seasons, and providing of extra access areas and parking spaces could have a desirable effect.

Camping and Staying at Resorts. Vacation campsites are in short supply across Alabama and, despite new additions, the needs will increase greatly in the years ahead. In addition to facilities to handle the luxury camper, there are needs for sites for primitive camping, hiker camping, canoe camping, day camping, and group camping. Undeveloped sites fill some of the need, such as for fishermen who simply want a space to park their pickup-camper for a few hours of sleep before beginning early morning fishing. Resort type facilities, such as lodges and cottages included in some of Alabama's State Parks, fill a similar need for campgrounds, but there still remains a big need for campsites.

SPECIAL NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED

While the data about specific activities must be on the basis of total population for a district or statewide, many groups of people across the State merit special consideration. Recreational needs are different for the

Picnicking is a family activity that enjoys widespread popularity in all areas of the State.

disadvantaged, the handicapped, the elderly, and both urban and inner-city residents. Available information was used to point up needs of these groups so that consideration could be given to solving their special problems.

Systems of transportation to get people from their homes to places where recreational facilities are available is a need for the disadvantaged, handicapped, elderly, inner-city residents of large towns and cities, and in lesser degree for the rural resident. Location of facilities is also critical for these same groups, with children of inner-city, disadvantaged families having special needs for neighborhood type resources. Educational programs designed to acquaint youngsters with various forms of recreation also are needed, as are similar undertakings to reach certain groups of adults.

Modification of facilities to permit participation despite physical handicaps from disability or age could contribute greatly to special need groups. The importance of such programs is emphasized by data showing that fully 20 percent of Alabama's population have some type of handicap that limits full enjoyment of outdoor recreation and the State's population will soon reach 12 percent aged (65 or older).

A survey of some 300 families residing in one section of Birmingham found that only 41 percent of the sample had used at least one recreational resource in the year preceding the interview (reported in "Recreation in Western Birmingham," by the Birmingham Recreation Coordination Council). Some 30 percent of the residents said they favored a change in available recreational activities. Facilities and programs for senior citizens were suggested by more than 10 percent, and facilities and programs for children and facilities and programs for adults each were mentioned by 13 percent. Swimming pools, playgrounds, tennis courts, and parks were suggested by significant numbers. Such studies provide general guidance in filling needs that are not well identified in statewide or district data.

Special problems in urban areas were described earlier, and the following corrective actions are suggested:

1. Low cost recreational activities that will appeal to people in low income areas should be provided. Appropriate activities include softball, volleyball, basketball, and other sport field and court games.
2. Walking and bicycle paths are needed for travel to and from recreational areas.
3. All age groups should be considered in program development.
4. Local agencies and neighborhood groups should work together in meeting facility needs.
5. More small areas should be used to provide neighborhood parks, such as mini-parks and tot-lots.
6. Stream corridors and abandoned railroad rights-of-way can be used for trails and strip recreational areas.
7. Areas for adult relaxation can be developed by use of suitable rooftops and by landscaping and equipping available areas.



Neighborhood type resources were found to be a critical need in urban areas of Alabama, especially for the disadvantaged in inner-city areas.

8. Low use or unused streets can be used for street playgrounds.
9. Private parking lots can be used for evening and weekend playgrounds.
10. Unique and unused buildings make suitable recreational centers.

OTHER DATA INDICATE NEEDS

Other special needs were pointed up in miscellaneous data collected in the latest survey. Data about ownership of recreational equipment and likes and dislikes of participants identified problem areas that were not noted in any other way.

Boat ownership was found to total 186,557 statewide, of which 150,000 or more are moved from home to recreational area either once per season or regularly on weekends during the summer recreational boating season. Heavy weekend boat hauling traffic creates special traffic problems that may call for additional traffic patrolmen, while heavy weekend boating activity may require extra marine patrolmen to control water traffic problems involving groups of boaters or boaters and other recreationists.

Other ownership data were revealing, as illustrated by the following statewide ownership totals: tents, 94,159; covered pickup trucks, 38,621;

towed trailers, 31,067; motor campers, 12,661; home pools, 11,916; second homes, 35,536; trail bikes, 61,921; other off-road vehicles, 67,028.

Although the majority of Alabamians said they would not curtail their recreational travel because of gasoline scarcity or high cost, the 1 family in 11 that would do so could increase the demand for more local recreation.

Responses to the question about what government should do to improve recreation in Alabama showed the supplying of more local playgrounds to be the most suggested action. Swimming facilities were mentioned second, and providing more picnic areas and tables placed third. Tennis courts and ballfields were next, followed by fishing areas, camping areas, and foot trails.



Bicycling takes many forms, ranging from individual riding for pleasure or transportation to organized competitive events.

When the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Districts conducted their survey of the private sector in 1974, one question asked for first and second priority among that county's potential to supply a need for more of these resources. Campgrounds got top priority in 15 counties, the highest of any activity, and second priority in another 10 counties. Fishing waters received 24 first and second place votes, and water sports placed third with 21 first and second rankings. This opinion further confirms that private enterprise can and should actively supply demand for outdoor recreational activities for which there is a profit potential.

