

## 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) 422-2735

#### 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](http://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

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Suite 1462 East  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-463-1511

To contact your local EPD district office, go to [www.epd.georgia.gov](http://www.epd.georgia.gov) and then to "About EPD" and click on "District Offices" for the map that shows the counties covered by each of the following EPD district offices:

<b>Coastal District</b> (Brunswick)	(912) 264-7284
<b>East Central District</b> (Augusta)	(706) 667-4343
<b>Mountain District</b> (Atlanta)	(404) 362-2671
<b>Mountain District</b> (Cartersville)	(770) 387-4900
<b>Northeast District</b> (Athens)	(706) 369-6376
<b>Southwest District</b> (Albany)	(229) 430-4144
<b>West Central District</b> (Macon)	(478) 751-6612

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## 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)



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

## ***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**.

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## ***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.

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## ***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.

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## ***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.

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## ***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.epd.georgia.gov](http://www.epd.georgia.gov).

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](http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov).

