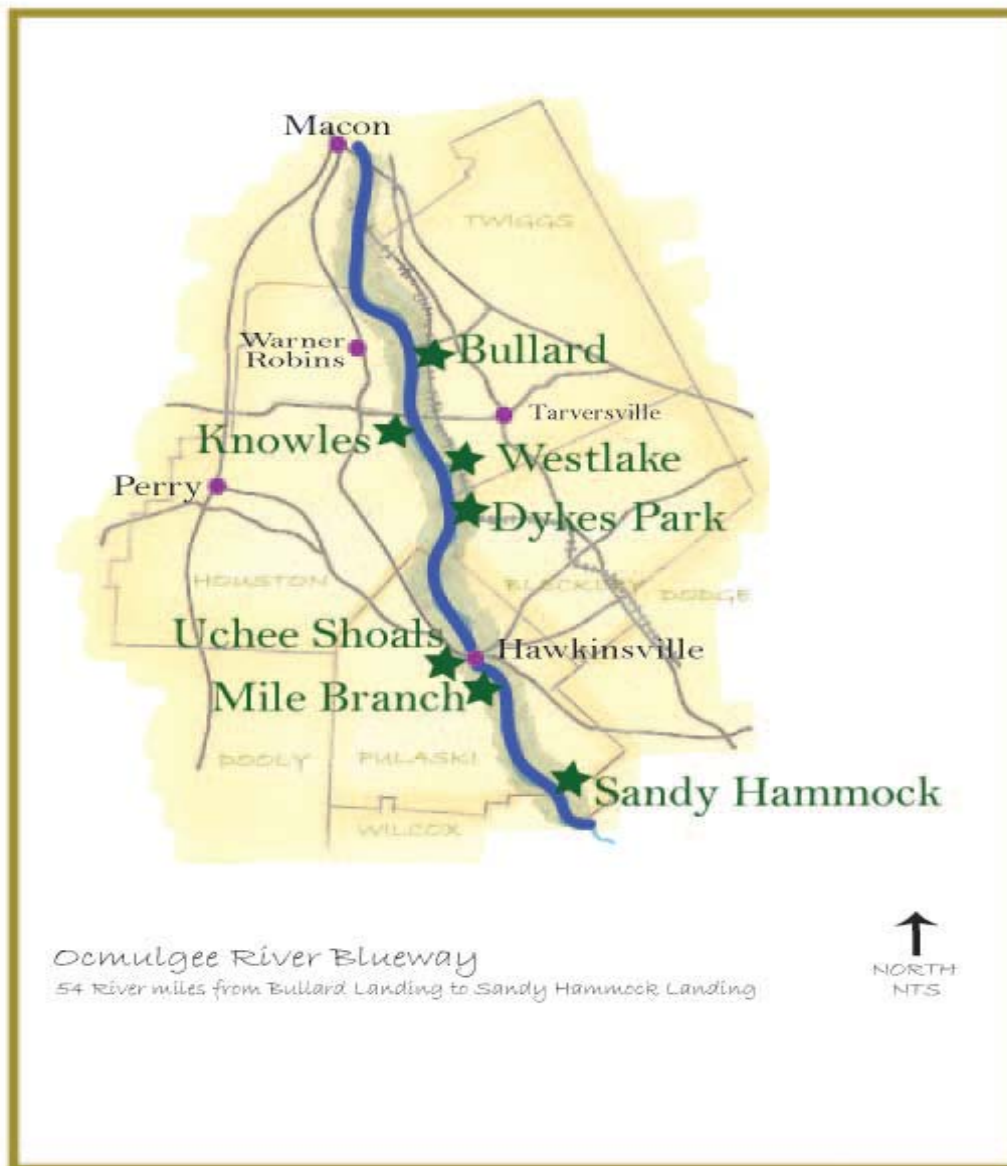


THE OCMULGEE RIVER BLUEWAY GUIDE



**BLECKLEY, HOUSTON, PULASKI & TWIGGS COUNTIES
GEORGIA**

JULY 2010



Using This Guide

This guide presents the 7 locations for access to the blueway. Starting at Bullard Landing in Twiggs County and extending 54 miles downstream to Sandy Hammock Landing in southern Pulaski County, the time you spend on the beautiful Ocmulgee River will be an enjoyable experience.

Directions and information about each landing location as well as good planning guidance will make your time on the river safe and enjoyable.

The River Story

The recreational and scenic values of the Ocmulgee River are well-known and provide excellent opportunities for paddlers to experience Class I rapids with mostly flat water as the river leaves the Piedmont and flows to the Coastal Plain. The river is undeveloped until the City of Hawkinsville.

Safety Recommendations

- Always be prepared.
- The section of the Ocmulgee that you are paddling is undeveloped until you reach Hawkinsville.
- Cell phone coverage may not be available on the river.
- Notify friends or family of your paddle itinerary and expected date and time of return.
- Make sure you are aware of the expected weather conditions during your paddle trip.
- Wind and rain can quickly compromise your safety and cause hypothermia, even in warm weather.

For emergencies, call 911, but assume the coverage will be inadequate.

