

CONTACT INFORMATION:

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Piedmont Branch

U.S Army Corps of Engineers
The Plaza Suite 200
1590 Adamson Pkwy
Morrow, GA 30260
(678) 422-2720 ext. 2721

Coastal Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN CESAS-RD
Post Office Box 889
100 West Oglethorpe Ave
Savannah, GA 31402
(800) 448-2402

Albany Field Office

1104 N. Westover Blvd, Unit 9
Albany, GA 31707
(229) 430-8566

Additional information about permitting, compensatory mitigation and jurisdictional determinations is available on the USACE website, www.sas.usace.army.mil.

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

355 East Hancock Ave
Stop Number 200
Athens, GA 30601
(706) 546-2272

To contact your NRCS field agent, go to <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>, where you will find a map of the United States. Click on either North Georgia or South Georgia, and then click on your county to locate your NRCS district office.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division

Watershed Protection Branch

4220 International Parkway, Suite 101
Atlanta, GA 30354
(404) 675-6232

To contact your local EPD district office, go to www.gaepd.org and follow the "EPD Offices" link and click for the map that show the counties covered by each of the following EPD district offices:

Coastal District (Brunswick)	(912) 264-7284
Coastal District (Savannah)	(912) 353-3225
Northeast District (Augusta)	(706) 792-7744
Mountain District (Atlanta)	(404) 362-2671
Mountain District (Cartersville)	(770) 387-4900
Northeast District (Athens)	(706) 369-6376
Southwest District (Albany)	(229) 430-4144
West Central District (Macon)	(478) 751-6612
West Central District (Columbus)	(706) 562-1571



The publication of this document was supported by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division and was financed in part through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the provisions of the Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act of 1987, as amended. **January 2010.**

POND GUIDE FOR GEORGIA LANDOWNERS

This pamphlet is an informational guide for landowners in Georgia who want to build a new pond or to renovate an existing pond.

There are numerous laws and agencies regulating pond construction in Georgia. This pamphlet identifies the multiple agencies available in Georgia that provide assistance in planning and designing ponds.



This document was prepared in cooperation with:

**United States Army Corps of Engineers
(USACE)**

**United States Department of
Agriculture, Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)**

**Georgia Department of Natural
Resources, Environmental Protection
Division (EPD)**

TYPES OF PONDS

The type of pond to be constructed or renovated depends on the landowner's intended use or purpose. If you want a pond for fishing, hunting, swimming, as an amenity, or for **aquaculture** then you would be constructing a **RECREATIONAL POND**.

If you are currently a **food producer** (i.e., farmer) and require a pond for irrigating existing crops and/or watering existing livestock, you may qualify for certain exemptions as a **FARM POND**.

If you are a farmer seeking a **farm pond exemption** and are **not** currently irrigating crops or using water to produce livestock, then you would be constructing a **PROPOSED FARM POND**.

RECREATIONAL PONDS

Prior to construction, you will need to:

(1) Contact the USACE regarding permitting, mitigation, and wetlands delineation.

(2) Contact the EPD regarding State permitting and buffer variance requirements:

- NPDES General Permits for land disturbances equal to or greater than one acre,
- Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plans,
- Safe Dams rules and regulations, and
- Water Withdrawal Permits, if applicable.

(3) Contact the EPD to verify if your municipality or county is a Local Issuing Authority (LIA) with local Land-Disturbing Activity (LDA) permitting and buffer variance requirements.

FARM PONDS

The NRCS is available to assist farmers with planning and designing farm ponds. To determine if a pond qualifies for a **farm pond exemption**, the NRCS will require that the following three documents be completed:

- Farm Pond Exemption Information Paper (GA-ENG-378-EX1),
- Water Budget, and
- Site Map with Pond GPS Coordinates.

These documents must also be submitted to the USACE for their concurrence. In addition, requests can be made to the NRCS to provide a **wetlands delineation** to meet the "Swampbuster" provisions.

NOTE: No person shall construct an impoundment of **trout waters** in Georgia without the written approval of the EPD.

PROPOSED FARM PONDS

The NRCS is available to assist farmers with determining the **Water Budget** and preparing a **Site Map with Pond GPS Coordinates**.

The NRCS will sign the completed **Farm Pond Exemption Information Paper**

(GA-ENG-378-EX1) for a "Proposed Operations" pond when they assist with the supporting data; however, the landowner will need to send the completed package to the USACE for evaluation and possible exemption of the USACE permit regulations.

You should not begin clearing or construction until you have received an approval letter from the USACE.

NOTE: No person shall construct an impoundment of **trout waters** in Georgia without the written approval of the EPD.

For More Information:

In joint cooperation, the USACE, NRCS and EPD have published "**Building or Renovating a Pond in Georgia – A Pond Guide for Citizens.**" This detailed guide is available on the EPD website, www.gaepd.org.

The USACE and NRCS have developed the "**Georgia Farm Pond Exemption Guide**" and the "**Farm Pond Exemption Information Paper**" to assist farmers with permitting exemptions. These documents are located on the NRCS website, www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov.

