



BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | ATLANTA, GA



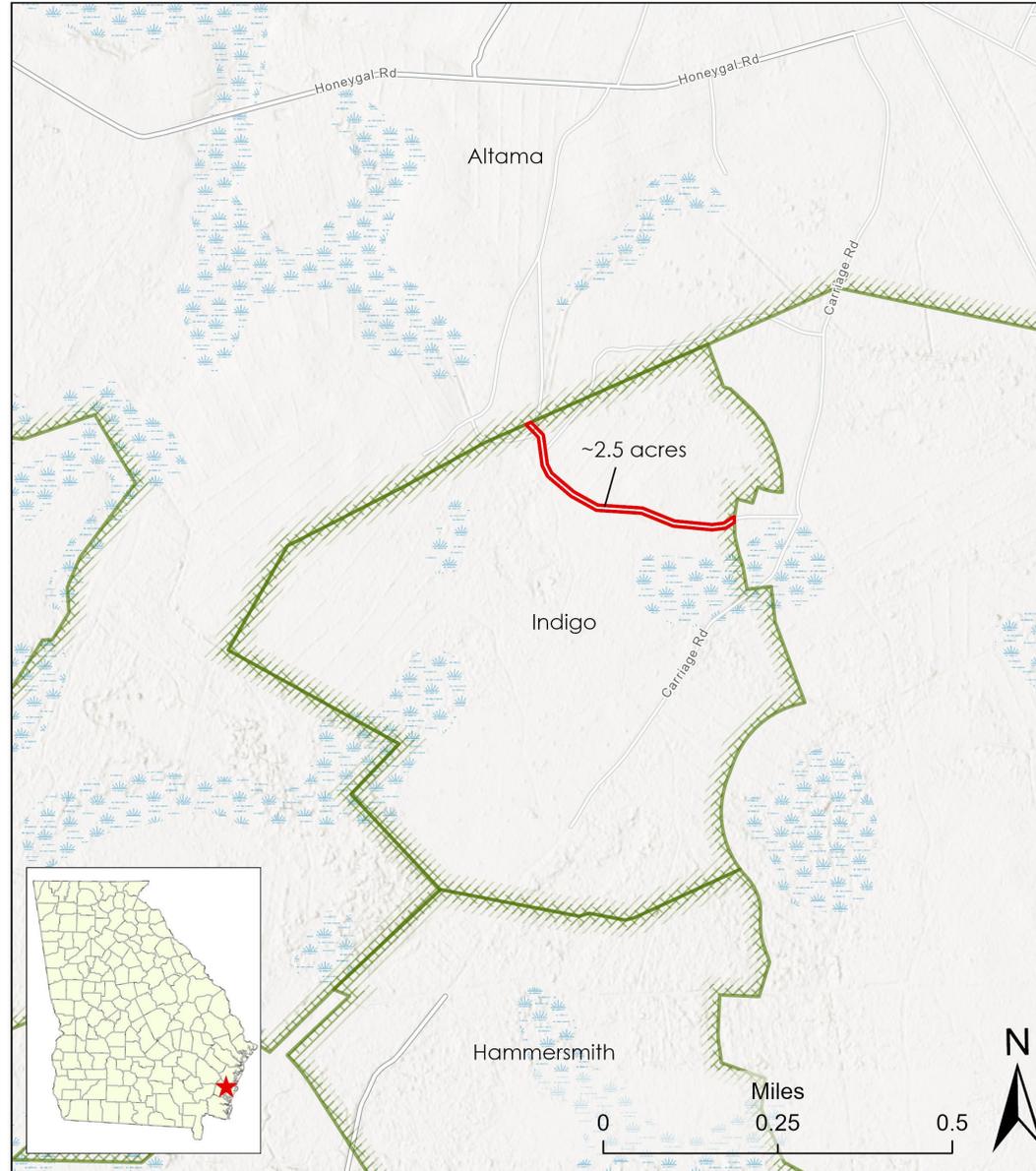
Real Estate Office

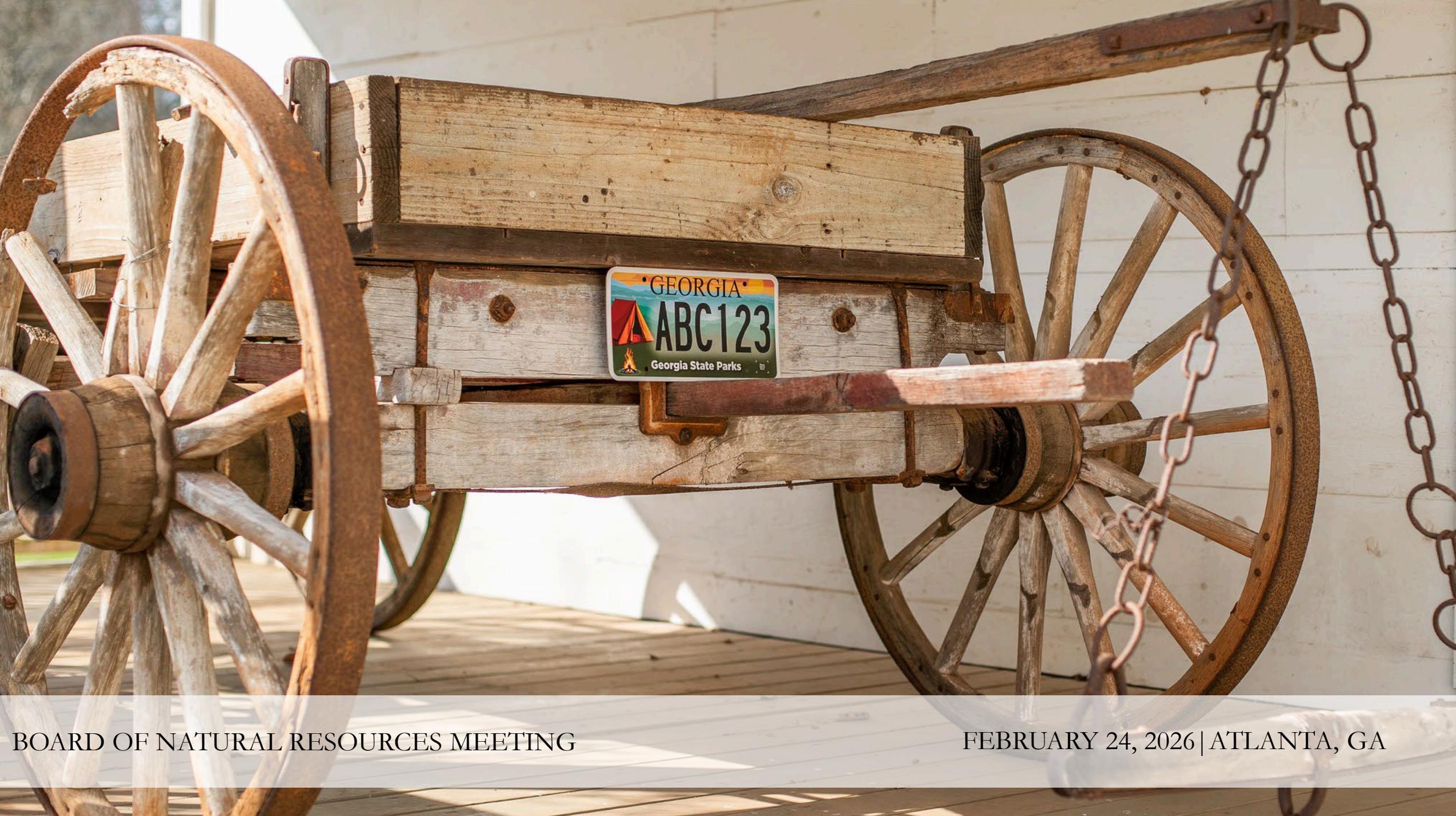
February 24, 2026

Brent Womack

Altama WMA Drainage Easement

Glynn County



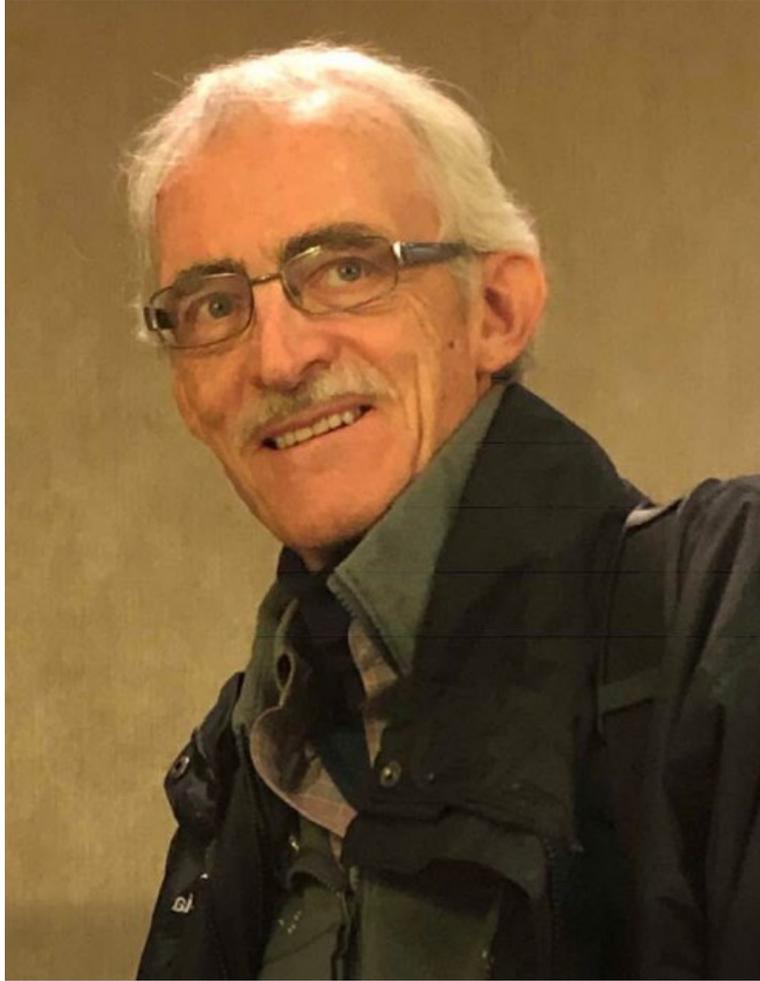


GEORGIA
ABC123
Georgia State Parks

BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | ATLANTA, GA

Georgia Environmental Protection Division



Harold Reheis
Former EPD Director 1991-2003





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Recreational Trails Program (RTP) 2025-2026 List of Approved Projects

Ouicia Jolly
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Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- ❑ Federal grant program administered by the Federal Highway Administration.
- ❑ Funds are allocated to Georgia from the Federal Highway Trust Fund from motor vehicle fuel excise taxes.
- ❑ Federal Highway provides essential support in financial and environmental matters.
- ❑ Funding is available for trail construction, trail maintenance, trail amenities, and trail education

