

ALABAMA OUTDOOR
RECREATION PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





GEORGE C. WALLACE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

MONTGOMERY

June 24, 1971

To the Citizens of Alabama:

I am pleased to submit this summary of Alabama's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. It is the state's official guide for acquisition and development programs to preserve Alabama's natural resources and provide outdoor recreation land, water, and facilities for residents and visitors.

Alabama is blessed with natural resources--with its relatively unspoiled Gulf of Mexico front, with its bays and wetlands, with its mountains and plains, with its canyons, caves and caverns, and with its many lakes and reservoirs, wildlife areas, parklands, forests, ponds, and streams. Yet, most importantly, Alabama is blessed with opportunity--an opportunity to recognize that quality of life in the state is dependent largely on these resources, and the opportunity to act now to ensure their protection, proper development and enjoyment.

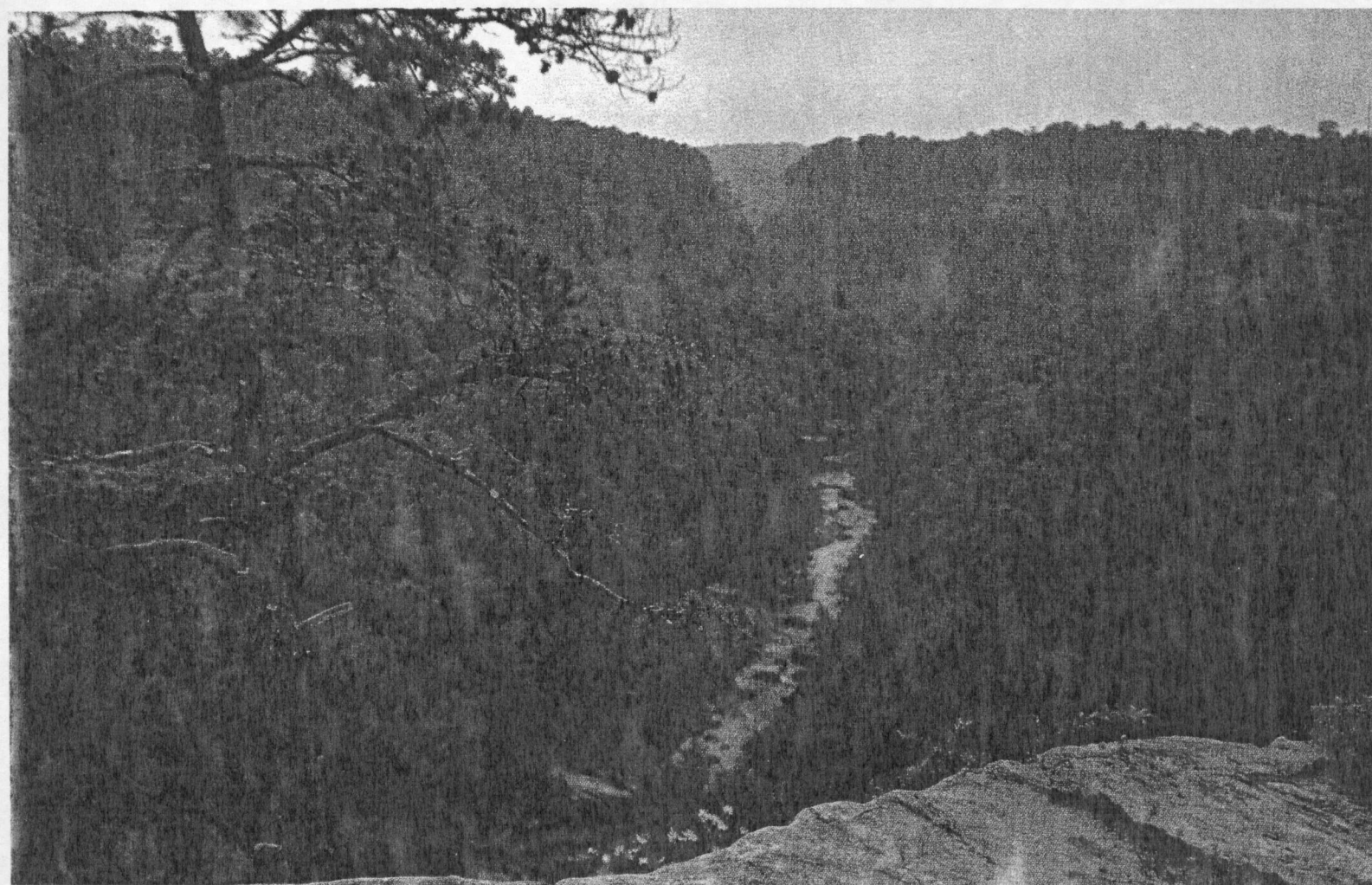
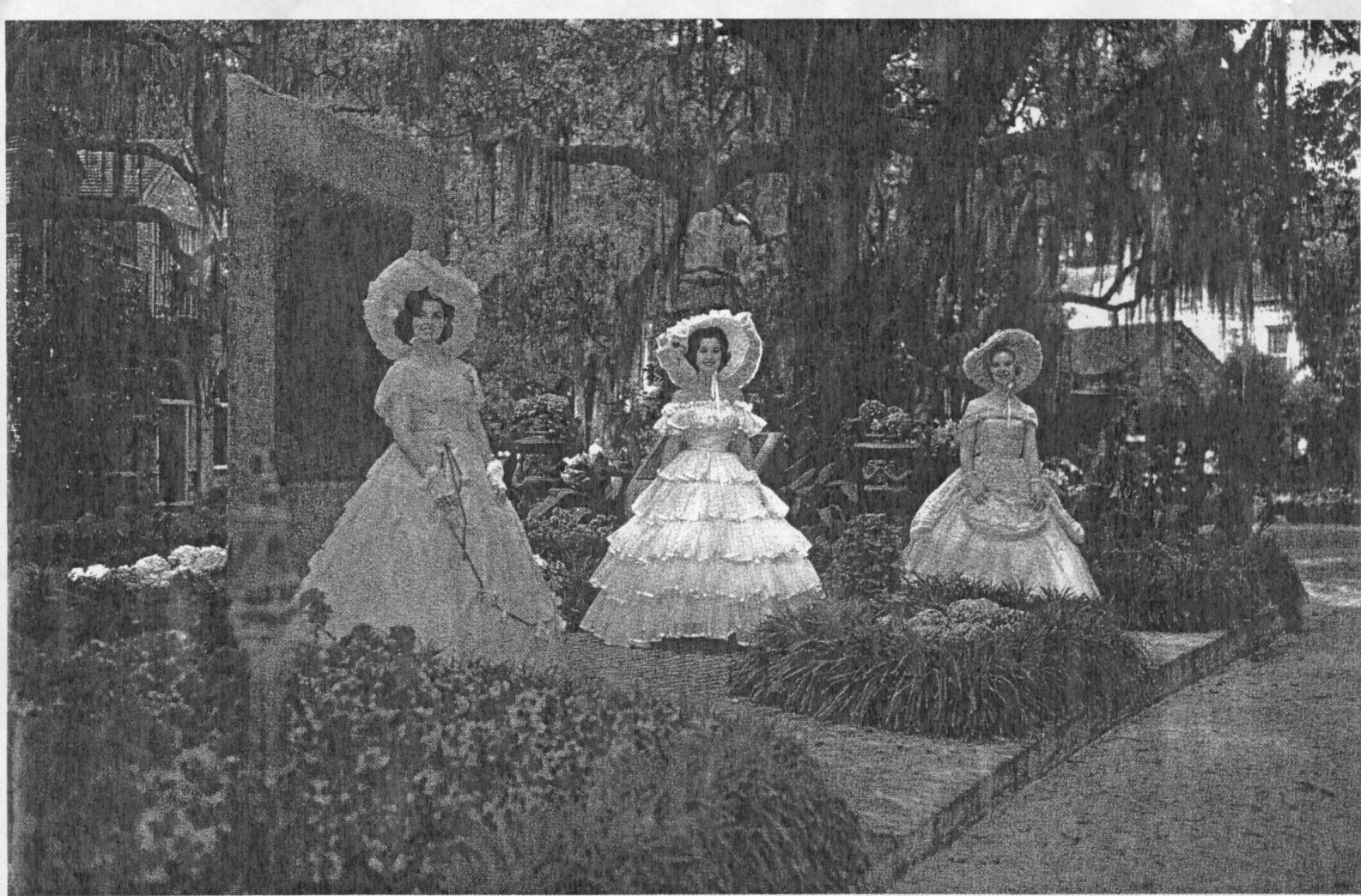
The Alabama Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan reflects the state's goals to maintain and improve the quality of the environment and to provide present and future generations with opportunities for a satisfying outdoor recreation experience.

Please review this summary of the Alabama Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. We invite your comments and suggestions as further study, planning, and action is undertaken to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George C. Wallace". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George C. Wallace
Governor



Preface

This is a summary of the Alabama Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1970. It is intended to serve as a quick and easy reference for public officials and the general public who are interested in Alabama's current recreational facilities, needs, and plans for the future.

Information in this summary came from findings of a study made by Auburn University Agricultural Experiment Station under contract with the Alabama Department of Conservation, beginning August 16, 1967. Complete details of the findings are reported in 10 volumes. The initial report, "State Responsibility," was published in December 1967. This was followed by publication in 1970 of "A Plan of Action" and eight volumes of related data. Some data developed since

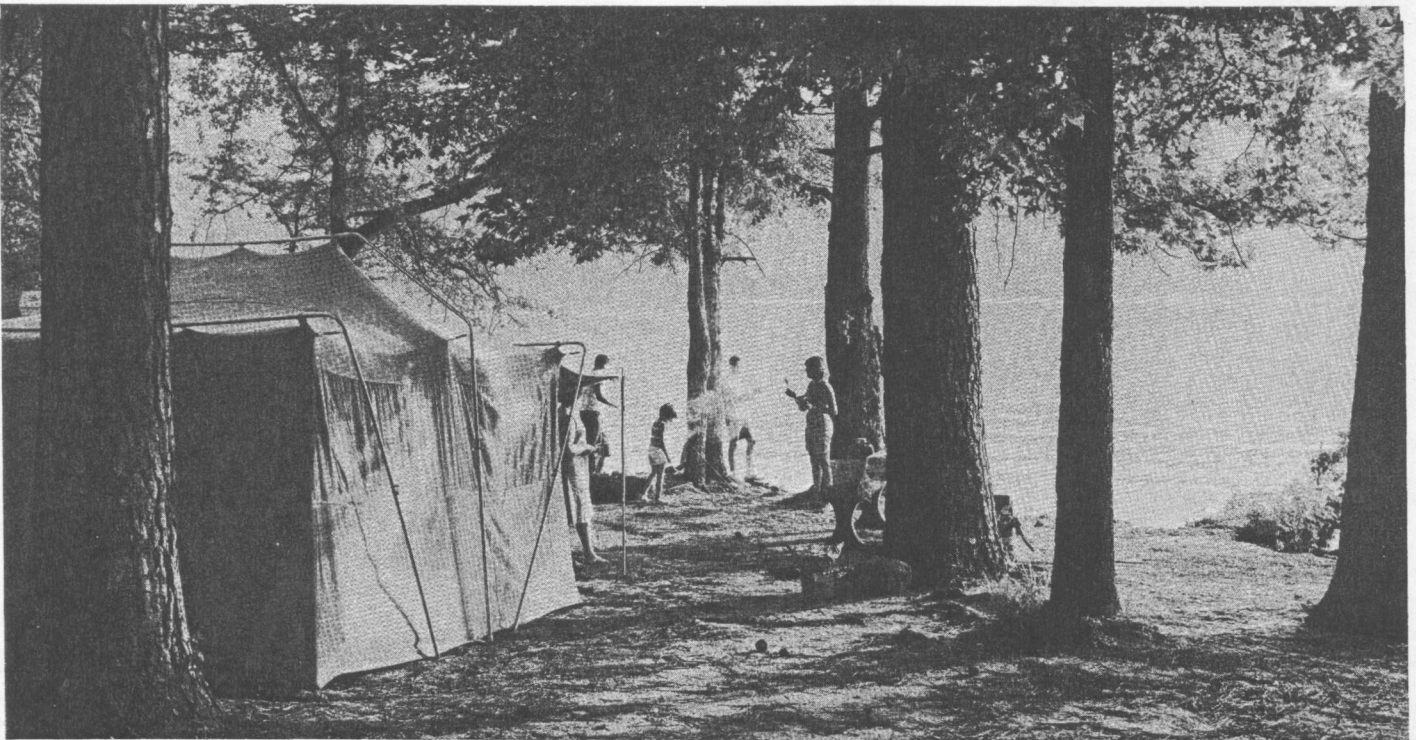
completion of the 1970 plan are used to update this summary. Information on the complete plan can be obtained from:

Division of Outdoor Recreation
Alabama Department of Conservation
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

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Foreword

RECREATION IS an important part of everyone's life in today's leisure-oriented society. And recreation to most Alabamians means getting outside for boating, picnicking, golfing, fishing, swimming, hunting, camping, driving, or one of the many other popular pastimes.

The myriad outdoor recreation activities have one thing in common, the necessity for outdoor space. This requirement of space with varying degrees of facility development for specific activities is a problem, and one that is intensified by the almost certain continued growth in recreation demand in Alabama, both by residents and visitors.

But outdoor recreation is more than just pleasure activity for participants. As a major income-producing industry, recreation and tourism involve travel, service, construction, and other industries. Thus, plans for developing the best possible recreation facilities to take advantage of the state's natural resources must also take into account the overall economic growth and development plans of Alabama.

Responsibility of government in providing recreational facilities has received increased acceptance in recent years, thereby creating public policy problems. Therefore, Alabama has turned to research as a means of identifying specific problems and formulating plans that will provide guidance and make possible the right mix of public and private facilities.



STATEWIDE PLAN DEVELOPED

The Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1970, was prepared by the Alabama Department of Conservation. This is the officially designated state agency responsible for outdoor recreation planning in Alabama and for administration of the grant program under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. Areas of major interest, which are summarized in this publication, include (1) a detailed inventory of recreation areas and facilities of the state by specific agencies; (2) demand for outdoor recreation by activities; (3) need for additional outdoor recreation resources by activities and planning districts; and (4) a proposed action program.



The 1970 plan was preceded by preliminary plans published in 1966 and 1967, which were the first attempts to prepare comprehensive plans for Alabama. The 1966, 1967, and 1970 plans were prepared to partially fulfill requirements for participation in the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (amended in 1967).

The 1970 survey analyzed Alabama's recreation resources—water, land and facilities—in much greater detail than had ever been attempted before. Equally detailed was the investigation of residents' participation in specific forms of outdoor recreation and the resulting analysis of current and projected demands.

With the wealth of information obtained, this summary provides a review of (1) where we are in the outdoor recreation field, (2) what we need, and (3) what we should do to meet the demands of Alabama's citizens and visitors for recreation to 1980. It compares, through the use of conversion standards, demand for specific outdoor activities and the availability of resources for such recreation.

Through the process described, current needs were determined and projected for the year 1980. This information was the basis for development of an action program for acquiring and managing the state's recreation resources to meet future needs.

Like most states, Alabama is in the early stages of planning for outdoor recreation. This plan provides a centralized source of information for all persons engaged in such planning. It presents a base plan by which Alabama can proceed in the administration of state and federal funds, particularly those designated for outdoor recreation under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. Designed to have flexibility, the plan will be subject to periodic changes as new situations arise and as needs of citizens and resource availability change.

The Setting

BLUE SKY . . . rippling waters . . . ocean breezes . . . pleasant climate . . . mountain views . . . singing birds . . . chirping crickets . . . refreshing silence of a remote spot . . . clean smells of woods and streams . . . friendly people . . . the feeling of history coming alive.

Such things as these cannot be inventoried in the usual manner, but each one represents a resource that is important to outdoor recreation and that is in abundant supply in Alabama. These are some of the intangibles that give the state that little "extra something" to make the difference between "good" and "excellent" in its recreation resources.

Of course Alabama has an abundance of specific natural resources for outdoor recreation that can be listed and counted. Natural variety is probably its greatest asset in this regard. There are mountains, prairies, rivers, lakes, Gulf of Mexico beaches, forests, waterfalls, canyons, caves, wildlife, and fish of many kinds. To this is added the man-made resources—cities, sleepy country towns, parks, motor speedways, space and rocket centers, agriculture, industry, colleges and universities, preserved historical sites, resorts that cater to a tourist's every whim, restaurants that specialize in traditional food of the region—plus the valuable resource of its hard-working people. This mixture of natural and man-made resources provides the necessary ingredients to make Alabama a leader in outdoor recreation.

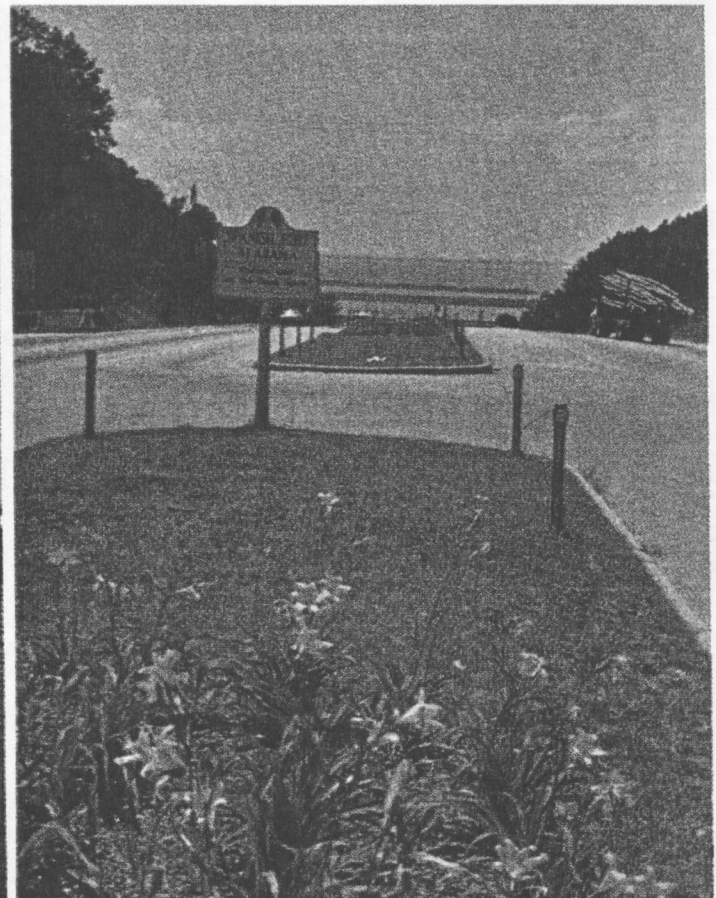
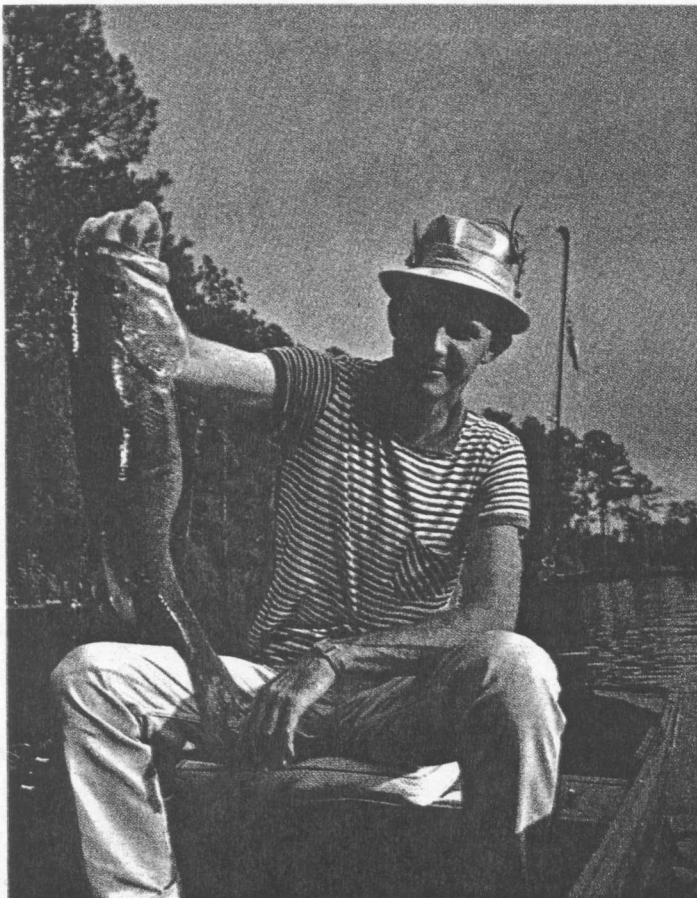
HISTORY

Alabama has a fascinating history, dating back some 10,000 years when prehistoric Indians first made their home in the region. Indians continued to be the only inhabitants of what is now Alabama until exploration by the white man began in 1540 when DeSoto and his Spanish explorers passed through on the way from Florida to the Mississippi River.

The first white settlement was a temporary one by the Spanish on Dauphin Island in 1559. But there were no permanent settlers until 1702 when the French settled Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff on the Mobile River. When this settlement was destroyed by flood waters, the French settlers moved to Mobile in 1711. Other settlements were made during this same time period as settlers pushed farther inland.

France ceded a portion of Alabama to England in the 1763 Treaty of Paris following the French and Indian War, and 20 years later Britain gave this area to the United States. The remaining portion of Alabama was annexed at the time of the War of 1812.

Indians played a major role in Alabama's development during these early years. Creeks, Cherokees, Chickasaws, and Choctaws were major tribes that occupied what was to become Alabama. The early peace between settlers and Indians gradually deteriorated into warfare, and resulted in the Fort Mims massacre by the Creeks in 1813. Andrew Jackson's





defeat of the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend the following year broke the back of the Creek nation and opened up the area for settlement.

The Alabama Territory was created in 1817 with the territorial capitol located north of Mobile at St. Stephens on the Tombigbee River. Two years later Alabama became the 22nd state of the United States with Huntsville as the temporary capitol site. Cahaba was chosen and developed as the capitol, but the flooding Alabama and Cahaba Rivers destroyed it. Tuscaloosa then became the temporary capitol in 1826, and it remained there until being moved to Montgomery in 1846 where it has remained.

On January 11, 1861, Alabama withdrew from the Union and became the Republic of Alabama. Less than a month later (February 4, 1861) Alabama joined the Confederacy, with Montgomery serving as the first capitol of that ill-fated nation.

Six flags have flown over Alabama since the first white man arrived in 1540—Spanish, French, English, Republic of Alabama, Confederate States of America, and United States. All have contributed to Alabama's heritage, and numerous historical sites are maintained that attest to the contributions of each. Many of these sites are major tourist attractions, and others could be developed. The state has 30 entries on the National Register of Historic Places and the Alabama Historical Commission recently nominated additional structures and sites to the Register.



It is apparent that the state's history has much to offer in developing facilities of interest to a wide range of people.

GEOGRAPHY

Located in the "Heart of Dixie," Alabama extends 330 miles northward from the Gulf of Mexico, covering nearly five degrees of latitude. Its range of topography is from the extreme of mountains and river valleys in the north, through the flat prairie lands of the Black Belt and the sandy coastal plains soils that cover much of the state, to Mobile Bay and the Gulf beaches. Thus, a vacationer can enjoy the Alabama sun while swimming in the Gulf, hiking in the mountains at elevations up to 2,407 feet, or visiting historic scenes of the Old South.

Topography of the state gives rise to 17 river drainage basins, resulting in about a million acres of inland and brackish water available for recreational uses. Landscape variations offer diversification for park location, and the extensive resource base of the state makes possible all types of parks—historical, scenic, and recreational. Climate is favorable for many types of recreation during much of the year, except for a few winter sports. Seasonal changes provide a wealth of beauty.

LAND RESOURCES

Alabama has 33,029,760 surface acres, with 32,432,860 acres of this being land in 1970. More than 29 million of these acres are now used for agricultural and forestry purposes, but the amount devoted to non-agricultural purposes is expected to increase by 1980 and again by 2000.

There is much land in both agricultural and non-agricultural classifications that could be put to recreation uses. Such land could be used for parks and open space for urban areas, scenic highways, golf courses, and historic sites, to mention a few.

Soils of Alabama are divided into four major areas on the basis of parent material from which they developed, Figure 1.

What grows on the land is important to outdoor recreation, and Alabama is fortunate in this regard. Forests dominate in the state and forest land is considered a big asset for outdoor recreation activities. Although pines are by far the most im-

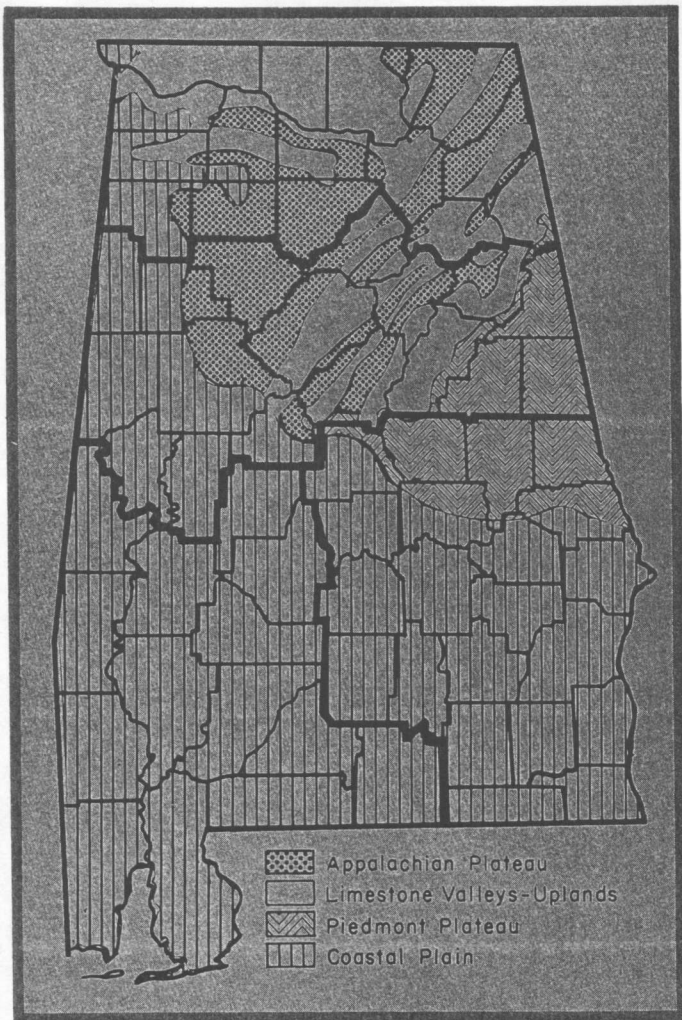


FIG. 1. Major soil areas of Alabama.

portant timber crop, the state's forests include many oaks, gums, cypress, maples, flowering dogwoods, persimmon, sycamore, magnolia, and beech, to mention a few, that add beauty to the landscape, particularly in spring and fall.

A wealth of wild plants abounds in Alabama (some 4,500 known), many of which are especially beautiful during certain seasons. For example, rhododendrons, wild honeysuckle, wild azaleas, dogwoods, and eastern redbud provide a brilliance of blossoms in spring.

Alabama's wildlife is as varied as the habitat conditions that support it. In 1951, for example, 352 species of birds had been seen in Alabama; of these, 154 are known to breed in the state. Most common game birds include geese, duck, teal, merganser, bobwhite, turkey, rail, gallinule, and dove. The most frequently hunted game animals include the white-tailed deer, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, and fox. Deer and turkey are found in all counties of the state.

WATER RESOURCES

Alabama's wealth of water resources is generally recognized as one of its most valuable assets, both from recreation and industry standpoints. With annual rainfall of 54 to 58 inches and 17 river drainage systems with numerous impoundments, the state truly has the resources to be a "water playground." In addition to popular water sports, such as boating, skiing, and

swimming, the state's large water acreage provides a paradise for the fisherman. Over 200 species of freshwater fish plus an unknown number of saltwater fish are found in Alabama's waters. The avid fisherman has a choice ranging from freshwater species like bass, crappie, catfish, and bream to saltwater varieties of flounder, dolphin, sailfish, and red snapper, and to speckled trout found in brackish waters.

In addition to water areas, Alabama has numerous acres of marsh and swamp land. These areas provide a broad zone of transition that meet the requirements of many water birds, water creatures, and game animals.

