



# ***Responsible Development***

## ***Tool Kit for Citizens***

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# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

## *Summary*

Unchecked development is one of the most dangerous threats to water quality. There are obvious impacts, like loss of wild habitat and presence of manmade structures, but there are many less apparent threats. Every paved road or parking lot creates impervious surfaces, meaning water runoff doesn't filter through soil naturally. Any loss of tree canopy reduces capacity for land to retain or slow water flows. Filled or altered wetlands can no longer absorb rainwater or tidal inundations, allowing for flooding. Each urbanization impact creates litter which leads to visual and bacterial pollution.

When development is allowed to proceed with little or no limitations, these effects multiply exponentially and quickly tip the health of the environment into dangerously unhealthy.

The consequences are not merely anecdotal or aesthetic.

Septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants are built to accommodate the additional population, but the discharge must go somewhere. Surface water or drinking water may be affected. Creeks, streams, and other waterways fill with sediment, and cannot flow naturally. Flash floods become more frequent and in places that didn't have drain issues before. The ability of the land to absorb the effects of severe storms is reduced or eliminated.

## *Background*

Furthermore, development will often target areas of lower socioeconomic status because it is assumed the municipality and its citizens have fewer resources to resist or to create mitigation requirements. Due to lack of resources and connections, these populations are often disproportionately affected by lax permits, unchecked industrialization, and unfair zoning practices. As a result, low income and/or minority and/or rural communities receive the brunt of the negative consequences of the development.

Ogeechee Riverkeeper (ORK) is working to update county and city ordinance across the watershed to implement more protective policies. ORK will continue to work collaboratively to cultivate diverse local coalitions to lobby local governments to pass resolutions, as well as urging the State of Georgia to adopt regulations that protect long-term human health.

## *Purpose*

Ogeechee Riverkeeper's mission is to protect, preserve, and improve the water quality in the Ogeechee River Basin. The watershed territory covers more than 5,500 square miles across 21 counties in Georgia. With this toolkit, ORK encourages citizens to take the ideas and help in protecting their own neighborhoods.

This is intended as a guide for broad grassroots citizen coalitions to lobby local municipalities and governments to adopt planning and zoning ordinances that address a wide range of concerns, including systemic environmental justice concerns, in an effort to protect both the environment and vulnerable populations.

Through their efforts, local coalitions will ensure residents have a meaningful opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their health and wellbeing, and that government officials are held accountable for their policy choices.

## MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

*Find your local codes, ordinances, permits, and agendas*

No matter where you live in Georgia, property is governed by a local government entity. It might be a town or city, or if you live somewhere rural, it may only be the county. Towns, cities, and counties are all required to have legal guidelines for land use and development. These might be referred to as 'codes,' 'municipal codes,' or 'ordinances.'

Find the most recent version of the codes for the area you are concerned about. Many local government websites have them posted, or provide a link to them. Many can be found at [Municode - library.municode.com/ga](http://Municode-library.municode.com/ga) or at the local library. If you cannot find them, ask the Clerk of the Town/City Hall or Clerk of the County Courthouse for a copy.

Read through the codes and familiarize yourself with the sections. Make note of any committees or subgroups that might have an effect on the decisions. This might be a Planning and Zoning Committee or a Sanitation Removal Committee. Not all municipalities have these, but it's important to note if you will have an additional group to address your questions or concerns to.

The codes or ordinances should also outline the permit requirements and process. It will include the steps that the developer has to follow in order to have their project approved (Keep in mind that this process may or may not include those other committees).

The permit process should include some kind of public notice and timeline. It is the right of any citizen to verify that the process is being followed. If requested, the responsible government entity has to show that the permit applicant is following the steps and provide the permit applicant and support documentation.

Identify the government entity's schedule for public meetings and hearings. They are required to publicly announce the date, time, and location of these meetings. They are also usually required to have the meeting agenda publicly available. Many local government websites have the agendas and meeting schedule posted. If you cannot find them, ask the Clerk of the Town/City Hall or Clerk of the County Courthouse for a copy. Additionally, some municipalities will put together a packet for the voting members prior to the meeting. Citizens can request a copy of this document packet.

If you think you would like to make a public comment during the meeting, ask the Clerk of the Town/City Hall or Clerk of the County Courthouse if there is a process. Some municipalities ask speakers to sign up ahead of time.

# TOOLKIT FOR CITIZENS

## *What to ask*

It can feel intimidating looking through legal documents or attending official meetings. Don't be scared. The elected officials and government employees are citizens just like you. It is their job to help citizens understand and participate in area business.

