



# THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERLANDS

THE RIVERLANDS AT A GLANCE

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We must start this document by acknowledging the River. The Chattahoochee River is a captivating place that holds deep meaning and provide valuable resources to the Metro Atlanta Region. For millennia, the River shaped the landscape and woven together distinct cultures and ecosystems. It has bound them together through a continuous physical fabric of River and land that today spans hundreds of miles and three states. This powerful landscape of the Chattahoochee River impresses a sense of awe and reverence that has persisted through generations.

To those who came before and fought to protect this critical cultural and ecological resource, we thank you and hope to pay homage to your rich legacy of conservation. We praise the tenacity of early community stewardship groups, such as the Friends of the River who in the early 1970s inspired a generation of advocacy and activism. Their courage and legacy lives on today in the work of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and many others. We have been fortunate to observe this legacy firsthand over the last twenty months. As we look toward the future, we hope the Chattahoochee RiverLands furthers the cause many of you spent decades championing.

The Chattahoochee RiverLands establishes an aspirational vision for the Region developed in collaboration with today's diverse group of stewards, made up of birders, paddlers, anglers, bicyclists, volunteers, citizens, and governments. We cannot thank these passionate stakeholders and community members enough. To all the individuals that donated personal time throughout the course of this past year and a half, we applaud you. Your devotion never wavered. Your passion and commitment have guided and inspired us. It is only through dedication and a shared vision that we can realize the Chattahoochee RiverLands. There is still much work to be done.

The Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway Study was managed by a joint Project Management Team (PMT) consisting of the **Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)**, the **Trust for Public Land, Cobb County**, and the **City of Atlanta**. The project was designed in collaboration with the Chattahoochee Working Group (CWG), a collection of stakeholders, residents, and political officials working within the study area.

This document was prepared by the Design Team led by **SCAPE Landscape Architecture DPC** with:

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AT:

**[WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEERIVERLANDS.COM](http://WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEERIVERLANDS.COM)**

# THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

The Chattahoochee River is a shared historic, economic, cultural and ecological resource of extraordinary value for the Metro Atlanta Region and Georgia. Along its course, the River ties the region together, forms numerous county and city boundaries, provides drinking water to millions, and offers countless recreation opportunities.

The Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway Study reconsiders the region's relationship to the River and proposes a collective vision for the future. From Buford Dam on Lake Lanier to Chattahoochee Bend State Park, the Chattahoochee RiverLands envisions new and equitable investments in parks, trails and water access points along a continuous 100-mile-long public space. For decades, interstates have largely defined Metro Atlanta's growth. The Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway Study suggests an equally powerful influence on how the region lives, works, plays, and travels.

Yet, despite the Chattahoochee's presence, most people in the region feel disconnected from the River and are unable to enjoy this incredible natural resource. The RiverLands aims to raise awareness of the River and draw people to its edge in hopes to galvanize greater support for its protection and restoration. As the Chattahoochee RiverLands project unfolds and evolves over the coming decades, this planning document will serve as a guide to ensure that the River becomes a common ground for all. In doing so, perhaps more of us will be able to build meaningful relationships with the Chattahoochee River, with nature and with each other.





# THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERLANDS

The Chattahoochee RiverLands will reunite the River with the Metro Atlanta Region and link suburban, urban, and rural communities into a continuous public realm. The RiverLands proposes a 125-mile uninterrupted multimodal trail running from Buford Dam to Chattahoochee Bend State Park. But, more than a trail, the RiverLands is a linear network of Greenways, Blueways, parks, and the destinations they create, that will bring people to the water's edge, promote stewardship and conservation of the River, and reveal the subtle magic of the Chattahoochee to all.



## THE GREENWAY

### *and River Destinations*

With **25 new or improved River crossings**, the Greenway maximizes connectivity between River parks, River communities, River destinations, and the waterway itself. In its current form, the Greenway is a continuous **125-mile multimodal trail** that follows the River and connects **19 cities** across seven counties. The RiverLands will be accessible to more than **one million residents** of the Metro Atlanta Region in only a 15-minute bike ride. With **25 new trailheads** proposed along its course, the Greenway has been carefully designed to balance needs for access and conservation.