Acreage of water area in the state continues to increase as more and more impoundments are made. In 1967 there were 596,900 total acres of inland water, of which 66 per cent was in large impoundments (40 acres or more) and 17 per cent each in rivers and creeks and natural lakes and ponds. By 1980 the total is expected to increase to 663,220 acres, with large impoundments showing the most increase and rivers and creeks actually decreasing. Location of the major rivers and impoundments is shown in Figure 2.

The coastline of Alabama that is available for marine life includes some 607 total miles of tidal shoreline with about 358,400 acres of salt and brackish waters. Major shoreline recreational areas are on about 205 miles, evenly divided between the Gulf of Mexico and Mobile and Perdido bays. Of this total, 115 miles are sand beach and 90 miles are marsh land. Much of this area is undeveloped.



TRANSPORTATION

Although air transportation may be important for some residents and out-of-state visitors to reach Alabama recreation facilities (five airlines now serve major Alabama cities), automobiles provide the major method of getting people from home to destination. Thus, existing and planned interstate highways and other roads must be considered in locating facilities. Distance alone is not a reliable indicator of travel since time of travel is more important than mileage in many cases. For example, a Birmingham family living near an interstate might prefer to travel a much greater distance by interstate highway than to cross town to a nearby park or other facility.

The interstate highway system is probably the factor that will have the greatest future impact on locating recreation facilities for maximum use. Resident families will prefer facilities near interstate highways to cut travel time and provide maximum time at the site. Visitors will be attracted to facilities that are near interstate highways and they will be less likely to leave the highway for long side trips to attractions.

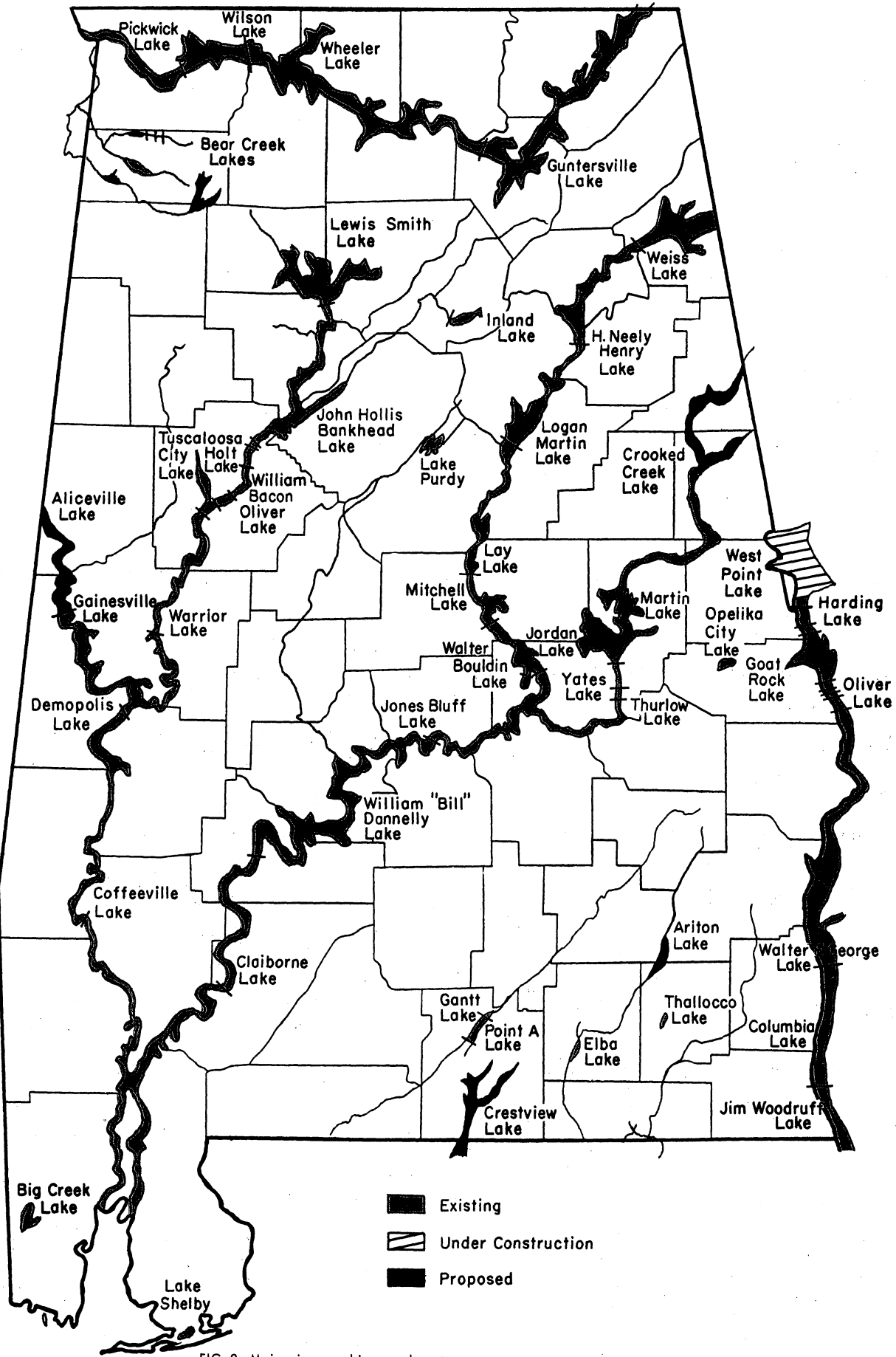


FIG. 2. Major rivers and impoundments.

Goals, Objectives, Policy, Planning Methods

STATE GOALS

THE ULTIMATE GOAL of the Outdoor Recreation Plan is to ensure adequate recreation facilities for the enjoyment and well being of all Alabama residents and visitors. Such recreation facilities must be accessible to the public and take into consideration needs of the disadvantaged. To satisfy these criteria, three specific state goals are defined:

(1) To assure the people of Alabama an adequate system of outdoor recreation resources and facilities that will encourage maximum use and enjoyment of the state's heritage of natural, historic, and cultural resources.

(2) To assure the conservation and appropriate development of the state's environment, including the preservation of significant historic sites and natural areas.

(3) To maintain an environment of quality in which to provide a mixture of outdoor recreation activities for all participants.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The primary objective of the comprehensive plan is to create action, with the action programs based on recreation needs, interests, and demands of Alabama residents and visitors. The plan was also designed to serve as the basic framework to guide public and private action in the area of outdoor recreation.

Specific objectives of the study are:

(1) To point out the major recreational needs of Alabama residents and visitors.

(2) To suggest ways of meeting the needs by recreation planning districts.

(3) To suggest a plan of action for improvement and maintenance of the environmental quality of outdoor recreation resources.

(4) To suggest a framework of state policies and actions for continuance planning, staffing, and development.

(5) To provide a guide for both public and private management in the development of recreation resources throughout the state.

(6) To continue the state's eligibility for Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds.

GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES

(1) All levels of government should contribute, consistent with their capabilities, in meeting public needs for outdoor recreation.

(2) Private business and individuals should be encouraged to provide certain recreation services and facilities where economically feasible.

(3) Following the concept of local planning, the state should seek local or regional land use controls in conjunction with its investment in facilities.

(4) Although state residents were given major emphasis in planning for recreation, the economic importance of tourism to Alabama was also considered.

(5) Primary attention must be given to protecting quality of both water and land resources while striving for a high quality recreation program.

COORDINATION NECESSARY

An outdoor recreation plan can be successful only if there is understanding and joint action by those involved in planning at all levels of administration.

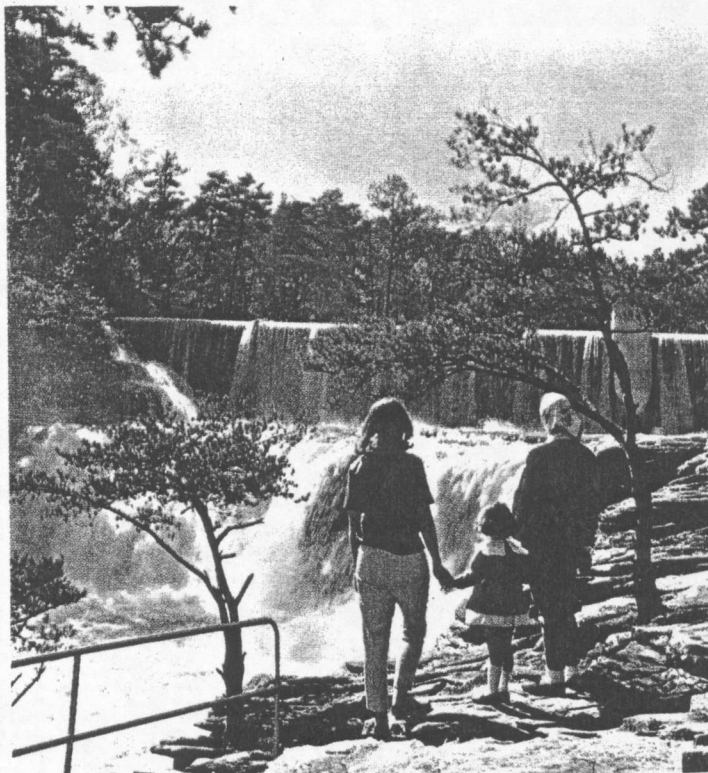
The Alabama Development Office, which serves under the Governor, provides for coordination of this plan with overall state plans. Proper coordination calls for consideration of such things as statewide economic studies on tourism, water and land resource planning, and various plans by regional, county, and municipal governments. All plans must be considered together for maximum benefit to the state.

Several agencies and organizations are involved in managing different programs involving state parks, fishing lakes, wildlife preserves, water impoundments, public lands, minerals, forests, local parks, and recreation. All of these must be considered in implementing the outdoor recreation plan.

PLANNING METHODS

Planning Regions

The state was divided into four planning regions, Figure 3, on the basis of natural resources that could be useful to outdoor recreation. Regions 1, 3, and 4 had about equal propor-



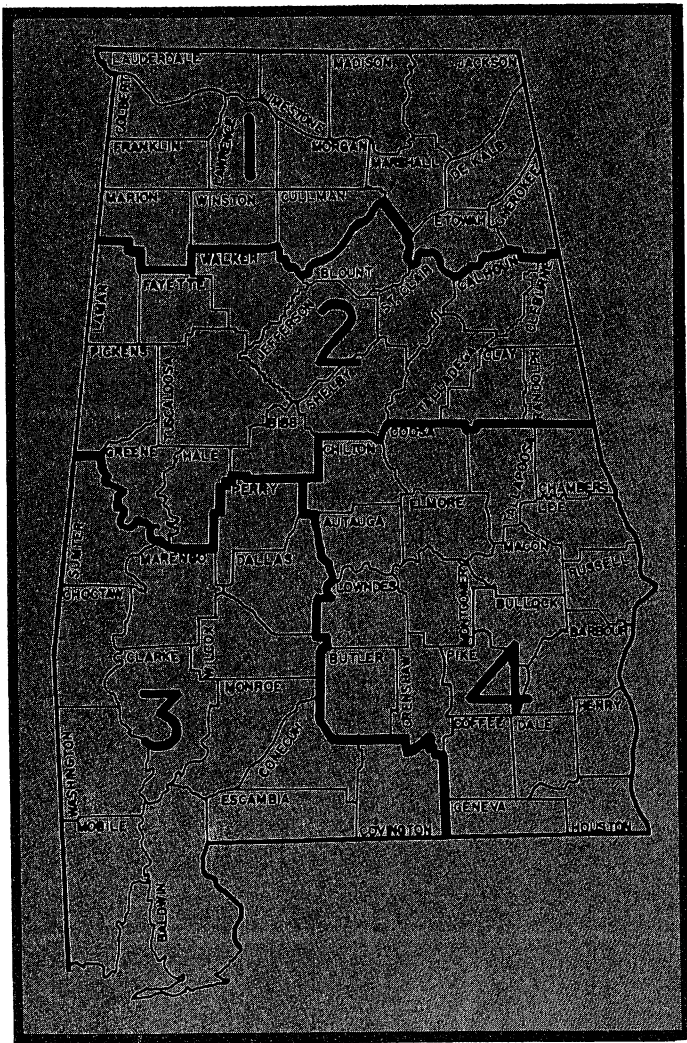


FIG. 3. Planning regions.

tions of the state's 3,212 public and private recreation sites and about the same proportions of total population. Region 2 had more of the sites, and a proportionately larger share of population, as given here:

	Per cent of all sites	Per cent of population
Region 1	23	23
Region 2	30	35
Region 3	23	21
Region 4	24	21

Planning Districts

Each of the four planning regions was divided into three or more recreation planning districts, making a total of 13 districts in Alabama, Figure 4. The districts gave major consideration to the location of people and were arranged so that any resident in a district could travel to any point within that district in one hour or less. Thus, day-use recreational facilities could be provided near all residents by planning on the basis of the districts. All data on demand, supply, and needs were developed by both planning regions and planning districts.

Procedure

The plan itself is comprehensive in that all aspects of outdoor recreation have been considered, including all significant

recreation activities, resources, and facilities in the state. Likewise, special consideration has been given to requirements of urban areas and to the needs of recreation planning regions and districts. Recommendations have been made for meeting these needs. Projections of demands and needs were made through the year 2000, however only needs to 1980 are shown in this summary.

The basic data used in the plan were obtained from the following sources:

1. A demand survey, based on a representative population sample of the four planning regions, to measure recreation demand.

2. An inventory of Alabama recreation areas (supply as represented by 3,212 sites) both public and private. In addition, data were developed on physical and natural resources that were related to outdoor recreation.

3. A comparison of demand and supply data based on space or use conversion standards developed for the state.

4. Additional data, materials, and suggestions obtained from many governmental agencies, local organizations, and individuals with respect to specific items needed for the plan.

The outdoor recreation plan provides guidelines for the operation and development of a vastly improved outdoor recreation program for Alabama residents and out-of-state visitors. It will be supplemented over the next five years with a continuing program of planning, research, leadership, and agency coordination.

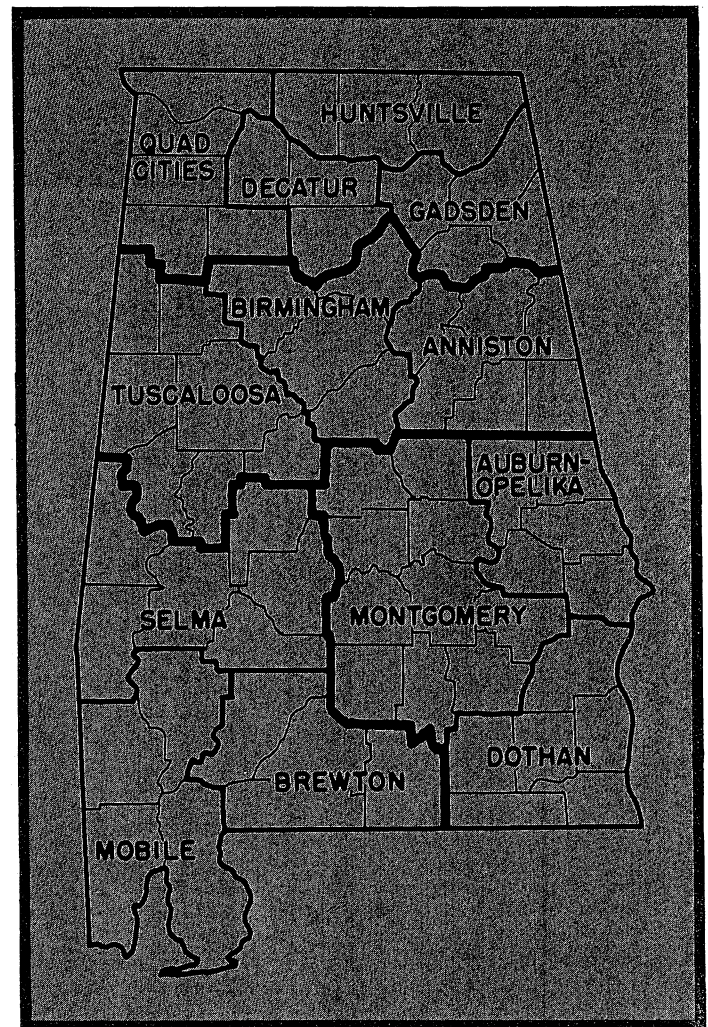
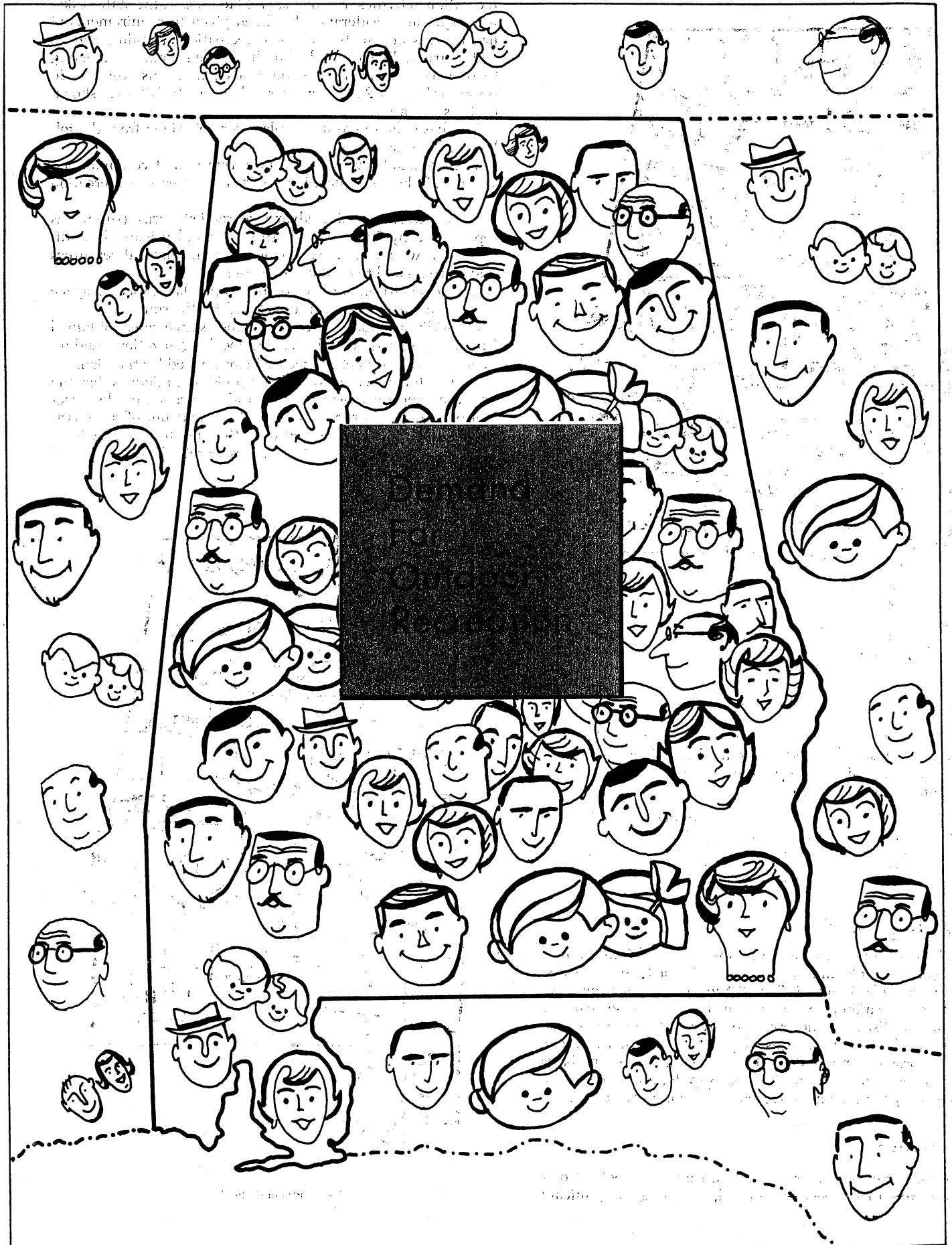


FIG. 4. Planning districts.



RECREATION IS population oriented. As population grows so does the demand for recreation. The resident population of Alabama serves as the major source of demand for outdoor recreation in the state. Total population for 1970 was 3,444,165, but 1980 and 2000 projections call for growth at an increasing rate. Visitors are large users of the state's recreation resources and their numbers also are projected to increase.

In addition to population, such factors as age, income, sex, race, education, occupation, number of persons working in a family, length of work week, and place of residence are important. These characteristics affect both kinds of recreation desired by an individual and frequency of participation in any given activity. Changes in these factors expected between the present and 1980 were considered in developing future needs. In studying demand for recreation, only persons 12 years of age or older were counted in the recreation population. This should include 72 per cent of the total state population in 1967 and 1980.

Participation of Alabama residents in outdoor recreation was measured by a survey of a random sample of the population, with each of the four planning regions serving as a universe. Data were gathered on 37 activities. For out-of-state visitors, information was developed from both survey and secondary data.

As a result of the surveys, 21 outdoor recreational activities were selected for analysis. Picnicking, fishing, swimming, hunting, and sightseeing were considered as separate activities. Specifically, an activity occasion was the participation of one person, 12 years of age or older, in any outdoor recreation activity for at least one-half hour in one day at any place

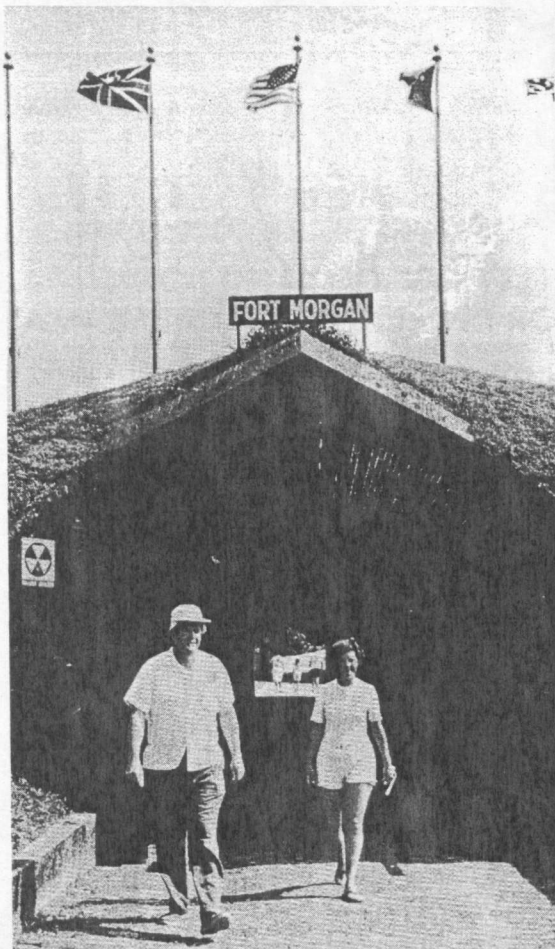
other than a home yard or in a school class on the playground during recess time.

In 1967, a total of 1,429,000 Alabamians—56 per cent of the recreation population—took part in one or more picnicking occasions at some place other than the "backyard." The outing could have been in Alabama or in some other state. The number of people who participated in the 21 activities analyzed varied greatly in 1967. Nevertheless, the 1967 data provided a base for projecting the participation in these activities at specific times in the future. Independent consideration was given each activity.

RESIDENT DEMAND FOR OUT-OF-STATE RECREATION

Computation of demand for outdoor recreation activities is not complete without considering recreation by Alabama residents in other states. The four states adjacent to Alabama have 49 recreation sites located fairly close to Alabama's borders, and many others at more distant locations. Likewise, all states and many foreign countries have recreation sites that may attract some visitors from Alabama.

There are three basic types of out-of-state recreational trips made by Alabama people: (1) vacation trips that extend over a long time, (2) weekend trips of one or two nights, and (3) day outings to recreational sites in adjoining states. In 1967, some 1.5 million Alabamians took a vacation trip out of the state. Another 608,000 made a weekend trip across the state boundaries.



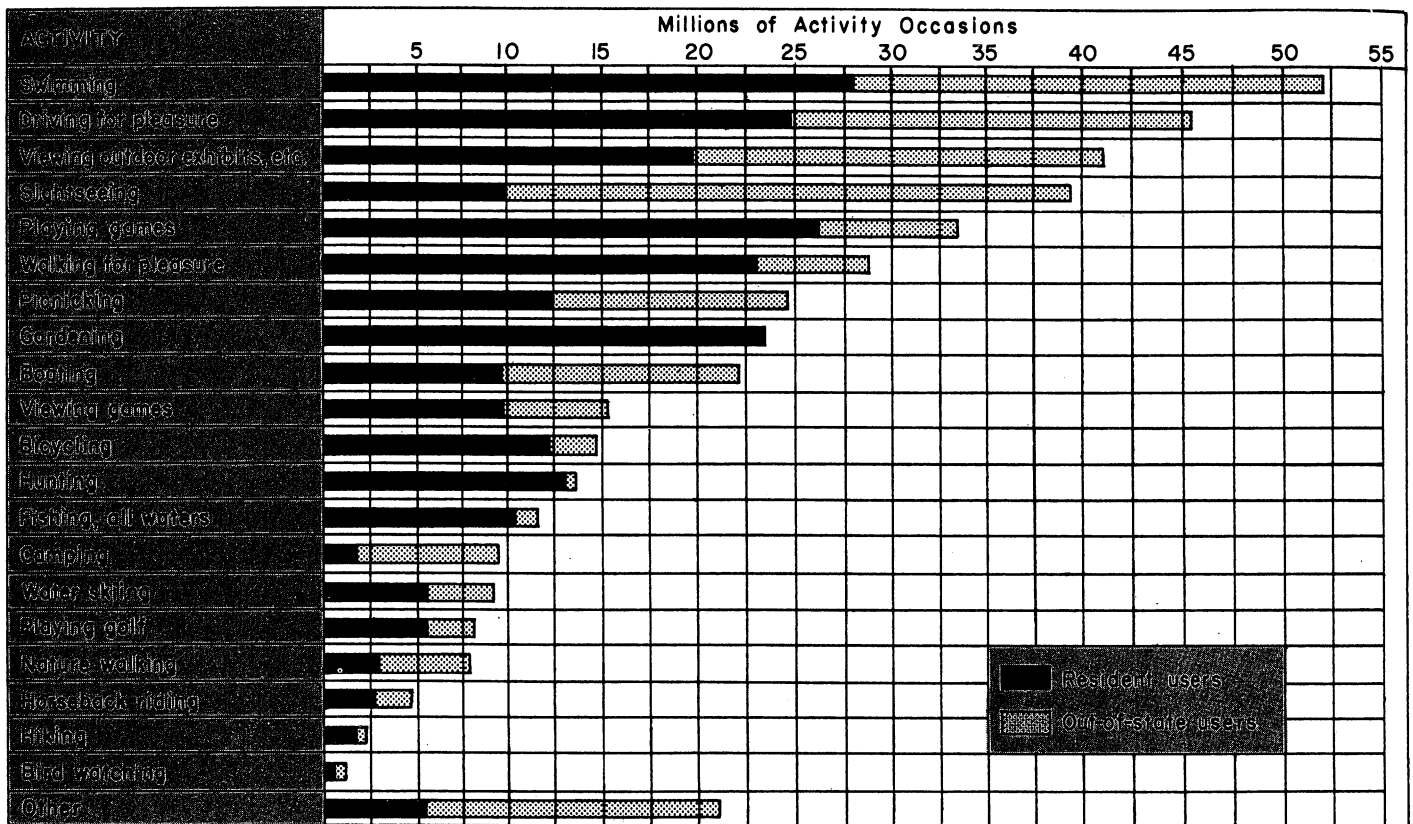


FIG. 5. Projected demand, by activity occasions, Alabama, 1980.

Total resident demand for the 21 activities amounted to 224.5 million activity occasions in 1967. Of this number, 60 million (27 per cent) were supplied out-of-state to Alabama residents. When needs for additional outdoor recreation facilities in Alabama are considered, this important out-of-state travel by residents must be taken into consideration.

NON-RESIDENT DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN ALABAMA

The entire world population is potentially a source of demand for Alabama's outdoor recreation facilities. More realistically, the greatest demand will continue to come from nearby areas. The state's market area was divided into two segments representing two types of non-resident visitors.

