



ATLANTA REGION'S PLAN

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Executive Summary



Atlanta Regional Commission

INTRODUCTION

ITP or OTP; White, Black, Hispanic or Asian; Boomer or Millennial; the residents who call metro Atlanta home have a strong interest in creating a stronger, more vibrant region while protecting the features that have made the region a magnet for people and businesses from across the country and the world.

To build a stronger economy and improve quality of life, the Atlanta region needs world class infrastructure, which includes a secure water supply and a transportation system for the 21st century; an competitive economy that is recognized as a global hub of technology with a competitive workforce; and healthy livable communities that have art and recreation and provide housing options for all ages, income, and abilities.

How the Regional Development Plan Fits into The Atlanta Region's Plan

With a population projected to grow to 8.6 million people by 2050, The Atlanta Region's Plan sets the framework for a stronger region to win in the future while continuing to sustain and improve the region's quality of life. In 2014, the ARC Board adopted a planning framework for The Atlanta Region's Plan that focuses on a threefold vision of providing world-class infrastructure, building a competitive economy, and ensuring the region is comprised of healthy and livable communities. This vision, along with six key goals set by the ARC Board, served as the foundation for The Atlanta Region's Plan which was adopted in 2016.

This document is an update to that 2016 plan. It dictates the programs and projects that implement the Regional Policy Framework and reaffirms the Regional Vision. This update is intended to prompt public discourse on what assets the Atlanta region has and what challenges the region is facing today and it needs to address to win in the future. It identifies key issues that are challenging policy makers today, but it also illustrates the region's strengths. It provides a future of how the region will develop and areas where ARC will focus its actions.



GROWING POPULATION

The region's population is projected to grow to 8.6 million by 2050, becoming increasingly diverse.

THE ATLANTA REGION'S PLAN FRAMEWORK



World Class Infrastructure

GOALS

- Comprehensive transportation network, incorporating regional transit and 21st Century technology
- Secured, long-term water supply

Healthy, Livable Communities

GOALS

- Promoting health, arts and other aspects of a high quality of life
- Developing additional walkable, vibrant centers, that support people of all ages and abilities

Competitive Economy

GOALS

- Building the region as a globally recognized hub of technology and innovation
- Developing a highly desired workforce, able to meet the needs of 21st Century employers

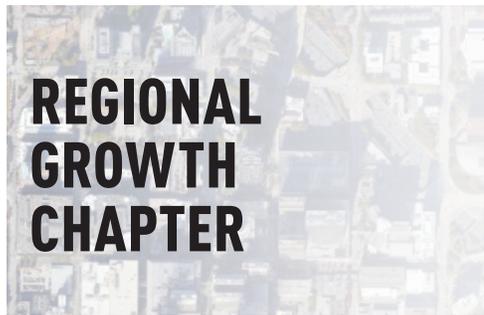
PLAN COMPONENTS

The **Regional Development Plan** is the required 10 county Regional Plan for the Atlanta Region, with the components below:



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAP

The Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) is included in the Regional Development Guide. The UGPM is comprised of Areas, Centers, and Places. Areas describe predominant land use patterns throughout the region. Places reflect centers that have generally defined boundaries and provide greater detail within Areas.



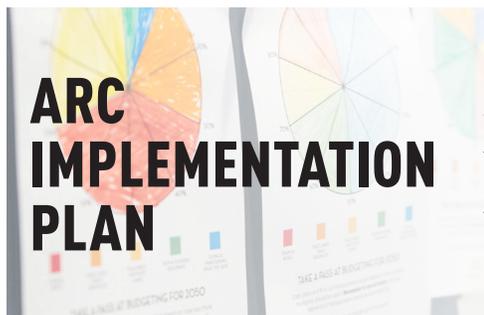
REGIONAL GROWTH CHAPTER

The Regional Growth Chapter elaborates on the UGPM by providing a definition for each regional Area and Place. Among other things, it includes a written description, pictures, listing of specific land uses desirable in each Area and Place, and identification of implementation priorities, which are measures to achieve the desired development patterns. This section ties into ARC's review of Development of Regional Impacts.



REGIONAL RESOURCE PLAN

The Regional Resource Plan is a required component under DCA's regional planning rules. It describes the regional policy for Regionally Important Resources (RIRs), such as areas of conservation and recreational value, historic and cultural resources, and areas of agricultural and scenic value. This was produced in 2016.



ARC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The ARC Implementation Plan section includes the regional Five-Year Work Program, as well as ARC programs that implement The Atlanta Region's Plan.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

The Local Government Plan Implementation Appendix includes Performance Standards for Local Governments. The standards are divided into minimum and excellence achievement thresholds. These standards are ways that local governments implement The Atlanta Region's Plan.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In coordination with the Regional Transportation Plan, public engagement activities have happened since 2016 with the completion of the previous The Atlanta Region's Plan. Over 25,000 people have participated in regional conversations. The Public Engagement Summary Report attached provides documentation of that process. The Regional Public Hearing was held on September 15, 2020.



JANUARY 2019

AUGUST 2019

Technical committee and ARC Board engagement

OCTOBER 2019

The Atlanta Region's Plan Open Houses complete

FEBRUARY 2020

Regional Transportation Plan adopted

SEPTEMBER 2020

Virtual transmittal hearing

MARCH 2021

Regional Development Plan adopted



ASSETS AND CHALLENGES

The Atlanta region's growth is presenting challenges that require new solutions and partnerships. Housing prices and redevelopment are challenging historical development patterns that the region has experienced for the past fifty years. New infrastructure, technology, and funding are expanding transportation options for residents, and visitors and the region continue to grow in population and jobs.

The assets of the Atlanta region have led the region's growth for decades. The Atlanta region has grown and expanded largely on the basis of national migration trends to the south; access to the world's busiest airport and the region's prominence as the economic capital of the south; inexpensive land; low cost of living, business costs, and wages. The region also has proximity to major ports, substantial opportunities for higher education, and Fortune 500 business headquarters, as well as national facilities, such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Through a process of extensive stakeholder engagement and data analysis, the following priority assets and challenges were identified.

Key Projects

These key projects are some of the activities ARC will undertake over the next five years to respond to the Assets and Challenges identified in the Regional Development Plan. The full list of projects are in the Regional Development Plan Work Program.

- Develop a Transit Creative Placemaking Program
- TOD Zoning Assistance
- Jurisdiction Housing Assessments
- Regional Safety Action plan
- Implement the RiverLands Study
- Update the Aerotropolis Blueprint
- Update the Regional Freight Plan



The region is a global business hub. The continued investment in infrastructure, workforce, and quality of life will continue to ensure its success.



To ensure the region's economic success, everyone must be prepared to advance in a productive career.



The Atlanta region has successfully managed its limited water resources. Continuing the good stewardship will require conservation, new technology, and greater awareness.



Market and land use factors are limiting housing opportunities and choice in the region.



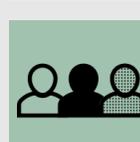
The region has strong but limited transit options. With the creation of a regional transit authority, significant coordination and prioritization will be required to maximize transit options.



Funding for transportation has increased in recent years but the need for transportation investments continues.



Metro communities will have to overcome more frequent environmental shocks and stressors to their infrastructure and residents.



A person's race too often determines economic opportunity.



Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is the largest economic asset in the region and its continued success will require coordinated land use, transportation, and economic development.



Older adults need to have opportunities for active living and ongoing participation in civic life.



Recognizing that place matters will help build a stronger regional and local identity.

ARC

THE ATLANTA REGION'S PLAN

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Draft February 2021



Atlanta Regional Commission

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The conclusions developed in this plan reflect the research and analysis conducted in 2019. Generally, this data reflects the local and national economic conditions prior to the widespread external economic shock caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. ARC will continue to monitor and update the Regional Development Plan.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

ITP or OTP; White, Black, Hispanic or Asian; Boomer or Millennial; the residents who call metro Atlanta home have a strong interest in creating a stronger, more vibrant region while protecting the features that have made the region a magnet for people and businesses from across the country and the world.

To build a stronger economy and improve quality of life, the Atlanta region needs world class infrastructure, which includes a secure water supply and a transportation system for the 21st century; an competitive economy that is recognized as a global hub of technology with a competitive workforce; and healthy livable communities that have art and recreation and provide housing options for all ages, income, and abilities.

This document is intended to prompt public discourse on what assets the Atlanta region has and what challenges the region is facing today and it needs to address to win in the future. It identifies key issues that are challenging policy makers today, but it also illustrates the region's strengths. It provides a future of how the region will develop and areas where ARC will focus its actions.

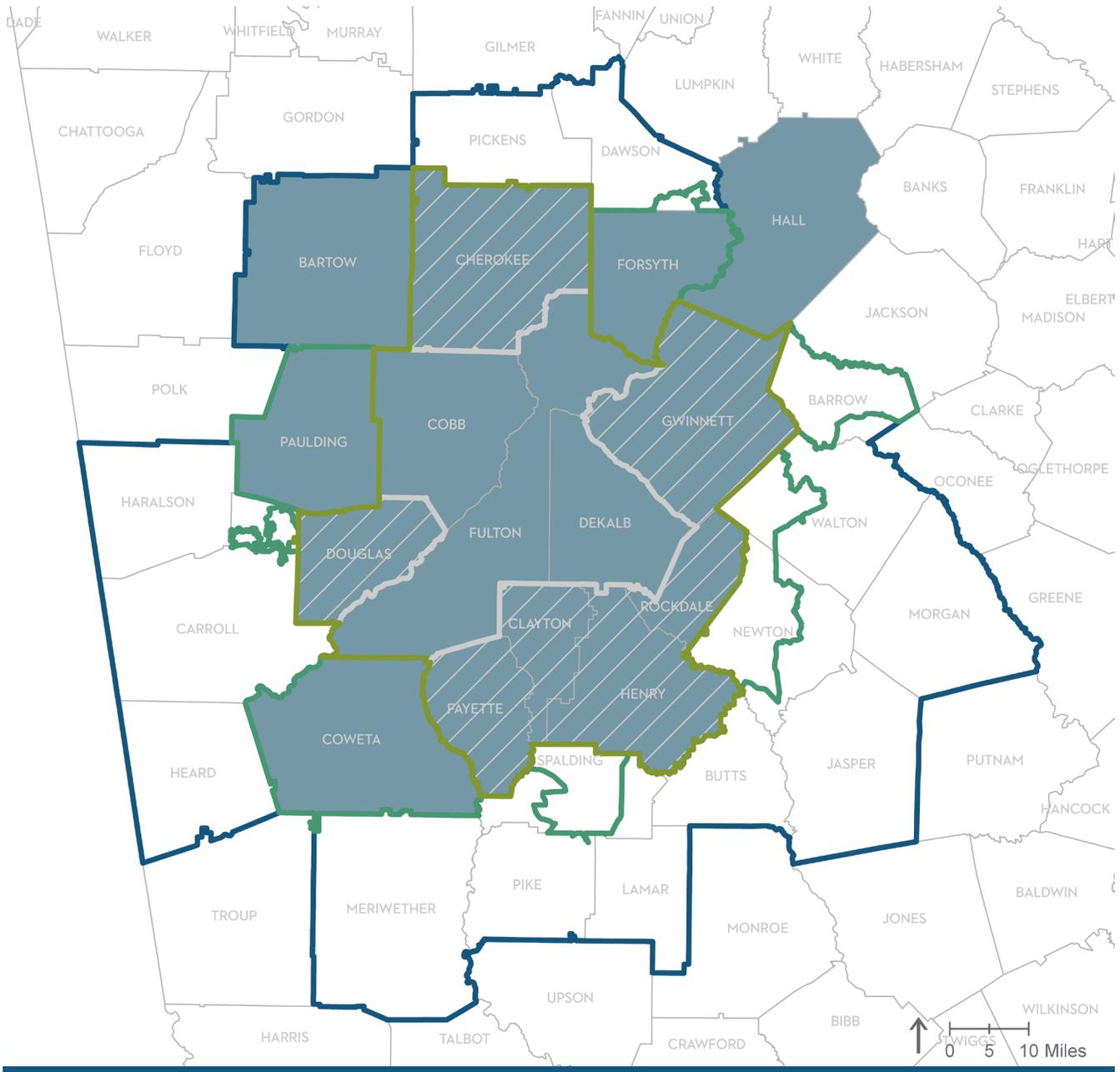
With a population projected to grow to 8.6 million people by 2050, The Atlanta Region's Plan sets the framework for a stronger region to win in the future while continuing to sustain and improve the region's quality of life.

ABOUT THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency created by local governments in the Atlanta region pursuant to legislation passed by the Georgia General Assembly. ARC is not a government entity but is the forum through which officials of local governments in the Atlanta region confer to solve mutual problems and decide issues of region-wide importance. ARC engages in a continuous program of research, study, and planning of matters affecting the Atlanta region. As an area of greater than 1 million residents, ARC has authority under state laws as a Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission (O.C.G.A. 50-8-80).

In addition to being the official planning agency under state law for the 10-county region, ARC is also the transportation planning agency for the Atlanta region under federal law as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the 18-county area. In support of planning for transportation, ARC must develop a long-range forecast for population and households for a 20-county area to ensure transportation activities are consistent with efforts to improve air quality in this area. ARC provides planning staff to the 15-county Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD), whose mission is to develop comprehensive regional and watershed-specific water resources plans for implementation by local governments. ARC also serves as the administrative agency for the 7-county Atlanta Regional Workforce Board (ARWB). Aging services and policy guidance are provided by ARC as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

MAP 1-1 ARC REGIONS



Legend

-  Metropolitan Planning Organization
-  Workforce Board
-  Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
-  Metropolitan Statistical Area
-  Atlanta Regional Commission
-  Counties

In addition to mandated regional planning, ARC provides technical assistance to local governments as well as leadership programs including the Regional Leadership Institute (RLI), the LINK program, Community Planning Academy (CPA) and the MARC (Model Atlanta Regional Commission) youth leadership program.

The Atlanta Region's Plan considers regional priorities for each of these different roles, but primarily fulfills the requirements of the Regional Agenda as mandated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Regional Transportation Plan as mandated by U.S. Department of Transportation. As such, The Atlanta Region's Plan is a compilation of several key components.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Prior to 1989, six plans had been prepared for the Atlanta Region – in 1952, 1954, 1962, 1968, 1975, and 1984. Each plan represented an expression of how the region should grow and change in order to achieve future goals. Each plan was long-range and general in nature, allowed for local decision-making, and represented a benchmark in an ongoing planning process. Over the years, state legislation evolved, providing a framework for each of these planning efforts.

