



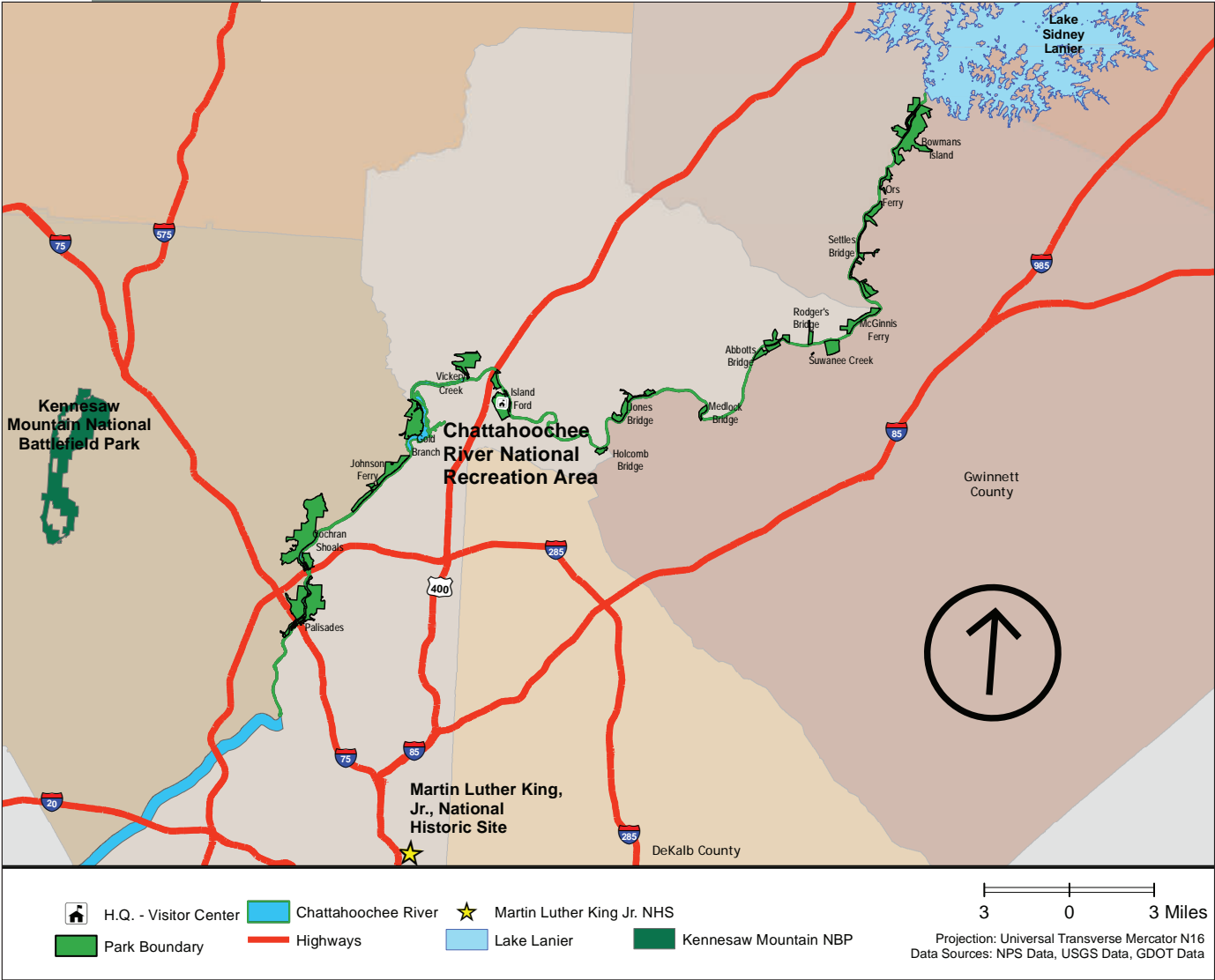
Foundation Document

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Georgia

May 2017





Contents

Mission of the National Park Service 1

Introduction. 2

Part 1: Core Components 3

 Brief Description of the Park. 3

 Park Purpose 5

 Park Significance 6

 Fundamental Resources and Values 7

 Interpretive Themes 9

Part 2: Dynamic Components 11

 Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments 11

 Assessment of Planning and Data Needs 11

 Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values 11

 Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs . . . 26

 Planning and Data Needs 28

Part 3: Contributors 31

 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area 31

 NPS Southeast Region. 31

 NPS Denver Service Center, Planning Division 31

 Partners 31

 Photo Credits 31

Appendixes 32

 Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for
 Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area 32

 Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments 42





Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area encompasses a 48-mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River and its bed between Buford Dam and the confluence with Peachtree Creek, as well as an authorized boundary including 10,000 acres of adjoining lands. In addition, the area of national significance includes a 2,000-foot river corridor and the 100-year floodplain. Approximately 5,000 acres of the park's authorized lands are under NPS ownership, as well as more than 2,000 acres of riverbed and tributaries. The National Recreation Area provides abundant opportunities to recreate, connect with nature, discover diverse cultural resources, and even experience solitude for one of the largest urban populations in the United States. Between 5 and 6 million people who live in the 9-county metropolitan Atlanta region can access 15 land units and 48 miles of river to enjoy these experiences.

The park's 15 units run along the Brevard Fault Zone, a 320-mile-long geographic feature that forms the dividing line between the Appalachian Mountains and the Piedmont Plateau. Because the river is confined by the Brevard Fault, the river channel is one of the most stable and oldest channels in the United States.

The park's land units were assigned names that reflected the local community features and historical resources. The 15 units, from north to south, are:

- Bowmans Island
- Orrs Ferry
- Settles Bridge
- McGinnis Ferry
- Suwanee Creek
- Abbotts Bridge
- Medlock Bridge
- Jones Bridge
- Holcomb Bridge
- Island Ford
- Vickery Creek
- Gold Branch
- Cochran Shoals
- Johnson Ferry
- Palisades





The Chattahoochee River water is usually clear and very cold because the water enters the national recreation area from the bottom of Lake Sidney Lanier at Buford Dam, which is more than 200-feet deep at that location, where virtually no warming sunlight ever penetrates. At other times, after heavy rains particularly, the river can become a muddy torrent through its rocky shoals.

The Chattahoochee River is rated a Class I and II waterway, excellent for canoeing, kayaking, and rafting. Some sections can be Class III because of narrow passages, high water levels with erratic waves, and cold water. Currents can be strong around submerged rocks and jagged tree snags that crowd the river.

The park contains a rich assemblage of natural resources and evidence of a long history of human use, including approximately 200 archeological and historic sites. Beavers and muskrats live in burrows along the riverbank; foxes and raccoons make their homes in the hardwood forests; and chipmunks, squirrels, and rabbits are abundant. Turtles, snakes, salamanders, lizards, frogs, and toads are found in all the natural habitats along the river.

Cultural resources along the Chattahoochee River represent every period of human interaction with the natural environment over the past 10,000 years. This continuum of human use is reflected in archeological sites, historic structures, and cultural landscapes that owe their locations to the natural features of the river and its tributaries. The corridor contains prehistoric rock shelters, fish weirs, Indian occupation/campsites, Civil War earthworks, historic bridges, historic residences, farm buildings, and mill ruins.

The proximity of the park to the major metropolitan center of Atlanta has impacted park resources in a number of ways, including degraded stream condition and water quality and the increased presence of invasive species. However, the park has many relatively pristine natural areas and well-preserved cultural resources despite its urban setting.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when Public Law 95-344 was signed into law on August 15, 1978 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and legislative history). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION
AREA preserves and protects the natural
and cultural resources of the 48-mile
Chattahoochee River corridor, from Buford
Dam to Peachtree Creek, for the benefit and
enjoyment of present and future generations.*



Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. Running along the Brevard Fault Zone, one of the oldest and most stable river channels in North America, the park's 48-mile river corridor features steep, rugged palisades, rocky shoals, sheer rock faces, and exposed geologic features that provide remarkable visual scenery.
2. At the intersection of the southern piedmont and mountain habitats, the park is an ecological oasis within a densely populated region and contains more than 950 species of plants and a diverse assemblage of wildlife.
3. Nestled in metropolitan Atlanta, the park features America's first designated national water trail.
4. Cultural resources along the Chattahoochee River represent the continuum of human interaction over the past 10,000 years that is reflected in archeological sites, historic structures, and cultural landscapes that owe their locations to the natural features of the river corridor.
5. Located in a narrow section of the upper Chattahoochee watershed, the river serves as the lifeblood of local and downstream communities, supporting a wide array of recreational, ecological, and human uses.
6. The park constitutes an important outdoor recreation resource to an urban population numbering 5.7 million people in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Its waters and lands provide a diverse and abundant variety of outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, nature viewing, paddling, bicycling, boating, and fishing. These experiences are further enhanced by the park's scenic qualities, as well as opportunities for natural solitude and seclusion within relatively undisturbed forests, wetlands, bluffs, ravines, and open water areas.