The first segment includes the states bordering Alabama. Residents of these four states visit Alabama more frequently than those from more distant states but for shorter times per visit. The most common recreation visitation from these border states is a one-day outing or a weekend visit. The state's border market area population is projected to increase in the future and provide more visitors to Alabama.

The second segment is the more distant areas, represented by vacation travelers who either have Alabama as their destination or are passing through to other states. This market segment contains some of the nation's major population centers. Vacation travelers from here are often family groups with their travel highly concentrated during the summer months. They have a relatively high income and somewhat unlimited leisure time since they are largely on vacation. In many instances they are specifically seeking outdoor recreation.

Out-of-state visitors participated in 108 million outdoor ac-

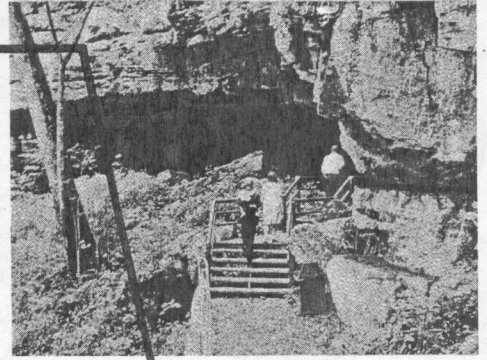
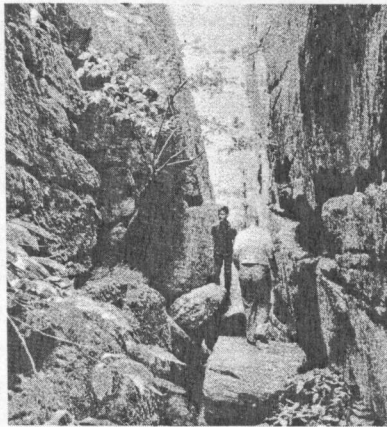
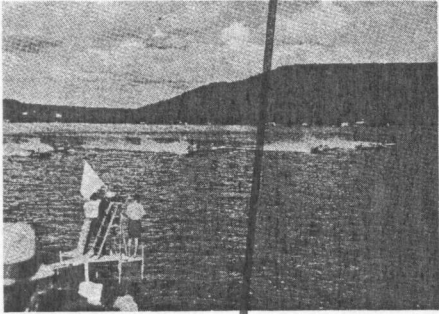
tivity occasions during 1967, almost 40 per cent of the state's total for the year. However, 69 per cent of the occasions were concentrated around six activities—picnicking, driving for pleasure, swimming, sightseeing, boating, and visiting outdoor areas, shows, exhibits, and similar activities. Participation by out-of-state visitors is presently limited by the types of resources readily available to them.

PROJECTED 1980 DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN ALABAMA

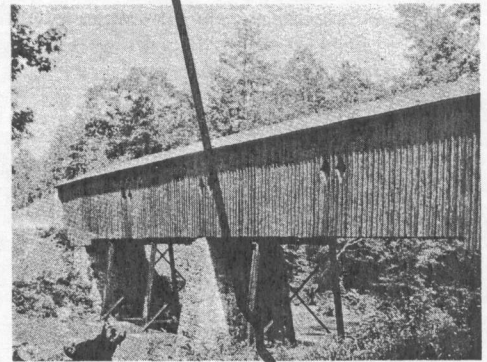
Projected demand for the 21 selected outdoor recreation activities for residents and visitors for 1980 is summarized in Figure 5.

Total activity occasions that will need to be supplied by Alabama resources will increase from 272 million in 1967 to 431 million occasions in 1980, an overall increase of 58 per cent. Some activities will increase well below the average while others will increase much more. The projections were made by using a methodology that considered socio-economic factors that affected growth of each activity; consequently, no two activities necessarily increased at the same rate. Water-oriented activities increased at above average rates.

Demand expressed as activity occasions appears to be a series of large numbers. Yet, by using conversion standards these data can be converted to acres of land and numbers of resources, such as numbers of picnic tables, required to supply the demand. Demand requirements less the existing supply of resources equals additional resources needed for the projected activity occasions to take place. Supply of resources and resource needs will be the subject of the next two sections of this report.



Outdoor
Recreation
Supply



FEW STATES in the nation have the range and variety of natural and recreational resources as does Alabama. Its location makes it attractive for travel by residents of the South and North Central states. Alabama's greatest assets for outdoor recreation include a pleasant climate, Gulf of Mexico shoreline and beaches, a large acreage of inland water, and a diversified landscape ranging from scenic mountains to gently rolling plains.

Most residents and visitors use water as a focal point for outdoor recreation. Popularity of water sports is increasing substantially in the state, and camping and picnicking activities are more desirable near water. Combined, inland and brackish water available for recreational use totals about a million acres.

During 1969 an inventory was made of 3,212 outdoor recreation sites, all of which were open for some form of public use. Many private sites were not inventoried—such as backyard swimming pools, farm ponds, and land used for hunting. While these sites provide considerable recreation, they were not open to the public. The inventoried sites varied greatly in size and types of recreational use: large wildlife management areas with emphasis on hunting . . . state parks with multiple use resources . . . small neighborhood city parks that provide children's playground facilities.

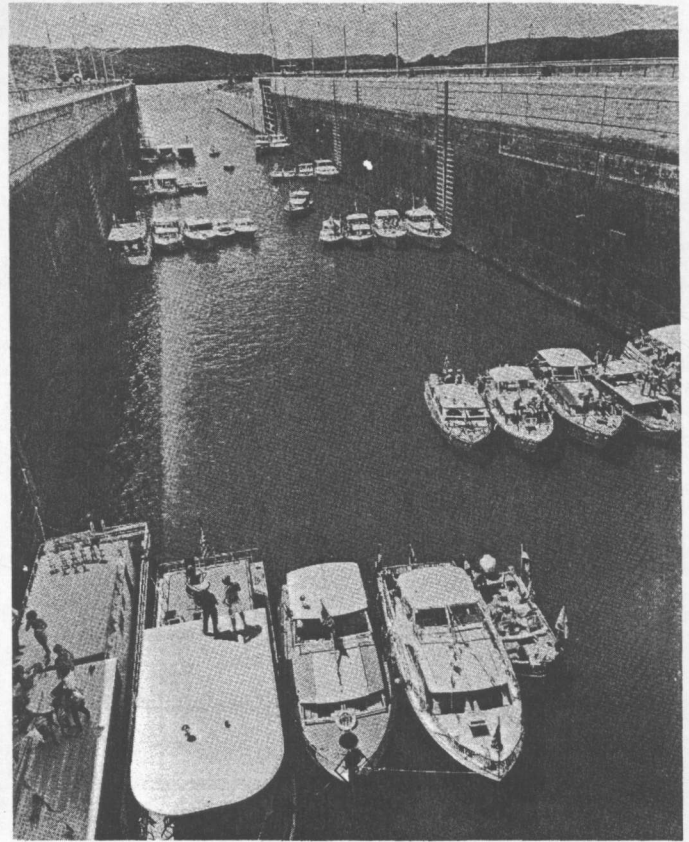
Two approaches are used to describe the state's recreation resources. First, a description is given by major areas of ownership and administration, beginning with federal agencies and ending with private ownerships. The second approach groups the resources by major types.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

The United States Department of the Interior in its report, "Public Land Statistics, 1967," lists federal agencies administering 935,400 acres of federally owned land in Alabama. However, six agencies control some 99 per cent of this land and administer the bulk of the federal recreational areas within the state. This report will be confined to these six.

Tennessee Valley Authority

TVA's multipurpose water control program has created major recreation resources in Alabama. Four TVA reservoirs (Pickwick, Wilson, Wheeler, and Guntersville) are located entirely, or almost so, in the state, Figure 6. These lakes provide 193,600 acres of surface water and 2,662 miles of shoreline.



They include water surfaces ranging from broad, open expanses to deep, winding waters with rugged shorelines of wooded mountain slopes. Collectively, these four TVA reservoirs extend the entire width of the state and offer an unparalleled variety of scenic beauty. In addition, TVA is building four dams and reservoirs on Bear Creek in northwest Alabama that will contain 8,280 acres of surface water. This overall watershed program is a cooperative effort of local groups and TVA. One of these lakes has been finished and the others are scheduled for completion within the next few years. Added to these valuable water resources are 82,200 acres of federal land controlled by TVA and open to the public for informal recreation use.

Over the years TVA has made available its land and water resources in Alabama for development of a wide variety of recreation areas. Presently located on the four reservoirs are one

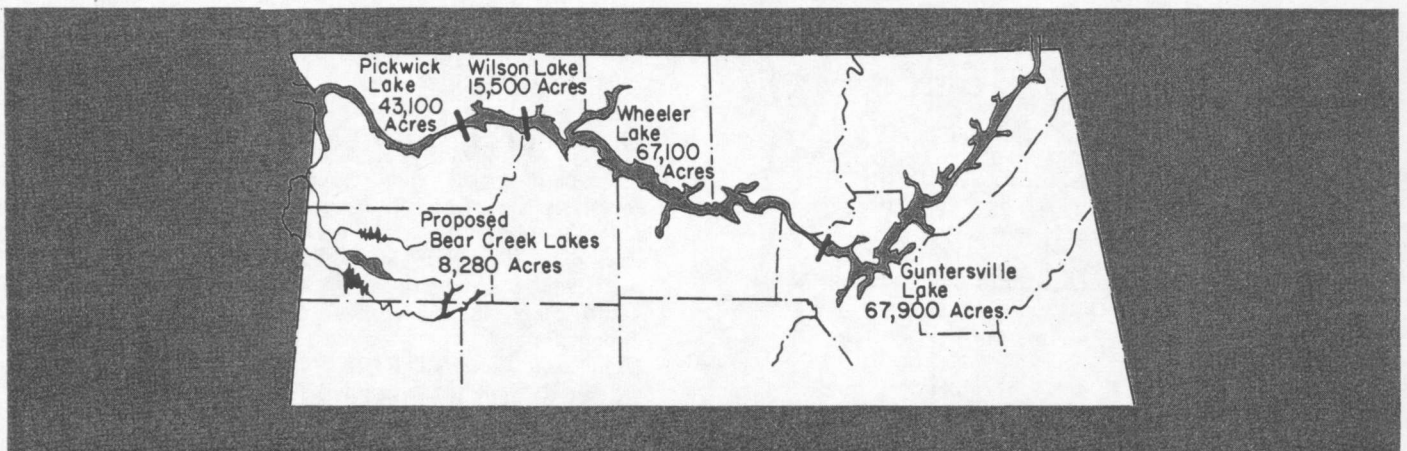


FIG. 6. Tennessee Valley Authority lakes.

national parkway, one national wildlife refuge, three state parks and a number of state access areas, eight state wildlife management and public shooting areas, eight county parks, 13 city parks, and approximately 50 private recreation sites (boat docks, marinas, rental cabin areas, motels, fishing resorts, camps, and recreational areas). Many private homes, cottages, and trailers are also located on the reservoirs. TVA land not adjacent to water has been made available for county and city parks and state wildlife management areas.

Recreation sites on or near TVA reservoirs provide for such activities as swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, camping, hiking, nature walking, horseback riding, hunting, golfing, and picnicking. Not only does TVA make recreation sites available for others to develop, but it recently began a program of providing basic recreation facilities such as parking areas, launching ramps, picnic areas, and sanitary facilities where needed for safe and sanitary access to the lakes. These developments, along with the Bear Creek Lakes, will add much to the recreational potential of the northern one-third of Alabama.

National Park Service

The NPS maintains three areas in Alabama that contain some 4,600 acres of land, Figure 7. One of these areas is largely undeveloped, but is scheduled for development over the next six years. None of the three areas is completed.

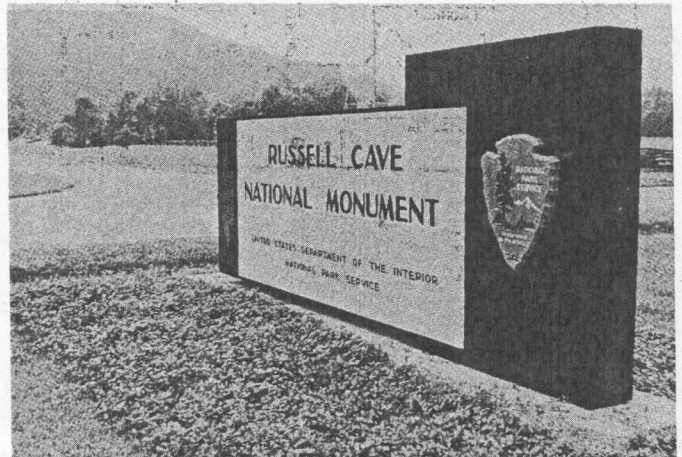
The Natchez Trace Parkway, when completed, will follow



FIG. 7. National Park Service sites.

the general location of an old Indian trail between Nashville, Tennessee, and Natchez, Mississippi, crossing the northwest corner of Alabama through Colbert and Lauderdale counties. Plans call for 11 miles of Parkway motor road, 4 miles of park roads, a campground with 150 or more sites, picnic areas with tables and related facilities, and eight comfort stations. Also, a large number of overlooks, fishing areas, trails, and other recreation activities will be developed. In addition, NPS plans to restore the Buzzard Roost Covered Bridge in Colbert County as a part of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Plans include restoring the bridge to its original architectural design, providing access roads, and erecting on-site interpretive panels to tell the story of the covered bridge. Complete development is expected by 1977 with planned expenditures of nearly \$11 million.

Russell Cave National Monument, in the rugged north-central part of Jackson County, shows the 8,000-year history of man's life in the cave. Resources consist of a small acreage of land, the cave, a museum, a hiking trail, a picnic area, parking area, and employee homes. Work is underway to add more indoor and outdoor exhibits. This area could be developed to make it even more attractive. Plans of NPS call for expenditures of \$71,000 for improvements.



Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is located on the Tallapoosa River, 12 miles north of Dadeville in Tallapoosa County. It is the site of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend where General Andrew Jackson defeated the Creek Indians and opened Alabama for settlement. The park was established in 1959 and covers 2,040 acres, of which 561 acres was contributed by Alabama Power Company. Main attractions include a museum, three shelters, nature trails, and other points of interest regarding the battle area. NPS plans to spend some \$237,000 for improvements and new resources at this park over the next several years.

U. S. Forest Service

Developing the full recreational potential of National Forests is the responsibility of the Forest Service. This is a major resource in the state, with a purchase area of 1,270,897 acres of land in four national forests, Figure 8. Within this purchase area there are some 635,000 acres of federally owned land available for the agency's program of recreational development.

The four National Forests consist of five locations: (1) William B. Bankhead National Forest, (2) Conecuh National Forest, (3) Tuskegee National Forest, (4) Oakmulgee Division, Talladega National Forest, and (5) Talladega Division, Talladega National Forest.

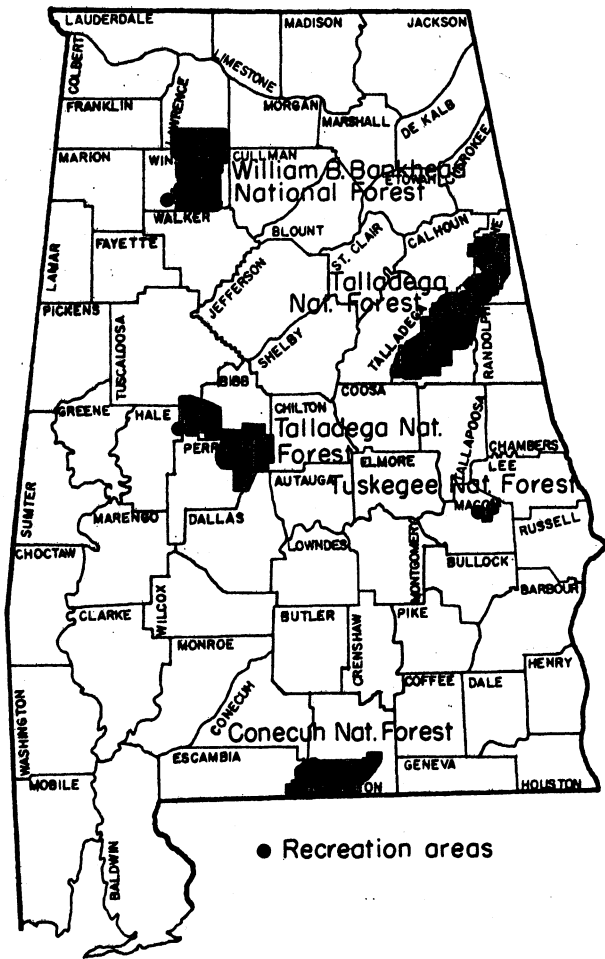


FIG. 8. National Forests.

There are 19 recreational areas maintained for public use in the four National Forests. In addition, all of this federal land is open for public use—for hiking, nature walks, fishing, and similar activities or just to commune with nature. Hunting is allowed, in season, on all the land with necessary restrictions in state wildlife management areas.

In various stages of construction, the 19 developed recreational areas already provide camping spots, picnic tables, and sanitary facilities or will have them in the next few years. Activities available include sightseeing, picnicking, camping, swimming, hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, and nature walking.

Five wildlife management areas (operated under a cooperative arrangement with the Alabama Game and Fish Division) are located in National Forests in Alabama: the Black Warrior area in William B. Bankhead National Forest; Oakmulgee area in the Oakmulgee Division, Talladega National Forest; Choccolocco and Hollins areas in the Talladega Division, Talladega National Forest; and the Blue Spring area in the Conecuh National Forest.

There are 400 miles of rivers and streams in the National Forests in Alabama, providing fishing, swimming, boating, and camping opportunities. Part of Alabama Power Company's Lewis Smith Lake is in the William B. Bankhead National Forest.

The outdoorsman and student have available a wealth of recreational opportunities in the National Forests. The vast animal and plant resources offer many interesting birds, wild animals, and fish to observe, as well as to hunt and fish.

The first section of Skyway Motor Drive through the Talladega National Forest (Talladega Division) is now completed. The part open to traffic is experiencing high use. A joint venture between several federal and state agencies, this 75- to 80-mile-long highway will connect numerous recreational areas and Interstate 20. New and improved hiking trails are planned for two of the National Forests.

Corps Of Engineers

Along with major work involving navigation, flood control, beach erosion, and river basin studies, the Corps of Engineers devotes considerable attention to recreation facility development. This work, authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1962, recognized the potential offered by the agency's water impoundments for such recreation activities as fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, camping, picnicking, hiking, and hunting.

Navigational and flood control reservoirs being operated by the Corps, Figure 9, are: Walter F. George and Columbia on the Chattahoochee River; Demopolis and Coffeerville on the Tombigbee River; and Warrior Lake, Holt Lake, and Lake Bankhead on the Warrior River. Under construction or recently completed are: Jones Bluff, William "Bill" Dannelly, and Claiborne reservoirs on the Alabama River.

Being built on the Chattahoochee River (on the Alabama-Georgia line) is the West Point Dam, which included recre-

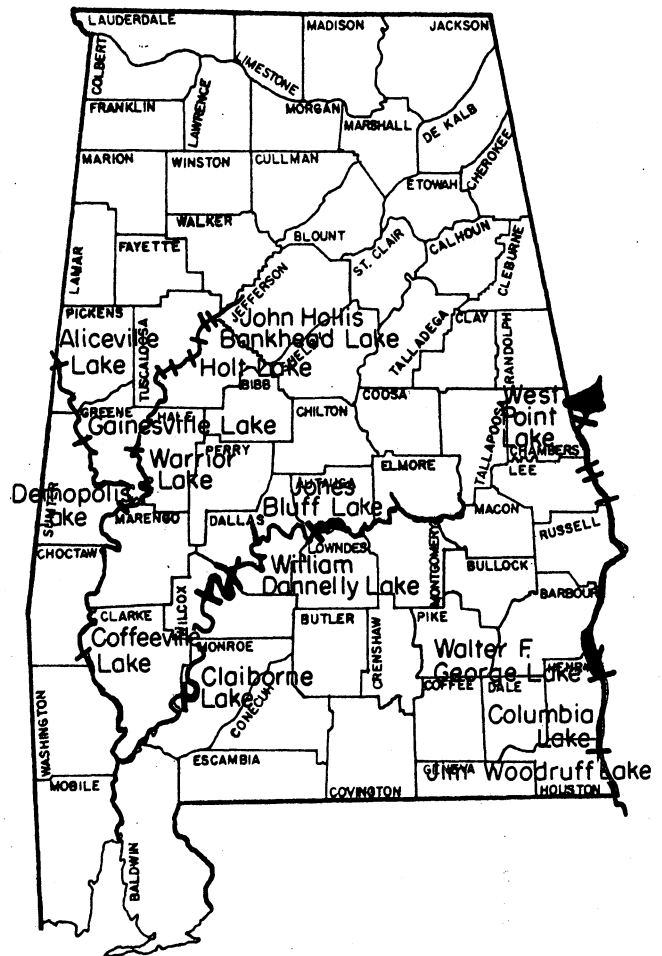


FIG. 9. Corps of Engineers reservoirs.

River and Reservoir	Recreation Data Corps of Engineers ¹				
	Surface Water Acres	Shoreline Miles	Public Use Areas		Boat Launching Ramps, No.
			Number	Acres	
<u>Chattahoochee River</u>					
Walter F. George Lake ²	45,200	640	11	1,617	22
Columbia Lake ²	1,570	65	4	421	6
West Point Lake ²	25,900	525	8 P ³	3,143 P	9 P
<u>Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers</u>					
Coffeeville Lake ⁴	8,800	315	15		9 15 P
Demopolis Lake	10,000	500	14	1,098	13 18 P
Warrior Lake	7,800	300	8	262	6 8 P
Holt Lake	3,160	85	10	1,227	5 9 P
Bankhead Lake	9,200	193			
<u>Alabama River</u>					
Claiborne Lake	5,900	160	12 P	1,765 P	15 P
Wm. Dannelly Lake ⁵	17,500	396	18 P	1,573 P	30 P
Jones Bluff Lake	12,300	368	15 P	2,825 P	29 P

¹ Source: Corps of Engineers, Mobile, Alabama, and Savannah, Georgia.

² Only Alabama sites listed except for surface area and miles of shoreline.

³ Planned.

⁴ Formerly Jackson Lake.

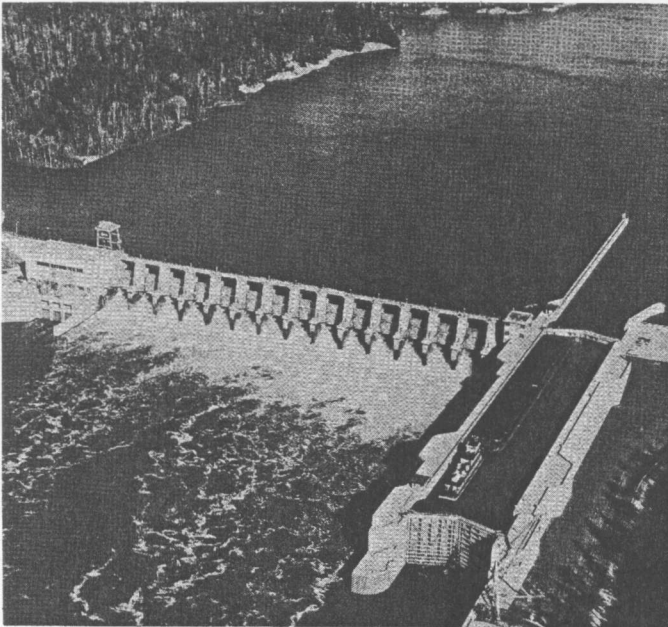
⁵ Formerly Millers Ferry Lake.

FIG. 10. Surface water acreage, shoreline mileage, public use and boat launching areas, Corps of Engineers, Alabama.

ation as a major factor in its planning. Two additional impoundments on the Tombigbee River are included in the approved Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (Aliceville and Gainesville sites).

The Army Engineers Civil Works Program is making major contributions to Alabama's outdoor recreation program. Presently 11 impoundments exist or are under construction. Three are only partly within Alabama, but the 147,330 surface acres of water within the 11 sites are fully accessible from Alabama, Figure 10.

When the 11 impoundments are completed they will have 115 public use areas in Alabama. Some will be leased for private development, some will be available to state and local governmental units, and the remainder will be operated by the Corps of Engineers. Planned for the public use areas are 239 boat launching ramps to be operated by the Corps. Likewise, there will be a large number of picnic tables, grills, camping spaces, swimming beach areas, overlooks, and hiking and nature trails.



Fish And Wildlife Service

Both land and water are used in Alabama by the Fish and Wildlife Service in its work directed at managing and conserving the nation's migratory birds, sport fish, and other animals for recreation and economic values. The major approach used to accomplish these objectives is through the National Wildlife Refuge System. Alabama has three refuges, Figure 11.

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is located on Wheeler Reservoir, a TVA impoundment on the Tennessee River. With 35,000 total acres, 18,000 of which are land acres, it provides opportunities for fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, picnicking, swimming, skiing, and boating. Fishing is allowed at all times. Hunting is limited to specific times within the hunting season. Day camping by organized youth groups is allowed under special permit. Picnicking and swimming are allowed, but there are limited numbers of picnic tables and no designated swimming areas. There are four boat launching sites within the refuge.

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 11,160 acres within and adjacent to the Walter F. George Reservoir on the Chattahoochee River. It occupies land in both Alabama and Georgia, with some 8,000 acres located in Alabama. It provides recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, and sightseeing. Fishing and wildlife observation are allowed all year but hunting is restricted to special refuge hunts.

Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge, in Choctaw County along the Tombigbee River, contains 4,300 acres, 2,300 of which are open water. Only fishing and sightseeing are allowed at present, but hunting will be permitted when additional lands are acquired to complete the original plan.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, also operates two fish hatcheries in Alabama at Marion and Carbon Hill. The Carbon Hill National Fish Hatchery has an attractive 10-tank aquarium. Fish hatcheries and national wildlife refuges serve to accomplish the Bureau's task of encouraging maximum use of fish and wildlife resources. Future plans of FWS include further development of the refuges to provide more migration and wintering habitat for geese, ducks, and other migratory

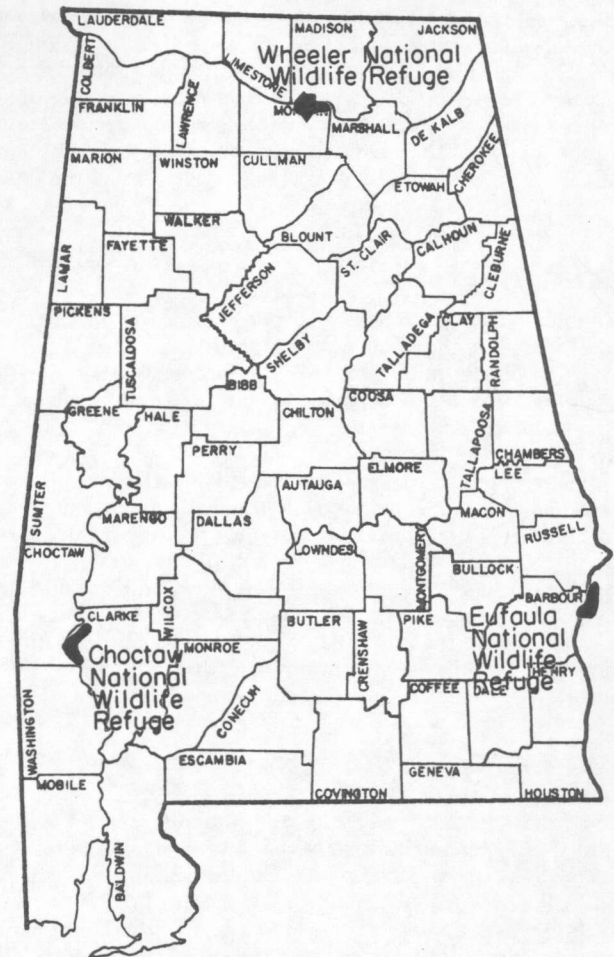


FIG. 11. National wildlife refuges.

and resident birds. Acquisition of 120 acres of land is proposed at the Marion National Fish Hatchery to increase public recreation opportunities.

U. S. Department Of Defense

With more than 180,000 acres of land occupied by military bases in Alabama, the Department of Defense provides many recreational opportunities for its active and retired personnel. A high percentage of the military land is left open and in a natural state. Public access to the bases is granted where possible for fishing, hunting, and other forms of recreation. Some military lands are used in cooperative programs with the state for conservation and recreational uses.

