



RIVERCHAT

Summer 2019 A publication of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK)



435-MILE LONG RELAY DOWN THE HOOCH

Celebrates Progress of the River and CRK

2019 is a major year for Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

It marks 25 years since the organization got its start through

forcing the City of Atlanta to upgrade the city's failing storm and sewer collection and treatment system. Since 1994, the organization has grown significantly—taking on more cases to protect the river and expanding the tools available for fulfilling our mission through watershed-wide trash cleanups, on-the-water educational programs, weekly water quality testing and so much more.

As we have grown, so too have the communities that depend on the river. The Chattahoochee begins by quietly bubbling up out of its source spring above Helen and progresses to become a powerful waterway, sustaining countless industries, wildlife and recreational pursuits, all while providing drinking water to more than five million people. What better way to celebrate our shared evolution than by charting the river's entire course—all 435 miles of it?

CRK's Relay Down the Hooch is a 435-mile, Olympic-torch-style river relay from the Chattahoochee's source in the north Georgia mountains down to the Florida border. By engaging more than 25 partner organizations, outfitters, advocates and other stakeholders throughout the journey, the year-long event is drawing well-deserved and much-needed attention to the many ways that people experience the river.

"We are thrilled to invite our partners to join in a year-long river patrol," said Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth, who will be leading patrols on many rarely explored sections of the river in south Georgia. "We have made tremendous progress in water quality improvements and this is an opportunity to celebrate the river's revival."

To touch each and every mile of the river is no easy feat. Hannah Warner, CRK Headwaters Outreach Director, led several sections from the source down to Lake Lanier. "The Headwaters section is where the tumbling rapids and the wild, untamed river changes form," she said. "This is where the Chattahoochee River becomes known as Lake Sidney Lanier; without the lake, Hall County and Atlanta would look a lot different."

As the river flows south into the more densely populated northern Atlanta suburbs, it is faced with a number of stressors, many of which CRK Outings Manager Tammy Bates sees firsthand. "Despite all the people who enjoy the park, we still see trash and polluted stormwater runoff in this segment on a regular basis," said Tammy. "We hope that the Relay will help raise awareness of the issues this area faces."

A custom paddle carved from sassafras wood serves as the Relay's baton, and is being passed among an amazing cast of CRK partners as together we make our



"We are thrilled to invite our partners to join in a year-long river patrol. We have made tremendous progress in water quality improvements and this is an opportunity to celebrate the river's revival."

- Jason Ulseth, Riverkeeper,
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

way down the entire river. All are welcome to follow along as participants "pass the paddle" from community to community until the Relay concludes in October 2019.



#followthepaddle at
chattahoochee.org/relay

STAFF

- TAMMY BATES
OUTINGS MANAGER
- DALE CALDWELL
HEADWATERS DIRECTOR
- JULIET COHEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- HENRY JACOBS
MIDDLE CHATTAHOOCHEE DIRECTOR
- KEVIN JESELNIK
GENERAL COUNSEL
- BECCA KLEIN
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
- CHRIS MANGANIELLO
WATER POLICY DIRECTOR
- CLAIRE MATHIS
PSCIP FELLOW
- MICHAEL MEYER
NEIGHBORHOOD WATER WATCH DIRECTOR
- JULIA REGESKI
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
- JESSICA STERLING
TECHNICAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
- SUZETTE TAYLOR
FINANCIAL MANAGER
- KYNDALL THIESSEN
MEMBERSHIP MANAGER
- JASON ULSETH
RIVERKEEPER
- HANNAH WARNER
HEADWATERS OUTREACH COORDINATOR
- CHRISTINA YORK
DATABASE MANAGER
- JORDAN YU
WATERSHED PROTECTION SPECIALIST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- J. RUTHERFORD SEYDEL II, CHAIR
- DAVE KIRKPATRICK, VICE-CHAIR
- STEVE O'DAY, SECRETARY
- DAVID SHAFFER, TREASURER
- HEZEKIAH CANNADY
- LEE CHADWICK
- REBECCA CRANFORD
- FELICIA DAVIS
- SARAH DEARMAN
- DENISE DONAHUE
- BERT ELLIS
- MARK GREATREX
- JESSICA GRIMES
- GERARD GUNTHERT
- BILLY HALL
- VICTOR HAYDEL
- RICHARD JACOBSON
- BRYAN JENKINS
- MARY ANNE LANIER
- DANIEL LOCKE
- JEFF MOKOTOFF
- JAMIE PRYOR
- JON RADTKE
- MARY SCHREPFER
- LAURA SMITH
- CATHERINE WOODLING



Our mission is to advocate and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, its lakes, tributaries and watershed.

ATLANTA OFFICE
3 PURITAN MILL
916 JOSEPH LOWERY BLVD.
ATLANTA, GA 30318
404-352-9828

GAINESVILLE OFFICE
104 WASHINGTON STREET, S.E.
GAINESVILLE, GA 30501
678-696-8866

LAGRANGE OFFICE
35 LAFAYETTE SQUARE
LAGRANGE, GA 30240
706-882-3701

WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEE.ORG

REFLECTIONS

I've been boating and fishing downstream of Buford Dam most of my life and I have never seen the river flows this high for so long.

Last year, 2018, was Atlanta's second wettest on record. More than 20 inches of rain above normal fell and as a result Lake Lanier was above its full pool elevation for a good part of 2018 and well into 2019. During this time, the Army Corps of Engineers sent thousands of cubic feet of water per second into the river from Buford Dam to draw down the lake to keep storage available for more rainfall.

The flows were so high that downstream parks were inundated with river water and the river's banks suffered unprecedented erosion. On top of these impacts, there is the issue of safety. When the Corps is releasing at that rate, boating and fishing is very risky, and concession outfitters are prohibited from putting people on the water.

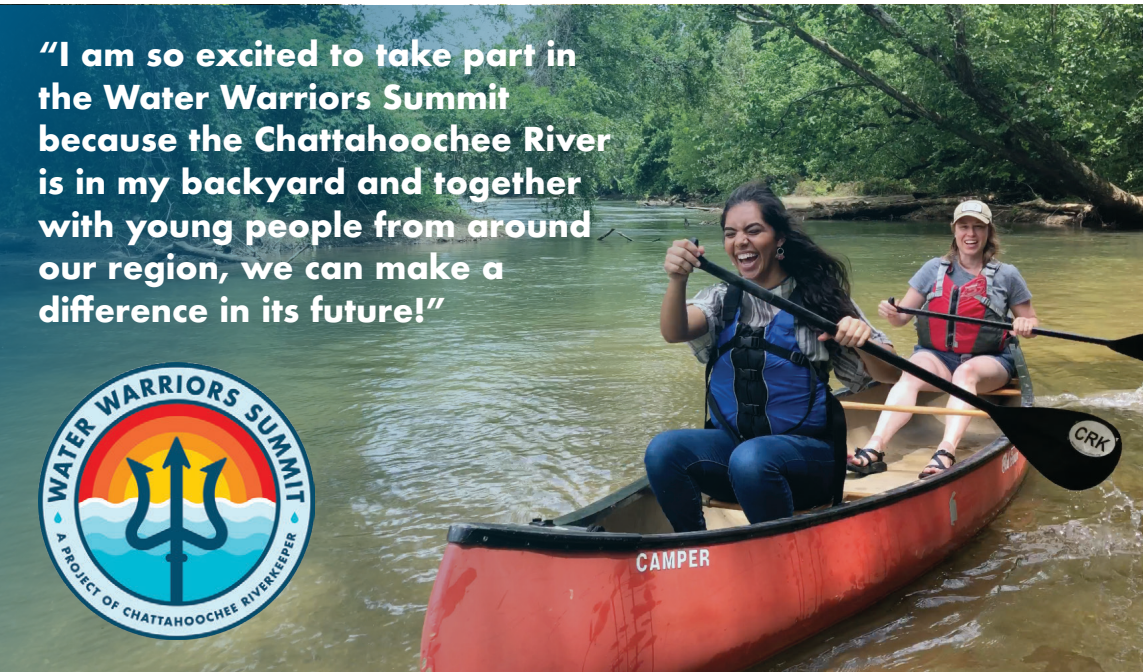
As June approached this year, we finally got some dry weather, which allowed the Corps to drop lake elevation levels closer to the established max of 1071'. The timing was excellent. The water stayed in Lake Lanier as school let out and the summer recreation season began. Outfitters were back in business putting people on the water, and visitors could safely enjoy the popular Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. How long these conditions will last remains to be seen.