In 1989, the Georgia Planning Act set the stage for our most current planning approach. The Act requires all local governments and regional commissions in the state, including ARC, to prepare comprehensive plans that feature a “bottom-up” approach, with local plans coming first and regional plans following. This allows regional plans to combine, interrelate, and provide a regional umbrella for local planning efforts. The Act requires that all plans be formulated in accordance with minimum planning standards prepared by the State Department of Community Affairs. In 1997, the Commission and its staff prepared a Regional Development Plan called *Detailing the Vision – A Development Plan for the Atlanta Region*. This plan was prepared pursuant to the 1989 Georgia Planning Act, and it incorporated the local government plans produced between 1991 and 1995. *Detailing the Vision* was updated in 1999 and identified special target areas for regional plan implementation. Examples of these areas include small water supply watersheds, airport noise zones and rapid transit station areas, including proposed rapid transit rail extensions and commuter rail lines and stations.

In 2003, ARC published *Regional Development Plan Land Use Policies – Livability for People and Places*, which were refinements of the planning principles articulated in the 1997 *Detailing the Vision* and the 1999 update. In 2006, ARC developed *Envision 6*, which followed the “bottom up” approach introduced in the Georgia Planning Act and integrated a plan development process to support future updates of the Regional Transportation

Plan and Regional Development Plan. *Envision 6* included a Regional Transportation Plan that was based on forecasts and policy recommendations from the Regional Development Plan. The format of *Envision 6* set the stage for *PLAN 2040* which was adopted in 2011, which integrates the Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Development Plan into one unified policy framework.

In 2014, the ARC Board adopted a planning framework for The Atlanta Region's Plan that focuses on a threefold vision of providing world-class infrastructure, building a competitive economy, and ensuring the region is comprised of healthy and livable communities. This vision, along with six key goals set by the ARC Board, served as the foundation for *The Atlanta Region's Plan* which was adopted in 2016.

This document is an update to that 2016 plan. It dictates the programs and projects that implement the Regional Policy Framework and reaffirms the Regional Vision. Below are the components of this update.

The Regional Development Map is the Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) that is included in the Regional Development Guide. The UGPM is comprised of Areas, Centers, and Places. Areas describe predominant land use patterns throughout the region. Places reflect centers that have generally defined boundaries and provide greater detail within Areas.

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The Local Government Plan Implementation Appendix includes Performance Standards for Local Governments. The standards are divided into minimum and excellence achievement thresholds. These standards are ways that local governments implement The Atlanta Region's Plan.

PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL

The Atlanta Region's Plan serves as a guide to local government planning and zoning. Metro Atlanta's cities, towns, and counties have decision-making authority to adopt plans, zoning, and permit or deny development projects. Similarly, The Atlanta Regional Plan's forecast does not prescribe locations of growth but rather is developed in collaboration with the regional economists, the development community, and local governments.

2.0 ASSETS & CHALLENGES

Atlanta has been one of the fastest-growing regions in the nation in recent years, both in terms of people and jobs. This provides the region new assets to capitalize on, but also new challenges to address.

The Atlanta region's growth is presenting challenges that require new solutions and partnerships. Housing prices and redevelopment are challenging historical development patterns that the region has experienced for the past fifty years. New infrastructure, technology, and funding are expanding transportation options for residents, and visitors and the region continue to grow in population and jobs.

The assets of the Atlanta region have led the region's growth for decades. The Atlanta region has grown and expanded largely on the basis of national migration trends to the south; access to the world's busiest airport and the region's prominence as the economic capital of the south; inexpensive land; low cost of living, business costs, and wages. The region also has proximity to major ports, substantial opportunities for higher education, and Fortune 500 business headquarters, as well as national facilities, such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Through a process of extensive stakeholder engagement and data analysis, the following assets and challenges were identified.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sustained investment in infrastructure, workforce, and quality of life will be critical to ensuring the region's economic status as a global business hub.

As the global gateway to the south, the Atlanta region has many essential elements for economic growth. The region is home to the world's busiest airport and one of the world's largest airlines using Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as a primary hub. 80% of the entire U.S. population lives within a direct 2-hour flight from Atlanta¹.

The region has a well-connected transportation system with more than 80% of the U.S. commercial and consumer market within two truckload days². The region is not just well-positioned in terms of transportation access, but also has the ability to provide an educated and prepared workforce. The metro area has 48 accredited degree-granting colleges and universities offering more than 400 fields of study serving more than 175,000 full time



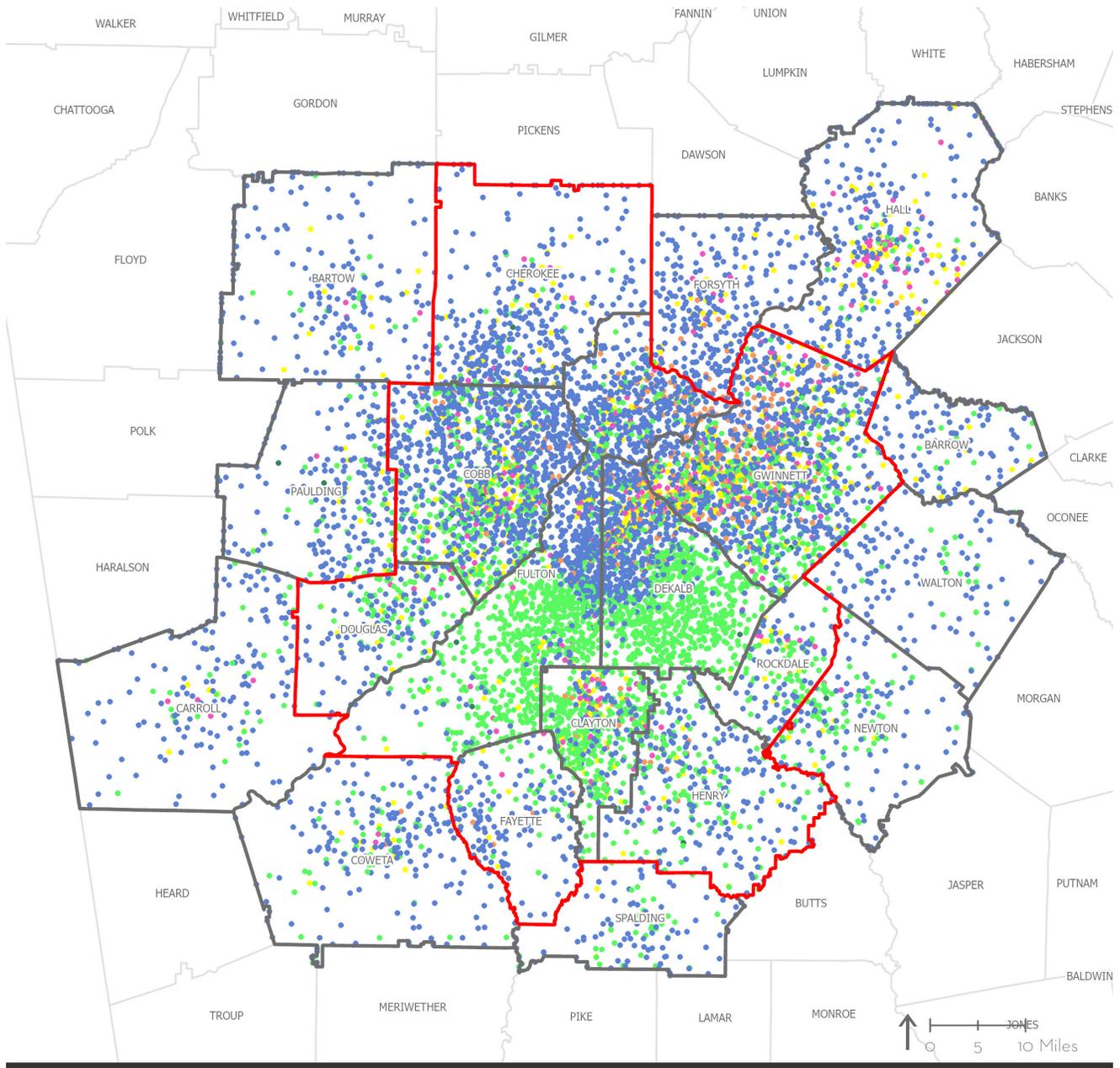
Aircraft Manufacturing is one of the Atlanta region's largest manufacturing sectors employing over 7,700 people within the region and is ranked 10th in the nation in terms of employment shares⁹. Lockheed Martin is one of the largest employers in the sector and has produced the C-130 since 1955 at Air Force Plant 6 at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta.