Improved management can increase the recreational load that can be served at many sites. Such things as improving location or distribution of facilities, adding night lighting to lengthen use hours, use of mobile programs and equipment, promotion of private facilities where additional resources are needed, and coordinating transit systems and road improvements to facilitate access to recreational areas are examples.

Increasing use of an area without undue damage by crowds can be accomplished by various actions. Zoning offers opportunities for reducing interference between activities, such as by designating specific lake areas for water skiing and other areas for fishing. Changes in design of parking areas, playfields, and roads can speed movement of people or cars to increase number of users. Providing screens and walkways to control and expedite foot traffic also offers possibilities. Forest-wildlife management can successfully increase wild game for more hunting opportunities.

Properly planned and executed maintenance can reduce down time for many recreational units, thereby increasing their capacity. Renovation can effectively improve operation and capacity of certain types of sites, such as improved roads, parking lots, lighting, and bathroom facilities to increase campground capacity. Support facilities, such as drinking water fountains, restrooms, refuse collection stations, and parking lots at access sites may become necessary for full utilization of various types of trails.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION

Along with the needs for resources to serve specific recreational activities and special groups of people, there is another area of special needs that must be remembered. This is the need for protecting and enhancing the natural resources. Without specific efforts to protect natural beauty, water quality, wetland and estuarine areas, and other natural features, facility development could result in environmental damage that would be impossible to repair.

A sound State plan with adequate legislation is needed to not only clean up scars on the countryside left where sprawling urbanization and misuse of technology have damaged the environment, but also to provide leadership that will assure preservation of the State's natural beauty in the years ahead. Although Act No. 399, of 1969, provides for reasonable reclamation of lands strip mined since the effective date of October 1, 1970, efforts are needed to

overcome three problem areas that remain: (1) only limited provision is made for recovering land mined prior to the effective date; (2) exclusions to the Act will permit future damage; and (3) the posted bond to ensure reclamation by mining companies may be too low for adequate redevelopment. Act No. 399 was superseded by Act No. 551 in 1975, but its effectiveness against strip mining problems is still unknown.

Although most county governments have assumed the responsibility for solid waste disposal in accordance with State Health Department regulations, improper disposal continues to blight the beauty of the countryside in many places.

Quality of water for recreation continues to be a problem. Further study is needed to classify existing acreage of water according to factors that restrict its recreational use. Alabama has an EPA-approved water plan under which it is operating, but compliance is still a problem in some areas.

Related to water quality considerations is the need for an effective program of stream preservation and development. A scenic rivers act that provides for preservation of a limited number of Alabama streams is not enough—all rivers and major creeks must be considered. Both pollution and development have changed water quality, and efforts must be made to prevent alteration of natural undeveloped streams that still exist in the State.



Protection of the environment while developing recreational facilities is an important consideration that cannot be overlooked in the years ahead.

Only limited stream development is underway or likely for the next 2 or 3 years, so there is time for needed legislation to be passed.

Special studies are needed to determine what is happening to Alabama's wetland in the face of drainage work and impoundment construction that can destroy habitat for fish and wildlife. The studies should be followed by a program of public education, legislative restrictions, and reevaluation of agricultural and forestry acreage requirements.

Alabama's coastal area has no overall plan to guide and coordinate use and development of this valuable resource for recreation. Completion of a coastal area plan by the Coastal Areas Board is needed, with prompt review and action by the Legislature.

Organized environmental educational programs are needed to inform people about needs and to enlist them in conservation efforts. A program like that suggested by the Environmental Education Advisory Council to cover all students from kindergarten to college is fully needed and should be adopted.

The problem of gasoline shortages and spiraling energy costs has created recreational problems that must be overcome by agencies operating recreational facilities. Types of action that can be taken include the following:

1. Develop trails to encourage the use of bicycles for recreation and transportation.
2. Develop recreational programs that include activities such as hiking, bicycling, man-powered boating, and sailing.
3. Develop programs that promote use of resources close to home.
4. Encourage group and bus travel by use of preferential pricing. For example, charge the same park entrance fee for a car with 1 person or 5 or 6 persons, or the same bus rate for 30 or 60 persons.
5. Develop new urban areas near mass transit system routes.
6. Use a bus shuttle system within large parks to transport people from area to area to reduce use of automobiles.
7. Adjust operating hours of recreational areas to fit daylight time, and shift activities like ball games from night to afternoon.
8. Use metered lights to provide cutoff at a fixed time for unsupervised areas.
9. Use bicycles and horses for security and maintenance purposes rather than trucks and automobiles.
10. Adjust maintenance schedules, price structures, hours of use, and other practices to encourage desired changes in use patterns of recreational areas.

Who Needs To Do What In Alabama

Combined efforts of all levels of government and private enterprise in recent years have resulted in Alabama reaching an all-time high in number of sites and facilities available for recreation. But this is no time for relaxation of efforts. Continued efforts by both government and private enterprise will be necessary to meet future needs for recreational resources while preserving the environment. Further unification of efforts will be needed to eliminate short term problems, provide an increasing number and variety of facilities and programs, and overcome increasing economic difficulties. This calls for use of techniques to coordinate all outdoor recreational suppliers, and is the objective of guidelines formulated in this Plan.

