



The mission of South River Watershed Alliance is to protect and restore the water quality and biodiversity of the South River watershed to the beneficial use of people and wildlife.

August 2013 In This Issue

South River's
Designated Use,
Fishing

Upcoming Events

Los Angeles River
Open to Public
Recreation After 80
Years

Elected Officials
Contact Information

Support SRWA's
South River Jamboree Annual Fundraiser



May 2013 South River Outing

South River's Designated Use, Fishing



Fishing on South River

Have you ever wondered what the intended use of the South River is? Would you be surprised to learn that it is fishing?

Given its history, one might easily conclude that the river's intended use is to carry away pollution. It's not.

To use South River or any waterway for this purpose is expressly prohibited under the federal Clean Water Act. Under the Act a stream cannot be "designated" to receive and carry away pollutants; because the Act was specifically drafted to control such activities, not protect them.

In other words, the designation of a use does not imply a license to degrade water quality. In water bodies with several uses, the level of quality necessary to support the most sensitive designated and existing uses must be maintained.

After Congress passed the Clean Water Act, all states were required to designate a use or uses for each water body within their jurisdiction. The six designated uses in Georgia are fishing, drinking water, recreation, costal fishing, wild river, and scenic river. Water quality standards protective of these designated uses have been adopted as well.

A water body's designated use must fully represent existing and potential uses.

DeKalb County maintains that "the County's position has been to not encourage recreation on the South River since it does not meet its designated use of Fishing according to the Georgia EPD".

Designated use is not all or nothing. South River meets its designated use most of the 365 days of the year. To not support recreation at any time is unreasonable and unnecessary. Rather than extreme positions that scare people away from the river, what people really need is easy access to reliable water quality information that raises awareness.

The county fails to recognize the pivotal and positive role it could and should play in raising public awareness about water quality in the river.

The South River belongs to the people and should be available to them for healthy and quality of life enhancing recreation. Encouraging appropriate recreation such as canoeing, kayaking, tubing, scenic river walks, and safe fishing and improving access to the river is simply, the right thing to do.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 3, 9:00 AM - Beyond the Bridge Canoe Outing - Only two (2) seats remaining. Call 404-285-3756 to reserve.

Saturday, August 17, 6:30 AM and 8:00 AM - Power of Flight Bird Banding Field Trip

Think you might want to become a birder, but didn't know who to contact. Are you simply a morning person and would like to learn what bird banding is all about or maybe you just want to watch the sun rise? Whatever your motivation this should be a great field trip. There are two scheduled departure times for the banding station, 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., promptly. Keep in mind that most of the birds are banded within the first two hours, between 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Groups will meet in the parking lot at the end of Alexander Lake Road and escorted to the Power of Flight area. Don't forget to bring your binoculars! Call 404-285-3756 if you have questions. [Sign up.](#)

Saturday, August 24, 9:00 AM - [Beyond the Bridge Canoe Outing](#)

Paddle the South River in Rockdale County from Lorraine Park and Trail Head on Hwy 138 to Oglesby Road, a distance of approximately 5.5 miles. Canoeing experience is not required, but you should be physically able to paddle for an extended period without tiring. Cost is \$30 per person which

includes canoe rental, insurance, and lunch. Contact Jackie Echols (404) 285-3756 if you have questions. Kayakers are welcome but must confirm to receive additional information. [Sign up.](#)

Last two outings of the year are September 28 and October 26.

Saturday, September 7, 9:00 AM - SRWA and [Rivers Alive](#) South River Tire Roundup & Cleanup

SRWA and Friends of Constitution Lakes in partnership with Rivers Alive, Georgia's Annual Waterway Cleanup are hosting a tire roundup and cleanup Saturday, September 7 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will remove tires and trash from Panola Shoals/Hwy 155 and downstream and South River at Constitution Lakes. Light weight clothing that sheds water and dries quickly are recommended. Closed-toe, water-appropriate shoes are a must. Canoes and johnboats are needed to ferry tires and trash to collection points. Bring your canoe and/or johnboat and join us. Sign up for an hour or two or for the day. The first twenty-five participants will receive a free Rivers Alive t-shirt. [Sign up.](#)

Saturday, October 5, 7:00 PM - [South River Jamboree](#), Party with a Purpose

SRWA's annual fundraiser is only two months away. There are only three small but important steps you need to take to make sure you don't miss this once a year event. Add the date, Oct 5th to your calendar; purchase your tickets, only \$30/person; and, of course, show up. We look forward to seeing you! [Buy tickets.](#)

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. [Visit our sponsors webpage.](#)

Upcoming Events at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve

Saturday August 10, 1:00 PM - [Lost Person Prevention @ Panola State](#)

Park Come learn simple techniques for not getting lost and keeping track of your family when venturing into the great outdoors. A Search and Rescue Dog team will be joining the class unless a SAR event is occurring.

