



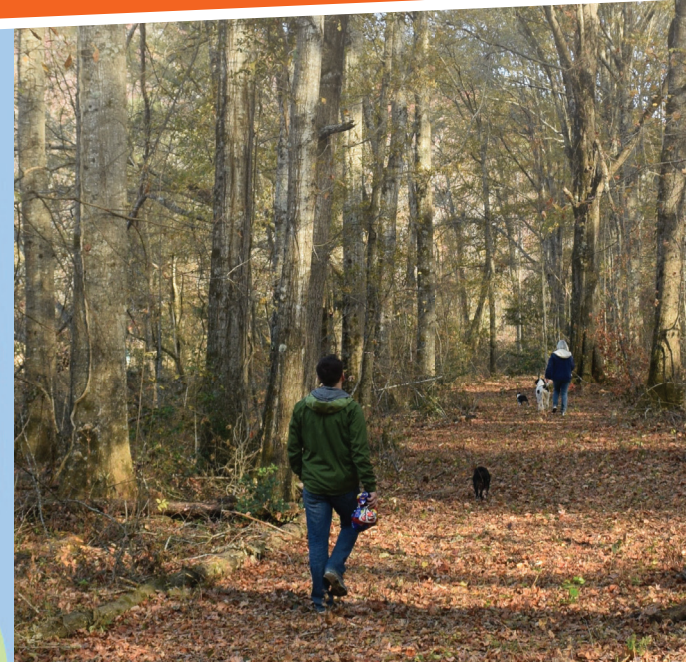
## TUGALOO BEND TRAIL NOTES

WHAT YOU'LL NEED	BE CAREFUL OF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insect Repellent</li> <li>• Walking Shoes</li> <li>• Suitable Clothing</li> <li>• Walking Stick</li> <li>• Water Bottle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poison Ivy</li> <li>• Snakes</li> <li>• Ticks</li> <li>• Wildlife</li> <li>• Falling Branches</li> </ul>

# TUGALOO BEND HERITAGE PARK

Take a step back in time...

# TRAIL GUIDE



- Camping Area**
- Parking**
- Restrooms**
- Wetlands Observation Deck**
- Picnic Table Area**
- Outdoor Classroom**
- Welcome Kiosk**
- Wetlands**
- Caretaker's House / Office**
- Elizabeth Hayes Pavilion**

A PROJECT OF:  
 THE STEPHENS COUNTY FOUNDATION  
 A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION  
**706-282-7636**  
[www.tugaloo bend.org](http://www.tugaloo bend.org)

## ABOUT TUGALOO BEND HERITAGE PARK

The Tugaloo Bend Heritage Park property was acquired in 2002 by the Stephens County Foundation. It has been developed as an educational center highlighting and preserving its natural and historical significance. Located on 87 acres, this historic site was once the home of the Cherokee town of Estatoe in the 18th century, then later a working farm throughout most of the 19th and 20th century.

With an ADA compliant trail, wetlands habitat, unique flora and fauna for this area, outdoor classroom, and numerous Native American and early pioneer historic sites along the Tugaloo River Corridor, the Heritage Park and Corridor development is the first of its kind in Northeast Georgia. To that end, recreation trails and facilities have been developed for the use and enjoyment of the community and future generations.

Most facilities are available to the public FREE of charge or for a nominal fee. Individuals, school, church and family groups are welcome. The pavilion may be reserved for functions such as family reunions, church fellowship gatherings or other large group functions. Primitive and developed camping areas available. Please contact us to prearrange use of the camping areas or for group use of the pavilion.

## FACILITIES & SERVICES

- ELIZABETH HAYES PAVILION
- RESTROOMS (HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE)
- NATURE TRAILS
- HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE TRAIL
- WETLANDS OBSERVATION DECK
- PICNIC TABLES
- CAMPING AREAS - PRIMITIVE & IMPROVED
- OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- PERIOD WATTLE & DAUB RECONSTRUCTION
- CANOE AND KAYAK RENTALS

## TUGALOO BEND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Fridays: 1:30 pm - 5 pm  
Saturdays: 8:30 am - 5 pm  
Sundays: 1:30 pm - 5 pm

## DISCOVER THE TUGALOO CORRIDOR

The Tugaloo River forms the border between Stephens County, Georgia, and Oconee County, South Carolina, flowing from Yonah Dam to the north and into the upper reaches of Lake Hartwell on its southern end, a distance of 10 miles. The Tugaloo River Valley is part of a watershed involving North Carolina, Upstate South Carolina, and Northeast Georgia, and is one of the most biodiverse areas in the country. Geologic formations along the Brevard fault line include portions of the Tugaloo River and surrounding valley.