Always be polite and professional, in every interaction, whether spoken, written, or in person. Always.

Remember that a municipality legally cannot deny a permit or project on the grounds that they or their constituents simply "don't want it." There have to be identifiable reasons – such as impacts to protected wetlands or undue burden on the municipality's budget – why the permit or project was denied. Citizen advocates can help municipalities identify these aspects.

## IMPACTS TO THE CITY/TOWN/COUNTY BUDGETS

Every government official has a duty to know how potential development will impact the municipality's budget. Developers often cite 'economic impact' or 'job growth' in the reasons their project should be approved. It is also important to ask how this development will affect the area's budget in terms of cost.

- ☐ Will this actually result in new jobs for locals? Or will the company bring in outside hires? Will those employees live in the municipality and contribute to the tax base? Is the municipality offering a tax break or incentive to entice the project? If so, how much and when will that be recouped?
- ☐ Will there be an increase in road traffic? Will this require paving or other increased maintenance? Is it likely to require intersection redesign or traffic measures, like new signage or lights? Are there traffic safety concerns, like blindspots or school zones?
- ☐ Does the project require expanded utility capacity? Will it require new electrical service or sewer main hookups? Septic tanks? Are there testing and maintenance requirements? A new wastewater treatment facility? How will that be paid for? How will that be monitored to ensure health and safety?
- ☐ Will this affect the number of children attending the municipality's schools? Is there a plan to accommodate? Will facilities and staff be able to handle it?
- ☐ Will this project require use of water resources? Will it require new water mains? Will it affect water pressure? Could development disturb drinking water wells or surface water in the area? Will the development affect flow of creeks, streams, canals, or rivers? Will the development require the creation of a retention pond? Who will monitor the impacts?

## ACCORDANCE WITH CODES

Compare the proposed use with current codes, planning and zoning recommendations, and any other official guideline or resolution. These can vary greatly by municipality.

- ☐ Does this comply with the land use guidelines? Does it require rezoning or some other exception? Why is that exception being considered? How will it affect neighboring properties? Is it incompatible with the existing uses/businesses?
- ☐ Will this development create or encourage the creation of litter? How will the developer mitigate this during the project? Will the municipality incur the cost of cleanups? How will litter be kept from clogging storm drains?
- ☐ Is this development located in a flood prone area? Has this area been deemed a flood plain? Will insurers underwrite flood insurance for it? What percentage of the project will result in impervious areas? How is water runoff being treated? What mitigation measures will be put in place?
- ☐ Is this project in line with climate resilience guidelines? Does it include large buffers, minimal tree removal? Is it LEED-certified? Does this project consider prevention of 'heat islands'?
- ☐ Does this development create additional light pollution? What is the developer doing to follow Dark Sky guidelines? Does this project encroach or endanger a Dark Sky place or other natural resource that will be impacted by light pollution?
- ☐ Is this area home to a rare or endangered species? Is this area (or any part of it) considered wetlands or marsh? What will be affected by the habitat loss?
- ☐ How does this project affect neighboring communities? Will the quality or safety of their air, water, soil, light, or sound be negatively affected? Will this endanger historic structures, communities or businesses? Will this disrupt community patterns, heritage, or traditions?
- ☐ How will quality of life be affected by the project? Will the effects be permanent or temporary? Will surrounding property values be affected? Is it likely that the existence of this project will attract or detract from long-term value to the community?
- ☐ Is the project for something that will be temporary or permanent? Is there a plan for decommissioning following the closure of the project?

## MORATORIUMS

Sometimes a municipality will choose to call a ‘time-out’ on new permits. Elected officials can vote to impose a moratorium on certain projects. These are temporary and for a stated amount of time – usually six to twelve months. The purpose is usually so planning and zoning ordinances can be updated or other codes can be adjusted to address the overwhelming issue. This can be an effective tool to temporarily delay or slow development, but it is not for long-term use.

Municipalities and citizens can use a moratorium to update ordinances to include stricter requirements on development, limit land use, and more.

## *Gathering support*

Once you have a good idea of the reasons why the permit should be denied, or the project should be required to consider other factors, you will want to gain support. Be sure to have a clear, concise message with a proposed solution. Supporters can help with a number of tasks.