Navigation

Each public landing has a sign facing the river that gives the name of the landing. These correspond to the sites listed in this Guide. There are no other markers on the river to indicate your location.

Recommended Gear

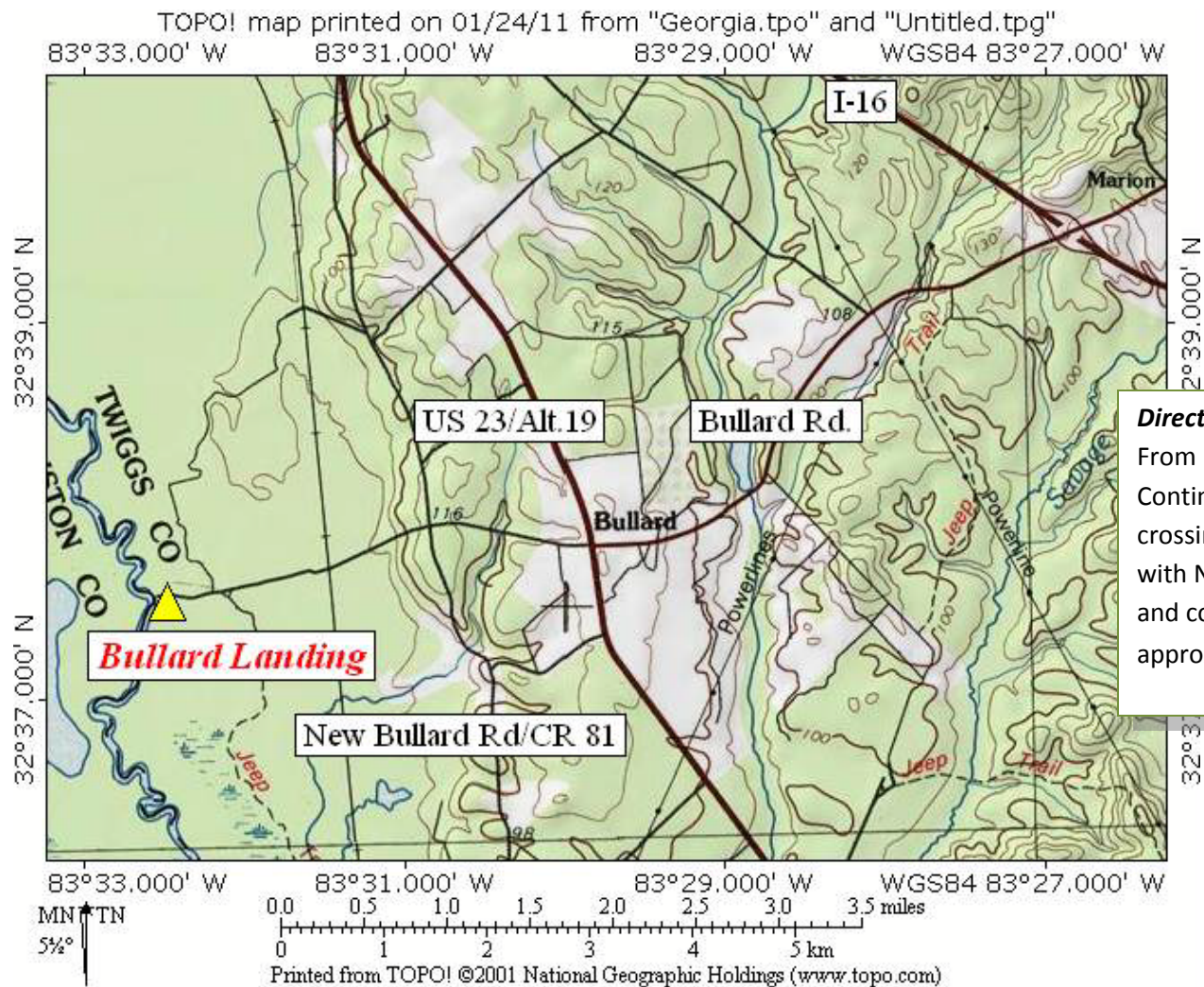
- Personal flotation device (PFD) for each paddler—required by law.
- Spare paddle.
- Dry bags & chart case for paddle guide & maps, cell phone, GPS, other important items.
- First aid kit and personal medications.
- Insect repellent, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses.
- Food and water—1 gal/person/day.
- Rain gear & cold weather clothes.
- Additional gear for overnight trips: Camping gear and flashlights, matches, cooking equipment.

Overnight Trips & Camping

There are 2 tent camping sites on the trail. The first is J. Dykes Memorial Park. It does not have bathrooms or water. The second is Mile Branch Park and it has restrooms and water.

There is no reservation system at either location. No permits or fees are required.

