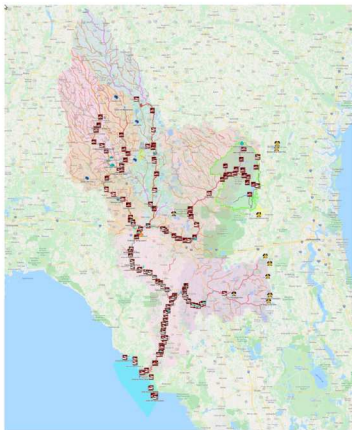
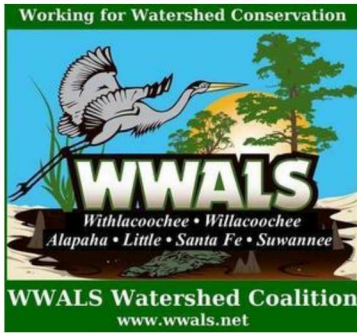


January 23, 2023



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WWALS is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity est. June 2012

WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

Suwannee RIVERKEEPER® is a program and a paid staff position of WWALS.



To: Lowndes County Commission and Staff

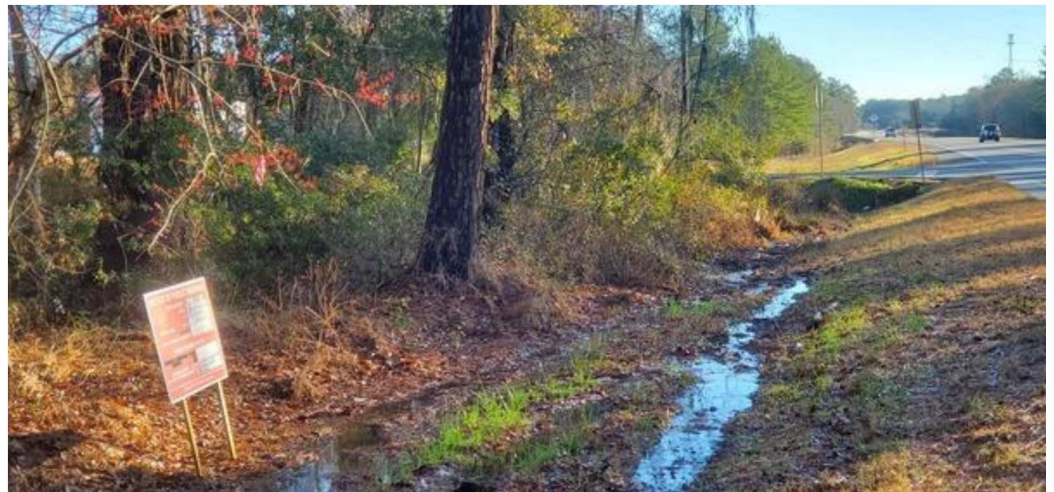
Re: **REZ-2022-20 for a Dollar General, GA 122 @ Skipper Bridge Road**

Please deny the proposed rezoning at GA 122 and Skipper Bridge Road from Estate Agriculture to Crossroads Commercial.

We don't need more clearcutting, impervious surface, petroleum runoff, and trash, uphill from the Withlacoochee River, setting a precedent for further sprawl into a forestry and agricultural area, costing the county money, and everybody downstream as well.

This rezoning decision affects the entire county and everybody downstream all the way into Florida, for drinking water, flood prevention, wildlife, river water quality, and quality of life.

The applicants' site plan shows wetlands, which in heavy rains drain to road ditches that drain south under GA 122 and then east under Skipper Bridge Road into Poley Branch, then into the Withlacoochee River, then downstream, with styrofoam breaking up into pieces eaten by wildlife that cannot digest it.



The county litter crew is doing great work cleaning up litter at river access sites. But trash from the rezoning site and tossed by customers would reach the river on the other side and well downstream from Hagan Bridge Landing.

The 2009 and 2013 "700-year" floods that closed the Hutchinson Mill Creek Skipper Bridge Road bridge and many others throughout the county were not caused by record rains, rather by too much clearcutting and impervious surface. Clearcutting for a store and impervious surface for a parking lot would cause more runoff and flooding.

All [the letters received by the county](#) on this subject [as of Friday](#) are opposed, and as of this morning 180 people had signed [a petition against the rezoning](#).

Opponents include concern that the other 112 acres of that property would next want to be developed, followed by more. That is [what happened on Val Del Road](#), when the county extended water and sewer lines for Nelson Hill back in 2007. Val Del sprawl now reaches almost all the way north to GA 122. Skipper Bridge Road, much closer to