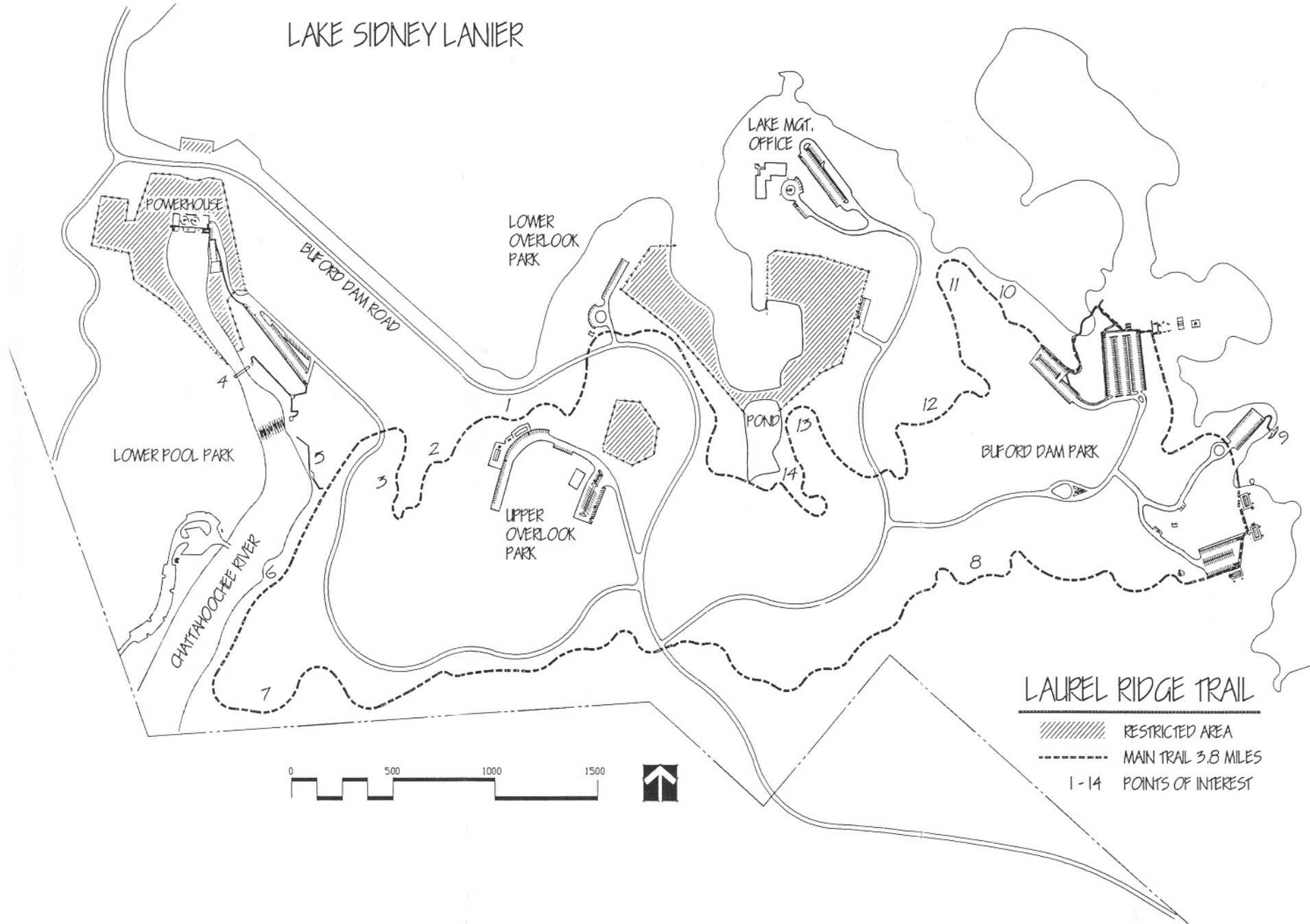




LAKE SIDNEY LANIER



LAUREL RIDGE TRAIL

-  RESTRICTED AREA
-  MAIN TRAIL 3.8 MILES
- 1-14 POINTS OF INTEREST

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 DAM OVERLOOK. From the Overlook shelter you can see the main section of Buford Dam. The earthen dam was designed and constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers at a cost of \$45 million. Construction was completed in 1957. The monument located in the picnic shelter is an exploratory core sample from a boring into solid rock where the powerhouse is now located.

2 OVERLOOK. Vegetation was completely removed from this area during the construction of the dam. The trees that stand today represent a very young forest.

3 OVERLOOK. This is a good view of the lower portion of Buford Dam. The boggy looking area below the roadway is where the Chattahoochee River flowed before the dam was constructed.

4 STEEL BRIDGE. Looking upstream you can see the man-made cut blasted through rock where the powerhouse now sits. The river rises dramatically, as much as 11 feet, when water is released through the powerhouse.

5 WOODEN BRIDGE. The water released from Lake Lanier begins its southward journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Look back towards the dam. It's over 2,360 feet long and 192 feet high.

6 RIVER OVERLOOK. The river averages about 56 degrees year-round. This is because water is released from the bottom of Lake Lanier where temperatures are constant. This condition has resulted in the Chattahoochee River below the dam becoming suitable trout habitat.

7 MOUNTAIN STREAM. The Laurel Ridge Trail follows along "Rocky Creek" and crosses it several times. This stream starts at the top of the hill from several springs and flows year-round. The stream banks provide excellent growing conditions for mountain laurel and native azaleas. Streams

like these are quickly disappearing due to intensive land development.

8 WETLANDS. This low lying area collects rain water run-off and is an excellent habitat for several varieties of ferns.

9 FISHING PIER. The pier was constructed for bank fishing. The lake around the pier has been filled with trees to attract fish. Bass, crappie, catfish and bluegill are the most common species caught.

10 SCENIC OVERLOOK. Lake Lanier is the northern most of four Corps of Engineers built lakes on the Chattahoochee River. Lanier has 540 miles of shoreline at its full level.

11 WETLANDS. Wet areas like this become the home for a variety of water loving plants such as river birch, willow and ferns. The strong odor during the summer is the smell of decaying vegetation.

12 FIELD HABITAT. Until recently kudzu, a very invasive plant, choked this hilltop. The kudzu has been eradicated and native plants have been introduced to provide food and cover for many animals and birds.

13 POND. This is a man-made pond which is fed by two creeks. The pond attracts a variety of wildlife throughout the year which include: ducks, geese, kingfishers, herons, raccoons, fox and deer.

14 BEAVER DAM. Several families of beaver live at the pond. They have constructed dams of their own on the creeks that feed into the pond.

PLANT AND WILDLIFE

The Laurel Ridge trail is populated by a wide variety of animals and plants. Informational handouts describing native birds and wildflowers are available from the Lanier Project Management Office.

TREES

Beech	River Birch	White Oak
Red Oak	Water Oak	Sycamore
Red Maple	Poplar	Dogwood
Sassafras	Sweetgum	Sourwood
American Holly		

SHRUBS

Azalea	Deerberry
Blueberry	Sweetshrub
Common Alder	Leucothoe
Mountain Laurel	Rhododendron

FLOWERS

Purple Coneflower	Virginia Spiderwort
Fire Pink	Golden Aster
White Wood Aster	Black-eyed Susan
Trillium	Coreopsis
Jack-in-the Pulpit	

WILDLIFE

Deer	Red Fox	Raccoon
Beaver	Osprey	Kingfisher
Blue Heron	Bobcat	

MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Lanier Project Management Office at P.O. Box 567 Buford, Georgia, 30515 or telephone 770-945-9531.