



RIVERCHAT

Winter/Spring 2025

A publication of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK)

BECCA'S LEGACY

On January 21, 2025, our beloved colleague and dear friend Becca Sue Klein passed away peacefully at home after a long battle with breast cancer. Becca was a passionate environmentalist, fly angler, and advocate for people recovering from substance use disorders. She brightened many lives through her work, particularly her namesake fly-fishing program for youth, Becca Sue Klein All Kids Fish, and her nonprofit, Reeling in Serenity.

Read more about Becca's legacy of service on p. 10.

BY THE NUMBERS

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EXPLORING THE LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE

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Photo by Israel Patterson



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

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MIDDLE CHATTAHOOCHEE OFFICE: 300 Kingfisher Lane, LaGrange, GA 30240

404-352-9828
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REFLECTIONS:
WEATHERING THE SEASON

I feel at home on a summer afternoon. But when it's cold and daylight is fleeting? Not so much. From a philosophical standpoint, I understand why turtles spend those long, dark months brumating in the mud.

Though the days are shorter during winter, our responsibilities to the river continue. CRK staff bundle up for regular boat patrols along the Chattahoochee. We climb into frosty neighborhood creeks to track down pollution sources, and our volunteers brave freezing temperatures to collect critical water samples and participate in cleanup projects all over the watershed.

This winter brought more than just a few snow days. Our team weathered the loss of an amazing friend and colleague, Becca Sue Klein, who dedicated her heart and soul to CRK for 15 years. It was a great privilege to sit by Becca's side in her final days. Everyone here at CRK and in the fly-fishing community misses her very much, and it is an honor to continue her legacy through the Becca Sue Klein All Kids Fish program (see p. 10).

Before you know it, the days start to lengthen. The turtles emerge from the mud, birds begin to nest, and we suddenly find ourselves enjoying warmth and sunshine again. As the river comes alive, spring brings a renewed sense of our mission to restore and protect the Chattahoochee River, its lakes, and its tributaries for all who depend on them.

With new attacks on our public lands and environmental protections every day, these are challenging times. CRK remains committed to holding polluters accountable and protecting your right to fishable, swimmable, drinkable waters. There's fun in store, too; we look forward to seeing you at paddle trips, cleanup projects, and celebrations throughout the year! Winter, spring, summer, or fall: thank you for caring about the Chattahoochee River and supporting our work to protect it.


JASON ULSETH
Riverkeeper & Executive Director

FACES OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE:
CIRCE TSUI



Born in Hong Kong, Circe Tsui has called Georgia home for over two decades and the Chattahoochee is one of her favorite trout fishing destinations! When she's not directing a team of engineers at Emory University, Circe supports Chattahoochee Riverkeeper by participating in events like Sweep the Hooch and mentoring youth participants in the Becca Sue Klein All Kids Fish program. In 2024, she joined CRK's Board of Directors to further her commitment to the preservation of our vital waterways. Circe also promotes the joys of fly fishing through her involvement in Georgia Women Fly Fishers, Fly Fishers International, and Casting for Recovery.



HALLOWEEN SEWER SPILL

A spooky spill that's been haunting us on South Utoy Creek in Cascade Springs Nature Preserve finally revealed itself on Halloween. It required extensive tracking among spiders and snakes to sleuth out the source, but in the end our Neighborhood Water Watch team tracked down the trouble. Atlanta Watershed responded promptly to conduct extensive repairs at the base of the sewage-spewing manhole, and waters have now returned to baseline conditions. Thanks to Fred, Shaquetta, and all our Neighborhood Water Watch volunteers, we're keeping watch together!

COWETA COUNTY PASSES STRONG ORDINANCE LIMITING SOLAR FARMS

In January, Coweta County passed an ordinance in response to plans to build a large solar farm on 3,000 acres adjacent to Chattahoochee Bend State Park. Last fall, CRK submitted comments to the Coweta County Commission highlighting concerns about erosion and sedimentation from the development of solar farms. As a result, the Commissioners added a provision that limits the area disturbed at one time and requires the developers to fully stabilize the site before additional acres are disturbed. The county also agreed to limit any solar farms on land zoned 'industrial,' which does not include the land adjacent to the park.