- ☐ Write letters to the editor. Find out the local paper's guidelines and submit a letter explaining your concerns and your solution.
- ☐ Start a petition. This could be online or on paper. Gather signatures for your proposed solution.
- ☐ Talk to neighbors. Whether it's at the grocery store or grabbing some coffee, share your concerns and listen to theirs. Remember, no project is 100% good or bad.
- ☐ Be visible. Consider printing and distributing yard signs, stickers or flyers. These help spread the word and show your elected officials that there is widespread support.
- ☐ Write to representatives. Politely outline your concerns and send a letter to your local government, state government, and federal agencies.

## *Due diligence*

It is key to document everything. Set up a secure file on your computer, or make printed copies of everything. Should the permit applicant challenge the decision of the municipality, it may be important to show documentation of the process. Your notes might be helpful to verify a timeline or confirm a code violation report.

- ☐ Attend meetings. Another reason to have fellow supporters is to divide the burden of attending meetings. You can also ask the Clerk if the meeting will be recorded or streamed.
- ☐ Save everything. Print it out, make copies, email it to yourself, or a friend. You never know what you might need to find later.
- ☐ Take photos. Label the images with locations, dates, times. If a permit applicant has started work before an approval, and a photo documents it, that might be grounds for denial of the project. Even if the project is approved, the developer has to follow certain regulations. Taking photographs and making notes is important for reports and possible violation fines.

Ogeechee Riverkeeper intends for this to be a guide for citizens interested in sustainable, responsible development. ORK recognizes that economic development is needed for all communities to thrive. At the same time, it advocates for thoughtful, safe, and scaled projects that address an actual need and make an effort to reduce impacts.

## LAND TRUSTS

### *What is a land trust?*

A land trust is a charitable organization that acquires land or conservation easements, or that stewards land or easements, to achieve one or more qualified conservation purposes. This can protect the land from future development, creating buffers, safety, and preservation of habitat for wildlife and security for nearby neighborhoods.

Land can be deemed a conservation land trust if the property:

- protects habitat, water quality, or scenic views; allows for outdoor recreational use;
- preserves historic land or structures; or,
- Sets aside land for recreation or educational purposes.

A land trust organization can help landowners with real estate and legal transactions. Land trusts can also connect local businesses, conservation organizations, and local governments, as well as state and federal agencies to ensure protection of the land.

A land trust must qualify as a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

### *How does the tax credit work?*

According to the Georgia Conservancy, “The Georgia Conservation Tax Credit is one of the strongest mechanisms for land conservation in the state, providing landowners with an additional financial incentive to conserve critical acres of forest, wetlands, and working lands.” The State of Georgia reapproved the tax credit in 2022.

### *How do I get my land set aside for conservation?*

Contact an expert like The Georgia Conservancy. They can connect you with an appropriate land trust or help get your land set aside. They also advocate for smart, sustainable growth and housing.

<https://www.georgiaconservancy.org/>

Main office: (404) 876-2900

Coastal Office: (912) 447-5910

## COUNTY DIRECTORY

*This contact information is as up-to-date as possible.*

PLEASE NOTE: SOME COUNTIES LISTED BELOW ONLY HAVE A SMALL PORTION OF THE LAND AREA WITHIN THE OGEECHEE RIVER WATERSHED.

### Bulloch County

Board of Commissioners: 115 N Main St.

Statesboro, GA 30458

Phone: 912-764-6245

Email: [info@bullochcounty.net](mailto:info@bullochcounty.net)

<https://bullochcounty.net/commissioners/>

County Clerk

Phone: 912 764-0169

Email: [ogaines@bullochcounty.net](mailto:ogaines@bullochcounty.net)

Planning and Development Director

Phone: 912-489-1356

Email: [jpope@bullochcounty.net](mailto:jpope@bullochcounty.net)

Development Services Manager

Phone: 912-489-1356

Email: [zoning@bullochcounty.net](mailto:zoning@bullochcounty.net)

Ordinances: <https://bullochcounty.net/development/>

<https://bullochcounty.net/>

### Bryan County

Board of Commissioners:

Pembroke Office: 51 N. Courthouse Street, P.O. Box 430

Pembroke, Ga 31321

South Bryan Office: 66 Captain Matthew Freeman Drive

Richmond Hill, Ga 31324

Email: [Help@bryan-county.org](mailto:Help@bryan-county.org)

## County Clerk

Email: ltyson@bryan-county.org

Phone: 912-653-3892

## Planning and Zoning Commission:

<https://www.bryancountyga.org/government/departments-h-z/planning-zoning/planning-zoning-commission>

