



The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program

**Funding Opportunity for
Outdoor Conservation &
Recreation Projects**

Federal and State Grant Opportunities



**Land and Water
Conservation
Fund**



**Recreational Trails
Program**



**Georgia Outdoor
Stewardship
Program**

Competitive grant opportunities for outdoor recreation and conservation projects.



ALL applicants must complete online grant application - project scope, project budget, preliminary site plan, partners



ALL applicants are required to provide matching funds for all programs



ALL projects on a two-year timeline which starts the day the Project Agreement is signed



ALL programs are reimbursement-based

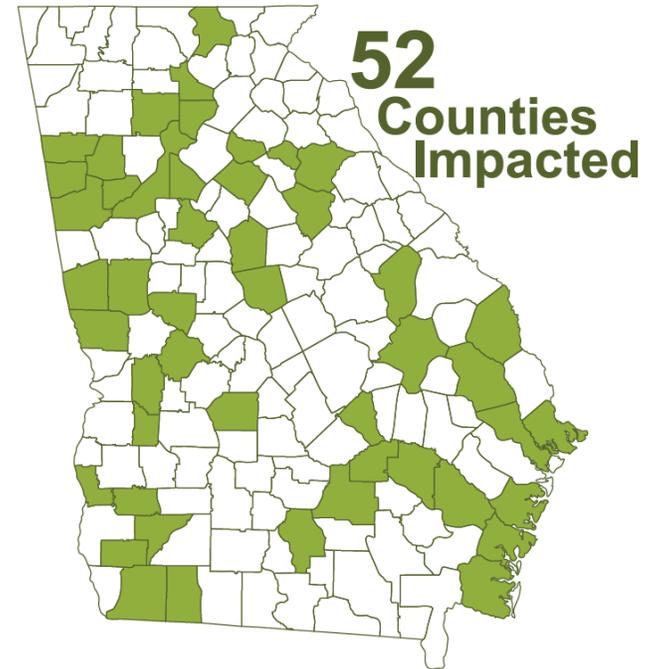
Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program



- ▶ State grant and loan program funded from the state portion of sales and use taxes from sporting goods stores collected on outdoor recreation equipment
- ▶ Provides stewardship for state parks, state lands and wildlife management areas; support local parks and trails; and protect critical conservation land
- ▶ Enacted in 2019 - three successful funding cycles
 - 38 total projects
 - 52 counties impacted
 - \$68.5M funds allocated

Eligible Applicants

- ▶ Qualified Local Governments (in good standing with DCA)
- ▶ Constituted Recreation Authorities
- ▶ State Agencies
- ▶ Nongovernmental entities with a primary concern of the protection and conservation of land and natural resources



Eligible Projects

All projects must have the primary purpose of one of the following conservation objectives:

1. To support state parks and trails
2. To support local parks and trails of state and regional significance
3. To provide stewardship of conservation land
4. To acquire critical areas

Funding & Match Requirements

Local Parks and Trails Category:

- ▶ \$500,000 - \$3,000,000 grant request
- ▶ Minimum match requirement of 25%
 - Cash or in-kind donations
- ▶ Reimbursement based - grantee pays all costs up-front and can request reimbursements throughout project
- ▶ 25% is held in retainage until project is complete

GOSP Application Process

- ▶ Funding cycle each year - Opened in August
- ▶ Applicants may submit one proposal per cycle
- ▶ Pre-application is completed online - organizational information, evaluation criteria, and required documents
- ▶ Pre-application is competitive; projects are reviewed and ranked based on eligibility and evaluation criteria
- ▶ Successful projects invited to non-competitive Second-level Application phase

What makes a good project?

Local Parks and Trails Projects - Funding available for local governments, constituted recreation authorities, and non-governmental entities to **acquire and/or improve** local parks, trails and conservation lands.

Conservation & Stewardship Aspects

Nature-based Recreation Opportunities

State and Regional Significance of the Project

Applicant's pre-planning, knowledge of the application process and criteria, and time commitment to the project

Conservation and Stewardship

- Protection of wildlife habitat
- Protection of cultural sites and historic resources
- Providing permanent protection of land through acquisition or conservation easements
- Removal of invasive species
- Reservoir and stream bank stabilization and restoration
- Improving water quality of Georgia's rivers, streams, lakes, etc.
- Wildlife habitat management through reforestation, tree planting, and prescribed burns



Conservation and Stewardship Criteria Questions

- ▶ **Water Quality and Quantity Improvements** - Is your project located in a priority watershed and what best management practices will be used to improve, restore or manage the watershed?
- ▶ **Cultural/Historical Value** - Does this project add or enrich to the cultural and/or historical value of the land?
- ▶ **Ecological Value** - Is there significant ecological, conservation, restoration or natural resource sustainability value to the project?
- ▶ **SWAP Goals** - Does this project support the goals of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)?