This is the nature of dealing with a tail-water river. Many factors play into how the Corps controls the levels at Buford Dam, but none play a bigger role than recent rainfall and resultant lake levels.

As weather patterns continue to change and become more intense between wet years and drought years, we must find ways to adapt and regulate lake levels and river flows so it's not an "all or nothing" scenario. One potential adaptation will involve exploring the feasibility of raising Lake Lanier's full pool elevation beyond 1071' to capture rain during wet periods that can later be released during drier times. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper will continue to work with stakeholders across the basin to find sustainable solutions for river management.

Jason Ulseth
Jason Ulseth, RIVERKEEPER



"I am so excited to take part in the Water Warriors Summit because the Chattahoochee River is in my backyard and together with young people from around our region, we can make a difference in its future!"



Faces of the Chattahoochee

HANNAH TESTA
*Founder of Hannah4Change
www.hannah4change.org
Co-chair of Water Warriors Summit*

Hannah Testa found her passion for the planet in kindergarten when she spoke to her classmates and family about threats to wildlife like bears and orcas. Today, she is a high school student in Cumming, Georgia, and an international spokesperson advocating against threats to our planet, especially plastic pollution. Hannah's crusade will return to her home state where she is co-chairing CRK's Water Warriors Summit on October 13 and 14 with John R Seydel, City of Atlanta Director of Sustainability and Turner Foundation Director. "I am so excited to take part in the Water Warriors Summit because the Chattahoochee River is in my backyard and together with young people from around our region, we can make a difference in its future!"

ON PATROL WITH CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER



BUFFER DISTURBANCE ON THE RIVER IN TROUT HABITAT

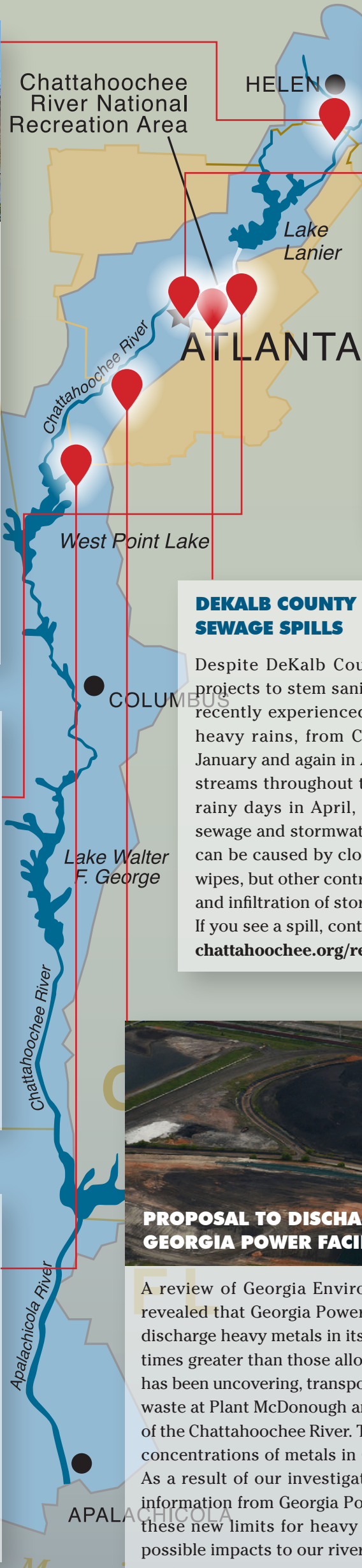
While on patrol near Sautee Nacoochee, CRK discovered the removal of trees and other vegetation within the river buffer, which is a violation of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act and Habersham County’s local stream buffer ordinance. CRK reported the violation to the Habersham County Planning and Development Department, which issued a notice to the property owner to comply with state and local stream buffer protections. This order requires the landowner to restore the buffer along the river back to its natural state by planting native vegetation during the next growing season.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION AT UNPERMITTED METAL WORKS ON BURNT FORK CREEK

CRK has filed a lawsuit to address violations of the Clean Water Act at an unpermitted iron works facility along Burnt Fork Creek in Tucker. The site is host to operations that “galvanize” metal (typically achieved by applying a zinc coating) as well as a grading and recycling company that stores metal, aggregate, gravel and concrete adjacent to the stream. CRK is taking action to ensure that the owner and operator come into compliance with Georgia’s industrial stormwater permit and prevent pollutant-laden stormwater from running into the creek.

SEWAGE SPILL INTO PARK CREEK ON LAGRANGE COLLEGE CAMPUS

CRK found discolored water in a tributary flowing through the LaGrange College campus. Testing of the creek showed that E.coli levels were 200 times the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s safe water standard. City of LaGrange utilities were immediately notified. Through their investigation, a crew discovered cracks in an old, underground, clay sewer line. The city called in a contractor to replace the lines and CRK has confirmed that bacteria levels have returned to normal levels.



WEST ATLANTA WATERWAY BACTERIA LEVELS PLUMMET 60%

North Utoy Creek near John White Golf Course has been experiencing pathogenic water conditions since our Neighborhood Water Watch testing there began in January 2017. CRK and Peyton Heights Neighborhood Association met City of Atlanta officials on site to discuss concerns and potential solutions. Inspections by the city revealed a crumbling, old, brick sewer line, which was soon thereafter repaired. The effort paid off, resulting in measurably cleaner water in North Utoy Creek, which runs near the Lionel Hampton-Beecher Hills Park.

DEKALB COUNTY EXPERIENCES RASH OF SEWAGE SPILLS

Despite DeKalb County’s progress on several major projects to stem sanitary sewage overflows, the system recently experienced a rash of major spills. Following heavy rains, from Christmas Eve 2018 through early January and again in April, millions of gallons spilled into streams throughout the county. During two particularly rainy days in April, more than 413,000 gallons of raw sewage and stormwater escaped the sewer system. Spills can be caused by clogs from fats, oils, greases and baby wipes, but other contributing factors are a lack of capacity and infiltration of stormwater into cracked sewer lines. If you see a spill, contact us via our Hotline at chattahoochee.org/report-a-problem/.



