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Rivers

Ogeechee River

Quick Facts about the River

- 💧 The headwaters of the Ogeechee River are located in the southeastern edge of the Piedmont Province. In the headwaters, the North and South Fork Ogeechee Rivers join to form the Ogeechee River which runs 245 miles in a southeasterly direction to the Atlantic Ocean.
 - 💧 The Ogeechee River Basin is located entirely in the State of Georgia and drains approximately 5,540 square miles. The River's drainage to the coast plays a significant role in forming Wassaw, Ossabaw, St. Catherines, Blackbeard, and Sapelo islands.
 - 💧 Wetlands comprise 13 percent of the basin.
 - 💧 The Ogeechee River is a blackwater stream and one of Georgia's few remaining free flowing rivers.
 - 💧 The Ogeechee River is the dominant waterbody in the basin, while its principal tributary, the Canoochee River, drains approximately 1,400 square miles and is the only other major river in the basin.
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Biological Resources



- 💧 With intimate swamps and bottomland hardwoods adjoining the river, the Ogeechee River Basin retains a pristine quality and provides food, water, and shelter for large numbers of raccoon, deer, otter, beaver, and mink.
 - 💧 Trees found in the wetter areas include tupelo and cypress, and the bottomlands support water oak, laurel oak, red maple, swamp blackgum, and sweet gum.
 - 💧 The river has a namesake tree, the Ogeechee lime (*Nyssa ogeche*), whose bright red fruits are found floating in quiet eddies of the river during the fall.
 - 💧 Several rare plants are also found near the river, including pitcher plants, witch-alder, needle palm, spider lily, and others.
 - 💧 The fish fauna of the Ogeechee River Basin includes American shad, redbreast, crappie, striped bass, shellcracker, and catfish. The endangered shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) breeds in the basin.
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River Uses



Land Uses



Recreation



Outfitters



River Groups



Environmental Concerns



Cultural

Paleo-Indian societies arrived in the area of the Ogeechee River around 11,500 years ago, and the river was settled for several centuries by the Mississipians and Yuchi until the arrival of Europeans.

GEORGIA RIVERS HOME

RIVER BASINS

 Altamaha River

 Chattahoochee River

 Coosa River

 Flint River

 Ochlockonee River

 Oconee River

 Ocmulgee River

 Ogeechee River

 Satilla River

 Savannah River

 St. Mary's River

 Suwannee River

 **Tallapoosa River**

 **Tennessee River**

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