



STATE OF GEORGIA

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Sonny Perdue**  
**GOVERNOR**

For Immediate Release  
Thursday, June 7, 2007

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**Governor Perdue Announces Land Conservation Grants and Loans  
to Protect Coastal Marsh and Historic Civil War Site**

*Cities of Tybee Island and Chickamauga Receive Awards*

ATLANTA – Today Governor Sonny Perdue announced two cities as recipients of Georgia Land Conservation Grants and Low Interest Loans. The cities of Tybee Island and Chickamauga will receive land conservation grants and Chickamauga was also approved for a low interest land conservation loan. Individual grant and loan amounts, as well as project descriptions are listed below.

“This funding and this program represent a collaborative approach to conservation,” said Governor Sonny Perdue. “These are good projects and the cities receiving this support from the state are both providing significant funding as well. I’m pleased that these local natural and cultural resources will be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come.”

In April 2005 Governor Perdue signed into law the Georgia Land Conservation Act, an initiative to encourage the long-term conservation and protection of Georgia’s natural, cultural and historic resources. The legislation established an initial trust fund and a revolving loan fund of \$100 million in state, federal and private funding, available to local governments and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purchase of conservation lands and conservation easements. Another \$47.3 million in state funding will be available in fiscal year 2008 which begins in July. Thus far the program has endorsed 34 projects totaling over 37,000 acres.

According to the Land Conservation Act, conservation lands are permanently protected lands that are undeveloped and meet one or more of the goals of the Land Conservation Act. These goals include water quality protection, flood protection, wetlands protection, reduction of erosion, protection of riparian buffers and areas that provide natural habitat and corridors for native plant and animal species, protection of prime agricultural and forestry lands, protection of cultural and historic sites, scenic protection, recreation including boating, hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting and the connection of areas contributing to these goals.

Applications for land conservation grants or loans are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. Applications can be found at [www.glcp.org](http://www.glcp.org).

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>	<b>Grant/Loan</b>
City of Tybee Island	14	Acquisition is on the north end of Tybee Island and protects salt marshes adjacent to the Savannah River estuary. Property contains primarily native salt marsh wetlands and maritime stand forest habitats. Property has outstanding scenic values and includes raised grade of the old Tybee railroad which the city will manage as part of their walking and bike trail with public access. Additional contributions in funding are being provided by the city and Chatham County.	<b>\$206,000 grant</b>
City of Chickamauga	7	This project protects the Gordon Lee mansion historic site and grounds with historical values dating from Cherokee settlements, to antebellum Georgia, to the Civil War, and beyond. Constructed in the 1840's, the mansion served as the main hospital for both sides during the Battle of Chickamauga, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> bloodiest battle of the Civil War. The historic post war Blue/Gray barbeque was held here in 1889 and attended by 14,000 surviving veterans of the battle. The mansion houses a large collection of period furnishings and artifacts. The city will use the property as a living history center. Additional contributions in funding are being provided by the current property owner, the city, and private foundations.	<b>\$365,000 grant and \$875,000 low interest loan</b>