



**CHATTAHOOCHEE  
RIVERKEEPER®**



North Georgia  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, January 24, 2022

**North Georgia Community Foundation awards funding to support Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's  
community water testing program**



*From left to right: Rob Fowler of the NGCF Board; Dale Caldwell, CRK Headwaters Director; Mallory Pendleton, CRK Headwaters Outreach Manager; Linda Foster of the NGCF Board; and Robert Shippey of the NGCF Board.*

Far too often, creeks flowing into Lake Lanier carry bacteria, sediment, fertilizers, and other sources of pollution. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) aims to fight this problem in 2022 and beyond with the help of a 2021 Community Grant from the North Georgia Community Foundation (NGCF).

CRK's Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) program equips volunteers with the gear and knowledge needed to collect samples from waterways in Hall, Forsyth, White, and Habersham counties. Volunteers then bring the samples in to CRK's Gainesville office, where they are tested for bacteria and a number of important indicators of water quality – thus working to secure the environmental health of the residents of these counties

and empowering partners to find pollution in urban, industrial, and rural areas. Data collected through NWW is not only used to help CRK and other stakeholders understand local threats to our water, but that data is also shared online, meaning anyone, anywhere can help keep watch over our waters.

NWW has been active in the Headwaters region since 2012, with more than 75 volunteers participating and more than 6,000 samples collected, processed, and analyzed by CRK staff and student interns. Data from the more than 750 weekly samples taken in 2021 was shared publicly on the [CRK](#) and [Georgia Adopt-A-Stream](#) websites. The program currently engages 17 volunteers and partner organizations including Soque River Watershed Association, The Village at Deaton Creek Homeowners Association Community, and North Georgia Technical College, who collect water samples at 35 stream sites in the Headwaters region.

As the population dependent on water from the Chattahoochee's headwaters grows, so does the need for NWW and additional efforts to curb threats like stormwater runoff, wastewater pollution, wasteful water use, and changes to the natural landscape. The Community Grant from NGCF will play an important role in protecting Lake Lanier and its surrounding waterways for all who depend on it.

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### **About North Georgia Community Foundation**

Founded in 1985 by a group of citizens interested in encouraging philanthropy and strengthening communities, the North Georgia Community Foundation was built by the community to serve the community and exists today to strengthen our region by inspiring giving, investing in nonprofit organizations and mobilizing action. The North Georgia Community Foundation helps people and non-profits invest generously in the lives of those who call our community home. The North Georgia Community Foundation (NGCF) Community Grants and W. Frank and Lillie Mae Green Grants seek to fund organizations and programs designed to improve the quality of life in North Georgia.

### **About Chattahoochee Riverkeeper**

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to educate, advocate and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, including its lakes, tributaries, and watershed, in order to restore and conserve their ecological health for the people and wildlife that depend on the river system and in recognition of the important ecosystem functions provided throughout the region and planet. Established in 1994, the nonprofit organization is the 11th licensed program of more than 350 within the international Waterkeeper Alliance movement. Since its inception, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has grown to include more than 10,000 passionate members. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper employs a variety of strategies to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and watershed, including water monitoring and testing, education, research, trash cleanups, legal action, and advocacy.

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