Other Federal Agencies

In addition to the six agencies that make major contributions of recreation facilities in Alabama, many other federal agencies also aid in this program. These agencies provide technical assistance services, conduct research and educational programs, loan funds, and make financial grants. Some of the agencies are: The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Farmers Home Administration, the Bureau of Public Roads, the Housing and Urban Development Authority, the Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian

Regional Commission. The SCS has been active in the development of multipurpose lakes in its watershed program, in providing data on the recreational potential of each Alabama county, in the RC & D projects, and in other ways. Federal acts that make specific funds available for recreational use in Alabama include the Dingell-Johnson Act, the Pittman-Robertson Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, and others.

STATE AGENCIES

State agencies operate only 13 per cent of the 3,212 recreational sites inventoried in Alabama, but this is only a part of the state's contribution. Successful operation of other sites by individuals, business organizations, cities, counties, or other public agencies depends heavily on contributions made by several agencies of the state.

The Governor's office provides the leadership, coordination, and cooperation that is necessary to a successful outdoor recreation program. Other forms of assistance include proper legislation, highway and road development, highway safety, water safety, health services, and other forms of aid and technical assistance. These services, along with site development and operation, enable the state to have a growing and expanding outdoor recreation system. Emphasis in this section, however, is on state agencies that operate recreation sites.

State Parks

The Division of State Parks, Monuments, and Historical Sites of the Department of Conservation manages 13 sites that are classed as major state parks, Figure 12. In addition, 10 closely related areas are managed in connection with these parks. Seventeen additional areas managed by the Division are classed as minor state parks, historic sites, monuments, and miscellaneous areas. Combined, some 40 sites are the responsibility of the Division of State Parks. Brief descriptions are reported for each major park.

Joe Wheeler State Park. Consisting of two parts, Joe Wheeler State Park is located in Lauderdale and Lawrence



FIG. 12. Major state parks.

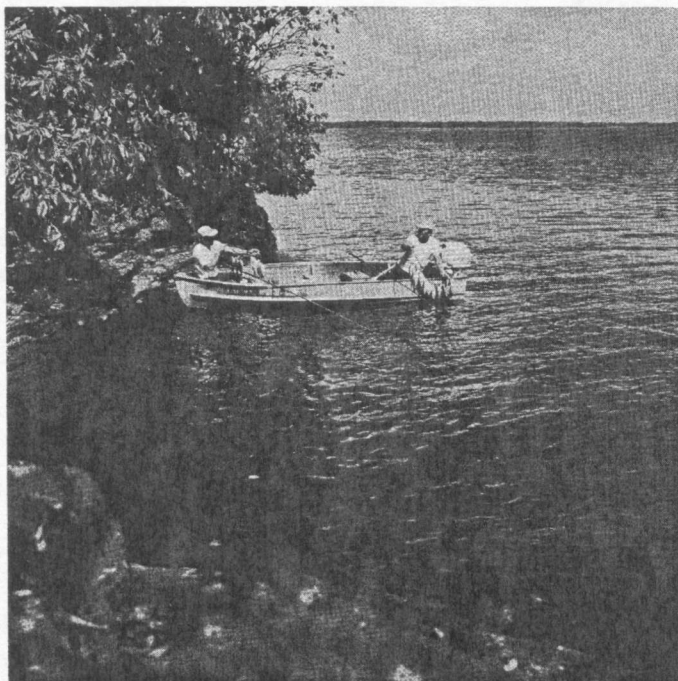
counties. Adjacent to Wheeler Dam, the park is approximately 20 miles east of the Quad-Cities and 9 miles north of Town Creek. Present major attractions include water-oriented recreational activities plus Wheeler Dam and powerhouse. The park originally had 2,200 acres of land area, but recent purchase of 400 additional acres in Lauderdale County will permit expansion and development.

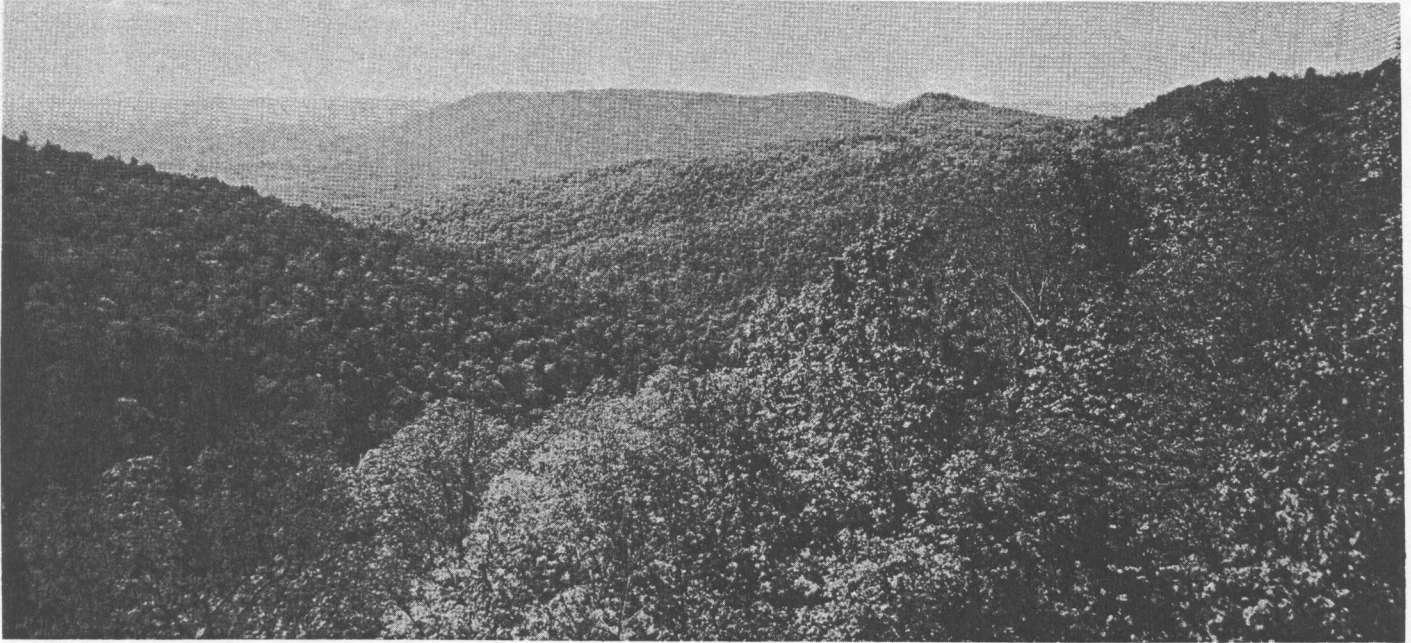
Facilities at Joe Wheeler State Park include cabins, picnic tables, rental boats, boat access sites, playfields, concessions, overlooks, and a swimming area. Most of these resources were developed and used by TVA in the construction of Wheeler Dam. When construction was completed the state acquired it for a park, but lack of capital funds has prevented facility development. Elk River Lodge, with 70 acres of land, is operated as a related area to this park.

Joe Wheeler State Park is one of the parks being developed under the present park improvement program. The development process consists of making topographical maps, master resource use and facility plans, engineering and architectural drawings for construction purposes, acquisition of needed land, and project construction. This planning and acquisition, plus projects under construction, amounted to \$6.3 million as of April 30, 1971. Development includes roads, lodge and supporting buildings, golf course, and sewage facilities.

To complete into a well developed facility for multiple-use, additional funds will be needed for camping, picnicking, swimming, and recreational facilities, water supplies, furnishings and equipment, and related materials.

Monte Sano State Park. This park is located partly within





the city of Huntsville in Madison County. The scenic John Bankhead Parkway, from downtown Huntsville to this mountain park, is operated as a related area. The park contains 2,140 acres of mountainous and cove land, the highest point being somewhat over 1,800 feet in elevation. However, the land is divided into four separate holdings rather than being in one contiguous area.

Facilities presently available include cabins, picnic areas, horseback riding trails, stables and horses, a small undeveloped camping area, hiking trails, an amphitheater, playfields, and vista points. Cabins and other buildings were built in the late 1930's during the CCC era and need major repairs or replacement.

Some facilities of this park are of high quality, whereas others need improvement and expansion. Present facilities are limited and do not provide the wide variety of activities needed. Some \$60,000 has been spent developing the needed maps, plans, drawings, and related materials for improvement and development. Contracts could be let once funds are available.

DeSoto State Park. This park, 4,825 acres of rugged mountain terrain softened by dense forest growth, is located mainly in DeKalb County atop the Lookout Mountain range. It extends about 28 miles along Little River and abounds in scenic attractions. Elevation tends to keep mean summer temperatures low, which is conducive to many outdoor activities.

Present park facilities include cabins, a small lodge, picnic areas, a small undeveloped camping area, rental boats, a small swimming area, hiking trails, small playfields and play areas, and vista points. Recent repairs have placed most existing buildings in good condition. However, this CCC-built park is one of the older ones in the state and is seriously deficient in developed resources to meet current recreation demand.

Some \$1.1 million has been spent or obligated for planning, acquisition, and development of DeSoto State Park. Under construction is a motel, restaurant and meeting room facilities, additional cabins, and other related items. Additional funds are needed to complete a swimming beach, camping area, some utilities, and other specific activity resources. Also, funds are needed to make improvements and add facilities at the DeSoto Falls area and along the Little River Canyon area. These are related areas operated as a part of the total park program.

Lake Guntersville State Park. This park originally consisted of 4,000 acres in Marshall County and was acquired from TVA. The original land extended in a rather narrow band along Short Creek, Guntersville Lake, Town Creek, and Minky Creek and provided about 52 miles of shoreline. The topography of much of this land (easement land) severely limited its adaptation to many types of recreational activities. Also, private holdings interspersed between park land tracts presented problems in development and park management. Recently, 1,670 acres of additional land was acquired to correct these problems. This increased park size to 5,670 acres.

Present facilities at Lake Guntersville State Park include picnic areas, a small marina, rental boats, boat access areas, two partially developed camping areas, a short hiking trail, and a limited amount of related resources. Swimming and skiing occur at the park but no developed beaches or landing areas are available. At best, it is only partly developed.

To use the outstanding water and increased land resources of this park, some \$6.9 million has been spent or obligated for planning, land acquisition, and facility development. Development includes roads, sanitary sewage, lodge with motel rooms, restaurant and meeting facility, some cottages, pool, and golf course with clubhouse.



Funds are needed to complete such items as staff housing, beach developments, larger marina, some utilities, camping areas, additional cabins, furnishings and equipment, and to develop specific types of activity resources. Without these additional facilities it will not be a complete multi-purpose use park.

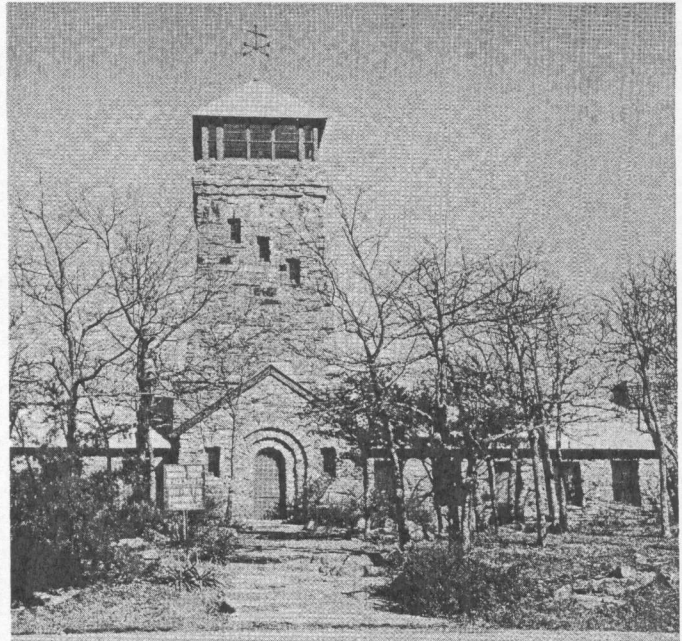
Lake Lurleen State Park. Developed and formerly known as Tuscaloosa County Lake, this park has a 250-acre lake on a total area of 1,613 acres. The 1,363 acres not inundated are covered mostly by small pine and scattered hardwoods. It is located approximately 12 miles west of Tuscaloosa on land that was acquired by the people of Tuscaloosa County and deeded to the state for development of a state park. However, lack of available funds in the past prevented its complete development.

Present facilities include the outstanding lake itself, a deteriorated concession building, unusable restrooms, rental boats, picnic tables, concrete boat launching ramp, and fishing piers. Its major use is for fishing.

Almost \$1 million has been spent or obligated for planning, acquisition, and development at this park. Construction is underway with roadways, utilities, and planned buildings. Complete development of this park is planned through several stages. Present construction largely completes phase one of the plan.

Oak Mountain State Park. This park, located in Shelby County approximately 16 miles south of Birmingham, is the largest of all Alabama state parks. It contains about 10,000 acres of rugged hilly to mountain terrain. Originally the state owned a 2,000-acre park at this site. An adjoining area of 8,000 acres was operated as a recreation demonstration area by the federal government. These two areas were combined to make the present state park. Two 85-acre fishing lakes are located in the northeast end of the park and there is an 18-acre lake near the middle of the park.

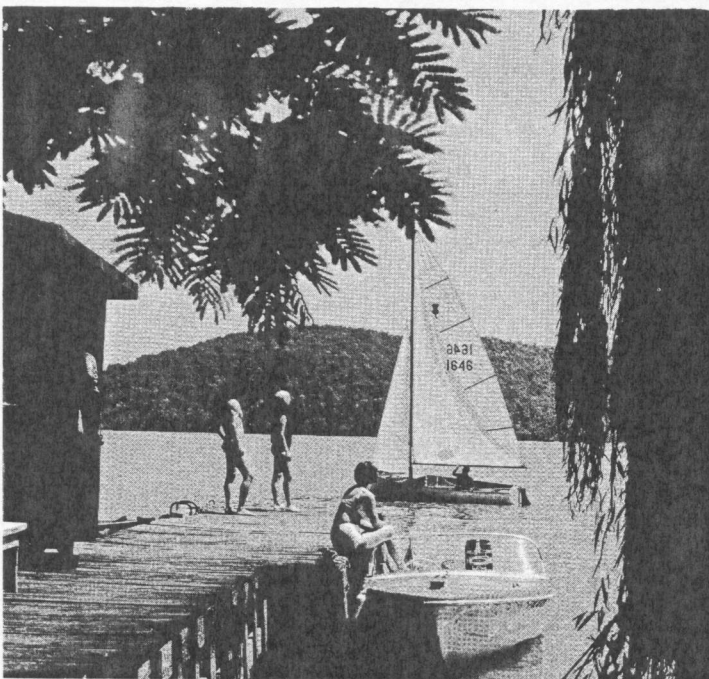
Facilities presently available include cabins, picnic areas, swimming areas, rental boats, boat access areas, play fields, small undeveloped camp areas, fishing areas, hiking trails, and vista points. However, much of the park is presently closed while construction is underway.

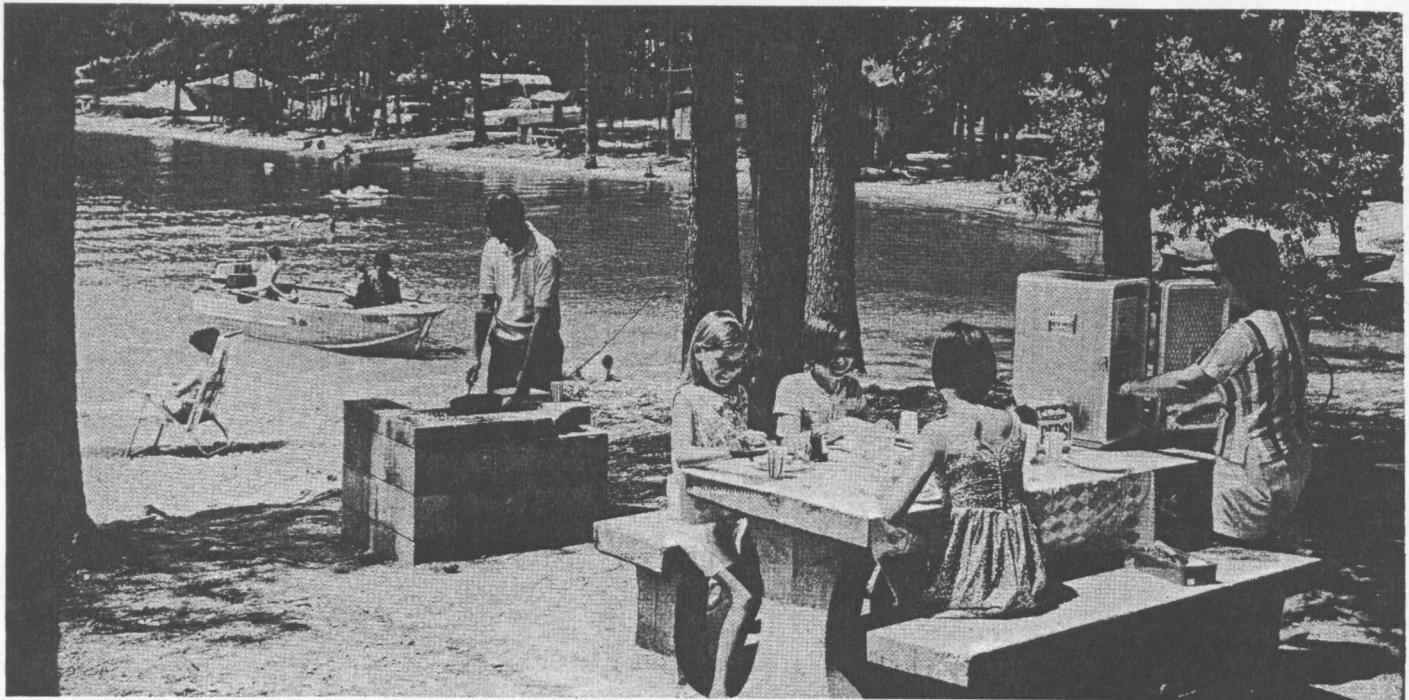


New facilities being constructed include a road system, an 85-acre lake, cottages, campsites, meeting facilities, beach and boating areas, water and sewage system, restaurant, nature area, farm animal display, horseback riding facilities, golf course, play areas, and other related resources. Total funds spent or obligated for planning, acquisition, and development amount to \$7.4 million. Some additional funds are needed to make the park completely operational.

Cheaha State Park. This park is located in Clay and Cleburne counties, approximately 25 miles north of Talladega and 29 miles south of Anniston. Focal point of the park is Cheaha Mountain, which rises 2,407 feet above sea level, the highest point in Alabama. This rugged and picturesque mountain park of 2,719 acres, another CCC-era development, has provided many interesting features for picnickers, hikers, and nature lovers over the years. Water resources consist of a six-acre swimming lake in the valley and a small spring-fed reservoir on top of the mountain. Steep mountain roads are characteristic of much of the park roadway.

Facilities within the park include cabins, lodge, picnic area, swim beach, bathhouse, undeveloped camping area, rental boats, horses for riding, fishing area, hiking trails, vista points,





and concessions. Some of the buildings, including the lodge, are showing their age. A TV tower and a service building (not a part of the park), built near the highest point of the mountain, detract from the park's appearance.

New facilities under construction include a well, motel, restaurant, pool, camping area, and improved picnic areas, along with improvements to lodge, beach house and lake, and related items. Some \$1.6 million has been spent or obligated for planning, acquisition, and development. Additional funds are needed to complete utilities and provide needed furnishings and equipment.

Wind Creek State Park. This park of 1,354 acres was developed and operated for a number of years as a private park. It is located on Lake Martin in Tallapoosa County, only a short distance from U. S. Highway 280. This 40,000-acre lake, developed by Alabama Power Company, is the park's major attraction.

Facilities available include resources for camping, swimming, water skiing, picnicking, nature walking, fishing, boating, and related activities. Funds spent for planning, acquisition, and development amount to \$1.4 million. Repairs, some redevelopment, and some new facilities are needed, but details have not been developed.

Camden State Park. This is a new park being developed by the state on the William "Bill" Dannelly Lake. It provides access to the 17,500-acre impoundment recently completed by the Corps of Engineers. The 200 acres of land in the park was leased by the state from the Corps. This park is located in a section of the state that has limited developed recreational resources.

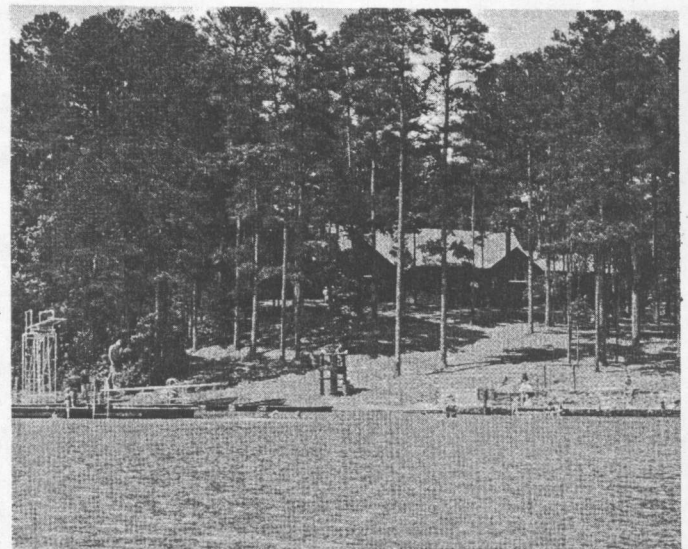
Facilities being developed include camping sites, picnic areas, boat access areas, marina, playgrounds, bathhouse, 9-hole golf course, and other supporting facilities. Some \$800,000 has been spent or obligated for planning and development for this new park. Additional needs include water system and furnishings and equipment.

Chewacla State Park. This park is located in Lee County, some 3 miles southeast of Auburn and less than 3 miles from an exit point on Interstate Highway 85. Most facilities at the

park were built in the mid-1930's under the CCC program. Some repair work is needed and some facilities need replacing. Much of the park's 577 acres of land is forested and terrain varies from flat to hilly to rugged. Its location on the fall line separating the Piedmont Region from the Coastal Plain has interesting geological implications.

Among the attractions of Chewacla is a 25-acre lake impounded above a picturesque waterfall. Activities that attract most visitors include picnicking, swimming, hiking, sight-seeing, and playing of outdoor games. Water resources include two streams plus the lake. The park contains a large variety of native plants that attract "nature lovers" from a wide area. Other facilities include cabins, picnic areas and shelters, bathhouse, boat access area, rental boats, play areas, concessions, vista points, and trails. No camping is allowed.

Maps and master plans for the park, and site plans for a camping area, have been developed at a cost of \$35,000. No contract has been let for any construction work. The park's resources and location give it a great potential to fill a part of



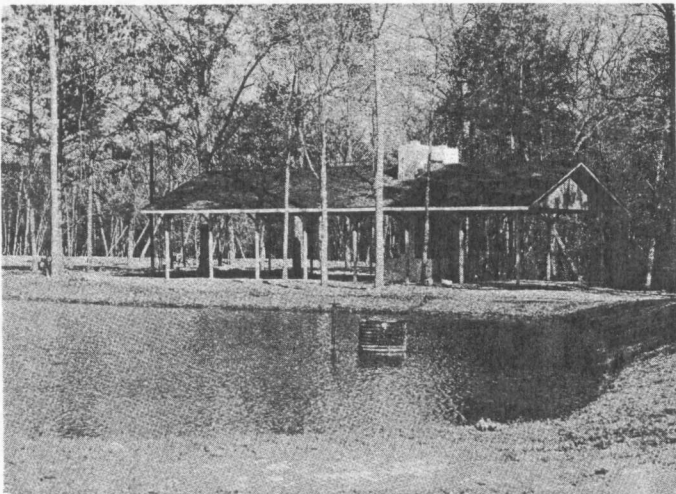
the state's recreation needs once construction funds are available for development. The Shell Toomer Parkway is operated as a related area to this park.

Lakepoint Resort. This is a new park being developed on Walter F. George Lake (Lake Eufaula) in Barbour County. Some 768 acres of land has been, or is being, purchased by the state. In addition, some land will be leased from the Corps of Engineers and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Final park acreage will be near 1,000 acres.

The park is located on both sides of U. S. Highway 431 at the area known as Cowikee Creek Park and Landing under its present operation by the Corps. It joins Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge on its eastern border.

Development plans provide for a full destination park, with facilities to include lodge, motel, camping, marina, swimming, and related resources. A large number of outdoor recreation activities are planned. The park is both land and water oriented, having access to the large acreage of surface water in the adjacent reservoir, the land in the park, and some related use of the adjacent refuge. Until the adjacent water area has been dredged, however, water-oriented activities will be limited.

Funds spent or obligated for planning, acquisition, and development amount to almost \$1 million. Considerably more is needed to provide resources included in the master plan. When completed, this park will be one of the state's four major parks intended for destination use by visitors.



Blue Springs State Park. This park is located in Barbour County, almost equal distance between Abbeville and Brundidge and just off State Highway 10 at Blue Springs. Natural springs are the feature attraction, along with swimming, picnicking, and camping. Fishing is limited to children because of the small size of the lake. The park is composed of 103 acres of relatively level land. Mixed hardwood timber provides needed shade for picnicking and in other areas.

Present facilities available include picnic areas, picnic sheds, swimming pool, wading pool, a small undeveloped camping area, the small fishing lake, tennis courts, and a bathhouse. This relatively new park began operation in May 1966.

Plans are being developed for future expansion to include a developed campground with bathhouse, two additional picnic shelters, additional tables, and a comfort station.

Gulf State Park. The state owns one major and five related sites in the Gulf Shores area. Gulf State Park, a major park, is located at the southern tip of Baldwin County adjacent to the town of Gulf Shores. Operated as related areas are Romar Beach, Alabama Point, a narrow strip of land extending from Alabama Point eastward to the Florida Line, the land area outside Fort Morgan, and the Dixie Graves Parkway.

Gulf State Park is a unique recreational facility with both salt water and fresh water provided by 2.5 miles of Gulf Beach and three large fresh water lakes. The beach, with its pure white sand and blue water, is considered one of the best to be found anywhere.

The park and related sites contain a surface area of 5,687 acres—4,187 acres of land and 1,500 acres of water and "wetland."

Present facilities at Gulf State Park and related sites include cabins, picnic areas, swimming areas (both fresh and salt water), marina, rental boats, camping areas, boat access areas, play fields, fishing piers, and concessions. This facility offers more different outdoor recreation activities than any other state park.

Funds spent or obligated for planning, acquisition, and development at Gulf State Park amount to \$7.6 million. Now under construction are roads, general site utilities, water supply, 18-hole golf course, beach development, campground site work, and lodge complex (includes rooms, meeting facilities, and restaurant). Items needed but not under contract include campground, buildings, golf clubhouse, day-use areas, maintenance area, and furnishings and equipment.



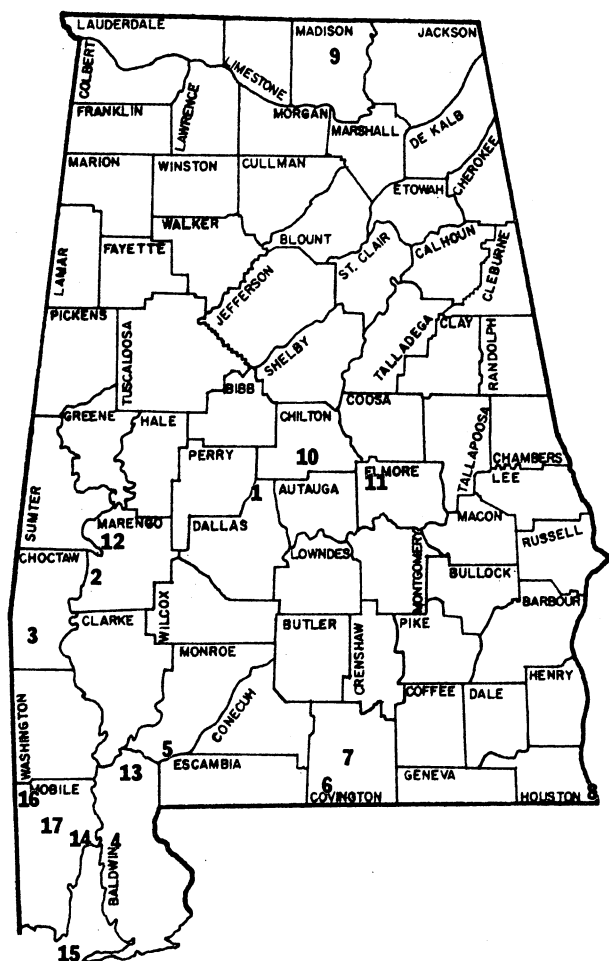


FIG. 13. Other state park areas.

