

Take Action

Leave It As You Found It

Prevent Invasive Species

Respect the Locals

Explore

Okefenokee Swamp Park
okeswamp.com

Altamaha WMA
georgiawildlife.com/altamaha-wma

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge
www.fws.gov/refuge/savannah

Cay Creek Wetland Interpretive Center
www.coastalwildscapes.wildapricot.org/Cay-Creek

Connect

Savannah River Ecology Lab
srel.uga.edu

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
www.coastalgeorgiacisma.org

Herp mapper
https://www.herpmapper.org

Frogwatch USA
https://www.aza.org/frogwatch-usa-volunteers

STEWARDSHIP SHORT: Wetlands Wisdom

By definition, a wetland is an area that is saturated with water for most or all of the time. Freshwater wetlands and the upland areas around them are particularly beautiful and critical to coastal ecosystems.

Action 1 | LEAVE IT AS YOU FOUND IT

Wetlands provide plant and animal habitat, improve water quality and prevent flooding. However, they are very sensitive to disturbances, so take care not to alter these areas in any way.

- Properly dispose of any trash, liquid and pet waste.
- Keep pets on a leash and stay on designated trails.



Savannah Riverkeepers

Action 2 | PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are plants or animals that have been introduced into areas outside of their normal range and cause harm in their new location. They often lack natural predators and are able to out-compete native species. Prevent the spread of invasive species in coastal areas.

- Never transfer living animals (including unwated pets) or plants to new locations.
- Clean your boat thoroughly and allow it to dry completely before using it in another area.
- Don't transport firewood long distances.

Action 3 | **RESPECT THE LOCALS**

Wetlands are used by many species for feeding, resting and nesting. Be a good wetland neighbor.

Wading Birds

Disturbances can cause adult birds to “flush,” or leave the nest, forcing them to unnecessarily expend energy and sometimes abandon the nest entirely.

- Observe from afar using binoculars, and encourage others to do the same.
- Avoid all posted nesting sites.

Alligators

Alligators benefit coastal wetlands. Their holes fill with water and serve as refuge for many animals during the dry season. Alligator attacks are unlikely and avoidable.

- Do not feed or harass alligators or any other wild animals. It is illegal and dangerous.
- Stay at least 60 feet from alligators; keep children and pets away from the water's edge.

Snakes

Of the 46 species of snakes found in Georgia, only six are venomous. Snakes serve a natural and helpful purpose by keeping pest populations in check.

- Watch your step. If you encounter a snake give it plenty of room.
- Snakes are protected by law in Georgia. Killing non-venomous snakes is illegal. For more information visit www.gadnr.org.

Amphibians

Amphibians include frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts. Georgia has 31 species of frogs and toads and 54 species of salamanders. These animals spend a portion or all of their life cycle in freshwater.

- Amphibians breathe in part through their skin, so it's best not to handle them.
- Do not remove amphibians from the wild or disturb their habitat.



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Authors: Kayla Clark, Anne Lindsay, Cecilia Nachtmann