

Hatchet Creek Weogufka Creek

Greetings

Floating down a quiet creek with only the sound of rippling waters and birds singing makes for a great day in the outdoors. Coosa County is blessed with two creeks that host some of the most scenic floats in Alabama.

Hatchet Creek flows from the northwest corner of the county down to where it enters the Coosa River on Mitchell Lake. Weogufka Creek runs an almost parallel path a little farther to the north and includes a large primitive section through the Coosa Wildlife Management Area. Early spring is the best time to float both creeks as the water level normally drops during midsummer. Both creeks host beautiful shorelines covered in mountain laurel and other flowering shrubs. Of course, the rare Cahaba lilies that bloom in shoals in late May are one of the most treasured attractions. Both creeks have been designated as spur trails of the Alabama Scenic River Trail that runs 631 miles down the heart of Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico.

This map/visitors guide is provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, through a grant from the Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council to assist visitors in planning safe and enjoyable float trips. Best wishes and come enjoy the beauty of Hatchet and Weogufka Creeks in Coosa County.



Alabama Cooperative Extension System • Alabama Scenic River Trails
Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council

Camping Notes

▲ Several landowners have given permission for public camping along the creek. Please respect this privilege and camp only at designated campsites.

▲ All private land adjoining the creek is posted by Alabama law.

▲ Camping is by permission only and only in designated areas.

▲ Landowners who give permission for trespass have liability protection under the Code of Alabama 1975 Article 1 Section 35-15-1.

▲ Leave campsites cleaner than you found them. (Please do not litter.)

▲ Firewood may be collected from dead woody material on the ground.

▲ Keep fire inside a stone fire ring and thoroughly extinguish with water before leaving.

▲ A thank-you note to the landowner is appreciated and should be sent to the Coosa County Extension Office, PO Box 247, Rockford, AL 35136. Please reference the campsite name.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System does not guarantee the accuracy of information provided in this map. Use it for general reference.



Float Trip Checklist

- Map
- Paddles
- Life preservers
- Dry bag and clothes
- Flashlight
- Drinks and food
- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Wide-brimmed hat
- Suntan lotion
- Cell phone
- Car keys
- Lighter or firestarter stick
- Toilet tissue in ziplock bag
- GPS (optional)
- Hammock or camping gear (optional)

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WEOGUFKA CREEK ACTUAL FLOAT DISTANCES			
Section 1	Co. Rd. 112 to Co. Rd. 29	2 miles	
Section 2	Co. Rd. 29 to Co. Rd. 16	7 1/4 miles	
Section 3	Co. Rd. 16 to Co. Rd. 15	1 3/4 miles	
Section 4	Co. Rd. 15 to Shoemaker's	5 1/4 miles	
Section 5	Shoemaker's to Underwater Bridge	4 3/4 miles	
Section 6	Underwater Bridge to Backwater	5 1/4 miles	
Estimate travel time at 2 miles per hour.			

- ### Short Floats
- Hatchet Creek, County Road 66 to Hwy 280 (around 2 to 2 1/2 hours)
 - Weogufka Creek, Ashli Denae Butler Memorial Bridge (Low Water Bridge) on Co. Rd. 16 to Mt. Moriah (1 1/2 hours)

Campsite Etiquette

The four public campsites on Hatchet Creek are all on private property. These sites are available by permission of the landowners, so please respect this privilege by following these guidelines. One public campsite is available on Weogufka Creek.

- ▲ Leave it cleaner than you found it.
- ▲ Collect firewood from dead material on the ground.
- ▲ Extinguish any campfire with water.
- ▲ Use the restroom away from the campsite area.
- ▲ Do not damage trees in any way, including using nails.
- ▲ Send a thank-you note to the landowner via the Coosa County Extension Office.

- ### Water Levels
- Hatchet and Weogufka Creeks are best floated in early spring—March to May.
 - Wet suits are recommended for winter floats.
 - Flow rates are available at <http://flowpage.alabamawhitewater.com/>
 - Hatchet Creek is best floated with a flow rate of 700 to 800 CFS (300 minimum).
 - Visual estimates can be made by observing two rocks (one large and one small) in the middle of the creek on the east side of Hwy 231 Bridge. The large rock is always visible except under high-water levels. The small rock becomes visible under low-water flows.
- ### Caution
- The Hwy 280 to Hwy 231 section is long and normally takes 9-10 hours or more under low-water flow. Frequently, people get caught after dark trying to make this whole section. Divide this section into two days by camping at Dunnam's Halfway Campsite.
 - Weogufka is narrower than Hatchet and fallen trees often block the creek.