Bullard Landing p.3

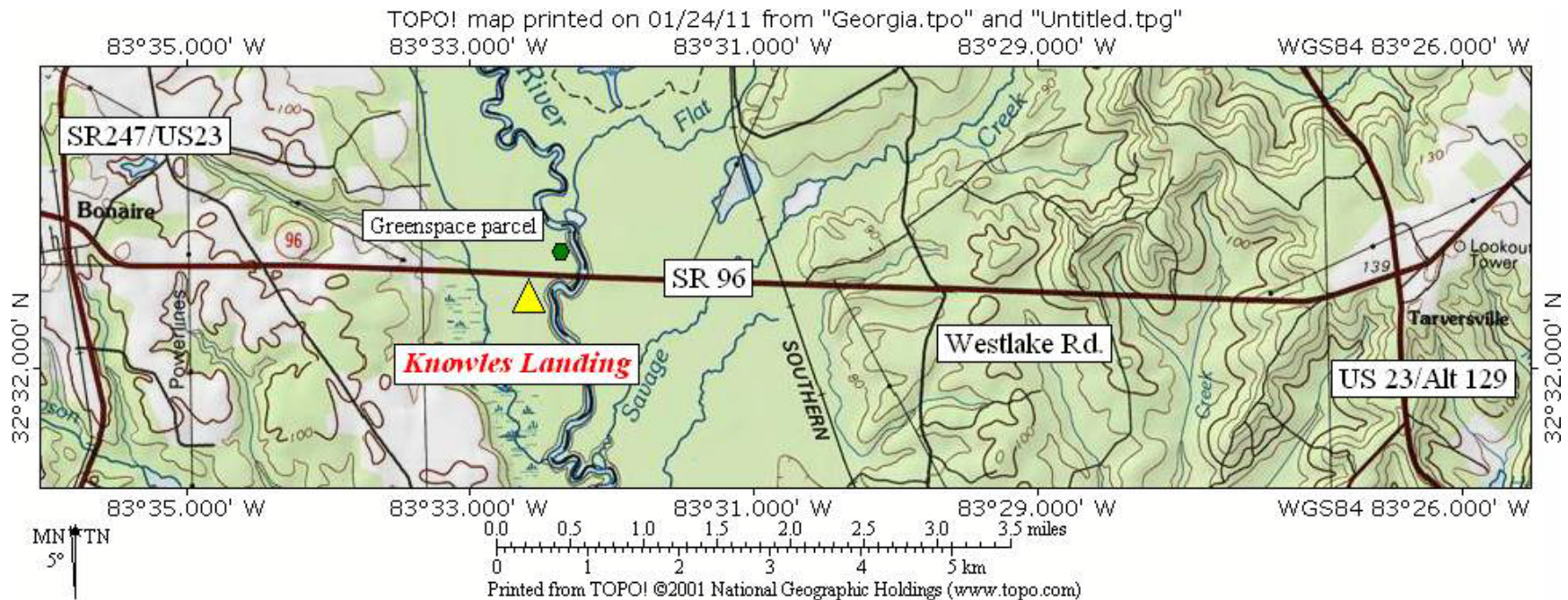


Directions:

From I-16, take exit 18, Bullard Road west. Continue west on Bullard Road after crossing US 23/Alt.129, to the intersection with New Bullard Road/CR 81. Cross CR 81 and continue west—now on a dirt road—approximately 2 miles to the river.

Facilities:

- No camping
- No restrooms or water.
- Grass parking for about 20 cars. Overnight parking allowed.
- Single concrete ramp to river.
- Remote location---do not leave valuables in your car.
- No other facilities nearby.