students.

Metro Atlanta is the economic engine of the State of Georgia. This is best illustrated by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measured at the state and metropolitan statistical areas (MSA). GDP is the output of the goods and services produced by labor and property. Using this measure, metro Atlanta currently ranks as the 10th largest economy in the United States.³

Sustained economic success will require continued investments in infrastructure. The Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Water Plan, identify investments within transportation and water infrastructure. This

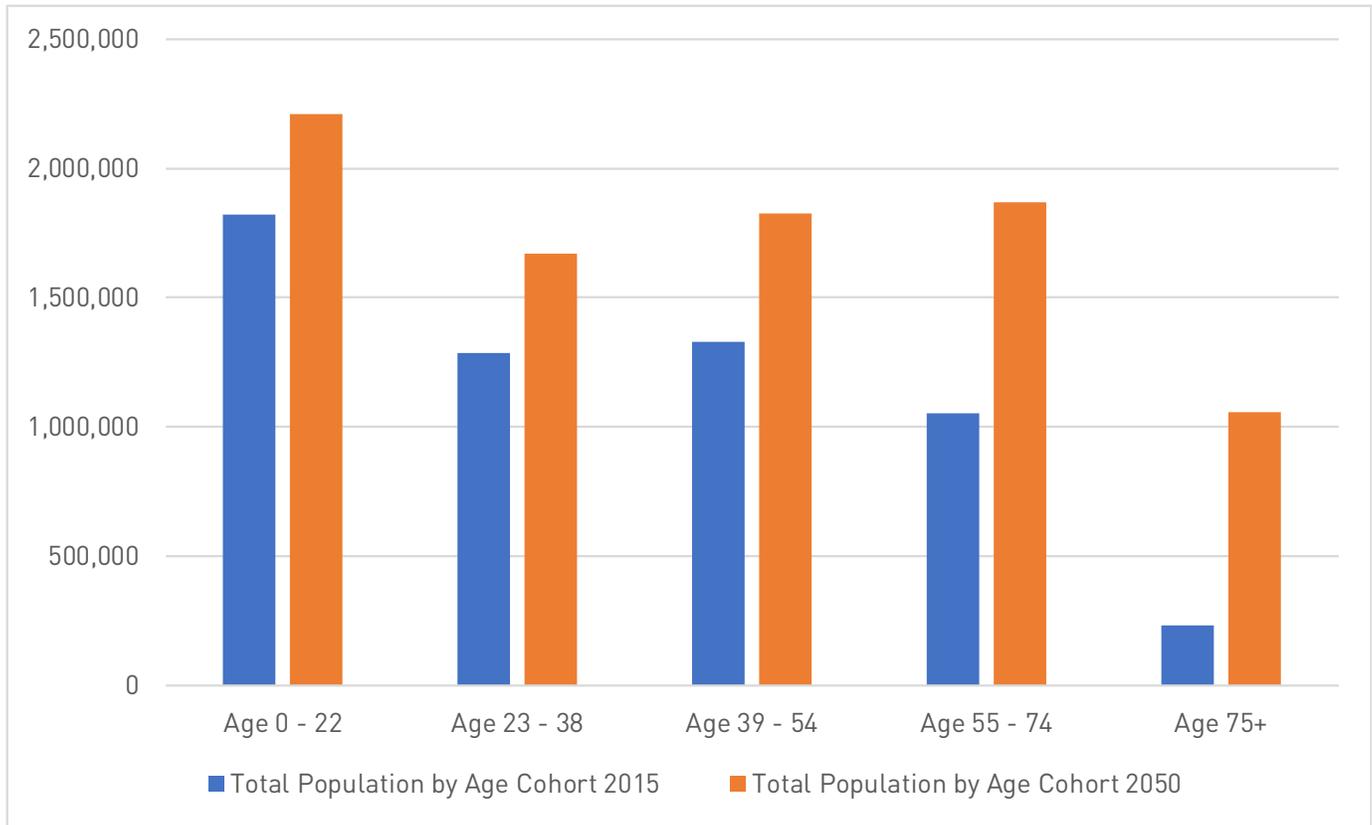
MAP 2-1 REGIONAL DIVERSITY



1 Dot = 600 people

- White
- Black
- Asian
- Two or More Races
- Some other Race
- Hispanic
- ▭ ARC 20 County
- ▭ Counties
- ▭ ARC Regional Commission Boundary

CHART 2-1 POPULATION GROWTH BY AGE COHORT



plan builds upon those identified investments and provides a framework to leverage them.