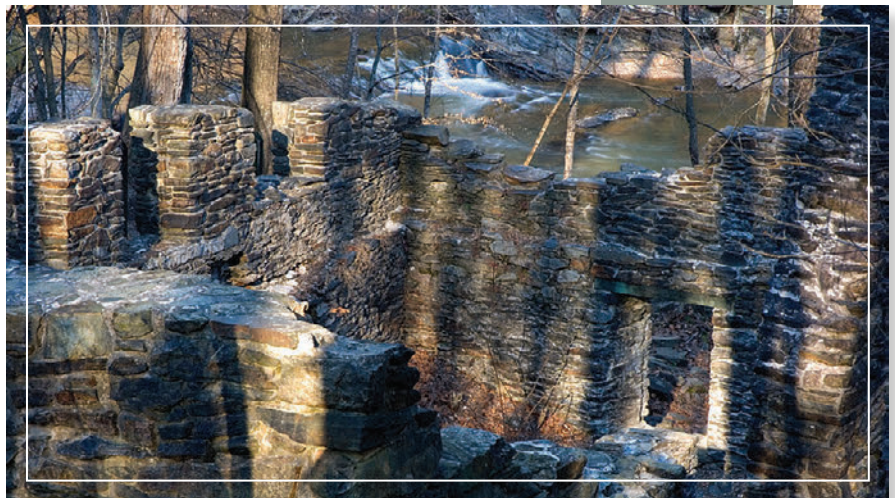
Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area:

- **Geology.** The Brevard Fault and the region's crystalline rock are responsible for the park's geological features, including the stability of the river's channel and its ridges, palisades, and cliffs.
- **Ecology.** The park provides critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats for many species of plants and animals. It is a rest and feeding stop along the flyways of important migratory bird species. The park is an important cold water fishery. Within the boundaries of the national recreation area are wetlands; several different types of botanical habitats; and many species of butterflies, salamanders, frogs, birds, and turtles.
- **Recreation.** A heavily used year-round recreation resource, the Chattahoochee River includes a diverse array of both land- and water-based activities. The park provides opportunities for adventure, solitude, boating, fishing, hiking, trail connectivity (to local communities), and connecting with nature. Anglers flock here in search of brown and rainbow trout, shoal bass, and striped bass, making it a fine urban tailwater fishery. Boaters, too, value the Chattahoochee River—in kayaks and canoes, tubes, and motorboats. A large number of outdoor enthusiasts visit to cycle, test their orienteering skills, join an educational program, hike on their own, or escape from the surrounding suburban scene.
- **Cultural Resource Complexes.** Within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area are many historic structures, archeological resources, and cultural sites, including the Allenbrook House and associated mill ruins, Hewlett Lodge and its immediate associated structures, rock shelters, Sope Creek paper mill ruins, the historic Hyde Farm, American Indian occupation sites, and several historic bridges (Settles, Jones, Rogers).





- **Ethnographic and Archeological Resources.** Fish weirs and nutting holes, gold rush sites, and Civil War encampments can be found in various locations within the national recreation area boundary.
- **Museum and Archival Collections.** Park collections include archives and American Indian, Civil War, and Hyde Farm artifacts (currently stored for Cobb County by written agreement).
- **The Chattahoochee River.** This includes uplands (nonwetlands in the park), flat water, whitewater shoals, and tributaries. The Chattahoochee River is the principal hydrologic feature of the park. The Secretary of the Interior has designated the river as the first national water trail. The river has been a part of the social and cultural life of neighboring peoples for the last 10,000 years.
- **Scenic Qualities.** The Chattahoochee River, with its steep, rugged palisades, rocky shoals, and diverse flora and fauna, contrasts with the surrounding Atlanta metropolitan area. The seasonal changes in vegetation provide rich variation and contrast throughout the year. As the tree canopy begins to fill in throughout the spring, the river appears to narrow. The views extend to previous periods in time through the remnants of historic mills and other sites including remainders of the Civil War. The river is a ribbon of green and blue in an urban landscape, a visual reprieve from the built environment of modern life.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes and subthemes have been identified for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area:

- The natural, undeveloped environment of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area is an irreplaceable contributor to the quality of life in metropolitan Atlanta, offering a place for healthy recreation and unstructured play.
 - The river corridor is a unique, connected stretch of greenspace through multiple jurisdictions, allowing visitors to find respite, solitude, natural beauty, and wildlife within minutes of one of the country's most highly developed metropolitan areas.
 - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area offers modern visitors a place to escape the confines of urban life, immerse themselves in the natural world, and test their endurance and self-reliance.
- The Chattahoochee River is the primary water resource for a significant portion of the state of Georgia, including Lake Sidney Lanier, metropolitan Atlanta, and Columbus.
 - Maintaining the water quality in the Chattahoochee River is of vital importance to human health and the natural environment.
 - The Chattahoochee watershed—the expanse of land from which water drains and flows into the Chattahoochee River—is an interconnected system; environmental impacts upstream have downstream consequences throughout the river's course.
 - The river's riparian corridor and associated wetlands help cleanse and sustain water quality throughout the region.





- The Chattahoochee River corridor contains a rich record of human history dating back thousands of years and extending to the present day.
 - The river corridor's water, food resources, and rock shelters attracted and supported Archaic period hunter-gatherers and people of the Woodland culture dating back thousands of years.
 - Both Creek and Cherokee Indians relied on the Chattahoochee River for centuries, with the river serving as a travel route and a territorial boundary between tribes.
 - The park preserves evocative examples of 19th-century textile and paper mills, as well as an intact early-20th-century primitive farmstead.
 - Through the centuries, human needs and activities have profoundly impacted—and continue to impact—the river's water quality, its native vegetation and wildlife, and its water level and flow.
- The Chattahoochee River and its watershed constitute a unique geological and biological setting that supports and sustains a vast variety of native plant and animal communities.
 - The Chattahoochee River flows along an ancient, highly stable channel formed by the Brevard Fault, a 320-mile-long geological feature that divides the Appalachian Mountain region from the Piedmont Plateau.
 - The river corridor supports and sustains a vast variety of native plant and animal communities as its waters flow from the north Georgia mountains southwest to the Flint River and the Apalachicola estuary on the Gulf of Mexico.

Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

For more information about the existing administrative commitments for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, please see appendix B. There are no special mandates for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

