

Parks Allatoona

Bartow County has a distinctly unique opportunity to create a regionally significant 6500 + acre conservation park that would provide ready access to impressive environmental features, an extensive active recreation trail system, and a long-forgotten wilderness setting historical story. This concept, “Parks Allatoona” is within eastern Bartow County and would stretch north and east from the City of Cartersville's existing Pine Mtn Recreation Area, through Bartow County's Gatewood Park asset, then along the Corp of Engineer's Allatoona Lake shoreline to Bartow County's Wilderness Shoals property then north within the Corp's Stamp Creek Corridor to the Stamp Creek Road area. The envisioned concept would feature challenging terrain within the Allatoona Range of mountains, miles of picturesque Lake Allatoona shorelines, the pristine Stamp Creek trout stream corridor, and an impressive concentration of long-forgotten Historical Sites and Ruins. Proper design of Parks Allatoona would incorporate, a network of 50+ miles of public access trails to provide access to and link 20 targeted focal points located within its envisioned boundary, as summarized here:

- Eight existing public **Lakeside Recreation and Public Use Sites** located along the lake’s north shore, surrounded by the southernmost reach of the Appalachian Blue Ridge Mtns.
- Six different and inaccessible natural significant areas, including **Scenic Stamp Creek** - an unspoiled trout stream, the whitewater scenery of **Wilderness Shoals, Pine Mtn** and its spectacular overlook, and several enchanting lake **Creek Inflow Meadows**.
- Six significant wilderness setting **Historical Frontier Sites** where the south’s sustainable industrial economy was birthed in the 1830's - thriving to the 1860's.

The proposed concept is, according to the State EPD, at the edge of an area "**known as one of the richest centers of biodiversity in the eastern United States**", within the southern reaches of the Blue Ridge Mtns. All of the tens of thousands acres of wilderness property (with minor exception) that surrounds this significant concentration of natural, cultural and historical resources are presently either in public or private conservation easement protection. The formative management structure is a collaborative joint venture led by appropriate public land stewardship of the Corps of Engineers, city/county administration/management, GA DNR facilitation, and Lake Allatoona Association community volunteer support. Exhibits & descriptive details are available as submitted by Bartow County to Planning agencies for designation as a Regionally Significant Historical, Natural & Cultural resource.