## THE BLUEWAY

### *and River Ecosystems*

The **104-mile Blueway** unlocks the resources of the waterway and invites people into the Chattahoochee. With **42 water access points** (one every two miles on average), the Blueway serves both motorized and non-motorized boating and floating, and reveals new methods of regional water-based movement. Stopping points along the water trail include campsites and picnic areas directly accessible from the water, enabling overnight and seasonal uses of the RiverLands. More than **26 parks** are being directly connected by both the Greenway and the Blueway.



## TRIBUTARY TRAILS *and Wider Communities*

Tracing tributaries from regional population centers to the Greenway and Blueway, **Tributary Trails connect neighborhoods and cities to the River**. The RiverLands identified **44 Tributary Trails** that bring together Metro Atlanta communities and link them to the River's edge. Tributary corridors connect residents and visitors alike to transit stops, schools, libraries, activity centers, and cultural assets.

## THE RIVERLANDS

Four goals structure the approach to the Chattahoochee RiverLands and define a framework for design that equally prioritizes access, equity, ecology, and identity:

- A Safe, Connective Corridor**
- A Common Ground for All**
- An Ecological Refuge for the Region**
- A Living Legacy for Future Generations**

The vision outlined in this document establishes the Chattahoochee RiverLands' identity and defines the framework through which the RiverLands will continue to develop over time.

# STUDY TIMELINE

The Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway Study was developed through stakeholder visioning, collaborative input, and community co-design sessions that informed the planning process over more than 20 months.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



THE DRIVING TOUR



DEFINING THE IDENTITY OF THE RIVERLANDS WITH THE SUB-AREA COMMITTEES (SACs)



PILOT SITE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



REFINING THE PROJECT GOALS AT THE PUBLIC FORUMS



DISCOVERING THE CHATTAHOOCHEE A RIVER RAMBLE



TESTING THE PROJECT GOALS WITH THE SACs



STUDIO HOURS



PROJECT MILESTONES

THE CHATTAHOOCHEE WORKING GROUP FORMED BEFORE THE STUDY AND WILL CONTINUE TO MEET ON A MONTHLY BASIS



EXISTING CONDITIONS INVENTORY & LITERATURE REVIEW

+ 53 MILES WITH CHATTAHOOCHEE NOW

FISH WEIR AT BOWMANS ISLAND



CHATTAHOOCHEE BRICK COMPANY SITE VISIT



JOHNSTON'S RIVERLINE HISTORIC AREA



EXPLORING THE PROCTOR CREEK GREENWAY

A CLOSER LOOK AT PROCTOR CREEK



RIVERLANDS WEBSITE GOES LIVE!