GRAIN MILL RECEIVES NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE



A spill into Flat Creek drew CRK's attention to an unpermitted grain mill in Gainesville. CRK staff tracked the noxious smell and discolored water to a small area of the watershed where we identified a facility operating without the Industrial Stormwater Permit required to certify that industrial materials do not mix with stormwater and contaminate the river. With the assistance of the City of Gainesville, CRK brought the issue to the attention of EPD which issued a Notice of Non-Compliance in December.

TRACKING BACTERIA POLLUTION IN COLUMBUS



During weekly water quality testing at our Columbus lab, CRK detected high bacteria levels in an unnamed tributary to Flat Rock Creek. CRK staff walked the creek and found an overflowing manhole. Our team reported the spill to Columbus Water Works (CWW). Continued monitoring by CRK showed persistent high levels of bacteria; upon revisiting the site, our team found the same manhole overflowing again. CRK again alerted CWW, which responded promptly. Subsequent testing showed much lower bacteria levels, but CRK will continue closely monitoring the site.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS by the NUMBERS 2024

WATER MONITORING



310
NWW sites
tested weekly

20
Sewer spills
found and
stopped by
NWW

6,763 Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW)
samples collected and tested for harmful bacteria



217 NWW VOLUNTEERS
AND PARTNERS

84 Chlorophyll a samples collected and processed
from Lake Lanier and West Point Lake

3 Remote CASSI
devices collecting
real time water
quality data

144
BacteriALERT samples from the
Chattahoochee River National
Recreation Area tested

TRASH-FREE CHATTAHOOCHEE

2,123
CLEANUP
VOLUNTEERS

54 Tons of
trash and recyclables
removed by volunteers

3,644 Pounds
of disposables and
recyclables collected
by trash traps

14 IN-STREAM
TRASH TRAPS IN
OPERATION

40 VOLUNTEER
CLEANUP EVENTS



Scan the
QR code to
view more
Accomplishments
By the Numbers.

30TH ANNIVERSARY PATRON CELEBRATION

On October 4, 2024, CRK supporters and friends hosted the capstone event of our 30th year: the 30th Anniversary Patron Celebration. The evening at The Eastern started with a cocktail hour, where more than 300 guests mingled, bid in the silent auction, and listened to live music from Deb Bowman & The Big Love Band. We were proud to honor these deserving awardees: Georgia Women Fly Fishers, River Hero; Troup County and City of LaGrange, River Stewards; and Cox Enterprises, River Guardian.

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended in person and participated in the silent auction and raffle online, the 30th Anniversary Patron Celebration raised more than \$372,000 to sustain CRK's programs. We're grateful to all who contributed to our celebration of this milestone year.

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CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER

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FOR HELPING US KEEP WATCH OVER OUR WATERS!

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Olena Semenova
Nancy and Cyrus Sharp
Shawn Shorrock
Joanne Siemen
Ward Silver
David Smalley
Mike Smith
Kasey Smith
Susan Smithson
Neha Sood Sethi
Justin Speller
Scott Sperling
Nancy and Ted Spetnagel
Michael St Louis
Sarah Stern
Robert Stout
Jordan Strother
Donna and James Sylvan
Patricia Szall
Tony Taliercio
Tanyard Creek
Community Garden
Mel Tatman
David Taylor
Joyce Taylor
*William Teem
Jeff Thaler
Cindy and Chris Thompson
Erin Thoresen
Dr. and Mrs. Tietjen
*David Todd
Ann and Don Tolbert
Patrick Trent
Paula Trupp

Jim Unger
Union County Extension
Cathryn Valancius
Anbarasan Vincent
Sophia Voychehovski
Dawn Walker
Jim Walker
Emily Walker
Cope Walker
Morning Washburn
Pam and David Weeks
Traci Welch
Donna Werner
George West
*Hampton Whatley
Burke Whitman
Christine Whitmire
Nicole Wien
Melanie Wilder
Woodie Williams
Caitlin Williams
Justin Williams
Trace Wilson
Kendra and Paul Wolpe
Joel Wooten
Wenyi Wu
Martha Younger
Helen and Griggs Zachry
Yun Zhu
Nick Zimmer