## Comprehensive Plan Update:

<https://www.bryancountyga.org/government/departments-a-g/community-development/comprehensive-plan-update>

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/bryan\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/bryan_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

<https://www.bryancountyga.org/>

## Burke County

Burke County Board of Commissioners: 602 Liberty Street

Waynesboro, GA 30830

Phone: 706-554-2324

Merv Waldrop - County Manager

merv.waldrop@burkecounty-ga.gov

<https://burkecounty-ga.gov/departments/board-of-commissioners>

<https://burkecounty-ga.gov/departments/planning-department/>

[Burke County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2007-2027:](#)

[https://burkecounty-ga.gov/user\\_files/planning\\_commission/Burke\\_County\\_Comp\\_Plan\\_2007-2027.pdf](https://burkecounty-ga.gov/user_files/planning_commission/Burke_County_Comp_Plan_2007-2027.pdf)

## Candler County

Board of Commissioners: 1075 East Hiawatha Street, Suite A

Metter, GA 30439

Phone: 912-685-2835

<https://metter-candlercounty.com/>

Building and Zoning: 49 South Rountree, PO Box 74

Metter, GA 30439

Phone: 912-685-2527

<http://www.metter-candler.com/better-community-city-building-zoning.php>

Metter Municipal Code: [https://library.municode.com/ga/etter/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/etter/codes/code_of_ordinances)

Candler County - Metter MASTER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2019-2029:

[https://www.dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/etter\\_comp\\_plan\\_submittal\\_3.pdf](https://www.dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/etter_comp_plan_submittal_3.pdf)

## Chatham County

Board of Commissioners: 124 Bull Street, Suite 200

Savannah, GA 31401

Phone: 912-652-7878

Clerk of Commission, Janice Bocook: 124 Bull Street, Suite 110

Savannah, GA 31401

Phone: 912-652-7875

Email: [jbocook@chathamcounty.org](mailto:jbocook@chathamcounty.org)

Metropolitan Planning Commission

Melanie Wilson, Executive Director: 110 East State Street, P. O. Box 8246

Savannah, Georgia 31412-8246

Phone: 912-651-1440

Email: [wilsonm@thempc.org](mailto:wilsonm@thempc.org)

Ordinances: <https://www.chathamcountyga.gov/OurCounty/CodeBook>

<https://www.chathamcountyga.gov/>

## Effingham County

Board of Commissioners: 804 S. Laurel Street

Springfield, Georgia 31329

Phone: 912-754-2123

<https://www.effinghamcounty.org/>

<https://www.effinghamcounty.org/384/County-Board-of-Commissioners>

County Clerk

Email: [effinghamclerk@effinghamcounty.org](mailto:effinghamclerk@effinghamcounty.org)

Planning and Engineering: 804 S. Laurel St.  
Springfield , GA 31329  
Phone: 912-754-2128  
Email: [zoninginfo@effinghamcounty.org](mailto:zoninginfo@effinghamcounty.org)  
<https://www.effinghamcounty.org/241/Planning-Engineering>

Ordinances: <https://www.effinghamcounty.org/393/Approved-County-Ordinances>

## Emanuel County

Board of Commissioners: 101 N Main Street  
Swainsboro, GA 30401  
Phone: 478-237-3881  
<https://www.emanuelco-ga.gov/>  
<https://www.emanuelco-ga.gov/167/Board-of-Commissioners>

County Administrator: [lgsingletary@emanuelco-ga.gov](mailto:lgsingletary@emanuelco-ga.gov)  
County Clerk: [hslawson@emanuelco-ga.gov](mailto:hslawson@emanuelco-ga.gov)

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/emanuel\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/emanuel_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Evans County

Board of Commissioners: 3 Freeman Street  
Claxton, GA 30417  
Phone: (912) 739-1141  
<https://evanscounty.org/>

County Administrator: [countyadministrator@evanscounty.org](mailto:countyadministrator@evanscounty.org)  
County Clerk: [countyclerk@evanscounty.org](mailto:countyclerk@evanscounty.org)

Ordinances: <https://evanscounty.org/government/county-ordinances/>

## Glascock County

Board of Commissioners: 64 Warren Street  
Gibson, GA 30810  
Phone: 706-598-2671

Email: [glascockboc@classicsouth.net](mailto:glascockboc@classicsouth.net)  
<http://glascockcountyga.com/>

County Clerk: [glascockboc@classicsouth.net](mailto:glascockboc@classicsouth.net)

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/glascock\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/glascock_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Greene County