Other State Park Areas. In addition to the 13 major state parks and related areas already discussed, the Division of State Parks, Monuments and Historical Sites operates 17 sites referred to as minor parks, historical sites, and miscellaneous areas. Of these, seven are existing state parks, six are existing historical areas, and two are existing miscellaneous areas; also, land has been acquired for one additional park and one additional historic site, Figure 13. All but one of the 17 sites are in the southern half of the state. However, the major parks are better located with relation to where the people live.

Locations of the 17 sites are listed below (numbers correspond with those shown on Figure 13):

Minor State Parks

1. Valley Creek State Park
2. Chickasaw State Park
3. Bladon Springs State Park
4. Meaher State Park
5. Little River State Park
6. Floralta State Park
7. Lightwood Knot Creek State Park (land acquired, no development)
8. Chattahoochee State Park

Historical sites

9. Constitution Hall (land acquired, no development)
10. Confederate Memorial Cemetery
11. Fort Toulouse
12. Gaineswood Home
13. Fort Mims
14. Monument of Fort Louis de la Mobile
15. Indian Shell Mounds

Miscellaneous areas

16. Cedar Creek
17. Fowl River

The minor state parks vary in size from a few acres to more than 1,000 acres. Most are away from major highways, have little in developed facilities, and serve primarily as local day-use areas. Nevertheless, such holdings are important to the state and offer future development possibilities. Their major present use is for picnicking, playing, nature walks, and some swimming and camping (undeveloped camp sites).

Although the historical sites are largely undeveloped land areas, it is important that the state has acquired and held these areas. Their use is limited, however, until they are developed into usable areas.

The two miscellaneous areas are small ones that could be used as "natural areas," but they are mostly inaccessible at present and receive little visitor use.

Although most park development now underway is at the major parks, some attention has been given to the "other" state park areas. Some \$706,100 has been spent or obligated for land acquisition, development of master plans, engineering, and architectural work. This is the first time the state has planned development at any of these areas. A total of \$184,700 has been obligated for current construction at one minor park. Some \$263,500 was made available for development of recreation facilities at Mound State monument at Moundville. This property is administered and operated by the University of Alabama Museum of Natural History. Considerable new capital funds will be required for needed development of the 17 other state park areas.

Division Of Game And Fish

This Division of the Department of Conservation is a service agency with several duties. It is charged with enforcement of Alabama's game and fish laws and regulations, management of fish and wildlife resources, and carrying out research and development programs. Continuing development is necessary for these resources to meet growing outdoor recreation demands of an expanding population. In addition to these responsibilities, the Division carries on an active conservation education program, assists other departmental divisions in related work, and performs numerous public services.

Major recreational contributions of the Division are provided by its administration of public fishing lakes, public access areas, and wildlife management areas. These areas provide boating, fishing, and hunting opportunities for thousands of outdoorsmen each year.

The system of public fishing lakes in the state places fishing facilities close enough for use by many residents and out-of-state visitors. Basic facilities like concession stands and boats for rent are at each lake and some have picnic areas and boat launching ramps. Camping facilities are generally not available at the public lakes. Reasonable daily charges for fishing, for boat rental, and for launching personal boats make this type recreation appealing to people of all economic levels.

Major facilities at the lakes, shown in Figure 14, are listed below (number refers to number on map):

1. Barbour County Lake: 75-acre impoundment, 7 miles north of Clayton on County Highway 49; open since 1958; concession stand with restrooms, 13 picnic tables, 12 boats for rent, three earthen boat launching areas, and one pier.
2. Chambers County Lake: 184-acre lake on 636-acre tract on Chambers County Highway 55 between LaFayette and Cusseta; opened in 1963; concession stand with restrooms, 22

picnic tables, 24 boats for rent, concrete launching ramp, and pier.

3. Clay County Lakes: three lakes totaling 65 acres, in area of 360 acres, 2 miles west of Delta and 30 miles south of Aniston; first one opened in 1951; concession stand with restrooms, 16 picnic tables, and 13 boats for rent.

4. Coffee County Lake: 80-acre lake on 202-acre tract, 4 miles northwest of Elba; opened in 1951; concession stand, restrooms, 30 boats for rent, 25 picnic tables, and two earthen launching ramps.

in 1950; concession stand, restrooms, 23 picnic tables, 21 boats for rent, and earthen launching ramp.

10. Lamar County Lake: 68-acre impoundment in 195-acre area, 5 miles west of Vernon; opened in 1953; concession stand with restrooms, 31 boats for rent, and 19 picnic tables.

11. Lee County Lake: 132 acres of water in 268-acre site; 8 miles from Auburn and about the same distance from Opelika; concession stand with restrooms, and picnic area.

12. Madison County Lake: 105 acres in lake on 317-acre site, 10 miles northeast of Huntsville; opened in 1962; concession stand, 31 boats for rent, and concrete launching ramp.

13. Marion County Lake: 45-acre lake in 380-acre site; 5 miles south of Hamilton on U. S. Highway 43; opened in 1951; concession stand, restrooms, 12 boats for rent, 42 picnic tables, and two earthen launching ramps.

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

15. Pike County Lake: 45 acres of water on 407-acre tract, 4 miles south of Troy; opened in 1953; concession stand, four picnic tables, 11 boats for rent; two earthen launching areas; and outdoor toilets on one side of lake.

16. Walker County Lake: 163-acre impoundment on 297 acres total area, 2 miles south of Jasper; concession stand, restrooms, 49 boats for rent, earthen launching ramp, and pier.

17. J. Emmett Wood Lake (Washington County): 84-acre lake on 245-acre tract; southwest of Millry; opened in 1967;

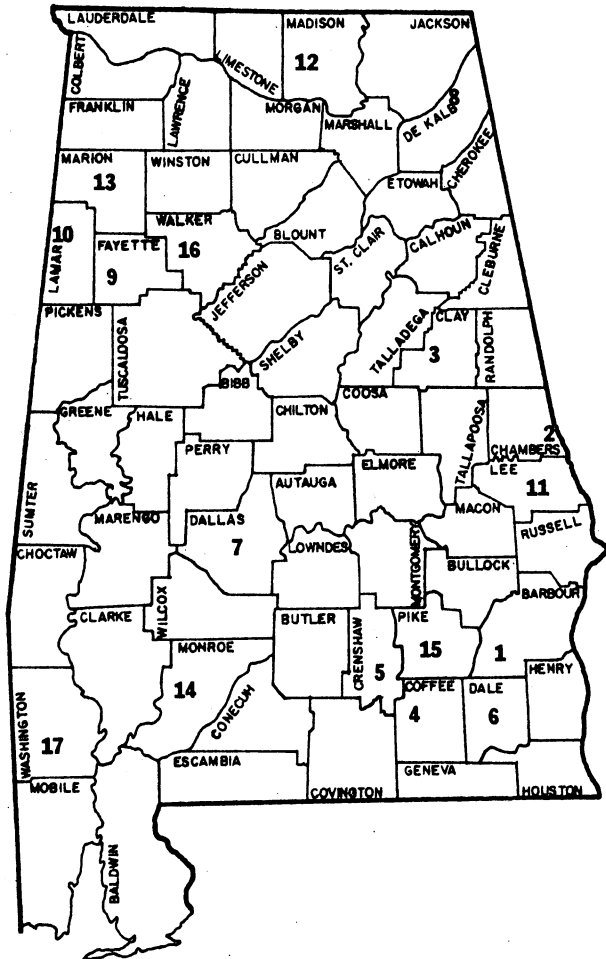


FIG. 14. Public fishing lakes.

5. Crenshaw County Lake: 53-acre impoundment on 240 acres, 5 miles south of Luverne on U. S. Highway 29; concession stand, 25 picnic tables, 18 boats for rent, and launching site.

6. Dale County Lake: 92-acre lake in total area of 355 acres, 2 miles north of Ozark; opened in 1959; concession stand, 20 boats for rent, 20 picnic tables, and a concrete launching ramp.

7. Dallas County Lake: 100-acre lake in 306-acre site, 15 miles south of Selma near Sardis; concession building, restrooms, primitive camping area, eight picnic tables, nine boats for rent, and earthen launching ramp.

8. DeKalb County Lake: 120-acre lake in 300-acre site; ½ mile from Sylvania; concession building, restrooms, picnic tables, rental boats, and launching ramps.

9. Fayette County Lake: 60 acres of water in 255-acre area, 4 miles southwest of Fayette on County Highway 35; opened

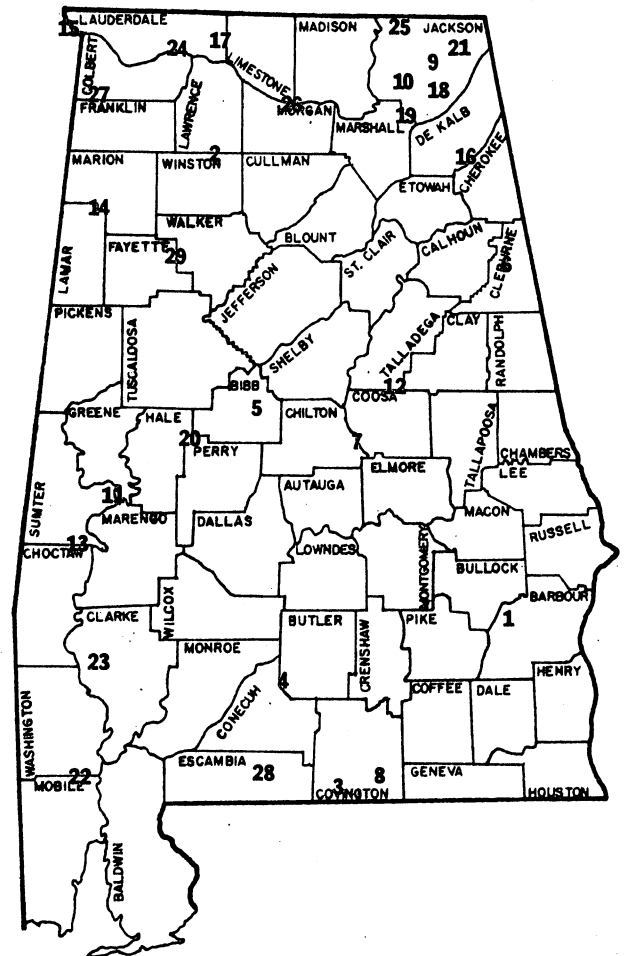


FIG. 15. Wildlife management areas.

concession building with restrooms, 20 boats for rent, and earthen launching ramp.

Bass and bream are the major species in the public fishing lakes. However, crappie are caught in large numbers in the Coffee, Crenshaw, and Dale County lakes.

Public areas managed for hunting play a major role in providing hunting for Alabama residents. With most private lands either closed to hunting or available to only a select few, a large percentage of hunters would be unable to find hunting sites except for the public hunting areas.

Special hunting programs, like bow and arrow seasons for antlerless deer, appeal to many hunters, as do special hunts designed for population control of different species of game.

Some 29 areas are managed for public hunting in the state, with most of them offering both big game (deer, turkey) and small game (squirrel, rabbit, quail, dove). Waterfowl hunting is allowed on seven areas. Locations of these areas are shown in Figure 15, and general information is given in the following table (number refers to number on map):

Number and designation	Acreage	Type game ¹
1. Barbour	16,634	BG-SG
2. Black Warrior	96,580	BG-SG
3. Blue Springs	25,573	BG-SG
4. Butler	20,220	BG-SG
5. Cahaba	22,000	BG-SG
6. Choccolocco	39,424	BG-SG
7. Coosa	39,000	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	BC-SG
13. Kinterbish	13,614	BG-SG
14. Lamarion	25,600	BG-SG
15. Lauderdale	20,370	BG-SG
16. Little River	18,000	BG-SG
17. Mallard-Fox Creek	2,460	WF-SG
18. Mud Creek	8,193	WF-SG
19. North Sauty Refuge	5,200	SG
20. Oakmulgee	43,500	BG-SG
21. Raccoon	7,080	WF-SG
22. Rob Boykin	24,015	BG-SG
23. Scotch	20,480	BG-SG
24. Seven-Mile Island	4,685	WF-SG
25. Skyline	23,648	BG-SG
26. Swan Creek	6,242	WF-SG
27. Thomas	30,320	BG-SG
28. T. R. Miller	37,230	BG-SG
29. Wolf Creek	30,000	BG-SG

¹BG = big game; SG = small game; WF = waterfowl.
Data updated to May 1971

The 29 wildlife management areas total 650,560 surface acres, of which the state owns some 25,000. The remainder is under contractual arrangement with the state for development and operation. Land owners include Tennessee Valley Authority, U. S. Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, and both large and small private land owners. The areas are well located in relation to where hunters live, considering the necessity of large blocks of land with adequate habitat for wildlife.

The Division has developed 112 boat access areas on rivers and impoundments throughout most of the state. Access sites, including ramp and parking area, usually vary from one to five acres in size. Again, many agencies and individuals have cooperated in making land available for these sites.

Seafoods Division

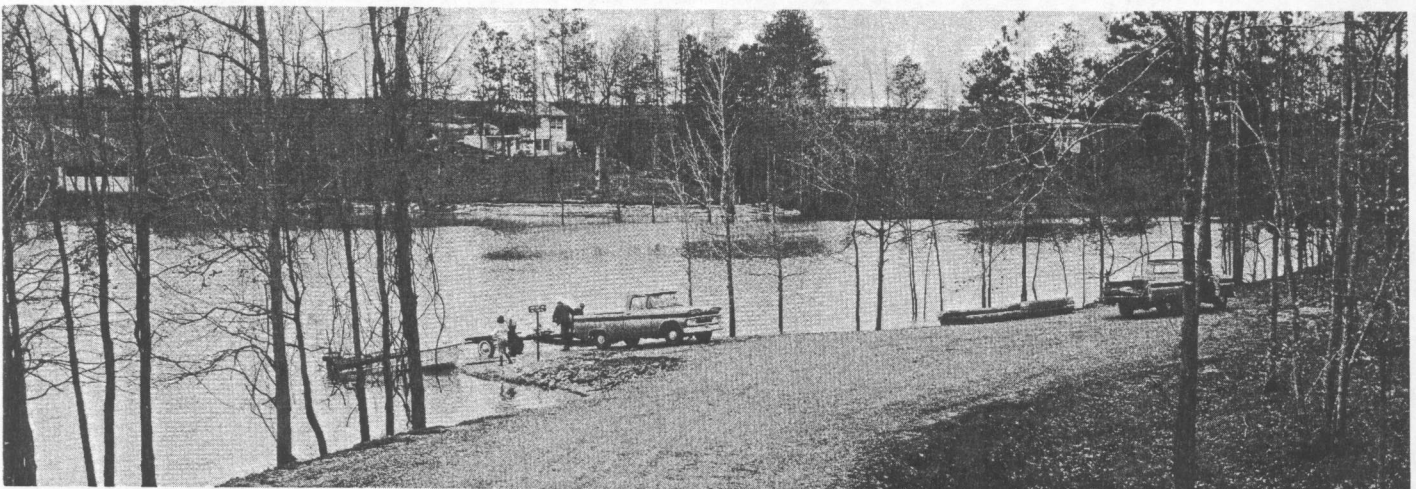
Red snapper, flounder, seatrout, crab, and other salt water species are important to both sport and commercial fishing. The Seafoods Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation has the responsibility of protecting this important state resource for both purposes. This function is carried out through research and regulatory programs. Personnel keep a close watch on water quality in the fishing areas to help prevent development of pollution problems that would seriously reduce or destroy commercial and sport fishing.

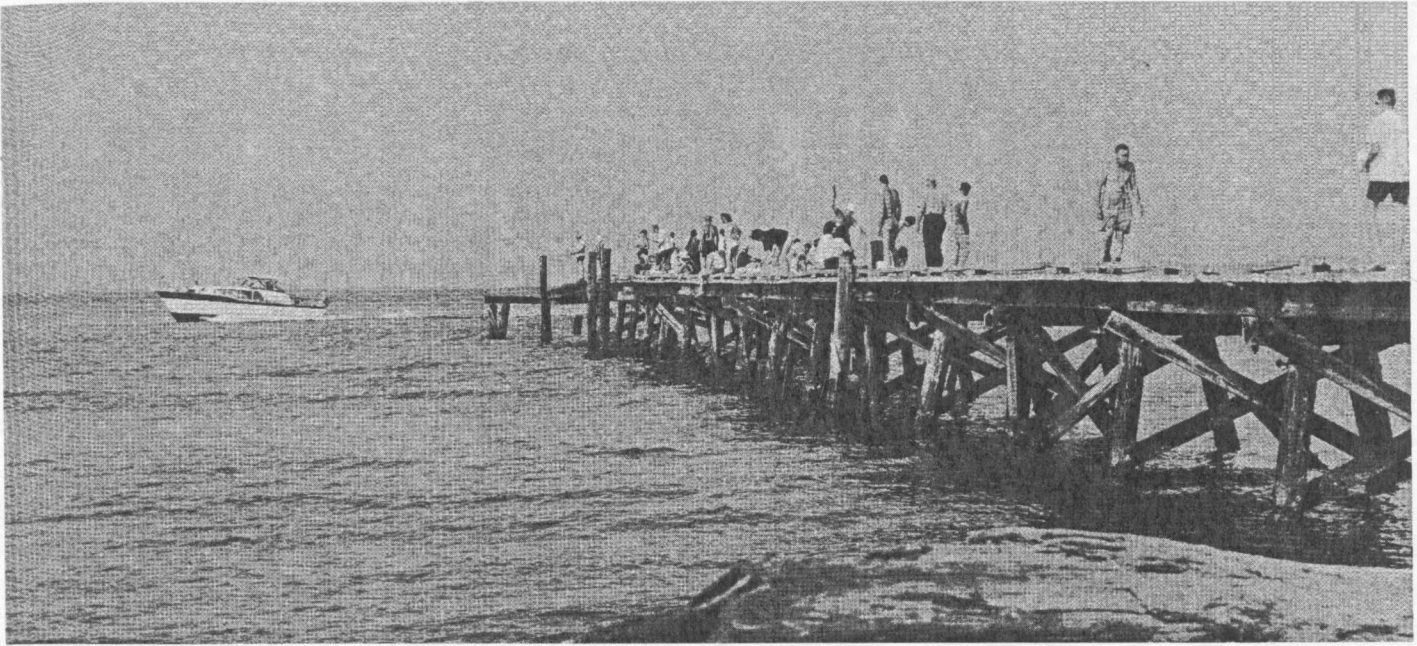
Salt water fishing is a major attraction for people from inland states and areas, and this Alabama outdoor recreation resource could increase in importance. Contributions of agencies like the Seafoods Division are essential for best utilization of this natural resource.

Water Safety Division

Protecting people against the consequences of their own carelessness has always been a function of law enforcement, and this is a major job of the Water Safety Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation. The rapid growth of boating in recent years has increased the need for both educational and enforcement programs to prevent personal injury and property damage. At least one water patrolman is assigned to each major body of water in Alabama.

Accident prevention by educating the public is a major interest of the Division. This is done through television and radio shows, printed literature, water safety exhibits at fairs and special events, and programs before schools, civic clubs, and other groups.





Buoys and signs to aid in navigation are placed and maintained by the Division. Additional markers will be placed in coming years, including a new inexpensive type that will be used to mark hazards like stumps and deadheads. Also, the Division is seeking to build office-information centers at selected locations to assist water-recreation users.

Other State Agencies

Several other state agencies participate in outdoor recreation, either by providing or operating facilities or by enforcing regulations that encourage best use of resources and facilities.

The Forestry Commission provides, by contractual arrangements to the State Parks Division, one state forest area for use as a park (it has a lake, picnic area, swimming area, trails, and other minor recreation facilities). Another state forest tract is used in a wildlife management area program by the Game and Fish Division.

Alabama Highway Department builds and maintains access

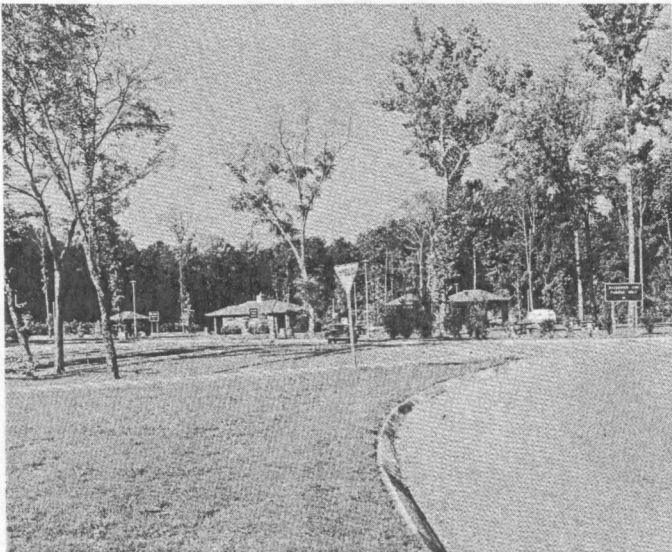
roads to parks and within state parks, and is responsible for highway beautification and development of parkway systems for the state. Planning for interstate highway development gives consideration to present and future park development needs for entrance-exit points. It also provides roadside picnic tables and, working with a federal program, is providing additional rest areas on interstate and other highways. A total of 61 interstate safety rest areas with developed picnic areas will be completed along Alabama's Interstate system by 1974 or 1975.

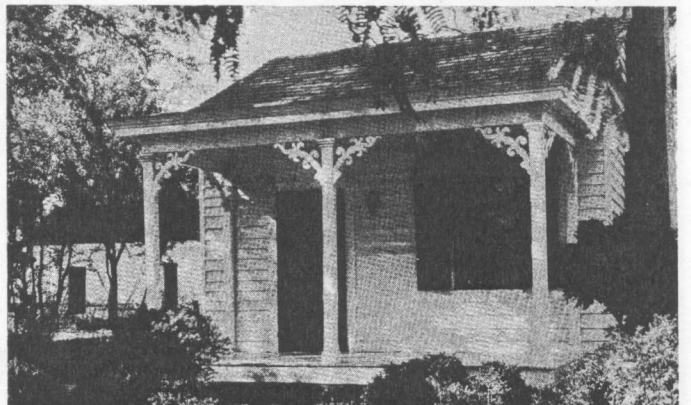
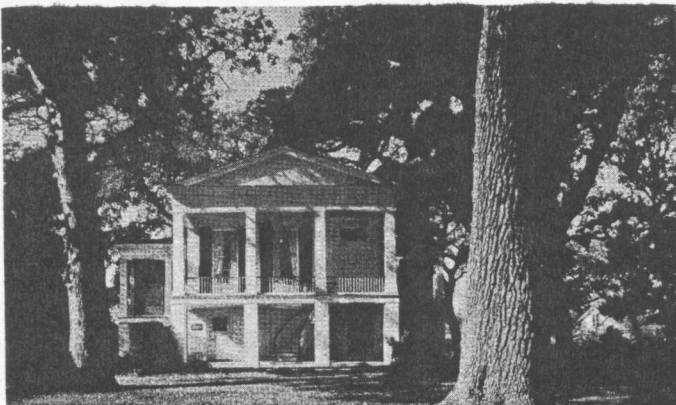
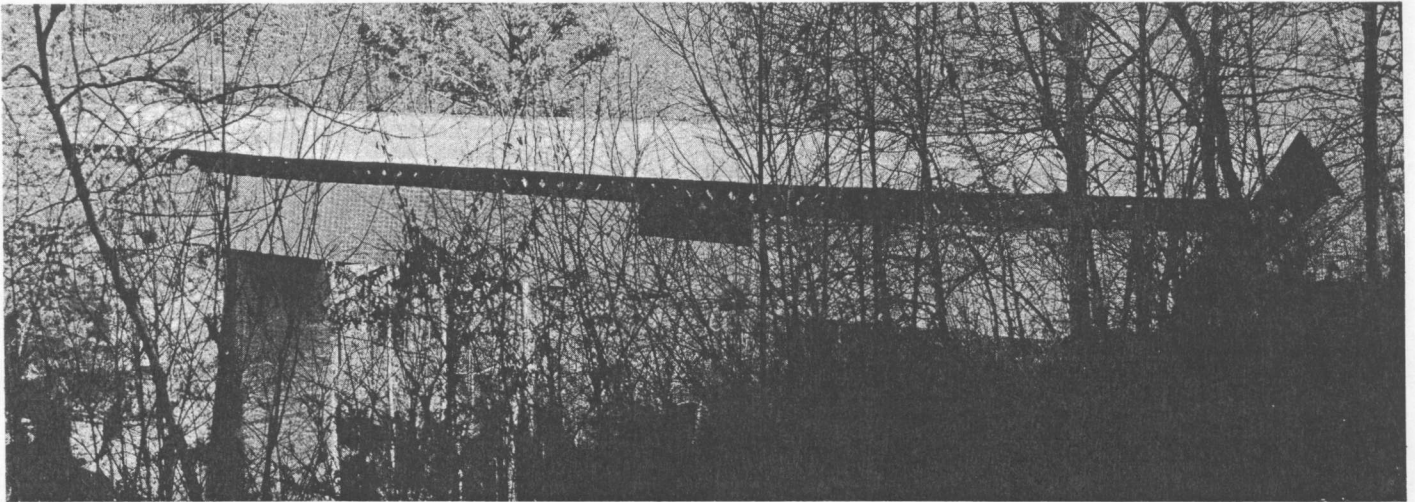
State Department of Education owns a number of "16th sections" of land that are being used for recreation purposes. Facilities at several educational institutions are available for public use when not otherwise in use.

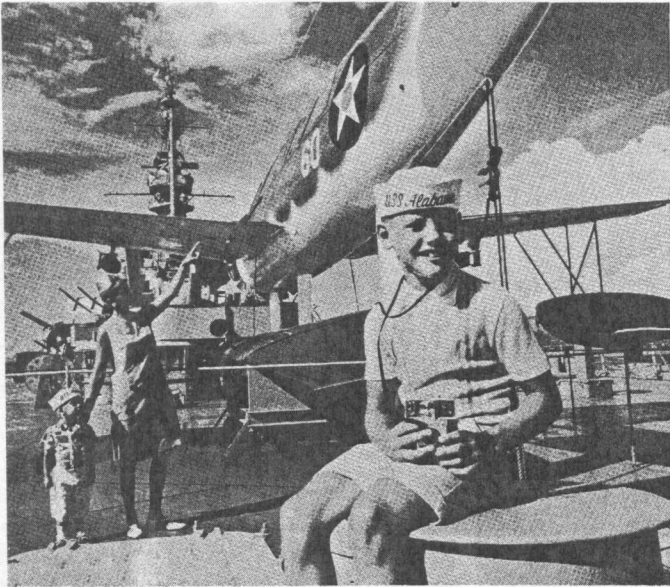
State Health Department owns several parcels of land that are used by other agencies as recreation sites, and hospital grounds have recreation facilities for patients.

Bureau of Publicity and Information provides educational and promotional materials to assist residents and out-of-state visitors in widening recreational experiences in the state. Also, it is cooperating with the Highway Department in developing information centers in selected interstate safety rest areas. One such facility has been completed near Mobile and the Mississippi border.

Alabama Historical Commission both operates and encourages local public and private groups to preserve and open to the public numerous significant landmarks. Alabama historical sites listed in the National Register, by counties, include: Fort Morgan—Baldwin; the Tavern and Fendall Hall—Barbour; Horton Mill Covered Bridge—Blount; Dr. Francis Museum—Calhoun; Natchez Trace Parkway and Wilson Dam—Colbert and Lauderdale; Helen Keller Birthplace (Ivy Green)—Colbert; Fort Payne Opera House—DeKalb; Fort Toulouse—Elmore; Greene County Courthouse and the Coleman-Banks Home—Greene; Moundville Indian Site—Hale; Russell Cave National Monument—Jackson; Arlington—Jefferson; Oscar Kennedy House—Lauderdale; Tuskegee Institute—Macon; Bluff Hall and White Bluffs—Marengo; Barton Academy, City Hall, City Hospital, Fort Conde—Charlotte, Bishop Portier Home, and Admiral Raphael Semmes House—Mobile; First Confederate Capitol—Montgomery; Apalachicola Fort—Russell; J. L. M. Curry Home—Talladega; Horseshoe Bend Na-







tional Military Park—Tallapoosa; and St. Stephens Site—Washington.