IN HONOR OF/
MEMORIALS

In honor of Becca Sue Klein
All Kids Fish
Candace Baumann
and Gregory Herbert

In honor of America's
Boating Club Atlanta
TJ Convery

In honor of Anne Atalay
Marian Maloney

In memory of
Fred Hudson Christian III
Susan Anderson

In honor of Braxton Comer
Charles Scribner

In honor of Edward Cook
Marjorie Berman

In honor of George Davis
Tobey Davis

In honor of Milky Egan
Karen Egan

In honor of Joe Fagundes
Lisa Volmar and
Thomas M. Stephens

In honor of Noah Forbes
Toni Forbes Berg

In honor of Charlie Freed
Anonymous

In honor of Sydney Roberts
and Susanne Keough
Larimore Roberts

In honor of Dave Kirkpatrick
Mary F. and
Edward Glasscock

In honor of Rebecca Klein
Mollie Boaz

In honor of James LeMon
Rebekah LeMon

In honor of
Pamela G. Malkoff
Gregory Grossman

In honor of
Cheryl Smith's birthday
Renee Bernstein
Katherine Boggs
Marianne Falls
Allison Falls McElvery
Kathleen Futrell
Rae Ann Gerhardt
Judith Meyer and
Gene Helfman
Rosemary Munsen
Linda Rusch
Sandra Stanyer
Cheryl Usher
Jane Williams

In honor of Caleb Sparks
Joan Luerssen
Amy Thien

In honor of the
Jack Stokes Family
Pat Stokes

In honor of Ellie Sunshine
Karmen Sunshine

In honor of Sally Ann
and Erik Swanson
Laura Borel

In memory of
Robert Trueheart
Paige Gaut

In honor of Will and Ellen
Louisa Boswell

GIFTS IN-KIND

Advance Drum Service
Affairs to Remember
Alpharetta Outfitters
Ameris Bank Amphitheatre
Anonymous
ASW
Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Atlanta Hawks
Atlanta History Center
Atlanta Journal Constitution
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Aurora Theatre
Beat The Bomb ATL
Birds Georgia
Mollie Boaz
Bobby Jones Golf Course
Booth Western Art Museum
By Land & By Sea Charters
Cartecay Vineyards
Cherry Street Brewing
Chicopee Woods
Dad's Garage
Dear Elouise Fine Paper
Beckie Dominick
Elachee Nature
Science Center
Encyclomedia
Fox Theater
Friends of Georgia State
Parks and Historic Sites
Gordon Rogers
Georgia Aquarium
Great Wolf Lodge
Jillian Griffin
Gerard Gunthert
Jaimi Hanzman
Headwaters Outfitters
High Museum of Art
Jeremy Rogers
Rebecca Klein
Mary Anne Lanier

Leatherneck Fishing
Len Foote Hike Inn
Maker's Mark
Frank Martin
Mashburn
Mellow Mushroom
Gainesville
NAICS Association
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Steve Nygren
Ormsby's
Orvis Alpharetta
Orvis Atlanta
Patagonia
Pursell Farms
Reduce
Reformation Brewery
Reynolds Lake Oconee
Sandy Springs Recreation
and Parks
Serenbe
Shakespeare Tavern
Playhouse
Smith, Gambrell & Russell
Southern Environmental
Law Center
Sweetland Amphitheater
Tellus Museum
Terrapin
The Third Door
Tito's Vodka
Tonchu Martial Arts
Total Wine & More
Circe Tsui
United Distributors
UV Skinz
Van Michaels Salon
WABE
White Oak Pastures
Tom Wilson
Zoo Atlanta

*The Ripple Effect monthly
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EXPLORING THE LOWER CHATTAHOOCHEE

REFLECTION ON THE ANNUAL PATROL

The Chattahoochee River begins as a tiny freshwater spring in the North Georgia mountains. As it grows into a powerful river spanning 430 miles, it forms the border between Georgia and Alabama before meeting the Flint River and emptying into Florida's Apalachicola Bay.

Few people get to traverse the entire river. Last fall, CRK staff embarked on our annual patrol of the Lower Chattahoochee. We started in Columbus, Georgia, and went all the way to Lake Seminole. While the purpose of our trip was to monitor water quality in this part of the river basin, it was remarkable to observe the changes in flora, fauna, and geological formations as we traveled south. Here are some of the highlights.