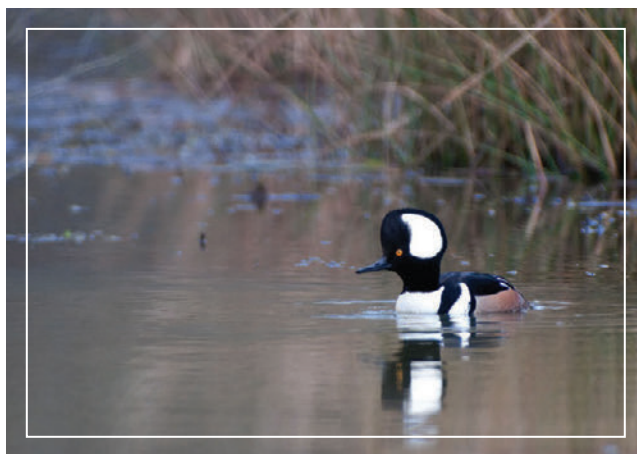
Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Geology
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running along the Brevard Fault Zone, one of the oldest and most stable river channels in North America, the park's 48-mile river corridor features steep, rugged palisades, rocky shoals, sheer rock faces, and exposed geologic features that provide remarkable visual scenery.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The channel is stable. The river path is widening and becoming shallower (in some locations) due to dam operations and development in the watershed. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current dam operations for peak power pricing cause dramatic daily fluctuations that cause bank sloughing, tree falls, accelerated erosion, increased sediment loading, and serious visitor safety impacts. Incompatible development can result in detrimental changes to geomorphology. Impervious surfaces increase wet weather flows and result in scouring. Climate change: Increasing storm intensity, water availability. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on sustainable flow regime management. Work with local municipalities on watershed management. Provide education and outreach on geology and hydrology. Encourage the use of green infrastructure in the watershed by serving as an example in the park. Climate change mitigation (adaptive management).
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Geologic Resources Foundation Summary, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</i>, National Park Service, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, Geologic Resources Division, March 3, 2015. <i>Values of Special Significance, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</i> 636/119395, February 2013.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geomorphic assessment and monitoring (how the bed and bank of the river have been changing). Geologic resource inventory – GIS.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoreline stabilization plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC §4321) Clean Water Act (33 USC §1251-1387, 33 USC §1151) Clean Air Act (42 USC §7401 et seq.) Paleontological Resources Preservation Act Federal Cave Resources Protection Act (16 USC §4301-4310) Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.6.1) "Protection of Surface Waters and Groundwaters" NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.6.2) "Water Rights" NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.6.4) "Floodplains" NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.8) "Geologic Resource Management"

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecology
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the intersection of the southern piedmont and mountain habitats, the park is an ecological oasis within a densely populated region and contains more than 950 species of plants and a diverse assemblage of wildlife.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental stresses such as pollutants from wet weather flows and dam operations, climate change, and urban heat islands result in a reduction of species and plant diversity in addition to competition from invasive species. Fragmented habitat resulting from development, encroachments, loss of quality habitat in the surrounding watershed, and increasing human impacts cause the range of species to shift and change in populations. Sediment loadings from the surrounding watershed and dam operations are increasing with potential impacts on fisheries and macroinvertebrate communities. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing pressure on resources and habitats. Increasing visitation and use. Increasing development and habitat fragmentation.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species compete for territory and food with native species. Increased visitation causing soil compaction, erosion, trampling, and wildlife impacts. Dam operations at Buford Dam in terms of causing additional erosion and sediment loading to the river as well and water quality impacts. Inadequate and insufficient information, data, and analyses that can provide park management with ecological trends for use in resource management. Pollution: Air, water, point and nonpoint source runoff. Ongoing and increasing development. Climate change: Species migration, phenology (timing), soil carbon sequestration, seasonal tree canopy cover, acidification, ground-level ozone, and forest successional age changes (loss of old trees). Poaching / illegal collecting. Zoonotic diseases (diseases that are communicable from animals to humans). Feral animals / releasing domestics, dogs, cats. Livestock trespassing in park. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness of the park's ecology through partnerships with educational institutions, government and nongovernment, and nonprofit organizations. Land purchases and easements. Education and outreach, social media. Research into ecological and habitat trends to support park management of these resources.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Values of Special Significance, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</i> 636/119395, February 2013. <i>Climate Change Resource Brief / Recent Climate Change Exposure of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</i>; National Park Service, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, July 29, 2014.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory of invasive species. Index of biological integrity. Inventory and monitoring protocols for wildlife.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecology
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation management plan (grass, shrubs, what is appropriate, where, why). • Trails management plan. • Integrated pest management plan. • Exotic plant management plan. • Wildlife management plan. • Fire management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC §1531 et seq.) • National Invasive Species Act (16 USC §4701) • Lacey Act, as amended (16 USC §3371-3378) • Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC §703-712) • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC §668) • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC §4321) • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 USC §2801 et seq.) • Clean Water Act (33 USC §1251-1387, 33 USC §1151) • Clean Air Act (42 USC §7401 et seq.) • Paleontological Resources Preservation Act • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77 • NPS Reference Manual 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Recreation
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nestled in metropolitan Atlanta, the park features America's first designated national water trail. The park constitutes an important outdoor recreation resource to an urban population numbering 5.7 million people in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Its waters and lands provide a diverse and abundant variety of outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, nature viewing, paddling, bicycling, boating, and fishing. These experiences are further enhanced by the park's scenic qualities, as well as opportunities for natural solitude and seclusion within relatively undisturbed forests, wetlands, bluffs, ravines, and open water areas.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational use is not evenly distributed across the 15 park units and the river. Carrying capacity analyses are needed. User conflicts based on cultural and activity preferences, as well as other factors, are common. Lack of recreation research and planning has resulted in unauthorized and unplanned social trails and a scarcity of trails in the park's northern units. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing visitation and use. Type of user is changing based on trends. Increase in social media, geocaching, "hash hound" running. Increasing desire for community connectivity.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing population, demand, and use can lead to crowding, vegetation trampling, unauthorized side trails, trash, adverse wildlife impacts, and visitor conflicts. Pathogen contamination (sewer line discharges to the river) are potentially hazardous to fish and fisheries as well as human health and safety. Bank disturbance due to construction (stairs, steps) resulting in erosion, increased siltation, and loss of archeological resources. Boundary encroachments can lead to unlawful construction on park lands, damage to and loss of plant and animal species, and costly efforts to remove the encroachments. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve planning with partners and with external entities. Increase public transportation. Current or future concessioner could offer additional activities and visitor services at other locations. Partnerships can provide volunteers and support, consistency, increased sustainability, and can expand community connections. Proximity to a major urban center provides unlimited potential to engage youth and diverse populations to educate and inspire.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i>, National Park Service, September 2009. <i>Values of Special Significance, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</i> 636/119395, February 2013. "Recreation Flow Preference Report / Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area," prepared for the National Park Service by CH2M Hill, August 2000.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality data analysis. Flows assessment. Index of biological integrity. Desired conditions.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Recreation
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails management plan. • Transportation plan parkwide. • Expand existing water resources plan into river management plan. • Fisheries management plan. • Youth engagement planning (education, outreach to youth, partners, and volunteers). • Fire management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC §12101 et seq.) • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 USC §4151 et seq.) • "Accessibility Guidelines" (36 CFR 1191.1) • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC §701 et seq.) • NPS Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 (54 USC §101912) • Clean Air Act (42 USC §7401 et seq.) • "Audio disturbances" (36 CFR §2.12) • "What is the maximum noise level for the operation of a vessel?" (36 CFR §3.15) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 9) "Park Facilities" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 10) "Commercial Visitor Services" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i> • Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.9) "Soundscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.10) "Lightscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§5.3.1.7) "Cultural Soundscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§8.2.3) "Use of Motorized Equipment" • NPS Transportation Planning Guidebook



Fundamental Resource or Value	Cultural Resource Complexes
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural resources along the Chattahoochee River represent the continuum of human interaction over the past 10,000 years that is reflected in archeological sites, historic structures, and cultural landscapes that owe their locations to the natural features of the river corridor.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allenbrook House, Hewlett Lodge, and mill ruins are stable. Settles, Jones, and Rodgers Bridges are all degraded and in a deteriorating condition. Conditions of American Indian occupation sites, Civil War encampments, Civil War river crossings, skirmish sites, ferry sites, and Sope Creek Cemetery are unknown and/or poorly documented. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitation is increasing along with inappropriate uses at the cultural resource complexes. Maintenance backlog is increasing. Illegal artifact collecting appears to be increasing in the park.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change including corrosion on bridges from acid rain. Inappropriate human uses (climbing on walls, building fires in rock shelters). Maintenance backlog and competing priorities for funding. Vandalism and theft by park visitors. Inadequate knowledge of location and condition of cultural resources increases the park's vulnerability and reduces the ability to manage effectively. Easements and development threaten the integrity of the cultural landscape through inappropriate and incompatible uses. Proximity to urban centers with shifting population dynamics leads to a lack of understanding and awareness of cultural resources and the park's role in protecting them. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing education and outreach engagement to promote protection and conservation of cultural resources. Develop partnerships with historical societies, archeological associations, universities, colleges (academia) to assist the park in cultural resource planning and assessments. Prioritize access to cultural resources based on sensitivity and significance. Stabilize and adaptively reuse the bridges.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i>, National Park Service, September 2009. <i>Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Resource Stewardship Strategy</i>, National Park Service, 2013.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor use studies (quantity, visitor use capacity, demographic distribution, crowding, geographic distribution).
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and use plan for the Allenbrook House. Landscape management plan for Hewlett Lodge. Cultural resource management plan for each complex (parkwide assessment).