Nature-based Recreation

- ▶ “Nature-based Recreation” means recreation in the form of boating, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, jogging, biking, walking, or similar outdoor activities.
 - Creating new water access for fishing, kayaking, canoeing, boating
 - Providing new opportunities for hunting and/or wildlife watching
 - Campsite construction
 - Large-scale trail construction



What you didn't hear



Nature-based Recreation Criteria Questions

- ▶ **Outdoor Recreational Opportunity** - What new outdoor nature-based recreation opportunities will this project provide?
- ▶ **SCORP Goals** - Do the goals of this project overlap with the foundational goals identified in Georgia's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)?
- ▶ **Recreational Access and Connectivity** - Will the project provide new access or new connections to other outdoor recreation facilities or areas?

State and Regional Significance

- ▶ **Regional significance** can be defined as a project that enhances the natural-resourced based outdoor experience and quality of Georgia's natural resources, while providing value to a greater community beyond the local area.
- ▶ Evaluated several ways through project eligibility and the evaluation criteria.

Regional Significance Criteria Questions

- ▶ **Project Impact** - Demonstrate how the project enhances the natural resourced-based outdoor experience and quality of Georgia's natural resources, while providing value to a greater community beyond the local area
- ▶ **Partnerships** - Is there value added to this project through cooperation with external local governments, nongovernmental entities, CIDs, etc.?
- ▶ **Economic Development** - Will the project enhance the regional and/or statewide economy?

Applicant's Preparedness

- ▶ Make sure your organization and project are eligible BEFORE you start working on your Pre-application.
- ▶ **Truly evaluate if your project meets the purpose of the Outdoor Stewardship Program.**
- ▶ Get support from the authorizing officials who will sign-off on each stage of the grant process.
- ▶ Verify that you can fulfill the match requirement.
- ▶ Understand the amount of work it will take to complete the application - Read over the entire Pre-application, Workshop PPT and Program Manual
- ▶ Looking for projects that are shovel-ready - have you completed design & engineering, concept plans, budgets, etc.

Administrative Criteria Questions

- ▶ **Matching Funds** - Can you provide matching funds greater than 25%?
- ▶ **Project Need** - Is this project clearly identified as a priority need in a formalized planning document?
- ▶ **Maintenance, Management and Security Plan** - Is there a plan and budget to maintain, manage, and secure the property for multiple years of commitment?
- ▶ **Public Support** - Can you demonstrate public support for the project through letters, public comment, public meeting notes, etc.?
- ▶ **Resolution must be adopted and signed by the governing entity authorizing and committing the application to all funds required to complete the project.**

Timeline for Project Proposals



Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program 2022-2023 Funding Cycle Opening

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pleased to announce the opening of the Pre-application period for the 2022-2023 [Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program \(GOSP\)](#). Below you will find information on the program, as well as the cycle opening and closing dates. Access to the GOSP Pre-application portal is available now at <https://gadnr.org/grants>.

Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program

Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) is a grant and loan program administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and authorized by The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act. Through GOSP, Conserve Georgia Grants and Loans are dispersed for the purpose of providing stewardship to state parks; state lands and wildlife management areas; to support local parks and trails; and to protect critical conservation lands. Eligible applicants include qualified local governments (as determined by the Department of Community Affairs), constituted recreation authorities, state agencies and nongovernmental entities with a core mission of conservation.