PROPOSAL TO DISCHARGE HEAVY METALS AT GEORGIA POWER FACILITIES

A review of Georgia Environmental Protection Division files revealed that Georgia Power is requesting a special variance to discharge heavy metals in its stormwater at levels more than 100 times greater than those allowed in state permits. Since 2015, GP has been uncovering, transporting and disposing of dried coal ash waste at Plant McDonough and Plant Yates, both along the banks of the Chattahoochee River. This activity is contributing to higher concentrations of metals in Georgia Power’s stormwater runoff. As a result of our investigation, EPD has requested additional information from Georgia Power and delayed implementation of these new limits for heavy metals while the division vets the possible impacts to our river..

For more information, visit: chattahoochee.org/our-work/enforcement



ONE PARK, MANY PURPOSES

Opening this summer is a new park in the English Avenue neighborhood at the intersection of Joseph E. Boone Boulevard and Oliver Street. The park is proudly named ‘The Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park’ to preserve the memory of its namesake, a 92-year-old grandmother, who was tragically killed by members of the Atlanta Police Department in her English Avenue home.

While this park will preserve Kathryn Johnston’s memory and sacrifice, serving as a reminder to prevent future tragedies, the park will also provide a place for kids to play and families to gather, support environmental education opportunities, grow healthy food by incorporating edible landscaping and reduce flooding by capturing and absorbing stormwater.

The park is in the Proctor Creek watershed, an urban waterway that drains parts of downtown Atlanta and empties into the Chattahoochee River. Proctor’s upper watershed is highly impervious, causing large volumes of stormwater runoff when it rains. Stormwater runoff is one of the greatest threats to our creeks and communities, carrying pollutants, scouring stream banks and causing flooding.

To address this threat, CRK partnered with Park Pride and The Conservation Fund, English Avenue residents and many more partners to design a “Park with Purpose,” a national program of The Conservation Fund.

CRK’s primary role in the project has been to incorporate green infrastructure design to maximize the infiltration capacity of the green space. With support from Coca Cola Company’s Replenish program, we were able to include bio-retention devices, a rain garden and two underground detention areas. The park now captures more than 3.5 million gallons of runoff each year, providing capacity relief to the City of Atlanta’s combined sewer system with the goal of protecting neighboring properties that regularly flooded.

“The innovative stormwater controls installed in Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park are an important step toward reclaiming Proctor Creek,” explains Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth. In addition to the park, CRK is heavily invested in restoring Proctor Creek through water quality monitoring, trash cleanups and our newly installed in-stream trash traps. *See story on page 11 for more about trash traps.*

SWEEP THE HOOCH STILL SHATTERING RECORDS

A record-breaking 1,154 volunteers spent a crisp spring morning in April picking up trash at one of 46 locations in and around the Chattahoochee River for our 9th annual Sweep the Hooch. Together, we removed 32 tons of trash and recycled more than three tons.

In just nine years, volunteer participation in Sweep the Hooch has grown more than 200%. The amount of trash we collect on the annual cleanup day has increased, too. In total, Sweep the Hooch has yielded 113 tons of trash being removed from the watershed. Simon Locke, an eight-year veteran of Sweep, describes Sweep as “my super bowl. The more we can get out the better.”

Volunteers serve in three capacities at the cleanup: paddlers picking trash out of the river, waders cleaning the river banks and walkers combing the grounds adjacent to our river and creeks. “There are so many people and so much wildlife that depends on this incredible natural resource,” said Tammy Bates, CRK’s Outings Manager. “It’s our duty to take care of the Chattahoochee, and Sweep the Hooch invites everyone to do so.”

Recognizing the growing interest in our cleanup program, this year CRK is organizing one cleanup a month and all are invited to participate. Our cleanup schedule is posted on our web site. chattahoochee.org/cleanups/



Thank you to our Sweep the Hooch sponsors!

River Champion: Geiger: A HermanMiller Company;
River Benefactor: The Home Depot; **River Defender:** Orvis, Reduce; **River Advocate:** Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Brown Bag Marketing, David and Gail Chester, Collective Insights, Cool River Tubing Co., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Kimberly-Clark, Ruby Collins, Inc., SweetWater Brewery, Southwire, WEG Electric Corp, WestRock; **River Conservator:** Bridgestone Tires 4ward Program, CHaRM, Republic Services; **River Patron:** American Rivers, Andrew Montgomery, Archer Western Construction, Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, Cool River Ziplines, Georgia Aquarium, Keen, North Atlanta Rotary, Rubicon Global, Thomas and Hutton; **Media Sponsors:** WSB-TV Family2Family, The Atlanta Journal Constitution

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND DONORS

FOR HELPING US KEEP WATCH OVER OUR WATERS!

January 2019 through June 2019

River Benefactor (\$10,000 & up)

Aflac Foundation
Alice H. Richards Charitable Fund
Anonymous
Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
The Coca Cola Foundation
Colonial Pipeline
Cox Conserves / Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Carole Elliott
Ellis Communications
The Erosion Company
Georgia Aquarium, Inc.
HBB Foundation
Herman Miller, Inc.
JST Foundation
Kimberly Clark Corporation
Mary Jane & David Kirkpatrick
Kim & Tom Noonan
Patagonia
Ray C. Anderson Foundation
Patti & Don Ross
Laura & Rutherford Seydel
Sweetwater Brewing Company
Turner Enterprises, Inc.
Turner Foundation
USA Storage
Van Michael Salon
The Vasser Woolley Foundation

River Defender (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anonymous
Atlanta Department of Watershed Management
Gail & David Chester
City of LaGrange
WestPoint Fund of the Community
Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley
Coweta-Fayette EMC
Jennifer & Graham Dorian
Roy A. Dorsey
EarthShare of Georgia
Elachee Nature Science Center
Shearon & Taylor Glover
Google
Abby & Gerard Gunthert
Hutchinson Traylor Insurance
Bonnie & Mike Jackson
Mayberry Electric
Drs. Sally & Pete Parsonson
Newfields
Porsche North America
Sartain Lanier Family Foundation, Inc.
Scott Hudgens Family Foundation
Southwire Company
Waste Industries, LLC
Watershed Alliance of Sandy Springs
WestRock

River Advocate (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

755 Restaurant Corporation
Anonymous
Sally Bethea
Cadmus Environmental Design Build
Collective Insights, LLC.
Diverse Power Foundation
Victor Haydel
Hewlett Packard
2492 Fund
Interface, Inc.
Mary Anne & Jaime Lanier
Mincey Marble Manufacturing, Inc.
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Ruby Collins, Inc.
Mary Schrepfer
David Shaffer
Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP
Weed Man Lawn Care
WEG Electric Corp

River Conservator (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Anonymous
Robert Beck
Mr. & Mrs. James Blanchard
Jessa & Tierson Boutte
Leslee Chadwick
Rebecca & Kevin Cranford
Douglasville - Douglas County WSA
Elements Salon
Ford & Harrison LLP
Janice & David Franklin
Judy & Ed Garland
Caroline & Mark Greatrex
HDR, Inc.
Marcia & Richard Jacobson
LaGrange - Troup County
Chamber of Commerce
Locumtenens.com
Jackie & Tony Montag
Muscogee County School Disctrict
NASCO
Network for Good
NPDES Training Institute
The Orvis Company
Peach State Bank & Trust
Andrea & John Pruitt III
Kent & Jamie Pryor
The Sapelo Foundation
John Sibley III
Laura & Edward Smith
Snellings Walters Insurance Agency
Southern Rivers Energy Trust, Inc.
C. Austin Stephens
Tipple & Rose, LLC
Christine Tryba-Cofrin & David Cofrin
Marriam Vaughn
W. Daly Salon & Spa, Inc.
West Point Development Authority
Mary & Charlie Yates Family Fund

River Patron (\$500-\$999)

