



MOBILE COUNTY



ESCAPE — EXPLORE — ENJOY
THE GREAT OUTDOORS





Welcome To Mobile County

We appreciate your interest in Mobile County parks and recreation facilities. We hope this brochure will give you a glimpse into what Mobile County has to offer, even within our cities and towns. So use this guide to Escape, Explore and Enjoy the Great Outdoors, here in Mobile County.

Mobile County parks and recreation facilities encompass more than 1,200 acres of beautifully designed properties offering scenic views of Mobile Bay and other waterways, fishing, hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, disc golf, picnic areas, and ball fields. All Mobile County parks are under the management of Mobile County Public Works.

Chickasabogue Park, named for the creek that flows through the center of the 1,100 acre site, offers visitors a relaxing view, excellent hiking, campgrounds, extensive bike trails, watercraft rentals, ball fields, picnic areas and a disc golf player's paradise.

In a county that is home to some of the greatest baseball players in the country — Hank Aaron , Eddie Stanky, Satchel Paige, Frank and Milt Bolling, Billy Williams, Tommy Agee, Cleon Jones and Willie McCorvey — the baseball and softball fields at **West Mobile County Park** are important resources for Mobile County. Housed on 67 acres of prime land, the park is equipped with softball fields and batting cages. It's an excellent facility to train future great ball players.

The multi-functional **Agricultural Pavilion** is spacious, rustic and beautifully designed for all types of activities, especially horse shows and rodeos. The facility seats 750 persons and is near interstate highways and area malls.

Bordered by the Mississippi Sound and Mobile Bay, and within miles of the resort city of Dauphin Island, sits **Mobile County Bayfront Park** on eight acres of land. A bird-lover's paradise, this park is listed as site #46 on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail.

The 25-acre **Mobile County River Delta Marina** provides access to the pristine ecosystem of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Located in Creola, its facilities and features include RV and tent camping, cabin rentals, playground, bath house, laundry, lake fishing, river fishing, launch ramp, covered boat slip rentals, houseboat dockage, bait and tackle, limited groceries and canoe rentals. It also provides an in-ground pool to campers.

With so much to choose from in Mobile County, where does your adventure begin....

CHICKASABOGUE PARK

Location:

760 Aldock Road Eight Mile 36613 (251) 574-2267

Overview:

Chickasabogue Park is an 1,100-acre outdoor recreation facility and wildlife refuge. It provides a wide variety of outdoor activities in a natural setting while protecting the environment and preserving the diversity of plants and animals indigenous to the area. The Park is open from 7 am until dusk for day-use activities and is open 24 hours a day for campers. The gates are locked at night and professional guards are on duty to assist campers and enforce Park rules.

Admission:

Please call (251) 574-2267 for cost of admission and current rates.

Camping:

Campers of all ages love our large, private RV and tent sites nestled under relaxing canopies of oaks, dogwoods, and pines. Wildlife abounds in the park and, if you are quiet enough, a deer, fox, raccoon or even a tank-like armadillo may wander by your campsite. Trained security guards are on duty 24 hours a day and they make regular patrols of the campground to insure your safety and enforce the campground rules such as: quiet hours between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m., no firearms or fireworks, pets must be on a leash and have current inoculations, no visitors after 8 p.m., and no more than 8 people per site. If your goal is more of a "wilderness" experience, we have primitive campsites on the banks of scenic Chickasaw Creek that can be reached only by boat or a 15-to-20-minute hike. You can backpack, rent a canoe at the park or launch your own boat at our ramp in order to reach these sites. Fish right from your campsite or explore the many oxbow lakes off the main creek for bass, bluegill, crappie or catfish.

Canoeing:

Canoes can be rented daily at the park office from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. You can paddle the same routes taken by Indians or pirates hundreds of years earlier, or simply relax and soak up some rays on one of the many sugar-white sand bars. There are even rumors of treasure buried by pirates.

Hiking / Cycling:

More than 17 miles of hiking and biking trails wind through hardwood hills, sandy pine flats and across swamps on wooden bridges. Most of the trails are single track and located away from the developed areas of the park. It is common to see deer and other wildlife along these remote areas as you enjoy nature's soothing sights, sounds, and smells. Several mountain bike competitions have been held on our course, including the Alabama State Championships and the Alabama Sports Festival competitions. Although mountain bikes are suitable for the more hilly sections, there are plenty of trails and paved roads suitable for skinny bike tires. Bring the whole family and enjoy a fun day of hiking or biking at Chickasabogue Park! Helmets are recommended for cyclists of all ages.

Fishing:

Bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish, pickerel, and goggle-eye are the most common species caught from the shore, while flounder, redfish, striped bass, and drum can be found farther downstream where the creek nears the Mobile River. Other less common species such as sturgeon, spoonbills, alligator gars and bowfins may be encountered at different times of the year. Bluegills begin to bed in sloughs and ponds off the main creek around the full moon in April and peak around the full moon in May. If you find the right spot, you can fill your ice chest with your catch in a matter of minutes using crickets or popping bugs for bait. Big bass up to 7 1/2 pounds have been caught from the shore, usually in April as they come out of the deep water to spawn in the shallows. Plastic worms, spinner baits, and top water lures account for most of the bass, but many are caught on minnows or earthworms.