On a cool November morning, the patrol crew met at Rotary Park in Columbus to load up our gear. We set off for Lake Eufaula, stopping to sample water quality at several spots along the way. Skies were overcast, but there was plenty of life to see, from great blue herons wading along the banks to towering sycamore trees spreading their branches out over the water. The riverbanks here are a sandy clay mixture that is typical of the coastal plain geology and give the river its notable reddish coloration.

As we neared Riverbend Park, our luck ran out. A strong storm made conditions tough for navigation, but our intrepid Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth kept us moving south. Despite the weather, we spotted herons, egrets, and other birds around every bend, bursting into flight as our paths crossed. In this stretch we started to notice water hyacinth floating on the river's surface. Though beautiful, this aquatic plant is highly invasive, clogging waterways and choking out the native vegetation.

Once the rain let up, it was smooth sailing on Lake Eufaula. Here we spotted our first alligator of the day; startled by our boat, it quickly slipped below the water. As we passed by birds peered at us from their comfortable perches on logs and buoys.

Below Walter F. George dam, the landscape changes rapidly. The river is bordered by high limestone cliffs that reveal a deep geological history, reminding us that these lands were once underwater in prehistoric times. The rocky terrain supports a different range of plant life, including ferns and other species adapted to limestone outcrops, while native trees like sycamore and birch become less common. In this area we observed eagles soaring above and large alligators basking along the water's edge.

After an overnight stay with friends at White Oak Pastures, we began the final leg of our journey in Columbia, Alabama. The river broadened and the banks softened into a more marsh-like environment. This area is characterized by wetland vegetation such as cattails and other marsh plants that play a crucial role in the local ecosystem. There were few signs of human activity, just the endless flow of the Chattahoochee River. At the end of our long journey, we cast our lines and reeled in a few nice fish.

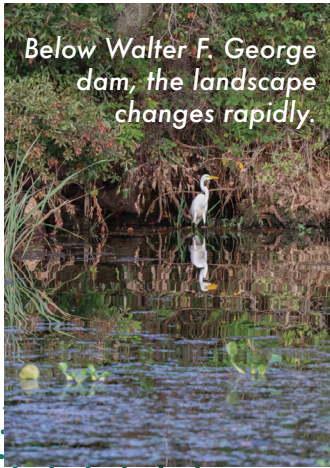
This trip served as a reminder that so many communities and wildlife ecosystems rely on the waters of the Chattahoochee, its lakes, and its tributaries. We remain committed to protecting and preserving the entire river basin now and for generations to come.



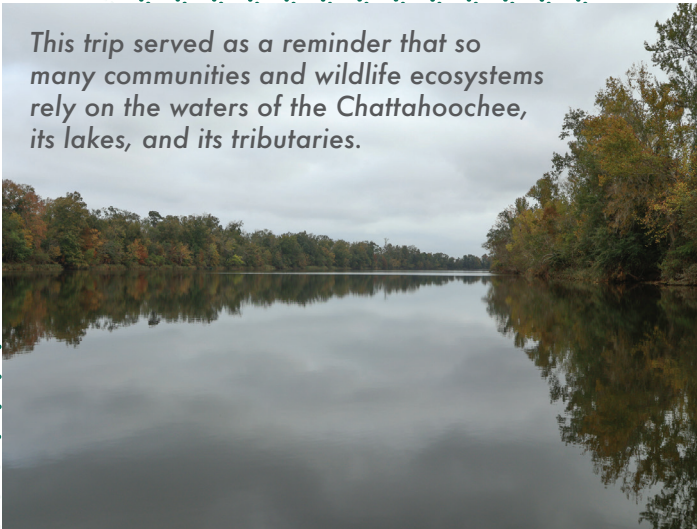
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In this stretch we started to notice water hyacinth floating on the river's surface.



Below Walter F. George dam, the landscape changes rapidly.



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ATLANTA & PHENIX CITY UPDATE

CRK remains committed to upholding the law of the Clean Water Act.

In late February of 2024, CRK detected very high levels of E. coli bacteria in the river and traced the source to the R.M. Clayton Water Reclamation Center – the City of Atlanta’s largest wastewater treatment plant, which processes up to 100 million gallons of the city’s wastewater every day before returning treated water to the Chattahoochee River.