Friday, August 16, 8:00 AM - [Muscadine Madness at Arabia Mountain](#) -

Come join Ranger Robby for a forest hike through the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve in search of the Muscadine berry. This southern plant has a sweet taste and rich history.

Sunday, August 18, 8:00 AM - [Atlanta Audubon Society Bird Walk at](#)

[Panola](#) Bring your binoculars for this gentle hike through the park's Power of Flight area. Basic identification techniques and common birds will be discussed. Good for all ages.

Los Angeles River Opens to Public Recreation After 80 Years

The Los Angeles River and South River are separated by more than 2,000 miles; however many aspects of their stories are the same.

The resurgence of the Los Angeles River is heartwarming for anyone who cares about rivers. The article, "At last, Los Angeles River opens to public recreation after 80 years," by CNN reporters

Michael Martinez and Hannah Button is an inspiring example of what can happen when the community and government come together for a common purpose - To revive a river.

Below are excerpts from their article.

Several weeks ago, the namesake waterway of the nation's second largest city opened for unrestricted public recreation for the first time since the 1930s.

After public pressure and leadership from a local councilman and the Army Corps of Engineers commander, officials at several levels of government created the Los Angeles River Pilot Recreation Zone along a lush segment that features tree-lined islands, vistas of the San Gabriel Mountains and abundant wildlife such as herons, egrets, hawks and kingfishers. There are even fish in the river - carp, catfish and bass- and anglers can drop a line as long as they have a state permit. In this recreation zone, the public can launch a kayak, canoe or other non-motorized boat with a permit or cost.

The Los Angeles River has a history of ridicule and neglect. A state legislator in the 1980s wanted to build a highway on it. In 2010, however, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared it a "traditional navigable water," allowing for Clean Water Act protections.

This 2.5 mile section of the river, called the Elysian Valley section, was



Kayaking on Los Angeles River
Photo courtesy of LA River Expeditions

able to open without restrictions because of government cooperation, infrastructure improvement and public safety measures, said Councilman Ed Reyes, who district includes the west bank of the river. The city relocated homeless people from riverside encampments, and the bicycling and running trail provides passersby a way to keep an eye on one another, Reyes said.

For Reyes, the river is a capstone to a long campaign and elected office career. "For many years, it's been used as a backyard. Today, it's a front yard," Reyes declared.

[To read the entire article click here.](#)



Take Action for South River, Its Worth It

SRWA urges supporters of South River to ask your elected representatives to support recreational access to South River.

DeKalb County Elected Officials:

Lee May, Interim DeKalb County
CEO

404-371-2881

ceo@dekalbcountyga.gov

Elaine Boyer, District 1

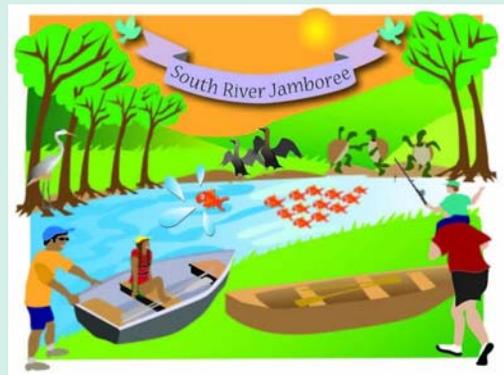
404-371-2844

ecboyer@dekalbcountyga.gov

Jeff Rader, District 2

404-371-2863

jrader@dekalbcountyga.gov



Support SRWA's South River Jamboree Annual Fundraiser

Over the past three years, SRWA has made great strides. Through program like our signature Beyond the Bridge river canoe outings community awareness has been heightened. As a result of our river focused restoration activities, targeted community outreach, partnerships, and monthly e-newsletter, SRWA is making a huge difference for South River and the community.

SRWA needs and deserves your support. Individual tickets are only \$30. [Buy tickets](#)

Businesses and individuals who

Larry Johnson, District 3
404-371-2425
larryjohnson@dekalbcountyga.gov

Sharon Barnes Sutton, District 4
404-371-4749
sbsutton@dekalbcountyga.gov

Lee May, District 5
404-371-4745
lmay@dekalbcountyga.gov

Kathie Gannon, District 6
404-371-4909
kgannon@dekalbcountyga.gov

Stan Watson, District 7
404-371-3681
stanwatson@dekalbcountyga.gov



want to contribute can do so online. Sponsorship information is posted on the [SRWA website](#).

South River Jamboree will be held at the historic Lithonia Woman's Club, October 5, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Please join us for a spirited evening in celebration of South River and enjoy good food, music, wine, and a silent auction.

The Lithonia Woman's Club is located at 2564 Wiggins Street in downtown Lithonia, Georgia.

Party With a Purpose!!



Get regular updates on SRWA activities and learn more about what we do. Follow SRWA on Twitter and connect with us on Facebook. Links to our pages are just below.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 



[BECOME A MEMBER](#)