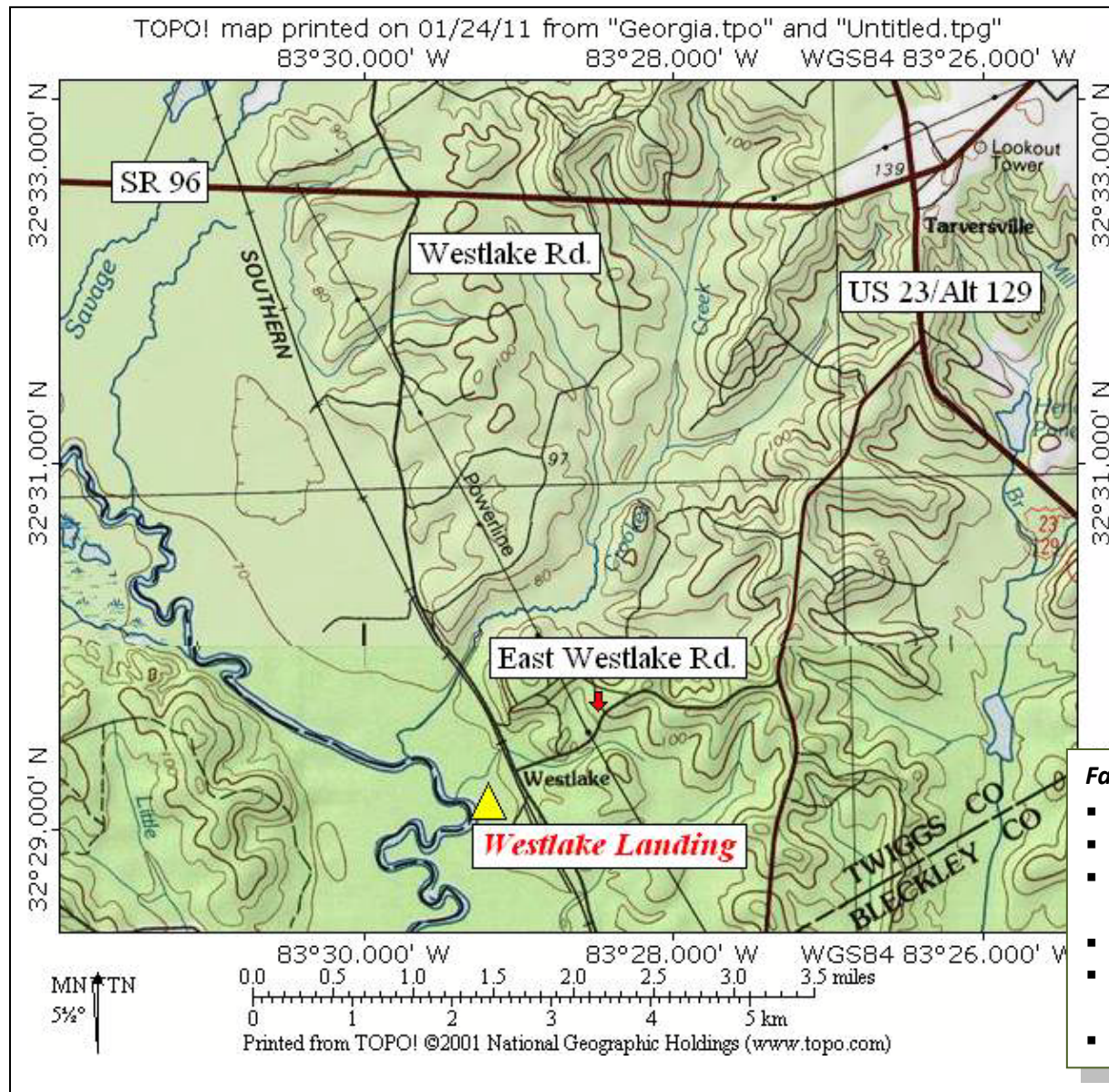
Directions:

The landing is on the south side of SR 96 at the river.

Facilities:

- No camping.
- No restrooms or water.
- Paved parking for approximately 30 vehicles.
- Concrete ramp to river.
- Overnight parking allowed.
- Closest supplies and facilities are in Bonaire, 3.5 miles west of the landing.

Westlake Landing p.5



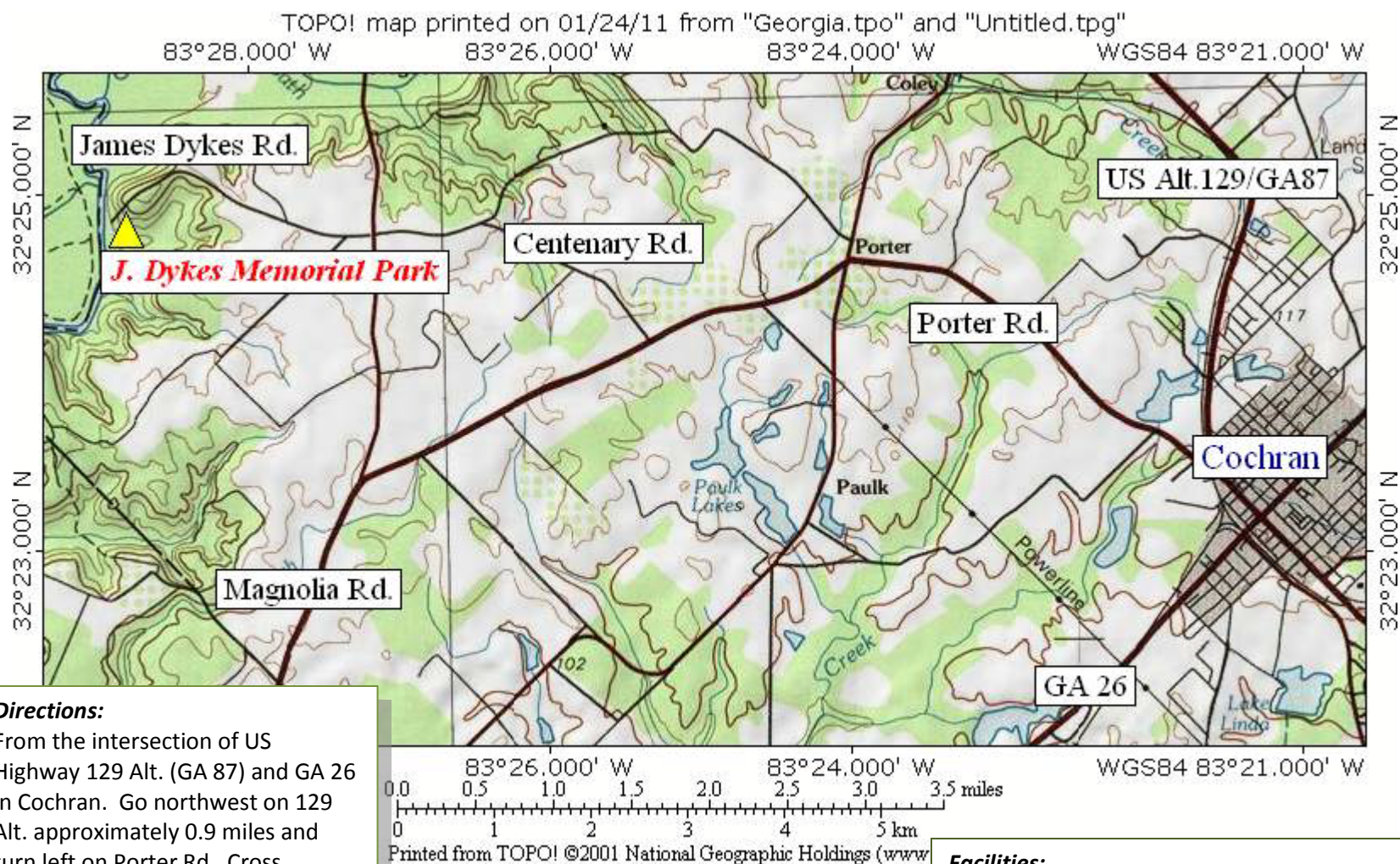
Directions:

From the intersection of SR 96 and US23/Alt. 129, proceed west on SR 96 to Westlake Road. Travel south on Westlake Road. Cross transmission line corridor and parallel railroad. Continue south to East Westlake Road. Turn right (west) and follow to river.

Facilities:

- No camping
- No restrooms or water.
- Grass parking for about 20 cars. Overnight parking allowed.
- Single concrete ramp to river.
- Remote location-do not leave valuables in your car.
- No other facilities nearby.

J. Dykes Park Landing p.6



Directions:

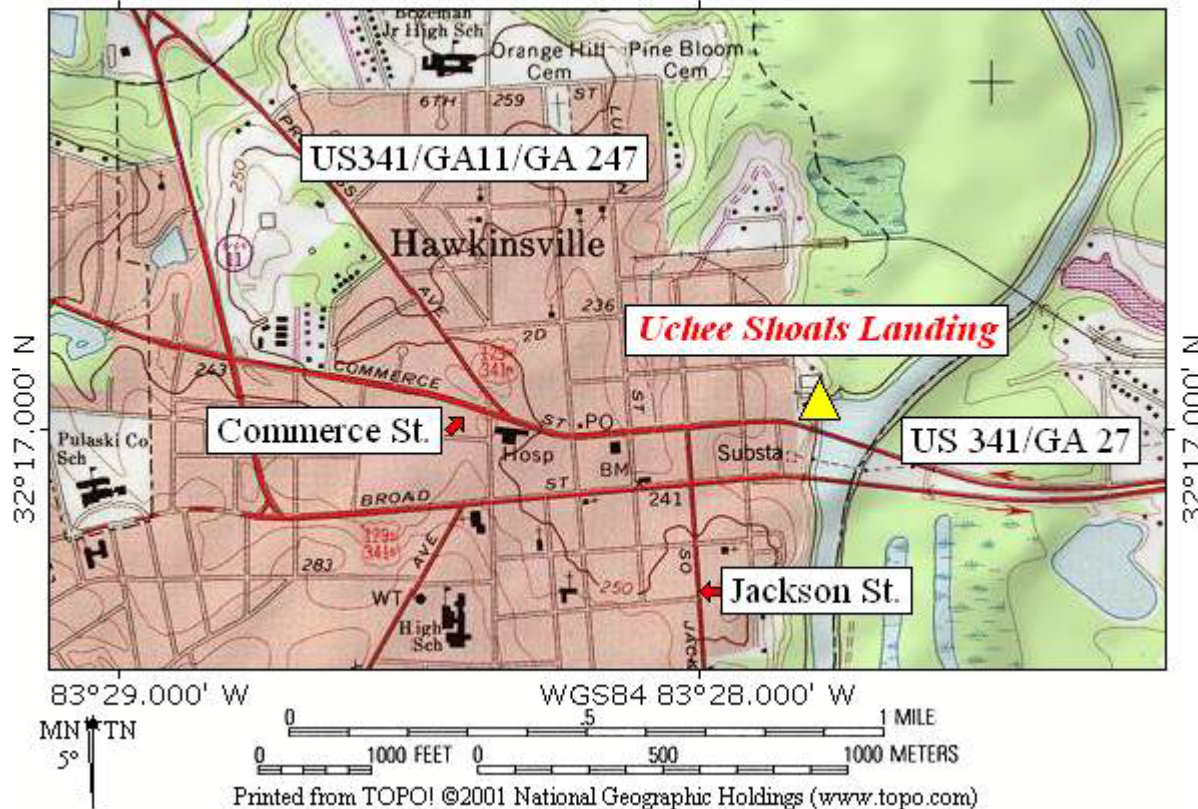
From the intersection of US Highway 129 Alt. (GA 87) and GA 26 in Cochran. Go northwest on 129 Alt. approximately 0.9 miles and turn left on Porter Rd. Cross railroad and follow Porter Rd. for the next 4.3 miles to Centenary Rd. Turn right on Centenary Rd. and go 4.0 miles to James Dykes Landing.

