



REGIONAL REVIEW NOTIFICATION

Atlanta Regional Commission • 40 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • ph: 404.463.3100 • fax: 404.463.3105 • www.atlantaregional.com

DATE: Apr 20 2007

ARC REVIEW CODE: L704204

ATTN TO: Barbara Jackson, Administrator

FROM: Charles Krautler, Director

NOTE: This is digital
signature. Original on file.

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has received the following proposal and is initiating a regional review to seek comments from potentially impacted jurisdictions and agencies. The ARC requests your comments related to the proposal not addressed by the Commission's regional plans and policies.

Name of Proposal: National Recreational Trails Program: City of Pine Lake Snapfinger Creek Wetlands Walk

Review Type: Parks and Recreation

Description: The trail project will consist of the restoration of 1280 feet of existing mulched lakeside trail and the installation of 3065 feet of new 8-foot wide boardwalk trail.

Submitting Local Government: City of Pine Lake

Action Under Consideration: Approval

Date Opened: Apr 20 2007

Deadline for Comments: May 1 2007

Earliest the Regional Review can be Completed: May 1 2007

THE FOLLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES ARE RECEIVING NOTICE OF THIS REVIEW:

ARC LAND USE PLANNING
ARC DATA RESEARCH
DEKALB COUNTY

ARC TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
DEKALB COUNTY

ARC ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Attached is information concerning this review.

If you have any questions regarding this review, Please call Haley Fleming, Review Coordinator, at (404) 463-3311. If the ARC staff does not receive comments from you by May 1 2007, we will assume that your agency has no additional comments and we will close the review. Comments by email are strongly encouraged.

The ARC review website is located at: <http://www.atlantaregional.com/landuse> .

**GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS**

TO: MS. HALEY FLEMING
ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
40 COURTLAND STREET, NE
ATLANTA, GA 30303

FROM: Barbara Jackson
Georgia State Clearinghouse

DATE: 4/10/2007

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

APPLICANT: Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

PROJECT: National Recreational Trails Program: City of Pine Lake, GA - Snapfinger Creek
Wetlands Walk

CFDA NO.: 20.219

STATE ID: GA070410010

IMPORTANT! REVIEW COMMENTS DUE BY OR BEFORE: 5/1/2007

A copy of the Standard Federal Application package, Environmental Information, or Direct Federal Development project is enclosed for your review and comment. Your review should focus on the projects compatibility with those state or regional goals, policies, plans, fiscal resources, criteria for Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), environmental impacts, or inconsistencies with federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations with which your agency is concerned. Negative environmental impacts or provision for protection of the environment and possible duplication of the proposed project with programs presently in place should be pointed out.

Any major points of conflict identified by you during the review process immediately should be brought to the attention of the Administrator, Georgia State Clearinghouse. The Administrator will attempt to mediate these concerns prior to completing the review of the project. The Clearinghouse telephone number is (404) 656-3855.

Please have your comments typed (or hand-printed) and dated on the enclosed Form SC-3. An additional sheet may be used if additional space is needed. Your comments will be summarized in a single state position or a composite that reflects both the state and regional recommendations and be returned to the applicant/sponr. They in turn will forward a copy to the federal agency if necessary.

Form SC-2
May 2004

Section I – Applicant/Project Information

1. Applicant: City of Pine Lake Dekalb County Georgia
Address: P. O. Box 1325, 462 Clubhouse Dr.
City, State, Zip: Pine Lake Georgia 30072
2. Classification of Applicant (Check one):
Federal _____ State _____ County _____ City X Authority/Commission _____
3. Project Applicant Federal Employer ID # (FEI): 58-6000640
4. Contact information
Project Contact Person: Phil Howland
Project Contact Title: city administrator
Phone Number: 404 292-4250
Fax Number: 404 292-4859
Email: plboss@bellsouth.net
5. Name of Trail or Project: Pine Lake/Snapfinger Creek Wetlands Walk
6. Classification of land ownership at time of application:
Public Land X Private Land _____ Combination Public/Private* _____
* If trail project involves private land, easements for twenty years or more must be in place or obtained prior to final grant approval unless the grant funds are to be used for acquisition.
7. Location of Project (if located in more than one county, district, etc., please list all):
Nearest City: Pine Lake Georgia
County: Dekalb County
Nearest Street/State Route/Interstate: Lakeshore Dr. in Pine Lake
State Senate District: 41
State House District: 87
Federal Congressional District: 4th
8. Project Category (Check one):
____ Non-motorized single use
X Combination of non-motorized uses
____ Motorized single use
____ Combination of motorized uses
____ Combination of motorized and non-motorized uses

