

# WaterFirst

CARING FOR OUR WATER RESOURCES

## Georgia Environmental Finance Authority WaterFirst Program Renewal Application

The WaterFirst Program is a voluntary partnership between local governments, state agencies, and other organizations working together to increase the quality of life in communities through the wise management and protection of our valuable water resources. This proactive approach to water resources requires local governments to make the connection between land use and water quality, and it requires thinking beyond political boundaries to recognize the inextricable links created by shared water resources. The intended result of WaterFirst is achieving excellence beyond the current water regulations in nine major categories:

- Watershed assessment,
- Stormwater master planning,
- Wastewater treatment and management,
- Water supply planning,
- Water supply protection,
- Water conservation,
- Water reclamation and reuse,
- Educational outreach; and
- Regional water planning.

To continue qualifying for WaterFirst incentives, communities must be recertified every five years. It has been five years since your designation or renewal. GEFA needs to evaluate your programs to ensure that your community is still achieving environmental excellence. If you have questions regarding this renewal application, please contact [waterresources@gefa.ga.gov](mailto:waterresources@gefa.ga.gov).

### Renewal Application Deadline

The deadline for submitting the renewal application is the last business day of October.

Please submit one digital copy of the application to [waterresources@gefa.ga.gov](mailto:waterresources@gefa.ga.gov).

**I. Applicant Information**

Please check one:  Individual City or County or  Multi-Jurisdictional Partnership

City/County of: Hall County

Address: PO Drawer 1435

City: Gainesville Zip Code: 30503

Phone: (770) 535-8288 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: bnash@hallcounty.org

Name of Person Completing Application: William King

Title: Assistant Public Works Director

Address: PO Drawer 1435

City: Gainesville Zip Code: 30503

Phone: (770) 531-6800 Cell (770) 329-0863 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: wking@hallcounty.org

**II. Community Profile**

(If applying as a partnership, please answer the following questions for each partner, separate pages may be added.)

Are you currently a Qualified Local Government?  Yes

In what water basin(s) are you located?

3070101	UPPER OCONEE	Altamaha
3130001	UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE	Apalachicola
3060104	BROAD	Savannah

Have your water services that were provided at designation changed? If so, how? We are no longer in the Water Service Business. We transferred our water infrastructure to the various local municipalities as appropriate. We retained our sanitary sewer infrastructure and utilize the local municipalities for billing through the water service.

Has your service area changed? If so, how? The latest Service Delivery Strategy we sold our water service to the various localities as appropriate. We are still in the sanitary sewer business in the unincorporated areas.

How many residents does each service support? **Water:** 0 - We have agreements with local municipalities to provide water service.

**Sanitary Sewer:** Approximately 5,000 billed through the various municipal water systems.

HALL COUNTY, GEORGIA SEWER CONNECTION REVISED Through END of JUNE 2024	Capacity (GPD)	Equivalent Residential Units (ERU)	Prepurchased	
			Units Purchased	Remaining Units
<b>Spout Springs WRF</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>3750</b>		
Reunion (pre-purchased taps)	180,000	900	900	0
Reunion (beyond pre-purchased taps)	7,000	35	35	0
Sterling on The Lake	399,400	1997	1997	0
Hall County Schools	89,200	446	446	0
NNP Looper Lake	500	2.5	2.5	0
Frank Duncan @ 7114 Williams Road	1,000	5	5	0
Frank Duncan @ 7108 Williams Road	1,000	5	5	0
Cambridge	11,000	55	53	2
Prince of Peace	1,600	8	1	7
Lancaster	36,200	181	6	175
Clark Farms	73,000	365	31	334
Cherokee Bluff Middle School	5,000	25	25	0
Chateau Elan	17,200	86	86	0
NEGA Medical Center	20,000	100	60	40
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>-92,100</b>	<b>4,211</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>98</b>

**HALL COUNTY CAPITAL ASSET**

Total Capacity purchased by Gainesville	1,000,000			
<b>Mulberry Sewer System</b>		<b>1,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,250</b>
Village of Deaton Creek	240,000	1200	1200	0
World Language Academy	1,600	8	8	0
Road Atlanta	1,600	8	8	0
4740 Younblood Road - Private Resident	200	1	1	0
Union Grove	30,000	150	150	0
Union Heights Amenity	200	1	1	0
Union Heights	25,000	125	30	95
Flowery Branch Peace of Mind	200	1	1	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>-149</b>

