

2026 Pre-application: Project Title

Organization Profile

miltontrevor.brownlee@dnr.ga.gov

Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program: 2026-2027 Pre-application

Deadline for submission: Before midnight on October 16, 2026

Please utilize the 2026-2027 GOSP/Conserve Georgia Program Manual available at

www.gadnr.org/gosp

for direction on how to complete this application. If you have questions that are not satisfied by the manual, contact GOSP Grants Specialist at

Miltontrevor.Brownlee@dnr.ga.gov

or 404-463-0288 for further assistance.

Part 1 – Pre-application Demographics

Applicant Organization Name:

Applicant Organization Name

Important: Your Organization Type determines which application questions are required. Please make your selection before completing the remainder of the application.

Select your Organization Type:

Nongovernmental Entity

Applicant understands that applications submitted by ineligible entities will not be considered for funding.

Only Nongovernmental Organizations that are primarily concerned with the protection and conservation of land and natural resources, as evidenced by their organizational documents are eligible to apply for GOSP funding.

To verify eligibility, applicants must provide the following documentation:

Upload documentation of organization's active tax-exempt / 501(c)(3) status

Blank Document.pdf

Upload documentation of active registration with the Georgia Secretary of State

Blank Document.pdf

Upload Proof of core mission in conservation: Organization's by-laws and articles of incorporation

Blank Document.pdf

Upload additional documentation (if applicable)

Applicant Organization Address:

Applicant Organization Address

City:

City

State:

Georgia

Zip:

30334

County:

30334

Main Point of Contact:

Main Point of Contact

Main Point of Contact Email:

soheila.naji@dnr.ga.gov

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Phone Number:

404-463-8570

Chief Elected Official, Director or President:

Chief Elected Official, Director or President

Mailing Address:

Mailing Address

Phone number:

404-463-8570

Email:

soheila.naji@dnr.ga.gov

Chief Financial Officer:

Chief Financial Officer

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Phone number:

404-463-8570

Email:

soheila.naji@dnr.ga.gov

Part 2 – Pre-application Project Questionnaire

Important: Please select a Project Category before proceeding. Evaluation Criteria and requirements will be displayed based on your selection.

Project Category:

Local Parks and Trails of Regional Significance

Project Type:

Combination of acquisition and stewardship

Number of Acres:

87

Project Title:

Project Title

Site Address (If no address exists, enter either a parcel number or GPS Coordinates):

Site Address

Site City:

Site City

Site State:

Georgia

Site Zip:

30334

Site County:

Site County

Congressional District (project site):

Congressional District

State Senate District (project site):

State Senate District

State House District (project site):

State House District

Project Cost & Funding Summary

Are you requesting grant or loan funding for this project?

Grant funding

Identify each of the following dollar values.

For all applicants, except state agencies, match amount must be at least 25% of the Total Project Cost and correspond with the answer provided in Question #1 in Part 3 of this application.

Conserve Georgia grant and loan requests have a \$500,000 minimum and are limited to a maximum award of \$3,000,000.

Amount of GOSP Funding Requested:

\$500,000

Match Commitment Total:

\$166,667

Total Project Cost: GOSP + Match (auto-calculated)

\$666,667

Match % Calculation

25.00

Amount of Funding Requested, Total Match Commitment, and Total Project Cost must agree with the dollar values entered in the project budget worksheet required in Part 4 of this application.

Acknowledgement Statements

A. Are you aware that this project must adhere to all required American with Disabilities (ADA) guidelines, as mandated by law?

Yes

B. I understand per the GOSP Program Manual, no expenditures can be considered for either reimbursement or match prior to the execution of a Project Agreement with GADNR, unless allowable under sections 2.

Accept

C. By checking the box below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program Manual in its

entirety.

I have read and understand the GOSP Manual.

Part 3 – Evaluation Criteria

Project Narrative:

Project narrative should clearly identify:- The primary purpose and scope of the project;- The major project elements and activities proposed;- The specific improvements, facilities, acquisitions, or conservation actions to be completed;- Why financial assistance is needed to accomplish the project. Applicants are encouraged to organize the narrative so that the proposed scope of work is clearly identifiable and easily understood by reviewers. For projects that include a trail, identify the proposed trail type and provide the total linear length (in miles or feet). For projects involving multiple trail segments, provide the length of each segment.

Provide a clear and concise description of the proposed project and the need for GOSP assistance.

Project Narrative.