9. Trail Use (Check all that will apply*):

Motorized Uses:

- ☐ ATV (quads, motorcycles)
☐ OHV (jeeps, Broncos and similar vehicles)

Non-motorized Uses:

- ☒ Bicycling (paved trails)
☒ Mountain biking (non-paved trails)
☐ Equestrian
☒ Canoeing/Kayaking/Paddling sports
☒ Day hiking (short trails)
☐ Backpacking (extended, overnight trips)
☒ Jogging/Fitness
☒ Interpretive/Environmental Education
☒ ADA accessible (must meet ADA guidelines)
☐ Other (explain) _____

*Checking a specific trail use in this application requires the applicant to allow that type of trail use on the trail, if awarded a grant.

10. Trail Information (Indicate the amount and type of trail activities this project will include):

4345 feet of total trail maintenance/grooming

1280 feet of environmental restoration of areas damaged by usage (existing lake portion)

3065 feet of new trail construction

3 entrances or trailheads with two viewing points and rest areas

No land acquisition for trail construction is required

11. Type of Trail Surface (Check all that apply):

Hard: ☐ Concrete ☐ Asphalt ☐ Native Rock ☒ Other (explain) raised boardwalk
Non-erodible trails area required for the upstream and downstream areas because much of the trail is in floodplain and surrounds a constructed wetland/habitat enhancement areas.

Soft: ☒ Mulch ☐ Gravel ☒ Native Soil ☐ Other (explain) _____

12. Description of Project (Describe exactly what the grant funds will pay for and what work will be completed as part of this project, limited to space provided):

The trail project will consist basically of 3 parts: upstream portion, lake portion, and the downstream portion. The trail project is being planned in conjunction with a City stream restoration, constructed wetlands, and habitat enhancement project that is currently within the design and permitting stages. The City has been awarded 319 (h) funds for the stream, wetland, and habitat enhancement components of the project, but would like to add "Wetland Walk" trails surrounding this area to provide limited access for educational and recreational benefits. The trail project will consist of the restoration of 1280 feet of existing mulched lakeside trail and the installation of 3065 feet of new 8-foot wide boardwalk trail. Boardwalk trails are required within the City's habitat enhancement areas to lessen the human impact and the disruption of soils, vegetation, and water flow.

13. Does this project link to or is it an integral part of any other trail(s)? (Check one)

Section III – Environmental Survey

This survey is a requirement for Federally funded programs. For projects selected for funding and submitted to FHWA, DNR may verify compliance with these items. Any response in a [bracket] signifies the potential for an adverse impact and will require additional information. On additional pages, please provide information as needed to assess the potential impacts. **If, during a review of the project at any time, inconsistencies are identified between the survey and actual project implementation it will be grounds for immediate cancellation of the grant funds.**

1. Project Name: Pine Lake/Snapfinger Creek Wetlands Walk

2. Land Use:

Briefly describe the land use in the project area and any potential changes that would result from this project. Address whether the project is consistent with any applicable comprehensive land use and/or development plans. Attach additional pages and a land use map, if needed.

Currently, the land lies within a floodplain and is in an early successional stage that is dominated by tree saplings and blackberries. In an early successional area, the density of new tree growth can be a phenomenal and within this area, a large number of saplings such as Sweet-gum, Tulip poplar, Red maple, and Elderberry are becoming established. Naturally, these seedlings, will begin to compete and thin out as they grow. A wetland will be constructed within this area for water quality and also provide more wildlife habitat and food than what the early successional stage is currently providing. The boardwalk will be constructed around the wetland to provide areas for humans to observe wildlife, but without disturbing wildlife.

3. Natural Resources:

Will the proposed project negatively impact any of the following?

a. Soil Erosion or Sedimentation	Yes []	No X
b. Vegetation	Yes []	No X
c. Streams, Rivers, or Lakes	Yes []	No X
d. Wetlands	Yes []	No X
e. Floodplains	Yes []	No X
f. Coastal Zones	Yes []	No X
g. Wild and Scenic Rivers	Yes []	No X
h. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	Yes []	No X
i. Farmlands	Yes []	No X
j. National Landmarks	Yes []	No X
k. Endangered Plants and Animals	Yes []	No X

4. Historic and Archaeological Resources:

a. Has the project been reviewed by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division?
No

b. Will the project have an effect on historic or archaeological resources?
No

- c. If the project has an effect on historic or archaeological resources, has the project been coordinated with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation?

