

Euharlee

Length: 7 Miles (From Henry Floyd's to Euharlee Road)

Class: I

Time: 3-5 hours

Minimum Level: River can be run year round, but releases from the Allatoona Dam can create unsafe conditions. Paddlers should use caution when paddling this section during hydro-power releases which cause rapid rises in water levels. Release schedules are issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers every day at midnight and can be retrieved by calling 706-334-7213

River Gauge: Etowah River at Allatoona Dam <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?02394000>

Launch Site: Located on property owned by Henry Floyd, owner of Ladd's Farm Supply in Cartersville, this private land is made available for public use. Amenities include shelters and swings overlooking the river. Road and parking area are gravel.

Directions: From Main St. in Cartersville, go west on Main St. (Ga. 113/61) 2.5 miles to Euharlee Road on right. Turn right and go one mile to gravel road on left entering into a large pasture.

Take Out Site: This boat ramp is located beneath the Euharlee Road Bridge and is suitable for launching canoe and kayaks and small motorized vessels. The property is owned by the City of Euharlee which is developing a riverfront park here. A small parking area is available.


Directions: From the Henry Floyd property go west on Euharlee Road four miles to Dobbs Road on left. Turn left. Parking area and boat launch is on immediate right.

Description: This nine-mile section takes you through Bartow's County's plantation row. Prior to the Civil War, several plantations homes lined the Etowah here, though today, only one (Valley View) remains. The trip also takes you past Georgia Power Co.'s Plant Bowen, one of the largest coal-fired power plants in the country. Though the cooling towers and pollution-control stacks loom on the horizon, the route is primarily peaceful and rural with some residential riverfront development. Shoals and rapids are limited to Native American fish weirs and small ripples with no obstacles exceeding Class I in difficulty.

Outfitters:

Euharlee Creek Outfitters in Euharlee is the nearest canoe/kayak outfitter.

Points of Interest:

Mile 126.3—(34° 8'15.59"N 84°51'56.91"W  Full-screen)—Valley View Farm—Not visible from the river, this circa 1848 antebellum plantation home sits on a knoll overlooking rolling pastures and the Etowah. A Greek Revival home built in the 1840s by James Caldwell Sproull, it survived Union occupation during the Civil War. Following the Battle of Atlanta, Union Gen. John Schofield occupied the house for about three months. Officers used the second floor for living quarters, but the parlor was used as a stable for horses and the piano was used as a trough (the horses were brought into the parlor because Confederate snipers were shooting them). The names of two Union soldiers scribbled on the walls are still visible in an upstairs closet. When the war threatened their home, the Sproull's fled to Alabama. When they returned they came via river vessel from downstream on the Etowah and Coosa rivers from Rome. When they climbed the bank of the river, they were, no doubt, relieved to find their home still in tact. The walls of the house are three-feet thick, with the brick made on location by slaves—their fingerprints are still visible on some of the bricks. The home has been in the same family since its construction—ownership that now spans five generations, and it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mile 126.9—(34° 7'47.74"N 84°52'23.36"W)—Fish Weir—A careful examination of the "mouth" of this weir will reveal wooden structures that were added to the original rock structure.

Mile 127.3—(34° 7'39.54"N 84°52'37.32"W)—Richland Creek & Paulding County Water—This tributary drains portions of fast growing Paulding County whose civic leaders plan to build a water supply reservoir on the creek that would be filled with water pumped from the Etowah River. Paulding County currently purchases most of its water from neighboring Cobb County which withdraws water from Lake Allatoona some 10 miles upstream.

Mile 128—(34° 7'39.95"N 84°53'26.28"W)—Raccoon Creek & Paulding Forest—The headwaters of this tributary are protected as part of the Paulding Forest, a 6,500-acre tract of land, making Raccoon Creek one of the few streams below Allatoona

Dam that supports healthy populations of the federally protected Cherokee & Etowah darters. Restoration projects on this stream directed by The Nature Conservancy aim to improve habitat and expand populations of these rare fish which are found only in the Etowah River Basin—and no where else in the world.

Mile 128.7—(34° 8'16.53"N 84°53'41.51"W)—Etowah Cliffs—on river right atop the high bluff here once stood Etowah Cliffs, the antebellum plantation home of William Henry Stiles, a former U.S. Congressman from Savannah. Stiles built the home as a summer retreat to escape the Georgia coast, but eventually moved to the home in the 1830s. Juliette Gordon Lowe, founder of the Girls Scouts and a relative of the Stiles, visited the home as a child and swam in the river here. At the base of the bluff you'll find several clear, cold springs.

Mile 129.8—(34° 8'24.07"N 84°54'25.08"W)—Fish Weir—One of the most impressive weirs on the Etowah. This double V stretches dramatically across the river. Small openings in the weir offer several possible passages—the best being on river left.

Mile 130.8—(34° 8'4.43"N 84°55'18.09"W)—Georgia Power Co.'s Plant Bowen Water Intake & Discharge—Among the largest coal-fired electric generating facilities in the country, Plant Bowen produces 20 percent of the electricity that Georgia Power sells. The facility utilizes about 40 million gallons of water each day from the Etowah—about half of which is returned to the Etowah after use with the temperature slightly elevated. You can feel the temperature difference as you paddle past the plant's discharge. This water is used to cool the plant's system—converting steam to water so that the water may be heated again to produce the steam that turns turbines that produce electricity. It does not contain any toxic substances or other pollutants. The water that does not get returned to the river is lost in the cooling process. The large white plumes of "smoke" you'll see coming off the cylindrical cooling towers is actually water vapor. It takes tremendous amounts of water to produce the electricity we depend upon. In fact, more water is used to produce energy in Georgia than any other single use—including agriculture.

Mile 131.2—(34° 8'15.60"N 84°55'29.36"W)—Milam Bridge—The rock piers of this iron truss bridge date back to before the Civil War and supported a wooden bridge crossed by thousands of Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War. Locally, the iron bridge is best known as the site of the discovery of the grisly murder of a 12-year-old girl in the 1950s. Her body was bound in chains and thrown into the river here. The murderer was sentenced to death—the last person from Bartow County to die in the state's electric chair.

Mile 131.5—(34° 8'38.64"N 84°55'29.43"W)—Euharlee Creek—About 0.4 mile up Euharlee Creek sits the Euharlee Creek Covered Bridge and the town of Euharlee. The bridge was built by Washington King, the son of freed slave and notable bridge builder, Horace King, in 1886 and carried passengers until 1976. The remains of a grist mill dating to the 1840s can be seen just downstream from the bridge. This grist mill provided the area's first population boom, and in 1852 the settlement known as Burgess Mill incorporated as Euharleeville. Residents dropped the "ville" in 1870. The Indian word "Euharlee" translates to "she laughs as she runs." Since the early 1990s, Euharlee has experienced unprecedented growth, and this sleepy hamlet has grown into a large bedroom community for surrounding urban centers.