Several other state agencies interested in outdoor recreation, some of which own sites, include the USS Alabama Battleship Commission, Fort Morgan Commission, Mound State Monument, Cahaba Commission, La Grange Historical Commission, Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Gorgas Memorial Board, Richmond Pearson Hobson Memorial Board, and the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission.

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

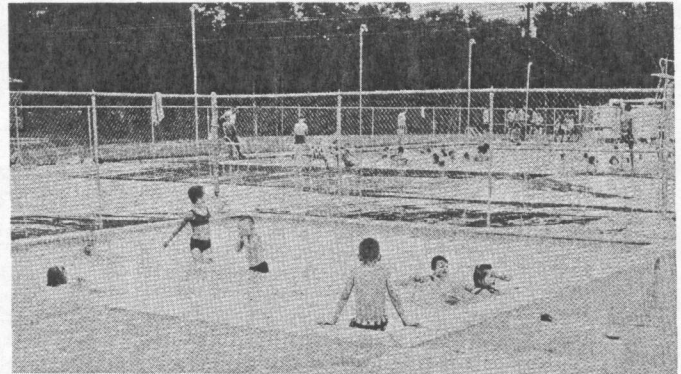
County governing bodies have developed only a few county parks. In fact, of the 3,212 sites inventoried in the state, only 29 (one per cent) were operated by county governments. Several counties operate more than one facility, so the 29 sites represent fewer than 29 counties. Twenty-one of the 29 were in the southern half of the state. Several counties owned land that was being operated for recreation purposes by quasi-public groups under the county governing bodies. Counties owned 43 sites containing 1,380 acres. The 29 being operated totaled 1,273 acres.

While most county governing bodies have not accepted the operation of parks as their responsibility, most assist in developing access areas and roads to sites operated by other agencies or groups. A few counties recently began operation of multi-use parks, including camping, but most are day-use areas.

CITIES AND TOWNS

Incorporated towns and cities were operating 1,292 (40 per cent) of the 3,212 sites inventoried. Most cities with population of 5,000 or more provided outdoor recreation sites, but smaller ones generally left recreation to civic groups and parents.

City sites varied from a few large park complexes to many small playground areas. Land owned by Alabama cities totaled 23,864 acres. Recently three cities developed large multi-use parks that will be used largely as commercial ventures. A few cities operate public golf courses and other types of large land area parks.



QUASI-PUBLIC

A total of 139 sites (four per cent of those in the state) were operated by quasi-public or related types of organizations. Most of these were youth camps, scout camps, or similar operations. Total acreage owned is 174,966.

PRIVATE SITES

The 1,237 sites operated as private ventures made up 39 per cent of the total number inventoried. This private sector included utility companies, business organizations, and individual family operations (like fishing lakes open to the public). These private operations were larger than average in the state, accounting for 1,100,506 acres of land. This was 60 per cent of all outdoor recreation land inventoried.

Private sites were reasonably well distributed throughout the state. Type of operation varied from small high density use parks to caverns, lodges and resorts, farm fish ponds, and to large woodland areas open only for hunting.





Alabama Power Company, an investor-owned utility serving customers in 56 counties, operates 11 hydroelectric projects that create reservoirs on the Warrior, Coosa, and Tallapoosa rivers, which provide water-oriented recreation to many residents and visitors, Figure 2. Alabama Power Company operates a 60-acre park near the H. Neely Henry Dam on the Coosa River and plans to develop others in the future. Related land areas owned by this company also are used in many recreation activities, and as sites for homes, cabins, trailers, camp grounds, fishing lodges, marinas, and wildlife management areas. Many privately owned recreation sites are also located on these impoundments. Two large private home-recreation developments are underway—one on Logan Martin Lake and one on Martin Lake. Alabama Power Company "fun lakes" are as follows:

Lake Name	Acres	Population
Lewis Smith Lake	21,200	500
Weiss Lake ¹	30,200	447
H. Neely Henry Lake	11,200	339
Logan Martin Lake	15,263	275
Lay Lake	12,000	289
Mitchell Lake	5,850	147
Jordan Lake/Walter Bouldin Lake	6,800	118
Martin Lake	40,000	700
Yates Lake	2,000	40
Thurlow Lake	574	6
Total	157,087	2,361

¹Small area not in Alabama.

Alabama's private recreation resources are too numerous to list, but they provide a variety of activities for sightseers, pleasure drivers, boat and water enthusiasts, hikers, campers, fishermen, and hunters. These resources vary from mountain to Gulf, from river to reservoir, and from small to large.

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

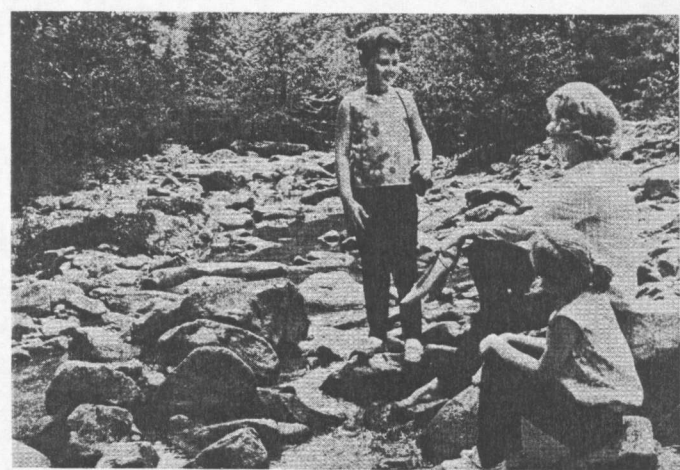
The term "recreation land" in this report refers specifically to land that is (1) available for public use, and (2) included in

the Alabama summary of outdoor recreation sites. Total land and water area classified as recreation land in the 1969 survey was 2,296,985 acres, almost seven per cent of the state's entire surface area.

Acreage given does not include area of impoundments on which recreation sites were located. For example, a fish camp on Alabama Power Company's Lake Weiss did not include the lake's 30,200 acres, but only land owned by the camp. However, water acreage of small lakes located within a park site was included.

Land ownership was as follows:

Federal	914,805	39.8
State	81,464	3.5
County	1,380	.1
City	23,864	1.0
Quasi-public and combination	174,966	7.7
Private	1,100,506	47.9



Ownership and operation of recreation land show wide variation because of leasing arrangements among different governmental agencies and individuals. For example, the state owns only a small acreage of recreation land but operates nearly one-third of the total. Private groups operate 35 per cent of the land, considerably less than amount owned. Although federal ownership is about 40 per cent of the total, these agencies operate only 30 per cent of total land.

Seven classes were used to list recreation land according to use, as given below:

Class	Acres	Per cent of total
I. High density—adapted to intensive use and development; near major centers of population . . .	20,975	0.9
II. General outdoor—attractive natural or manmade setting; near centers of urban population	32,914	1.4
III. Natural environment—varied and interesting natural settings for use "as is"; remote from population centers	2,092,030	91.1
IV. Natural features—scenic wonders that merit preservation; minimum development desired	3,750	0.2
V. Primitive area—natural and wild areas away from civilization; no commercial development warranted	32,763	1.4
VI. Historical and cultural—associated with history, tradition, or heritage; merits preservation	3,241	0.1
VII. Water oriented—principal activities depend on large quantities or areas of water	111,312	4.9

Some acreage of each land class was found in every region and district, but natural environment land accounted for most. The low percentage of high density land is considered a serious deficiency and more is especially needed in urban areas.

Although 77 per cent of the recreation areas remained open all year, there was a definite seasonality in use. July was the month of greatest use, accounting for 16 per cent of all visitation. March through November accounted for 92 per cent of total use, leaving December, January, and February as low months. However, there were 4 million visits made during these three cold months.

Importance of water resources to Alabama's recreation program was emphasized by survey information showing fishing, swimming, and other water-based activities as most popular. Availability of each activity, along with popularity ratings, is reported below: (For example, 1,008 sites had fishing waters and 921 of these rated fishing as one of the three most popular activities at the site.)

Type of activity	Number reporting activity available	Popularity number listing
Fishing (fresh water)	1,008	921
Fishing (salt water)	96	93
Swimming	654	474
Water skiing	260	129
Canoeing	152	14
Sailing	122	9
Boating	484	343
Waterfowl hunting	75	21
Biking	48	4
Horseback riding	120	74
Hiking	198	45
Walking for pleasure	377	95
Nature study and bird watching	237	39
Playing golf	178	171
Playing tennis	252	122
Playing softball	458	303
Playing baseball	446	367
Playing football	298	156
Track and field events	121	14
Volleyball	246	54
Badminton	165	8
Croquet	78	1
Shuffleboard	70	8
Camping (trailers, trucks)	218	46
Camping (tent)	262	38
Camping (group or organized)	122	35
Sightseeing (walking)	251	85
Driving for pleasure	105	29
Outdoor plays, concerts, exhibits	227	95
Trapshooting, target practice	37	9
Archery	78	12
Hunting small game	218	177
Hunting big game	162	146
Model plane and kite flying	57	3
Picnicking	980	641

The majority of visitors to recreation sites were from nearby areas and came for the day. However, 18 per cent stayed overnight. More than a third of the areas reported that most visitors came from less than 5 miles away. Less than 12 per cent traveled 50 miles or more, and about six per cent more than 100 miles. Travel distance covered all sites, including neighborhood parks in urban areas.

State totals of facilities for specific types of recreation are listed below:

Recreation facility	Quantity available
Swimming pools	1,395,985 sq ft
Beach water	3,948 acres
Beach land	3,663 acres
Beach shoreline	41,205 yards
Picnic grounds	5,245 acres
Picnic tables	12,069
Camp sites, tents	1,913
Camp sites, combination	5,977
Boat launching sites	408
Car/trailer parking spaces	17,696
Manning and mooring sites	211
Boat spaces	7,380
Golf courses, 9-hole	90
Golf courses, 18-hole	65
Playfields	1,592 acres

The above list includes only major types of facilities available in the state. Fresh water for fishing was available at 1,008 of the 3,212 sites, with many also offering related facilities, such as piers, rental boats, concessions, camping, cabins, and related resources. Additional data on types of resources available, by location, were included in the various volumes of the comprehensive plan.

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT

Alabama's recreational enterprises are constantly changing. Therefore, any set of situation data must be periodically updated. This is done annually by determining the year's land acquisitions and facility development. Reported here are actual acquisition and development during 1970, followed by plans for the next five years, 1971-75.

1970 Data

During fiscal 1970, 54 sites for outdoor recreation development were acquired by government units. Cost was almost \$2 million for the 58,286 acres acquired. Only a small part of the total acreage was purchased, however, since gifts and leases accounted for much of the acreage acquired. Sites varied from small areas for neighborhood parks to large acreages for state parks and hunting areas.

Government funds spent for development during 1970 amounted to \$4.5 million, with 64 recreation sites sharing improvements. Region 1 was the greatest beneficiary, both in number of sites and dollars spent.

City and town governments provided the greatest amount of capital development funds during the year, \$3,342,848. Next was the federal government (\$1,144,561), state agencies (\$25,314), and county governments (\$20,750). The \$4.5 million reported spent for development was by governmental agencies only. Large sums spent by the private sector are not included in this total.

1971-75 Plans

Plans for the next five years call for land acquisition to continue at about the 1970 rate, but development expenditures will accelerate. Some 222 sites for outdoor recreation facilities will be acquired, with anticipated development spending amounting to about \$107 million.

The 222-site land addition will total 59,582 acres, with fed-

eral, state, and local governmental agencies spending about \$7.2 million in purchasing. A major portion of the addition is 40,000 acres planned for two wildlife management areas by the Game and Fish Division (land to be leased). Some land acquisition will occur in all recreation planning regions and districts.

Development plans show that recreation facilities will be developed on 370 sites during the five years—the 222 new ones and 148 already existing. Facilities to be developed include lodges, cabins, restaurants, camping areas, golf courses, marinas, playground equipment, utilities, roads, swimming pools, swimming beaches, playgrounds, picnic areas, trails, boat ramps, nature areas, wildlife management areas, and others.

Locations of planned developments show that most additions will be in areas having greatest population. For example, more than 60 per cent of the people live in Regions 1 and 2, and about 69 per cent of funds will be spent in these regions.

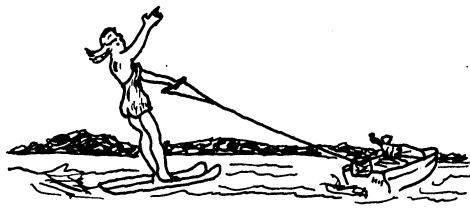
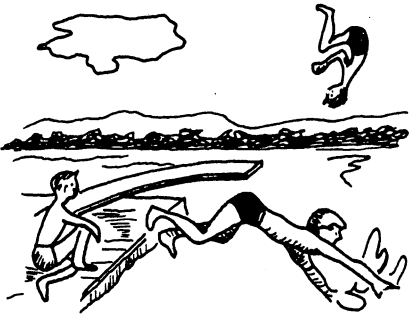
Federal and state agencies anticipate spending about \$44 million each during 1971-75 on development of recreational facilities. Cities will spend \$15 million and county governments nearly \$4 million.

Whether these projected amounts are actually spent depends, of course, on availability of funds. But the \$107 million is considered a minimum figure since some local governments did not report any planned expenditure, or only that for a year or two. Some projects may be discarded, but others will be added to take their places.

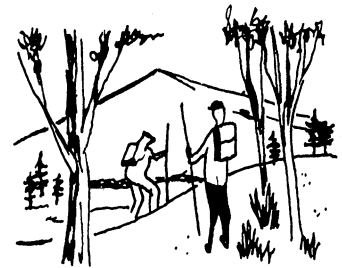
Planned expenditures for recreation additions during 1971-75 will have major impacts on Alabama and its economy. In addition to improving the state's recreation program for residents and visitors, the developments will provide a boost to the general economy. Providing materials for the developments and for on-the-site construction work will provide many jobs. Additional people will be employed to operate the new facilities and to provide supporting goods and services.



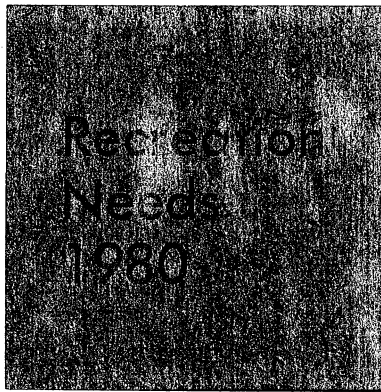
more area



more trails



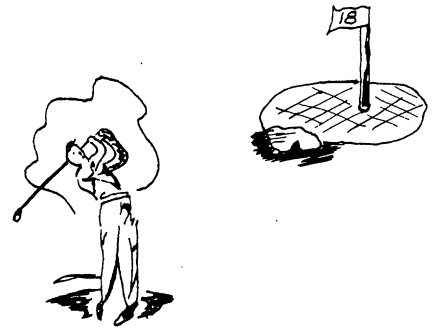
more facilities



more roads



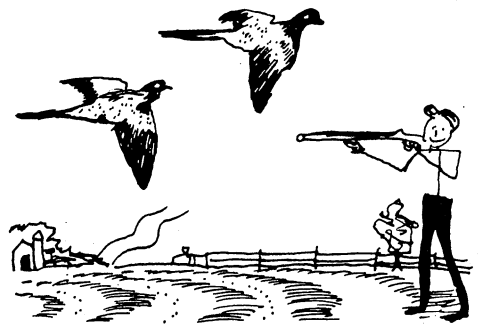
more courses



more sites

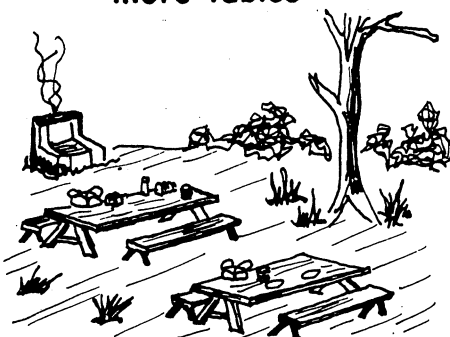


more hunting



more development

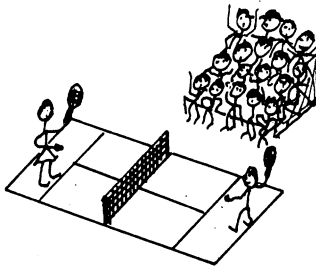
more tables



more land



more seats



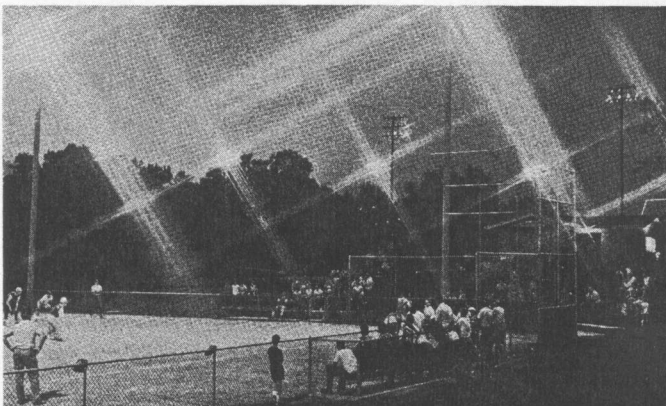
HOW MUCH MORE LAND is needed? What kind of land is needed? Where is it needed? What kind of outdoor recreation facilities are needed? How many are needed? Where are they needed?

Answers to such questions, given in this section, provide governmental agencies and private developers with projections on land and facilities needed in the future. Demand and supply are put into comparable units of measure by converting to terms of specific resources and facilities. This permits the determination of additional supplies of specific facilities needed to bring supply up to present and projected demand. Major emphasis is on needs by kind and by location. Needs are determined by subtracting current supplies from total requirements (demand).

Incomplete supply data for some facilities prevented determination of needs. For facilities, only requirements are given.

REQUIREMENTS FOR 1980

This report gives only requirements for 1980. Thus, focus is on needs for the immediate 10-year future period, which demand immediate attention. In determining needs, consideration was given to multiple use of resources and multiple activities participated in by the same person on a single outing at a given location. Likewise, need data were adjusted to update the study from 1969 to April 30, 1971. Facilities developed, or under construction, since the original inventory have been added to increase the current supply and thus reduce some needs.



Recreation Land Needs

Land needed for recreation facilities is based on population, and broken down into urban, countywide, and statewide areas. Requirement standards used in the comprehensive plan for Alabama in 1980 were 12 acres per 1,000 people in urban areas, 15 acres per 1,000 people for countywide areas, and 80 acres per 1,000 people for statewide areas.

The urban land requirement of 12 acres per 1,000 people was based on providing adequate land for such facilities as neighborhood parks and playgrounds, citywide use parks, and special use parks such as golf courses, botanical gardens, and zoos. All urban land would be within the incorporated limits of the cities and, hopefully, well located with respect to where people live.

Urban areas of all recreation planning districts are projected to need additional land by 1980. Many urban areas already need additional land. Amount of recreation land needed varies from a low of 157 acres in the Quad-Cities District to a high of 9,337 acres in the Birmingham District, Figure 16.

The total statewide need for urban land by 1980 amounts to 22,920 acres, with 5,814 acres of this specifically needed for playgrounds. Some urban areas have playground needs that exceed total land needs because they own land that should be developed into playgrounds, Figure 17.

Countywide and statewide recreation land needs are set to provide adequate land in rural areas for all recreational needs except hunting. This would include land for day-use activities, camping, nature areas, scenic areas, hiking, and other uses. By 1980, an additional 272,730 acres of land is needed for countywide and statewide uses, Figure 18. In some cases publicly-owned land needs to be made accessible and provided with facilities. In other cases land should be acquired. Supplying both land and facilities is a responsibility of both private enterprise and governmental units.

Recreation Facility Needs

Recreation facility needs are reported in terms of the 20 activities previously discussed. Some of these needs can be supplied in urban areas while others can largely be supplied only in rural areas. All needs are expressed in terms of additional needs to supply the 1980 demand.

DISTRICT	(100 acres)									
	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	
Quad-Cities	157									
Decatur	316									
Huntsville					2,059					
Gadsden			1,205							
Tuscaloosa	501									
Birmingham						9,337				
Anniston		542								
Selma	245									
Mobile					4,691					
Brewton	392									
Montgomery							2,662			
Auburn-Opelika		483								
Dothan	330									

FIG. 16. Urban land needs, by districts, Alabama, 1980.

DISTRICT	(100 acres)								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Quad-Cities					393				
Decatur				264					
Huntsville					435				
Gadsden			157						
Tuscaloosa							656		
Birmingham					1,420				
Anniston				348					
Selma		203							
Mobile							694		
Brewton		149							
Montgomery					459				
Auburn-Opelika				376					
Dothan				260					

FIG. 17. Urban playground needs, by districts, Alabama, 1980.

DISTRICT	(1,000 acres)									
	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	
Quad-Cities										10,918
Decatur										14,815
Huntsville										30,597
Gadsden										3,466
Tuscaloosa										13,556
Birmingham										77,741
Anniston										4,125
Selma										7,119
Mobile										43,817
Brewton										8,062
Montgomery										24,027
Auburn-Opelika										13,111
Dothan										11,376

FIG. 18. Countywide and statewide land needs, by districts, Alabama, 1980.

Swimming needs are sizeable in terms of both swimming pool area and shoreline space, Figure 19. Water was adequate for beach swimming, provided quality is maintained, but beach and shoreline areas were not adequate for the water supply. Improvement can be made by enlarging beach and shoreline areas, but more beach access areas with full facilities are needed.

A beach area should accommodate at least 500 to 750 swimmers at one time, and have adequate space for sun bathing and parking. Both public and private developments can aid in meeting pool and beach swimming needs. Most of the pool needs will be in urban areas.

Boating, water skiing, and fishing needs are often for the same resources with some variation in time of year when needed. Access areas, parking spaces, and boat launching ramps are common needs for all three activities. Marinas, boat slips, and mooring spaces to a degree also serve these same three groups. Access areas need to be large enough to handle 40 to 50 boats per day with parking for cars and trailers.

Need for boat access areas is apparent in all districts, as shown below:

District	Access areas needed, 1980
Quad-Cities	27
Decatur	38
Huntsville	49
Gadsden	40
Tuscaloosa	74
Birmingham	100
Anniston	30
Selma	30
Mobile	40
Brewton	34
Montgomery	38
Auburn-Opelika	45
Dothan	50
STATE TOTAL	595

Trail mileage needs include trails for nature walking, walking for pleasure, hiking, bicycle riding, and horseback riding. Projected needs for 1980 are shown in Figure 20. Some multiple use may be possible, but most uses require separate trails. No specific need data are given for supporting land to go with the trails. This will depend on location of the trail. Those in parks might require no extra land, whereas considerable acreage would be needed for trails built in new locations. Some of the trail mileage needed can be supplied in urban areas and some in rural areas. Needs are for both short and long trails and statewide trails system. The statewide trails

DISTRICT	Pools—sq feet	Shoreline, yds.	Beach access areas
Quad-Cities	269,595	7,368	2
Decatur	255,263	6,550	3
Huntsville	210,019	6,379	2
Gadsden	325,066	9,288	1
Tuscaloosa	424,238	9,503	4
Birmingham	674,816	5,531	3
Anniston	92,808	10,900	2
Selma	230,319	5,916	2
Mobile	397,433	2,334	1
Brewton	172,488	4,940	3
Montgomery	239,852	5,399	2
Auburn-Opelika	323,654	5,761	2
Dothan	239,574	7,888	4
State total	3,855,125 sq feet	87,757 linear yds.	51 areas

FIG. 19. Swimming resource needs, by districts, Alabama, 1980.

DISTRICT	Pleasure Walking	Nature Walking	Hiking	Bicycle Riding	Horseback Riding
Quad-Cities	175	59	180	98	92
Decatur	146	62	150	82	90
Huntsville	153	72	120	83	18
Gadsden	196	22	160	106	86
Tuscaloosa	215	98	250	117	109
Birmingham	423	175	300	226	55
Anniston	129	22	219	71	35
Selma	136	52	140	75	60
Mobile	257	87	165	129	55
Brewton	100	30	110	55	40
Montgomery	172	70	140	95	50
Auburn-Opelika	210	75	240	117	80
Dothan	175	70	260	96	50
State total	2,487 miles	894 miles	2,434 miles	1,350 miles	820 miles

FIG. 20. Trail mileage needed by kinds, by districts, Alabama, 1980.

system should stress redevelopment of historic and scenic trails that would meet requirements of the national trails act.

Special roads required for pleasure driving and sightseeing (800 miles statewide) are in addition to the regular road system. Some of the mileage could serve both purposes, but other would not be suitable for both. These should be specially developed, unique roads that provide access to natural areas or scenic areas with adequate pull-offs. One such road is now being developed in the Talladega National Forest.

Rough roads required for recreation vehicles and trail bikes are identified by districts below. Newness of these types of vehicles makes this projection difficult. Special roads with adequate controls are needed, however, so these vehicles may be enjoyed without using various types of walking trails or "running wild" in undeveloped areas.

District

Miles of rough roads required, 1980

Quad-Cities	240
Decatur	247
Huntsville	162
Gadsden	180
Tuscaloosa	136
Birmingham	268
Anniston	126
Selma	80
Mobile	250
Brewton	40
Montgomery	186
Auburn-Opelika	109
Dothan	112
STATE TOTAL	2,136



Golf courses were inventoried in the state by size—9- and 18-hole courses. However, the 1980 needs given below are in “9-hole course equivalents”. Projections did not consider that demand was tied to a specific size course. Ownership of future golf courses was assumed to be largely private, but there will be some increase in the number of courses built by local and state government.

District	Number of courses needed
Quad-Cities	13
Decatur	13
Huntsville	13
Gadsden	9
Tuscaloosa	18
Birmingham	47
Anniston	10
Selma	6
Mobile	26
Brewton	9
Montgomery	13
Auburn-Opelika	18
Dothan	15
STATE TOTAL	210

Camping facilities are seriously deficient in the state. This is emphasized by projected 1980 needs given in Figure 21. Developed campsites are needed in major recreation areas for weekend and vacation campers and near interstate highways for overnight camping by tourists. Most of the “overnight” areas should be private developments.

The 6,940 needed campsites are for developed sites that provide electricity, water, toilet and bathing facilities, and other comforts for campers who use advanced equipment. No data were developed on needs of campers who prefer to “rough it” and want little other than a place to pitch a tent.

Group camping is generally for youth groups and is not a family affair. Beds are generally furnished in such camps, and the camper brings only personal belongings, and maybe bed linens. Quasi-public agencies are expected to meet most of the 1980 group camping needs shown in Figure 21.

Outdoor exhibits and sites, such as art shows, floral gardens and homes, historical areas, and the Battleship Alabama, drew 31 million visits in 1967. This was about equally divided between in-state and out-of-state visitors. Uniqueness of the exhibit and its location in reference to other recreation sites govern demand for any such exhibit. Projections of 1980 demand call for adding 273 places or sites to supplement presently established sites open for visitation.

Picnic table needs, as projected to 1980, can be met in several ways. Many recreation areas can add tables to existing picnic grounds. In other cases, new picnic grounds will be needed for existing recreation areas. Most districts will need new land for picnic areas, especially for roadside picnic-rest stop areas for interstate highways. All of these ways should be employed in providing the projected needs.

Facilities needed for picnicking are highly variable, depending on type of picnic planned. Where picnicking is a substitute activity (different from backyard cookout only because it is away from home), large numbers of tables can be placed in a small area.

If picnicking is supplementary to some other outdoor recreation, as is the usual case, needs are different. For this use, tables are needed at boat ramps, parks, and beaches for use by people who are mainly taking part in activities other than picnicking. Number of tables needed depends on participation in the major activity.

As a complementary activity, picnicking is closely associated with other activities like camping.