POPULATION

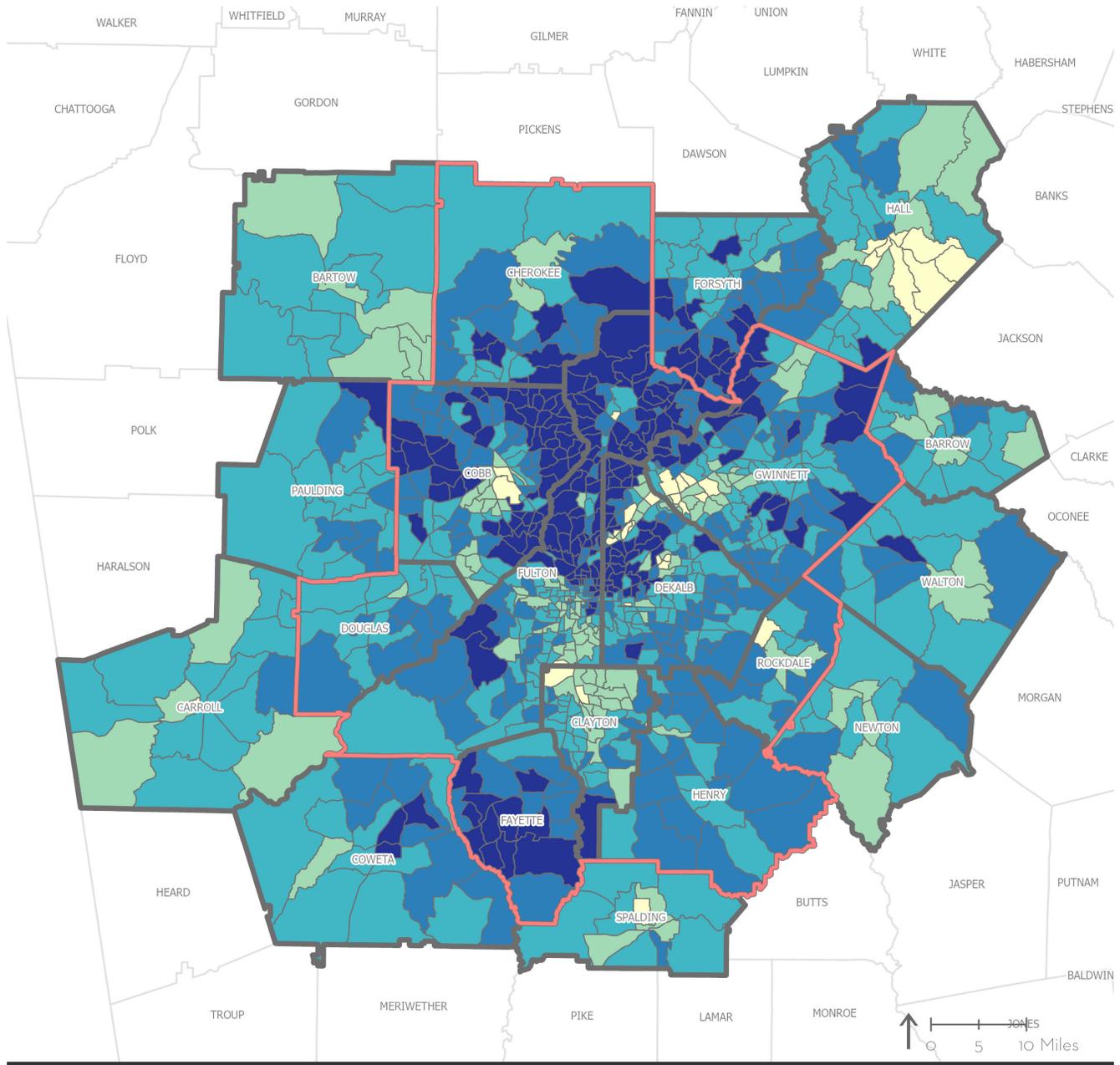
By 2050, the composition of the region's 8 million residents will be markedly different in terms of age, race, and ethnicity.

The Atlanta region has been one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the nation for decades, reaching a population of four million at the turn of the century. The magnitude of growth in the Atlanta region has generated significant economic activity in the region but also has resulted in numerous challenges related to sustaining the economic, environmental, and social health of the region.

The Atlanta region will undergo a dynamic shift in its racial and ethnic profile of the region over the next 30 years. Additionally, the region will also experience significant shifts related to the age of the population. The ratio of working-age individuals to non-working age will change dramatically as the region will have many more non-working aged residents in 2050 as the share of the population over the age of 65 will increase dramatically.

Meeting the needs of a changing population will not fall just to the social and education systems alone, but also

MAP 2-2 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Percent High School Graduate

- Less than 65%
- 65% - 80%
- 80% - 90%
- 90% - 95%
- More than 95%
- ARC 20 County
- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- Counties

to a built environment and the supportive infrastructure that allows these individuals to be independent.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To ensure the region's economic success, everyone must be prepared to advance in a productive career.

High-quality public education is a key building block for a successful regional economy. As our region rises to the challenge of addressing growing needs and limited resources, we must equip the region's children with a 21st-century education that gives them tools to take part in an innovative regional economy.

ARC has worked with regional partners to create Learn for Life to address educational challenges within the five core counties (Cobb, Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton, and Gwinnett). The Atlanta metro is growing quickly and many students experience poverty, come from diverse backgrounds and are more likely than before to speak different languages at home. In those core counties, approximately 39% 3rd graders were reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade in 2017-18, and 44% of 8th graders were proficient. Also, now 81% of students graduate high school in four years.⁴ A recent study shows that students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave High School.⁵ While these statistics are sobering, understanding and tracking them allows the region to develop programs to address this issue.

WATER RESOURCES

Increased conservation efforts, use of new technology, and public awareness will continue to be critical tools to manage the region's limited water resources.

Our region needs access to quality supplies of water, but also must be good stewards of that supply. To that end, the 110 jurisdictions in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (a 15-county area) implement 19 conservation measures in an effort to promote efficiency and responsible stewardship of a shared resource. These efforts have paid off, and since 2000, the region's per capita water use has decreased by more than 20 percent.

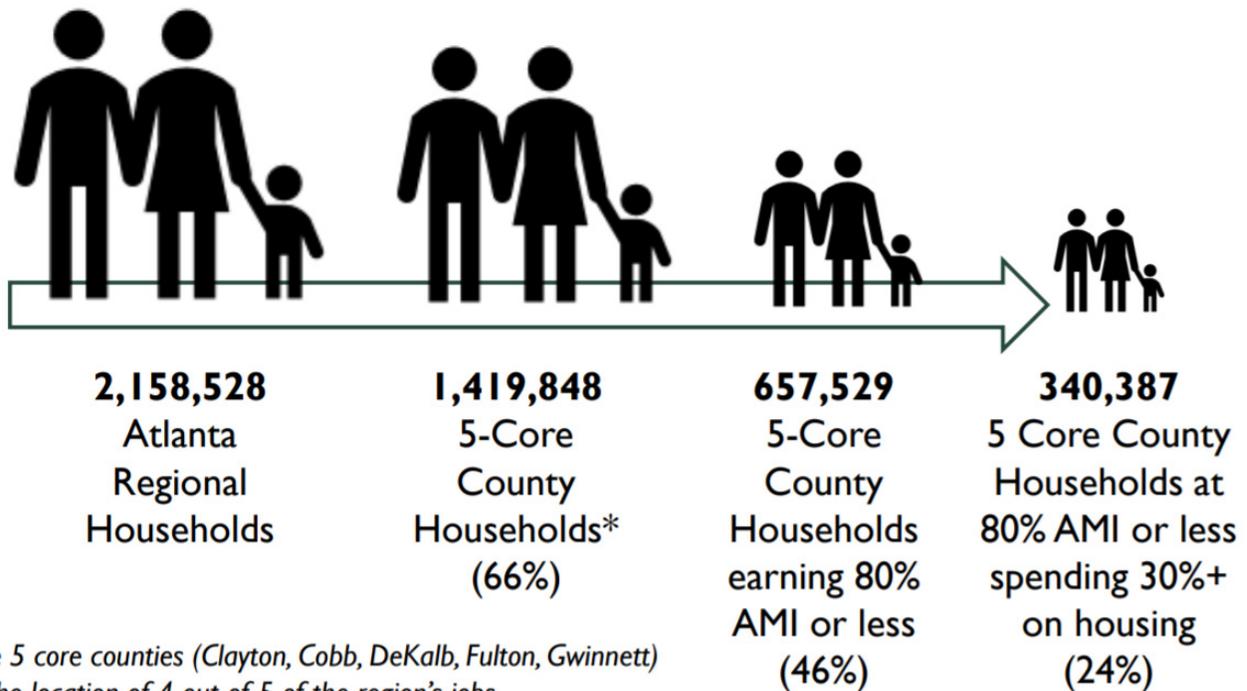
Further underscoring the region's commitment to good stewardship, total water withdrawals in metro Atlanta decreased by about 10 percent over the last 10 years, even though our population increased by 1 million people, per capita water use in the Metro Water District has dropped by more than 30 percent since 2000.⁶