Within the valley are evidences of Native American settlement dating back over a thousand years, with Cherokee settlements identified throughout the valley during the historic period. The towns were not a cluster of homes as one might think, but more like a small colony spread out sometimes over a couple miles with focal points being the council houses at each town center. Essentially the entire Tugaloo River Corridor was settled for miles in every direction. By 1693, trade was established with these lower towns along the Tugaloo. Virtually every town, many having populations of 600 or more, had its own resident trader.

With an abundance of wildlife, farmable land and access to the Tugaloo River, it is no surprise that the Cherokee chose this beautiful location, now called Tugaloo Bend, to establish the Estatoe village. While one can now only imagine what life was like then, archaeological excavations by the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Georgia have uncovered various artifacts and remnants of structures providing clues about the people and life at here at Estatoe.

The first white settlers came to the Tugaloo River Corridor area following the American Revolution and the Treaty of Augusta in 1783. Throughout the 1800s and 1900s increasing numbers of settlers found their way into the Tugaloo Valley as hunters, loggers, tradesmen, and farmers. The Tugaloo Corridor became the 'Gateway to the West' as tens of thousands of others continued on the Unicoi Turnpike, Georgia's first interstate highway (1813), which followed the ancient Unicoi Trail. The Turnpike began here on the Tugaloo River Corridor and continued through the Cherokee Territory at Toccoa Falls, extending into the newly opened Tennessee Territory.

By the mid-1800s, after the time of the Native American settlers, the Tugaloo Bend Heritage Park site would become a working farm for the next 130 years. During that time, various crops were farmed and harvested along with the raising of livestock. Tugaloo Bend Heritage Park looks very different today than it did then.

Today you will see river bottomland forests and wetlands and upland forests in transition from ditched and drained fields and pastures to a more natural condition. A portion of the river bottomland along the Tugaloo and Estatoe trails has returned to an extensive system of wetlands and ponds created by beaver. A typical river margin and bottomland forest has developed on the Noyowee, Pioneer and Estatoe trails where sedges, rushes, buttonbush, tag alder, red maple and black willow are found along with water oak, sycamore and river birch. Much of the upland area of the Park is seen on the Taucoc Trail. Prior to 1962 this area was kept in pasture, which was initially populated by Virginia pine when agriculture ceased. This short-lived species is now declining due to damage by ice and insects. It is being replaced by shortleaf pine and a variety of hardwoods including red maple, black gum, sourwood, southern red oak, white oak, sassafras and sparkleberry. Mountain laurel, blackjack oak and chinquapin can also be found along this trail.

## ABOUT THE STEPHENS COUNTY FOUNDATION

The Stephens County Foundation is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation, relying solely on donations and volunteer labor to accomplish its mission. Donations may be sent to The SCF, PO Box 23, Toccoa, GA 30577 or through the website: [www.StephensCountyFoundation.org](http://www.StephensCountyFoundation.org).

For info on becoming a volunteer, call 706-282-7636 or email [StephensCountyFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:StephensCountyFoundation@gmail.com).



## THE HIKING TRAILS

The Hiking Trails of Tugaloo Bend Heritage Park take their names from Cherokee towns and place names along the Tugaloo Corridor and its tributaries. Distances for the almost 4 miles of trails at Tugaloo Bend are found on the map beside the trail names.

**Tugaloo** - The main trading center and capital of the Cherokee Lower Towns

**Noyowee** - A Cherokee village on the Tugaloo River between Tugaloo and Estatoe, South Carolina side

**Estatoe** - Along with Tugaloo, a key trading post village during the Trading Period (1700s)

**Unicoi Trail** - An ancient Native American trail beginning at the Tugaloo River, extending through the Cherokee Territory at Toccoa Falls and terminating in Eastern Tennessee

**Pioneer Path** - An early section of the Unicoi Trail, just off Owl Swamp Rd

**Tetohe** - A Cherokee village along Toccoa Creek and the Unicoi Trail located on Camp Mikell Rd

**Taucoc** - A Cherokee village along Toccoa Creek and the Unicoi Trail near Toccoa Falls

## OUR TRAIL NAMES ARE INSPIRED BY LOCAL HISTORIC SITES