Fundamental Resource or Value	Cultural Resource Complexes
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 USC §320301-320303, 34 Stat 225)• Historic Sites Act of 1935 (54 USC §320101 et seq.)• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.)• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (54 USC §312502 et seq.)• American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996 and 1996a, PL 95-341. 92 Stat 469)• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (54 USC §302902)• Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC §3001)• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended (54 USC §102501-102504)• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"• Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites"• "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79)• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPS <i>Management Policies</i> 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i>• NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Ethnographic and Archeological Resources
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural resources along the Chattahoochee River represent the continuum of human interaction over the past 10,000 years that is reflected in archeological sites, historic structures, and cultural landscapes that owe their locations to the natural features of the river corridor.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam releases threaten resources in the water in terms of how releases are conducted. When high volume releases occur to optimize peak power pricing, bank erosion occurs and scours banks, thereby potentially dislodging or covering archeological resources with sediments. Scale, history, and scope of easements and utilities impact both known and unknown archeological resources. Encroachments and trespass of park property have the potential to disturb or destroy ethnographic and archeological resources. Vandalism and theft, loss of undocumented stories and site integrity. Unauthorized mineral extractions such as gold mining in park streambanks and riverbanks impacts historic gold rush sites. Mining also has the potential to disturb or destroy ethnographic and archeological resources. Lack of knowledge and expertise to gather oral histories and data to establish presence of ethnographic resources. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased education and outreach efforts to engage external and internal stakeholders about the value, significance, and integrity of ethnographic and archeological resources in the park. Partnering with academia, historical societies, nonprofit organizations, professional and social cultural societies, especially national ones such as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the American Historical Association, American Antiquarian Society, the Organization of American Historians, and others to inform management decisions in the park as well as education and outreach efforts. Increased law enforcement presence where the park believes ethnographic and archeological resources could be defaced, destroyed, or poached. Additional information, research, and studies are needed to better understand the ethnographic and archeological resources in the park. This information could be used in education and outreach with park visitors.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnographic overview and assessment.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ethnographic and Archeological Resources
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 USC §320301-320303, 34 Stat 225)• Historic Sites Act of 1935 (54 USC §320101 et seq.)• National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.)• Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (54 USC §312502 et seq.)• American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996 and 1996a, PL 95-341. 92 Stat 469)• Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (54 USC §302902)• Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC §3001)• Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended (54 USC §102501-102504)• Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment"• Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites"• "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79)• "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800)• Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (<i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> and <i>Director's Orders</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"• Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i>• Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i>• Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i>• <i>NPS Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III• <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Museum and Archival Collections
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural resources along the Chattahoochee River represent the continuum of human interaction over the past 10,000 years that is reflected in archeological sites, historic structures, and cultural landscapes that owe their locations to the natural features of the river corridor.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conditions of collections in the park and at the NPS Southeast Archeological Center are stable as well as adequately stored and accounted for. Previous problems with the park's storage facility have been corrected. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For years the park has experienced long-term capacity issues in terms of staffing numbers and staffing expertise with respect to collections. Dealing with "brush fires" is a frequent occurrence and resources are deteriorating as a result.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of access and connection to collections that are static. Current lack of staff with specific education, training, and experience in managing museum and archival collections. Archival (administrative record concerns). (Note: SERO Museum and Archival Services is surveying park files in FY 2016 as part of a larger archives project. The park also had an archival survey as part of their Collection Management Plan in 2010. The plan provides direction and guidance for planning and management of museum and archival collections.) <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide interpretive display of museum collections. Share information about these physical collections with the public through various interpretive media. Provide collection sharing, collaboration, and improved access for partners, researchers, and academia to better understand park museum collection resources. Use the increased understanding of the museum collections to inform the park's education and outreach efforts to the public.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural resource and natural resource inventories. Collection management plan. Archeological Sites Management Information System data.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Museum collections condition assessment. Revised and updated museum and archival resources strategy.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996 and 1996a, PL 95-341. 92 Stat 469) Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (54 USC §302902) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC §3001) Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended (54 USC §102501-102504) "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III



Fundamental Resource or Value	The Chattahoochee River
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in a narrow section of the upper Chattahoochee watershed, the river serves as the lifeblood of local and downstream communities, supporting a wide array of recreational, ecological, and human uses.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, water quality is plateauing. • Water quantity and sedimentation varies greatly. • Nonpoint source pollution – unknown. • Sixty-two percent of the river is listed on the state’s impaired waters list (pathogens, PCBs, fish advisory). • Geomorphic condition unknown (lack of data). <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and distribution increasing (lack of data).
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing population impacts on recreational, ecological, and human uses. • Increased development affects water quality and quantity and increases pollution. • Lack of sustainable planning degrades the watershed. • Dam releases impact recreational, ecological, and human uses. • Climate change: Increasing storm severity / flooding impacts recreational, ecological, and human uses. • Lack of enforcement of Metropolitan River Protection Act leads to watershed degradation. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships with stakeholders, advocacy groups, and regulatory agencies to improve watershed conditions. • Education and outreach to visitors and the public about the threats. • Working with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve dam releases so they produce a more stable river environment. • Acquire more land to protect the river corridor. • Marketing and outreach with national water trail (sign plan) to demonstrate the significance of the river corridor. • Develop stewards to protect the river.

Fundamental Resource or Value	The Chattahoochee River
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality data analysis. • Flows assessment. • Desired conditions from the park's 2009 general management plan.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geomorphic assessment and monitoring (how the bed and bank of the river have been changing).
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline stabilization plan. • Expand existing water resources plan into a river management plan. • Integrated pest management plan. • Exotic plant management plan. • Vegetation management plan (grass, shrubs, what is appropriate, where, why). • Trails management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC §1531 et seq.) • National Invasive Species Act (16 USC §4701) • Lacey Act, as amended (16 USC §3371-3378) • Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC §703-712) • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC §668) • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC §4321) • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 USC §2801 et seq.) • Clean Water Act (33 USC §1251-1387, 33 USC §1151) • Clean Air Act (42 USC §7401 et seq.) • Paleontological Resources Preservation Act • Executive Order 11514, "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality" • Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management" • Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards" • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§ 4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§ 4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§ 4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§ 4.6) "Water Resource Management" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§ 4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i> • Special Directive 93-4 "Floodplain Management, Revised Guidelines for National Park Service Floodplain Compliance" (1993) (replaced by Director's Order 77-2: <i>Floodplain Management</i>) • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Scenic Qualities
Related Significance Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running along the Brevard Fault Zone, one of the oldest and most stable river channels in North America, the park's 48-mile river corridor features steep, rugged palisades, rocky shoals, sheer rock faces, and exposed geologic features that provide remarkable visual scenery. At the intersection of the southern piedmont and mountain habitats, the park is an ecological oasis within a densely populated region and contains more than 950 species of plants and a diverse assemblage of wildlife.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently there is a lack of information pertaining to locating and documenting (via GPS) the park's most important viewsheds and visual assets. Visual resource inventory is underway to establish the current condition. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality and integrity is declining where growth and development is most rapid. Trend analysis is incomplete.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased development resulting in higher velocity runoff, stream scouring, and increased sediment loading to the river. This results in muddy water, barren riverbanks, fallen trees, and other damage to visual resources. Invasive species such as English ivy and kudzu that entangle, cover, and out-compete native species that provide aesthetic qualities to the park. Dam releases that create river bank erosion, instability, and tree falls that mar the natural beauty. Encroachments from landowners to utility companies create undesirable impacts on park aesthetics. Easements and utilities detract from the scenery. Climate change: Ground-level ozone, negative impacts on vegetation, increased sedimentation, haze, increased fires. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and outreach to engage the community in protecting the park's significant viewsheds. Civic engagement to create volunteers, supporters, and advocates in protecting the aesthetic qualities of the park from development. Promote night sky-compliant fixtures, behavior, and actions to reduce the impacts of urban lighting on the park's night skies. Identify and protect the park's most important soundscapes from unwanted intrusions that would diminish the enjoyment of the scenery in the park. Engage municipalities in supporting and protecting the park's viewshed through land use controls. Increase the number of conservation easements to create sufficient buffers. Increase monitoring and enforcement of easements. Protect significant viewsheds by creating partnerships with like-minded organizations such as the Chattahoochee Nature Center.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Values of Special Significance, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</i> 636/119395, February 2013. <i>Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i>, National Park Service, September 2009. <i>Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Resource Stewardship Strategy</i>, National Park Service, 2013.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Scenic Qualities
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geomorphic assessment and monitoring (how the bed and bank of river have been changing). • Visual resource inventory. • Easement and rights-of-way inventory and monitoring. • Night sky inventory; soundscape.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual resource management plan. • Night sky / soundscape plan. • Fire management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC §4321) • Clean Air Act (42 USC §7401 et seq.) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.10) "Lightscape Management" • Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77 • NPS Reference Manual 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i>



Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Shoreline Erosion.** Two dams, the Buford Dam and the Morgan Falls Dam, have altered natural flows of surface water within Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Operation of these two dams, especially Buford Dam, has historically been required to maintain a minimum flow of at least 750 cubic feet per second in the Chattahoochee River downstream from Atlanta's water intake. However, releases of water from the impoundments can be extremely variable due to the desire to produce peak power pricing. Surges of water cause tree falls and severe bank erosion, in addition to safety concerns. Rapid changes in water levels cause exacerbated scouring and undercutting of the riverbanks, and increased amounts of suspended sediment. Significant bank erosion is impacting park structures, as well as private property. Erosion is notable around steps built into the riverbanks at access points. These rock steps are losing support as a result of fluvial erosion. Creating a more sustainable flow regime through the park would help address some of these issues.
 - *Associated planning need:* Shoreline stabilization plan
 - *Associated data need:* Geomorphic assessment and monitoring (how the bed and bank of the river have been changing)
- **Water Quality and Quantity.** The Chattahoochee River is the primary natural feature in the park, and therefore water quality, water quantity, high-quality instream habitat, and the health of wetlands and floodplains are high priority natural resources. The most serious water quality issue confronting the park is degradation from the increasingly urbanized landscape surrounding the park, including elevated bacterial contamination from fecal coliforms and *E. coli*. The degree of contamination can vary between different reaches in the park, largely due to streamflow, season, stormflow, and land use and development patterns. Future changes in total water quantity and withdrawal, discharge, and instream flow variability are of concern to park managers because of their potential impacts on resources and visitor experience.
 - *Associated planning need:* Expand existing water resources plan into river management plan
 - *Associated data needs:* Water quality data analysis; flows assessment; desired conditions
- **Lack of Data about Geologic Resources.** The Chattahoochee River channel is locked into the Brevard Fault line, creating a fairly stable river channel. However, the anthropomorphic impacts on this river channel need to be better understood. In addition to streambank erosion and sediment deposition, changes to the fluvial geomorphology of the river need to be better understood to effectively manage these resources. To that end, additional data and information on the park's geologic resources are essential.
 - *Associated data needs:* Geomorphic assessment and monitoring (how the bed and bank of the river have been changing), geologic resource inventory – GIS



- **Limited Information on Invasive Species.** Because of previous land use and occupation of park properties, invasive floral species exist in many units of the park. In addition, invasive fauna and aquatic species have been introduced in the park due to its proximity to urban areas and urban dwellers who release these species into the park. Additional information regarding the aerial extent of these species, as well as information on how to best control these species, is critical to the management of the natural and cultural resources of the park.
 - *Associated planning needs:* Integrated pest management plan, exotic plant management plan
 - *Associated data need:* Inventory of invasive species
- **Limited Information on Fish and Wildlife.** Fisheries, both natural and human-made via the dam, play an important role in park management of resources and the economic impact on surrounding communities. The park has commercial guides who make their living on the fisheries in the park. These fisheries are greatly influenced by land use activity in the watershed, operation of the dams at Buford and Morgan Falls, and climate change. The information needed to best manage these fisheries is limited. More information is needed to understand how to effectively balance the needs of the fisheries with the uses and demands of the communities on the river. Such information could be used to foster better stewardship of fishery resources in the park.
 - *Associated planning need:* Fisheries management plan
 - *Associated data needs:* Water quality data analysis; flows assessment; index of biological integrity; inventory of invasive species
- **Declining Resource Conditions.** Due to the high levels of resource use by visitors, the conditions of many park resources, such as hiking and biking trails, have declined. Also, social trails continue to be found in various park units. The result is a less than desirable visitor experience in addition to increases in erosion. There is a need to inventory, assess, plan, and implement efforts aimed at improving resource conditions in the park. For example, a trail management plan for the park could inform needed cyclic projects for trail maintenance, as well as provide a means by which communities could partner on aligning trail connections and supporting maintenance of the trail system.
 - *Associated planning need:* Trails management plan
 - *Associated data needs:* Geomorphic assessment and monitoring; water quality data analysis; inventory of invasive species

- **Public Interface/Education.** Much of the public interface and education for park visitors consists of outdated information kiosks and signage. A concerted effort at developing a sign plan for the park that includes upgrading messaging to visitors is needed. The park needs to communicate information about the natural and cultural resources in a variety of media, including social media.
 - *Associated data need:* Visitor use studies
- **Lack of Social Science Data.** The lack of social science data prevents the park from understanding and ultimately deploying the limited resources to the greatest need. Information on visitor use and demographics could inform a wide variety of resource and programmatic efforts aimed at meeting visitor expectations. A better understanding of the carrying capacity of certain heavily visited units could also be obtained through social science data.
 - *Associated data need:* Visitor use studies
- **Engaging Partners and Fiscal Sustainability.** Many of the park's partners, including its official friends group, the Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, have the ability not only to raise philanthropic funding for the park, but also recruit volunteers who can address some of the personnel shortages. The ability to effectively engage partners such as Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy and build their capacity to obtain and manage philanthropic funding is critical to the park's future fiscal sustainability.
 - *Associated planning need:* Business plan
 - *Associated data need:* Economic impact assessment strategic thinking
- **Managing Visitor Use and Carrying Capacity.** A strategy is needed to assess the best methods for managing visitor use in heavily visited units of the park. This strategy would also inform the park's deployment of personnel and help understand when units are moving out of managerial thresholds for resource protection and visitor enjoyment, thereby requiring the implementation of mitigating actions.
 - *Associated planning need:* Visitor use management plan
 - *Associated data need:* Visitor use studies
- **Administrative History.** There is no existing park administrative history for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, and the park has experienced significant administrative changes since its establishment in 1978. This action would produce a comprehensive administrative history, including management of the area prior to its designation and up to the present day. The administrative history describes how the park originated, functioned and evolved to the present. It informs current and future park personnel of past problems and their solutions, including successes and failures.
 - *Associated planning need:* Park administrative history

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Ecology, Chattahoochee River	Vegetation management plan (grass, shrubs, what is appropriate, where, why)	H	Resource protection impacts, values, poaching issues linked to visual values.
Key Issue	Park administrative history	H	An administrative history records the story of the park as an institutional entity. This includes NPS programs and activities transcending park jurisdiction. The phrase “administrative history” is used broadly to cover movements leading to park establishment, legislative background, and other contributing developments beyond administration in the strict sense.
Recreation, Chattahoochee River, Key Issue	Expand existing water resources plan into river management plan	H	Main park resource.
Ecology, Recreation, Chattahoochee River, Key Issue	Trails management plan	H	Needed for connectivity and to mitigate existing and ongoing impacts from visitor impacts. Some opportunities to take advantage of trail planner and Atlanta Regional Commission.
Cultural Resource Complexes	Conceptual design plan for Paces Mill (survey, alternative parking)	H	Partnership available; exploding use.
Recreation	Transportation plan parkwide	H	Serious crowding at parking areas (parking lots full), including parking on roads and blocking entrances. Serious impacts also. This plan would evaluate connectivity to park, mass transit, carrying capacity.
Cultural Resource Complexes	Cultural resource management plan for each complex (parkwide assessment)	H	Baseline data needed to help with protection and maintenance and to create efficiencies.
Key Issue	Visitor use management plan	H	
Scenic Qualities	Night sky / soundscape plan	M	Subordinate to visual resource management plan and sustainability plan.
Scenic Qualities	Visual resource management plan	M	Some help from Washington, DC, office already committed.
Recreation	Youth engagement planning (education, outreach youth, partners, and volunteers)	M	Limited park capacity.
Key Issue	Business plan	M	Would solve some fiscal issues and will enable prioritization of revenue streams.
Cultural Resource Complexes	Management and use plan for Allenbrook House	M	Subordinate to cultural resource management plan.
Cultural Resource Complexes	Landscape management plan for Hewlett Lodge	M	Subordinate to cultural resource management plan.
Ecology, Recreation, Scenic Qualities	Fire management plan	M	Required.
Geology, Chattahoochee River, Key Issue	Shoreline stabilization plan	M	River management plan needed first.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Ecology, Chattahoochee River, Key Issue	Integrated pest management plan; exotic plant management plan	M	Subordinate to vegetation management plan.
Recreation, Key Issue	Fisheries management plan	M	Subordinate to water resources plan.
Ecology	Wildlife management plan	M	Limited land base to properly manage.
Museum and Archival Collections	Collection management plan	M	

