

INTRODUCTION

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OUR MISSION

MISSION

The US EPA has long recognized stormwater runoff as one of the leading causes of impairment of streams, and as a result, developed Phase I stormwater requirements in 1990, which resulted in the first NPDES Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activity General Permit ("General Permit"). In 2003, Georgia adopted its second issuance of the General Permit.

Partnering with other riverkeeper's and watershed protection groups throughout Georgia, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR) and the Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest (GCLPI) are tackling contamination of our waterways from polluted sediment runoff associated with construction activities.

Through this innovative project called *Get the Dirt Out*, the implementation and effectiveness of Georgia's General Permit are being monitored. By creating educational materials for citizens, local governments and developers about the General Permit, the *Get the Dirt Out* project will target Georgia's most serious water quality problem associated with runoff from construction sites.

We will investigate how the requirements of the General Permit are being implemented and adhered to throughout the state. Through the use of training, investigation, and study, this project will highlight the most effective means to stem the tide of silt-laden runoff from construction sites that is polluting our sources of drinking water, degrading Georgia's waterways, and harming aquatic life.

OUR SPONSORS

SPONSORS

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV and Headquarters
The Turner Foundation
Georgia Civil Justice Foundation

OUR PARTNERS

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Donahue Studios, Inc.	Altamaha Riverkeeper
Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest	Canoochee Riverkeeper
Newfields	Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter	Coosa River Basin Initiative
Southwings	Savannah Riverkeeper



GET THE DIRT OUT

Erosion + Sediment Control

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Sediment carried by stormwater runoff from construction sites in Georgia has been documented as the leading source of non-point source pollution to rivers throughout the state. This sediment can cause severe water quality degradation in Georgia's streams and rivers, which we depend on for our drinking water, assimilation of waste, recreation, wildlife habitat, and fishing. Because of the dramatic increase in Georgia's population, the number of new development projects is increasing exponentially. With this development has come serious water quality problems associated with runoff from construction sites.

Home to three of the fastest growing counties in the nation, Georgia is in the midst of an unprecedented construction boom. In the past ten years, Georgia's population increased 26% from 6.5 to 8.1 million people. Much of this growth is occurring within the 13-county metropolitan Atlanta area where the population has increased by 39%. In addition to the loss of greenspace, this increased development damages natural riparian buffers, imperiling our streams and rivers. The Chattahoochee River is especially impacted by this development as it is an urban river, flowing through metropolitan Atlanta, and eventually emptying into the Gulf of Mexico at Apalachicola Bay, an estuary of national significance.

OBJECTIVES

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The *Get the Dirt Out* project will investigate and study Georgia's new measures and controls to reduce stormwater runoff from construction sites and the resulting improvement to water quality, and will provide training workshops and materials developed specifically for citizens, developers, and local governments on the new Georgia NPDES Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activity General Permit ("General Permit"). We will study the effectiveness of the General Permit by investigating how the requirements of the General Permit are being implemented and adhered to throughout the state.

LEARN ABOUT:

- 1) Why Dirt Is Harmful to Our Waterways
- 2) The Federal Clean Water Act
- 3) General NPDES Permit for Construction Activities ("General Construction Permit")
- 4) Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- 5) Permit Enforcement

BENEFITS

PROJECT BENEFITS

Water quality problems will be resolved more quickly because citizens will know what to look for and how to work with government agencies. ☺



Keeping Watch Over Our Waters