

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Georgia's initial *Nonpoint Source Assessment Report* and *Nonpoint Source Management Program* were completed in compliance with the Water Quality Act of 1987 and approved by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in January 1990. The biennial report, *Water Quality in Georgia*, as required by Section 305(b) of Public Law 92-500, serves as the current process adopted by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) for updating the *Nonpoint Source Assessment Report*. Similarly, every five years, GAEPD reviews and revises the *Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan* (Plan). The Plan provides specific long term goals and short term activities to ensure the implementation of the *Nonpoint Source Management Program*. The Plan keeps the *Nonpoint Source Management Program* current and serves as an up-to-date tool for controlling and preventing pollution from nonpoint sources. This document represents a revision of the *Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan*, updated in 2000 and 2014, and will be in effect from 2019 through 2024.

The revision is intended to meet the requirements for funding under Section 319(b) of the Clean Water Act and USEPA Section 319 program guidelines published April 2013. The *Statewide Nonpoint Source Management Plan* continues to implement a watershed approach and is designed to be an informative planning document for all partners and stakeholders involved in the prevention, control, and abatement of nonpoint sources of pollution in Georgia.

This revision reflects new priorities and practices toward nonpoint source pollution control and achieving Georgia's water quality standards for fishable and swimmable waters. The Plan includes the following updates:

1. The 2019 Plan is organized by significant land use categories (agriculture, silviculture, urban, wetlands, coast, surface mining, and groundwater). This structure is a change from the 2014 version, which organized the Plan by functional areas. GAEPD chose to reformat the Plan along land use areas to better align with the TMDL development and implementation process. The Plan continues to include the comprehensive categories of nonpoint source pollution identified by USEPA (agriculture, silviculture, construction, urban runoff, resource extraction, land disposal, and other nonpoint sources).
2. The 2014 Plan was developed as an inventory of all nonpoint source management in Georgia. The 2019 Plan is intended to be a useable planning document with direct implementation goals. The 2019 Plan refocuses on long-term and short-term goals and reduces the amount of background information provided. Through this process, the Regional Planning and Statewide Water Planning sections were combined, as were the Healthy Watershed Initiatives and 319 Grants sections. The New Tools and Watershed Prioritization sections were identified as providing historical value, but no new goals or recommendations. As a result, these sections were removed. No other sections were removed in this revision.
3. The 2019 Plan includes a number of new or updated goals under each chapter and section. Completed goals, such as the update to the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual or the approval of the Coastal Nonpoint Source Program, have been removed. Goals have been updated to refocus on current nonpoint source management priorities and lessons learned.