Board of Commissioners: 1034 Silver Drive, Suite 201  
Greensboro, GA 30642  
Phone: 706-453-7716  
[info@greenecountyga.gov](mailto:info@greenecountyga.gov)  
<https://www.greenecountyga.gov/386/Board-of-Commissioners>  
<https://www.greenecountyga.gov/>

Building and Zoning: 1034 Silver Drive, Suite 103  
Greensboro, GA 30642  
Phone: 706-453-3333  
Zoning Administrator: [cwooley@greenecountyga.gov](mailto:cwooley@greenecountyga.gov)  
<https://www.greenecountyga.gov/568/Zoning-Administration-Division>

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/greene\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/greene_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Hancock County

Board of Commissioners: Hancock County Courthouse, 12630 Broad Street  
Sparta, GA 31087  
Phone: (706) 444-5746  
<https://hancockcountyga.gov/board-of-commissioners/>

Ordinances: [https://hancockcountyga.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Code of Ordinances June 1 2012.pdf](https://hancockcountyga.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Code_of_Ordinances_June_1_2012.pdf)

## Jefferson County

Board of Commissioners: 217 E Broad St.  
P.O. Box 658  
Louisville, GA 30434

Phone: 478-625-3332

<https://www.jeffersoncountyga.gov/151/Board-of-Commissioners>

County Administrator: [jcoolson@jeffersoncountyga.gov](mailto:jcoolson@jeffersoncountyga.gov)

County Clerk: [bwells@jeffersoncountyga.gov](mailto:bwells@jeffersoncountyga.gov)

Ordinances:

[https://library.municode.com/ga/jefferson\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/jefferson_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

Louisville Municipal Code: [https://library.municode.com/ga/louisville/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/louisville/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Jenkins County

Board of Commissioners: P.O. Box 797

Millen, GA 30442

Phone: 478-982-2563

Email: [jcda@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcda@bellsouth.net)

<http://www.jenkinscountyga.com/>

Millen municipal code: <https://library.municode.com/ga/millen>

Jenkins County and City of Millen Comprehensive Plan 2018-2028:

[https://dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/jenkins\\_co\\_millen\\_ci\\_plan\\_update\\_2018.pdf](https://dca.ga.gov/sites/default/files/jenkins_co_millen_ci_plan_update_2018.pdf)

## Liberty County

Board of Commissioners: 112 N Main Street, Room 201, Courthouse Annex

Hinesville, GA 31313

Phone: 912-876-2164

<https://www.libertycountyga.com/>

Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission: 100 Main Street, Suite 7520

Hinesville, GA 31313

Phone: 912-408-2030

Email: [jricketson@thelcpc.org](mailto:jricketson@thelcpc.org)

<https://thelcpc.org/>

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/liberty\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/liberty_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Long County

Board of Commissioners: 75 W. Academy Street

Ludowici, GA 31316

Phone: (912) 545-2143

Email: [info@longcountyga.gov](mailto:info@longcountyga.gov)

<https://www.longcountyga.gov/>

Planning and Zoning: <https://www.longcountyga.gov/planning-zoning>

Email: [planningandzoning@longcountyga.gov](mailto:planningandzoning@longcountyga.gov)

Land Development Code: <https://www.longcountyga.gov/code-enforcement>

Ordinances: <https://www.longcountyga.gov/ordinances>

## McDuffie County

Board of Commissioners: McDuffie County & City of Thomson

210 Railroad Street

Thomson, GA 30824

Phone: 706-595-1781

Planning and Zoning: <https://www.thomson-mcduffie.gov/ordinances>

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/mcduffie\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/mcduffie_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Screven County

Board of Commissioners: Screven County Administration Building, 216 Mims Rd.

Sylvania, GA 30467

Phone: 912-564-7535

Email: [recept@planters.net](mailto:recept@planters.net)

Board of Commissioners: <https://www.screvencountyvoc.com/board-of-commissioners>

Planning and Zoning: <https://www.screvencountyvoc.com/planning-zoning>

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/screven\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/screven_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Taliaferro County

Board of Commissioners: P.O. Box 114

Crawfordville, GA 30631

Phone: 706-456-2229

Email: [Taliaferro@nu-z.net](mailto:Taliaferro@nu-z.net)

<http://taliaferrocountyga.org/index.php?page=government>

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/taliaferro\\_county/codes/subdivision-zoning](https://library.municode.com/ga/taliaferro_county/codes/subdivision-zoning)

Crawfordville Planning Commission: 110 Broad St.

