

Recreation Vision Statement  
For the Mitchell Development

The Mitchell Development provides a unique natural setting in comparison to the other reservoirs in the basin. It appears that the lake can support a more primitive type of recreation opportunity than the other developments on the Coosa River.

The natural values of the Mitchell reservoir and surrounding lands are a result of location, which affords limited access on the east side of the lake and by the fact that the development already has significant lands located within the project boundary dedicated to wildlife habitat and public recreational use.

As a result of these existing conditions it is felt that the Mitchell Development can support alternative non-power recreational boating and primitive camping, as well as the current level of traditional power boating type recreation common to this reservoir and the other Coosa hydro developments. It is the long-term vision for the Mitchell Development to maintain the reservoir's existing character, provide for and promote primitive recreation opportunities, and better accommodate the current demand for power boat access consistent with the lake's existing character. Any development for motorized uses should be similar in size and character to the existing Higgins Ferry site (or smaller), and be capable of accommodating groups, such as bass clubs. Such development should be focused on the western shore or northern end of the lake. Efforts should be made to preserve and protect the more primitive nature of the eastern shore.

Improvements to be considered at the Mitchell Development include:

- Planning to optimize current public accessible recreation facilities with regard to trailer rig parking and other improvements to public amenities such as barrier removal to ensure conformance, to the extent possible, with and Americans With Disability Act.
- Examine the need for an additional public boat ramp, to accommodate demands from the northern area of the lake, consistent with the vision statement.
- Examine a future carry-in access site and facilities for environmental education, within the recreation plan, in support of non-power boating and education opportunities (i.e., facilities for environmental education and a conference center at the old Boy Scout Camp).
- Examine the potential for primitive camping opportunities on Mitchell Lake.
- Determine what opportunities are available to increase "bank fishing" capacity and quality at the reservoir.