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or Key Issue?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
Ethnographic and Archeological Resources	Ethnographic overview and assessment	H	
Geology, Chattahoochee River, Scenic Qualities, Key Issue	Geomorphic assessment and monitoring (how the bed and bank of river have been changing)	H	Critical to water resource study.
Recreation, Chattahoochee River, Key Issue	Water quality data analysis; flows assessment; desired conditions	H	Water resources plan.
Ecology, Key Issue	Inventory of invasive species	H	Vegetation management plan.
Ecology, Recreation	Index of biological integrity	H	What is the condition or index of biotic integrity? Water resources plan.
Scenic Qualities	Easement and rights-of-way inventory and monitoring	H	Vegetation management plan.
Cultural Resource Complexes	Visitor use studies	H	Baseline information needed to manage park resources. Studies would include quantity, visitor use capacity, demographic, distribution, crowding, and geographic distribution. Visitor use management plan.
Key Issue	Economic impact assessment strategic thinking	H	Visitor use management plan.
Geology, Key Issue	Geologic resource inventory – GIS	M	
Ecology	Inventory and monitoring protocols for wildlife	M	Wildlife management plan.
Scenic Qualities	Night sky inventory; soundscape	M	Night sky / sound management plan.
Scenic Qualities	Visual resource inventory	M	Visual resource management plan.
Museum and Archival Collections	Museum collections condition assessment; revised and updated museum and archival resources strategy	M	

Part 3: Contributors

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

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Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Public Law 95-344
95th Congress

An Act

Aug. 15, 1978
[H.R. 8336]

To authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

Chattahoochee
River National
Recreation Area,
Ga.
Establishment.
16 USC 460ii.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I

Publication in
Federal Register.

Land acquisition.
16 USC 460ii-1.

SEC. 101. The Congress finds the natural, scenic, recreation, historic, and other values of a forty-eight-mile segment of the Chattahoochee River and certain adjoining lands in the State of Georgia from Buford Dam downstream to Peachtree Creek are of special national significance, and that such values should be preserved and protected from developments and uses which would substantially impair or destroy them. In order to assure such preservation and protection for public benefit and enjoyment, there is hereby established the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the "recreation area"). The recreation area shall consist of the river and its bed together with the lands, waters, and interests therein within the boundary generally depicted on the map entitled "Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area", numbered CHAT-20,000, and dated July 1976, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Following reasonable notice in writing to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate of his intention to do so, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") may, by publication of a revised map or other boundary description in the Federal Register, (1) make minor revisions in the boundary of the recreation area, and (2) revise the boundary to facilitate access to the recreation area, or to delete lands which would be of little or no benefit to the recreation area due to the existence of valuable improvements completely constructed prior to the date of enactment of this Act. The total area, exclusive of the river and its bed, within the recreation area may not exceed six thousand three hundred acres.

SEC. 102. (a) Within the recreation area the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. Property owned by the State of Georgia or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation.

(b) When a tract of land lies partly within and partly without the boundaries of the recreation area, the Secretary may acquire the entire tract by any of the above methods in order to avoid the payment of severance costs. Land so acquired outside of the boundaries of the recreation area may be exchanged by the Secretary for non-Federal land within such boundaries, and any portion of the land not utilized for such exchanges may be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.).

PUBLIC LAW 95-344—AUG. 15, 1978

92 STAT. 475

(c) Except for property which the Secretary determines to be necessary for the purposes of administration, development, access, or public use, an owner of improved property which is used solely for noncommercial residential purposes on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary may retain, as a condition of such acquisition, a right of use and occupancy of the property for such residential purposes. The right retained may be for a definite term which shall not exceed twenty-five years or, in lieu thereof, for a term ending at the death of the owner or the death of the spouse, whichever occurs later. The owner shall elect the term to be retained. The Secretary shall pay the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less the fair market value of the term retained by the owner.

(d) Any right of use and occupancy retained pursuant to this section may, during its existence, be conveyed or transferred, but all rights of use and occupancy shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate to assure the use of the property in accordance with the purposes of this Act. Upon his determination that the property, or any portion thereof, has ceased to be so used in accordance with such terms and conditions, the Secretary may terminate the right of use and occupancy by tendering to the holder of such right an amount equal to the fair market value, as of the date of the tender, of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination.

(e) As used in this section, the term "improved property" means a detached, year-round noncommercial residential dwelling, the construction of which was begun before January 1, 1975, together with so much of the land on which the dwelling is situated, the said land being in the same ownership as the dwelling, as the Secretary shall designate to be reasonably necessary for the enjoyment of the dwelling for the sole purpose of noncommercial residential use, together with any structures accessory to the dwelling which are situated on the land so designated.

"Improved property."

SEC. 103. (a) The Secretary shall administer, protect, and develop the recreation area in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), and in accordance with any other statutory authorities available to him for the conservation and management of historic and natural resources, including fish and wildlife, to the extent he finds such authority will further the purposes of this Act. In developing and administering the recreation area, the Secretary shall take into consideration applicable Federal, State, and local recreation plans and resource use and development plans, including, but not limited to, the Atlanta Regional Commission Chattahoochee Corridor Study, dated July 1972.

16 USC 460ii-2.

16 USC 1.

(b) The Secretary is authorized and encouraged to enter into cooperative agreements with the State or its political subdivisions whereby he may assist in the planning for and interpretation of non-Federal publicly owned lands within or adjacent or related to the recreation area to assure that such lands are used in a manner consistent with the findings and purposes of this Act.

(c) In planning for the development and public use of the recreation area, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of the Army to assure that public use of adjacent or related water resource development or flood control projects and that of the recreation area are complementary.

92 STAT. 476

PUBLIC LAW 95-344—AUG. 15, 1978

Regulations. (d) In administering the recreation area, the Secretary may permit fishing in waters under his jurisdiction in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. The Secretary, after consultation with the appropriate State agency responsible for fishing activities, may designate zones where, and establish periods when, fishing shall be permitted and issue such regulations as he may determine to be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection. Except in emergencies, such regulations shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency.

16 USC 460ii-3. SEC. 104. (a) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall not license the construction of any dam, water conduit, reservoir, powerhouse, transmission line, or other project works under the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), on or directly affecting the recreation area, and no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such area is established, except where such project is determined by the State of Georgia to be necessary for water supply or water quality enhancement purposes and authorized by the United States Congress. Nothing contained in the foregoing sentence, however, shall preclude licensing of, or assistance to, developments upstream or downstream from the recreation area or on any stream tributary thereto which will not invade the recreation area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values present therein on the date of approval of this Act. Nothing contained in this subsection shall preclude the upgrading, improvement, expansion or development of facilities or public works for water supply or water quality enhancement purposes if such action would not have a material adverse effect on the values for which the recreation area is established.