HOUSING

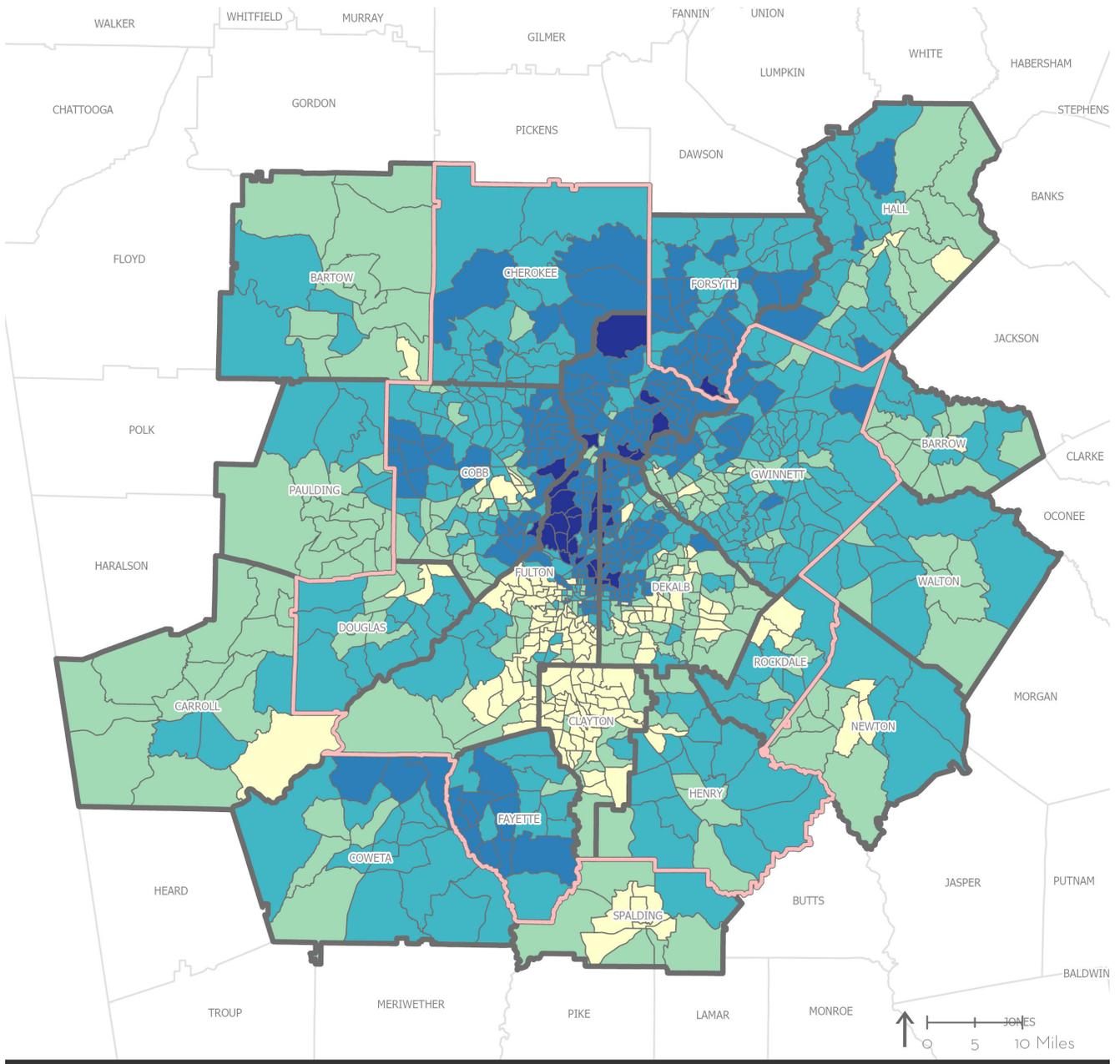
Housing affordability is eroding across metro Atlanta and will impact our economic competitiveness if left unaddressed.

A relatively low cost of living, an expanding job market, a pleasant climate, and a variety of amenities are among the many factors that have attracted hundreds of thousands of new residents to metro Atlanta in recent years, but this competitive advantage is eroding as the affordability of our region is fading. In-migrants moving into the region, especially those from the Northeast, Rust Belt, or California, generally found that they could get more house for their money in metro Atlanta. The Atlanta region has diverse and affordable housing stock, but as the job market continues to prosper and family incomes stabilize and appreciate once again there is an increasing demand on existing housing stock. In addition, increased construction and labor costs and reduced stock of affordable options are attributing to an increase in housing cost, requiring developments to be delivered at higher cost points and limiting the ability to rehabilitate older stock. Limited transportation options further raise the portion of funds families to spend on transportation and housing cost, making the Atlanta region the 5th most unaffordable place to live in the country.

ARC has developed a Regional Housing Strategy which provides information and strategies for communities to address the region's housing challenges. Moving forward, ARC will work with communities to implement these strategies and continue to refine and track data about housing within the region.



MAP 2-3 REGIONAL HOME PRICES



Median Home Value

- Less than \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$150,000
- \$150,000 - \$250,000
- \$250,000 - \$500,000
- More than \$500,000
- ARC 20 County
- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- Counties

TRANSIT

The region has strong but geographically limited transit options. With the creation of a regional transit authority, significant coordination and prioritization will be required to expand transit services.

MARTA rail is only located within a two-county service area, yet 15 percent of the 10 county region's jobs are located within a half-mile of a MARTA rail station. In 2013, ARC estimated that there is current market demand of over 53,000 new residential units within a half-mile of existing MARTA stations.⁷

The region is responding to this demand by opening up development opportunities on MARTA station properties, but these projects and stations need infrastructure investments to better connect to the community. Two Transit Oriented Development projects are underway at existing MARTA stations, with more being planned.