1. Can you provide matching funds greater than 25% of the total project cost? (Up to 5 points)

Yes

Identify the percentage of matching funds that you are committing to:

25.0% (0 points)

2. Does this project address priority needs identified in a formalized planning document and demonstrate a meaningful contribution toward enhancing Georgia’s outdoor recreation and conservation goals? (25 points)

Yes

List the name(s) of Planning Document(s) in which the project need is identified.

Planning document.

Describe how elements within your proposal effectively satisfy a critical and/or compelling need identified in formalized planning documents, while contributing to advancement of outdoor recreation and conservation goals.

Description.

Upload the cover page and section(s) or page(s) that directly relate to the proposed project’s need. If submitting a longer document, applicants must clearly reference relevant page numbers and highlight the applicable sections. At least one relevant document must be uploaded to receive points.

Upload Planning Document (1):

Document.pdf

Upload Planning Document (2):

Upload Planning Document (3):

Note: Acceptable examples of current, formalized planning documents include but are not limited to comprehensive plans; recreation master plans; county or regional master plans; trail system plans; capital improvements plans; regional water plans; land use management plans.

3. Identify the outdoor nature-based recreational activities provided through the acquisition or development of this property. (up to 25 points)

Fishing, Hiking, Biking, Boating/canoeing/kayaking, Wildlife viewing

To qualify for points, applicants must upload the project plan/map clearly indicating the location of each nature-based recreation activity on the property.

Upload nature-based Activity Map: This map must clearly identify the location of all selected activities.

Document.pdf

4. Is this project located in one of the areas described below? (0 points)

Yes

Using the Watershed Technical Appendix (available at https://gadnr.org/sites/default/files/Grants%20Unit/GOSA-EPD_Technical_Appendix_April%202026Edits.pdf) as a reference, select all applicable technical area. For each location characteristic selected, describe how the proposed project will contribute to improving water quality and/or water quantity within the identified area. Applicants should also identify and reference the specific sources of information used to determine the applicable characteristics of the project area.

A. The project is located in a Hydrologic Unit Code HUC-12 watershed, identified by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) as a priority watershed for water quality purposes.

B. The project is located in a HUC-12 or equivalent size area as impacted by or sensitive to hydrologic alteration.

C. The project is located in a HUC-12 watershed identified by GAEPD as a healthy watershed.

D. The project is located in a HUC-12 watershed with waters identified by GAEPD as impaired with any of the following criteria violated: Algae, Biota Impacted (Fish Community), Biota Impacted (Macroinvertebrate Community), Bacteria (E coli, Enterococci, Bacteria, FC), Chlorophyll a, or Dissolved Oxygen.

E. The project is located in one of the most significant groundwater recharge areas in Georgia.

F. The project is located in the Inner or Outer Management Zone identified in a Wellhead Protection Plan or a Source Water Protection Plan.

Select all that apply

A., B., D., F.

****Applicant must upload at least one supporting document to receive points. For additional information about each of these characteristics, please see the EPD Technical Appendix available at https://gadnr.org/sites/default/files/Grants%20Unit/GOSA-EPD_Technical_Appendix_April%202026Edits.pdf****

Upload Watershed Location Document (1):

Document.pdf

Upload Watershed Location Document (2):

Upload Watershed Location Document (3):

Upload Watershed Location Document (4):

4.b. Will any of the below listed Best Management Practices be used for any improvements, restoration, or management activities associated with the project? (up to 25 points)

Yes

For additional information about each of these Best Management Practices, please see the Watershed Technical Appendix at https://gadnr.org/sites/default/files/Grants%20Unit/GOSA-EPD_Technical_Appendix_April%202026Edits.pdf

A. Protection or restoration of vegetated buffers in a condition appropriate for the region.

B. Restoration of streambanks and natural hydrologic processes.

C. Protection of wetlands/marshlands or stream buffers, with minimization of impacts from improvements and management activities.

D. Use of green infrastructure (e.g., bioretention areas, grass swales, and trails constructed with mulch, gravel or other pervious materials rather than concrete or asphalt.)

E. Permanent protection of a significant portion (>25%) of any USGS HUC 12 or larger watershed.

Select the Best Management Practices that apply:

A. Vegetated Riparian Buffers, B. Streambanks and hydrologic processes, D. Green Infrastructure

Please describe how you plan to utilize and implement the selected Best Management Practice(s)?

Description.