Report to congressional committees. (b) No department or agency of the United States shall recommend authorization of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such area is established, as determined by the Secretary, nor shall such department or agency request appropriations to begin construction of any such project, whether heretofore or hereafter authorized, without at least sixty days in advance, (1) advising the Secretary in writing of its intention to do so and (2) reporting to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate the nature of the project involved and the manner in which such project would conflict with the purposes of this Act or would affect the recreation area and the values to be protected by it under this Act. It is not the intention of Congress by this Act to require the manipulation or reduction of lake water levels in Lake Sidney Lanier. Nothing in this Act shall be construed in any way to restrict, prohibit, or affect any recommendation of the Metropolitan Atlanta Water Resources Study as authorized by the Public Works Committee of the United States Senate on March 2, 1972.

(c) The Secretary is directed to proceed as expeditiously as possible to acquire the lands and interests in lands necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

Land acquisition. SEC. 105. (a) From the appropriations authorized for fiscal year **16 USC 460ii-4.** 1978 and succeeding fiscal years pursuant to the Land and Water

PUBLIC LAW 95-344—AUG. 15, 1978

92 STAT. 477

Conservation Fund Act (78 Stat. 897), as amended, not more than \$72,900,000 may be expended for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands authorized to be acquired pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

16 USC 4601-4.

(b) Effective on October 1, 1978, there are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$500,000 for the development of essential public facilities.

Appropriation authorization.

(c) Within three years from the effective date of this Act, the Secretary shall, after consulting with the Governor of the State of Georgia, develop and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a general management plan for the use and development of the recreation area consistent with the findings and purposes of this Act, indicating:

Plan, report to congressional committees.

(1) lands and interests in lands adjacent or related to the recreation area which are deemed necessary or desirable for the purposes of resource protection, scenic integrity, or management and administration of the area in furtherance of the purposes of this Act, the estimated cost of acquisition, and the recommended public acquisition agency;

(2) the number of visitors and types of public use within the recreation area that can be accommodated in accordance with the full protection of its resources; and

(3) the facilities deemed necessary to accommodate and provide access for such visitors and uses, including their location and estimated cost.

TITLE II

SEC. 201. Section 4 of the Act approved August 31, 1965 (79 Stat. 588), as amended, providing for the commemoration of certain historical events in the State of Kansas, is further amended by changing "\$2,000,000." to "\$2,750,000.": *Provided*, That such increase shall be effective on October 1, 1978.

Appropriation authorization.

TITLE III

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 301. (a) The Congress hereby finds that—

16 USC 2301.

(1) the purpose of the National Park System is to preserve outstanding natural, scenic, historic, and recreation areas for the enjoyment, education, inspiration, and use of all people;

(2) units of the National Park System have recently been established near major metropolitan areas in order to preserve remaining open space and to provide recreational opportunities for urban residents (many of whom do not have access to personal motor vehicles); and

(3) circumstances which necessarily require people desiring to visit units of the National Park System to rely on personal motor vehicles may diminish the natural and recreational value of such units by causing traffic congestion and environmental damage, and by requiring the provision of roads, parking, and other facilities in ever-increasing numbers and density.

92 STAT. 478

PUBLIC LAW 95-344—AUG. 15, 1978

- (b) The purpose of this title is to make the National Park System more accessible in a manner consistent with the preservation of parks and the conservation of energy by encouraging the use of transportation modes other than personal motor vehicles for access to and within units of the National Park System with minimum disruption to nearby communities through authorization of a pilot transportation program.
- 16 USC 2302. SEC. 302. (a) The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as "Secretary") is authorized to formulate transportation plans and implement transportation projects where feasible pursuant to those plans for units of the national park system.
- Land acquisition. (b) To carry out the purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary is authorized to—
- (1) contract with public or private agencies or carriers to provide transportation services, capital equipment, or facilities to improve access to units of the national park system;
 - (2) operate such services directly in the absence of suitable and adequate agencies or carriers;
 - (3) acquire by purchase, lease, or agreement, capital equipment for such services; and
 - (4) where necessary to carry out the purposes of this title, acquire by lease, purchase, donation, exchange, or transfer, lands, waters, and interests therein which are situated outside the boundary of a unit of the national park system, which property shall be administered as part of the unit: *Provided*, That any land or interests in land owned by a State or any of its political subdivisions may be acquired only by donation: *Provided further*, That any land acquisition shall be subject to such statutory limitations, if any, on methods of acquisition and appropriations thereof as may be specifically applicable to such area.
- (c) Acquisitions pursuant to subsection (b) (3) and (4) of this section shall not commence prior to sixty days (not counting days on which the Senate or the House of Representatives has adjourned for more than three consecutive days) from the time the Secretary has submitted a detailed proposal for such acquisitions to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives.
- (d) All fees directly collected by the National Park Service in the operation of the facilities and services authorized by this title shall be covered into the Planning, Development, and Operation of Recreation Facilities appropriation account to be subject to appropriation.
- Information, availability to public. (e) The Secretary shall establish information programs to inform the public of available park access opportunities and to promote the use of transportation modes other than personal motor vehicles for access to and travel within the units of the national park system.
- 16 USC 20. (f) Transportation facilities and services provided pursuant to this title shall not be considered as concession facilities or services within the meaning of the Act of October 9, 1965 (79 Stat. 969) and may be undertaken by the Secretary directly or by contract without regard to any requirement of local, State, or Federal law respecting determinations of public convenience and necessity or other similar matters: *Provided*, That the Secretary or his contractor shall consult with the appropriate State or local public service commission or other such body having authority to issue certificates of convenience and necessity, and any such contractor shall be subject to applicable requirements of such body unless the Secretary determines that such

PUBLIC LAW 95-344—AUG. 15, 1978

92 STAT. 479

requirements would not be consistent with the purposes and provisions of this title.

(g) No grant of authority in this title shall be deemed to expand the exemption of section 203(b)(4) of the Interstate Commerce Act (49 U.S.C. 303(b)(4)).

SEC. 303. (a) To carry out the purposes of this title, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of such other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary deems necessary are directed to assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of transportation projects. **16 USC 2303.**

(b) Within one hundred and eighty days from the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives, a compilation of Federal statutes and programs providing authority for the planning, funding, or operation of transportation projects which might be utilized by the Secretary to carry out the purpose of this title. The Secretary shall revise the compilation thereafter as he deems necessary. **Report to congressional committees.**

SEC. 304. (a) The Secretary shall, during the formulation of any transportation plan authorized pursuant to section 302 of this title— **Notice, publication in Federal Register. 16 USC 2304.**

(1) give public notice of intention to formulate such a plan by publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper or periodical having general circulation in the vicinity of the affected unit of the national park system;

(2) following such notice hold a public meeting at a location or locations convenient to the affected unit of the National Park System.

(b) Prior to the implementation of any project developed pursuant to the transportation plan formulated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish procedures, including but not limited to public meetings, to give State and local governments and the public adequate notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed transportation project; and **Notice.**

(2) submit, when the proposed project would involve an expenditure in excess of \$100,000 in any fiscal year, a detailed report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives. The Secretary may proceed with the implementation of such plan only after sixty days (not counting days on which the Senate or House of Representatives has adjourned for more than three consecutive days) have elapsed following submission of the plan. **Report to congressional committees.**

SEC. 305. The Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress within three years of the effective date of this Act. The report shall include, but not be limited to, his findings and recommendations regarding— **Report to Congress. 16 USC 2305.**

(a) preservation of natural resource values within units of the National Park System through access alternatives;

(b) effects of transportation projects on communities in close proximity to the units of the National Park System; and

(c) future transportation projects formulated pursuant to this title.

SEC. 306. In carrying out the purposes of this title, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 1979; \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1980; and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 1981, which shall remain available until expended. In a fiscal year when the amounts actually appropriated are less than the amounts listed above, the authorized but unappropriated amount shall continue to be available for appropriation in succeeding fiscal years.

Approved August 15, 1978.