We notified the City of Atlanta

Department of Watershed Management and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of our concerns, which prompted EPD to conduct an inspection.

In September 2024, CRK filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Atlanta for violations of the Clean Water Act stemming from its release of improperly treated wastewater. Since then, CRK has overcome the City's attempt to dismiss the case and is now looking forward to the next steps of litigation. EPD has also issued the city a fine of nearly \$300,000

for failures at R.M. Clayton.

While we remain hopeful the city and the state will come up with a solution to permanently stop illegal levels of pollution discharging from R.M. Clayton, we are concerned that a proposed order from EPD falls short. Just last year, Atlanta entered a similar settlement agreement with EPD, but the illegal pollution continued. We believe a federal enforcement order is the only way to force meaningful change, so we will continue to pursue our federal case.

Downstream of Atlanta, CRK has intervened alongside the State of Alabama in a lawsuit against Phenix City for similar wastewater treatment plant failures. CRK is represented by SELC in both cases.

Scan the QR code to find the latest updates on our website.



EXCESS ALGAE IN WEST POINT LAKE TRIGGERS STATE POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN

In 2024, West Point Lake exceeded Georgia’s water quality standards for chlorophyll-a for the second consecutive year, triggering the development of a state-mandated pollution reduction plan called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

Chlorophyll-a, a green pigment found in algae, is a key measure of water quality and environmental health. The algae grow in excess when nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) enter the water from wastewater discharges, stormwater runoff, and agricultural activities. Algae can degrade water quality, impact the taste and smell of drinking water, reduce oxygen levels critical for fish and aquatic life, and pose potential health risks to humans and animals.

Since 2014, CRK has collected water samples from West Point Lake in accordance with a state-approved sampling plan. Data collected in both 2023 and 2024 revealed the highest recorded chlorophyll-a levels in the lake in over a decade, with concentrations at the City of LaGrange water intake

station reaching nearly 30 µg/L – exceeding the state standard of 24 µg/L. Over the past ten years, our data shows a steady increase in algae levels, likely driven by nutrient pollution from sources upstream and warmer water temperatures.

Starting in 2026, we expect the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to develop a pollution reduction plan that will provide a framework for reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into West

Point Lake and establish enforceable limits on discharges upstream to improve water quality. While significant progress has been made – bacteria levels upstream of the lake have dropped by more than 80% in the past three decades – nutrient pollution remains a challenge. CRK will continue to monitor the lake, provide critical data, and work with stakeholders to ensure meaningful actions are taken to protect this vital resource for drinking water, recreation, and wildlife.





BECCA'S LEGACY
(CONTINUED FROM COVER)

Becca was a leader in the Waterkeeper movement for nearly two decades. No stranger to the outdoors, she spent childhood summers hiking the Appalachian Trail; her college years camping, skiing, fishing, and rock climbing in North Carolina; and her early career advocating for clean water with Catawba Riverkeeper.

Becca joined Chattahoochee Riverkeeper as Development Director in 2009. For the next 15 years, her fundraising talents, creativity, and passion for conservation bolstered our mission to protect the river and its lakes and tributaries. After surviving two cancer diagnoses in 2015 and 2017, Becca proudly served as CRK's first-ever Planned Giving Officer, working to ensure the legacies of our donors and the preservation of the Chattahoochee River for generations to come.

An avid fly angler, Becca often spoke about the sense of tranquility she felt on the water. She sought to make the sport of fly fishing more inclusive and accessible, and in 2019 organized what would become the Becca Sue Klein All Kids Fish program.

"These retreats invite young people to spend a full day learning about the joys of fly fishing and conservation from experienced mentors before wading into the Chattahoochee River to net their first fish," says Candace Baumann, who now serves as the program's director. "To date, Becca's program has empowered hundreds of kids throughout the region." Becca was also a member fly-fishing groups like Georgia Women Fly Fishing and co-founder of Reeling in Serenity, a nonprofit that helps people experiencing substance abuse disorder embrace fly fishing as a path to recovery. Loved by many, a celebration of life to honor Becca will be held this fall on the Chattahoochee River in Helen, Georgia. CRK is grateful to continue building upon Becca's legacy of environmental stewardship. Help honor Becca's legacy by sponsoring a child to participate in All Kids Fish. Text AllKidsFish to 41444, click the link, and select "sponsor a student."



