



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Savannah District

NEWS RELEASE

Corps of Engineers resolves wetlands violation in McIntosh County, Ga.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVANNAH, GA. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has resolved a Clean Water Act enforcement action against the developers of Waterfront Paradise, LLC. Developers Anthony D. Silva and Joseph Soares agreed to restore wetlands destroyed when they failed to obtain authorization from the Corps of Engineers before clearing property located along Young Man Road in McIntosh County, Ga.

Beginning in March 2007, local contractors working for the developer cleared, stumped, filled and graded approximately 11 acres of wetlands on a marsh hammock. This resulted in unauthorized filling of wetlands subject to US Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The work also resulted in erosion into the Julinton River.

The developers agreed to resolve the violation by restoring the wetlands and replanting trees. In addition, the owners will protect the approximately 11 acres of restored wetlands and approximately 20.13 acres of upland marsh hammocks by recording a Declaration of Conservation Restrictions eliminating any future development in the affected area. As compensation for the temporary loss of functions of the wetlands, developers will purchase mitigation credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank. As part of the resolution, the Corps of Engineers will accept and process an application from the owner requesting to fill 0.107 acres of wetlands for two road crossings necessary to access the upland areas on the site.

“Our dedicated professionals work with the public to help them navigate environmental regulations to avoid this type of violation,” said Col. Ed Kertis, Commander of the Savannah District of the Army Corps of Engineers. “The Corps provides programs and workshops to help the public understand it is best to coordinate with the Corps before beginning any project that impacts wetlands. In this case the developer wins by avoiding prosecution and the public wins by having important wetlands restored and protected.”

The Savannah District oversees the CWA involving wetlands in Georgia.

The Georgia Coastal Resource Division (CRD) also brought an enforcement action against the developers. CRD has jurisdiction over coastal marshlands under Georgia state law.

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