



Hatchie-Loosahatchie Mississippi River Ecosystem Restoration Study



Appendix 2d – Recreation

February 2023

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Supplemental Recreation Information

The source of the information below can be found at the websites for each managing agency listed where applicable. An inventory was collected during December 2022 through GIS reference, website reference, and aerial imagery. The inventory is an accurate representation of recreation resources available at the time. Recreation resources is not limited to this list.

Table A2d- 1. Public Recreation Resources in the Study Area

State	County	Name of Public Area	Managing Agency	Consumptive Recreation	Non-consumptive Recreation	Boat Launch	Notes
TN	Lauderdale	Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge	USFWS	Fishing and Hunting	Birding, Rural Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography, Boating, Paddling	Yes	9,451 acres (LWCF recipient)
TN	Shelby	Meeman-Shelby Forest Wildlife Management Area and State Park	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	Fishing and Hunting	Birding, Rural Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography, Boating, Paddling	Yes	13,467 acres
TN	Shelby	John Tully Wildlife Management Area	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	Fishing and Hunting	Birding, Rural Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography, Camping, Boating, Paddling	Yes	15,500 acres
TN	Shelby	Eagle Lake Refuge	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	Fishing and Hunting	Birding, Rural Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography, Boating, Paddling	Yes	3,253 acres
TN	Lauderdale	Fort Pillow State Park	Tennessee State Parks	Fishing	Birding, Rural Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography, Camping, Boating, Paddling	Yes	1,642 acres
TN	Shelby	Firestone Park	Memphis Parks	None	Multi-purpose Sports Fields and Facilities	No	317 acres

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State	County	Name of Public Area	Managing Agency	Consumptive Recreation	Non-consumptive Recreation	Boat Launch	Notes
TN	Shelby	Mud Island Park	Memphis River Parks	None	Urban Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography	No	
TN	Shelby	Greenbelt Park	Memphis River Parks	None	Urban Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography	No	
TN	Shelby	Cobblestones Park	Memphis River Parks	None	Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography	No	3 acres
TN	Shelby	River Garden	Memphis River Parks	None	Urban Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography	No	1 acre
TN	Shelby	Davy Crockett Park	Memphis Parks, Mid-South Trails Association	None	Biking and Running Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography	No	290 acres
AR	Crittenden	Big River Park (In Progress)	Big River Park Conservancy	None	Multi-use Trails, Wildlife Observation, Nature Photography	No	Up to 1,500 acres
TN	Shelby	Memphis Yacht Club Boat Launch	City of Memphis	Fishing	Boating, Paddling	Yes	
TN	Shelby	Mud Island Marina	City of Memphis	Fishing	Boating, Paddling	Yes	

Sources: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/lower-hatchie> ; <https://www.tn.gov/twra.html> ; <https://tnstateparks.com/> ; <https://memphisriverparks.com/> ; <https://www.memphisriverparks.org/> ; <http://www.br-si.org/big-river-park> ; <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/big-river-park-conservancy> ; <https://tenngreen.org/project/big-river-park/>

1.1 SUPPLEMENTAL RECREATION INFORMATION

Recreation and tourism are important economic sectors in the LMR. Outdoor recreation in the LMR region generates over \$1.3 billion in direct revenues and employs nearly 55,000 people. Tourism in the area generates \$15.5 billion in direct revenues and employs over 190,000 people. These statistics derived from the counties along the Lower Mississippi River, highlighting the intrinsic value of the river to people and natural resources of the region. (The Economic Profile of the Lower Mississippi River: Update by Industrial Economics, Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts.)

Focusing in on the study reach of the LMR, habitat restoration within the reach will provide improved conditions for multiple species of fish, wildlife and waterfowl. In turn, these improved conditions will provide more opportunities for successful outcomes while hunting and fishing plus improve conditions for off channel recreational pursuits such as kayaking, beaching and bird watching.

Getting to these areas will be a challenge. Recommendation RP 1 from the LMRRA study concludes that resource management agencies should, “Increase the number of boat ramps on the LMR. A boat ramp every 10 to 20 miles on the river would provide more opportunities for paddlers, fishermen and hunters and would increase the ability to conduct search and rescue operations. More ramps would be available to directly access backwaters and side channels. Ramps also provide locations for interpretive signs about the Mississippi River, environmental education and safety”. Within the Hatchie-Loosahatchie reach, there are six boat landings on the Tennessee side of the river and one on the Arkansas side of the river. Increasing water access/boat landings to a goal of 8 for the entire reach would be a positive outcome especially when paired with habitat restoration.

Within the boundaries of the study reach there are federal and state designated recreation areas from refuges to parks to historical areas.

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1980 and is located at the confluence of the Hatchie and Mississippi Rivers in Lauderdale and Tipton Counties in west Tennessee. The refuge encompasses the lower reaches of the Hatchie River and consists of bottomland hardwoods, moist-soil units, agricultural fields, and associated uplands. The large forested tracts, open lands, and aquatic features found on the refuge provide an important ecological niche for fish, wildlife, and plant species.

Meeman Shelby Forest State Park

Meeman Shelby Forest State Park is a 12,539-acre hardwood bottomland area bordering the Mississippi River 13 miles north of Memphis. Special interests include mature Bald Cypress and Tupelo swamp, Chickasaw Bluffs and bottomlands covered with large oaks, American beech, hickory and sweet gum. There are 10 state Champion Trees and two National Champion Trees as well as endangered and protected plants within the park.

Visitors can visit for the day or stay in the vacation cabins or at one of the 49 well-equipped campsites.

Big River Crossing, Delta Regional River Park and Big River Trail

Big River Crossing, Delta Regional River Park and Big River Trail provides a recreational opportunity to walk or ride your bike across the Mississippi River from downtown Memphis, TN to West Memphis, AR. Those that want an additional challenge can follow the Big River Trail to Marianna, AR, some 70 miles from the start of the trail. Ducks Unlimited (DU) is partnering with Big River Park Conservancy (BRPC), and others to restore 1,500 acres of wetlands and to promote recreational and tourism opportunities in Downtown Memphis and nearby West Memphis, mostly in and around the Delta Regional River Park.

Mud Island River Park

Mud Island River Park is located on an island adjacent to Memphis, TN. Visitors to Mud Island River Park can see a hydraulic scale model that represents the lower Mississippi River from Cairo, IL to New Orleans, LA, take a paddle boat or kayak on the river or bike extensive trails using the Big River Crossing. The Mississippi River Museum is located on site with galleries and exhibits that cover human existence within the area for the last 10,000 years.