

# ALLATOONA LAKE LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION DEMONSTRATION SITE

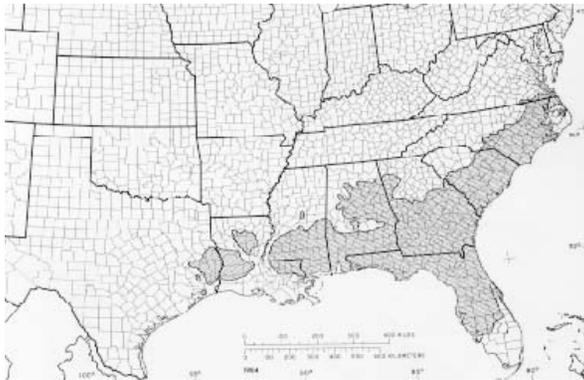
## LONGLEAF PINE



**Longleaf pine understory vegetation.**

At one time, longleaf pine forests dominated a large portion of the southeastern landscape. Approximately 90 million acres were home to this ecosystem in southeastern America prior to colonization.

Primarily as a result of altered forestry practices and the recent reduction of natural fire, longleaf pine forests have been reduced to less than three million acres today.



**Original range of longleaf pine in the southern United States. -USDA Forest Service "Silvics of North America"**

## IMPORTANCE

It has been reported 187 rare plant species are associated with the longleaf pine ecosystem (27 federally listed as threatened or endangered). Most of these species thrive in the understory of longleaf pine forests because they have adapted to a regularly-burned environment. Without fire, many of these species would be choked out by faster growing non-fire-adapted species.



**Recently burned longleaf pine seedlings and surrounding vegetation.**

Due to increased urbanization, new roads, and habitat fragmentation, fires regularly seen in southern forests have become drastically reduced. Today, if a southern forest is not burned intentionally by man, it usually does not burn at all.

This lack of fire has caused a reduction in longleaf pine ecosystem acreage across the southeast. Today, longleaf pines are found primarily in small tracts dotting the landscape, rather than large continuous forests across the south.

## RESTORATION EFFORT



**One year old longleaf pine seedling at Allatoona Wildlife Management Area.**

In 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Allatoona Lake Project planted sixty acres of longleaf pine on the Allatoona Wildlife Management Area in a location where longleaf pine was found to still exist. This site thrived and several native plant species returned to the site. Plants like little blue stem, foxtail, partridge pea, goat's rue and several others now grow on the site.

In 2005, through partnerships with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Southern Company the project was expanded to a total of 350 acres.

This project is the largest of its kind attempted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in north Georgia. Its success will restore a portion of a nearly-lost ecosystem to the northern shores of Allatoona Lake.

## DEMONSTRATION SITE

In 2006, the Allatoona Lake Project partnered with Red Top Mountain State Park, Keep Bartow Beautiful, TREESBartow, Wildlife Action, Inc., and GA Power, Plant Bowen to create a fifteen acre demonstration site at Red Top Mountain State Park. This site is more accessible than the 350 acres originally restored, allowing the public to enjoy this unique ecosystem.

Though this demonstration site does not exactly duplicate the original longleaf pine ecosystem restoration project, it does give the public a glimpse of what has been accomplished elsewhere in the community. Even at its small scale, in time, this demonstration site will provide cover and browse plant species for songbirds, rabbits, deer, turkey, and other wildlife found in Red Top Mountain State Park.



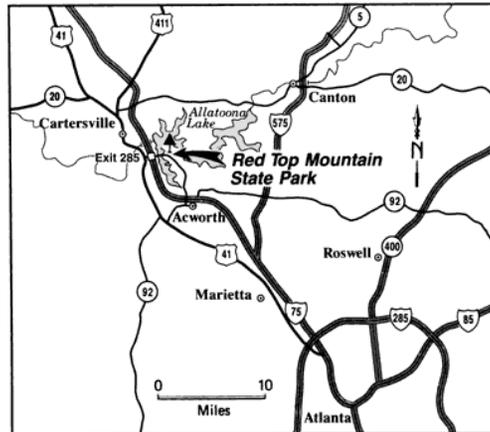
Original longleaf restoration site 2 years after burning and planting.

## ALLATOONA LAKE

The Allatoona Lake Operations Project Management Office is located in Cartersville, GA off exit number 290 on I-75 less than an hour north of Atlanta. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages 270 miles of shoreline, 12,000 acres of water, and 26,000 acres of land around the lake.

There are nine Corps operated campgrounds, thirteen Corps-operated day use areas, and many parks around the lake managed by city, county, or state agencies. Allatoona consistently ranks as one of the most visited Corps lakes in the nation with over 6 million visitors per year. For more information about Allatoona Lake please visit <http://allatoona.sam.usace.army.mil/>.

Red Top Mountain State Park is found off exit number 285 on I-75. It is annually one of the most heavily visited state parks in Georgia. For more information about Red Top Mountain State Park visit <http://gastateparks.org/info/redtop/>.



**Contact the Allatoona Lake Operations  
Project Management Office at 678-721-6700  
with any questions or comments.**

## LONGLEAF PINE DEMONSTRATION SITE At Allatoona Lake



A partnership effort by:



Office of Environmental Mangement  
Program Coordination  
& TREESBartow  
A program of  
Keep Bartow Beautiful