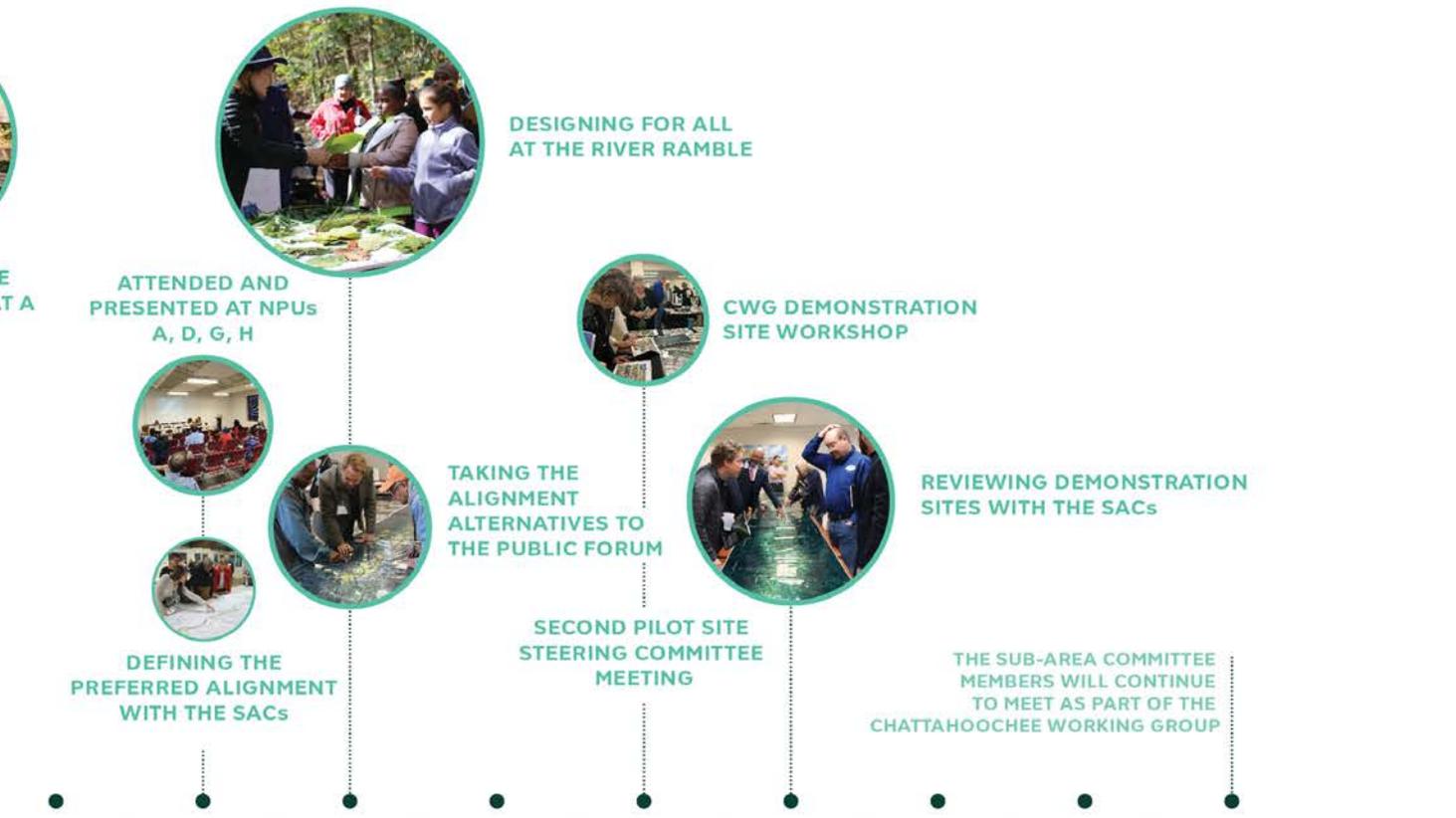
ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP



