



# CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **New Device to Collect Litter, Provide Wildlife Habitat in Chamblee Community Park**

Chamblee, GA – In honor of Earth Day, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK), in partnership with the City of Chamblee and with support from Cox Enterprises, will install a “floating wetland trash trap” designed to capture litter, host native wetland plants, and improve water quality in the stream at Huntley Hills Park.

Employees from CRK and Cox Enterprises will be in the creek at Huntley Hills Park (3770 Longview Drive) on Thursday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. filling the device with locally-sourced native plants. Members of the public are invited to attend the planting to learn how the floating wetland works and the role of the community in environmental stewardship.

Manufactured by Australian company Atlan Stormwater, the device consists of artificial pods that float on top of the creek. The interconnected pods are anchored in place on both sides of the stream bank to rise and fall with the changing water level, allowing aquatic life to pass under but preventing floating garbage from drifting downstream.

The pods are filled with native wetland plants whose root systems provide habitat and act as natural filters to remove pollutants that wash into the creek every time it rains. The system will improve water quality in this unnamed tributary to Nancy Creek before it flows into the Chattahoochee River, the source of drinking water for millions of people.

CRK staff will maintain the device and remove the trapped litter on a weekly basis. The installation at Huntley Hills Park will be CRK’s 18<sup>th</sup> trash trap and second floating wetland trash trap in the Chattahoochee River basin, following an installation in Columbus at Cooper Creek Park. In 2025, CRK trash traps removed 4,925 pounds of trash.

“We’re thrilled to expand our in-stream trash removal program with our first floating wetland trash trap in metro Atlanta,” says Jordan Yu, director of the in-stream trash removal program at CRK. “Over the years, the City of Chamblee and Cox Enterprises have been valuable partners in our mission to achieve a trash-free Chattahoochee. This latest project is a testament to the power of collaboration that we hope inspires the community to help keep watch over our liquid lifeline.”

“We are proud to see our organizations working together to launch the latest floating wetland trash trap in Chamblee,” said Ken Kraft, CRK board member and EVP of Cox Automotive, a division of Cox Enterprises. “Our ongoing partnership with CRK’s trash trap

program has made a real difference, removing thousands of pounds of litter from local waterways each year. This innovative project represents another important step forward, and I'm excited for Cox Automotive and Cox Enterprises to help drive environmental progress in the communities we call home."

"The City of Chamblee is committed to fostering an atmosphere that enriches the quality of life for our community while preserving, protecting, and enhancing our parkland for current and future generations," says Mayor Brian Mock. "That makes a floating wetland trash trap a perfect fit for Huntley Hills Park. It will serve as an opportunity to beautify our community spaces, create educational opportunities, and engage locals in efforts to protect our natural resources."

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**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. For more information, visit <https://chattahoochee.org/>.

**About the City of Chamblee:**

Located just 14 miles from downtown Atlanta, Chamblee is a vibrant urban city with a diverse community and international flair. The City of Chamblee began as a small rail town and was incorporated in 1908. It has grown to more than seven square miles and nearly 30,000 residents. Chamblee is home to a heavy rail MARTA station, a historic downtown and Antique Row, the vibrant Buford Highway Corridor, DeKalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK), the Centers for Disease Control and a thriving business community with a unique sense of entrepreneurship and optimism. Visit <http://www.chambleega.com/> for more information.

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