Acquisition



SINGLE &
MULTI-USE
TRAILS



EQUESTRIAN
TRAILS



MOTORIZED
TRAILS



WATER
TRAILS



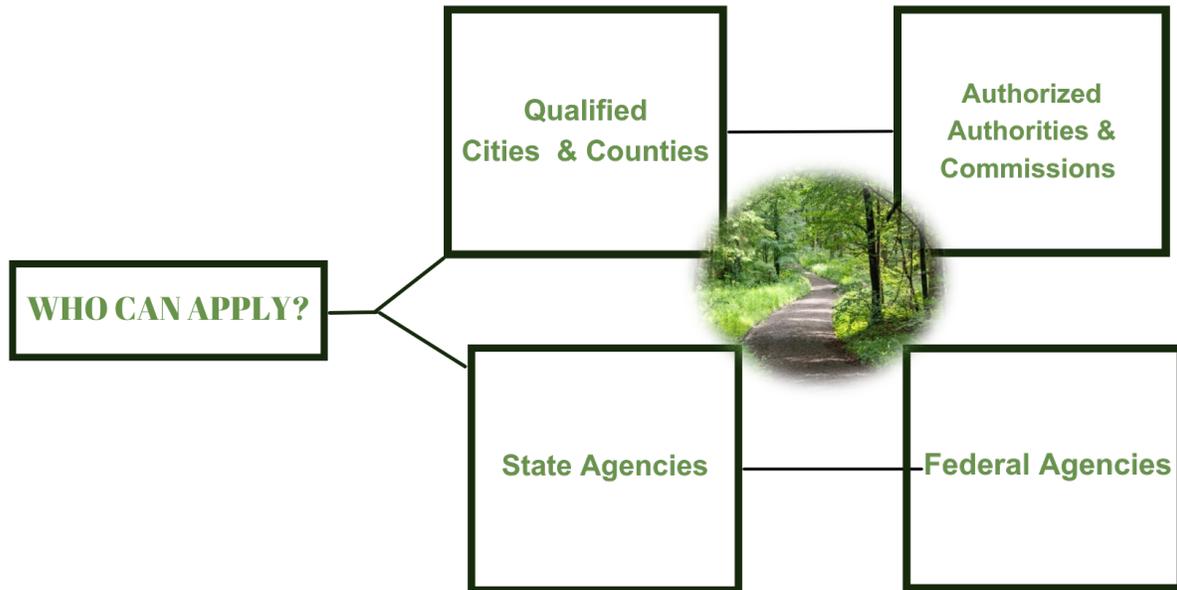
TRAILHEAD
FACILITIES

Development of New Trails

Rehabilitation of Existing Trails

2025-2026 RTP Pre-application Overview

✓ Pre-application period opened on September 1, 2025, and closed on November 1, 2025. Applications received were 23 nonmotorized.



✓ DNR scored the pre-applications and presented the projects selected for the second-level application to the Advisory Committee on January 27, 2026.