Facilities:

- Camping. No reservations or fees.
- No restrooms or water.
- Gravel parking for about 20 cars. Overnight parking allowed.
- Covered pavilion with tables and trash cans.
- Two double concrete ramps to river.
- Remote location-do not leave valuables in your

Uchee Shoals Landing p.7

TOPO! map printed on 01/24/11 from "Georgia.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"
83°29.000' W WGS84 83°28.000' W



Directions:

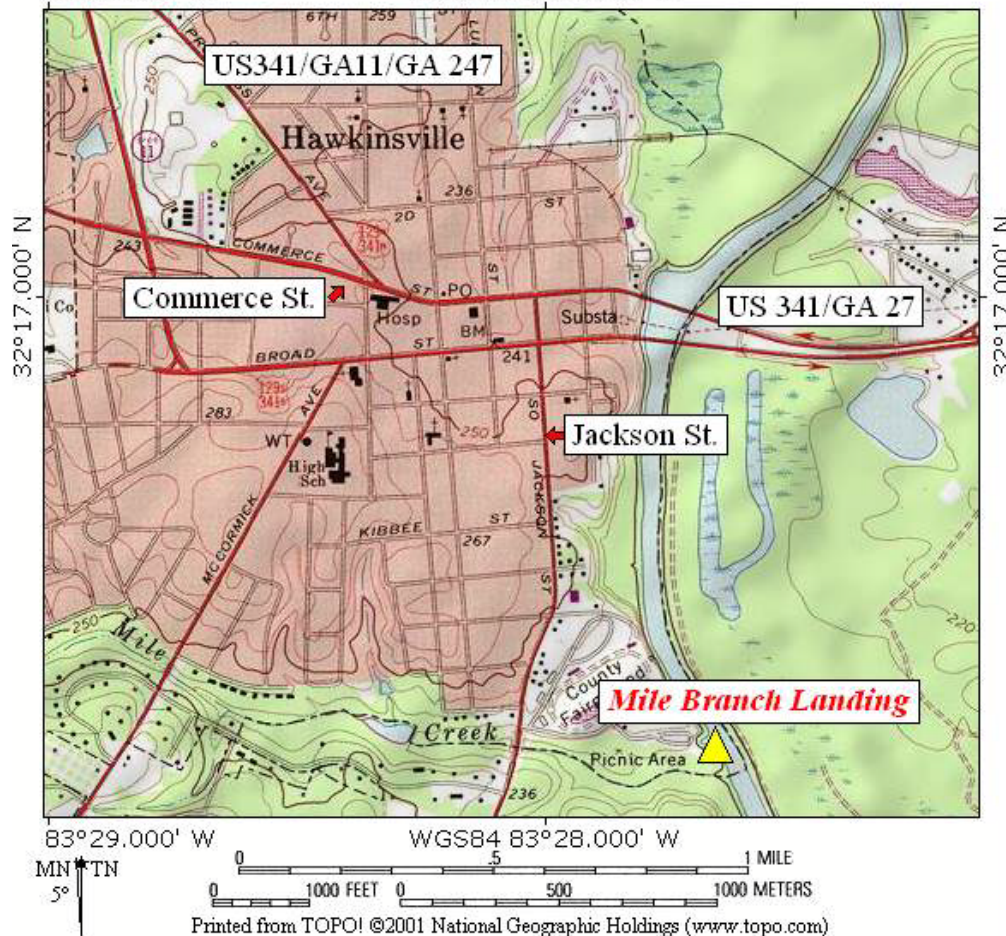
From Commerce Street/GA 27, on the west side of the bridge, turn onto N. Florida Avenue and drive down to the river.

Facilities:

- No camping. Hotel rooms available in Hawkinsville.
- No restrooms or water.
- Trash cans and picnic tables available.
- Limited paved parking for a few vehicles. Overnight parking allowed.
- Single concrete ramp to river.
- Located in downtown Hawkinsville.

Mile Branch Landing p.8

TOPO! map printed on 01/24/11 from "Georgia.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"
83°29.000' W WGS84 83°28.000' W



Directions:

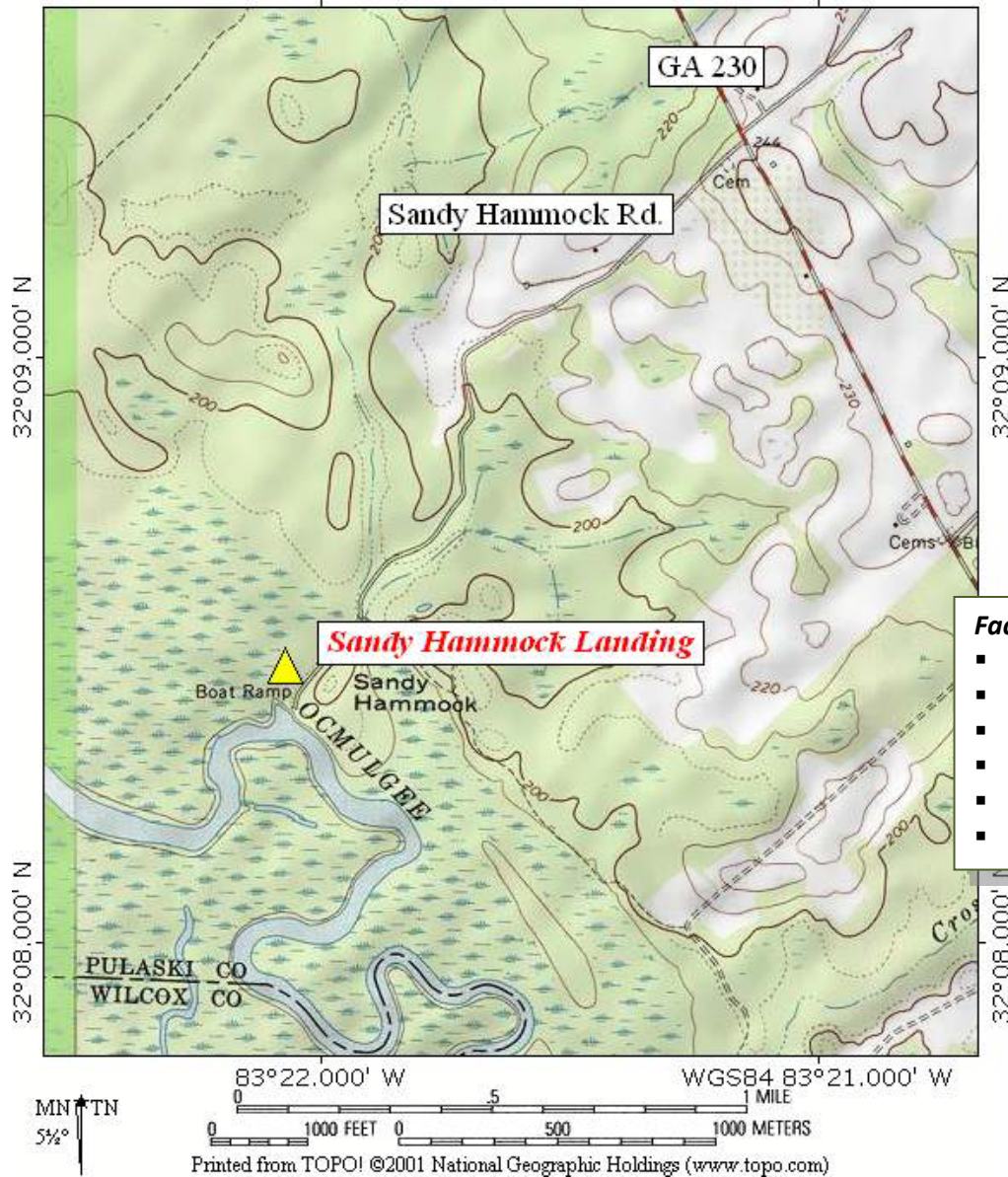
From Commerce Street in Hawkinsville, turn south onto S. Jackson Street/GA 11/US129. Proceed 0.9 mile and turn into the Park

Facilities:

- Tent camping allowed. Some electricity. Hot showers.
- Restrooms and water.
- Picnic tables, shelters, cooking grills & trash cans.
- Grass parking for about 20 vehicles. Overnight parking allowed
- Two concrete ramps to river.
- Nature Trail in the park.

Sandy Hammock Landing p.9

TOPOI map printed on 01/24/11 from "Georgia.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"
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Directions:

Drive east out of Hawkinsville over the bridge on US341, turn south on GA230 and travel about 11 miles, right onto Sandy Hammock Road (dirt) for about 1.5 miles.

Facilities:

- Primitive camping allowed.
- No restrooms or water.
- Dirt parking; limited spaces. Overnight parking allowed.
- Remote location -do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Single concrete ramp to river.
- No other facilities nearby.

Mileage between river Landings

Landing	County	River mile	Distance between
Bullard Landing	Twiggs	167.1	Start point
Knowles Landing @ SR 96	Houston	157.4	9.7
Westlake Landing	Twiggs	149.4	8
James Dykes Memorial Park **	Bleckley	141	8.4
Uchee Shoals Landing	Pulaski -city ramp	128.3	12.7
Mile Branch Landing **	Pulaski	127.2	1.1
Sandy Hammock Landing	Pulaski	113	14.2

**** provide camping sites**

Paddle Time

To calculate your paddle time, a general guide is 2-3 miles of river an hour for average, relaxed paddling under normal river conditions (no flood conditions).

Fishing

Enjoy fishing on the river but bring your fishing license. Please don't leave your pieces of fishing line in the water or on land, throw it in the trash. The line can cause injuries to wildlife.

A Georgia fishing license can be purchased from GA-DNR. www.gadnr.org. You can also purchase these at state parks and most sporting goods stores.