Alliance for International
Reforestation Guatemala
Archer Western
Atlanta Fly Fishing Club
Debbie & Jess Austin
Brookstone School, Inc.
Michael Bufkin
Kara & Merle Campbell
Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy
Friends of Gainesville Parks
& Greenways
Gainesville Flooring
The Harris Family Charitable Fund
Teena Stern & Don Haugen
The Heritage School, Inc.
Hutchinson Traylor Insurance
The Janco Family
Chambless & Tony Kalka
LaGrange College
Meredith & Daniel Locke
Markel Service Incorporated
Jeff Mokotoff
Andrew & Katharine Montgomery
Nikles & Roach Family
North Georgia Label
Fran & Steve O'Day
Michael Rizzo
Brian Rochester
Cathy & Art Rollins
Rotary Club Of North Atlanta
Salon Venessa, Inc.
Kimberly Bowman-Scott & Brad Scott
Stephanie Stuckey
Team Dead Drift
Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.
UBS Financial Services Inc.
Unicoi Outfitters
University of Georgia
University of North Georgia
Foundation, Inc.
Barbara Vlasz
Catherine Woodling & Evan Strange

Friend of the River (\$250-\$499)

Alicia Anderson
Carolyn Appen
Neal Audet
Cory Bramlett
Lynn & Michael Briggs
Susan & Bill Brooksher
Lana & Zim Cauble
Shelley Childers
Janet Cragan
Stacey & David Epstein
Susan Ferguson
Alva Maria Edmondson & Lytt I. Gardner
Michael Hastings
Alex Hinerfeld
Joan & Bill Hoffman
Scott Huguley
Andrew & Juliette Lebor
Judy & Taylor Merrill
Tracy Moseley
Steve Oppenheimer
Jignesh Patel
Alex Peterson
Victor Prevatt
Drs. Margaret & Eugene Schaufler
Kathy Hearn & Keith Sharp
Pete Trench
Nicole & Robert Wicking
Deedee Williams
Aria Salon, Inc.
Base Brands
City of Gainesville
East Alabama Fly Fishing
Georgia Forest Watch
LaFayette Christian School
Mellow Mushroom Gainesville
Point University
Salesforce.com Foundation
Tanyard Creek Community Garden
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Trinity College & Career
Twin Cedars
United Way of Greater Atlanta

River Supporter (\$101-\$249)

AmazonSmile Foundation
Anonymous
Louie Arcangeli
Bremen Middle School
Bright Funds Foundation
Jeff Brodsky
John Burk
Julie Campbell
Douglas Caulkins
Central High School
Virginia & Robert Copeland
Mark Cumbaa
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation
Sue & Julian Duttera
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Frontstream Holdings, LLC
Cheryl & Bill Hayn
Keaton Hong
Phillip Lee
Sarah Leon
JoAnn & Steve Lyons
Rhonda & Lonny Martin
Cindy & Edwin Mayer
Phyllis Miller
Ahmed Moinuddin
Bernadette Naro
Gregory Osgood
Park Pride
Paul Popovich
Gail & Tony Pyle
Oscar Rivera
Stan Samuels
Heidi & Brendon Schwartz
Susan Smithson
State Farm Companies Foundation
Camm & Judith Swift

Chris Trainor
TRUiST
Kelley Uber
Jim Unger
Richard & Annie Wheeler
Wieuca Road Garden Club
Karen Wilkins
Mary Frances Williams

New & Renewing Donors (\$100 & less)

A Garden For Wellness
LaSha & Peter Ackerman
Chris Adamczyk
Sarah Adams
Tamara Adelberg
Joy Adjorlolo
Mark Alarcon
Richard Alexander
Amanda Alford
Stephen Allerton
Christine Alligood
Virginia & Bond Almand
Renee Alonso
Alpharetta Garden Club
Amana Academy
Paul Amato
Peggy Amend & Bob Boschman
Robert Amstutz
Katie & Scott Anderson
Katie Anderson
Jennifer Anderson
Lindsie & Mitch Anderson
Bailey Andree
Pamela & Ronald Andris
Anonymous
Kendrick Armistead Dopp
Arnco-Sargent School
Jessica Asbridge
Rebecca Ash
Bryan Ashworth
Atlanta Homeschool Cooperative
James Avans
Tobias Bacalzo
Mark Bacchus
James Bailey
William Bailey
John Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. Beardon Barnes
Taylor Barton
Vanessa Bayer
Carol Baylor
Lynn & Michael Beach
Ann & Ted Beason
Lee Becham
Cynthia Beckm
Carl Bennett
Cindy Bettis
Bilotto Family
Chris Blackman
Sharon Blake-Palmer
Skip Blankley
Brandy Blaylock
Stephen Boalch
Robin Boggs
Heidi & Steve Bohlmann
Roberta & Richard Bondi
George Boone
Philippe Bouvier
Gregory Bowerman
Jess Boyd
Joshua Brader
Christine & Charlie Bradley
Margaret & Stuart Bramwell
Nancy, Jenny & John Brandon
Lorrie & David Brandt
Ben Breedon
Laura & Sam Breyfogle
Wesley Brock
Jane Brubaker
Mike Brune
Ruth & Robert Bruner
Lauranne Buchanan

