

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reported by the Satilla Riverkeeper January – December 2020

➤ *Member of Georgia Water Coalition (GWC)*

- Collaborated within an effective network of over 250 conservation groups across the state through the Georgia Water Coalition, participating in both the Leadership & Legislative Teams to engage legislators on critical legislation relevant to the quantity and quality of water in all Georgia rivers, including the Satilla River. Examples include...
 - SB 123 passed and was signed into law. The bill fixed a loophole that made it cheaper to dispose of coal ash in Georgia landfills than it was to dispose of household garbage. The minimum host fee for coal ash disposal is now \$2.50 per ton.
 - Right to Harm Bill HB 545 was defeated. This bill would have altered the Right to Farm Act to prevent neighbors from protecting their property rights through nuisance claims.
 - Trust Fund Honesty – HR 164 passed both chambers and was put to a ballot referendum. Amendment 1 passed by an overwhelming margin on the November ballot (82% of voters supported the amendment which would ensure fees collected for a specific purpose are dedicated to the intended purpose.)

➤ *Water Quality Monitoring Program*

- Bacterial and chemical monitoring at 12 sites, for a total of 124 monitoring events.
- Increased summer bacteria monitoring from monthly to every other week at popular swimming spots.

➤ *Georgia's Water Quality Standards Triennial Review Process*

- Additional water quality sampling to support Triennial Review petition to upgrade Satilla River's designated use – winter and summer geometric means.
- Conducted a survey of recreational users of the Satilla River. 264 people reported visiting 321 sites along the Satilla River.

➤ *Dover River Restoration, Satilla River Estuary, Camden County*

- Helped secure matching funding for design and implementation of Noyes Cut Restoration project through Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program grant (\$1.7 million).
- Continue to offer support on the restoration project as needed.

- ***Spaceport Camden Proposal, Satilla River Estuary***
 - Educated members and the public of potential impacts of a rocket launching facility.
 - Signed on to a letter from Southern Environmental Law Center questioning the legality of FAA's decisions to avoid revisions and public comment period before issuing a final EIS and Record of Decision.

- ***Prevent Environmental Harm from Proposed Landfill, Brantley County***
 - Submitted public comment letter to EPD in response to the Draft Site Limitations, asking EPD to protect wetlands on site and nearby drinking water wells.
 - Organized concerned citizens to submit 9,510 comments to EPD on Draft Site Limitations.
 - Worked with Sen. Ligon to support SB 384, a bill that would prevent any new landfills within 3 miles of a blackwater river. The bill passed the Senate and the House Natural Resources Committee, but never came up for a vote on the House Floor. Generated 9,538 emails to legislators in support of the bill, and additional phone calls and emails not tracked through our system.
 - Maintained 1,189 landfill activists in our Constant Contact email system.
 - Collected 331 signatories on a petition to initiate the Facility Issues Negotiations Process.
 - Served on the Citizens Issues Committee in the Facility Issues Negotiations Process to support the concerned citizens in negotiating concessions and mitigations to address community concerns.

- ***Mining in Southeast Georgia***
 - Toured new mining site near Jesup.
 - Joined Okefenokee Protection Alliance in opposition to proposal to mine Trail Ridge near the Okefenokee Swamp.

- ***Trash Reduction and Management***
 - Organized a socially-distant cleanup with over 40 volunteers across 13 sites. Data was submitted through Rivers Alive.

- ***Satilla River Water Trail***
 - Completed an informational kiosk at Burnt Fort Landing.
 - Surveyed Satilla River recreational visitors about economic impact in local communities.