5. Does the project include the acquisition or stewardship of land with documented cultural or historical value? (Up to 10 points)

Yes

Describe how the proposed project will protect, enhance, or provide access to regional, or state-wide cultural and/or historical resources. When applicable, applicants should clearly identify whether the property is formally recognized at the national, state, or local level and/or is associated with documented cultural/historical resources. Applicants should also clarify whether the project is directly located on, adjacent to, or connected with the cultural or historical resource.

Description.

If the property is formally recognized at the national or state level, documentation verifying the designation must be provided. For properties without formal designation, supporting documentation (e.g., listings, maps, studies, etc.) is encouraged to substantiate claims of significance but is not required.

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (1):

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (2):

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (3):

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (4):

Upload Cultural/Historical Document (5):

6. Does the project include the acquisition or stewardship of land with significant ecological, conservation, or natural resource value, and will the proposed project protect, enhance, or restore those resources? (Up to 25 points)

Yes

Describe the existing ecological significance of the property and demonstrate how the proposed project will protect, enhance, restore, or sustain those resources.

Description.

Applicants must Identify existing ecological features, which may include, but are not limited to native plant and wildlife communities, Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), sensitive habitats such as wetlands, stream buffers, floodplains, forests, or other critical ecosystems. Also, describe anticipated ecological outcomes or benefits resulting from the project.

Required Documents: Applicants must upload supporting documentation, such as, but not limited to data from the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) or the Georgia Biodiversity Portal, range maps, species occurrence records for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), photographs, maps, reports, articles, or technical documents.

Upload Ecological Value Document (1):

Document.pdf

Upload Ecological Value Document (2):

Upload Ecological Value Document (3):

Upload Ecological Value Document (4):

Upload Ecological Value Document (5):

7. Do you have a plan and budget to maintain, manage, and secure this property for multiple years beyond the project completion date? (15 points)

Yes

Describe how you plan to maintain, manage and keep this property secure from vandalism, loitering, crime, etc. Your narrative should include the methodology in which you plan to achieve this. Plans should clearly outline a credible timeline, proof of dedicated funding for ongoing operations, including funding for staffing, operation, maintenance and safety.

Total points will be divided amongst the following three categories:

- Maintenance Plan: How will the site's upkeep and ecological/ functional viability be ensured over time?
- Management Plan: How will management and staffing needs be addressed to support, operate, and promote the site into the future?
- Safety and Security Plan: How will property remain safe and secure for visitors? Include safety protocols, security measures, and emergency management considerations.

Maintenance, Management, and Safety Plan Narrative:

Description.

Required Documents: Provide Maintenance Plan; Management Plan; Security Plan; Proof of dedicated funding for long-term operations; Resolution of support for long-term maintenance, etc. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload maintenance, management, Security documents (1)

Document.pdf

Upload maintenance, management, Security documents (2)

Upload maintenance, management, Security documents (3)

8. Is this project regionally significant, and does it provide meaningful nature-based recreation and conservation benefits beyond the local community? (Up to 25 points)

Yes

“Regional Significance” can be defined as enhancing the natural-resource based outdoor experience and quality of Georgia’s natural resources, while providing value to a greater community beyond the local area.

Describe how this project contributes to regional scale/statewide impact by enhancing access to, or protection of Georgia’s natural resources while serving a broader population beyond the local community.

Description.

Optional Supporting Documentation: Applicants may submit materials that further demonstrate regional significance; however, submission of these materials is not required.

Upload supporting document (1)

Upload supporting document (2)

Upload supporting document (3)

9. Does the project include partnerships that provide a measurable monetary value through cooperation with external qualified local governments, local authorities registered with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, Community Improvement Districts or other partners? (Up to 10 points)

Yes

Applicant may score up to 10 points for qualifying partnerships. Points will be awarded based on the categories identified below.

To be eligible for points, each partnership category must provide a documented monetary contribution equal to at least 1% of the total GOSP funding request. Applicants may include multiple partners within a single category; however, the combined contribution for that category must meet the minimum threshold to qualify for points.

*For nonprofit partners, a copy of the organization's current IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter must also be submitted.

Partnership with
External Qualified Local Governments - 2 Points, 501 (c)(3) Non-profit Organizations - 2 Points, Other - 2 Points

Describe the contribution of each partner and provide documentation demonstrating the partner's commitment and participation in the project. To be considered for scoring, each partner must provide a measurable monetary contribution to the project, such as cash, donated services, donated materials, or other quantifiable resources.

Description.

Any cash contributions, donations, or other monetary commitments identified in letters of commitment or support must also be included in the Project Budget Worksheet. Please upload letters of participation, letters of commitment of donation or volunteering, etc. You must upload a document for each partnership to receive points. Letters of commitment must quantify the dollar value of each partnership.