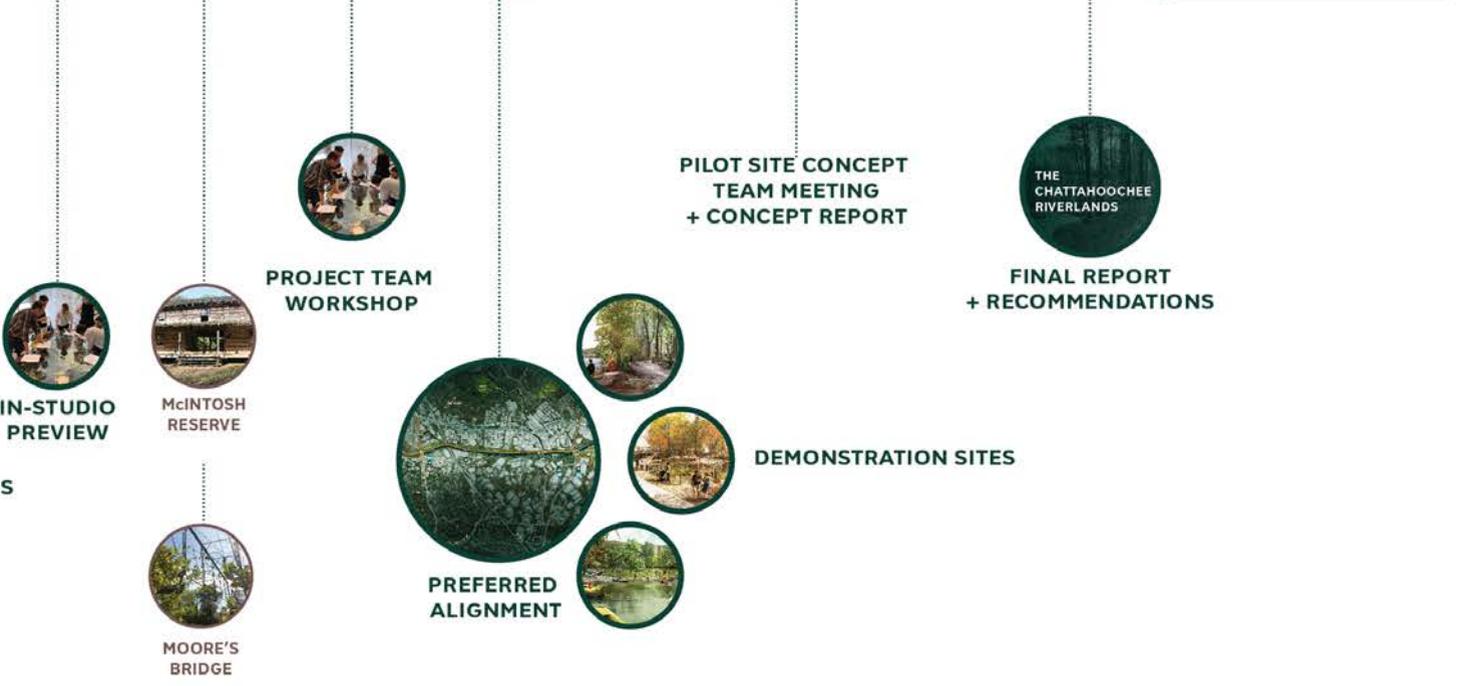
ALIGNMENT TOOL



REVEALING THE RIVERLANDS



**ALIGNING THE RIVERLANDS**      **ALONG THE RIVERLANDS**      **IMPLEMENTATION**





## **GOAL: A SAFE, CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR**

**The Chattahoochee RiverLands will connect communities along the River and the Metro Atlanta Region. Connected trails, new parks, and an active public realm will provide opportunities for better health, physical activity, transportation, private reflection, and community cohesion. Thoughtful improvements in existing spaces and new connections will transform park and trail access for all.**



AUGUSTA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

SAVANNAH

I-20

HARTSFIELD-JACKSON  
ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

I-75

I-85

CLAYTON COUNTY  
FULTON COUNTY

FAYETTE COUNTY  
COWETA COUNTY

BEAR CREEK

TO COCHRAN MILL PARK  
TO SILK SHEETS

CHATTAHOOCHEE  
HILLS

TO SERENBE

CHATTAHOOCHEE  
HILLS PARK

MOORE'S  
BRIDGE  
PARK

CEDAR CREEK  
BELLE  
LAKE

ROSCOE  
DUNAWAY  
GARDENS

RIVERSIDE  
PARK

TO BANNING MILLS

SNAKE RIVER TRAIL

WHITESBURG

SNAKE CREEK

STATE ROUTE 16

WAHOO CREEK

NEWMAN

MCINTOSH  
RESERVE

CHATTAHOOCHEE  
BEND STATE PARK

TO CHATTAHOOCHEE  
BEND TRAILHEAD

# GOAL: A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

The Chattahoochee RiverLands will be accessible to people of all backgrounds, abilities, and ages. The resources of the River must be inviting to the widest possible range of people, creating a common ground for recreation and transportation that equitably serves the diverse and expanding communities of the Metro Atlanta Region .

