

WaterFirst! Community Program

In additional efforts to maintain the water quality in the Coosa River Basin, Rome became a designated member of WaterFirst! in 2007. The WaterFirst! Community Program is a conjunction of local governments, state agencies and organizations that are dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of water in Georgia. WaterFirst! recognizes the importance of the close relationships communities share with the waters that bridge them together. The program honors those communities who have devoted themselves to better the lives of those within the state of Georgia through the advancement of water quality monitoring and the enactment of stricter water management regulations.

Since 2003, nearly twenty other Georgian communities have demonstrated excellence in the following seven required categories of the WaterFirst! Community Program: Watershed Assessment, Stormwater Master Planning, Wastewater Treatment and Management, Water Supply Planning, Water Supply Protection, Water Conservation and Water Reclamation and Reuse. Each of these fields is important in reaching higher qualities of water for health and economic benefits. Once selected as a WaterFirst! Community, the designees are honored with road signs and a certificate acknowledging their great achievements. The communities also will become eligible for other benefits, including reduction on GEFA, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, interest rates on future loans for water associated projects.

For more information on the WaterFirst! Community Program, please visit the Department of Community Affairs by [clicking here](#).

