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.
STUDY GOALS:

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
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.

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.

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 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.
RIVERLANDS VISION

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.

DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR:

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