EDUCATIONAL  
SIGNAGE

DESTINATION  
WAYFINDING



ART INSTALLATION



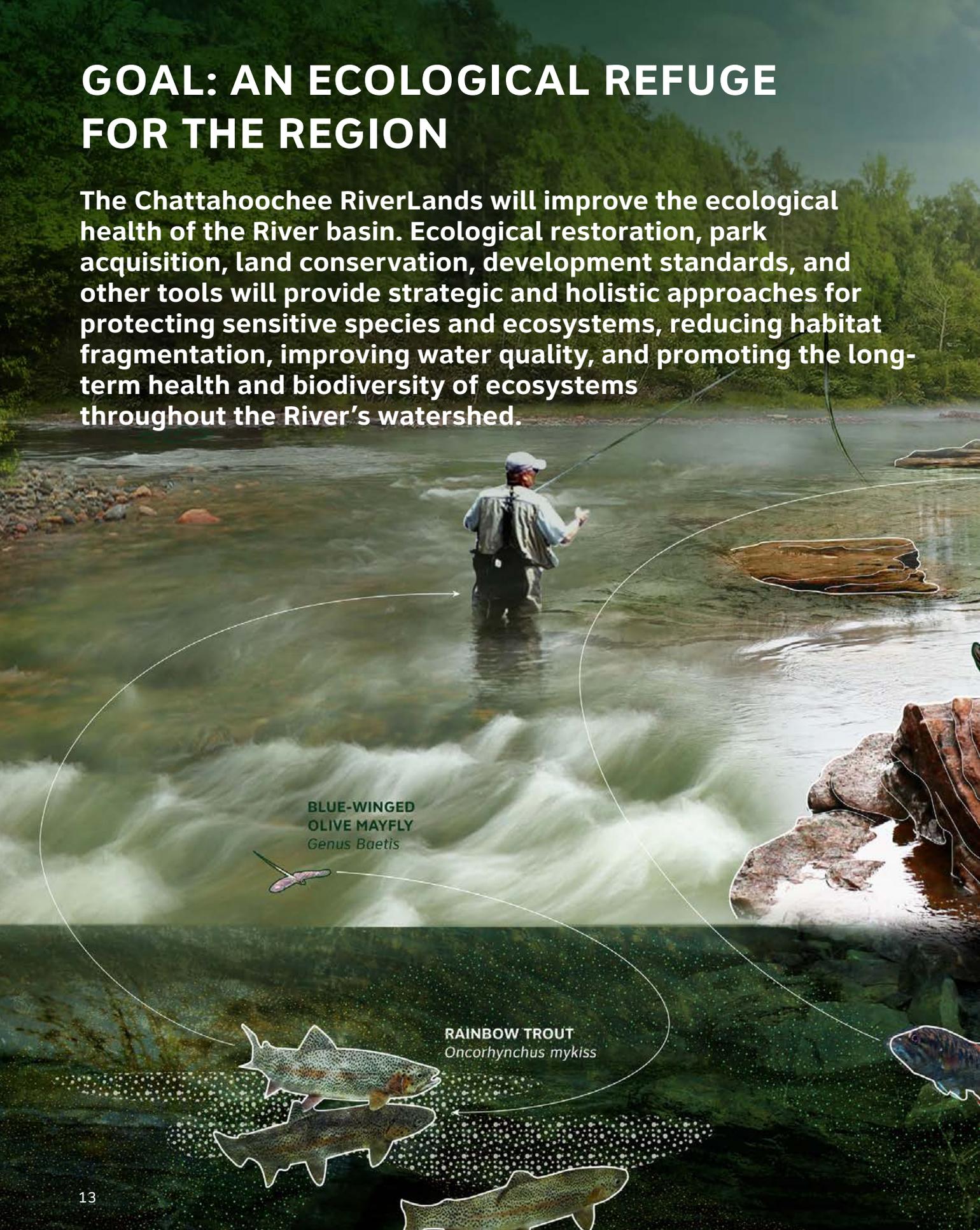
BRILLE TRAIL

MULTI-MODAL TRAIL  
*Pedestrian & Bike Path*

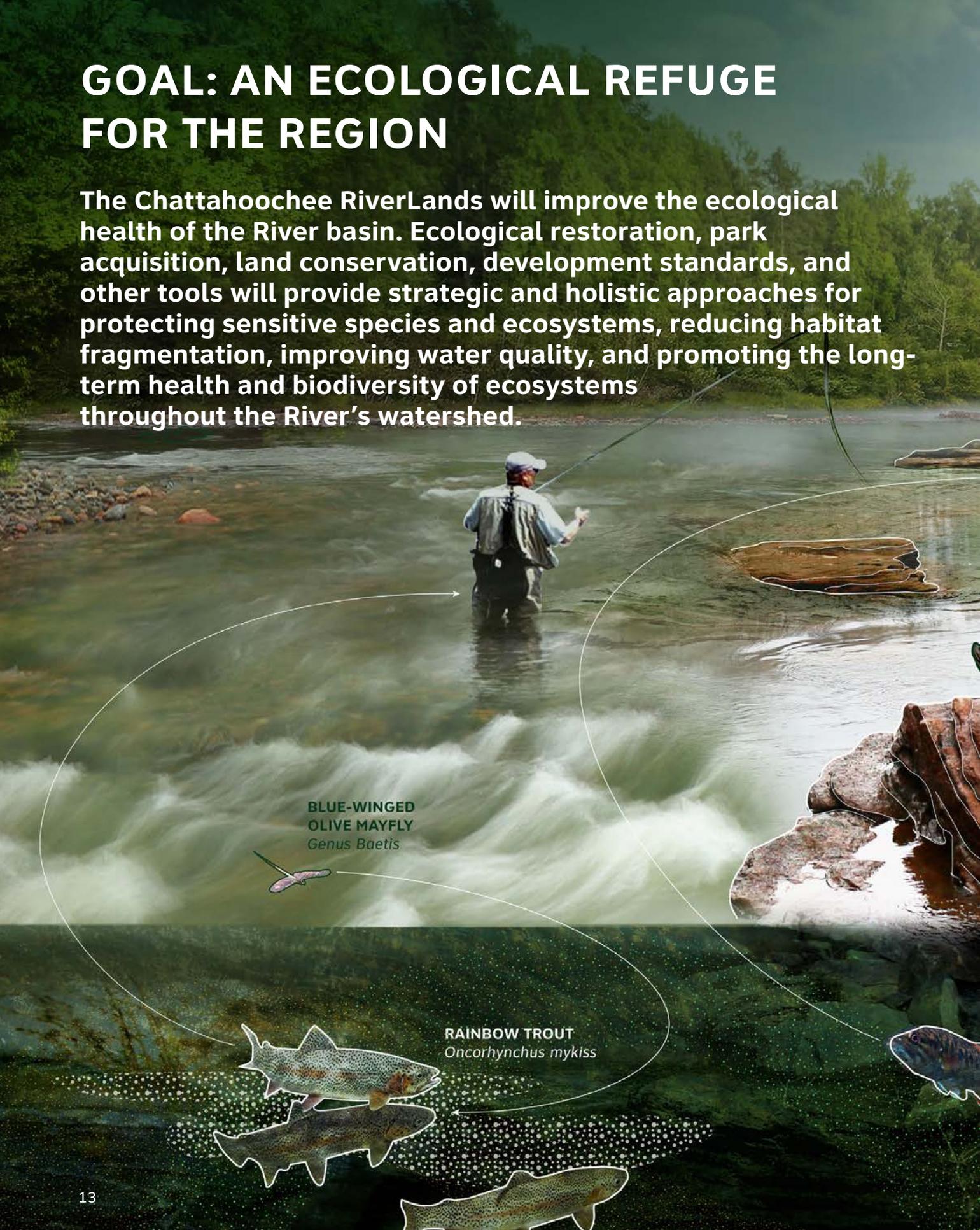


# GOAL: AN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE FOR THE REGION

The Chattahoochee RiverLands will improve the ecological health of the River basin. Ecological restoration, park acquisition, land conservation, development standards, and other tools will provide strategic and holistic approaches for protecting sensitive species and ecosystems, reducing habitat fragmentation, improving water quality, and promoting the long-term health and biodiversity of ecosystems throughout the River's watershed.

A fly fisherman in a river with a blue-winged olive mayfly illustration. The fisherman is in the center, wearing a light blue shirt and a cap, holding a fishing rod. The river is flowing over rocks, creating white water. A blue-winged olive mayfly is shown in flight above the water. A white arrow points from the mayfly illustration to the fisherman. A large white circle highlights the fisherman and the mayfly. A white arrow points from the mayfly illustration to the fisherman. A large white circle highlights the fisherman and the mayfly.

**BLUE-WINGED  
OLIVE MAYFLY**  
*Genus Baetis*

Illustrations of rainbow trout. Three rainbow trout are shown swimming in the water. A white arrow points from the text to the fish. A large white circle highlights the fish. A white arrow points from the text to the fish. A large white circle highlights the fish.

**RAINBOW TROUT**  
*Oncorhynchus mykiss*



**RED-TAILED HAWK**  
*Buteo jamaicensis*

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**  
*Melanerpes carolinus*

**WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH**  
*Sitta carolinensis*

**WOOD DUCK**  
*Aix sponsa*

**RIVER OTTER**  
*Lutra canadensis*



**BLUE HERON**  
*Ardea herodias*



**EASTERN RIVER COOTER**  
*Pseudemys concinna concinna*

**SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG**  
*Lithobates sphenoccephalus*



SHOAL

**SHOAL BASS**  
*Micropterus cataractae*



**BROWN TROUT**  
*Salmo trutta*

# GOAL: A LIVING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Chattahoochee RiverLands is a generational project that establishes a new, positive identity for the Chattahoochee River. Unfolding and evolving over many decades, the RiverLands will interpret the rich social and ecological history of the Chattahoochee while introducing an adaptive template that will guide regional planning decisions around growth, conservation, and stewardship.