P.O. Box 8

Crawfordville, GA 30631

Phone: 706-456-2605

Email: [cityhall3063@nu-z.net](mailto:cityhall3063@nu-z.net)

Crawfordville Municipal Code:

[https://library.municode.com/ga/crawfordville/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/crawfordville/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Tattnall County

Board of Commissioners: 108 West Brazell Street

P.O. Box 25

Reidsville, GA 30453-0025

Phone: 912-557-4335

<https://www.tattnallcountyga.com/>

County Clerk: [smills@tattnall.com](mailto:smills@tattnall.com)

County Manager: [murphy@tattnall.com](mailto:murphy@tattnall.com)

Planning and Zoning: <https://www.tattnallcountyga.com/planning-and-zoning.cfm>

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/tattnall\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/tattnall_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## Warren County

County Clerk and Board of Commissioners: 521 Main Street

Warrenton, GA 30828

Phone: 706-465-2171

Email: [Info@WarrenCountyGA.gov](mailto:Info@WarrenCountyGA.gov)

Planning & Zoning: 521 Main Street

Warrenton, GA 30828

Phone: 706-465-0310

Email: [Planning@WarrenCountyGA.gov](mailto:Planning@WarrenCountyGA.gov)

Ordinances: <https://www.warrencountyga.com/planning--zoning.html>

## Washington County

Board of Commissioners: 119 Jones St.

Sandersville, GA 31082

Phone: 478-552-2325

Email: [boc@washingtoncountyga.gov](mailto:boc@washingtoncountyga.gov)

County Administrator and Clerk: [dspeebles@washingtoncountyga.gov](mailto:dspeebles@washingtoncountyga.gov)

Ordinances: [https://library.municode.com/ga/washington\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/washington_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

Sandersville Building and Zoning: P.O. Box 71

Sandersville, GA 31082

Phone: 478-552-2626

Email: [dlarson@sandersvillega.org](mailto:dlarson@sandersvillega.org)

Sandersville Municipal Code:

[https://library.municode.com/ga/sandersville/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/ga/sandersville/codes/code_of_ordinances)

## AGENCY CONTACTS

*These governmental agencies exist to protect the environment and enforce permits. Their jurisdiction varies but each is required to accept complaints, comments and concerns.*

### Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD)

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is a state agency charged with protecting Georgia's air, land, and water resources through the authority of state and federal environmental statutes. <https://epd.georgia.gov/>

Watershed Branch: (404) 463-1511 | Air Branch: (404) 363-7000 | Land Branch: (404) 362-2537

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Georgia (EPA)

<https://www.epa.gov/ga>

Main: (404) 562-9900 | Georgia: (404) 657-5947 | Toll Free: 1-800-241-1754

### Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)

DPH works to prevent disease, injury & disability, promote health & well-being, and prepare for & respond to disasters. <https://dph.georgia.gov/>

Main: (404) 657-2700

### Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR)

The Department of Natural Resources has statewide responsibilities for the management and conservation of Georgia's natural and cultural resources. Most of this work is conducted by DNR's five operating divisions that have statutory authority over the management and protection of Georgia's natural and cultural resources. The Divisions also provide technical assistance, education and outreach and other programming relevant to their individual missions. <https://gadnr.org/>

Wildlife Resources Division: (706) 557-3333

Coastal Resources Division: (912) 264-7218

Historic Preservation Division: (770) 389-7844

State Parks & Historic Sites Division: (770) 389-7286

Law Enforcement Division: (770) 918-6408

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Georgia Field Office)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Ecological Services Field Office work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. <https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services>

They also offer project feedback.

<https://www.fws.gov/story/planning-and-consultation-tools-georgia>

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office - Athens / North GA: (706) 613-9493

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office - Townsend / Coastal GA: (912) 832-8739

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office - Fort Benning / West GA: (706) 544-6030

## U.S. Forest Service

Southern (Region 8)

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r8>

Phone: 404-347-4177

[sm.fs.mailroom\\_R8@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.mailroom_R8@usda.gov)

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District

100 W. Oglethorpe Ave

Savannah, GA 31401

800-448-2402

<https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/>

Enforcement and Compliance, Coastal Branch 912-652-5893

[cesas-rd@usace.army.mil](mailto:cesas-rd@usace.army.mil)

## International Dark-Sky Association

5049 E Broadway Blvd, #105

Tucson, AZ 85711

(520) 293-3198

<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/public-policy/>

[bettymaya@darksky.org](mailto:bettymaya@darksky.org)