Funding

Nonmotorized Trails
Up to \$200,000.00
20% match

Motorized Trails
Up to \$1,000,000.00
20% match

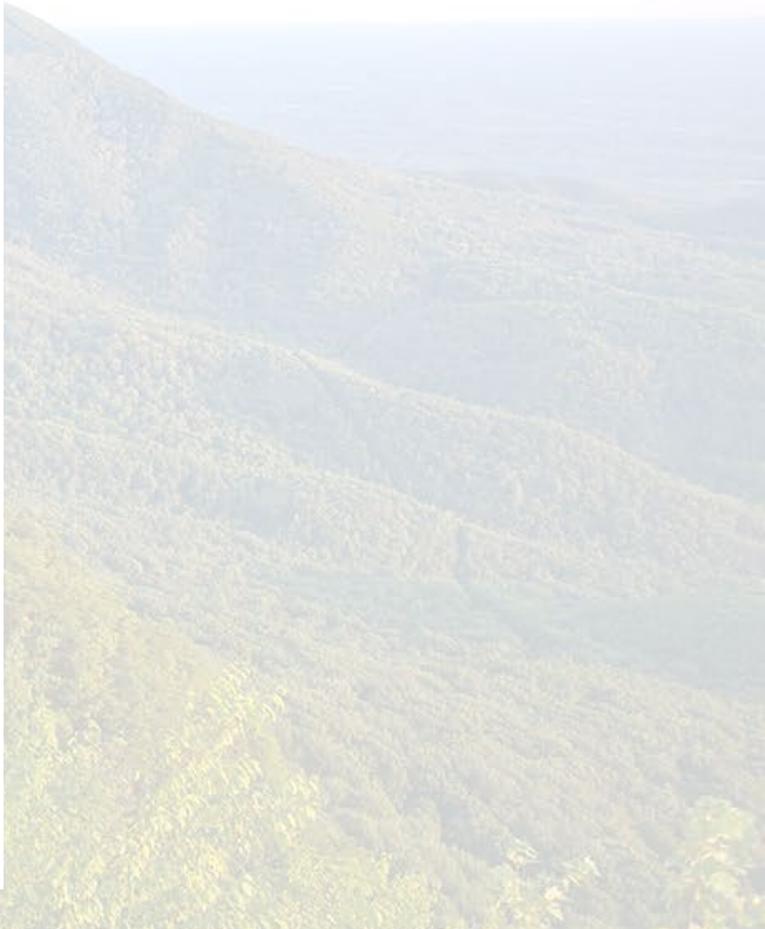
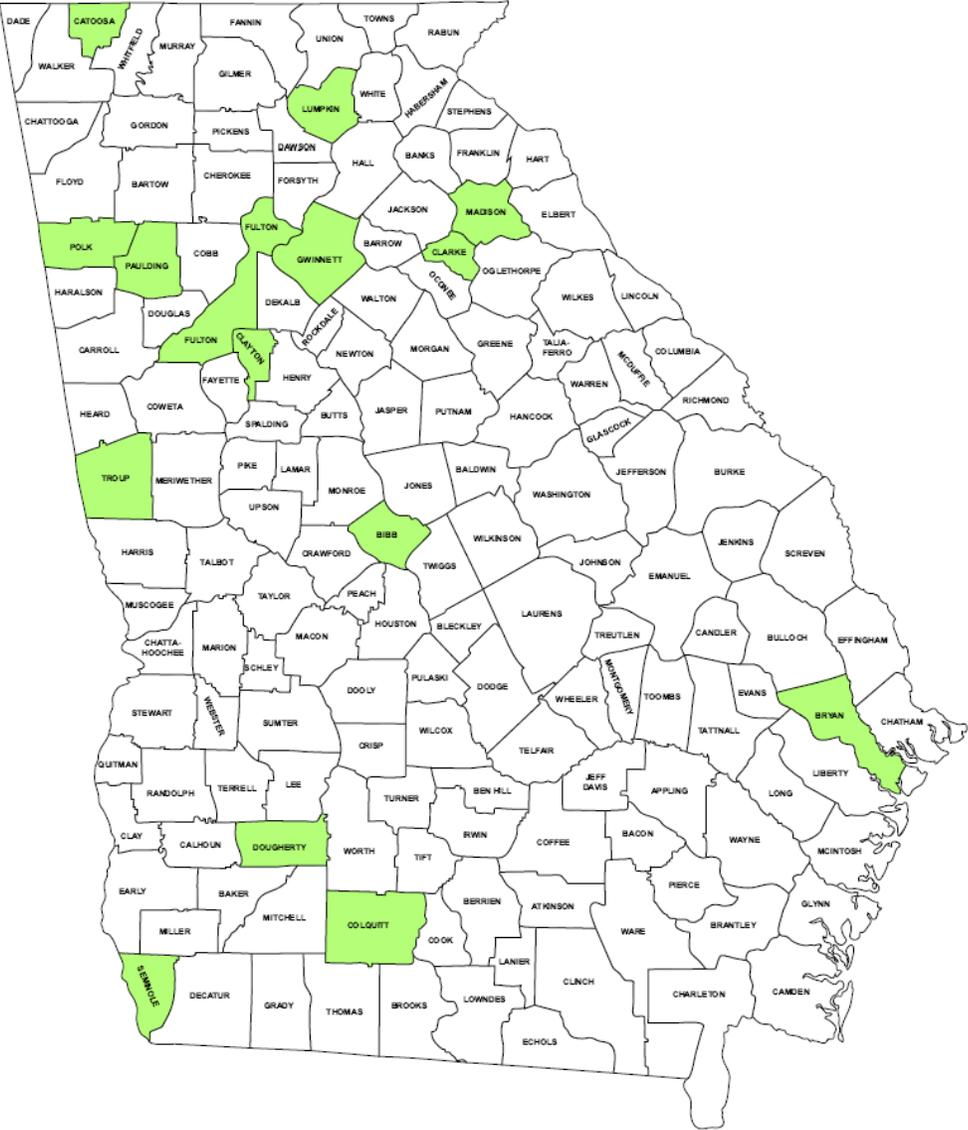
Education Grant
Depending on
Available Funding
20% match

2025-2026 RTP Projects

Applicant Name	Project Title	County	Funding Requested
Athens-Clarke County Government	Southeast Clark Park Trail Accessibility Improvements	Clarke	\$200,000.00
Bryan County	Green Creek Trail Extension	Bryan	\$180,000.00
City of Albany	Albany Riverfront Trail Improvement	Dougherty	\$160,000.00
City of Cedartown	Big Spring Heritage Trail	Polk	\$200,000.00
City of Milton	Birmingham Park Restroom Installation and Trail Improvements	Fulton	\$200,000.00
City of Morrow	Barton Memorial Park Trail	Clayton	\$200,000.00
City of Moultrie	Eastside Trail	Colquitt	\$200,000.00
City of Peachtree Corners	Tech Park Lake Trail Phase II	Gwinnett	\$200,000.00
City of Ringgold	Slabtown Park and South Chickamauga Blueway Phase I	Catoosa	\$200,000.00
City of South Fulton	Cedar Grove Park Trail- Phase I	Fulton	\$200,000.00
City of Union City	Longino Drive Trail	Fulton	\$200,000.00
Development Authority of Seminole County and Donalsonville	Access to Adventure: Trails at McFadden Nature Center	Seminole	\$160,118.00
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners	Rock House Road Park to Lake Zwerner Reservoir Trail Connectivity	Lumpkin	\$78,600.00
Macon Bibb County	Ocmulgee-Heritage Trail Connector Over the River	Bibb	\$165,000.00
Madison County Board of Commissioners	Recreation Trail System at Diamond Hill Park	Madison	\$160,000.00
Paulding County Board of Commissioners	Richland Creek Reservoir Trails Project	Paulding	\$200,000.00
Troup County Board of Commissioners	Pyne Road Park Accessible Trails and Trailhead	Troup	\$200,000.00