**Picnicking:**

Grills and picnic tables are located throughout the Park and are available on a first-come basis. Picnic pavilions can be reserved in advance for groups from as small as 25 to more than 1,000 people. Pavilions are situated at the beach area and on the sports field. Volleyball and horseshoes are provided without charge with pavilion rentals. Additionally, the sports field pavilion users have access to basketball courts, softball fields, a performing arts stage and a wide variety of playground equipment.

Museum:

Located near the Park office is the oldest Methodist/Episcopal church in Alabama. It is now a museum with exhibits and artifacts from various periods of foreign, Indian, and local occupation. French, Spanish, and English colonial artifacts and maps are found here, as well as prehistoric Indian, African slave, and plantation-era memorabilia. Many photographs of old Mobile scenes hang on the walls.

Swimming:

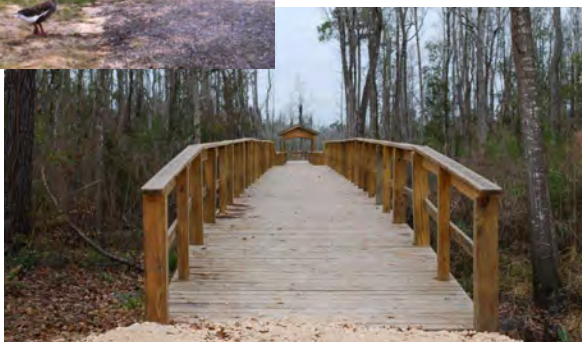
The Park maintains a roped-off swim area on Chickasaw Creek with a white sandy beach for sun worshipers and swimmers. The refreshing, clear water is ice cold even in the dog days of summer, providing welcome relief from the heat and humidity. Picnic tables, grills, and playground equipment are also located in the beach area. Covered pavilions are available to reserve for company picnics, family reunions, or other group outings. A boat launch ramp is located just upstream of the swim area.



CHICKASABOGUE PARK (CONTINUED)

Disc Golf:

Inexpensive and fun for all ages, one of the most popular activities at Chickasabogue Park revolves around our championship 27-hole disc golf course. Sanctioned by the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), the course winds through scenic wooded areas and across wide-open fields which present a wide variety of challenging shots. Played like traditional golf, special golf Frisbees of different styles and weights are used for "drives," "approach shots," and "putts." The "holes" are metal poles with baskets attached that have chains hanging down to slow Frisbees and allow them to drop into the baskets. There are par 3, 4, and 5 holes of different lengths and difficulty levels. Guys and gals of all ages and occupations play disc golf. They are a very friendly bunch and would be happy to explain some of the techniques and subtleties of the game to new players. Local handicap tournaments are held every Thursday afternoon and several major PDGA tourneys are held at different times of the year, drawing competitors from all over the Southeast. The Halloween Howler tournament held around the end of October is the most popular, with locals adopting and decorating their favorite "holes" for the occasion. Awards are handed out and a big cookout is held afterward. Golf Frisbees are available for sale or rent at the park office. Caution! May be addicting!!!



WEST MOBILE PARK

Location:

2275 Leroy Stevens Road
(The park is located on 66 acres of land in West Mobile County)
Mobile, AL 36695
(251) 574-7275

Services:

West Mobile Park offers nine, lighted ball fields for youth and adult leagues and tournaments. Leagues include girls' softball/fast pitch for ages 5 thru 16; as well as men's, ladies, co-ed, and church softball leagues. All softball fields are lighted. There is also a lighted football field for youth league play. Cheerleading and youth soccer programs also are available. Other amenities include: picnic tables, a small playground, rest rooms and concession areas.



Fees:

Softball fees for adult leagues range from \$185 to \$360, and are subject to change.

Park Registration:

*Register electronically by e-mailing Park Manager Terri Mosley at tmosley@mobilecounty.net.

Spring registration is held in January/February for a 10-week softball season. The season begins in mid-March. Summer registration is held in June for a 5-week softball season. The summer season begins in mid-July. Fall registration is held in August for a 7-week softball season. The fall season begins in mid-September.

Rules:

No alcohol is allowed. League formation and rules must be followed.

Contact:

For further information email: tmosley@mobilecounty.net





AGRI-ED PAVILION

Location:

1070 Schillinger Road (Behind the Jon Archer Agricultural Center)
(251) 574-2267

Fees:

\$350 per day

Services:

- Covered multi-purpose arena
- Seats 500-700 people
- Rustic surroundings
- Adjacent wetland area

Rules:

- All persons or groups renting the facility must provide \$1 million liability insurance which has Mobile County as an additional insured.
- No alcohol is allowed
- No dogs allowed at horse shows
- No laser pointers
- No fireworks



BAYFRONT PARK

Location:

15961 Dauphin Island Pkwy; Coden, AL 36523

(251) 873-4321

Contact Parks Manager Bruce Brumfield for more information.



