



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Contact:  
Tracy Robillard, Public Affairs Specialist, 912.652.5450  
[Tracy.K.Robillard@usace.army.mil](mailto:Tracy.K.Robillard@usace.army.mil)  
Billy Birdwell, Public Affairs Officer, 912.652.5014/5279  
After hours: 912-677-6039 [Billy.E.Birdwell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Billy.E.Birdwell@usace.army.mil)

## Corps of Engineers to discuss stream and wetlands permitting at Forsyth Park Earth Day event

**SAVANNAH, GEORGIA** – What is a wetland? Why are they important? How can you tell if your property is considered a wetland? Experts from the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District](#) will be available to educate the public about streams and wetlands, as well as answer questions about permitting regulations, at the City of Savannah [Earth Day Festival](#), April 23 at Forsyth Park.

The exhibitor portion of the festival is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exhibitors will be on both sides of the middle sidewalk starting at Park Street and heading north to the center statue. The Corps of Engineers booth will feature displays, handouts and information on its Regulatory Division, which oversees all wetlands permitting actions in state of Georgia. The team also will hand out free Corps of Engineers Earth Day re-usable tote bags as long as quantities last.

“We want to educate the community on the role wetlands serve in our environment and inform them about the laws and regulations of the Clean Water Act that the Corps of Engineers enforces,” said Russ Kaiser, chief of the Regulatory Division.

“Wetlands provide important benefits that may not be obvious to most people,” Kaiser said. “They improve the quality of our drinking water; they serve as nursery areas for fish and wildlife; and they provide flood control and erosion control. Our job is to protect these resources and balance permitting actions in accordance with state and federal laws.”

Anyone who is considering or planning to build, excavate or place fill in any of Georgia’s waters – including wetlands – must first apply for a permit from the Corps of Engineers Savannah District. State and local governments should also be contacted for authorizations.

Typical activities requiring permits include construction of structures such as piers, docks, boat houses and boat ramps. Other activities occurring in waters of the U.S. that require a permit include dredging or depositing of dredged material, construction developments such as subdivisions or shopping centers, and placement of road fills and storm water facilities.

For more information, visit the Regulatory Division website at [www.sas.usace.army.mil/regulatory](http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/regulatory)

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ [Savannah District](#) manages [three lakes and hydroelectric dams](#) along the Savannah River. It also oversees a multi-billion dollar [military construction](#) program at 12 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North Carolina. Corps’ projects range from barracks, hospitals and clinics to equipment shops, headquarters buildings and aircraft hangars. The Savannah District also has oversight and maintains additional civil works projects – from the Savannah and Brunswick harbors to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.