This Plan can only serve as a guide. The implementing job can be done only by various levels of government and private enterprise accepting responsibilities for specific roles in the overall task. Not only must all plans and programs be compatible, they must be interwoven into a unified plan of action that will provide for development of facilities to supply high level recreation and maintain a quality environment.

In the pages that follow, specific recommendations are made for actions by each governmental agency and private sector involved in planning, organizing, and providing for Alabama's total recreational program. Following these suggestions should overcome the problems of independent actions that often result in overlapping areas, thereby assuring the unified approach that must be made to provide the most for the least input.

ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, Federal reservoirs and lakes, hunting areas, open space, parkways, and historic areas are types of resources supplied by the Federal government that should continue to receive attention. Conservation and quality development of natural resources and preservation of historic treasures of national significance should be of continuing concern to the Federal government, but efforts should go beyond this. There also should be development of outdoor recreational programs by the Federal segment to provide public welfare benefits not furnished by other levels of government or private enterprise.

Specifically, the Federal government should continue its responsibility in (1) providing high quality recreational opportunities on its land and water resource holdings; (2) preserving outstanding natural areas, wetlands, historic places and sites, and some open space within its present ownership and on land acquired in the future; (3) providing technical and financial assistance for State and local site acquisition and development programs; (4) providing technical assistance to the private recreational sector; and (5) providing financial and technical assistance to help implement a State environmental education program. Specific recommendations are made for roles of the departments of Agriculture, Defense, Interior, Housing and Urban

Development, and TVA. These are agencies that are already playing major roles in providing recreational resources for Alabama.

Department of Agriculture

Agencies of the Department of Agriculture that have recreational responsibilities in Alabama are the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, and Cooperative Extension Service. Each is important, and specific suggestions are given for each in the years ahead.

Forest Service

It is recommended that the Forest Service continue its outstanding program involving National Forests, a program that makes important recreational contributions. Cooperation and assistance of the State are needed for the Forest Service to work in the following suggested ways:

1. Operation and use of the Sipsey Wilderness, and educating people of the State about the need for protecting this area.
2. Continued development of the Talladega Scenic Drive to provide opportunities for driving for pleasure and for other activities that could be associated with such developments. However, the drive should be routed to avoid major interference with the Choccolocco Wildlife Management Area.
3. Conducting the West Fork Sipsey River study for possible inclusion of this stream in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.
4. Continued development of trails in all Alabama National Forests, and working toward bringing these trails into the National Recreational Trails System. Particular attention should be given to Pinhoti Trail System of the Talladega National Forest.
5. Development of an educational program to teach Alabama residents and visitors about the National Forests. Potential actions include using roadside signs in recreational areas and including location and information about present and future National Forest recreational areas on the Official Alabama Highway Map.
6. Continue development of Forest Service resources, including hunting areas, and numbering all forest roads for visitor identification.
7. Conducting the Cahaba River study, in cooperation with the Alabama Forestry Commission, for possible inclusion of a portion of this river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.
8. Shift to a multiple use concept with a recreational resource emphasis for future development of National Forests.

Soil Conservation Service

Soil Conservation Service is encouraged to continue its work relating to planning, acquisition, development, and cost sharing of recreational areas; development of watershed projects with associated recreational uses; planning

for river basin development to include recreation; and assistance in developing income-producing recreational enterprises on private land. It is further recommended that the State and SCS consider the possibility of cost sharing in developing two State Parks, one in either District 5 or 9 and the other in the densely populated District 3. The District 3 park should be developed in cooperation with the Birmingham Water Board, and include water resources large enough to supplement both the city water supply and the water flow of the Cahaba River.

Farmers Home Administration

FHA should continue its rural development program, which supplies assistance to local districts in water, sewage, and fire protection. In studies being made for new water and sewage districts, it is recommended that consideration be given to including in such districts all park areas that need FHA service. Continuation of recreational loans to qualified agencies is also recommended.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

ASCS programs include assistance to farmers in long-range land use adjustment, with recreational developments being included. While most ASCS aid to recreation is expected to expire in 1976, efforts should be made to continue to assist farmers in providing public recreation.

Cooperative Extension Service

The Extension Service should continue its program of providing technical assistance to public groups and agencies, private organizations, and individuals involved in developing outdoor recreational facilities. As a further suggestion, consideration should be given to adding a second recreational specialist to the State Extension staff, and to assigning one Extension worker in each county to recreational and tourism responsibilities.

Department of Defense

Military bases should continue to be used in public recreational programs, both for active military personnel and dependents and for the public where possible. It is recommended that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation work with the Defense Department in a review of Public Law 90-465, which authorizes the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program of development, enhancement, operation, and maintenance of outdoor recreational resources at military reservations.

Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers should continue its excellent program of cooperation and coordination of recreational resource development, so that



Privately-operated marinas on impoundments such as the Corps of Engineers' Walter F. George Lake extend the pleasures available to recreationists who enjoy water-related activities on government-furnished lakes.

full utilization is made of land and water resources related to its 11 impoundments. In addition to operating its own recreational facilities, cooperation with State and local governments and offering private leasing arrangements can assure such needed facilities as public use areas, boat launching ramps, picnic tables, grills, camping spaces, swimming beaches, overlooks, hunting land, and hiking and nature trails. These resources enhance the fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, and waterfowl hunting activities that are done on Corps lakes themselves.

Development of Corps resources at Jones Bluff and West Point lakes should continue as rapidly as possible. Other specific recommendations for consideration by Corps of Engineers are as follows:

1. Implement its forest-wildlife management plan and fish management plan for all Corps lakes in Alabama.

2. Consider developing a waterfowl management area in the Gee's Bend Area of the William "Bill" Dannelly Reservoir. At this site, the Corps has already acquired approximately 90 acres for reservoir access and supporting (limited) recreational development, an acreage too small to be suitable for State Game and Fish Division management.

3. Consider adding 8,000 or more acres of land to allow development of a wildlife management area in connection with Aliceville and Gainesville lakes as a replacement for habitat lost to water development.

4. Review recreational offerings at all lakes, with consideration given to developing additional resources to fill needs shown in this Plan. Cooperation with local agencies should be promoted in the event additional developments are planned under provisions of Public Law 89-72.

5. Continue efforts toward land acquisition and facility development on Bankhead Lake, in cooperation with local governments.

6. Technical help should be provided to overcome the erosion problem at two National Wildlife Refuges located on Corps out-granted land.

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

BOR should continue to provide for the involvement of the Federal government with other governmental agencies in planning, coordinating, and developing recreation policy. It should continue its technical assistance and financial assistance for State recreational planning under the Land and Water Conservation Act. Provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964 (PL 88-578) provide the framework that should be utilized by BOR in continuing recreational efforts. BOR work in the area of special studies should also be continued.

National Park Service

The four sites in Alabama that come under National Park Service—Natchez Trace Parkway, Russell Cave National Monument, Horseshoe Bend National Military Park, and the newly designated Tuskegee Institute Historic District—are important recreational resources that should get further development. It is recommended that NPS move forward with plans already developed for these four sites as rapidly as funding is available. Interested local people might be willing to assist with developing trails related to the Natchez Trace Parkway, and this possibility should be explored.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Further development of Fish and Wildlife resources at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, and Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge is recommended. Efforts should be directed towards meeting established goals as rapidly as possible. These goals are aimed at providing more migration and wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory and resident birds, plus additional recreational opportunities. It is further suggested that technical assistance be sought from the Corps of Engineers to help control shoreline erosion at the Eufaula and Choctaw Refuges.

Tennessee Valley Authority

In addition to developing recreational facilities on the Bear Creek Lakes that are completed or under construction, TVA is encouraged to continue its cooperative efforts with State and local governments to provide high quality recreational sites on TVA lakes. By making land available for facility development, TVA can contribute to development of facilities that will complement those already in service on TVA lands, such as State Parks, access areas, National Wildlife Refuges, National Parkway, public shooting areas, county and city parks, and private sites (boat docks, marinas, rental cabin areas, motels, fishing resorts, camps, and multi-purpose recreational areas). TVA land leased to the State for wildlife management areas should be provided on a long-term basis so that long-run plans for development and use can be carried out.

Other Federal Programs

Recreational assistance programs of such agencies as Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Department of Transportation, Small Business Administration, Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, Dingell-Johnson Act, Pittman-Robertson Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Revenue Sharing, Community Development Block Grant Funds, and others have played vital roles in Alabama's overall recreational developments. It is suggested that these programs be continued. Further, there needs to be much greater efforts by Federal educational agencies to acquaint people of Alabama with recreational opportunities on Federal resources and the need for resource conservation.

Guidelines for Federal Participation

The role of Federal government in implementing Alabama's outdoor recreational plan should be on the basis of the following guidelines:

1. More financial and technical assistance should be provided State and local governments within existing governmental structure.
2. Proposed Federal legislation providing for a share of Land and Water Conservation Funds to be used for all-weather structures, especially for indoor swimming pools, should be passed.
3. Federal legislation emphasizing conservation of natural resources in harmony with the environment is needed. Most states will not pass strong conservation legislation until there are Federal laws dealing with the subject.
4. Public Law 89-72 should be changed to reduce the requirement of local participation in acquisition and development of land around old Corps of Engineers lakes, such as Bankhead Lake.

5. More Federal funds should be made available to the State for hiring additional staff to work in recreational assignments, such as technical assistance, educational assistance programs in park and recreational training by institutions of higher education, and environmental education at all school grade levels and in adult educational programs.