Upload letters of commitment identifying the monetary value (1)
Document.pdf

Upload letters of commitment identifying the monetary value (2)

Upload letters of commitment identifying the monetary value (3)

Upload letters of commitment identifying the monetary value (4)

Upload letters of commitment identifying the monetary value (5)

Upload the 501 (c) 3 filing for non-profit partners (if applicable)
Blank Document.pdf

Upload the 501 (c) 3 filing for non-profit partners (if applicable)

Upload the 501 (c) 3 filing for non-profit partners (if applicable)

10. Does this project support goals and objectives in Georgia’s current State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)? (20 points)

Yes

Describe how the project helps implement SWAP priority conservation actions described in the Conservation Action Tracker, or supports the conservation of any Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), or protects habitats for SGCN that are represented within Conservation Opportunity Areas, Priority Watersheds, or other lands. Points may also be awarded for conservation actions that are consistent with the goals outlined in SWAP story maps, the SWAP implementation strategy or any of the technical team reports. Reference specific conservation actions, species, habitats, Conservation Opportunity Areas, or Priority Watersheds to support your answer.

Description.

Note: A link to Georgia's 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan and all associated reports and applications, including the Georgia Biodiversity Portal, can be found on our website at

www.gadnr.org/gosp.

You can search for Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the vicinity of your project via the Georgia Biodiversity Portal or by viewing species listed within individual Conservation Opportunity Areas or Priority Watersheds. The Georgia Biodiversity Portal also includes range maps and ecological information for SWAP Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Optional Upload: Applicants may upload documentation of reference identified above. Combine multiple references into one single PDF and upload below.

Upload SWAP supporting document

11. Does this project overlap with the Foundational Goals in Georgia's current State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)? (Up to 5 points)

Yes

Check all SCORP goals that apply

A. Conserve natural resources, C. Promote health, fitness, and livability of communities, D. Improve awareness, accessibility, and inclusion, E. Partnership

Describe how the proposed project supports each of the selected SCORP goals.

Description.

Identify page number(s) and paragraph(s) within the SCORP, supporting your narrative, to receive points.

Description.

Optional Upload: Applicants may upload relevant excerpt(s) or specific page(s) from the SCORP document with which the project aligns. Submission of the full SCORP document is not required. Applicants should clearly highlight or identify the portions that directly relate to the proposed project. Combine multiple references into one single PDF and upload below.

Upload SCORP supporting document

12. Will this project create opportunities to enhance the regional and/or statewide economy? (15 points)

Yes

Describe how this project will contribute to economic growth at a regional and/or statewide level.

Description.

Optional Supporting Documentation: Applicants may upload materials that further demonstrate economic impact; however, submission is not required.

NOTE: The purpose of this question is to evaluate regionally significant economic growth. While local planning documents may be submitted, they must include clear and specific references to regional or statewide economic impacts.

Upload support for economic development (1)

Upload support for economic development (2)

Upload support for economic development (3)

13. Will this project provide new access or connection to other outdoor recreation facilities or areas? (Up to 15 points)

Yes

Describe all new access points, or facility connections that will result from this project.

Description.

Required Document: A conceptual map of the proposed project must be submitted that shows all new access points created; and highlights all existing outdoor recreation facilities or areas connected by the project. Labels, legends, or annotations must be used to make connections and access points easily identifiable.

Upload conceptual map showing new access/connections (1)

Document.pdf

Upload conceptual map showing new access/connections (2)

14. Will this project promote the stewardship and sustainable use of natural resources? (5 points)

Yes

Describe how the proposed project will Conserve/protect natural, scenic, or unique features of the property; encourage sustainable practices that maintain the property for future use; and provide safe recreational opportunities that allow the community to enjoy the natural resources responsibly

Description.

15. Will this project add new water access points for public use, such as fishing, or kayaking/canoeing/boating, where none currently exists? (10 points)

Yes

Type of water access provided/improved. (select all that apply)

Fishing, Kayak/canoe/boat launch

Upload a conceptual map of the proposed project, detailing the location of the new water access opportunities. You must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload conceptual map (1)

Document.pdf

Upload conceptual map (2)

Upload conceptual map (3)

Reminder: If the project involves land disturbance within a stream buffer (i.e., construction of a boat ramp or kayak launch), the applicant must follow all applicable rules and regulations for obtaining a certification of buffer variance. This documentation is not required with the pre-application, but applicants are reminded to comply with all requirements prior to construction.