DISTRICT	Camping		Outdoor Exhibits and Sites	Picnic Tables	Spectator Seats
	Tent-Trailer Sites	Group Camping, Beds			
Quad-Cities	200	330	18	285	7,600
Decatur	300	620	15	686	6,370
Huntsville	400	1,335	18	427	6,660
Gadsden	520	580	21	552	8,530
Tuscaloosa	500	1,070	24	497	9,650
Birmingham	750	1,200	52	1,039	18,945
Anniston	510	840	16	605	5,785
Selma	450	630	15	408	6,030
Mobile	1,260	2,380	31	1,409	11,390
Brewton	380	280	11	401	4,420
Montgomery	530	1,200	17	591	7,250
Auburn-Opelika	450	780	19	370	8,860
Dothan	690	710	16	699	7,380
State total	6,940 sites	11,953 beds	273 sites	7,969 tables	108,370 seats

FIG. 21. Camping and miscellaneous needs, by districts, Alabama, 1980.

The general assumption followed was that a picnic table in a pleasant surrounding, with associated grills and garbage facilities, was preferred in all cases. Under certain conditions, however, some people will settle for a blanket on the ground. The survey showed that tables are not being used by all picnickers, especially in areas where there is a charge for use of a picnic table. There is an apparent reluctance to pay for using a picnic table.

Viewing sports events is a spectator sport that includes many people. Popular events, such as baseball games, boat races, horse shows, tennis, and golf, require both seating and parking areas for spectators. Football and international auto racing require special needs and are excluded from these 1980 projections.

New parks and playgrounds will generally include spectator seats, with most of the needs being in urban areas. Rural areas and park complexes also need some seats, but portable folding bleachers may satisfy this requirement.

Hunting needs differ by type of game hunted. Deer, turkey, rabbit, dove, quail, and squirrel are major Alabama game taken by hunters, with limited waterfowl hunting also available. Designated hunting season limits this recreation activity to mainly fall and winter, and each type of hunting has its own peculiar resource requirements.

Total land requirements for 1980 hunting in Alabama are projected to be 7,800,800 acres for big game and 4,805,850 acres for small game. No requirements are given for waterfowl hunting since water needs also enter into this projection.

Although there are large acreages of hunting land in Alabama, most of it is privately owned. This is available only to owner and friends, or in many cases it is leased for hunting by members of private clubs. Land that is open to all citizens includes that in wildlife management areas plus some federal and even some private land. Since the inventory included areas open only to select groups of hunters, findings cannot be used to arrive at true needs.

Projections for 1980 indicate serious shortages of land for big game hunting in the Huntsville, Gadsden, and Mobile districts, and in all districts in Region 4, Figures 3 and 4. Statewide shortages in small game hunting land are indicated for 1980, the seriousness depending on actions of private land owners in permitting public hunting. Great increases in programs of the Game and Fish Division of the Department of Conservation will be needed to make adequate hunting available in the future.

Other Recreation Needs

There are many more outdoor recreation activities than those already discussed, and others will be developed in the future. Many of these are of such a nature that it is virtually impossible to project future needs, but this miscellaneous group must be considered when planning.

Gardening is generally thought of as a backyard activity that has no need for facility provision. For people in apartment complexes, however, setting aside areas of public parks for individual growing of flowers and vegetables, as is done in some European countries, might be a worthwhile project.

Vegetable and flower gardens in parks attract visitors to some parks in Alabama and adjoining states, and this type project should be expanded. Consideration should be given to at least one state-owned botanical garden, either in an existing park such as Chewacla State Park, or as a new facility.

Birdwatching and wildlife photography have specific requirements, mainly good habitat land. Large groups can practice birdwatching together in a relatively small area, but about nine acres of surrounding habitat land are needed for

each acre where watching can be done. More land in the state should be designated for birdwatching activities, with adequate publicity to let interested persons know about the facilities.

Such activities as sky diving, flying for pleasure, and soaring are gaining in number of participants, and new forms of recreation can be expected. While specific needs of new activities cannot be determined at this time, the requirement of added land is a certainty that should not be overlooked until the specific demand arrives. Obtaining land for these anticipated future uses would not be wasted land until developed for new purposes. It could be used for hunting and other activities that require relatively little except land area.

MEETING THE NEEDS— THE STATE PROGRAM

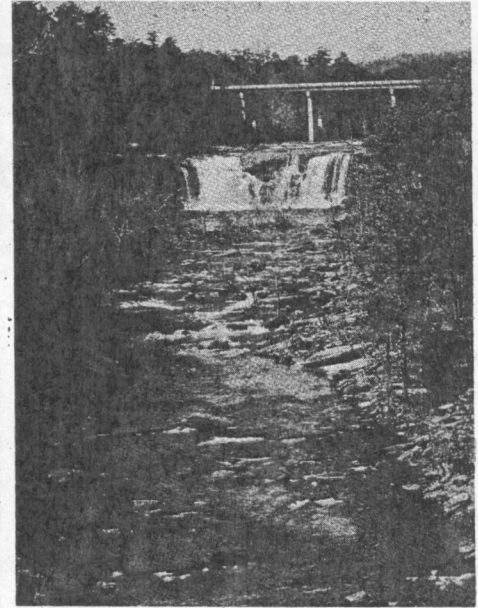
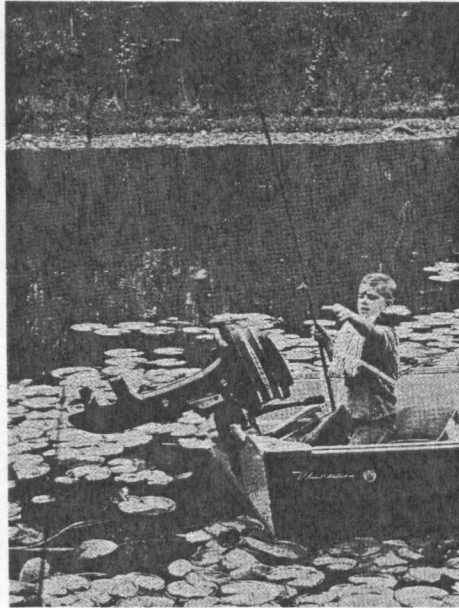
Alabama has many outdoor recreation needs. Meeting these needs will require a large acquisition and development program for the remainder of this decade. All levels of government and private enterprise will be required to participate fully in a statewide program of improving existing facilities and in developing new ones, if the needs are to be met. Only through cooperative action can a high quality outdoor recreation system be developed in the state. The remainder of this section is devoted to specific suggestions and recommendations of ways various governmental units, private enterprise, and individuals may become a part of the action program to supply needed outdoor recreation resources.

The state program of outdoor recreation encompasses a variety of facilities, ranging from the active state park to the more passive wildlife management area. Recommendations in the statewide plan include reorganization of some state agencies along with acquisition and development programs. Also, the recommendations cover a number of areas in which the state should express a long-range conservation interest and consider changes that would lead to a well developed system. This will need to be done on a departmental basis.

Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation should continue to have a major role in development of outdoor recreation in Alabama. With more people engaging in recreation and numbers of activity occasions increasing, responsibilities of this Department will grow. Meeting this extra responsibility means that additional funds will be required. Operational and maintenance funds (needed by all divisions) are just as important as funds for capital development in improving the outdoor recreation program to meet growing needs. Specific recommendations for some divisions within the Department are listed below.

Division of State Parks, Monuments, and Historical Sites. Park development underway will provide many new and improved recreation facilities. Two major problems exist. Present contracts do not include all items needed to make present construction operational. An example of this is in construction of overnight facilities now underway. Often no utility contract has been signed to provide the needed services to make these facilities operational, nor have furnishings and equipment been contracted for. Second, an adequate amount of supporting facilities has not been contracted for at some parks where overnight facilities are being constructed. These facilities will not be attractive without adequate activities for visitors, such as swimming areas, boat facilities, trails, and play areas. Careful study is needed of each park where construction is occurring to determine additional capital fund needs for development of well planned multiple use parks.



Adequate funding to complete these needs will be necessary over the next two years.

The Division presently operates facilities under its control through a classification system of major parks, minor parks, and miscellaneous areas.

It is recommended that the Division reduce its responsibilities to one of State Parks only. This would provide a division with the responsibility for operating 13 existing parks and related areas—most of which are presently undergoing some new capital development. Such organization would enable staffing and concentration on the development, operation, and maintenance of these major parks and their related areas. Capital development should continue until these 13 parks are adequately improved.

It is recommended that a new Division be created within the Department of Conservation—a Division of Natural Areas and Recreation Areas. All facilities under the present parks division would be transferred to the new division, except for the 13 major parks and their related areas and the existing monuments and historical sites. Sites operated by this division would be renamed to more adequately describe their services. Additional nature areas should be acquired to provide a better balance over the state. New programs of wild, scenic, and recreational rivers and a statewide trails system should be developed under this division. Capital funds would be needed for both acquisition and development, but long range plans would give first priority to acquisition. The best legacy this program can leave the next generation is the opportunity to develop the land this program preserves in open space. At the same time, the resources under this division can be used to supply many local recreational needs.

It is recommended that the monuments and historical sites operated by the present Division of State Parks, Monuments, and Historical Sites be transferred to another existing state agency. This would change the present situation in which two state agencies have equal responsibilities in operating and maintaining monuments and historical sites.

Division of Game and Fish. County fishing lakes, wildlife management areas, and boat access areas operated by the Division of Game and Fish serve a real need and more will be needed in the future. Projected needs for 1980 indicate that major emphasis should be given to boat access areas and wildlife management areas, with a highly selective basis used for county fishing lake development.

It is recommended that the State Wildlife Management Area program be expanded as rapidly as possible to help overcome the shortage of hunting land facing the general public. It is further suggested that land in state parks be made available for restricted hunting.

Division of Outdoor Recreation. This division is responsible for administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant-in-aid program, for conducting a continuing program of outdoor recreation research and planning, and for providing technical assistance to all levels of government interested in matching grant funds. With its work growing in magnitude and importance, the Division needs adequate staff and funds.



Other State Agencies

Alabama Highway Department. The 61 interstate safety rest areas planned for completion by the end of 1974 are expected to supply, in addition to restroom facilities, much of the need for picnic tables along interstate highways. Information centers are planned, in cooperation with the Bureau of Publicity and Information, for selected locations. This development is recommended. It is further recommended that safety rest area facilities be provided as soon as possible on sections of the interstate now open. Also, open areas of the interstate highway should be studied with respect to the need for additional interchanges. In some cases new recreation areas, along with motels and restaurants, would be developed near new interchanges.

Alabama Historical Commission. It is proposed that the Commission take over operation of historical sites and monuments now under the Division of State Parks. The Commission can aid the state's efforts to provide future sites by identifying existing sites and working with local people to restore and open attractions to the public. Cooperation with the Highway Department should be continued to identify natural areas or historical sites that should be saved for future development. By serving as a coordinator for agencies operating single sites, the Commission can ensure that Alabama's many historical sites are available to visitors. Additional funds are needed for the Commission to meet its full responsibilities.

Bureau of Publicity and Information. This agency provides a valuable service in the promotion of travel within the state, and its program needs to be expanded to include information centers. Likewise, it is encouraged to work closely with other state agencies and area travel agencies receiving state funds in the development of recreation and travel programs.

Other State Agencies. Outdoor recreation work should be continued or expanded by other state agencies. However, all development should be in keeping with the state plan and coordinated with other developments in the state.

The Alabama Water Improvement Commission does not operate outdoor recreation facilities. Yet, its responsibilities are directly related to recreation resources since water-oriented sports represent both the largest and fastest growing activities. This agency is unable to meet its full responsibilities in the water quality field because of inadequate funding to employ the needed technical staff. Until adequately staffed and supported, progress in water quality will be slow at best and even likely to deteriorate.

Federal Programs

U. S. Forest Service. To overcome confusion because of the two divisions of Talladega National Forest, it is recommended that the Oakmulgee Division be renamed Oakmulgee National Forest but operated as a part of the present Talladega National Forest system. This would make it much easier for people to know which of the two divisions is involved when reference is made to the Talladega National Forest (see Figure 8). At the same time it would not result in a loss of funds to any county.

The Forest Service is encouraged to increase development of recreation facilities, including those for fishing, hunting, and travel trailer camping, as rapidly as possible. Special attention should be given also to needs for wilderness areas, trails, nature and scenic areas, scenic drives, and water access areas into lakes and streams within the forest areas. Special

support and encouragement are recommended for development of the scenic highway and a long hiking trail in the Talladega Division of the Talladega National Forest.

Corps of Engineers. This agency is encouraged to complete the planned development of recreation resources under construction on the Alabama River and at the West Point Dam. These projects should be reviewed in 3 or 4 years after completion to determine additional needs for access areas and boat launching ramps for 1980. Similar review is suggested for the Corps' resources at the Walter F. George, Columbia, Demopolis, Coffeerville, and Warrior impoundments. Additional water access areas, boat ramps, picnic areas, campgrounds, and related facilities are needed now or will be needed soon in these areas.

In the event that navigation is developed from Montgomery to Gadsden on the Coosa River, the Corps should consider developing recreational areas as part of this project. Also, consideration should be given to the development of recreational areas at the John Hollis Bankhead Lake.

State and local governmental units are encouraged to cooperate with the Corps in using their land, through lease arrangements, for local recreational developments.

Tennessee Valley Authority. Recreation use of TVA reservoir land through cooperative programs with state and local governments should be continued. It is further recommended that TVA continue the program it has begun of providing basic recreation facilities at selected sites. Recreation needs of Region I could be helped by TVA building and operating additional water access sites, boat launching ramps, campgrounds, trails, nature areas, picnic areas, and related facilities. Also, TVA should consider working with the Department of Conservation to determine the best use of the Elk River Lodge area and portions of the Lawrence County section of the Joe Wheeler State Park.

The Elk River Development Agency and Bear Creek Development Authority are urged to use their legal authority to cooperate with TVA in developing recreation resources within their operational areas. Impoundments being developed on Bear Creek offer some real help for meeting 1980 needs.

National Park Service. Improvements or additions are suggested for three NPS areas in Alabama—Natchez Trace Parkway, Russell Cave National Monument, and Horseshoe Bend National Military Park. Rapid completion of the Natchez Trace Parkway is encouraged, followed by a review of its use within four years. Additional recreational facilities on the Trace will be helpful in meeting needs of 1980 and later.

Russell Cave should have an improved entrance road, with adequate road markers, which could also serve as a scenic drive. It is recommended also that additional land be acquired to provide additional activities at the cave. A longer trail system and a well developed nature area are possibilities that should be considered.

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park is gradually being developed to highlight its historic past. Two developments seem possible without detracting from this valuable historic resource. One is to provide a developed picnic area in a remote location of the park. The second is to improve and lengthen the Horseshoe Bend Trail. State cooperation and assistance should be given in developing the trail outside of the park.

Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional outdoor recreation facilities are recommended for the three National Wildlife Refuges in Alabama. Long range plans of this agency show that more recreation facilities are planned. Facilities for wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation should be given

high priority in a development program. All recreational activities should be planned to provide minimum conflict with the wildlife management objectives of the refuges.

Soil Conservation Service. It is recommended that the SCS in Alabama enter into all phases of outdoor recreation permissible under revised Public Law 566. This would include continuation of the small watershed program, financial cooperation in the building of countywide and state parks, and recreation development under the RC & D program. SCS cooperation is especially requested for helping meet needs in Planning Region 4.

Other Federal Agencies. All other federal agencies are encouraged to continue their outdoor recreation development efforts and to enlarge their programs where possible. Increased funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund is highly recommended. Additional funds under this program would greatly assist state and local governments in providing for present and future needs in Alabama.

Local Programs

County Governments. Only a limited number of the 67 county governments in the state operate any type of outdoor recreation facilities. Such factors as lack of funds, failure to see needs, and lack of expressed interest by rural residents help explain actions of county governments.

Countywide parks are needed in most counties. Some of the resource needs include "pocket" wilderness areas, nature areas, nature trails, water access areas, boat launching areas, day camping areas, and in some cases overnight camping areas. These developments will require both land acquisition and facility development. Since countywide parks will serve all people of the county, they often should be joint ventures of county, city, and town governmental units, as well as local clubs or groups.

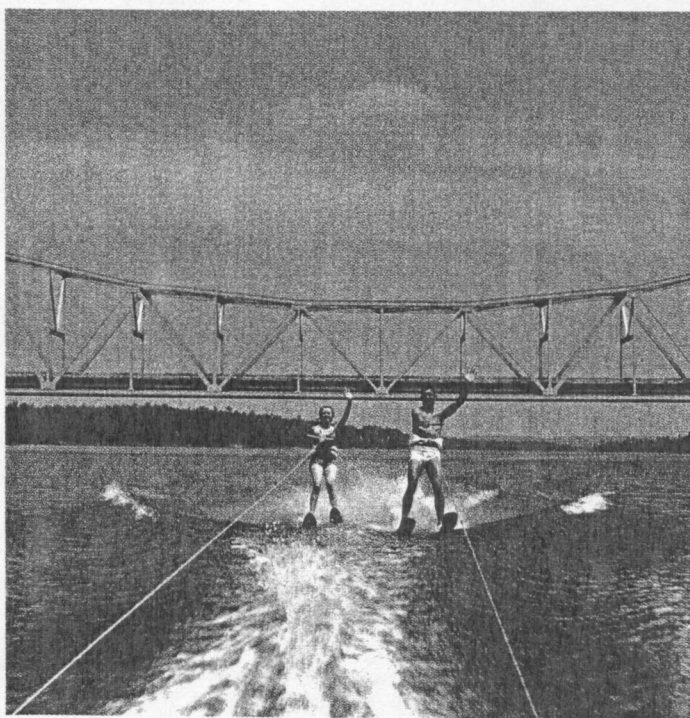
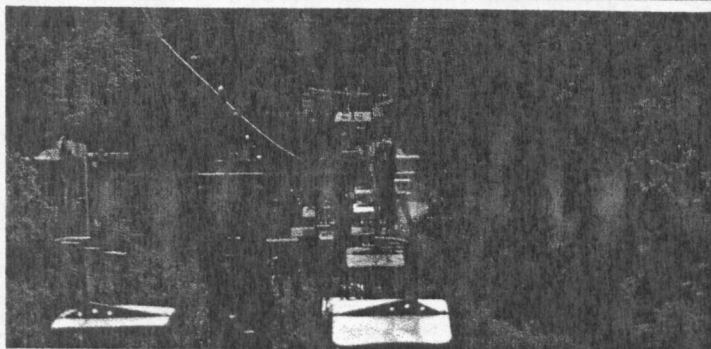
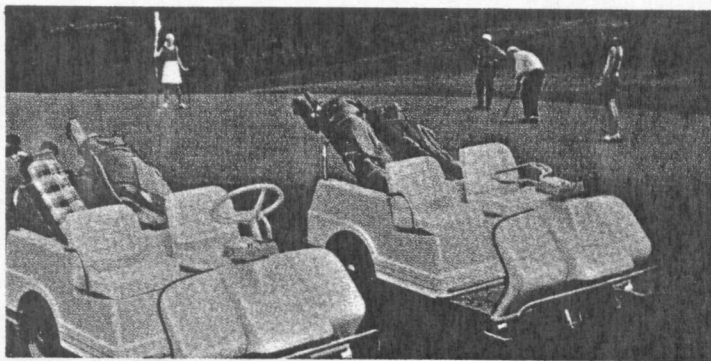
Cities and Towns. Incorporated cities and towns are expected to furnish resources and facilities needed in urban areas. Such things as playgrounds, neighborhood parks, swimming pools, picnic areas, trails, tennis courts, and open space areas are appropriate for urban areas. In some cases, day-camping and overnight camping facilities, and golf courses may be needed. Special studies of Alabama urban areas show a large need for both land acquisition and facility development, with lack of funds seriously limiting such development. Priority given to recreation varies greatly among cities and towns, however, and local development is closely related to the priority given it.

Private Actions

An ever-increasing role by the private sector is needed to meet projected 1980 outdoor recreation needs. Such facilities as tourist accommodations, specialized hunting and fishing areas, golf courses, dude ranches, resort facilities, some swimming pools and beach areas, caves and caverns, overnight camping and some destination camping areas, boat marinas, and launching and docking facilities are especially adapted for private development. Some private developments can occur around natural areas or special feature areas of the state. In other cases they may be completely man-made to take advantage of good travel or highway locations.

Private and quasi-public agencies are expected to provide the major needs for group camping and youth camps. A larger number and better distribution of these facilities are needed in the state.

In the case of such special needs as resources for pleasure driving, sightseeing, historical site attractions, and requirements for handicapped people, the state must take major responsibility. However, other levels of government and private enterprise should be encouraged to assist.



Action Program

Meeting the needs described in preceding sections of this report requires a plan and an action program. It also requires implementation, the follow-through of acquisition and development by all levels of government. Most of all, it requires public understanding and concern. Recreation needs of 1980 and later will not be met simply because this plan was prepared. There must be a combination of time, money, and efforts by all levels of government, private enterprise, and individuals working together to provide Alabama with the finest outdoor recreation system possible. Only through this kind of comprehensive effort can Alabama's promising future in recreation and tourism be realized.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

The state has a number of "special problems" that relate to recreation. In some cases they could hamper recreational development. Most problems cannot be solved by the recreation industry alone. Rather, they require joint action on a statewide basis. Some of the more important problems are considered here.

Natural Beauty

Alabama's abundance of natural beauty has been referred to earlier, but a problem here is erosion of some of this beauty by sprawling urbanization, misuse of technology, washing hillsides, and other results of man's actions. Recent interest by many people has made possible some progress toward solutions—solutions that allow co-existence of economic growth and natural beauty—but much more is needed. State government should develop a sound plan with adequate legislation to ensure not only periodic and vigorous cleanup but also an effective program for preserving the state's natural beauty. Such



a program must be supported with continued leadership, publicity, and education to make and keep it effective.

Surface mining has left many scars on Alabama's land resources. Act No. 399 (1969) provides for reasonable reclamation of lands strip mined since the effective date of October 1, 1970. Three possible problem areas remain, even with this law. First, only limited provision is made for recovery of land mined prior to October 1, 1970. Second, exclusions to the Act will permit future damage to the state's natural beauty. Third, the posted bond to ensure reclamation by mining companies (\$150 per acre) may be much too low for adequate redevelopment. This likely will result in many bonds being forfeited and the state left with inadequate funds for reclamation.

Solid waste disposal, largely unregulated in Alabama, is an obvious problem to anyone traveling in the state. Improper disposal detracts from the natural beauty and may be the only thing remembered by many out-of-state visitors. While progress is being made in this area, much remains to be done.

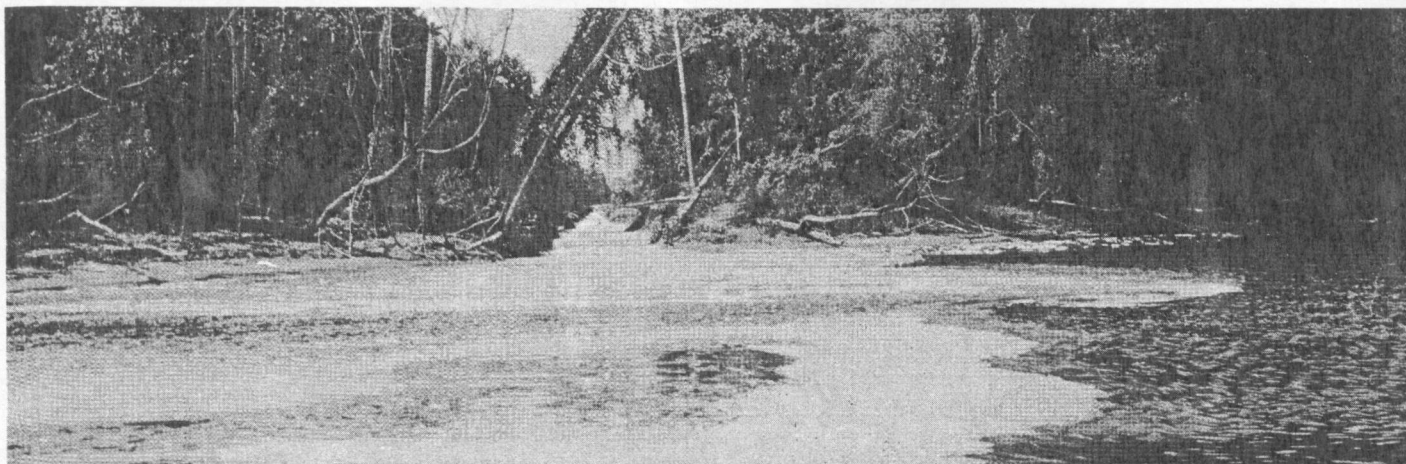
Water Quality

Uncontrolled pollution has resulted in contamination of surface water to the extent that many rivers, lakes, wetlands, and estuaries no longer support many forms of animal life. These conditions led to passage of state and national legislation on water quality. Among the quality standards established in Alabama's law was one for water contact recreation (swimming, boating, skiing), one for fish and wildlife, and one for industrial use-waste transportation. Water for contact sports has a higher standard than for fish and wildlife. Many qualified people feel that water standards for fish and wildlife use should be rated as high as for contact sports, since fishermen come in contact with water just as do recreation boaters.

Federal laws are needed regarding streams used for waste disposal, so that all states would be equal in regard to industrial waste transportation.

Such factors as restrictions on water use at municipal water systems, obstructions in some bodies of water, and color of water in some areas all have a bearing on water use for recreation. Therefore, further study is needed to classify existing acreage of water according to factors that restrict its recreation use.





Wetland Acreage

Some of Alabama's wetland that provides habitat for fish and wildlife, with resulting recreation opportunities, is being lost because of drainage and/or construction of impoundments. Extent of loss is not known, but many people label this an acute problem. Special studies are needed on this problem, followed by a program of public education, legislative restrictions, and reevaluation of agricultural and forestry acreage requirements.

Estuarine Areas

Alabama's coastal area makes up only a small percentage of its total surface area, but its importance to the state's economy and recreational resources is much greater in proportion. Still, there is no overall plan to guide and coordinate the use, development, and management of this region. As the area grows and develops there will be many conflicts which will be difficult to settle because of the lack of a single state agency having authority and responsibility.

A study is urgently needed to determine public and private interests of the coastal area and of ways to conserve its destructible resources. The entire estuarine zone must be considered as a whole. Needed is a legal "boundary line" for dredging and filling and the proper authority to control development of the area.

The state has a real interest in this for more than one reason. It owns a large acreage in parks and recreation areas, the Battleship Parkway, all land between high and low water mark of the tidal shorelines, and a sizeable acreage of marshland.

Stream Preservation And Development

Alabama's needs for the future include both protection and development of her water system. A scenic rivers act, while providing for preservation of a limited number of streams in the state, will not be enough. All rivers and major creeks must be considered. Both pollution and mechanization have changed water quality, and in some cases converted unique and meandering streams into muddy ditches or deep fluctuating lakes. While the need for power and navigation is well established, there is also the desire and need for beauty and recreation that can be provided by natural, undeveloped streams.

Alabama must consider establishment of an official state committee for selected stream preservation. A system of protected streams needs to be designated, with consideration

given to long-run impact on the state. All regions of the state and all unaltered streams should be studied by the committee. The need is to act now. The opportunity is gone when streams are preempted for other purposes. Not only would the proposed committee (aided by a technical staff) work toward a stream preservation program, but it would identify streams that should be developed. Thus, future guidance would be provided for both stream preservation and development.