Photo by Israel Patterson

Scan the QR code or visit chattahoochee.org/allkidsfish to learn more and get involved.

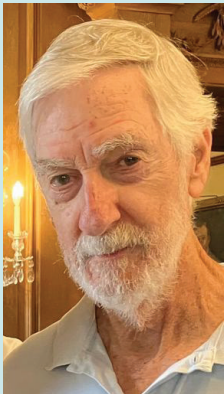


IN MEMORIAM: MIKE JACKSON

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is saddened to share the passing of our longtime friend and supporter Mike Jackson. A resident of Atlanta's Druid Hills neighborhood, Mike spent many Thursday mornings collecting water samples in Kittredge Park for CRK's Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) program. "He was a funny, colorful guy who always had interesting stories," says Mike Meyer, NWW Director. "As a volunteer, he was persistent, always pushing himself to do more."

Mike's late wife Bonnie Jackson was also a beloved part of the CRK family, serving as our Operations Manager from 2012 until her retirement in 2016. In 2018, CRK awarded Bonnie with the River Steward Award at our annual Patron Dinner; after Bonnie's passing, Mike honored her with a generous pledge to Chattahoochee Riverkeeper in the amount of \$100,000.

Together, Mike and Bonnie dedicated their time and generosity to caring for the outdoors, helping organizations like CRK and the Georgia Conservancy in all the ways they could. We are grateful for their contributions to environmental causes and years of support.



IN MEMORIAM: PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

President Jimmy Carter was a visionary leader who made advocacy for our nation's lands and waters a cornerstone of his long career of public service. A Georgia native, Carter loved and championed rivers. He also understood early on that metro Atlanta would experience rapid growth, so he worked proactively to address future threats to our waterways.

As Georgia governor, Carter signed the 1972 Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA), which established a 2,000-foot buffer with land use restrictions along the banks of the Chattahoochee around Atlanta. In short, the act saved the Chattahoochee from harmful, unchecked development, and the legislation remains an important tool more than 50 years later. CRK regularly cites MRPA when new developments are proposed along the river.

Carter didn't forget about the Hooch during his presidency. When he signed legislation establishing the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) in 1978, he helped protect 48 miles of the river and thousands of acres of adjacent park land in metro Atlanta. Today, the CRNRA remains one of the most-visited areas



President Carter canoes along the Chattahoochee River through the CRNRA Palisades unit during his term as Governor of Georgia. Photo courtesy of NPS Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

within the National Park System, and its many units are beloved by locals and tourists alike.

Carter's environmental legacy is sprawling, from the Okefenokee Swamp to the Alaskan wilderness and beyond. CRK is grateful for his many years of meaningful advocacy for our natural resources and we join people around world in mourning his passing.

EXPLOSIVE DATA CENTER GROWTH IN THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER BASIN



Fayetteville data center under construction.
Photo courtesy of Flint Riverkeeper

Within the last few months, public interest in data centers near the Chattahoochee River has grown considerably. Two recently proposed facilities – including one of the largest in Georgia – have attracted attention due to their demands on our water resources and electric infrastructure, physical size, and community and environmental impacts.

Data centers like those recently proposed in Coweta County are buildings filled with computer equipment to process internet traffic, facilitate cloud computing and artificial intelligence, enable music and video streaming, and