Donna Buffkin	Nicole Fiber	Conn Jackson	Kal Nanji
Isabel Buonopane	Andrew Fine	Jasmyn Jackson	Jarrett Nash
Nick Burek	David Fink	Jenny Jackson	Angelo Natoli
Liz Burlingame	Lindy Fink	Alicia & Hal Jacobs	Teresa Nelson
Mark Burnette	Carol Fisher	Ruth James	Betty & Tommy Nicholson
Pamela Burns	Cristy Fletcher	Susan Janssen	Robert Nicholson
John Burns	Chris Fletcher	JC Granite Countertops	Rachael Nintzel
Tessa Butterworth	Kathren Fogg	Tara Jensen	Taylor Nipper
Joe Bynum	Phyllis & Richard Franco	Leslie & Chuck Johnson	John Noel
Gabriela Cabezas	Gary Frank	Jeffrey Johnson	Nordson
Carol Cain	Michael Frank	James Johnson	Dustin Norton
Emily Caldwell	Linda & Frank Frederick	Brenton Jones	Jim Nuetzel
Jason Caldwell	Jennifer Freed	Joel Jones	Kate Oneal
Charlie Caldwell	Allegra & Terry French	Nell Joy	The Opportunity Group
Jillian Canada	Jeanne French	Stewart Kallam	Kenshanna Oree
Sandra Cantillon	Joan Frierson	Vincent Kane	Patrick Oults
Jennifer Carlile	Tanya Fry	Bora Kang	Lauren Owens Cash
John Carlson	Doug Fulle	Jason Karp	Claire Papevies
Brendon Carrasquillo	Suzanne Gailey	Marie Keith-Winters	Jenny Papevies
Sylvester Catlette	Mary Garrett	Alan Kendall	Michele Papotto
Kathy Cavallaro	Doug Gathmann	Susan Kenny	Richard Parker
Matthew Cavedon	Donna & Jim Gawlas	Denise Kent	Kyle Patterson
Jane & Mike Celovsky	Megan George	Jeff Kerlagon	Peachtree Garden Club
Ramon Cevallos	Samir Ghate	Claire Kern	Bob & Colleen Pelletier
Bill Chandler	Juliana Giles	Vanda Kight	Glenda Pender
Allen Chapman	Colton Ginn	Jean Kincaid	Mckenna Penley
Allison Charlesworth	Asha Gleason	Carling Kirk	Bonnie Pennington
Caroline Cherry	Lesley Glenn	Lisa Klein	David Perryman
Stacey Christ	Bobby Goldstein	Katherine Knowles	Michael Phillips
City of Sugar Hill	Lane Goodwin	Dyna & John Kohler	S. D. Phraner
Kelly Claudon	Sue & Jay Gorday	Rachael Konke	Libba & William Pickren
Fran Clowse	Hanna Gordon	Beth Kosman & Martin Pearson	Elizabeth Pickren
Jennifer Colangelo	Peri Gordon	Sandy Koziatek	Tammy Pierce
Caleb Cole	Melissa Goss	Deborah Kramb	Jan Pierce
Sally & Tom Colkett	Jess Gravitt	Joy Kramer	Ashley Plantier
Dean Collins	Todd Gray	The Kroger Company Foundation	Steven Platek
Mitt Conerly	Greater Horizons	Craig Krugman	Ronald Pless
Aimee Conners	Julia Greatrex	Karen Lackey	Melinda Pomeroy-Black
Brenda Constan & Martin McConaughy	Maris Green	Don Lane	Rosie & Bob Popp
Edward Cook	Robin & Michael Gregory	Mariana Latimer	Matthew Porter
Chloe Cooksey	Kristina Griffin	Tina Lavorgna	Samuel Portis
Caroline Cooley	Stacy Grolimund	Daniel Leach	Larry & Becky Portwood
Katherine Coppedge	Dan Grozavu	Anne Ledbetter	Eric Posenecker
Catherine Cortright	Tom Haddock	Susan Lewis	Liesel Potthast
Janet & John Costello	Carmen Hagen	Chelsey Lewis	Barb Price
Ann Couch	John Hagler	Bill Locke	Suzanne Prince
Tom Couch	Elizabeth Hale	Alex Long	Glenn Quiggle
John Courtland	Mr. & Mrs. Nedom Haley	Love Is all You Knead	Tom Rasmussen
Mike Criddle	Lillian & Mike Hall	Alma Lowry	Sylvester Ratowt
Dean Crist	Kathleen Hall	Crystal Luke	Nichole Rawlings
Denise Crookshanks	Eileen Hall	Debbie Lundstrom	Jo Ann & James Redding
Brad Crouch	Gloria & Michael Hallen	Nicole Lynn	Mr. & Mrs. Redmond
Hayes Crowley	Jeremiah Hallstrom	David Lyons	Roberta & Chip Reed III
Richard Crowley	James Hancock	Linda MacGregor	Mike Reilly
Don Curtin	Jamie Hanley	Jane MacGregor	Blythe Reilly
Kommerina Daling & Dr. John O'Sullivan	Kathleen Hanna	Lisa Macy	Doug Reineke
Amy Danzig	Donna Haralson	Holly Maddox	Connie Reinke
Hildreth Davis	Dana Harris	The Magnolia Salon & Spa	Nancy Reynolds
Edward Davis	Rod Harrison	Elizabeth Marks	Andrew Rice
Cinthia Debatin & Eduardo Crespo	Tiffany Hatfield	Nancy & Tom Martin	John Riesenburger
Clint DePriest	Carol Hayes	Mariann Martin	Rebecca Risser
Mark Dessommes	Susan Haynes	David Martin	Stewart Roberts
Donica Detamore	Patrick Healy	Brandon Mason	Alejandra Rodriguez
Susan & Ron Determann	Amy Helling	Steve Massell	Claudia Rodriguez de Sanchez
Development Authority of LaGrange	Kay Hendricks	Barbara & Art Mathis	Charles Rogers
Jackie Diaz	Anne-Renee Heningburg	Susan Mayberry	Patty & John Rogers
Melissa Dobbins	William Hess	Gayle McAllister	Larry Rogers
Rebecca Doll	Cynthia & John Hicks	Ray McClellan	Bill Roper
Maggie Dorman	Teresa Higgins	Andy McClintock	Leslie Rose
Frank Dorman	Donna Hill	Joseph McWhorter	Sandra Ross
Stephanie & Clinton Douglas	Michael Hiller	Mike Medin	Alexandria Ross
Thecla & Kevin Doyle	Hanes Hilliard	Kevin Middlebrooks	Dave Rosselle
Doug Drives	Nancy & Forest Hilyer	Melissa & Sean Miller	Sue Roy
MacKenzie Duffey	Robert Hoffman	Ann Minor	Roy Rubin
Geoff Dunn	Fran & Charles Holland	Patricia Misa	Alexander Ruder
Dunwoody Woman's Club	Avery Holloway	Anna Mitchell	Chris Runkle
Diane Durant	Meg Holman	Robert Mitchell	Roger Rupnow
Susan Edgett	Mark Holmes	Bunny Mitchell	Patrick Ryan
Betty Edwards	Michael Honnold	Nicole Montgomery	Andrew Saad
Brian Ego	LouAnn & Will Hood	Jay Moore	Zain Salim
Daniel Ehlman	Debbie Hooper	Maria V. Moreno	Sheila Sanchez
Katherine Elder	Sherry Hoover	Dianne Morgan	Susana Sanchez
Jean Ellis	Shae Hoschek	Sandra Morman	Nancy & John Sanker
Park Ellis	Rebekah Hudgins & Greg Brough	Joanne Morris	Alexandra Sawicki
Meredith Ellison	Mary Humphries	Maren Muelles	Kerry Schafer
Nancy Emmons	Hunting Hill Garden Club	Eduardo Munoz	Dixie & Jamie Schantz
Cambrie Epperson	Greg Hyde	Christopher Murphy	Mardi Schaufler
Pat Fagan	Natalie Hyslop	Sean Muscio	Paula Schlei
Jeff Fairchild	Brad Illing	Jasmine Nakayama	Patrick Schlottman
Harry Falise	Melissa Irlandez	Dave Nance	Paula Schubert

Kay Schulze
Mr. & Mrs. Scott
Barbara Seal & Don Schreiber
Leonard Seal
Laurie Searle
John Seiler
Bailey Seitter
Timothy Sessions
John Shaw
Elizabeth Shaw
Jeremy Sherrer
Carol Shifflett
James Shimkus
Ruth Shults & Charles Bradley
Stephen Signore
Elizabeth Simmons
James Simms
Meredith Simpson
Terry Simpson
Dan Skeels
Corinne Slayden
Krista Sloniowski
Richard Smith
Elizabeth Smith
Nancy Smith
Travis Smith
Smoke Rise Garden Club
Natalie Snedden
Betty & George Songer
Brenda Speir
Jeanne St Romain
Joshua Stephens
Janet & Jim Stockslager
Ivy Stokes
Mark Storrs
Sue Stoudemire
Jessica Stout
Jim Stovall
Tyler Strawinski
Mikala Streeter
Mary Strouse
Joyce Taaffe
Steven Taft
Target
Gary Taylor
Lindsey Thompson
Kathryn Thompson
John Thompson
Audrey Thompson
Dr. & Mrs. Tietjen
Servane Tonnellier
Judy Toppins
Peter Tosto
Gary & Kathy Totten
Marcia Tourtellott
Sue & Mike Tracy
Ngoc Thuy An Tran
Debi Trapp
Cynthia Treadwell
Rodney Trugman
Brian Truxillo
Pat & L.W. Tucker
Megan Tucker
Richard Tucker
Rhonda Turner
Renee Turner
Dan & Lisa Underwood
Joanne Vandewater
Lindsay Verhoff
Kathie & Richard Vickers
F. Argean Vokes
Ron Walker
Shawn Walker
Walling Family
Scott Wanzor
Sally & Ron Warnken
Chad Warren
Morning Washburn
Destiny Washington
Gail Waters
Randall Weaver
Chris Weber
Demian Weekley