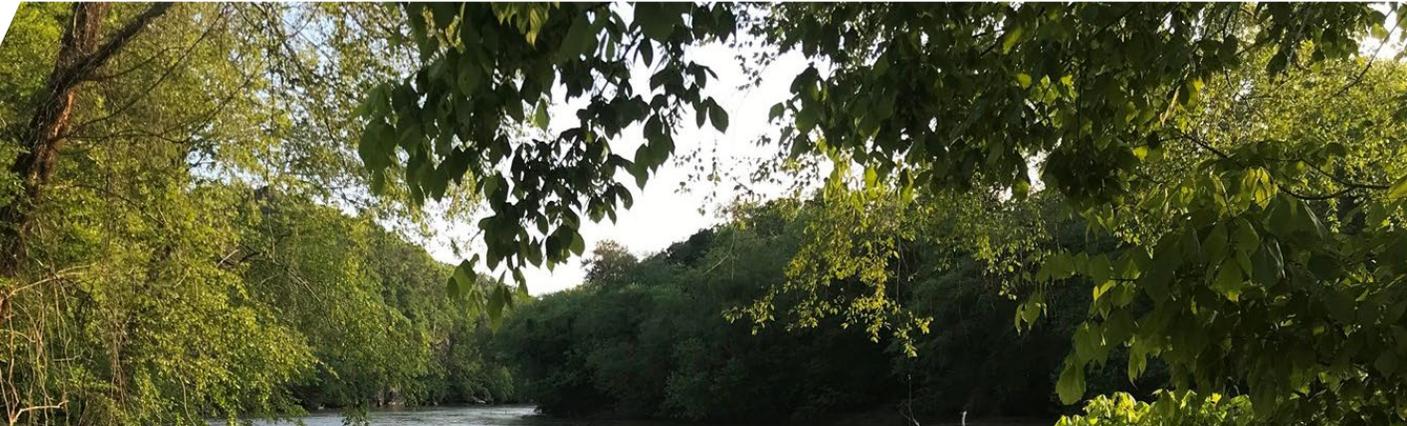
GOSP Pre-application Dates Are as Follows:

August 1, 2022 - Pre-application window opens

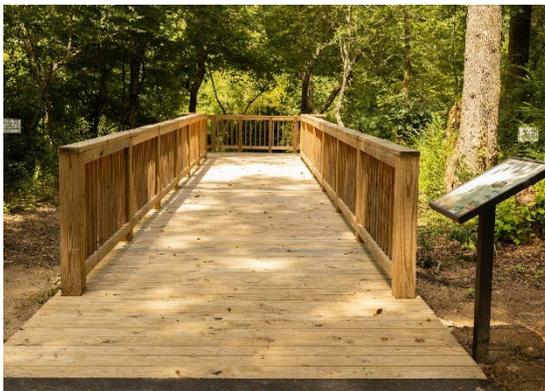
October 14, 2022 - Pre-application window closes

- ▶ Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program opened on August 1 and will close on October 14.
- ▶ Total funding allotment not yet determined.
- ▶ Projects selected in early 2023 and successful applicants invited to Second-level Application phase.
- ▶ Sign up on our website to receive important emails on funding availability!

Successfully Completed Projects



Eagle's Beak Park, Forsyth County



“As of today, with this great historic site, we make our own history,” Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Director Jim Pryor said at the ribbon-cutting event. “We have now turned it in to a public park where members of the community can recreate, enjoy nature and enjoy the mighty natural resource of the Etowah River that flows through this property.”



River Boardwalk Trail, Chattahoochee Nature Center

“The River Boardwalk [Trail] and Connection Bridge will provide a conduit for the community to discover the ecology of our area more intimately while fostering a greater understanding of and connection with nature.”

- Clarence Jackson, CNC Board Chair



Add a footer

Wilkins Greenway Trail City of Winder

A new multi-use trail connecting Winder with Fort Yargo State Park has recently opened to joggers, bikers, dog walkers and other users. The Wilkins Greenway Trail is 1.1-mile paved pathway that travels through a wooded area and along a creek, connecting Lee Street with the park's Visitor Center.



Ongoing Local Parks and Trails Projects Around the State

- ▶ **Bryan County** - Develop area of “Fisherman’s Co-Op” to include boat ramps, kayak launch, floating boat dock, picnic pavilions, pavilions, walking and biking trails, etc.
- ▶ **Cherokee County** - Developing Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area on the Etowah River to include canoe/kayak launch, camping, walking trail, archery range and wildlife viewing.
- ▶ **City of Lagrange** - Developing 45-acre facility at Ridley Lake with new multi-use trails, boardwalks over wetlands area, kayak/canoe launch, fishing piers, wildlife viewing areas, pavilions, etc.
- ▶ **City of Sandy Springs** - Constructing 2 miles of multi-use trails that will connect to existing trail systems and recreational areas

Ongoing Local Parks and Trails Projects Around the State

- ▶ **Jefferson County** - Developing 230 acres of lowland forest on the Ogeechee River to include hiking and mountain biking trails, campsites, outdoor classroom and kayak launch
- ▶ **City of Johns Creek** - Developing 200-acre Cauley Creek Park on the Chattahoochee River to encourage nature-based recreational opportunities like hiking, biking, fishing and wildlife viewing.
- ▶ **Greene County** - Constructing 7 miles of the projected 40-mile Firefly Trail from Athens to Union Point.
- ▶ **Athens-Clarke County** - Re-establishing high-quality wildlife habitat, enhance ecosystem services and provide enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities along the North Oconee River.

