



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
School of Law
Land Conservation Clinic

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

<https://landconservation.law.uga.edu/>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

This semester, the
Land Conservation
Clinic published:

Local Wetlands Protection Primer

An overview of
wetland protection
options for local
governments

Condemnation FAQ for Land Trusts

A guide to the
condemnation
process for land
trusts, with a focus
on the
condemnation of
conservation
easements

*Publications available
via our website.*



Spring 2025 Clinic students visited a local 223-acre conservation property to learn about the landowner's innovative efforts to enhance biodiversity.

SEMESTER IN REVIEW

UGA's Land Conservation Clinic assists conservation efforts around the state

During the Spring 2025 semester, UGA's School of Law Land Conservation Clinic welcomed fourteen students (eight law students, five Master's in Ecology students, and one Master of Landscape Architecture student) who served eight clients from across Georgia, including regional nonprofits, local land trusts, and local government staff. From legal research to site visits, this semester's students supported their clients' goals and addressed client requests while expanding their knowledge of conservation law, science, and practice.



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In Spring 2025, Land Conservation Clinic students:

- Drafted conservation easements that will protect over 600 acres in South Georgia.
- Completed publications on wetlands protection (Local Wetlands Protection Primer) and the condemnation process (Condemnation FAQ for Land Trusts).
- Assisted a land trust client with annual monitoring, and inventoried conserved properties, collecting data on habitat types, watershed, and conservation purposes to create a story map illustrating the impact of the client's work.
- Reviewed state conservation land bank programs that fund permanent land conservation and drafted a statute to establish a Georgia prototype.
- Created a template conservation easement that provides for the creation and use of a public bike trail.
- Drafted a single tract trail easement, designed to minimize impact to the landowner's land while supporting alternative transportation efforts.
- Provided an overview of federal and state scenic river programs, with a focus on river and land protection.
- Researched whether the state attorney general has the ability to enforce conservation easements.
- Drafted a memorandum of understanding to support neighbor agencies efforts to eradicate invasive species.

SPECIAL THANKS

Clinic students also benefited from the expertise of the following conservation professionals, who graciously shared their knowledge with the class this semester:

Laura Hall

Oconee River Land
Trust

Lauren Gingerella

Chickadee
Conservation
Consulting

Annalise Samson

American Farmland
Trust

Erin Cork

Georgia Department
of Natural Resources

Joshua Marks

Greenmark Law

Students in UGA's Land Conservation Clinic, an interdisciplinary collaboration between the university's School of Law and Odum School of Ecology, support land conservation efforts in Georgia and the Southeast. The Clinic offers nonlitigation services to nonprofits, government agencies, and researchers. Student-led projects include drafting conservation easements, legal research, policy review, and creation of education material.