Environmental Quality

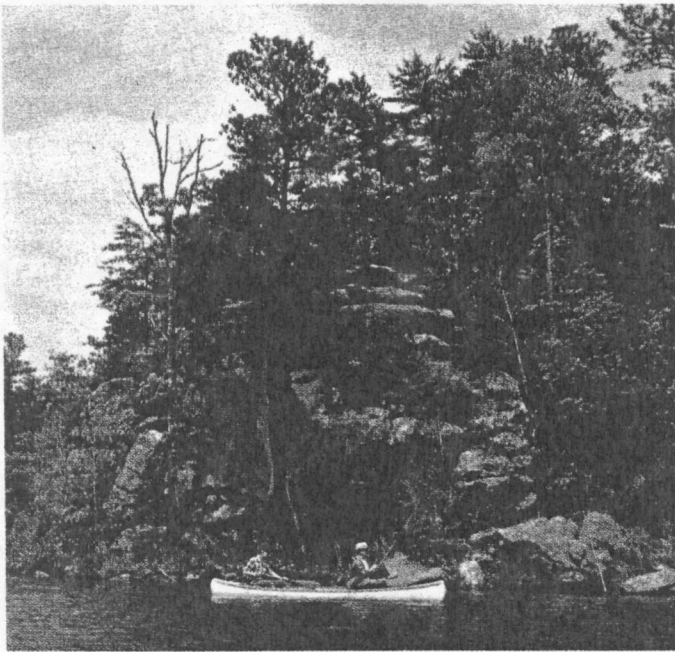
Current environment management is largely unplanned, uncoordinated, and often nonpurpose pursuits of individuals, corporations, and government agencies, all with their special objectives. No state government entity has the authority or responsibility to deal comprehensively with environmental questions. Thus, legislation is necessary to deal with this need. Although immediately desirable, such legislative action probably cannot be adequately defined without detailed study of problems, issues, and possible alternatives. Recreation interest would supply many inputs into such a study. Aside from areas already mentioned, recreation interests would include natural area preservation, historic and other special site preservation, resource deterioration like landscape blight, beach erosion, and forest fires, and endangered plant and wildlife species.

Although problems pointed out are numerous and serious, this part of the report mentions them only to help point up the need for action programs. Some of the needs can be covered adequately by additional outdoor recreation research, planning, and development, but in other cases recreation workers will be only members of an overall team that will be required for solutions.

Quality Aspects

Many qualities that contribute to the enjoyment and importance of outdoor recreation resources cannot be measured by dollars, user capacities, or other tangible units. The demand for outdoor recreation cannot totally be met by the provision of large areas of undeveloped land, nor can it be adequately met by the intensive development of smaller areas. There must be the quiet place, the sense of belonging to a natural order, and the place for recognition of our natural and cultural heritage. Hence, a statewide plan must give consideration to the aesthetic values just as it does to the functional values of natural and scenic resources.

Natural resource areas such as forests and unchanged waterways provide a welcome relief from the over-developed



urban area. At the same time, they provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. Coastal marshlands, which provide visual beauty and a sense of remoteness to the landscape, also serve as spawning grounds for fish, habitat for waterfowl, shelter for wildlife, and the sources of food for shell fish and other marine life.

Man-made elements and resources related to man's history also have inherent qualitative value. Elements such as historic homes, early grist mills, wooden bridges, and ruins of early industry or cities provide a link with the state's history. These areas and others possessing prehistoric, scientific, or architectural value are likely to be lost to the pressure of development unless they are specifically preserved for future generations. Still other areas provide qualitative values in an even less measurable sense. The "breathing spaces" may be little more than a small wooded area, a linear park, or a stream valley, where people can escape the momentum of daily life.

For pleasant outdoor recreation experiences, the waters by which or in which water-related activities occur must be reasonably pure, the air of the area must be free of harmful or distracting pollutants, and the grounds must be free of trash and other discards of society. In the desire to meet activity needs, it is critical that the broader scale relationships and needs not be overlooked.

These qualitative values were fully considered in development of the statewide comprehensive plan. Development occurs as actions of government and man, so quality may or may not go into a program that is short of funds. Yet, the meetings of needs only in a physical sense may "cost" society more in the long run than a less ambitious but more responsible effort to meet the total needs, whether that need is physical, psychological, or environmental.

POLICIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

As revealed in previous sections of this report, Alabama has many fine outdoor recreation facilities—both public and private. Deficiencies were obvious, however, and future demand will greatly exceed the capacity of present resources. Providing for these needs is not the sole responsibility of state

government, but leadership and coordination must come from the state.

Coordinating Committee

Recreation is interwoven into all of the state's resources. Therefore, a high-level state coordinating committee is needed to guide and direct Alabama's outdoor recreation program.

This coordinating committee should be composed of representatives of the Office of the Governor (including the director of the Alabama Development Office), director of the Department of Conservation, director of the State Bureau of Publicity and Information, director of the Highway Department, director of the Health Department (who serves as head of the various state environmental commissions), director of the Alabama Historical Commission, and other department directors as needed. As the state's official recreation and tourism coordinating committee, the group would carry out year-to-year responsibilities, including consideration of operating programs of agencies involved with outdoor recreation and the establishment of policy goals and objectives. Such a committee would provide leadership and guidance and arrange for cooperation and coordination among levels of government, agencies, private enterprise, and individuals in outdoor recreation development. Consideration would be given to development assistance, technical assistance, budgeting, and planning and promotion needs of all outdoor recreation in the state.

Two sub-committees are suggested to assist the committee: One composed of professional employees of the state (workers in recreation, fish and wildlife, water safety, engineering, water resources, community planning, historical research, and others), and the other made up of people well versed in various aspects of outdoor recreation and tourism from different areas of Alabama.

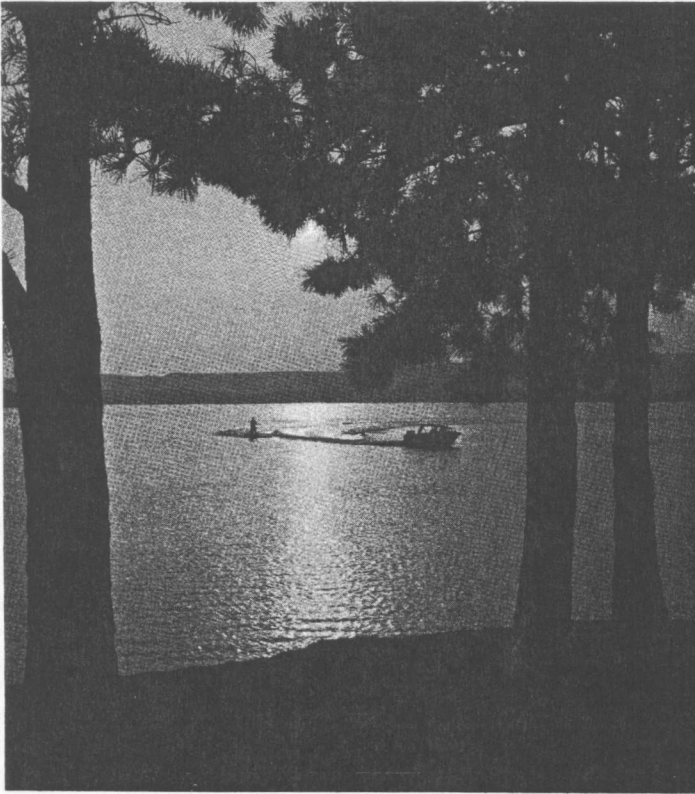
The name of the Standing Committee on Conservation of both the House and Senate of the Alabama Legislature should be changed to "Conservation and Recreation." These committees should be concerned with the state's total needs in the broad area of conservation and recreation. Both study and visitation to various state recreation resources, public and private, are needed for these lawmakers to develop an understanding of existing problems and of needed legislation.

In addition to being the primary coordinator, the state should also play a major role in providing selected recreation resources and facilities needed. The state should be particularly concerned with providing or aiding others to furnish facilities for fishing and hunting, water access areas, parklands, boat launching ramps, and some of the campgrounds, trails, and picnic area needs. Federal assistance (resources and funds) should be sought, and the private sector encouraged to provide some needed facilities.

Federal agencies like National Park Service, U. S. Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, and some Army bases should be encouraged to supplement state government in providing recreation facilities and resources. Some of these agencies have land in the state that could be used for additional recreation facilities.

The Coordinating Committee should assist all governmental units, and to a lesser degree the private sector in planning recreation projects and developments. Aid may include appropriate legislation, financial support where possible, added incentives, technical assistance, and interagency planning.

Based on best available information and projections, major dollar expenditures during the next 10 years should be on development. This does not mean that cities and towns, counties,



or other governmental agencies should not acquire land needed for new facilities or to enlarge existing ones. Future land needs are large and priorities need to be placed on land in urban areas and adjacent to large water resources.

Combined land and facilities required to meet 1980 needs represent a large capital requirement. Although the funds needed are of great magnitude, they should not change the goals and desires of providing what is needed to make the state's outdoor recreation program an outstanding one.

The state's outdoor recreation program in terms of both quantity and quality can be as good as the people of the state want it to be. Plans reflect needs. Implementation can be done by governmental agencies, private enterprise, and actions of



individuals. Interested individuals and groups can make known their desires and priorities. Joint efforts can make possible goal attainment.

Specific responsibilities of state government in an action program are as follows:

1. To provide the additional facilities needed at parks where capital development is now underway.

2. To protect and use wisely the resources of state owned land, thereby providing for nature-oriented experiences and activities for users.

3. To continue expanding its technical assistance to local governments for acquisition and development of local open spaces for recreation areas suited to local needs.

4. To acquire and exercise certain controls over the inland bays and rivers, the state's wetlands, and tidal areas to provide adequate public access to these areas and to prevent destruction of their ecology.

5. To provide proper coordination and cooperation among all state agencies, boards, commissions, and departments whose duties involve protection, development, use, or administration of natural resources.

6. To develop large outdoor recreation and open space systems and complexes and to avoid the acquisition of small, scattered, and unrelated parcels of land. Particular emphasis should be given to "filling in" voids in present large state ownerships to make them more complete and usable units.

7. To encourage the federal government to expand its present program in fish and wildlife management, and to supply recreation resources and coordinate efforts with the state's program.

8. To promote better use of the state's outdoor recreational resources, which are presently under-utilized, thereby helping to overcome the over-burdening of some major parks.

9. To promote or restrict resource use in a manner compatible with the welfare of the fish and wildlife resources. This is

required to protect the status of species populations, maximize the consumptive enjoyment of game species, and preserve the non-consumptive values of all species for aesthetic and scientific purposes.

10. To promote multiple use of all state and other public land ownerships, including school facilities and usable highway rights-of-way, for outdoor recreational programs.

11. To allow lease-concession type arrangements for commercial services on state lands whenever private enterprise, under state supervision, can reduce direct costs to the state while maintaining or improving the level of service to the public.

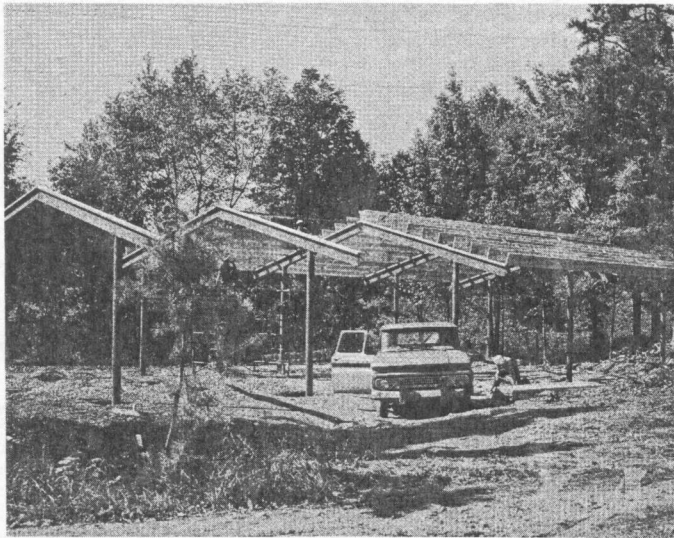
12. To adopt and enforce regulations allowing strong state control over dredging, filling, and bulkheading of wetlands and tidal shorelines.

13. To actively encourage the development of outdoor recreation by private enterprise. There should be adequate regulations allowing a reasonable return to the owners, and the state should avoid undercutting any private operation by less than fair market rates for motel and lodge rooms, camping, and food services.

RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION

In addition to the necessity for ample development and operating funds, a recreation program cannot be successful without adequate legal protection and assistance. Existing Alabama laws cover most of the action program outlined. However, appropriate changes and additions to existing laws in some subject areas could result in faster and more effective achievement of a balanced recreation system in the state.

The proposed Coordinating Committee should review needed legislation and determine the kinds of bills that should be submitted to legislators. The Alabama Legislative Reference Service should develop specific bills based on recreation research.



A rather detailed study of existing laws is reported in Volume 7 of the state plan, along with recommended legislation concerning outdoor recreation. Some of the recommendations briefly presented are:

1. Define the state's responsibility in recreation; tourism; beautification; natural resource use and protection; water, air, and land pollution; waste disposal; and outdoor conservation education.

2. Establish a Coordinating Committee (membership and functions described earlier).

3. Provide for an Alabama open space program.

4. Create a state Outdoor Foundation to encourage and facilitate citizen participation in preserving Alabama's natural and historic heritage.

5. Provide for statewide protection of flood plains and their proper use.

6. Establish legislation for developing and preserving scenic rivers, wilderness areas, and trails systems.

7. Establish a technical assistance program for reclamation of land strip mined prior to October 1, 1970.

8. Provide for protection of natural resource areas, scenic areas, some park areas, access areas, fish and wildlife areas, and water use areas by allowing the state to use selected police powers.

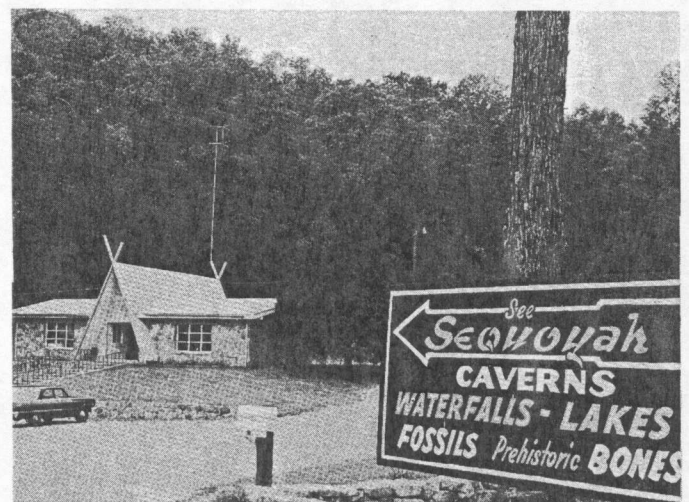
9. Set selected limitations on use of condemnation powers granted to public utility companies.

10. Provide for right of public access to all state owned land related to navigable streams and tidal waters.

11. Encourage development of outdoor education for people of all ages.

12. Provide legislation to enable local governments to develop a wide variety of recreation programs and policies, including countywide recreation boards, joint recreation boards, cooperative facility arrangements, cooperative purchasing, contractual services, and ways of funding programs by taxes when voted by local people involved. Provisions should also be made for urban subdivision developments to have open space for public recreation sites. In some U. S. cities that have such a program, the land is given to the cities. In others, city governments have three years to purchase the reserved open land at the developer's cost.

Many types of small recreation areas are best owned and administered at the local level. When local governments are unable to meet the demand, however, they turn to the state government for assistance. Several methods are being used by states to meet this problem. One is to broaden the tax base so that local areas can provide more facilities. A second is for the state to own and operate many small areas for local use. Another is to provide matching funds at the state level for local use—usually 20 to 25 per cent of capital cost. In other cases states make loans to local governments for recreation development. A combination of the alternatives listed is needed in Alabama.



Land And Water Conservation Plan

One reason for the state preparing a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan is to maintain eligibility for receiving federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. These funds are administered at the federal level by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) under the Department of the Interior. This year, some \$2.2 million of these funds are allocated to Alabama. In turn, these funds can be used by state and local governmental agencies on a 50-50 matching basis.

The statewide plan makes the following provisions for the use of LWC Funds:

1. Approximately 40 to 60 per cent of funds available should go to state agency projects.
2. Remaining funds should be used as follows:
 - To complete projects previously approved for political subdivisions.
 - To acquire land for political subdivisions according to priorities established.
 - For facility development on projects where land and water acreage was acquired through LWC funds.
 - For all other eligible project applications.
 - Programs for handicapped persons might be considered ahead of the "other" project category above.
 - All applications for funds should be considered on the basis of the demand-supply-needs concept.

Priorities established are for evaluating eligible applications for Land and Water Conservation Funds to finance 50 per cent of the costs for planning, acquisition, and development of projects. Facility development needs are generally greater than needs for land. Nevertheless, land acquisition is given priority under certain conditions.

Details on the availability of LWC Funds, forms to be developed, details regarding applications, and other related information can be obtained from:

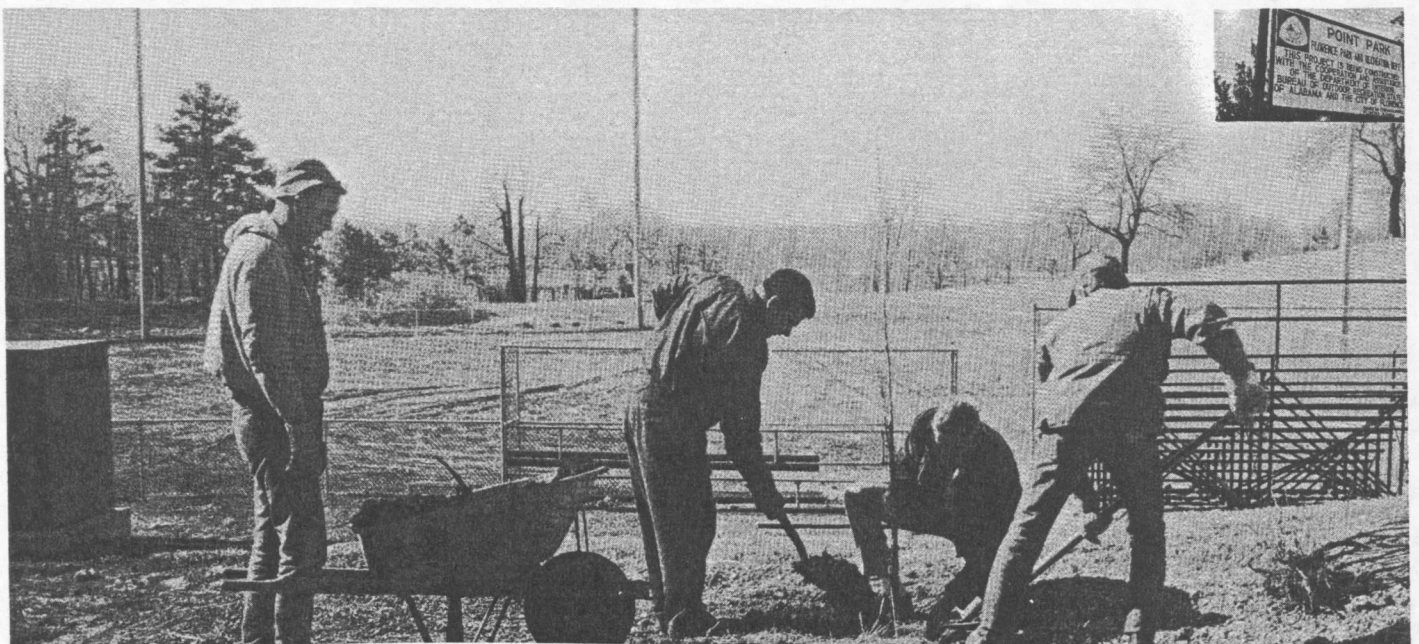
Division of Outdoor Recreation
Department of Conservation
64 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

CONTINUANCE PLANNING PROGRAM

An outdoor recreation plan is nothing more than a coordinated comprehensive look into the future based on the conditions, data, and trends evident at the time of its preparation. If these change over time, the plan will no longer adequately portray current needs. Therefore, the state plan will be periodically updated. Each update will reevaluate goals, objectives, policies, and priorities in light of changes in the quantity and type of facilities demanded. The update will also reflect shifts in governmental attitudes, especially as related to their respective changes in administrative and fiscal capabilities.

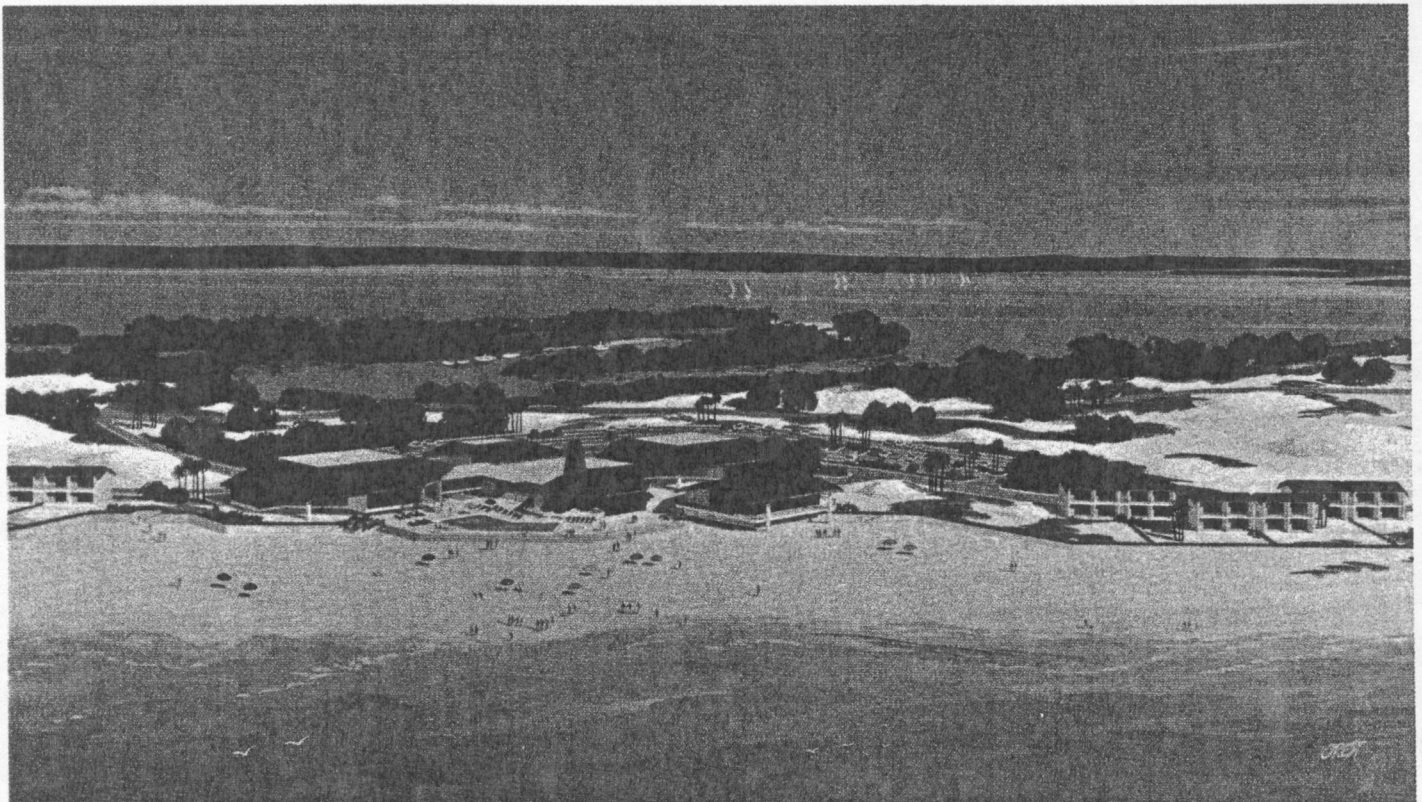
To periodically update the state's plan, a continuance program of research and planning is necessary. Current studies include 13 state streams for possible inclusion in a statewide wild, scenic, and recreational rivers system; a statewide trails system, including the Bartram Trail; tourism participation in the state's outdoor recreation program; special needs of urban areas; and special problems related to use of water resources.

Public participation is needed in updating the state's comprehensive plan. This summary has been published and widely distributed so that the public might know of the planning taking place in the state. For the plan to be updated according to wishes of the public requires that the public make known its desires regarding the quality, character, quantity, and location of facilities. This responsibility is paramount. In addition to making known their desires, citizens also have a responsibility to support the plans and programs and to preserve and protect their natural heritage.





Architects drawings of Gunterville State Park (above) and Gulf State Park (below) show developments in progress that will make these facilities highly desirable.



Acknowledgments

The Alabama Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is the result of cooperative efforts of many people and organizations. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Auburn University wish to express their particular appreciation to the following agencies and organizations that assisted in providing data and also extended valuable advice and counseling in the development of the plan.

State

Alabama Game and Fish Division
Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama Highway Department
Alabama Outdoor Recreation Division
Alabama State Parks Division
Alabama Seafoods Division
Alabama Water Safety Division

Local

Alabama Mountain Lakes Association
Tallapoosa Highland Lakes Association
Alabama Power Company
Alabama Recreation Society

Federal

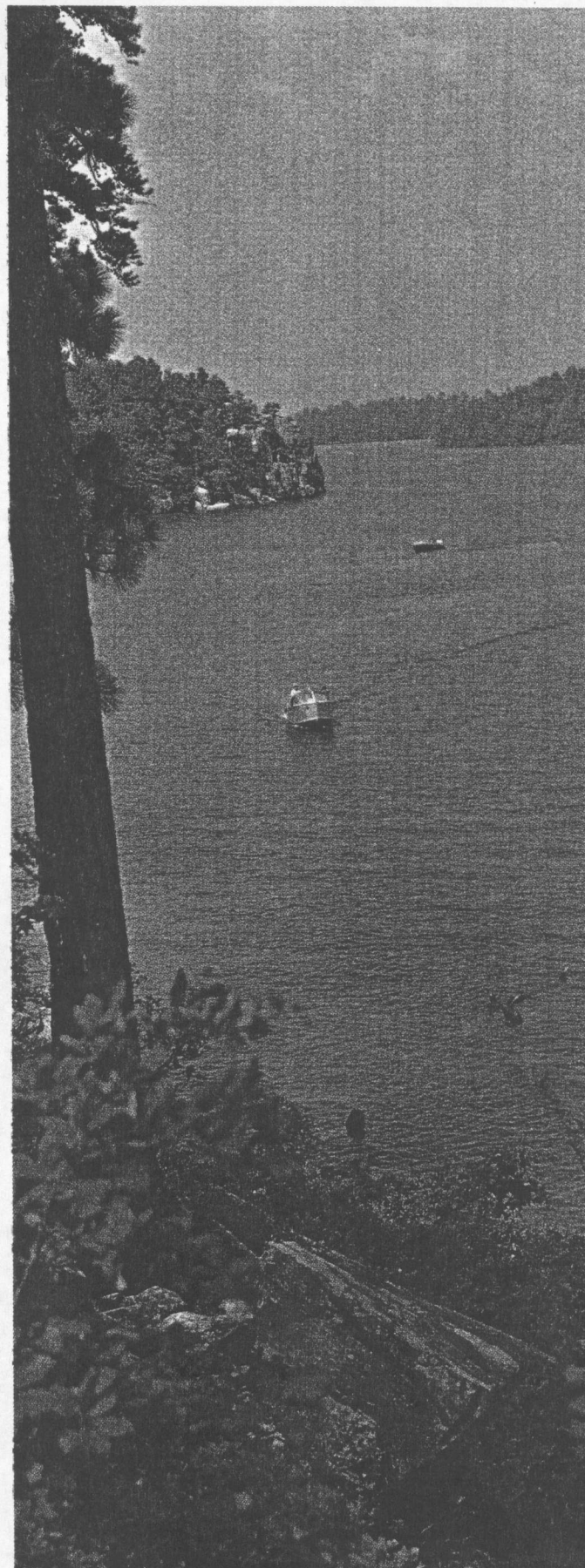
USDI National Park Service
U. S. Forest Service
USDA Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA Agricultural Extension Service
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Mobile and Savannah Districts)
USDI Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Tennessee Valley Authority

At Auburn University, the contracted portions of the study were under the supervision of J. Homer Blackstone, Project Leader. Other staff members contributing to the plan were Howard A. Clonts, Jr., L. S. Driscoll, Edward W. McCoy, R. E. Stevenson, and Joseph H. Yeager. Six graduate students and numerous clerical and field enumerators contributed to the study.

The entire project was under the general supervision of R. W. Thrasher, Chief, Division of Outdoor Recreation, Alabama Department of Conservation.

Photo Credit

Alabama Department of Conservation
Alabama Department of Publicity and Information
Alabama Highway Department
Alabama Historical Commission
Alabama Power Company
Auburn University Agricultural Experiment Station
Auburn University Extension Service
City of Florence
Opelika-Auburn News
Tennessee Valley Authority
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
U. S. Forest Service
U. S. National Park Service
U. S. Soil Conservation Service



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