ROLE OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Assuming that adequate land and water are available in Alabama for unrestricted recreational growth to at least the year 2000 at an economic cost within the ability of the public and private sectors, then the State has the responsibility of acquiring and developing outdoor recreational facilities. Development should be limited to those of statewide significance, or at least of districtwide orientation in the case of some State Park developments. Meeting future demands will require that the State provide sizeable increases in State Parks, State Forests, wildlife management areas, natural and scenic areas, fishing and recreational use lakes, wetlands, highway rest areas, historic sites and landmarks, trails and bikeways, scenic waterways, public water access, and open space areas. Efficient use of the State's limited resources—and avoidance of unneeded duplication—calls for coordination among State, Federal, local, and private sectors. The State should provide adequate enabling legislation to allow local governments to make more management decisions, including taxation, in operating resources within their jurisdiction.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

State Parks Division

Although land is not the major need of the Parks Division, nor will it be by 1980, planning should continue to include land needs so that suitable sites may be acquired when available. A "land needs master plan" projected to the year 2000 should be made, designed to provide a total of 30 State Parks properly distributed throughout the 12 districts. The master plan should indicate parks needed by districts on the basis of population concentrations, habits and desires of people, present and future road patterns, and various land form factors. This plan would then become the guide for acquiring land as well as for disposing of land already owned but improperly located. Five specific recommendations concerning State Parks follow:

1. An annual State appropriation and funding of \$3.5 million is needed, along with all park earnings, to provide for day-to-day operation and maintenance of all parks to be kept in the operational program. This annual appropriation of \$3.5 million amounts to only \$1 per State resident. Any

reduction in this level of operational funding will result in costly deferred maintenance of buildings, grounds, and equipment, a reduction in recreational services, and a loss of park revenue.

2. A capital development fund of \$5.0 million per year is needed—\$3.5 million annual State appropriation and matching Federal funds of \$1.5 million—to complete some parks and develop others now in operation.

3. Land acquisition funds should be made on a site-by-site basis to develop new parks as needed. After 1985 when park bonds are retired with funds from the earmarked cigarette tax, income from this tax source should be used as a major land acquisition fund.

4. Larger year-round use should be made of State Parks through development of cooperative programs with schools, handicapped and aged groups, and other public groups for the day use of park resources.

5. A detailed study and analysis should be made to appraise the efficiency of the State Parks system following major developments and operational changes. This study should consider consumer satisfaction and recreational experiences, management and personnel needs, and cost efficiency.

Game and Fish Division

More resources and services are needed to support the Game and Fish Division's program of public fishing lakes, wildlife management areas, public access areas, research, education, and law enforcement. An increase in hunting and fishing license fees, along with making many exempt people subject to buying licenses, is suggested as a source of needed funds. An annual State appropriation is another possible source of funds.

Marine Resources Division

The State's important brackish and salt water resources for both sport and commercial fishing must continue to receive protection through programs of the Marine Resources Division. Its programs of research, education, regulatory activities, and resource development, such as inshore and offshore artificial reef development, are essential for best use of these resources. The potential for aiding marine resource development is great but needs additional funding. A salt water fishing license fee could provide this highly needed source of income.

Water Safety Division

Protecting people against the consequences of their own carelessness has always been a function of law enforcement, and the Water Safety Division must continue this important work. The rapid growth of boating in recent years has increased the need for enlarged programs of education and enforcement to prevent personal injury and property damage. Since most of the program functions of this Division are financed by boat license fees, flexibility is needed so that fees charged could be changed by the Division to enable programs to be enlarged and improved as needed without the necessity of legislative action.

Other Department Agencies

Other divisions or sections of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, whose contributions to outdoor recreation will continue to be important in the future, include the Outdoor Recreation Section, the Land Division, and the support sections consisting of Legal, Personnel, Accounting, and Engineering.

An organizational change would aid the Outdoor Recreation Section in its job of administering the program of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. This responsibility includes administering grants to eligible agencies and conducting a continuant planning program. The Section should be divided into two branches—one to administer grants and the second to provide for "in-house" planning as needed and for technical assistance to agencies and organizations interested in such programs as long trail development, wild and scenic rivers development, and natural and scenic areas protection. Technical assistance should also be provided to all resource suppliers to assure that future development will be in keeping with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Other State Agencies

Other agencies that must continue to serve their special function in future Alabama recreational programs include the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama Highway Department, State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, State Department of Education, State Health Department, Bureau of Publicity and Information, Alabama Historical Commission, U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Commission, Fort Morgan Commission, Mound State Monument, Cahaba Commission, LaGrange Historical Commission, Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Gorgas Memorial Board, Richmond Pearson Hobson Memorial Board, Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, and Tannehill Foundry and Furnace Commission (Tannehill Historic State Park).

Guidelines for State Participation

The State cannot do all that is needed in the area of outdoor recreation, even though it has heavy responsibility. Therefore, care must be exercised to assure that the State operates in appropriate areas, providing guidance, leadership, educational opportunities, and innovative programs of cooperation and coordination with other levels of government and the private sector. Specific guidelines suggested are as follows:

1. State government should continue to encourage and expand outdoor recreational opportunities, giving special attention to preserving natural areas, developing and protecting rivers and streams, developing new State recreational areas near urban centers of each district when needed, increasing



The battleship U.S.S. Alabama, flanked by military planes and guns and the submarine U.S.S. Drum, is the focal point for tourists visiting the Mobile area.

recreational programming, and expanding parks, coastal areas, forests, fish and wildlife resources, and access areas.