113 STAT. 1736

PUBLIC LAW 106-154—DEC. 9, 1999

Public Law 106-154
106th Congress

An Act

Dec. 9, 1999
[H.R. 2140]

To improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

16 USC 460ii
note.

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia is a nationally significant resource;

(2) the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area has been adversely affected by land use changes occurring inside and outside the recreation area;

(3) the population of the metropolitan Atlanta area continues to expand northward, leaving dwindling opportunities to protect the scenic, recreational, natural, and historical values of the 2,000-foot-wide corridor adjacent to each bank of the Chattahoochee River and its impoundments in the 48-mile segment known as the “area of national concern”;

(4) the State of Georgia has enacted the Metropolitan River Protection Act to ensure protection of the corridor located within 2,000 feet of each bank of the Chattahoochee River, or the corridor located within the 100-year floodplain, whichever is larger;

(5) the corridor located within the 100-year floodplain includes the area of national concern;

(6) since establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, visitor use of the recreation area has shifted dramatically from waterborne to water-related and land-based activities;

(7) the State of Georgia and political subdivisions of the State along the Chattahoochee River have indicated willingness to join in a cooperative effort with the United States to link existing units of the recreation area through a series of linear corridors to be established within the area of national concern and elsewhere on the river; and

(8) if Congress appropriates funds in support of the cooperative effort described in paragraph (7), funding from the State, political subdivisions of the State, private foundations, corporate entities, private individuals, and other sources will be available to fund more than half the estimated cost of the cooperative effort.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to increase the level of protection of the open spaces within the area of national concern along the Chattahoochee

PUBLIC LAW 106-154—DEC. 9, 1999

113 STAT. 1737

River and to enhance visitor enjoyment of the open spaces by adding land-based linear corridors to link existing units of the recreation area;

(2) to ensure that the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area is managed to standardize acquisition, planning, design, construction, and operation of the linear corridors; and

(3) to authorize the appropriation of Federal funds to cover a portion of the costs of the Federal, State, local, and private cooperative effort to add additional areas to the recreation area so as to establish a series of linear corridors linking existing units of the recreation area and to protect other open spaces of the Chattahoochee River corridor.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ACT.

(a) **BOUNDARIES.**—Section 101 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii), is amended—

(1) in the third sentence, by inserting after “numbered CHAT-20,003, and dated September 1984,” the following: “and on the maps entitled ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Interim Boundary Map #1’, ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Interim Boundary Map #2’, and ‘Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Interim Boundary Map #3’, and dated August 6, 1998,”;

(2) by striking the fourth sentence and inserting the following: “No sooner than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this sentence, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter referred to as the ‘Secretary’) may modify the boundaries of the recreation area to include other land within the Chattahoochee River corridor by submitting a revised map or other boundary description to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives. The revised map or other boundary description shall be prepared by the Secretary after consultation with affected landowners, the State of Georgia, and affected political subdivisions of the State. The revised boundaries shall take effect 180 days after the date of submission unless, within the 180-day period, Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving the revised boundaries.”; and

(3) in the next-to-last sentence, by striking “may not exceed approximately 6,800 acres.” and inserting “may not exceed 10,000 acres.”.

(b) **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**—Section 102 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii-1), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “from willing sellers” after “purchase”; and

(2) by striking subsection (f).

(c) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—Section 103 of the Act entitled “An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for other

purposes", approved August 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii-2), is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Georgia, political subdivisions of the State, and other entities to ensure standardized acquisition, planning, design, construction, and operation of the recreation area."

(d) FUNDING.—Section 105 of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes", approved August 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii-4), is amended—

(1) by striking "SEC. 105. (a)" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 105. FUNDING SOURCES AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

"(a) FUNDING.—

"(1) LIMITATION ON USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—"

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "\$79,400,000" and inserting "\$115,000,000";

(B) by striking "this Act" and inserting "this title";

and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept a donation of funds or land or an interest in land to carry out this title.

"(3) RELATION TO OTHER FUNDING SOURCES.—Funds made available under paragraph (1) are in addition to funding and the donation of land and interests in land by the State of Georgia, local government authorities, private foundations, corporate entities, and individuals for purposes of this title.";

and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by striking "(c) Within" and inserting the following:

"(c) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

"(1) INITIAL PLAN.—Within";

(C) in paragraph (1) (as designated by subparagraph (B)), by striking "transmit to" and all that follows through "Representatives" and inserting "transmit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) REVISED PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 3 years after the date funds are made available, the Secretary shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (1) a revised general management plan to provide for the protection, enhancement, enjoyment, development, and use of the recreation area.

"(B) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—In preparing the revised plan, the Secretary shall encourage the participation of the State of Georgia and affected political subdivisions of the State, private landowners, interested citizens, public officials, groups, agencies, educational institutions, and other entities."

(e) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Title I of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the establishment of the Chattahoochee River

PUBLIC LAW 106-154—DEC. 9, 1999

113 STAT. 1739

National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes”, approved August 15, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 460ii et seq.), is amended—

- (1) in sections 102(d) and 103(a), by striking “of this Act” and inserting “of this title”; 16 USC 460ii-1, 460ii-2.
- (2) in section 104(b)— 16 USC 460ii-3.
 - (A) by striking “of this Act” and inserting “of this title”;
 - (B) by striking “under this Act” and inserting “under this title”;
 - (C) by striking “by this Act” and inserting “by this title”; and
 - (D) by striking “in this Act” and inserting “in this title”;
- (3) in section 104(d)(2), by striking “under this Act” and inserting “under this title”;
- (4) in section 105(c)(1)(A), as redesignated by subsection (d)(3), by striking “of this Act” and inserting “of this title”; 16 USC 460ii-4.
- (5) in section 106(a), by striking “in this Act” and inserting “in this title”; and 16 USC 460ii-5.
- (6) in section 106(d), by striking “under this Act” and inserting “under this title”.

Approved December 9, 1999.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2140 (S. 109):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 106-369 (Comm. on Resources).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 106-62 accompanying S. 109 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 145 (1999):

Oct. 18, considered and passed House.

Nov. 19, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 35 (1999):

Dec. 9, Presidential statement.

Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date – Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Letter of agreement	February 2015 – February 2020	USACE	Parking lot at Bowman's Island.	
Rights-of-way	Various water intake / right-of-way	50 years	Roswell City, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton County, Forsyth County	Formalizes the access to the principal drinking water source for local governments.	
	Law enforcement jurisdiction		Multiple	Concurrent jurisdiction vs proprietary.	
Sewage discharge agreements	Rights-of-way for utilities		Multiple	Utility rights-of-way.	
Memorandum of agreement with Chattahoochee Nature Center	General agreement			Mutual assistance and shared resources.	
Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites Division				Mutual assistance, training, and outreach renewed this year. Official NPS regional partnership agreement.	
U.S. Geological Survey, Chattahoochee River Keeper				Bacteria alert monitoring.	
U.S. Geological Survey				To expand water monitoring / bacteria alert monitoring.	
Georgia Department of Natural Resources				Fishery.	Rainbow trout.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission			Georgia Power	Settlement agreement.	
Fulton County	Mutual agreement	May 2015 –	Fulton County / 911	Dispatch services.	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date – Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association				Maintain trails at Sope Creek. Special mandate that applies only to this unit.	There is no formal agreement in place, but there is a long history. The park hopes to partner officially with their parent organization, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, a national NPS partner.
Cumberland Community Improvement District	Memorandum of understanding			Paces Mill enhancements.	In draft, not yet signed. Memorandum of understanding is current.
Georgia Department of Transportation	Memorandum of understanding		GDOT	Construction of State Route 20 bridge.	Multiple additional agreements for mitigation of impacts for construction.
Roswell Gateway	Memorandum of understanding		Roswell GDOT, NPS, FHWA	Mitigation for widening of State Route 9.	
Cobb County Parks and Recreation	Cooperative agreement easement	2009 – 5 years	NPS and Cobb County	Management, education, outreach and shared stewardship of Hyde Farm / interpretation.	
Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, Inc., official NPS friends group	Friends group agreement	2015 – Renewable, annual work plan	Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy, Inc.	Promote stewardship and build a community of support for park.	501(c)(3) nonprofit, philanthropic partner.
Nantahala Outdoor Center	Concession contract	January 1, 2015 – 10 years	Nantahala Outdoor Center	Operation of concession facilities to facilitate safe recreation.	Johnson Ferry North and Powers Island.
Sandy Springs leadership	Partnership letter		Sandy Springs	To promote youth engagement and community outreach.	



Southeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

May 2017

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Southeast Regional Director.

Bill Cox

5/1/2017

RECOMMENDED

Bill Cox, Superintendent, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Date

Stan Austin

5/5/17

APPROVED

Stan Austin, Regional Director, Southeast Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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