Yes____ No [X]

5. Hazardous Wastes:

Is there any potential for involvement with hazardous wastes or underground storage tanks?

No

6. Noise:

Is there potential for the project to have a noise impact on the surrounding land uses?

No

7. Air Quality:

Will the project have an adverse impact on air quality?

No

8. Section 4(f)

- a. Is the project located on a publicly owned park, recreation area, historic site or wildlife and waterfowl refuge? Yes [X] No____

- b. If yes, please mark the appropriate box and name the facility.

[X] Park*The project is located wholly inside of city park space owned by the City of Pine Lake

[] Recreation Area*_____

[] Historic Site_____

[] Wildlife/Waterfowl Refuge_____

*If the applicant is not the official having jurisdiction over the park or recreation area, a letter must be attached from that official stating his/her approval that the project is acceptable and consistent with the designated use of the property and that he/she is satisfied that the applicant has committed to include all possible measures to minimize harm.

9. Permits Required:

U.S. Coast Guard____ No____ (Yes/No)

Forest Service/Corps Land____ No____ (Yes/No)

Section 404____ No____ (Yes/No)

At this time it is not anticipated that Section 404 permitting will be required by this project. The proposed trail system is mostly a perimeter trail system, which will remain outside of the constructed wetland area. The proposed layout has specified two overlook areas within the downstream wetlands, to allow limited access to the habitat areas. The piercing for these overlook areas will be installed concurrent with wetland establishment, as to minimize impacts to the established wetland system.

Georgia Recreational Trails Application
Appropriation Years 2005-06

Environmental Survey Prepared by: Philip Howland
Original Signature and Date: [Signature] 11/30/06
Signature Date

FOR DNR USE ONLY

DNR has reviewed the above referenced information and concurs with the information provided by the Applicant. It is DNR's opinion that the proposed project will have no significant impacts on the environment.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PROJECT NARRATIVE

THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS THE WETLANDS WALK, AN INITIATIVE BY THE CITY OF PINE LAKE TO CONNECT TWO NEWLY-ACQUIRED GREENSPACES WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE LAKE ITSELF, PINE LAKE'S CENTRAL NATURAL FEATURE. THE WETLANDS WALK PROJECT IS BEING PLANNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CITY STREAM RESTORATION, CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS, AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT THAT IS CURRENTLY WITHIN THE DESIGN AND PERMITTING STAGES. THE CITY HAS BEEN AWARDED 319 (H) FUNDS FOR THE STREAM, WETLAND, AND HABITAT ENHANCEMENT COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT, BUT WOULD LIKE TO ADD THE TRAILS PROPOSED IN THIS GRANT APPLICATION TO SURROUND THIS AREA AND PROVIDE LIMITED ACCESS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS. WHEN COMPLETED, THIS CORRIDOR WILL CONNECT A 1) 2 ACRES OF HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AREA ALONG SNAPFINGER CREEK TO THE EAST OF THE LAKE, 2) THE 10.75-ACRE LAKE AND ASSOCIATED EXISTING WALKING TRAILS ALONG ITS PERIMETER, 3) THE CITY PARK ON THE SHORES OF THE LAKE (WITH PLAYGROUND, BEACH HOUSE AND RECREATIONAL BEACH), AND 4) THE 5+ ACRES OF HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AREA AND CONSTRUCTED WETLAND TO THE WEST OF THE LAKE. THE SNAPFINGER CREEK AREA WAS DONATED TO THE CITY IN 2005 AND THE 5+ ACRE DOWNSTREAM WAS ACQUIRED IN 2005 AS PART OF THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO INCREASE GREENSPACE AND MANAGE STORMWATER.

This project will enhance and complement the City's Snapfinger Creek Water Quality Improvement and Habitat Creation/Enhancement project (319H grant from US EPA). The 319H provides for stream bank restoration, accompanied by appropriate surveys and land use assessments. The finished project will enable the City to treat stormwater more efficiently, improve water quality conditions, restore riparian vegetation, and enhance habitat. Building on the accomplishments of the 319H grant, this grant would allow for the planning and construction of non-erodable trails allow pedestrian access to different kinds of native wetland areas and improve access to current recreational amenities (beachhouse, beach and playground). In addition to trail construction, the grant will be used for signage, benches, and volunteer training. The corridor will be designed for non-motorized use (although electric wheelchairs will be allowed) and feature signage about the flora, fauna and ecology of the area, particularly its role in the watershed. Designed for both educational and recreational uses, the trails will provide access to the greenspace owned by the City of Pine Lake.