Leave No Trace

www.LNT.org. Please protect the river and the shoreline ecosystems. The counties and partners supporting the Ocmulgee Blueway encourage all paddlers to follow the Leave No Trace principles while using the blueway.

1. Plan ahead & prepare.
2. Travel & camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly—pack it in and pack it out.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.



Play it Safe & Know the River

- Check the forecast.
- Know the water levels and speed of the current on the river.
- Bring safety gear and be prepared for bad weather. Know the warning signs of hypothermia—even in warm weather.
- Know where your access points are and about how long you expect to be on the river.
- Let family or friends know about your paddle plans.
- If you are camping, make sure you have your gear stored in waterproof bags in case of a capsized.

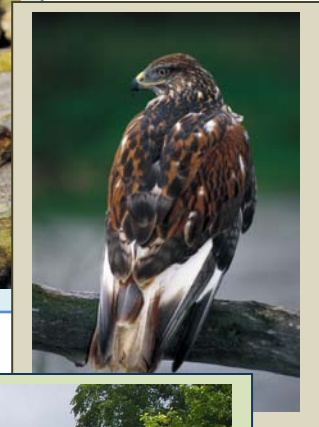
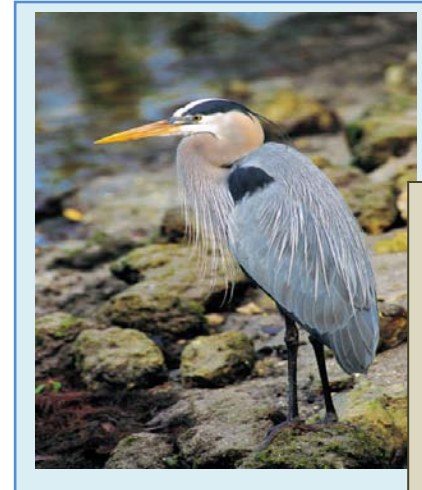


River Wildlife and Ecology

The Ocmulgee begins its journey to the Atlantic Ocean at the confluence of the Alcovy and South Rivers in the backwaters of Jackson Lake north of Macon. As the Ocmulgee leaves Macon, the Piedmont section of Georgia is ending and the Coastal Plain Physiographic Province is beginning. The river assumes the characteristics of the alluvial Coastal Plain streams as it meanders, in convoluted bends, toward Hawkinsville.

Bottomland forests cover either side of the river and provide wilderness cover for a genetically distinct population of blackbear, as well as the more common mammals such as whitetail deer, fox, wild boar, bobcat, weasels, river otter, rodents, raccoons, and bats. Many bird species make their home in the forests and several impressive species such as the Kingfisher, osprey, bald eagle, herons and egrets, fish the river and live nearby. Several species of hawks and falcons are found in the area along with turkey, quail and pheasant. You will be fortunate if you hear the call of some of the owls that live in the forests along the river. Many migratory birds use these forests for rest and food as they fly between their northern and southern homes during their yearly migrations.

Trees such as the water oak, live oak, overcup oak, cypress, sweet gum, red maple, tupelo, swamp black gum, and sweetbay magnolia are common to the riverbank. The soil along the shoreline is sandy clay and the banks are sometimes steep.



Contact Information:

Bleckley County:

City of Hawkinsville: 478-783-9294, downtown@comsouth.net

Houston County: 478-542-2115

Pulaski County: 478-783-4154

Twiggs County: 478-945-3486 director@twiggsschamber.com

Georgia River Network: www.garivers.org. 706-549-4508

GA Dept. of Natural Resources-Wildlife Resources: 478-825-6354

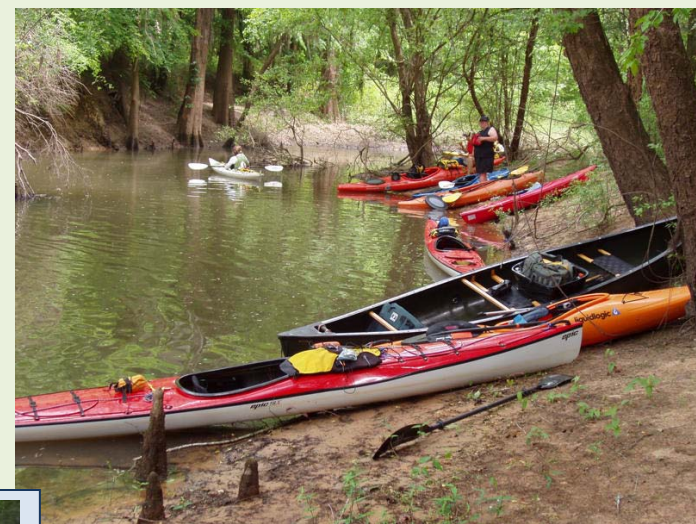
GA Environmental Protection Division: to report an environmental emergency: 404-656-4863 or 1-800-241-4113

Georgia Wildlife Federation:

<http://www.gwf.org/resources/georgiawildlife>

Georgia Canoeing Association: www.gapaddle.com

Emergencies: call 911





Partners

Bleckley County
City of Hawkinsville
Houston County
Pulaski County
Twiggs County

July 2010

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Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service

