



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is rich in natural assets that make it a desirable place for people to live, work and play; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia's population is the fourth fastest growing in the nation, rapidly converting wildlife habitat, farms and woodlands into suburbs and cities; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia ranks only twelfth among sixteen southeastern states in the percentage of land and water that is publicly owned; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia must protect more of its natural assets, in order to preserve its quality of life and maintain its economic competitiveness; and
- WHEREAS: The independent efforts of the State, local governments and private parties to conserve Georgia's land and water resources have thus far been insufficient to protect our important natural resources and to ensure the State's long-term economic competitiveness; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia today has an unparalleled opportunity to create a public-private partnership for land conservation that will preserve Georgia as an attractive place to live, protect our natural resources, and increase the State's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS:

The Georgia Land Conservation Partnership shall consist of (1) state acquisition of large, strategic parcels of land, including fee or less than fee interests; (2) state grants to counties and cities for greenspace acquisition and protection; and (3) state support and incentives to increase land conservation by private landowners, land trusts, and philanthropic organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

The Governor's Advisory Council for the Georgia Land Conservation Partnership is hereby created, whose purposes shall be to oversee the development of the state's first comprehensive, statewide land conservation plan, to ensure that all interested parties have full opportunity for involvement and input into the State's first comprehensive land conservation plan, and to advise the Governor concerning the implementation of the plan;

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The Council shall develop a broad policy plan for land conservation on a statewide basis to protect (1) water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, historic and scenic resources, outdoor recreational opportunities and urban amenities; (2) land that connects isolated blocks of wildlife habitat; and (3) conservation lands that are accessible by the public and surrounded by neighborhoods and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff support to the Council and shall prepare the Land Conservation Partnership Plan, coordinating as needed with other agencies of state government, state authorities, units of local government, and private organizations and individuals that have an interest in land conservation in Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The comprehensive land conservation plan shall summarize the need for land conservation, describe and identify the most vulnerable and valuable areas for protection, establish goals for land conservation, and develop and describe strategies for land protection

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED THAT:

The Council shall make its report and recommendations to the Governor by August 31, 2004.

SO ORDERED THIS 30 DAY OF December, 2004.

  
GOVERNOR