ALONG WITH STREAM MITIGATION WORK AND NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION, THE PROJECT WILL ENHANCE EXISTING FOOTPATHS TO DEVELOP CLEARLY DEFINED TRAIL AREAS DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE FUTURE EROSION. NO FORMAL EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM CURRENTLY EXISTS; THIS PROJECT WILL DESIGNATE SPECIFIC TRAVEL AREAS THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY TO MANAGE EROSION AND FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION FROM "OFF PATH" ACCESS.

THE PROJECT WILL UTILIZE BOARDWALKS. BOARDWALK TRAILS ARE RECOMMENDED WITHIN THE CITY'S HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AREAS TO LESSEN THE HUMAN IMPACT AND THE DISRUPTION OF SOILS, VEGETATION, AND WATER FLOW.

STAGED CONSTRUCTION IS ALSO RECOMMENDED FOR THIS PROJECT TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO THE CONSTRUCTED WETLAND AREA. THE PROPOSED TRAIL SYSTEM IS MOSTLY A PERIMETER TRAIL SYSTEM, WHICH WILL REMAIN OUTSIDE OF THE CONSTRUCTED WETLAND AREA. THE PROPOSED LAYOUT HAS SPECIFIED TWO OVERLOOK AREAS WITHIN THE DOWNSTREAM WETLANDS, TO ALLOW LIMITED ACCESS TO THE HABITAT AREAS. THE PIERING FOR THESE OVERLOOK AREAS WILL BE INSTALLED CONCURRENT WITH WETLAND ESTABLISHMENT, AS TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS THAT WOULD HAVE OCCURRED HAD CONSTRUCTION BEEN STAGED AFTER THE WETLAND SYSTEM HAD BECOME ESTABLISHED.

THIS PROJECT WILL IMPROVE EXISTING FOOTPATH SURFACES AND ESTABLISH DESIGNATED TRAVEL AREAS THROUGH THE GREENSPACES. THE PROPOSED BOARDWALKS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT A GRADE THAT ALLOWS EASIER ACCESS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. ALTHOUGH THE BEACH AND ACCOMPANYING BEACH HOUSE IS CURRENTLY WHEEL-CHAIR ACCESSIBLE, THE PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES ARE NOT CURRENTLY ACCESSIBLE. THE PROPOSED TRAIL WILL MAKE THESE AMENITIES MORE AVAILABLE.

IN 2005, THE CITY OF PINE LAKE BOUGHT 5+ ACRES OF FLOODPLAIN AREA ADJACENT TO ITS EXISTING PARK ALONG THE LAKE, NEARLY TRIPLING THE GREENWAY CORRIDOR WITHIN THE CITY. THUS FAR, THIS

PROPERTY HAS BEEN TOTALLY INACCESSIBLE TO CITIZENS. GRANT FUNDS WOULD ALLOW FOR A TRAIL INTO THIS AREA, WITH A BRIDGE TO CONNECT TO EXISTING PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATHS. FUTURE AMENITIES MAY INCLUDE A DOG PARK, A WETLAND HABITAT AREA WITH EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE, AND A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA. EDUCATIONAL SIGNS WILL ALSO BE PLACED IN THIS AREA TO CONVEY TO THE COMMUNITY THE IMPORTANT OF WETLANDS IN OUR ECOSYSTEM, AND SHOW HOW RESIDENTS CAN HELP PROTECT AND PRESERVE THEM. ADDITIONALLY, DEVELOPING A TRAIL WILL ALLOW FOR CITY WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS TO MANAGE THE LAND MORE EFFECTIVELY, PARTICULARLY IN THE ON-GOING EFFORT TO REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES AND REPLACE WITH NATIVE SPECIES.

THE CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS WILL SERVE AS AN EXCELLENT PUBLIC EDUCATION TOOL. SIGNAGE WILL BE PLACED ALONG A NONERODABLE WALKING TRAIL THAT WILL GO THROUGH THE WETLANDS AND HAVE OVERLOOK POINTS. THE CITY WILL CONDUCT FIELD DAYS TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ON THE VALUE OF WETLANDS -- FOR DEVELOPERS, DESIGNERS, RESIDENTS, STUDENTS AND BUSINESSES. RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS WILL BE ENLISTED TO LEARN AND PERFORM WETLAND VEGETATION MEASUREMENTS, MONITOR WATER LEVELS AND QUALITY AND WILDLIFE DOCUMENTATION.