Ben Weinberg
Suzanne & Tom Welander
George West
Chad Westfall
Stephen Whatley
Bob Wheatley
Laurie & Mark Wheeler
Anthony Wheeler
William Whisnant
Jon Whitaker
Kent Wiginton
Sally & James Williams
Zachary Williams
Paul M. Williams
Katherine Wilson
Diana Wilson
Sarah Wimberly
Diron Wirt
Keith Wood
Emily Woodcock
Melanie Woodward
Donna & Greg Woody
Pate Woolverton
Linda & Alex Wright
Ori Wright
David Young
YourCause, LLC
David Zenner

Monthly Sustainers/
Employee Giving

William Bell
Dana Marie Bruce
Joshua Crane-Whittington
Brian & Mary Anne Ericson
John Fitzgibbon
Gavin Gaffney
Mary Lou & Richard Gennings
Benjamin Hansen
Serina Hardiman
Moshe Jacobson
Candice & Craig Kalin
Stephen M. Klein
Joseph Lyle
Stephen McNair
Diane Morgan
Jessica Rossi
Stephen P. Sandiford
Daniel Schorr
Christal Threadgill
Antonia Treverton
Matthew Walker

*CRK receives 100% of Board and
Employee Giving

In Honor of/Memorials

In honor of Alex Barton
Michalene Donegan

In honor of Sally Bethea
Romay & Roger Rupnow

In honor of Emma Bones & Brian Wier
Joseph Charbonnet

In honor of Laura Breyfogle
John B. Scott Jr.

In honor of Chandan & Papiya Dutta
Aparna Bhattacharyya
Ravijumar Manddavilli
Shailesh Sarda

In honor of Steve Einbender
Gregory Miller

In memory of Dave Futrell
Anonymous

In memory of Fred C. Gozzi
Marie Gozzi
Helaine Markewich

In honor of Jeff Hattrick
Lindsay Hattrick

In honor of Paula Heer
Ansley Park
Susan Antinori
AG & Linda Ciavarelli
Vision Hardscapes of Atlanta

In honor of Fran Holland
Susan Martin

In honor of Gatis Kandis
Patricia Mathu

In memory of Joe Kidd
Mark Barton
Susan A. Kidd
Leon Farmer & Co.
Beth & Roger Nott
William C. Stephens

In honor of John McCloskey
Paul Miller

In memory of Jon McPhail
Jasmine Jackson

In memory of Preston Miller
Cedric Stafford

In memory of Woody Miller
Kate Khalifeh

In honor of Rebecca Powell
Ilene Klein

In honor of Nancy, Laura & Joel Rirrall
Martha Wilson

In memory of Eric Scheibler
Cynthia Devine

In honor of Jessica Sterling
Atlanta International School

In honor of Elena Tassanel
Clarissa Hutchinson

In honor of Daniel Weisman
Eric Weisman

In honor of Jeanne & Dan Woodward
David Thorne

Gifts In-Kind

Ace Hardware - North Hall
Alpharetta Outfitters
American Rivers
Appalachian Outfitters
ARI Auto
Wes Ashcraft
Atlanta Botanical Gardens - Gainesville
Atlas Pizza
Bare Bones Steakhouse
Bending Branches
Best Friends on the Lake
Pooch Pontoon
Bookshelf Photography
Brenau Downtown Center
Brewster's
Bridgestone
Buffalo Wild Wings
CHaRM
Chicago Manhattan Pizza
Clermont Vet
Cohutta Fishing Company
Collective Insights
Collegiate Grill
Costa Del Mar
Cox Conserves / Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Crossroads Deli
Diamond Auto Spa
Dirt Road Wares
Don Carter State Park
Downtown Drafts
Dress Up Boutique
Martin Emanuel

Russ England
Eric Estrada Art
Fast Friends
Forest Hills Resort
Full Circle Reflexology
Georgia Aquarium, Inc.
Georgia Nature Photographers
Association
Glenda's
Green's Grocery
Hanalei SUP Yoga
Hardman Farm
Henry Cowan Fly Fishing
Frank & Donna Hill
Holiday Harbor Marina/Aqua Sports
Adventures
Home Depot
Honey Baked Ham
Image Boutique
Johnnies BBQ
Keen Footwear
The Kitchen at Rose Cottage
LAD's Publishing
Longstreet Café
Michael Lowe
Lumpkin Coalition
Mauri Fly Fishing
The Metropolitan Club
Mountain Man Beard Company
Nacoochee Adventures
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Native Eyewear
Natural Juice Café
Nespresso
North Hall Earth Works
Old School Antiques
Orion Gear
Orvis Atlanta
Orvis Alpharetta
The Orvis Company
The Outside World
Paradise Rental Boats
Patagonia
Pelican Pete's
Pet Pleasers Bakery
Publix (Gainesville)
Purchase Effect
Quillian's Grill
Rahab's Rope
Reduce
Rep Your Water
Republic Services
Reverb
River Through Atlanta
River's Edge On The Soque
Royal Lakes Golf
Richard Rudy
Shenanigans Irish Pub
Sliced Italian
Smith Creek
Smith Optics
Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP
Soulful Yoga
Spa on Green Street
Cheri Stone
Susan's Pet Salon
SweetWater Brewing Company
Truelove Bakery
United Distributors
Upper Chattahoochee chapter of Trout
Unlimited
Upsy Daisy Boutique
Vibe Kayaks
Vine & Cheese
White Dog Home
Wild Wing Café
Wildewood Shop Helen
Wildwood Outfitters
Yeti



With your help, we stand strong to ensure our drinking water is clean and safe
and that our Chattahoochee River system is protected for us now and for future generations.
Please become a member today by visiting chattahoochee.org/become-a-member-or-renew.

NEW IN-STREAM SENSORS RELAY DATA IN REAL TIME

“The more CASSI devices we can deploy to monitor our waterways, the more protective we can be. These devices and the data CASSIs collect will be used to complement the weekly samples collected by NWW volunteers and will help them track potential pollution issues faster and more effectively.”

- Jess Sterling, Technical Programs Director, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Since starting Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) in 2010, CRK has detected more than 90 sewer spills, effectively stopping millions of gallons of raw sewage from reaching the Chattahoochee River. While NWW has achieved an unparalleled record of success, some spills go undetected as many streams are difficult for volunteers to access and samples may not be collected at the same time that a spill is ongoing. With this problem in mind, CRK has been working to develop an economical solution since 2015.

By combining technology and learned lessons from three related initiatives, the Chattahoochee Aquatic Sensor System Integrated (CASSI) was born. In 2014, CRK worked with Ericsson’s Technology for Good program; later we utilized technology from the Stroud Water Research Center in Pennsylvania and participated in a remote monitoring project hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The CASSI is an in-stream water sensor that can gather data including temperature, turbidity, conductivity, pH and dissolved oxygen, all of which are indicators of waterway health. That data is sent over a cellular network to a web data portal every 15



minutes, where CRK staff monitors the results and looks for irregularities in the data.