Optional Upload: Certification of Buffer Variance (if available)

16. Is there documented public support for the project? (5 points)

Yes

Required uploads: Documents demonstrating that the project has support from the public, stakeholders, or relevant user groups. This support should be specific to the proposed project. Documentation may include but is not limited to: letters of support from elected officials, citizens, or user groups; public meeting minutes demonstrating discussion or approval of the project; proof of a public comment period posting; petitions or other materials that specifically indicate the project is needed or supported. Applicants must upload at least one document to receive points.

Upload proof of public support (1)

Document.pdf

Upload proof of public support (2)

Upload proof of public support (3)

Upload proof of public support (4)

Upload proof of public support (5)

Upload proof of public support (6)

Part 4 – Additional Required Documentation

In addition to responding to the evaluation criteria, applicants must provide the following documents for the application to be considered for review.

Please upload copies of all applicable documents listed below. Failure to provide required documentation may result in the application being deemed incomplete and ineligible for funding consideration.

A. Application Cover Letter

Document.pdf

This official letter must demonstrate the entity's support and authorization to submit a pre-application. The letter must be printed on official organizational letterhead and signed by a ranking authorized representative of the entity (Board Chairperson, Commissioner, Mayor, etc.).

B. Resolution adopted by the governing entity of the applicant authorizing the application and committing required match to complete the proposed project.

Document.pdf

C. Preliminary Site Plan / Conceptual Plan

Document.pdf

The Conceptual Site Plan (Conceptual Map) is a critical component of the application. Applicants should ensure that the map is clear, accurate, and sufficiently detailed.

The conceptual map must:

- Clearly depict the entire project area and property boundaries.
- Clearly distinguish between existing features and conditions and proposed project improvements or acquisitions.

- Conspicuously identify all project elements proposed for GOSP funding.
- Conspicuously identify all project elements being used as match.
- Identify prominent natural and man-made features, including, but not limited to, rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, roads, trails, buildings, parking areas, utility corridors, and densely forested areas.
- Include labels, legends, and other information necessary for reviewers to understand the proposed project.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide a map that accurately and comprehensively represents the project. Incomplete, unclear, or insufficiently detailed conceptual maps may limit the Department's ability to evaluate the proposal and may adversely affect application review.

D. Location map - This map should depict the general location of the project site in relation to nearby towns, cities and major highways.

Document.pdf

E. Project Budget Worksheet

Document.pdf

It is required that the applicants use the Pre-application Budget template available at <https://gadnr.org/gosp>. Total Project Cost, Amount of Funding Requested, and Match Commitment must exactly agree with the amounts entered in Part 2 of this application.

The budget worksheet must include all categories of project expenditures and reflect the full scope of the project, including both reimbursable costs and match contributions.

Applicants must ensure that all project costs are clearly categorized. Omissions or inconsistencies may result in ineligible expenses or delays in application review.

F. Signed statement from landowner(s) expressing support (this is applicable for Stewardship Projects if the Applicant and owner are not the same) (1).

Letter of landowner support (2)

Letter of landowner support (3)

Letter of landowner support (4)

Letter of landowner support (5)

Letter of landowner support (6)

G. Photo Map of Site

Document.pdf

Photo (1)

Document.pdf

Photo (2)

Photo (3)

Photo (4)

Photo (5)

Photo (6)

Appraisal reports and willing seller documentation are required for all projects involving property acquisition or conservation easements. These items are also required when donated property or a donated conservation easement is proposed as match for an acquisition or stewardship projects.

One current, full narrative appraisal report prepared by a licensed appraiser is required for each property and must reflect the current fair market value of the property interest being acquired or donated. Applicants must also provide either a signed willing seller letter or an executed purchase contract for the subject property.

H. Appraisal Report

Document.pdf

I. Appraisal Report

J. Executed purchase contract or signed willing seller letter

Document.pdf

K. Executed purchase contract or signed willing seller letter

L. Georgia Environmental Policy Acts (GEPA) Checklist

GEPA is not required for the Pre-application, but if already completed, please upload a copy here.

M. Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)

Phase I ESA is not required for the Pre-application, but if already completed, please upload a copy here.

N. Current lease agreement (if applicable)

O. Conservation easement agreement (if applicable)

P. The conservation easement management plan (if applicable)

Part 5 - Miscellaneous

The following upload fields are provided for requested documentation by DNR as needed.

File Upload

File Upload

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