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2024 in the Basin



OUTREACH

ORK and partner organizations held **15** cleanups & adopted **9** river landings. Volunteers gave **400+** hours and ORK certified nearly **40** educators.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS

ORK reviewed and provided comments for **23** proposals and permit applications. ORK also filed an administrative appeal for the Bryan and Bulloch County wells and secured a reevaluation of the CWA 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

LEGISLATIVE

ORK saw HB 1223, a soil amendment bill, signed into state law, and fought HB 1146, a private water bill. ORK also attended meetings with the EPA in Washington, D.C., regarding PFAS and fish consumption.

SAMPLING & TESTING

ORK monitored **40+** sites for various indicators including temperature, E. coli, pH, PFAS, and more. Over **40,000** continuous water quality samples were taken to monitor the Hyundai site. More than **200** samples of elevated E. coli were detected in the Protect the Vernon project.

IN THE NEWS

ORK is a trusted expert on water quality issues. Staff spoke with reporters from around the world and was interviewed for **50+** news stories, in outlets including *Savannah Morning News*, *The Current GA*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *AP News*, *Axios*, *The Washington Post*, and more. ORK's work was highlighted in dozens more.

DEVELOPMENT

ORK attended approximately **90** council and planning meetings to contend with the unprecedented growth in the watershed and responded to **50+** citizen complaints or concerns.



HELP ORK
THRIVE IN
2025!

ogeecheeriverkeeper.org/join

This year, we have taken official steps to limit the impacts of the Hyundai megasite. The 2,284 acre project is the largest economic development in our state's history and sits just feet away from Black Creek, which leads to the Ogeechee River.

ORK secured a reevaluation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit under the Clean Water Act. We filed an administrative appeal against two Georgia EPD well permits that would suck 6.625 million gallons of pristine groundwater from the Floridan Aquifer.

But you don't have to take our word for it - ORK has made [all the details publicly available here](#).

Adding to the urgency, **millions of square feet of warehouses** have been proposed, each bringing with it filled wetlands, acres of **impervious surfaces**, increased heavy vehicle traffic, displaced wildlife, loss of tree canopy, risk of sedimentation, and more. Each one of these projects endangers the health of our watershed and affects our quality of life.

Your support provides an essential foundation for our organization to **take on the polluters, large and small**, which threaten the health of our

water, our environment, and our citizens.

Give now

Ogeechee Riverkeeper is a 501(c)3 organization and its operations are funded by donations and grant support. Please consider making [a donation](#), becoming a [corporate sponsor](#), or setting up a [planned gift](#).



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