

88A - Upper Oconee Water Trails

Original Project Total Cost: \$ 2,593,000

Total Operating Cost: \$ 61,000

Alternate Project Total Cost: \$ 917,000

Alternate Total Operating Cost: \$ 21,000

Project Description: SPLOST 2020 Project #88 Water Trails Alternate Proposal.

The alternate proposal for the Water Trails project reduces the number of proposed launches from six to two. The alternate proposal also eliminates amenities such as picnic gazebos and restroom facilities.

The two proposed boat launches will include safe access to the water for boaters and their canoes/kayaks via stairs and/or ramp. The launch sites also include small, gravel parking lots. Appropriate safety lighting and signage will be installed at each launch.

To further reduce costs, the alternate project envisions locating the launch sites on property already owned by state or local government. Some funds are budgeted for acquisition of right of way should that access not be included with the property.

The original project benefits such as improving and maintaining the biodiversity and ecological sustainability of Athens' waterways remain. Although reduced, the economic benefits of active lifestyle tourism also remain and compliment other destination attractions Athens offers such as music tourism, sporting event tourism, and night life tourism.

The alternate proposal reduces the capital budget from approximately \$2.5 million to \$917,000. Annual operating costs have been reduced to \$20,000. Revised detail budget attached.

Attachments:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3335533/73666443/474698129/73666443_project_88_alternate_project_costs.pdf