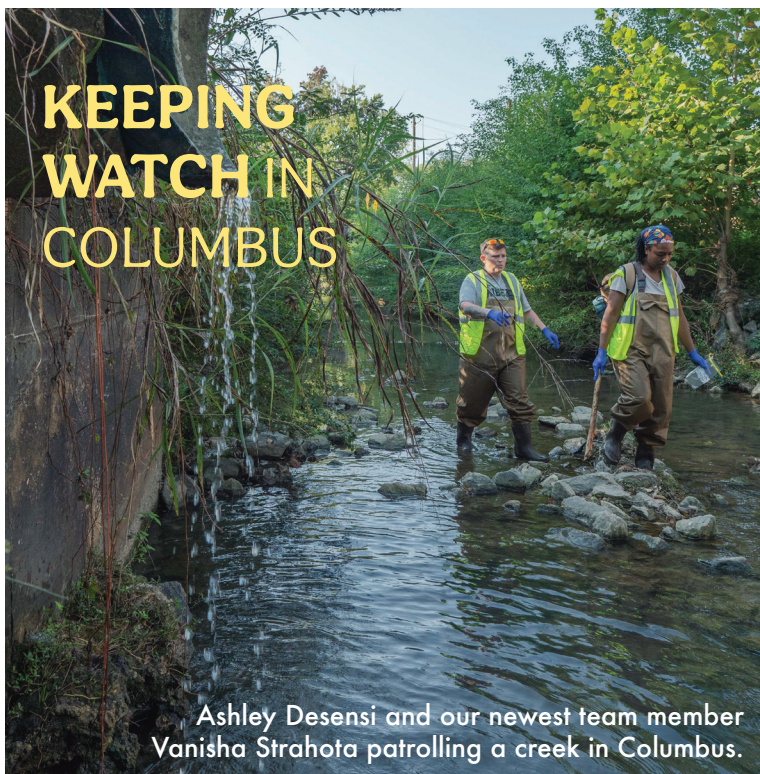
store increasingly massive amounts of digital data like photos. CRK has identified approximately 100 data centers in the Chattahoochee River Basin, mostly in Cobb, Douglas, and Fulton counties.

Among the major challenges, today's large data centers require massive amounts of energy and water for cooling systems to keep their computer equipment from overheating. However, we do not know with certainty how much energy and water because data center operators – and energy and water providers – are not required to report demand or usage. Land disturbance and

stormwater impacts – soil erosion and sedimentation in streams – during the construction and operational phases are anticipated. Impacts on quality of life like noise, light, and other nuisances are also real concerns.

We are tracking data center proposals as communities across the country organize to address data center construction and operation. And we will continue to collect water quality data, identify best management practices, and provide policy recommendations to decision makers to mitigate the impacts of data center proliferation in Georgia.

KEEPING WATCH IN COLUMBUS



Ashley Desensi and our newest team member Vanisha Strahota patrolling a creek in Columbus.

Since 2017, CRK and our partners at the Southern Environmental Law Center have pushed for stronger water quality measures to protect the right to drinkable, swimmable, and fishable water for people on the river in Columbus and downstream in Lake Eufaula.

In December, a Georgia court reversed a decision affecting the operation of the Columbus sewer system along the

Chattahoochee River. The court sided with Columbus Water Works (CWW), stating that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) wrongfully issued the utility's 2020 permit because EPD did not conduct an adequate analysis before adding a new limit on the amount of E. coli bacteria discharged to the river.

Columbus boasts the longest urban whitewater rafting course in the world. The city also relies on a combined sewer system. During heavy rainfall, the sewer system can overflow and release both stormwater and minimally treated sewage into the Chattahoochee River. Water samples collected by CRK staff from overflowing CWW outfall pipes have periodically shown unsafe levels of E. coli, which is an indicator of sewage pollution and the presence of harmful pathogens.

With this recent court decision, Columbus has the only remaining combined sewer system in Georgia that does not have limits on the amount of E. coli in the overflow discharge. The next application cycle for a 5-year permit will begin this April, and despite the recent setback, CRK is ready to continue pushing for stronger measures.

Spurred on in large part by this permit appeal, CRK went from nearly zero community engagement in Columbus to a laboratory partnership with Columbus State University, two full-time staff members who live and work in the community, and more than 5,000 students from Columbus-area schools served aboard our West Point Lake Floating Classroom.



For more
information,
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Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is alarmed by recent changes to federal agencies.

Drastic staffing cuts at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service (NPS), and other agencies will have long-term negative impacts on the Chattahoochee River and its communities.

Without adequate resources, CRK and the state of Georgia will lose critical partners and information necessary to make informed water management and regulatory decisions for the Chattahoochee River and the southeast. Worse, polluters will have one less barrier to get away with breaking the law. We urge our members and friends to show your support for these federal agencies and the people who have dedicated their lives to clean water and public service.



Scan the QR code
to read how federal
cuts could impact the
Chattahoochee River.