WETLAND  
GET-DOWN



**EASTERN PONDHAWK**  
*Erythemis simplicicollis*

EDUCATIONAL  
SIGNAGE

WETLAND  
WINDOW

WOOD DUCK  
*Aix sponsa*



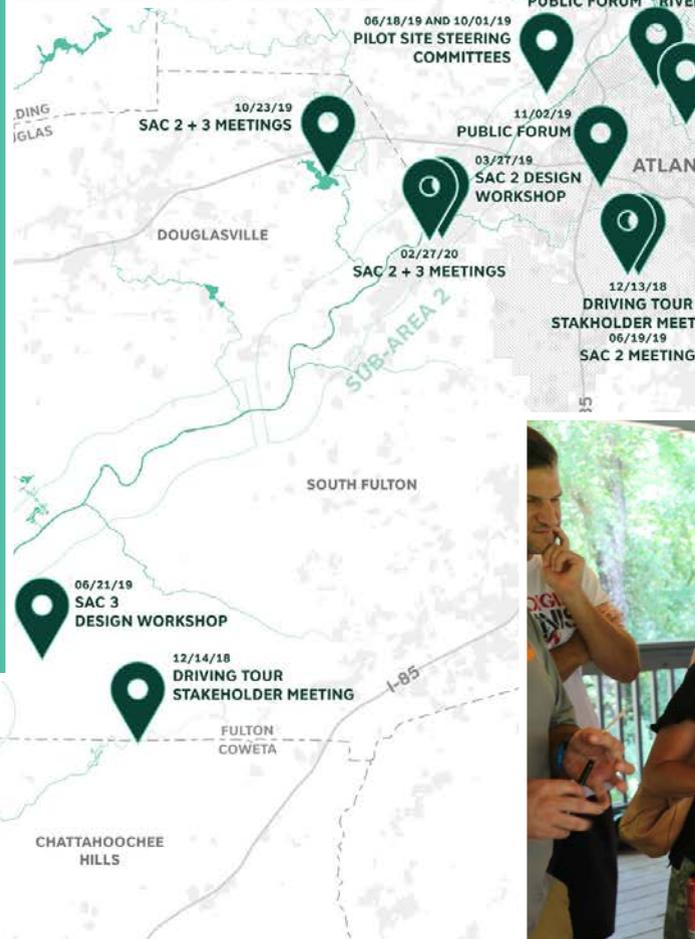
# PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