Total Funding Requested for all Recommended Projects **\$3,103,718.00**

RTP Statewide Distribution



Upcoming Second Level Application

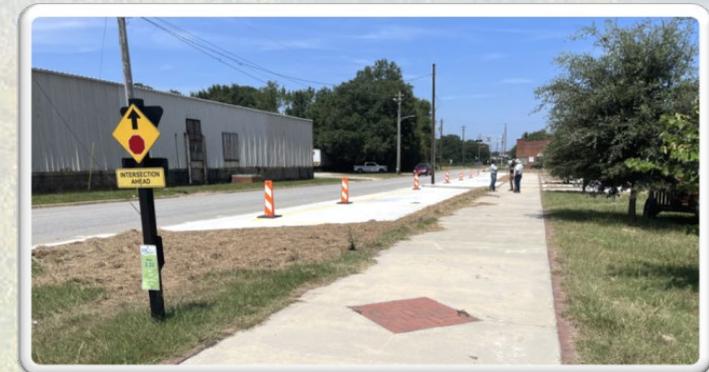
2025-2026

RTP



Second- level application period:
Final Approval (anticipated):

April 1, 2026- June 1, 2026
Winter 2026





RECREATIONAL
TRAILS PROGRAM

Recreational Trails Program

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GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

40th Game Warden Academy; Training Update; Hunting Season Overview;
Waterfowl Season Overview; Hunt Regs App;
Gaboon Viper; Ducks Unlimited Event; Injured Eagle



Colonel Mike England

Serving Since 1911

February 2026

Training Update

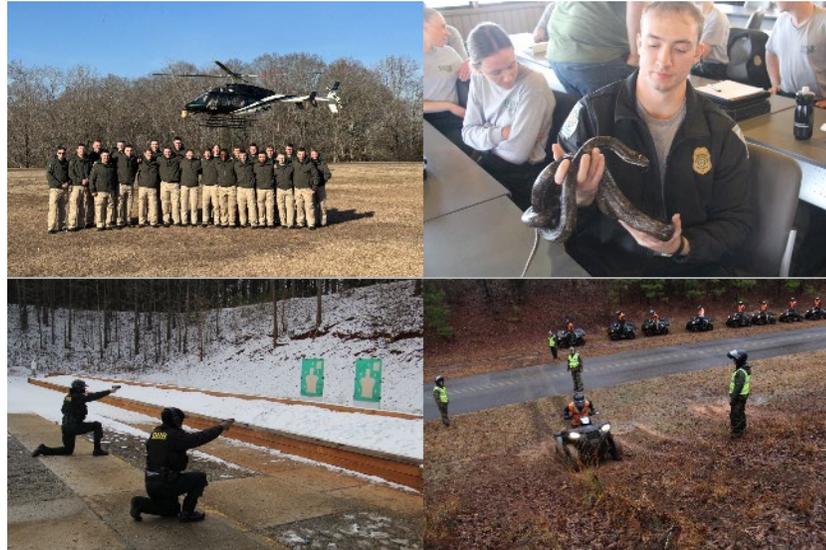
40th GW Academy

Progress

- Just completed week 6 of 14

Courses Completed:

- Fishing laws & regs
- Hunting laws & regs
- Boating safety laws
- SFST
- Environmental laws
- Wilderness 1st Responder
- Firearms
- Wildlife
- Intox Certification



41st GW Academy

- Begins January 2027
- Applicants to date – 162
- Application deadline – Feb. 28th

Upcoming In-service Training

(current Game Wardens)

- K-9 Inservice: March 2 - March 5
- FTO Class: March 9 - March 13
- Boat EVOC Instructor Meeting: March 12
- Spring Firearms: April - June

Hunting Season Overview

2025-2026

Hunting/WMA Violations

- Citations- 4,910 (1,005 WMA)
- Warnings- 3,274 (880 WMA)

Hunting Incidents - 18

- Treestand - 12
- Fatal – 2



2024-2025

Hunting/WMA Violations

- Citations- 6,958 (2,262)
- Warnings- 4,061 (863)