CITIZENS OF PINE LAKE HAVE CONSISTENTLY VOICED THEIR DESIRES FOR NATURAL WALKING AREAS IN THEIR DENSE RESIDENTIAL AREA. THE RESIDENTS HAVE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED TRAILS THAT ARE CONVENIENT, SAFE, AND ATTRACTIVE. THESE NEEDS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED THROUGH THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (PERTINENT AREAS ATTACHED), AND REGULAR QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETINGS OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS. ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST ACTIVE CITIZEN COMMITTEES IS THE PINE LAKE ENVIRONMENT, ACCESS AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (PLEAS), WHICH HAS ADVOCATED FOR ENHANCED RECREATIONAL WALKING TRAILS.

THE CITY HAS FOCUSED RECENTLY ON CONNECTIVITY: IN ADDITION TO THE 319H GRANT REFERENCED ABOVE, THE CITY ALSO WON A TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT FOR SIDEWALKS ALONG THE CITY'S ONLY COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR, RESPONDING TO CITIZEN NEEDS FOR A WALKABLE COMMUNITY, WHERE THEY CAN ACCESS BOTH NATURAL AREAS AND COMMERCIAL AREAS. ACQUIRING GRANTS OF THIS SIZE AND NATURE IS A SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR A CITY THE SIZE OF PINE LAKE: WITH A BUDGET OF JUST UNDER \$1MILLION.

WITH A BUDGET OF ABOUT \$1MILLION, THE CITY OF PINE LAKE HAS FOUND CREATIVE WAYS TO MATCH ITS ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION GRANTS. MODEST CITY SURPLUSES CAN BE USED TO MATCH FUNDS, AND PRIVATE CITIZEN SUPPORT HAS BEEN GROWING. THREE YEARS AGO, THE PINE LAKE ASSOCIATION OF INVOLVED NEIGHBORS (PLAIN) ESTABLISHED A GREENSPACE FUND, WHICH IT HOLDS IN TRUST FOR THE CITY. OVER THE PAST 4-5 YEARS, CITIZENS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FUND IN A VARIETY OF GRASSROOTS WAYS: DONATIONS AT CONCERTS IN THE PARK, RAFFLES DURING THE CITY'S ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVALS, PROCEEDS FROM A CITY-WIDE YARD SALE, ETC. ALTHOUGH THE FUND IS CURRENTLY VERY MODEST (A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS), IT REFLECTS UNTAPPED POTENTIAL FOR DIRECT CITIZEN FUNDRAISING (NAMING A BENCH OR A SIGN FOR A DONOR, ETC.)

ADDITIONALLY, THE CITY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AT IDENTIFYING, APPLYING FOR, AND OBTAINING GRANTS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THESE PROJECTS. SINCE THESE TYPE PROJECTS ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY, THE CITY CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR FOUNDATION GRANTS AND OTHER PUBLIC MONEY WHICH CAN BE PURSUED. THE CITY UTILIZES MANY SOURCES TO HELP IDENTIFY THESE POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES, AND THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF MANHARD CONSULTING (SUPERVISOR OF THE 319H GRANT), GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION AND THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

THE PROPOSED TRAIL SYSTEM WILL LINK THE BEACH, BEACH HOUSE, PICNIC PAVILION, AND PLAYGROUND, TO NATURAL WOODED AREAS, DESIGNATED HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND CONSERVATION AREAS, AND CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS. THE TRAILS WILL ALSO CONNECT, VIA BIKING AND WALKING PATHS, TO PINE LAKE'S NEW BUSINESS DISTRICT ON ROCKBRIDGE ROAD, PASSING THE CLUBHOUSE ALONG THE WAY, THE SITE OF NUMEROUS CITIZEN GATHERINGS, CONCERTS AND PRIVATE RENTALS. BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS, THE FAR WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE TRAIL WILL PROVIDE FUTURE CONNECTIVITY TO A POSSIBLE CHARTER SCHOOL OR OTHER NEW DEVELOPMENT ON MEMORIAL DRIVE.

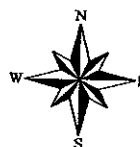


Figure 1
Project Location

Pine Lake, Georgia

1 inch equals 2,000 feet

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet



Manhard
CONSULTING LTD

March 1, 2007