2. State government should encourage Federal and local governments and private enterprise to continue their share of the overall responsibility for increasing recreational resources. Technical assistance, research, promotion, and advertising helps should be provided as special encouragement to private enterprise in development of profit making businesses such as campgrounds, fishing lakes, swimming areas, marinas, golf course, lodges, hunting sites, and facilities for spectator sports.

3. A statewide trails system should be developed, using cooperative efforts of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Historic Fort and Trails Council, Highway Department, Bureau of Travel and Information, Federal and local governments, and interested individuals and

agencies. Coordination should be provided by a State Trails Advisory Committee.

4. Adequate staff or contractual assistance should be provided through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to carry out the functions and meet the planning needs identified in this Plan.

5. Adequate funds should be provided for the proper operation, maintenance, and renovation as needed of existing outdoor recreational facilities controlled by various State operating agencies.

6. Adequate technical assistance for local recreational agencies should be furnished by State and Federal agencies, coordinated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

7. The State should assume a greater role in providing recreational opportunities for inner-city residents, with the Parks Division having on-site responsibility.

8. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources should continue to improve opportunities for the handicapped at State Parks, fishing lakes, and wildlife management areas.

9. The State should acquire and exercise certain controls over inland bays and rivers, wetlands, and tidal areas to provide adequate public access without destruction of the ecology of the areas.

10. Efficient use of State-owned land should be of primary concern. Emphasis should be on development of large outdoor recreation and open space systems and complexes, promotion of higher use of under-utilized resources, and the filling-in of voids in present large State ownerships to make them more complete and usable units. Multiple use of State and other publicly-owned land, such as school grounds and highway rights-of-way for recreational purposes, should be stressed.

11. Strong State control over dredging, filling, and bulkheading of wetlands and tidal shorelines should be adopted and enforced.

12. Resource use should be regulated so that use will be compatible with the welfare of the fish and wildlife resources, thereby protecting the status of species populations, maximizing the consumptive enjoyment from game species, and preserving the non-consumptive values of other species for aesthetic and scientific purposes.

13. Proper coordination and cooperation among all State agencies, boards, commissions, and departments involved with use and protection of natural resources is a responsibility of State government.

14. State government should encourage lease-concession type arrangements by private enterprise on State land where appropriate. The State should avoid taking unfair advantage of private enterprise in the area of pricing and other business practices.

15. The State's outdoor recreational planning program should consider the needs and desires of all special interest groups, as well as the public at large, by holding public hearings, conducting workshops, and forming an advisory council that would include membership of all interested agencies, groups, or persons.



Completion of Lakepoint Resort State Park and further development of units of the State Park system is needed to meet demands of the future.

ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Two major requirements for filling local needs— (1) cooperation and coordination and (2) the providing of more resources—are reflected in recommendations for local governments. (Local governments are defined as those of Alabama's 417 incorporated cities, towns, and communities, 67 counties, and 128 public county and city school boards, plus agencies of local governments that carry out independent recreational actions.)

Cooperation among all arms of local government in a county does not mean that the county has to form a single countywide government. Rather, it is the case of working together and sharing resources to provide a distribution of recreational facilities where they are needed. In some cases this may mean two cities or two different school boards working together, or cooperative efforts of various combinations of county governments, governments of incorporated places, and county and city school boards.

In most cases this cooperative action should be on a county basis, while in some districts two or more counties will need to work together to fill their needs. A districtwide approach may be best for certain needs, such as for a large regional park. Regardless of the geographical area involved, cooperative action can do much to develop recreational programs that are not being provided because each form of government or school board is working independently.

Guidelines for Local Participation

Because of their local nature, local governments are in a position to know of specific needs and desires. Therefore, they are best suited to make land use plans, establish regulations, and implement open space and outdoor recreational programs. Local governments have responsibilities in the overall recreational programs of the State, of course, but they should be the major supplier for certain resources, as noted in the following guidelines for local action:

1. City and town governments should concentrate on neighborhood and community needs for open space, school-park playgrounds, sport fields, playlots and playgrounds, and other resources located to meet specific needs.
2. County governments should focus on providing basic resources in locations to serve the people they represent—those living outside incorporated areas.
3. To make the first step towards a cooperative and unified program, a countywide committee should be appointed to study the needs and recommend a starting point that will eventually lead to a total program. Such a committee could pave the way for cooperative efforts of governments and school boards that could serve the entire county populations much better than by independent action. Although independent action by cities and



This pier with its yacht club and fishing and swimming opportunities helps serve the recreational needs of citizens of Fairhope and tourists from throughout the United States who visit the Gulf Coast - Mobile Bay area.

counties can effectively serve needs in certain areas and situations, it is generally true that the cooperative approach can accomplish more with less cost.

