

COMMUNITY MEETING - PHASE II: BUCK HALL

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WITH NATURE



What you love about your community:

- Rural and free (A quiet, close knit place with no traffic, no HOA, and the freedom to manage their own property)
- Natural beauty (Spring flowers, wooded areas, and views of waterways)
- Tight-knit and proud of generational ties, strong Black history and pride in community
- Neighborly and resilient (People check on each other after storms and are willing to pitch in to maintain ditches and roads)



Challenges you face:

- Neglect and lack of service (Despite paying taxes, residents feel forgotten; little maintenance, stormwater taxes not benefiting the area)
- Roads and safety issues (Overhanging branches scratch cars, illegal dumping, speed and debris hazards; need for speed bumps and lighting)
- Loss of local nature and wildlife (Mulberries, peaches, pecans, and blackberries are mostly gone; bees and butterflies have disappeared)
- Ditch ownership by two different entities creates poor management and inconsistent maintenance (Leading to overgrown and completely filled in ditches that do not work properly)



General issues we heard:

- Community closeness and traditions (Once had basketball and softball teams, holiday celebrations, crawdad fishing, and fruit picking; these traditions have faded)
- Desire to protect community heritage (Graveyards, Black history, and long standing family homes)
- Poor water quality (Wells often have high iron, sulfur smells, or contamination from septic leaks)
- The community needs more safe spaces for children and families such as recreational areas



Top Priorities / Urgent Issues (focused on Nature-Based Solutions)

- Flooding hotspots (Old Georgetown Rd., Doar Rd. to Hwy 17, N. Basket Ln., and multiple homes (e.g., 8484–8565 Old Georgetown Rd. flood during rain and high tides)
- Access to the waterways has been lost or restricted (Buck Hall landing, once a community resource, now costs \$7 and feels like it belongs more to the Federal Govt than the community)
- Ditch cleaning and drainage fixes (Proper maintenance to prevent stormwater from sitting for days)
- Flooding and poor drainage (Ditches clogged with trees, stormwater backing up yards and roads, especially Old Georgetown Rd. and Hwy 17)
- Flood waters last longer & ecosystem decline noted since Hugo (Loss of butterflies, dragonflies, etc.)



Notes / Comments:

Key Takeaways:

Buck Hall residents treasure their **quiet, rural**, and **historic community** but feel **neglected and underserved** despite paying taxes. Urgent priorities include **ditch cleaning, road and tree maintenance, clean drinking water**, and **safe spaces for youth**. Protecting the **community's heritage, families**, and **natural environment** is essential as flooding worsens, water quality declines, and traditional ways of life disappear