Hunting Incidents - 24

- Treestand - 18
- Fatal – 2



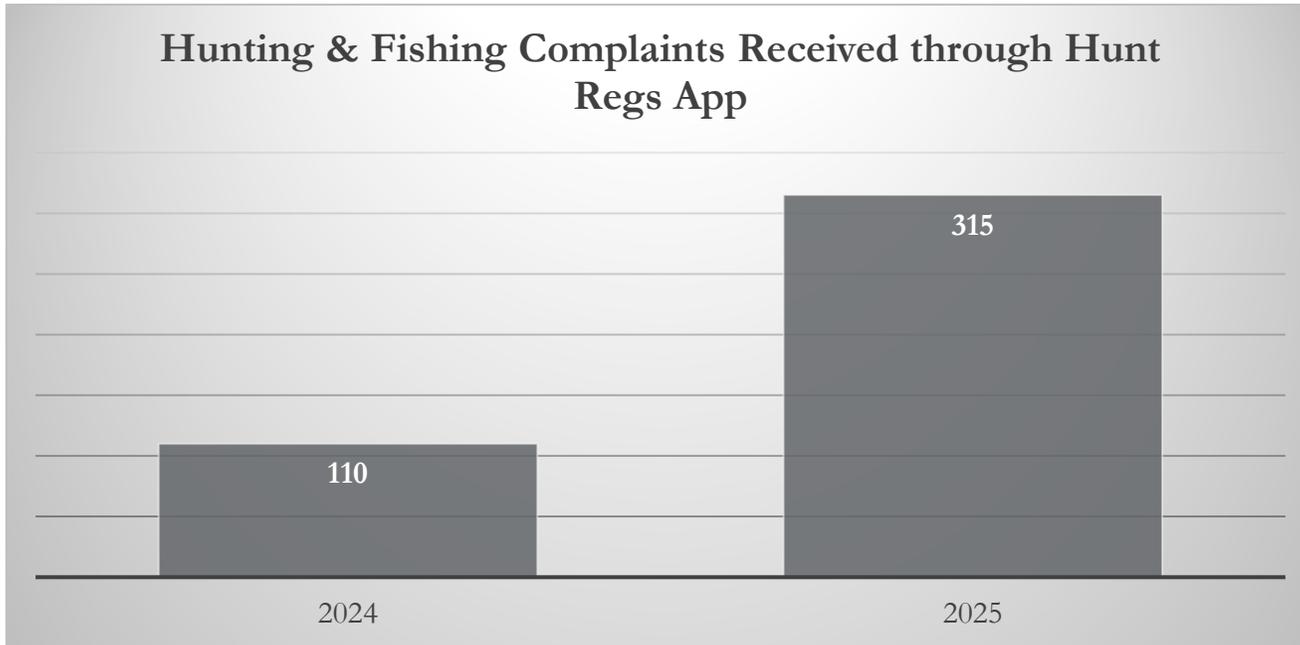
Waterfowl Season Overview

2025-2026

- Total waterfowl contacts – 2,220
 - Citations- 1,383
 - Warnings-837
- Hunting over bait citations-701



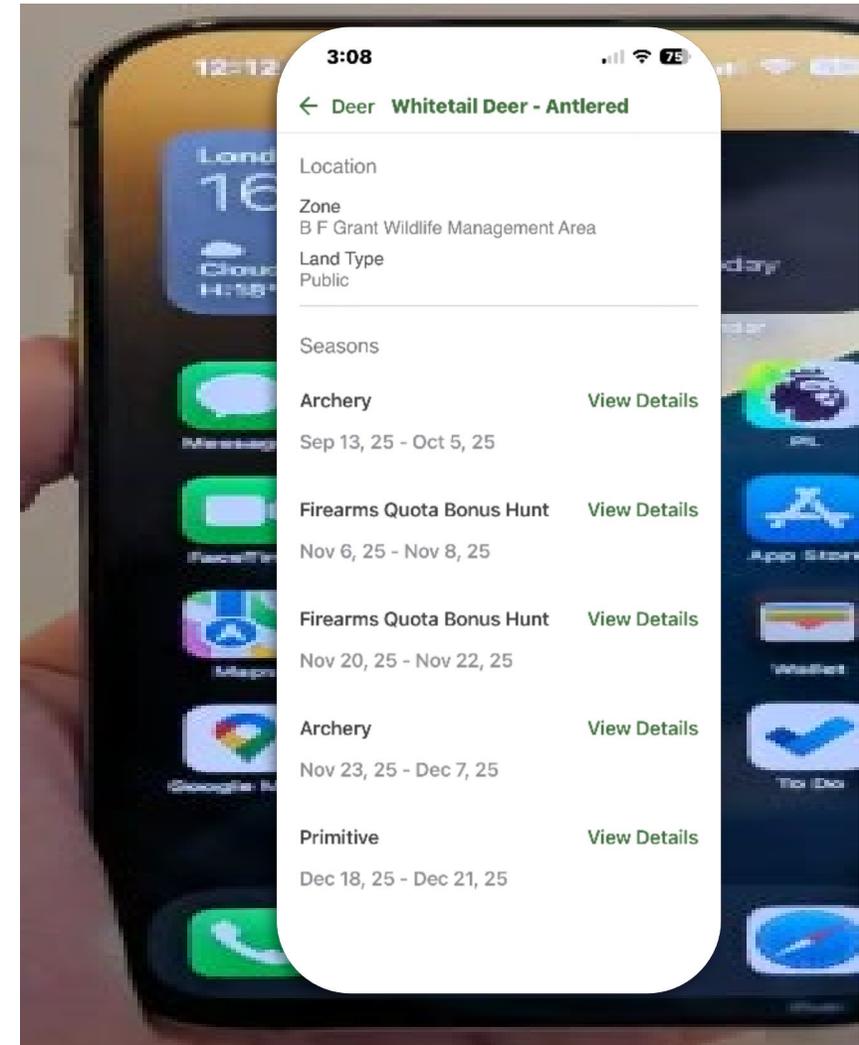
Hunt Regs App – Reporting/Information



*** 185% increase from 2024 to 2025



Hunt Regs App



Ducks Unlimited Green Wing Event

Game Warden Cory Bohannon attended a Ducks Unlimited Green Wing event at the McDuffie PFA with the Augusta DU chapter. He assisted Chalisa Fabillar from WRD in cleaning out wood duck boxes.



Injured Eagle

On February 7th, Sgt. Chris Moore responded to a call regarding an injured eagle. He was able to capture it and transfer it to WRD. It had double leg bands. The band report stated that it was banded as a juvenile female in 2022 in Saint John's Florida.



Emery Lynn McLaughlin

Congratulations to Lt. Colonel McLaughlin and BreAnna on the birth of their baby girl Sunday night at 10:29pm

Emery Lynn McLaughlin was 7lbs 10 ounces !!



