



Environmental Affairs



Georgia Power is committed to being good stewards, and compliance with federal and state environmental requirements is only the beginning of our commitment. Our education partnerships and projects work towards conservation, restoration and awareness, so that future generations will have a prosperous and beautiful place to call home. Scan the QR Code to learn more.



The Georgia Power Environmental Affairs, Growth & Natural Resources team consists of seasoned ecologists, biologists, archaeologists, and architectural historians who support all projects to ensure the consideration of natural and cultural resources throughout siting, construction, and long-term maintenance. Our strategy is to avoid impacts to our natural and cultural resources first, followed by minimization, permitting, and mitigation if resources cannot be avoided.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Georgia Power reviews proposed project sites for wetlands, streams, protected species, and other ecological resources through desktop studies and on-site field surveys. On-site field surveys include a pedestrian survey and occasional shallow shovel tests, with resources marked by blue or orange flags. Resource locations are also recorded using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for mapping and project plan sheets.



CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION

Cultural resources are places or objects created or changed by people, usually more than 50 years old including:

- ▶ Buildings and structures like bridges, railroads, and roads
- ▶ Archaeological items such as ruins, artifacts, shipwrecks, and burial sites
- ▶ Historic landscapes like battlefields or areas sacred to Native American tribes
- ▶ Cemeteries

Georgia Power conducts surveys for cultural resources to support both regulatory and permitting requirements as well as stewardship and conservation efforts. Archaeological surveys involve digging holes to look for artifacts; architectural surveys involve documenting historic buildings to identify architectural features and changes over time.

What does Georgia Power do with Natural Resources survey data?

Environmental and cultural resources survey data are utilized to assist in project siting and determining construction feasibility. Further, data are incorporated into project design by implementing avoidance of resources where feasible and practical. If resources cannot be avoided, Georgia Power is committed to minimizing impacts, securing necessary permits, coordinating with agencies, and assuring compliance with applicable environmental regulations and laws.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF RIGHTS OF WAY (ROWS)

Historically, wildfires regularly swept through Georgia, creating sunny, open spaces where certain plants and animals thrive. Today, because wildfires are often quickly extinguished, by firefighters or other professionals, to protect homes and property, these open areas have mostly disappeared.

Powerline corridors (called rights-of-way or ROWs) now provide some of the best remaining open habitats. The way Georgia Power maintains these areas - keeping vegetation low - functions much like natural fire, supporting the growth of rare plants such as Georgia Aster, Smooth Coneflower, and Hairy Rattleweed. These spaces also support important wildlife like the Gopher Tortoise, Eastern Indigo Snake, Monarch Butterfly, Pocket Gopher, and a variety of grassland birds.

Rights of Way (ROWs) also serve as travel corridors for wildlife and can offer hunting opportunities for game species. As part of our commitment to stewardship, Georgia Power is continually evaluating new methods and strategies to improve habitats on our ROWs for the species that call Georgia home.

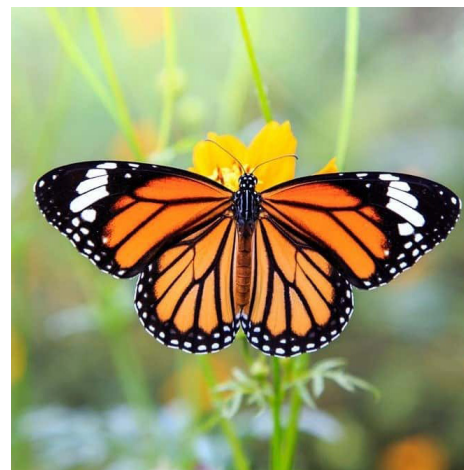
GOPHER TORTOISE



SMOOTH CONEFLOWER



MONARCH BUTTERFLY



If you own land that includes utility ROW and want to manage it for wildlife, you can get help through Project WINGS, which offers financial and technical assistance.

Learn more at [tworiversrwd.org/programs](https://www.tworiversrwd.org/programs) or by scanning the QR code below.