Ongoing Local Parks and Trails Projects Around the State

- ▶ **City of Tucker** - Enhancing the Johns Homestead Park through new access points, boardwalks, fishing piers, and restoring stream buffers and shorelines.
- ▶ **Henry County** - Constructing a passive recreation park at Butlers Bridge Park and providing access to the South River including the restoration of stream banks.
- ▶ **Troup County** - Construct Oakfuskee Conservation Center on West Point Lake
- ▶ **Jones County** - Acquire and develop 30 acres of land for Jake's Woods Park

What can you do now?

- ✓ Visit our website www.gadnr.org/gosp and sign up for email updates
- ✓ Check your eligibility - ensure your organization and project are eligible before you start your application
- ✓ Already have a project in mind? Contact us!
- ✓ Not ready for this year? Talk to your authorizing officials who will sign-off on this project to start the process of obtaining their approval and finding match dollars

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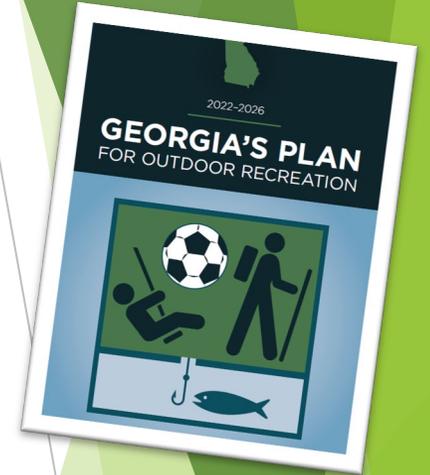


**Georgia Outdoor
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Land and Water Conservation Fund

- Federal grant fund administered by The National Parks Service
- Projects are ranked on how well they meet the needs and priorities published in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Funds available for **cities, counties, and recreation authorities**
- Grant funding from **\$25,000 to \$500,000** with a **50% match** requirement
- **Eligible projects - All outdoor recreation facilities:** ballfields, outdoor courts, picnic areas, greenspaces, playgrounds, splash pads, restrooms, etc.

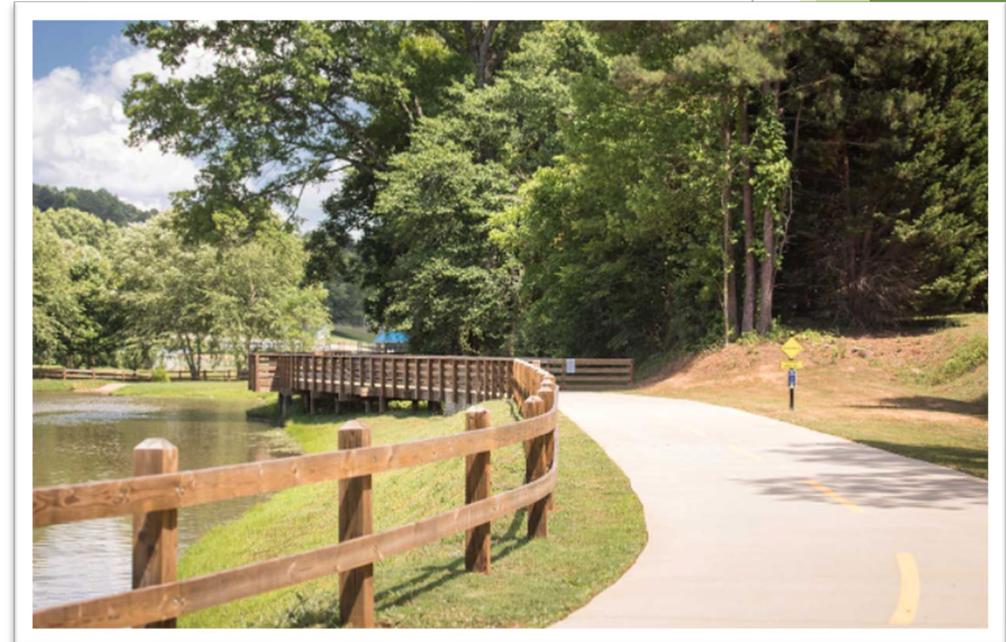






Recreational Trails Program

- Federal grant program administered by the Federal Highway Administration
- Funding for trail construction, trail maintenance, trail amenities, and trail education
- Funds available for **cities, counties, authorized commissions, state agencies, federal agencies and nonprofit organizations (education only)**
- Grant funding up to **\$200,000** with a **20% match** requirement
- **Eligible Projects:** Multi-use trails, water trails, mountain biking trails, equestrian trails, motorized trails, restoring existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailheads facilities and linkages, and acquisition





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