<b>North Hall/SR365 Sewer System</b>		<b>3,750</b>		
Auto Metal Direct	1,600	8	8	0
Georgia Poultry Lab	1,600	8	8	0
Kubota	1,000	5	5	0
Lanier Cold Storage	500	2.5	2.5	0
Tatsumi Intermodal	1,600	8	8	0
QuikTrip	1,000	5	5	0
Grey Hill LLC	200	1	1	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>693,700</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>3,713</b>

<b>Flowery Branch</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>		<b>1,000</b>
Ingles	12,000	60	60	0
Ponderosa Farms	46,000	230	25	205
Stone Bridge Village	32,400	162	162	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>155,600</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>753</b>

<b>Lula</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>500</b>		<b>500</b>
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<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>500</b>		<b>500</b>
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<b>Total Remaining Capacity</b>	<b>857,200</b>	<b>10,250</b>	<b>5,336</b>	<b>4,914</b>
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Has the percent of residents using private wells, septic systems changed? If so, how? In 2018 we reported about 20-25% of our residents were served by private wells. In the period from 2019 through 2023 the Hall County Department of Environmental Health reports: 2,254 new septic systems were installed. 32 were on community wells, 334 on private wells, and 1,888 were on public water.

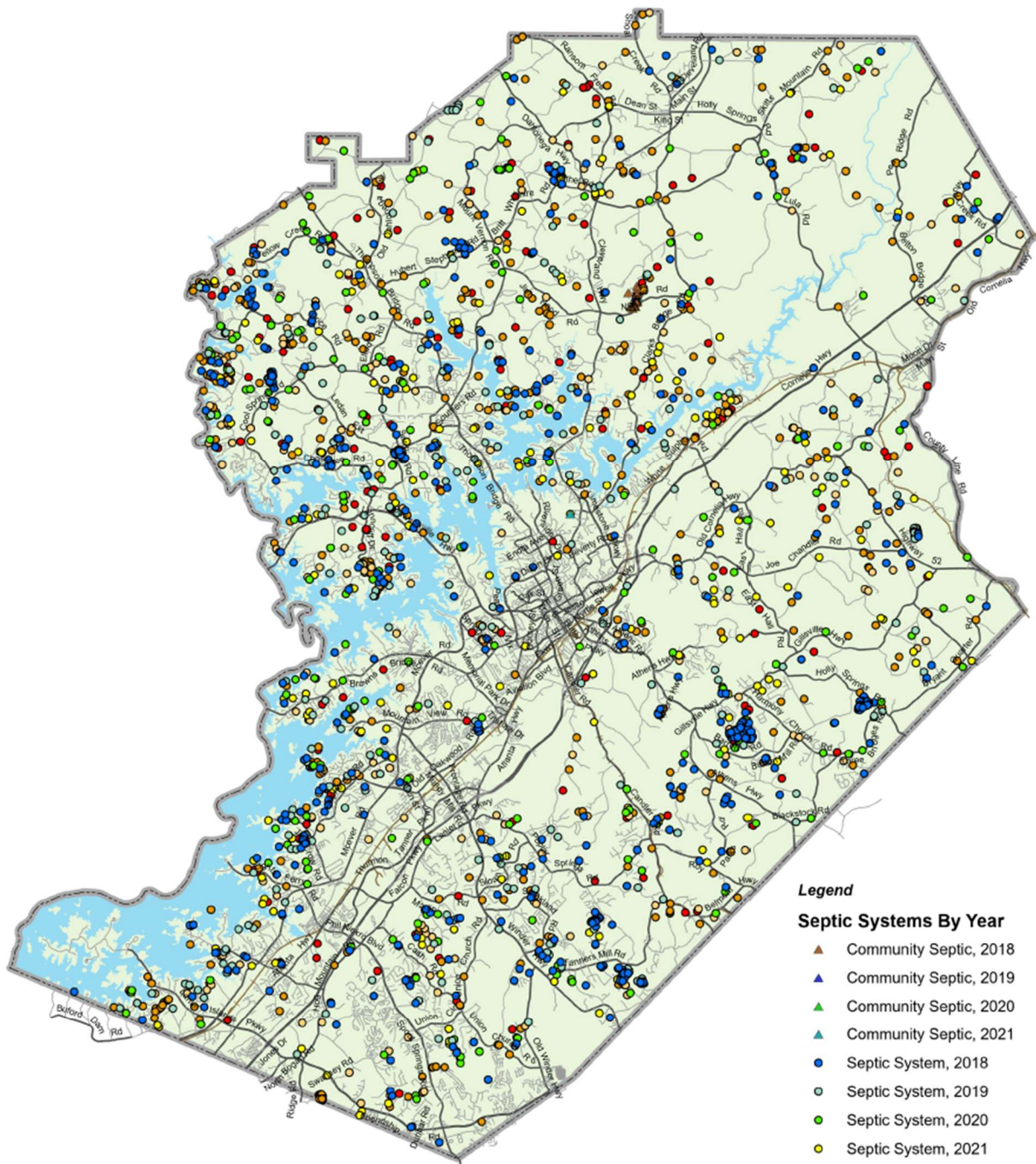
The Hall County building permit records reports:

**Permitting Activity for Hall County, Gainesville & Oakwood, 1018 - May 2024**

Sewer/Septic	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Braselton Sewer				1	17	1	1	20
Buford Sewer	5	5		10	7	1	1	29
Community Septic	18	20	14	41				93
County Sewer	62	69	94	139	225	34	84	707
Flowery Branch Sewer	16	34	3	1		2		56
Gainesville Sewer	410	288	198	566	332	439	254	2,487
Gwinnett County		48	112	54				214
Lula Sewer			17	43	69	17		146
Oakwood Sewer						2	1	3
Piedmont				1	4			5
Private	4	8	10	29	29	95	41	216
Septic System	547	427	392	522	439	503	202	3,032
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>1,407</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>7,008</b>

See plot of Septic Systems by Year on next page.

# Septic System Permits 2018 - May 2024



## Legend

### Septic Systems By Year

- ▲ Community Septic, 2018
- ▲ Community Septic, 2019
- ▲ Community Septic, 2020
- ▲ Community Septic, 2021
- Septic System, 2018
- Septic System, 2019
- Septic System, 2020
- Septic System, 2021
- Septic System, 2022
- Septic System, 2023
- Septic System, 2024



Date: 6/21/2024

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Miles

Has your primary water source for your community changed (surface/groundwater)? [Surface Water from Lake Lanier.](#)

In comparison to five years ago, what are your water conservation savings? [We have water service agreements with Five municipalities. Gainesville, Braselton, Lula, Flowery Branch and Oakwood.](#)

In the past five years, have you received a GEFA loan, 319 grant, and/or CDBG funding? If so, what financial savings/amounts have you received?

[2021 Community Development Block Grant: Joseph F. Walters Club Multipurpose Gymnasium Project in the amount of \\$750,000.](#)

[2021 Community Development Block Grant: Georgia Mountain Food Bank in the amount of \\$2,213,697.](#)

Please list your community's current water-related EPD permits.

[Spout Springs WRF NPDES Permit #GA0050214 discharges into Lollis Creek.](#)

Please list any EPD water-related permit violations that have occurred in the past five years. Please give details of how the violations were addressed. [None.](#)

Have any 303(D) listed streams been delisted in the past five years? If so, what stream(s)? [No.](#)

In the past five years, have you received any awards for outstanding water services? [We have agreements with local municipalities to provide water service.](#)

In the past five years, have there been any permits or regulatory minimum standard changes? If so, how were they addressed? [No.](#)

Is your community on EPA's Significant Non-Compliance list? If so, please explain. [No.](#)

Are there any other benefits you have received since designation? [No.](#)

Report on your MOU goals from the past five years:

- [Partner, support and enhance education in the areas of Water Conservation, Water Quality, Stormwater Management and Watershed Protection.](#)
- [Establish buffer requirements for the Chattahoochee River not under the jurisdiction of the US Army COE.](#)
- [Implement items in the Metro, North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Resource Management Plan.](#)
- [Identify projects for federal Sec 319\(h\) Nonpoint Source implementation to address pollutants.](#)

What are your WaterFirst goals for the next five years? [Expand the sanitary sewer collection system to serve more of the unincorporated County.](#)

Attached is your checklist at the time of your original application. Please update the checklist and explain any significant changes in the past five years.

I understand that the WaterFirst Community Program is a voluntary effort to improve the management and protection of our water resources beyond the requirements of the law. I also understand that WaterFirst designation can be lost if the community fails to maintain the achievements for which the award was given and that all benefits the designation brings with it will be forfeited.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct.

Print name of Chief Elected Official \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chief Elected Official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

