

Tallapoosa Pedal-Paddle Guide

Mile 0 (33.776667, -85.295769) Haralson County Water Authority. Just up river from our launch site is a rock weir that deepens the river to ensure a constant supply of water to the Haralson County Water Authority's drinking water treatment facility. The river serves as the Authority's primary drinking water source. It can pump up to 3.75 million gallons a day from the river here. This section of the river is managed by the state as a drinking water source, a classification that allows higher levels of fecal bacteria than rivers designated for recreation. Georgia River Network and other river advocates are urging state regulators to classify all of Georgia's rivers as "recreational" waters so that the rivers we boat, fish, and swim in will be safe for those uses.

Mile 0 (33.776145, -85.296960) Rainwater Ford. Where Ga. 100 now spans the river, in the 1800s this shallow run of river was known as Rainwater Ford, borrowing the name of Joshua Rainwater who drew land here in Georgia's 1827 Land Lottery. When the river was finally bridged, the crossing became known as Aderhold's Bridge. Michael Aderhold operated sawmills in Tallapoosa during the 1800s and his son, Milton R. Aderhold was a prominent citizen at the turn of the century when the community first bridged many area waterways. In 1903, the elder Aderhold made news at age 94 when he learned that his eldest son, George Aderhold, had not died in the Civil War as he had assumed. The *Atlanta Constitution* reported that George went west after the war, "and after trying in vain to learn of his relatives in his home county, abandoned the idea and believed the family scattered." Finally, after nearly 40 years, the middle-aged Confederate veteran reconnected with his family...and just in time. His father died at 96 just three years later.

Mile 1.2 (33.781457, -85.305564) Shoals and Strainer. Watch for shoals and a strainer on river left as the river winds around small islands here.

Mile 1.6 (33.777439, -85.309744) Steadman Road.

Mile 2.3 (33.768090, -85.307290) Shoal.

Mile 2.8 (33.765132, -85.311899) Mountain Laurel. On river left is an impressive bluff and thicket of mountain laurel. Though closely associated with the Blue Ridge of North Georgia, laurel is also common in Georgia's Piedmont and ranges as far south as western Florida. The Tallapoosa has its origins within Georgia's Piedmont geological region with headwater streams McClendon Creek and Mud Cree rising in western Paulding County.

Mile 2.9 (33.765071, -85.314423) Strainer. Watch for a strainer to the left of the gravel island here.

Mile 3.0 (33.765938, -85.315912) Rock Outcropping. On river left is a soaring monolith. The Tallapoosa flows through a small but distinct geological subregion of Georgia's Piedmont known as the Talladega Uplands. It is home to some of the highest elevations and steepest slopes of the Piedmont and the ridges consist primarily of erosion-resistant quartzite, sandstone and metaconglomerate rocks.

Mile 3.9 (33.772102, -85.325545) Shoal.

Mile 4.4 (33.766029, -85.322885) McBride Bridge. On river left where Tallapoosa's Broad Street spans the river is a Dub Denman Canoe Trail access point. Broad Street leads 2 miles to downtown Tallapoosa. The discovery of gold in and around the Tallapoosa prompted the first wave of settlers to the region in the 1840s when the community became known as Possum Snout (today, the town celebrates New Year's Eve with a Possum Drop event—the opossum used in the drop is of the taxidermy variety). In the late 1800s, northern investors endeavored to turn Tallapoosa into an industrial complex and "colony" for emigrants from the north. The Maine-based Tallapoosa Land, Mining and Manufacturing Company promised these emigrants a "Yankee city under Southern sun," advertising that those who came would "find a community necessarily northern in its customs...with the thrift and enterprise that is proverbial of New England manufacturing cities." The marketing was successful as the community's population soared from 56 in 1880 to 1,699 in 1890 and the investment brought a water system, electric lights and multiple manufacturing facilities. But, the company, and subsequent iterations of it, suffered from mismanagement and shaky finances and dissolved by 1893. The influx of northerners did impact the county's politics. In the 1904 Presidential election, Haralson County was one of few Georgia counties where voters choose Theodore Roosevelt and the Republican ticket. Yet, the city was not immune to the horrors of the Jim Crow South. On October 23, 1902, a mob of local men pulled an African American from the city's jail, marched him to the river, hung him from the steel girders of the bridge and riddled his body with bullets. 16-year-old Ben Brown was accused of attempted rape earlier in the day. Despite town leaders calling for calm, the mob formed and descended on the jail while the local sheriff reportedly stood by idly. It is likely that the lynching took place here as in 1902 this would have been the closest Tallapoosa River bridge to the downtown area.

Mile 4.4 (33.765963, -85.322780) Shoal.

Mile 6.9 (33.743093, -85.334589) Shoals and Rock Islands.

Mile 7.0 (33.741484, -85.336218) U.S. 78.

Mile 7.2 (33.739938, -85.336520) Georgia Pacific Railroad & Hooper. Now part of the Norfolk Southern rail system, a railroad has spanned the Tallapoosa here since the 1880s. Rock piers supporting the road's previous route are visible just downstream. Also located along the river here in the late 1800s through the early 1900s was Hooper Mills, a cotton gin, saw mill and grist mill powered by the river and operated by Joseph M. Hooper. In 1921, advertisements in the *Atlanta Constitution* offered the industrial complex for sale at \$6500 ("less than the buildings cost" claimed the ad). A small shoal is beneath the bridge.

Mile 8.0 (33.729108, -85.333816) Dub Denman Home. On the high bluff overlooking the river is the home of Dub Denman who advocated for the development of recreational access to the Tallapoosa. Because of his efforts, trail organizers named this water trail in his honor. William Luther "Dub" Denman passed away at age 81 in 2019.

Mile 8.3 (33.729058, -85.339025) Shoal.

Mile 8.7 (33.735469, -85.337523) Shoal.

Mile 8.9 (33.737111, -85.339143) Liner Road Bridge.

Mile 9.3 (33.742247, -85.341344) Tallapoosa's Stonehenge. Impossible to miss, these unique standing slabs of rock in the riverbed appear to be of natural origins...but you are welcome to develop your own story. Never let the truth get in the way of a good story, as they say!

Mile 9.8 (33.739874, -85.348697) Lazy River Outfitters Access