

REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

On January 22nd, the PGS Division began the process of updating the Northeast Georgia Resource Management Plan for Regionally Important Resources (RIR) by hosting a regional public hearing in Athens, Georgia. The plan was last updated in 2018 and serves three primary purposes:

- To enhance focus on the protection and management of important natural and cultural resources throughout our region;
- To provide a framework for consideration of, and planning for, potential effects of new development on these resources and
- To improve local, regional, and state-level coordination in efforts to protect and manage these resources.

A nomination period for adding new regionally important natural and cultural resources to the plan is open through March 1, 2024. If you would like to learn which resources have already been identified in your community or offer ideas for resources that should be considered for the updated RIR plan, please use the following link to access an online story map and survey: <http://bit.ly/negrc-rir>.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES (RIRs)	
WHY PLAN?	
Focus on protection & management of important natural & cultural resources	Consider & plan for development impacts Improve local, regional, & state coordination

Purpose of RIR Update

2024 REVAMP PHASE IV TRAINING

On January 11th, the NEGRC’s Planning & Government Services (PGS) Director, **Mark Beatty**, and NEGRC GIS Manager **Phillip Jones** traveled to Macon, Georgia, to attend training for the statewide Roadway Element Validation and Mapping Program (REVAMP). This program, now entering its fourth phase, is tasked with collecting roadway data elements across Georgia, and this phase will include collecting information about intersections, roundabouts, median types, and the presence of edge lines. GIS professionals from other Regional Commissions, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government attended this training.

The REVAMP Program was established in 2021, initially as the “MAP-21” Program, with the intent of coordinating between the State of Georgia, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (ITOS), the Regional Commissions, and local municipalities to capture and validate information related to motorized and non-motorized transit along Georgia’s roads. By capturing, standardizing, and publishing this data, it is intended that any public organization within the state will be able to have access to the same comprehensive set of road features. The program has been recognized nationally as a success, and subsequent phases have been added to create an even more robust statewide dataset.

Data elements from Phases 1 and 2 are currently available to all local governments in Northeast Georgia, and Phase 3 elements will soon be available. If you want to learn more about the REVAMP program or want access to this GIS data, contact **Phillip Jones** at the NEGRC at pjones@negrc.org.



An example of the REVAMP transportation data collection and validation process using ESRI ArcPro.

TOM PAGE RECEIVES HONOR BY JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

In December 2023, **Tom Page** was recognized by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for his many years of public service. Tom serves as the Superintendent for Jackson County Solid Waste Department and has served as the County's representative member of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority (NEGRSWMA) since its inception in 1996. Tom has always been an active voice in his profession for our region and continues to support proactive planning initiatives for solid waste management. As he nears retirement, he will be succeeded by **Lucy Miller** on the NEGRSWMA Board. On behalf of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, thank you, Tom, for your continued service.



Tom Page receives award for public service to Jackson County from the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and the Northeast Georgia Solid Waste Management Authority (From left: Commissioner Marty Seagraves, Chairman Tom Crow, Tom Page, Brad Rickard, Commissioner Chad Bingham, Commissioner Jim Hix, Commissioner Chas Hardy)

SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2024

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff, the Georgia Council on Aging, and other seniors throughout Georgia will be at the Georgia State Capital for Senior Day on February 15, 2024. This annual event gives citizens a chance to learn about the legislative issues that impact seniors such as increased funding for Home and Community-Based Services meals, respite, homemaker, transportation, and/or personal support. It is also an opportunity to meet with legislators.

Participants are encouraged to see the legislative process up-close and personal, meet with local legislators, network, take pictures with their representative(s), and celebrate the 2024 Distinguished Older Georgian. Participants are encouraged to wear green scarves as a show of support for aging services.

As part of the event, those attending are encouraged to register, sign-up for a tour, and select a lunch option. Registration can be completed at <https://www.gcoa.org/register-for-senior-week-2024> for those interested in attending.

Pictures from 2023 Senior Week



Debra Stokes, GCOA Chair and Senior Citizen



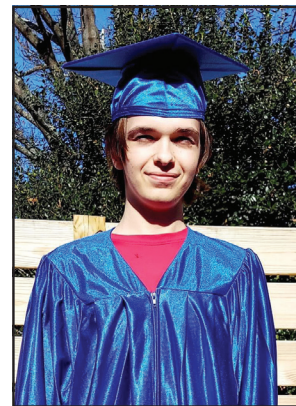


Distinguished Older Georgian 2023 Carolyn Lipscomb (center) with family, friends, and River Valley Area Agency on Staff (AAA Director Katie Howard, far left, and former Wellness Coordinator Sheree Stewart, far right)



CLARKE COUNTY STUDENT RECEIVES GED

Congratulations to **Corbin M.** of Clarke County. Corbin was enrolled in the Paxen Eckerd Connects GED course funded through NEGRC/WorkSource Northeast Georgia. He finished his GED and paid internship with the U.S. Army Recruiting Center. He started the process of enlisting in the Army in December. For information on this or other WIOA-funded/WorkSource Northeast Georgia assistance, contact **NEGRC/WorkSource Northeast Georgia** at (706) 369-5703.



Corbin M. of Athens-Clarke County

HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS FEBRUARY

9 th	10:00 a.m.	Senior Center Directors' Meeting	NEGRC Conference Room
9 th	2:00 p.m.	Area Plan Review Committee Meeting	NEGRC Conference Room
15 th	Noon	NEGRC Council	Trumps Catering