Questions



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Serving Since 1911



Colonel Mike England
Director, Law Enforcement Division

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2070 US Highway 278 SE

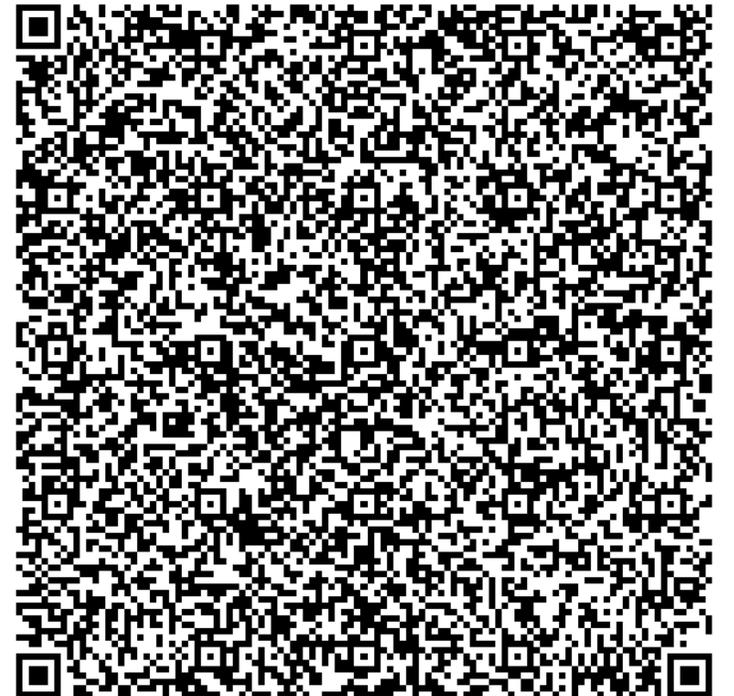
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Parks & Historic Sites Update

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Angie Johnson , Director

Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow



"Through attending CLoT, I gained a deeper understanding of the importance of hunting and its vital conservation and economic impacts." Andre McLendon



Updates: Tallulah Gorge

2024

Visitation: 907,357

City of Tallulah
Falls SAR
Responses: 68

Aviation: 9

Fatalities : 2

Heat Index
Staircase
Closures - N/A



NWS Heat Index		Temperature (°F)															
		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136	
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137		
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137			
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137				
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137					
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136						
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134							
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132								
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129									
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135									
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131										
95	86	93	100	108	117	127											
100	87	95	103	112	121	132											

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

■ Caution
 ■ Extreme Caution
 ■ Danger
 ■ Extreme Danger

2025

Visitation: 915,889

City of Tallulah
Falls SAR
Responses: 35

Aviation: 5

Fatalities: 0

Heat Index
Staircase
Closures - 54



Updates: Completed Projects



Seminole

George T. Bagby

Elijah Clark

Playing the Parks ~ State Park Golf Courses



Richard B. Russell / Arrowhead Pointe Golf Course (Elberton, GA)

- Ranked **#8** in 2025 **Top 10 Public Golf Courses in the U.S.** by USA Today / Reader's Choice.
- Ranked **#2** in 2025 **Top 25 Public Golf Courses in Georgia** by GolfPass.
- Recognized in the Congressional Record by Buddy Carter for tourism and community impact at Richard B. Russell State Park.
- Hosted the **2025 Class 1A High School State Championship.**

Hard Labor Creek / The Creek Golf Course (Rutledge, GA)

- Partnered with Georgia State Golf Association to host an **ADA Adaptive Golfing Clinic** (~15 participants).
- Hosted an event for the Walton County Veterans Association.

George T. Bagby / Meadow Links Golf Course (Fort Gaines, GA)

- Ranked **#5 (2025)** in **Top 25 Public Golf Courses in Georgia** by GolfPass.

Laura S. Walker / The Lakes Golf Course (Waycross, GA)

- Ranked **#20 (2024)** in **Top 25 Public Golf Courses in Georgia** by GolfPass.
- Hosted a **GSGA Junior Tour** event.



March 14 - July 11, 2026

Super Museum Sunday



Pickett's Mill Battlefield



Etowah Indian Mounds



Hardman Farm



Chief Vann House



Jarrell Plantation

- 19 Historic Sites
- 34 Programs
- 3,500 Visitors



New Echota

Thank You

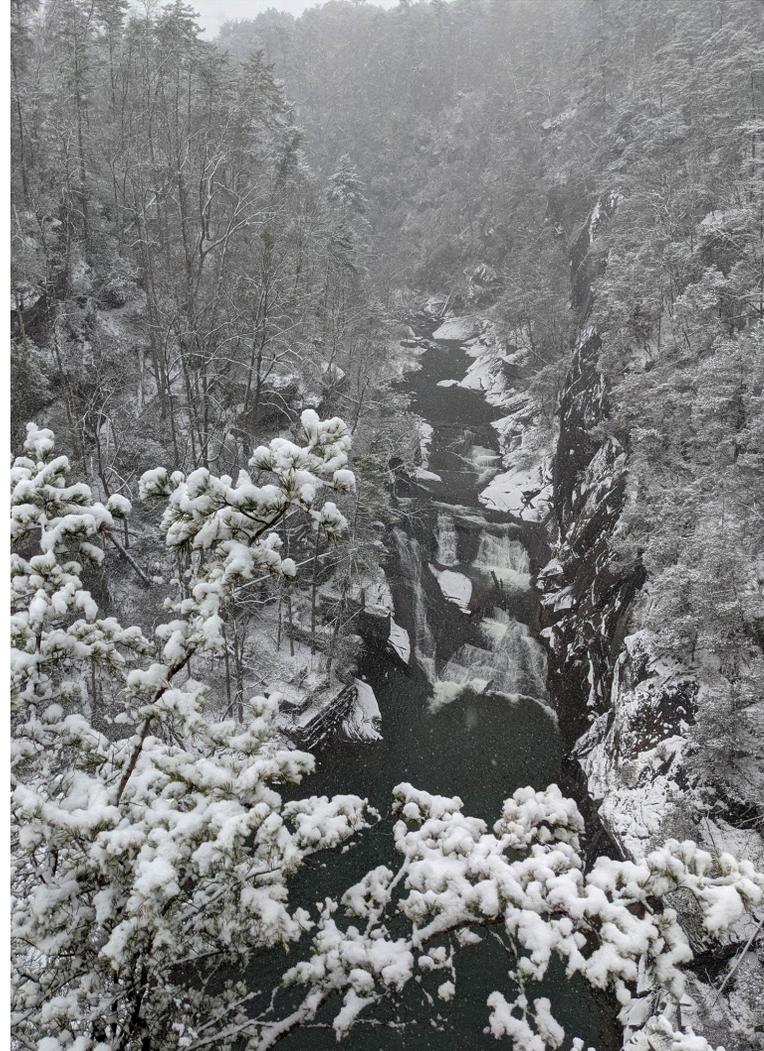


STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES

Director Angie Johnson

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Tallulah Gorge



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GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF THE