4. As soon as basic needs are provided, consideration should be given to developing other type facilities, such as a countywide park or a district or regional park developed by several counties to serve a larger area.

5. Local governments should consider greater use of flood plains for selected recreational facilities, with proper planning and zoning controls.

6. A professional staff is needed for best recreational programs, but only the larger cities can afford this type help. However, cooperative recreational programs of all agencies in a county could make possible the hiring of professional help on a county basis.

7. Local governments should seek needed technical assistance from the various sources available. One source of help would be the regional planning and development commissions, which have study results and experience that could be helpful.

8. Recreational financing should get equal consideration as for financing other services. Special consideration should be given to use of revenue sharing

and community development funds for cities receiving such financing, and to other type funds that can be used for special purposes such as recreational facilities.

9. The necessity of visitor and participant safety programs and insurance to cover claims and suits arising in the event of personal injury or property damage to recreational users cannot be overlooked. This need was brought on by the recent Alabama Supreme Court ruling that makes local governments liable for claims. If regular types of insurance prove inadequate to cover the risk, a cooperative effort of State and local governments may be necessary to provide the required protection.

ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Previous research findings in Alabama emphasize that private enterprise must be responsible for an increasing share of outdoor recreation in Alabama.



Bellingrath Gardens, near Mobile, is a place of beauty at any season of the year, but when azaleas are in bloom it can only be described as spectacular.



The wave pool at Point Mallard Park, Decatur, is just one feature of this recreational facility that offers unusual opportunities for recreationists.

In addition to facilities and resources that should be furnished by the private sector, private businesses under certain conditions can operate selected resources in the larger parks and recreational areas furnished by governments. As private enterprise expands its operations, the following suggestions should be considered:

1. Private enterprise should join the public sector in an emphasis on recreational operations and developments that provide a quality experience for the user.

2. Some organization and cooperation may be needed by operators of similar type recreational businesses. For example, the 864 farm operators who offer public fee pond fishing have unique problems that are different from those facing operators of golf courses, fish camps, or other type facilities. Thus, organized efforts might be useful. On the other hand, a statewide organization of recreational site operators could help in such areas as legislative needs, advertising and promotion, public relations, and vandalism control problems.

3. Should such commodity organizations as fish pond supplier associations be formed, they should develop and adapt rules of operation and quality standards that would be beneficial to themselves and the public they serve.

4. The private sector should use the 1975 Plan and updated materials as they become available from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to aid their planning and development during the next 5 years. All other available technical assistance also should be used to best advantage.

5. Many private suppliers of outdoor recreational resources are involved in multiple use of resources, such as the wood-using industries' cooperation with hunting groups or clubs and Alabama Power Company's use of land and water resources in cooperation with government, private agencies, and individuals, that make a large contribution to outdoor recreation. Cooperation and coordination between these resource suppliers and State planning could make these resources even more valuable.

PRIORITIES FOR USING LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUNDS

Since the needs developed for 1980 must be provided on a "piece meal" basis rather than in one inclusive development, priorities have been

Golfing is an activity that can be provided by either government or private industry, but country clubs and other private facilities are major suppliers across the State.



established to guide the selection of projects to be funded with Land and Water Conservation Funds. Basic guidelines that are applicable statewide are listed:

1. Although development needs exceed land needs, land acquisition should be given priority over facility construction for (1) urban built-up areas or growing urban areas, (2) land on the Gulf of Mexico and on large lakes and reservoirs, (3) land near the interstate highway system, (4) land needed to expand existing sites, (5) land needed for new high priority development sites, and (6) land in ecologically sensitive areas.

2. Land on large bodies of water should receive priority over land on small bodies of water or more remote inland areas.

3. Multiple-purpose resources are preferred over single-purpose resources because of the potential for greater utilization by recreationists.

4. High density use developments like playgrounds should be given priority over less used sites, such as zoos or botanical gardens, especially in urban centers.

5. When developing sites, large land areas should be given priority over small areas so that adequate land will be available for future expansion.

6. Access facilities that can support some recreational use themselves should be constructed ahead of use facilities. For example, access areas to a lake or reservoir can be used by fishermen and boaters even if no other facilities are available.

7. Facilities for protection and management of a site should be constructed ahead of user facilities where needed.

District priorities should be related to both population and resource needs. Districts 3, 8, and 9 have the largest population concentrations, followed by District 12 and District 4. Although no overall district priority is suggested, decisions on development should be made on the basis of number of people to be served and locally available resources. Small Alabama towns that provide no public recreation at present should be encouraged to make a modest beginning. The people-supply ratio should be used in determining priority among city size groups. Since larger cities have greater numbers of handicapped people to serve, construction of facilities for these people should get special consideration in choosing among applications for Land and Water Conservation Funds.

Fund requests for LWCF money will likely exceed available funds for the next 5 years. It is recommended that approximately 40 to 60 percent of available money be used for State agency projects, with the remainder used as follows:

1. To complete projects previously approved for political subdivisions.
2. For land acquisition of political subdivisions in accordance with land priorities previously explained.
3. For facility development on projects where land and water acreage had been acquired through Land and Water Conservation Funds.
4. For all other eligible project applications.



