CITY OF MOLENA

ORDINANCE NO. 31

SENSITIVE LAND – WETLANDS

Whereas, the wetlands within Molena, Georgia are indispensable and fragile natural resources with significant development constraints due to flooding, erosion and soils limitations. In their natural state, wetlands serve man and nature. They provide habitat areas for fish, wildlife, and vegetation; water quality maintenance and pollution control; flood control; erosion control; natural resource education; scientific study; open space; and recreational opportunities. In addition, the wise management of forested wetlands is essential to the economic well-being of many communities within the State of Georgia; and

Whereas, nationally, a considerate number of these important natural resources have been lost or impaired by draining, dredging, filling, excavating, building, pollution and other acts. Piecemeal or cumulative losses will, over time, destroy additional wetlands. Damaging or destroying wetlands threatens public safety and general welfare; and

Whereas, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs have determined that each local government with classified wetlands located in its jurisdiction must adopt a Wetlands Protection Ordinance under the requirements of House Bill 215, Georgia's 1989 Growth Strategies Legislation and the rules promulgated thereunder.

Now, therefore, be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Molena, Georgia, and by the authority thereof, and in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter, the laws of the State of Georgia, and pursuant to the Police Powers of the Mayor and City Council and for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Molena, the Mayor and City Council do hereby approve, establish and adopt the Wetlands Protection Ordinance and its policies to ensure maximum protection for wetlands by discouraging development activities in wetlands that may adversely affect wetlands.

Approved and adopted this 9th day of February, 2004

/s/_____
Mayor

/s/_____
Council Member

/s/_____
Council Member

/s/_____
Council Member

/s/_____
Council Member

/s/_____
Council Member

Attest:

/s/_____
City Clerk