“The more CASSI devices we can deploy to monitor our waterways, the more protective we can be,” says Jess Sterling, CRK’s Technical Programs Director. “These devices and the data CASSIs collect will be used to complement the weekly samples collected by NWW volunteers and will help track potential pollution issues faster and more effectively.”

In 2018, CRK launched two CASSI devices in Proctor Creek. In May 2019, we launched a third device in Tanyard Creek, and we have plans to deploy a fourth device this summer in the main stem of the Chattahoochee River at McGinnis Ferry. Financial support for CRK’s CASSI devices comes from generous donations from our members, The Orvis Company and Colonial Pipeline. Each CASSI costs approximately \$500 to \$2,000, depending on the water quality parameters being measured. “With millions of people dependent on the river for drinking water, billions in economic development at stake, and countless fish and wildlife calling the river home, this is a small investment in our health and security,” said Juliet Cohen, CRK’s Executive Director.

CRITTER CORNER: SNAPPING TURTLES

“Did you just see that rock move? Wait, it’s not a rock, it is a turtle!” If you see a large rock-looking turtle on the bottom of the river or a stream, there’s a good chance that it’s a snapping turtle. Characterized by their massive size and jagged shell, they are easily mistaken for giant river stones.

Although typically docile in water, snapping turtles will strike if provoked. The powerful jaw of the reptilian snapper can slam shut with a force of more than 1,000 pounds. For your own safety, keep your distance if you see one in a creek or along the riverbank and avoid getting too close just to take a peek—they’re more likely to strike when cornered.

The Chattahoochee River and its tributaries are home to two species of snapping turtles. The dark brown, jagged tail and long, serrated tail of common snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) can be spotted all over the Chattahoochee River and its streams, swamps, wetlands and farm ponds. These snappers are large—adult shells can reach a length of 19 inches and weight of up to 75 pounds. The largest members of this species are often confused with alligator snapping turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*), which are also found in smaller numbers within the Chattahoochee, but mostly in the coastal plain rivers that flow to the Gulf of Mexico. Alligator snappers are distinguished by their enormous triangular head and hooked jaw.

Both species of snappers eat vegetation and animals, including adult and larval insects, crayfish, amphibians, snakes, smaller turtles, birds and small mammals. Alligator snapping turtles, as their name suggests, will even eat small alligators! Snappers generally have few predators, other than humans who have been known to trap them out of fear or for food.

Despite the fierceness of these turtles, snappers represent a unique part of the Chattahoochee’s ecosystem, and are worthy of respect and awe (from afar!).



GREEN STREETS AND CLEAN STREAMS

In spring 2019, several new in-ground planters were installed along a few of Atlanta’s bustling streets, but these are not any old planters meant to showcase your favorite blooms; rather these are thoughtfully designed “stormwater planters” that will reduce flooding and other impacts from urban runoff.

The four planters were installed on either end of Atlanta—two are located in West View and two in Inman Park. Each directs stormwater off the streets and into structures filled with rocks, engineered soils, trees and other native vegetation where it can slowly infiltrate back into the ground instead of sending polluted stormwater straight to creeks and the river.

We launched the ‘Green Streets and Clean Streams’ project in partnership with Trees Atlanta. Working with cooperation from the City of Atlanta and enthusiastic volunteers, we installed the planters in strategic locations in the city to enhance local tree canopy and beautify curbsides while also reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff from paved surfaces. The initial installments were made possible through the support of the Georgia Center for Nonprofits, The Home Depot Foundation’s Building Community Network and a grant from the Bank of America.

“Trees Atlanta was excited to work with CRK on [The Green Streets and Clean Streams] project. We always want to highlight the role trees play in the management and filtration of stormwater.”

- Kelly Ridenhour, Project Coordinator, Trees Atlanta



Typically, cities manage runoff through “grey infrastructure,” a series of drains that carry untreated stormwater into underground pipes that empty to nearby streams or rivers. The Green Streets and Clean Streams project adopts “green infrastructure,” which manages rainwater where it falls and restores the natural flow of water through a landscape.

“Trees Atlanta was excited to work with CRK on this project. We always want to highlight the role trees play in the management and filtration of stormwater,” said Kelly Ridenhour, Trees Atlanta Project Coordinator.

CRK also installed water level sensors in the planters to measure their effectiveness in collecting and draining stormwater. Early results indicate the project is a success. Now, the goal is to develop a replicable, cost-effective model for implementing street-side green infrastructure installations in communities throughout the Chattahoochee watershed.



MEGA SPILL ON NICKAJACK CREEK DILUTED BY HIGH WINTER FLOWS

On New Year’s Eve, the Cobb County South Cobb Water Reclamation Facility experienced an unprecedented equipment failure. Over the subsequent nine days, an estimated 113 million gallons of raw sewage and stormwater spewed out of a manhole into Nickajack Creek just a couple of yards from the Chattahoochee River.

“Mega spills like this are one of the reasons CRK regularly tests water quality at 180 locations in the watershed each week.”

- Mike Meyer, Director, CRK Neighborhood Water Watch

CRK responded immediately by collecting and testing water samples and providing access to reporters to ensure public awareness of the event.

The deluge of untreated sewage entering the river via Nickajack Creek was evident as far as 70 miles downriver. E.coli bacteria levels measured more than five times higher than normal. Large releases of untreated sewage contain harmful human pathogens, can cause fish kills, interfere with fish reproduction and introduce nutrients that result in algal blooms and plummeting oxygen levels.

“Mega spills like this are one of the reasons CRK regularly tests water quality at 180 locations in the watershed each week. Millions of people depend on the river for drinking water every day, so our work to detect any pollution threat is critical,” said Mike Meyer, CRK’s Neighborhood Water Watch Director.

Fortunately, the spill occurred in the winter when temperatures were low and river flows were high from recent rains and releases from Buford Dam. These conditions alleviated some of the stress on the river by diluting the sewage and making conditions less hospitable to pathogen survival and algal growth. Testing conducted by our field teams immediately downstream of the spill indicated that dissolved oxygen levels remained sufficient to support aquatic life throughout the duration of the spill.

Within nine days of the equipment failure, Cobb County crews installed a bypass pumping system and the sewage spill was stopped. Our follow-up testing indicated that water quality returned to normal levels. The cause for the equipment failure remains under investigation, meanwhile CRK continues to conduct regular patrols to ensure our waters are protected.

SOUTH FULTON HAS PLENTY OF WATER, SO WHY ARE THEY PURSUING A NEW SOURCE?

South Fulton County municipalities have been pursuing plans for a new water supply source for more than 20 years. The problem is they already have access to a stable, plentiful supply of drinking water.

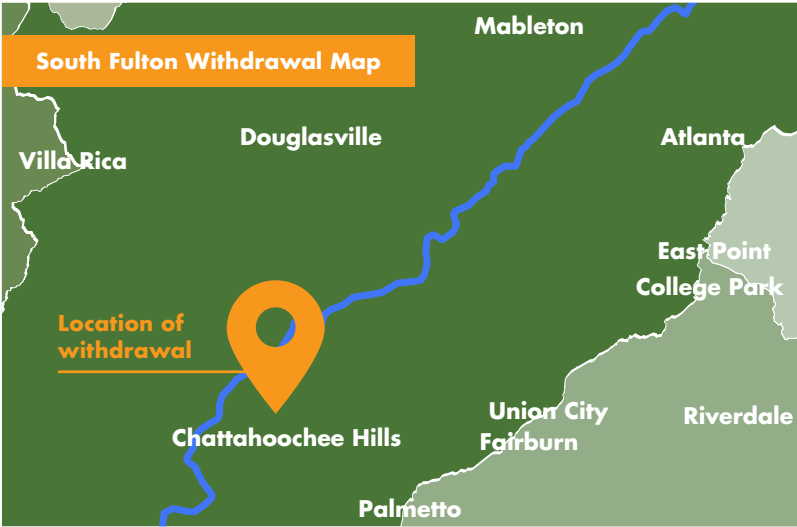
For years the municipalities’ plans included building a new water supply reservoir on a Chattahoochee tributary known as Bear Creek. The South Fulton Municipal Regional Water and Sewer Authority (Authority), made up of Fairburn, Palmetto and Union City, proposed a 440-acre reservoir that would be filled by pumping water—up to 32 million gallons daily—from the Chattahoochee River.