Pottery hanging on a line provides an appropriate background for photographing a craftsman at the annual Horse Pens 40 festival, a craft show and music festival held atop a mountain where Indians once corralled their ponies.

5. Programs for handicapped persons might be an exception to the above criteria.

LEGISLATION THAT SHOULD BE PASSED

Because adequate legal protection and assistance are necessary for success of any recreational program, recommendations for needed Alabama legislation are presented in this separate section. Eleven specific recommendations are listed below:

1. Define the State's responsibility in recreation, tourism, beautification, natural resource use and protection, waste disposal, outdoor conservation education, and water, air, and land pollution.
2. Provide for an Alabama open space program.
3. Create a heritage trust program to encourage and facilitate citizen participation in preserving Alabama's natural and historic heritage.

4. Provide State programs for developing and preserving scenic rivers, wilderness areas, trails systems, and ecologically sensitive areas.
5. Establish a technical assistance program for reclaiming land strip mined prior to October 1, 1970.
6. Provide for use of selected police powers by the State in protecting natural resource areas, scenic areas, some park areas, access areas, fish and wildlife areas, and water use areas.
7. Set appropriate limitations on use of condemnation powers granted to public utility companies.
8. Assure right of public access to all State-owned land related to navigable streams and tidal waters.
9. Encourage further development of outdoor environmental education and nature interpretation programs for people of all ages.

10. Provide for a limitation of tortuous liability claims for landowners to protect those not regularly engaged in the recreation business from civil suits in case a person using their land is injured. The act should require landowners to furnish reasonable warning of unsafe or hazardous conditions. This would require some revision to an existing law (Volume 10, Chapter 12, Sections 281-285 of the 1973 Cumulative Supplement).

11. Allow local governments to develop a wide variety of recreational programs and policies, including countywide recreation boards, joint recreation boards, cooperative facility arrangements, cooperative purchasing, contractual services, and establishment of taxes to fund programs if voted for by local people involved. Provisions also should be made for all subdivision development to have open spaces for public recreational sites.

Summary

Status of recreation in Alabama can best be described as one of contrasts, based on detailed demand and supply studies made in developing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 1975. For example, the State's recreational industry was shown to be big, but it needs to be bigger; the quality of resources available is good, but not good enough; demand for recreational services has grown in the past, but the future growth will be at a faster pace; governmental financing has increased in recent years, but more consistent funding is needed for the future; governmental and private agencies and individuals have been working together in recent years, but even greater cooperation and coordination of efforts will be needed to meet future needs.

There's no doubt that Alabama has the natural resources to support an outstanding recreational program to satisfy needs of the State's population and to attract tourists and other out-of-state recreationists. The highly variable topography stretching from the mountains and valleys of northern Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico guarantees an area to please almost any whim, and the wealth of associated natural and man-made resources provides opportunities for widely varying recreational activities.

Importance of recreation as an economic factor cannot be overlooked, either. Expenditures for recreation and tourism were reported to total \$846 million in 1975, but are expected to reach \$1.4 billion by 1980.

Interest of Alabamians and out-of-state visitors in recreation is illustrated by data showing more than 500 million activity occasions in 1973, an average of 126 for each person in the State during that year. But the projected growth between now and the year 2000 points up the tremendous need for expansion of the State's recreational supply, and focuses on this report's

theme of "Implementing the Alabama Recreation Plan." Projected figures for 1980 show a 20 percent jump in recreational participation in Alabama, to a total of more than 600 million occasions. But a further increase of 56 percent—to nearly 1 billion activity occasions—is forecast for the year 2000.

While Alabama has made substantial improvement in quality and quantity of recreational resources in recent years, the tremendous demand forecast for the years ahead makes it imperative that development work be accelerated. At the same time that facility development is needed, there is a comparable need for efforts to assure protection and enhancement of the environment in association with all development.

Combined efforts of all levels of government and private enterprise, the combination that pushed Alabama to an all-time high in resource supply, is called for in the future. A big need shown is for coordination of efforts by all agencies and individuals involved to provide an increasing number and variety of facilities and programs, eliminate short term problems, and solve economic difficulties. The Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan can serve as a guide for this development, giving specific recommendations for each governmental or private agency, but the job of implementing the plan is left to various levels of government and private enterprise. Each involved agency must accept its responsibility to fill a specific role if the overall job is to be completed in time to meet the fast approaching needs projected for 1980 and 2000.

Additional information about Alabama's recreation, including details contained in the full Statewide Plan, is available from Outdoor Recreation Section, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

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Tennessee Valley Authority
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
All Divisions of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Alabama Highway Department
Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama Development Office
Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee
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FRONT COVER. Luxury of the motel and convention center and the enjoyable fishing pier combine with the natural beauty of the Gulf beach to provide a focal point for the outstanding Gulf State Park, at Gulf Shores.

BACK COVER. Children at play in a small park in the middle of Birmingham and skiers on a snow slope at Cloudmont Resort, near Mentone, illustrate the wide range of recreational opportunities available in Alabama.