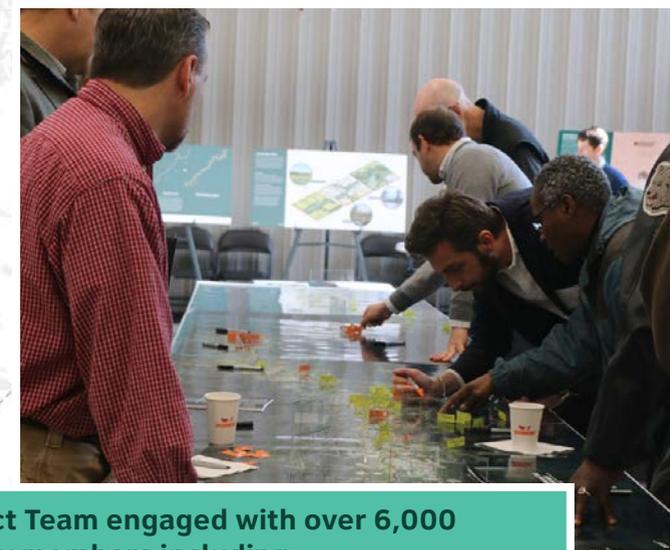
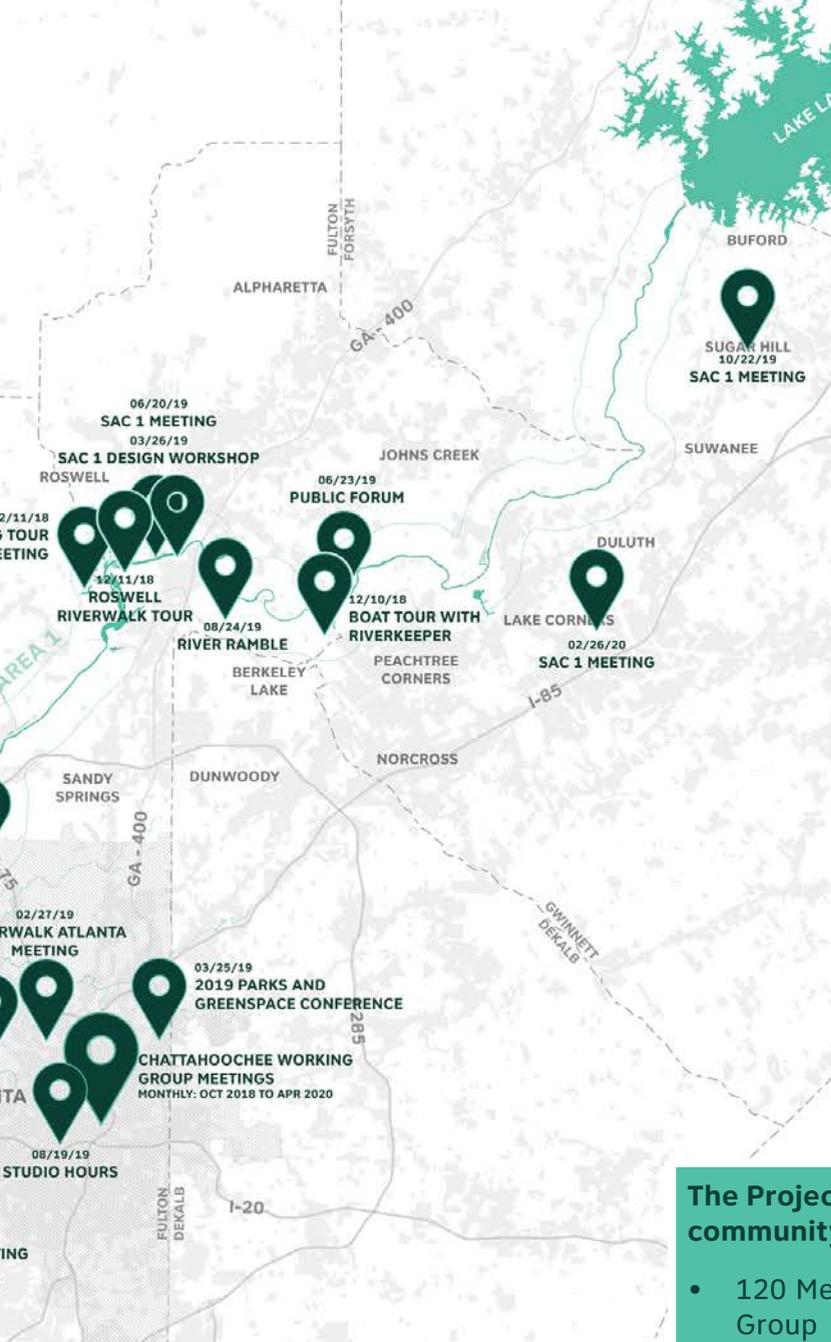
The RiverLands study was developed through stakeholder visioning, collaborative input, and community collaborative design sessions.

For decades, the Chattahoochee River has inspired individuals and groups to action and engagement with decisions affecting the River. Listening to and learning from both established advocates and constituent communities was essential to this study. The RiverLands Team continually incorporated public comment and feedback through an equitable and broad outreach process that spanned planning, design, and implementation. Over seventy committed partner organizations and stakeholders have participated in the process to build a new identity and spatial framework for the Chattahoochee River. The planning and design process aimed to engage people across a broad social spectrum and led to the identification of diverse aspirations for the River, including the desire to protect and restore native ecosystems, invite public access, improve safety, increase stewardship, and redefine the River as a beloved local, regional and national asset.

The project was designed in collaboration with the Chattahoochee Working Group (CWG), the three Sub-Area Committees (SACs), and the general public representing diverse perspectives from local stakeholders, residents, government representatives, and advocacy groups working within the study area.

The brief summaries of the meetings and events found in this document represent the comprehensive engagement approach that informed the planning and design process. Complete summaries of meetings and events can also be found on the project website at: [www.chattahoocheeRiverLands.com](http://www.chattahoocheeRiverLands.com)





**The Project Team engaged with over 6,000 community members including:**

- 120 Members of the Chattahoochee Working Group
- 200 Local Stakeholders
- 350 Members of the Public
- 5,000 Online Platform Visitors

**The Project Team held:**

- 2 River Rambles
- 3 Public Forums
- 9 Sub-Area Committee Meetings
- 82 Individual Stakeholder Meetings



For more information and to get involved:

[WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEERIVERLANDS.COM](http://WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEERIVERLANDS.COM)