Different reservoir concept plans failed on multiple occasions, most recently in 2016. The primary reason was no need for the project. The state’s overly optimistic population projections—on which the Authority relied to justify the reservoir—did not pan out as officials initially expected. As a result, after spending millions of dollars on consultants and engineers to justify the project, the Authority dropped the idea for a new reservoir a few years ago.

Despite the revised, lower population projections, the Authority now seeks a permit to withdraw up to 11 million gallons per day directly from the Chattahoochee River. CRK does not support this permit request for many of the same reasons we did not support the County’s previous proposals for Bear Creek Reservoir.

First, the Authority does not have a fundamental water supply need. Two of the Authority’s cities—Fairburn and Union City—buy their water from the City of Atlanta, which is permitted to withdraw 180 million gallons of water per day from the Chattahoochee River. The City of Atlanta uses approximately 51 percent of that permitted capacity and has plenty for existing and future customers, including those in South Fulton County.

Second, population projections relied upon by decision-makers remain unrealistic. The Authority claims there will be 131,701 people living in their jurisdictions by 2065. However, this represents a 209 percent increase from the current estimated population of 41,608 people. This is an astronomical projection for three small cities when compared to Fulton County’s overall projected growth.



Fulton County’s 2018 population was 1,050,114 people. Fulton County’s projected population in 2050 will be 1,631,265 people. This amounts to only a 55 percent increase county-wide.

Third, the three cities have significant room for improvement when it comes to managing water loss. There will be even less need for a new water supply if the cities make improvements to ensure the water they bring in is beneficially used and returned to the river, rather than lost due to aging pipes or inefficient practices. It is more prudent for the cities to invest resources in addressing system management and operations to reduce real water loss instead of spending money on developing an entirely new water supply source, new water treatment facility, miles of new raw and finished water supply mains, and the associated pumping costs.

CRK will continue to monitor this permit request, and advocate for robust conservation efforts as the more cost-effective and sustainable means of meeting our future water supply needs.

Despite the revised, lower population projections, the Authority now seeks a permit to withdraw up to 11 million gallons per day directly from the Chattahoochee River. CRK does not support this permit request for many of the same reasons we did not support the County’s previous proposals for Bear Creek Reservoir.

Bear Creek; site of the Authority’s previous proposal for a reservoir.



KEEPING THE HOOCH TRASH-FREE

In June, two trash traps were installed in Proctor Creek as part of a year-long pilot project to evaluate the effectiveness of the devices in a heavily urbanized waterway.

Proctor Creek, which begins in downtown Atlanta and flows west to the Chattahoochee River, has long suffered from stormwater carrying litter and illegal dumping of trash and tires. Two Litter Gitters, which serve to collect the trash pollution, are now located near Maddox Park and Boyd Elementary School off of Johnson Road.

The Litter Gitter is designed and installed by Osprey Initiative, a company led by owner and founder Don Bates. During his 25-year career in environmental consulting, Bates found himself cleaning the same stream site repeatedly. So he built and tested the Litter Gitter with the hope that it could make a dent in the growing litter problem. The first prototypes were tested in Mobile, Alabama, where the results have been promising.

“We’re getting actual data, not just opinions,” said Don Bates. “This data will tell stakeholders exactly how much and what is collected—useful information for those seeking to reduce trash pollution upstream.”

The traps are emptied after each heavy rain by employees recruited, trained and managed by Groundwork Atlanta, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and nurturing productive community partnerships that engage local residents, youth and other stakeholders in all aspects of the work to improve quality of life on the ground. As the trash is removed from the trap, a forensic audit is conducted using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Escaped Trash Assessment Protocols; any material that can be recycled is separated from vegetation and trash. To extend the opportunities for learning and engagement, Boyd Elementary School will participate in the protocol, too.

This project is funded by the Coca Cola Foundation and aims to complement the company's World Without Waste goal to collect

and recycle the equivalent of every bottle or can Coca Cola sells globally by 2030.

“We hope that these Litter Gitter trash traps will complement our ongoing volunteer cleanup activities and will help us be more proactive in the fight against trash in our river.”

- Jason Ulseth, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

At the end of this one-year pilot project, CRK will produce a report of our findings and a recommendation as to whether the Litter Gitter can be deployed effectively on a large scale across the Chattahoochee watershed and other urban waterways.

For 25 years, CRK members, volunteers and staff have been walking, wading and paddling in search of litter in our precious river. This effort started as a result of our initial lawsuit against the City of Atlanta when 568 tons of trash was removed from 37 miles of tributaries. In recent years, we have averaged removal of 30 tons of trash annually with the help of 1,000 volunteers. In total, since 1994, CRK with our partners, sponsors and dedicated volunteers, have removed more than two million pounds of trash—equal to 25 full 18-wheel tractor trailers.

“We hope that these Litter Gitter trash traps will complement our ongoing volunteer cleanup activities and will help us be more proactive in the fight against trash in our river,” said Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth.

“We’re getting actual data, not just opinions. This data will tell stakeholders exactly how much and what is collected—useful information for those seeking to reduce trash pollution upstream.”

- Don Bates, Owner and Founder of Osprey Initiative



CHATTAHOOCHEE
RIVERKEEPER®

Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

3 Puritan Mill
916 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3363
Atlanta, Georgia



If you prefer to receive RiverCHAT electronically, contact Christina York at cyork@chattahoochee.org.

Address service
requested



Printed on 10 percent post-
consumer recycled paper.

Donations accepted at:
www.chattahoochee.org



CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY RIVER RALLY

Thank you to Interface, the presenting sponsor of the
Chattahoochee Valley River Rally!

And many thanks to the event sponsors:

West Point Development Authority, LaGrange-Troup Chamber of Commerce,
Hutchinson Traylor, La Quinta by Wyndham LaGrange, Sweetwater Brewery,
Homestyle Country Kitchen and GLL Outdoors.

WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

Many thanks to our Wild and Scenic
Film Festival sponsors:

River Advocate: Chester Family
Investments, The Erosion Company

River Conservator: Brenau University,
In Memory of Bill Vaughn, Mincey Marble,
NPDES Training Institute, Peach State Bank,
Sweet Water Beer, United Distributors,
University of North Georgia Institute for
Environmental and Spatial Analysis

River Steward: Michael Rizzo and
Andi Warner

River Patron: Gainesville Flooring, North
Georgia Label, Outside World Outfitters,
Publix, Unicoi Outfitters, Wildewood Shop
Helen

Friend of the River: Bill and Susan
Brooksher, Georgia ForestWatch, Mellow
Mushroom Green Street, Hemmer Family



UPCOMING EVENTS



October 13 + 14, 2019 at Georgia Aquarium
chattahoochee.org