

Recreation Vision Statement
For the Jordan Development

The Jordan Reservoir provides a natural setting with relatively steep shorelines and clear, deep waters. Shoreline development is relatively light, particularly in the upper half of the reservoir, which offers excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and other recreation opportunities. The size of the impoundment suggests it is most suitable for a medium intensity level of use. The reservoir appears to serve primarily as a local and regional destination.

The Coosa River, below Jordan Dam is the last free flowing section of the Coosa River that offers whitewater opportunities. The river offers unique opportunities for both beginning and advanced level paddlers and is one of the best teaching/training rivers in the southeast. The river also offers a unique high quality warm water fishery for spotted bass and other species. The river draws users from throughout the southeast and is the site of an annual whitewater festival and rodeo, which has an international draw and contributes to the local economy. The river provides year around boating due to warm, clean water. The river also provides valuable education and interpretive opportunities.

The long-term vision for the Jordan Reservoir is to protect the remote, natural character of the upper lake, while managing the lake for medium intensity recreation, particularly fishing, boating, and swimming activities.

The long-term vision for the Jordan tailrace is to recognize and protect and enhance the unique natural characteristics of the river and promote the whitewater paddling and fishing opportunities that it offers.

Improvements to be considered at Jordan Reservoir include:

- Optimizing and enhancing current public accessible recreation facilities to better accommodate demand consistent with the vision for the reservoir, including providing sanitation facilities.
- Promoting and providing for bank fishing access.
- Ensuring adequate surveillance at facilities to control vandalism.
- Investigating the demand for additional swimming opportunities on Jordan Lake.

Improvements to be considered in the tailrace below Jordan Dam include:

- Enhancing current public access sites to better accommodate demand.
- Investigating the need for additional public access points.
- Promoting interpretation and education of natural resources.
- Managing water flows to protect and enhance unique recreational experiences, while recognizing other project responsibilities such as flood control, power generation and upstream reservoir recreation opportunities.
- Investigating the need for trail opportunities in the project area, potentially linking to the existing Swayback Trail.