DEPARTMENT

Conserving Georgia's Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources



2023 - 2025

All Encompassing

Mission

To sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations...

Employees & Budget

2,700 Employees

\$355 million (FY26 budget)

By the Numbers

1.2 million acres of public land	46 public shooting ranges	500,000 acres of estuary
16,000 miles of rivers and streams	48 state parks	3,400 miles of tidal shoreline
500,000 acres of reservoirs	15 historic sites	300 square miles of ocean
133 wildlife management areas	8 golf courses	8 regional education centers
11 public fishing areas	11 partner sites	
10 fish hatcheries	3 additional sites	
105 miles of coastline	368,000 acres of protected marsh	

Strategic Goals

- Recruitment, Retention and Succession Planning
- Improve Aging Infrastructure
- Increase Public Awareness of DNR Brand
- Outdoor Access for All Georgians

Agency Modernization

Improvements to enhance customer convenience, increase accessibility, reduce administrative burden, and strengthen operational efficiency.

- E-ParkPass Sales
- Network enhancements, including Starlink and Wi-Fi coverage
- Advancement of online licensing capabilities
- App created for reporting of illegal hunting and fishing activity
- Coastal Permits database and mapping tool

PARK PASS

Purchase a Daily Park Pass



- 1 STOP & Scan
- 2 Drive In
- 3 Park Your Vehicle
- 4 Pay Online
- 5 *Explore!*

In-person daily & annual park passes
available for purchase in the Visitor Center

Workforce Development

Building a skilled, engaged, and adaptable workforce today ensures the agency's success tomorrow. DNR invests in the professional growth of current employees while creating pathways for the next generation of conservation and public service leaders.

- Commissioner's Advisory Council
- Leadership Academy
- Division-specific initiatives
 - Manager-in-Training Program (PHSD)
 - Georgia Park Ranger Academy (PHSD)
 - Training Academy (WRD)
- Career Academy



Increased Brand Awareness

Recent efforts have expanded public access to information, strengthened employee engagement, improved coordination across divisions, and reinforced DNR's presence statewide.

- Renewed emphasis on digital communications
 - Dedicated DNR Instagram & LinkedIn pages
- Live streaming of Board meetings
- Introduction of the *Wild Workweek*
- Collaboration between division social media pages



Making the Outdoors Accessible for All

In 2024 we launched the Outdoors Beyond Barriers program to encourage, educate, and empower people of all abilities to connect with nature by expanding access to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational opportunities.

- Address physical and social barriers to access
- Action Trackchairs now available at 17 state parks
- GRIT Freedom Chairs & EnChroma color-blind glasses
- Adaptive dove, deer, and turkey hunts held on public and private lands



Investing in Our Places

During FY24–FY25, E&C overcame natural disasters, contractor shortages, delays, rising costs, and market fluctuations, delivering results through partner collaboration, statewide contracts, and strategies to boost contractor participation; strong funding, grants, and amended budgets supported major projects.

141 projects (\$122M) completed FY24–FY25 – \$88.7M in major improvements & new construction.

Key Projects

- George T. Bagby State Park
- Fort Yargo State Park
- Vogel State Park
- Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center



Acquisitions and Conservation Easements			
Fiscal Year	Total Tracts	Total Acres	Total Cost
2023	18	18,236.58	\$ 28,187,874.30
2024	19	10,599.01	\$ 33,763,899.29
2025	14	13,311.86	\$ 39,646,853.14
TOTAL		42,147.45	\$ 101,598,626.73

Tourism & Economic Impact

- DNR plays key role in our state's economy and quality of life – keeping Georgia the #1 state to do business for 12 years in a row
- Parks welcomed over 13 million visitors in FY25, generating \$1.7 billion in economic impact
- Hunting, fishing, shooting sports, and wildlife viewing contribute \$12.5 billion annually
- Hunting and fishing licenses generated \$37.8 million in FY25, directly supporting conservation
- Georgia's commercial fishing industry contributes \$60M+ annually, and saltwater recreational fishing generates \$310M+ in sales, \$74M in labor income, and \$155M in GDP each year, excluding the broader impact of coastal tourism.



Our Response to Storms

During FY24 and FY25, Georgia faced multiple major natural disasters, including Hurricanes Idalia, Helene, Milton, Tropical Storm Debby, a 500-year flood, and Winter Storms Cora and Enzo, testing DNR's resilience and coordination.

- **Hurricane Helene:** 450+ personnel, 26,800 response hours, 2,000 evacuees sheltered
- **Damage:** 7,500+ acres, 70+ miles of trails, 115+ structures, 7,055 reservation cancellations
- **Fiscal impact:** \$2.4M lost revenue, \$10M timber loss, \$22.1M combined damage & response costs
- **Recovery:** DNR restored access, cleared debris, and protected Georgia's natural resources





GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Thank you

To access the full 2023–2025 State of the Department digital publication, scan the QR code.



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