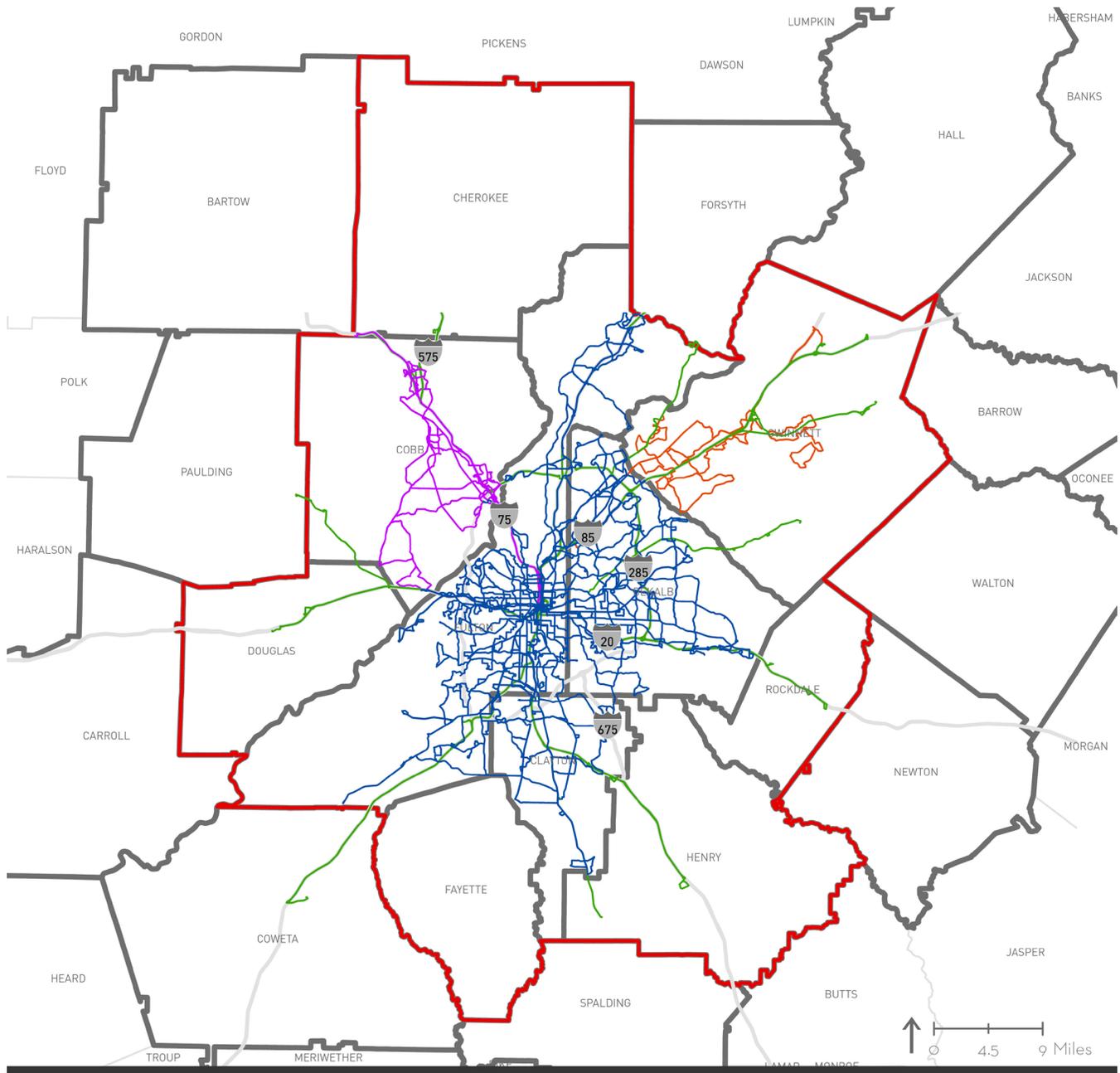
Current premium transit services offer convenient access to less than half of all existing major activity centers in the region. This service is important as it reliably transports workers, residents, and visitors to and from these crucial centers, which harbor large concentrations of the region's current employment. Implementation of existing transit capital projects in the long-range element of the current RTP, as well, as a full realization of the region's long-range vision for transit expansion, could correct this situation.

In 2018, the Atlanta Transit Link Authority was created by the State of Georgia to develop and regularly update a regional transit plan, incorporating existing and future transit services, facilities, and projects in order to provide a coordinated region-wide approach and enhance connectivity for riders. Coordination with this new authority



The Atlanta Streetcar was the first investment in new rail in the Atlanta region in over 15 years. The RTP component provides opportunity to expand this system.

MAP 2-4 2019 REGIONAL FIXED ROUTE TRANSIT



-  ARC 20 County
-  ARC Regional Commission Boundary
-  Counties
-  Expressways

Transit Agency

-  Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority
-  CobbLinc
-  Gwinnett County Transit
-  SRTA

will be needed to ensure that a region-wide approach.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Funding to for transportation has increased in recent years but the need for transportation investments continues.

In 2015, President Obama signed the FAST Act into law. After several years of short-term extensions, it provided a stable federal revenue stream for transportation projects, with over \$300 billion dedicated for highway, transit, freight, bicycle/pedestrian and other projects. It is set to expire in late 2020 and Congressional debate over its successor is currently in a preliminary stage.

A major complication for the next federal funding act is that the plan's principal revenue source is from a motor fuel tax which has not increased since 1993. Due to project cost inflation and increased vehicle fuel economy standards, the amount of revenue collected by the tax has not kept pace with federal funding commitments and the gap has been closed by bailouts from the general fund. If this imbalance is not corrected, it could result in up to a 40% drop in funding levels as soon as FY 2021.

The region has experienced a significant increase in its capacity to implement large-scale projects. In 2015, the State of Georgia passed the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (HB 170) when combined with other new transportation measures, creates nearly \$1 billion in new revenue that will be used to improve maintenance cycles and advance key projects for both roads and transit. This act provides some certainty funding at the state level.

In January 2016, Governor Deal unveiled the Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP), a package of projects around the state to be advanced using additional funds made available under the federal FAST Act and the state's Transportation Funding Act of 2015. These 11 projects are located throughout the state with seven of the eleven projects are located entirely within the Atlanta region – two others are located partially within the region, and two are located entirely in the Savannah region. The Map 2- 5 identifies projects located in the Atlanta region. The projects will be financed through direct payments or through public-private partnerships, whereby a private sector partner provides a revenue stream to design and construct



The I-75 South Metro Express Lanes opened in 2017 and are reversible toll lanes that run 12 miles along the median of I-75 from McDonough Road (State Route 155) in Henry County to Stockbridge Highway (State Route 138) in Clayton County. The I-75 South Metro Express Lanes averaged over 11,000 trips per day in August of 2019.¹⁰ The lanes provide Xpress transit buses an express option.

