



PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE LOCATION



AT-GRADE RAILROAD CROSSING



ALABAMA POWER EASEMENT



HEFLIN SPUR TRAIL HEAD



PINHOTI TRAIL LEGACY PROJECT Preliminary Trail Alignment



SCALE: 1" = 100'



Figure 1. Pinhoti Trail Legacy Project Vicinity Map

U.S. Highway 78 Pinhoti Bridge Project From Idea to Execution: A 2025 Update

The U.S. Highway 78 Pinhoti Trail Bridge aims to enhance hiker safety by rerouting a dangerous road walk, helping to make the trail eligible for National Recreation Trail designation. The bridge will also provide an improved recreational experience and boost the scenic visibility of the area. This investment will further cement the importance of the Pinhoti Trail to the health of Alabama's recreation infrastructure.

ATF is working with respected planning firm Goodwyn Mills Cawood to develop a complete site plan, assess the most feasible bridge placement, and design an accessible trail that provides better access to the nearby Forest Ranger Station, all while protecting hikers from road traffic. and giving the public better ADA access to another section of the Pinhoti Trail.



Pinhoti Trail Project Map



Why Now?

As we continue to move our projects northward, the Highway 78 Bridge is the next step to improving the entire length of the Pinhoti and continuing to grow the region's economy through the burgeoning recreation marketplace.

With our recent projects in their final stages of completion, the Alabama Trails Foundation is poised to build on these successes. By expanding the U.S. 78 Bridge Project to incorporate over 1 mile of ADA accessible trail leading to the pedestrian bridge, we're increasing the ability for everyone to use this key asset for public health and wellbeing.

The Alabama Trails Foundation Timeline



We have worked diligently since our creation in 2012 to improve trails across Alabama since our creation, from developing blueways, bike paths, and pedestrian studies in rural communities.

Our largest task to date has been improving Alabama's only long-distance hiking trail, the Pinhoti Trail. The Pinhoti stretches for 170 miles across east Alabama before crossing into Georgia and eventually connecting with the Appalachian Trail.

Master Plan

Completed in 2019, the plan is an in-depth dive into the history of the trail, user groups, community relationships, opportunities, and challenges. It has been the underpinning of all our work along the trail.

Investment: \$91,000

Flagg Mountain

As part of a dynamic partnership led by the Alabama Forestry Commission, we have helped to restore the Civilian Conservation Corps observation tower at Flagg Mountain, the southern gateway to the trail, installed an ADA accessible trail in 2022, created an online reservation system that lets users rent tent sites and cabin shelters in 2024, and officially moved the start of the Pinhoti Trail to the tower and celebrated water on the mountain in 2025. **Investment: \$4,000,000+**



Joglema-Scott Lake

We are finishing a project with the US Forest Service that improves the Joglema-Scott Lake for more people to enjoy, including a 60 foot steel bridge, and a pier offering better access to lake, coupled with mitigation efforts that will curtail illegal use of the site. Investors include Alabama Power Company, with a contribution of \$150,000 to the project. **Investment: \$1,000,000**

The Highway 78 Bridge project lands in perfect timing with the Alabama Tourism Department's Year of Alabama Trails, lasting through 2026. The Alabama Trails Foundation partnered with the tourism department to showcase trails across our great state for the next two years, and beyond.