



## One Site Saved

Swann's Mill, a Reconstruction-era gristmill on the Alcovy River, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 for its engineering, architectural, industrial and social history. The property, located in Gwinnett County, was built between 1868 and 1879, and used by farmers to grind grain into flour or meal. Besides the historic mill, this complex includes a dam, two mill races, sluice gates and a waterwheel.

With funds in hand designated to preserve greenspace, Gwinnett paid \$350,000 for the mill and 12 acres east of Lawrenceville, calling the area a "significant piece of the county's history, and the first step in preserving important historical sites for future generations."

Thanks to the greenspace program, tracts like this one will be preserved for future study, allowing for in-depth research of mill technology and how it has evolved over time.

For more information on Georgia archaeology and the greenspace program, contact:

- **President, Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists:**  
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- **President, The Society for Georgia Archaeology:**  
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- **Georgia Greenspace Commission:**  
[www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/greenspace](http://www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/greenspace)
- **Archaeology Unit, Historic Preservation Division: 404-657-1367**



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# Archaeology & Georgia's Greenspace Program



## What is The Greenspace Program?

The Georgia Greenspace Program makes state funds available to local governments to purchase and preserve land, historic resources, archaeological sites or locations that protect water quality. Introduced during the 2000 Legislative session by Governor Roy Barnes and passed by lawmakers, its goal is to assist eligible counties with safeguarding 20% of their land as greenspace.

Successful greenspace acquisitions that conserve archaeological sites:

- **Augusta Canal, City of Augusta**  
Dating to 1845, this site features one of the most intact canal systems in the U.S., including original locks, headgates and an aqueduct.
- **Rocky Face Ridge, Whitfield County**  
The property contains Civil War fortifications, including trench works and cannon emplacements.
- **Fort Hawkins, City of Macon**  
In 1806 the U.S. government constructed Fort Hawkins on Georgia's "frontier." The grounds show evidence of this fort as well as habitation by local Native Americans.
- **Brown's Mill Battlefield, Coweta County**  
This land marks a battle stemming from an ambush of Union soldiers by Confederate troops on July 30, 1864, during General Sherman's campaign.

## Typical Archaeological Sites in Georgia:

Native American camps, villages, mounds, quarries, fish traps, burial grounds; historic houses, mills, ferries, bridges, battlefields, shipwrecks, factories, cemeteries, towns

### Swann's Mill Dam & Raceway



In recent years, many of Georgia's mills have been recorded as archaeological sites.

## Incorporating Archaeological Resources as Greenspace

### Locate

- Every county in Georgia contains undeveloped greenspace areas
- Much of this land is flood plain and wetlands along stream corridors
- Many of these locations contain archaeological sites
- Investigate prospective greenspace areas for archaeological sites
- Examine places that link greenspaces (via roads, footpaths, etc.) for historical features

### Acquire

- Consider areas with potential archaeological sites for greenspace purchase
- Increase creek and river buffers to include these locations
- Purchase known and newly discovered sites

### Protect

- Record newly discovered sites in the Georgia Archaeological Site File
- Preserve these lands and the information they contain for future generations
- Encourage scholarly, professional research

### Interpret

- Choose important sites (or parts of sites) to interpret to the public
- Use these protected places to boost heritage tourism in your county
- Incorporate interpreted findings into multidisciplinary education tools for county schools, youth groups, elder-learning experiences, and community organizations