Attractions:

- Wind Surfing
- Bird Watching
- Wetland Nature Habitat
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Playground Area

Description:

A bird lover's paradise, this park is listed as site #46 on the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. It is located in the Alabama Port community about a mile north of the Dauphin Island Bridge. Many species of local and migratory birds visit this park in the spring and fall to take advantage of its fresh water and to shelter themselves among the trees and reeds. Pelicans are ever-present, soaring on the wind-wave formed as bay breezes blow up against and over dense stands of pines. Herons, egrets, osprey, gulls, and terns stalk the shoreline while bluebirds, killdeer, red-wing blackbirds, woodpeckers, kingfishers, and other locals live among the reeds, trees, and artificial nesting boxes.

Playground equipment and covered picnic tables with grills are available for family fun. The area is also very popular with windsurfers and people wading for crabs, mullet, and flounder. Others just enjoy the relaxation that comes from sitting and staring out over the bay watching ocean-going ships and barges as they make their way up and down the ship channel.



RIVER DELTA MARINA

Location:

2350 Dead Lake Marina Road
Creola, AL

(251) 574-2266

For more information, email smims@mobilecounty.net

Overview:

The River Delta Marina offers access to the pristine ecosystem of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Located in Creola, it was purchased by the Mobile County Commission with \$1 million in Coastal Impact grant funds and extensively upgraded in early 2012. Facilities and features include RV and tent camping, cabin rentals, playground, bath house, laundry, lake fishing, river fishing, launch ramp, covered boat slip rentals, houseboat dockage, bait and tackle, limited groceries and canoe rentals. It also provides an in-ground pool for campers. Reservations and information may be obtained by phone at (251) 574-2266.

Directions:

Take exit 22 off of I-65 (Creola exit) and follow the signs to the Marina at the end of Dead Lake Road.

Camping:

The campground offers full hook-up RV sites, tent sites, and cabins. The swimming pool, playground, and a lake stocked with bluegill and bass is available for campers only use. There is also a laundry and bathhouse centrally located within the campground. Free use of the boat launch is included for registered campers.

Campground Rates:

Reservations are being accepted for RV and tent camping, cabin rentals, houseboats, and in-water boat slips. Special monthly rates are available for RVs and houseboats. Bait and tackle as well as limited groceries and supplies are available at the Marina store. You may call the Marina at (251) 574-2266 from 6 am until 4 pm for reservations or additional information.



Fishing/Hunting:

Most of the activities at the Marina center around the excellent fishing available in Dead Lake and the adjacent Mobile/Tensaw Delta. Bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish, and striped bass are the most sought after species in the upper delta, while saltwater fish such as flounder, speckled trout, white trout, redfish, drum, and sheepshead can be caught in the lower delta and Mobile Bay. The Marina property borders the 50,000+ acres of the Mobile/Tensaw wildlife management area recently acquired by the state. Excellent hunting exists there for such game animals as deer, ducks, turkey, rabbit, raccoon, and squirrel. Wild hogs are abundant in the area and many people hunt them with dogs or by stalking. A game area permit, available from the courthouse or the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as well as the River Delta Ranger Stations, is required in addition to a regular hunting license.

Boating:

Hundreds of miles of historic rivers, creeks and bayous await your exploration, with ancient Indian mounds looming out of the dense forest. Skiing, wake boarding and other water sport activities are popular on the larger rivers. The rivers also have sand bars that are a good place to stretch your legs or have a picnic with family or friends. Nature lovers can launch their own personal canoes to sneak up on wary animals and view rare and beautiful birds such as osprey, pileated woodpeckers, wood ducks, and even an occasional majestic bald eagle. Alligators are a common sight in remote areas and are fascinating to watch as they glide silently along, submerging and surfacing like living submarines. Also, small john boats can be rented for fishing at a cost of \$20 daily. Swimming is not recommended in these places!!!



Dockage:

Boat slips for small boats are available for rent at the lowest prices you will find anywhere, \$20 in most cases, while accommodations for any size houseboat or cruiser may be arranged to dock overnight or stay on a monthly basis. Security guards are on duty from 4pm to 6am a day to watch over the boat docks and the campground area.

The Future:

The Marina has recently become a stop on the statewide Bartram Canoe Trail which will soon have floating camping platforms along its path so that canoeists can travel the entire length of the state along its waterways. We are very excited about the enormous potential for new outdoor recreation opportunities that the acquisition of the Marina has opened up. Alabama is blessed with the second highest diversity of plants and animals in the entire nation. Give us a call, or better yet, give us a visit, and experience for yourself what the wilder side of our great and beautiful state has to offer.