



## **Georgia Association of Floodplain Management**

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# **Press Release**

Fayette County was honored with one of two Program Awards for Excellence in Floodplain Management Awards at the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM) 2010 Annual Conference recently held at Lake Lanier Islands, GA. This award recognizes county or municipal programs, or multiple-jurisdictional programs, demonstrating outstanding local commitment to sound floodplain management. The program must document improvement to one or more floodplain management outcomes compatible with recognized goals established by GAFM, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), or FEMA; it must contribute to knowledge, methods, technology or regulations; and it must show achievement of floodplain management objectives over a sufficient period of time.

Fayette County's resolve to improve their citizen's quality of life through sound floodplain management has been on-going for many years. Fayette County participates in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) to help lower flood insurance premiums for county residents. Their CRS Program ranking is a Class 6 community; only a few communities in Georgia have achieved this ranking. Fayette County's GIS Department assists residents with inquiries into floodplain issues for their properties. They answer hundreds of inquiries each year with personalized maps of the resident's property in relation to the floodplain.

One incredibly important message delivered by Fayette County to all their residents is one that stresses the importance of green space in the floodplain. Fayette County's Watershed Protection Ordinance has been an important tool for ensuring the floodplain performs as it should; as a natural flood storage area that prevents flooding in developed areas. Fayette County has been diligent in purchasing and removing from floodplains repetitive flood loss structures; returning them to their original use of flood storage capacity and areas to promote water quality. The Fayette County floodplain management program is a deserving recipient of the GAFM Program Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management.

