



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

Celebratory relay down entire Chattahoochee proves diversity of those who depend on river

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's 435-mile Relay Down the Hooch has completed its journey through the river's headwaters and has begun its trek through Metro Atlanta with the help of a number of local businesses and stakeholders.

Relay Down the Hooch is a year-long, Olympic-style relay from the river's source in the North Georgia mountains down to the Florida border. The event celebrates 25 years of keeping watch over the Chattahoochee River—the lifeblood of our region.

Many sections of the Relay are done thanks to dedicated group efforts. In fact, four legs of the Relay will take place back-to-back on June 28 with the cooperation of four local partners. Shoot the Hooch will lead the Relay from Island Ford Park to Don White Memorial Park. They will then pass our custom paddle – which is serving as the Relay's baton – to the Atlanta Rowing Club and Junior Rowing Club, who will carry it along to the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Volunteers with the CNC will continue the Relay by paddling to Mile 314 before passing the paddle to High Country Outfitters, who will wrap up this segment at Morgan Falls Overlook Park.

As the river flows south into the more densely populated Northern Atlanta suburbs, it is faced with a number of stressors. More than 5 million people throughout Metro Atlanta depend on the Chattahoochee for drinking water. The variety of partners taking part in the Relay Down the Hooch serves to illustrate the diverse scope of those that depend on the river for everything from drinking water and industry to recreation.

"Despite all the people who enjoy the river, we still see trash and stormwater runoff in this segment on a regular basis," said Tammy Bates, Outings Manager with CRK. "We hope that the Relay will help raise awareness of the issues this area faces. I'd encourage everyone to be considerate when exploring the river – leave no trace, but also leave it better than you found it. If everyone pitches in by bringing a garbage bag and picking up trash, we'll make a real positive impact."

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and tributaries for the people, fish and wildlife that depend upon it.



All are welcome to follow along as participants pass our custom commemorative paddle from community to community, and check back with CRK for events along the way. The months-long journey will end in November. For more information, visit chattahoochee.org/relay.

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Media contact: Julia Regeski, Communications Manager

404-352-9828 | jregeski@chattahoochee.org

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Keeping watch over our waters since 1994.