

## Hardin Bridge

Length: 9 Miles (Euharlee Road to US 411)

Class: I

Time: 4-6 hours

Minimum Level: River can be run year round. Releases from the Allatoona Dam can cause water levels to fluctuate dramatically. 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: The nearest river gauge is located at the take out at US 411 near Kingston.

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv?site\\_no=02395000](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/uv?site_no=02395000)

Launch Site: A boat ramp and parking area were developed by Bartow County and the City of Euharlee at Euharlee Road in 2011. The City of Euharlee plans to develop a riverside park at the location as well.

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 five miles to Dobson Drive on left. Turn left and entrance to boat ramp parking area is immediately on right.

Take Out Site: Currently, the best take out is an undeveloped slope on the southeast corner of the US 411 Bridge. Vehicles with high clearance can access a road that leads to the top of this slope beneath the bridge. This is an extremely steep take out location. A new launch is planned for the southwest corner of the US 411 Bridge. It should be completed in 2012.

Directions: From the Euharlee Road launch site, return to Euharlee Road and turn left. Proceed 4.3 miles to Macedonia Road on right. Turn right on Macedonia Road and proceed 2.5 miles to US 411. Turn right on US 411, cross bridge over the Etowah and turn right on gravel drive on the east side of the bridge. Follow gravel drive up the hill and down to the river to access the take out site.

Description: This ten-mile section may be the most scenic and popular paddle on the Etowah River in Bartow County. The paddle path crosses no less than six Native American fish weirs and winds beneath riverside bluffs. The highlight is a quarter-mile rock garden followed by a series of islands and shoals. With many places to stop and play, this is a favorite paddle for families. Some residential development encroaches on the river in places, but the river maintains a rural feel. Shoals and rapids are limited to Native American fish weirs and small shoals with no obstacles exceeding Class I in difficulty.

### Outfitters:

Euharlee Creek Outfitters in Euharlee and the Coosa River Basin Initiative in Rome are the nearest canoe/kayak outfitters.

### Points of Interest:

**Mile 132.1—(34° 8'54.68"N 84°55'12.18"W)—Fish Weir**—This weir is visible from the Euharlee Road Bridge during low water. If the shoal is visible then the remainder of the fish weirs on this stretch will also be visible.

**Mile 133.3—(34° 9'56.96"N 84°55'0.13"W)—Fish Weir & The Endangered Etowah darter**—Shoals like this one created by this Native American fish weir are preferred habitat of many fish, including the federally endangered Etowah darter. This fish is still found in the Upper Etowah and its tributaries and was once found in the river below Allatoona Pass, before the construction of Allatoona Dam in 1950. The operation of the dam has dramatically altered habitat in the river's 48 miles from the dam to Rome. Prior to the dam's construction, 80 species of fish could be found in this stretch of river. Today, only 45 species exist here. However, there is hope. Biologists believe that by altering the operation of Allatoona Dam, it may be possible to restore some species to the mainstem of the Etowah, including the Etowah darter.

**Mile 134.9—(34°11'13.60"N 84°55'14.61"W)—Fish Weir**

**Mile 135—( 34°11'17.36"N 84°55'19.80"W)—Ashpole Creek & Gilliam Springs**—Paddle into the mouth of Ashpole Creek with your hand in the water and you will note a decided change in water temperature. About 0.1 mile upstream on Ashpole Creek is the spring run issuing forth from Gilliam Springs—a beautiful clear, strong spring that issues forth from the a rock wall about eight feet in height. It is accessible by walking up the creek, but please respect this private property. During the summer months, large numbers of striped bass refuge in the cold water at the mouth of Ashpole Creek.

**Mile 135.2—(34°11'20.37"N 84°55'30.85"W) Hardin Bridge**—The last remaining operational iron truss bridge on the Etowah River, it closed permanently in 2008. The new bridge just upstream was completed in 2011. The piers that still support the iron bridge predate the Civil War, and the former wooden bridge here was a key crossing point for troops during the Civil War. On river right, on both sides of the bridge, the remnants of trenches built for protection of the bridge remain. Of course, the trenches didn't provide enough protection. The bridge was burned during the Civil War anyway. This is also an alternative launch site for this section. It is six miles From Hardin Bridge to US 411, though the site does not offer a developed boat launch or parking area.

**Mile 136.2—(34°10'39.75"N 84°56'6.81"W)—Stream Buffers and Riverfront Development**—Riverfront development at this location serves as a reminder of the state's stream buffer laws. Georgia law prohibits the removal of vegetation and construction activity within 25 feet of warm-water streams and within 50 feet of cold-water trout streams. Vegetated buffers along streams and rivers provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, help regulate stream temperatures, filter pollutants and reduce streambank erosion.

**Mile 137.6—( 34°11'32.64"N 84°56'18.32"W)—Rock Garden**—At this bend, the river spreads out into an impressive rock garden that requires you to pick your way carefully to find deep water. The rock garden also holds a fish weir that zig zags across the river, forming three distinct "Vs" A popular play spot for modern man, it was also a favorite of Native Americans. During the early spring, rock bluffs along the banks of the river here harbor beautiful shooting star wildflowers.

**Mile 138.5—( 34°11'31.54"N 84°57'13.26"W)—Fish Weir**

**Mile 138.8—( 34°11'38.55"N 84°57'21.19"W)—Island Ford**—This island complex is the largest on the Etowah. Prior to the dawn of bridges it was a popular ford. Today, it is a popular camping spot for river travelers, but bear in mind the islands are private property. In fact, they are divvied up into four parcels. In the early spring, when drum in vast numbers congregate here to spawn, the water appears to boil as the fish thrash and splash in the shallow water. Two small ledges create a little excitement for paddlers about 300 yards downstream from the head of the island.

**Mile 139.6—(34°12'3.90"N 84°57'59.23"W)—Fish Weir**

**Mile 140.9—( 34°12'14.89"N 84°58'41.98"W)—Fish Weir**

**Mile 141—( 34°12'20.76"N 84°58'39.54"W)—Etowah Bend Gliderport**—If you see gliders or ultralights touring above the river, this airstrip on river right is likely their origin. The small strip caters to those piloting experimental aircraft.