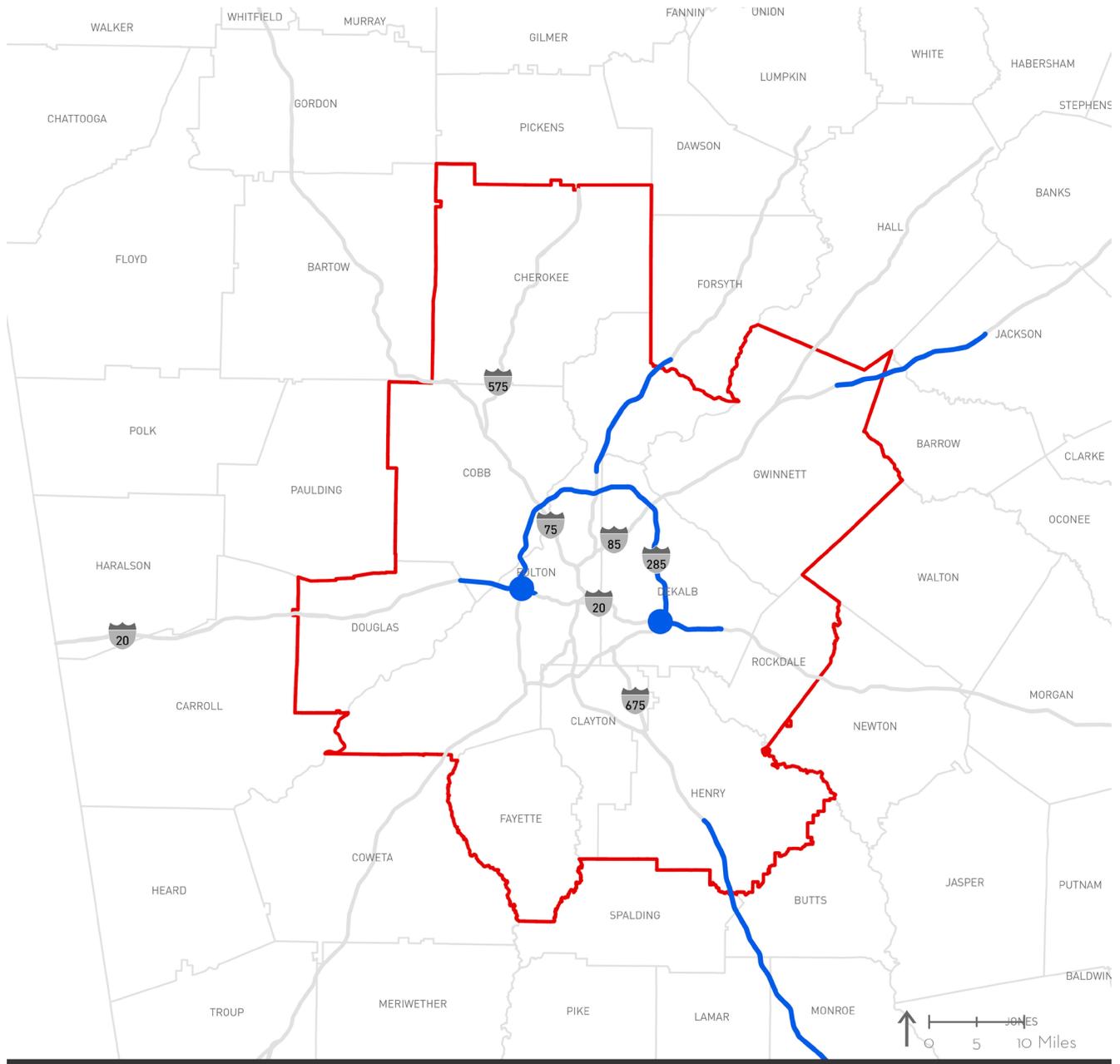
the facility in the short term, with repayment being made by the state through a series of regularly scheduled installment payments over a longer period of time. This arrangement allows travelers in Georgia to receive benefits of the new facilities more quickly.

In 2016, City of Atlanta voters approved a half-penny sales tax dedicated to expanding MARTA service in Atlanta under what is called the More MARTA program. The MARTA board gathered public input to refine the More MARTA projects in the fall of 2018. The program is expected to generate approximately \$2.7 billion in transit funding over the next 40 years. Other communities and counties are exploring transit and funding option,



Opened in 2018, the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes are on the I-75/I-575 corridor by adding 29.7 miles of express lanes along I-75 from I-285 to Hickory Grove Road and along I-575 from I-75 to Sixes Road in Cherokee County. The Northwest Corridor Express Lanes averaged over 33,000 trips per weekday in August of 2019.¹¹

MAP 2-5 MAJOR TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS



- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- Counties
- Expressways
- MMIP Corridor Projects
- MMIP Interchange Projects

and expanding transportation funding will be something to monitor and support in the future.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

As the climate patterns become increasingly unpredictable, metro Atlanta communities will have to overcome more frequent environmental shocks and stressors by using adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Planning for a resilient infrastructure system is essential for the Atlanta region. Weather disruptions to the transportation system negatively impact the quality of life and the economic viability of the Atlanta region. Flooding, snow and ice storms, and heat waves all disrupt travel and impact residents and travelers alike. With climate models predicting more extremes in the future, planning and understanding the region's communities and transportation system's vulnerabilities from the perspective of both its users and its physical assets is essential to ensure the region can win the future.

ARC has conducted a variety of research throughout the past years and this work will need to continue to better understand the impacts of climate change. In addition, this work will need to be incorporated into the



The McDonough Cycle Track was completed in 2017. This project which was funded through the Livable Centers Initiative, (LCI), and provides green infrastructure to handle stormwater along the street. The LCI Program provides planning assistance to communities to plan and build infrastructure investments to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips.

development of our region's infrastructure and development.

EQUITY

Inequities in income and race continue to be a barrier to success for residents across the region.

The Atlanta region is perceived nationally as a place of opportunity for diverse populations. Historically, the City of Atlanta fostered many black-owned businesses in the early 20th century, many of which have grown into national enterprises. Part of this growth is due to the region's relatively affordable housing, attractive quality of life, and breadth of educational opportunity. However, the factors that led to the region's rise are now shifting, and metro Atlanta is in danger of no longer providing a solid foundation for future growth.

Between 2000-2010, the region's suburban poverty population roughly doubled – from 350,000 to 700,000 individuals. This sharp increase has taken place in communities with limited transit access, schools that are largely unprepared to deal with this shift, and social support networks that are focused on the inner city. Many have slipped into poverty as a result of the Great Recession, have been impacted by the rising cost of living while wage growth has remained stagnant. The way our region addresses these challenges must be coordinated, considering the interconnectivity of land use, transportation, education, and economic development.

The Opportunity Atlas which is a result of a collaboration between researchers at the Census Bureau, Harvard University, and Brown University, illustrates the opportunity of economic growth in the nation at the census tract level. Looking at children born between 1978 to 1983, this atlas identifies their income growth and living patterns. The results in metro Atlanta are telling. A Black male child born in Oakhurst would have an income of \$16,000 in 2012 with an incarceration rate of 7.6%, while a white male child in the same area would have an

AGING

By 2050, 20% of the region's population will be over the age of 65, which will demand changes in the provision of services and the design of communities.

A region with a larger share of older adults not only impacts long term care services but will also challenge the built environment and infrastructure in place to serve it. It is not possible to meet the needs of the growing older adult population with supportive programs or innovations in healthcare alone, but rather the places where people live that will determine whether or not it is possible to live an independent, active and engaged life. The region's older adult population is also growing rapidly as people live longer and the Baby Boom generation ages. In 2015, 4% of our region was age 75 and over. By 2050, ARC forecasts the number of residents age 75 and over will grow to 12% of our region, totaling just over 1 million people. Any meaningful response to this demographic shift will mean a change to the way the region develops, spends transportation and infrastructure dollars, and deliver services.

The next decade will see massive growth of the senior population, especially in older suburbs unaccustomed to housing older people. Suburban communities built for the baby boomer generation and their families are not well-equipped to accommodate these individuals. Well-designed neighborhoods are becoming more popular and in-demand because of changing demographics and desires for more choices, not only among aging Boomers but also their children. Unfortunately, the region has a limited number of areas that include the infrastructure and amenities needed by older adults and individuals without regular access to an automobile.

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

To build stronger regional and local identity, communities should continue to enhance their physical and social character through creative placemaking initiatives.

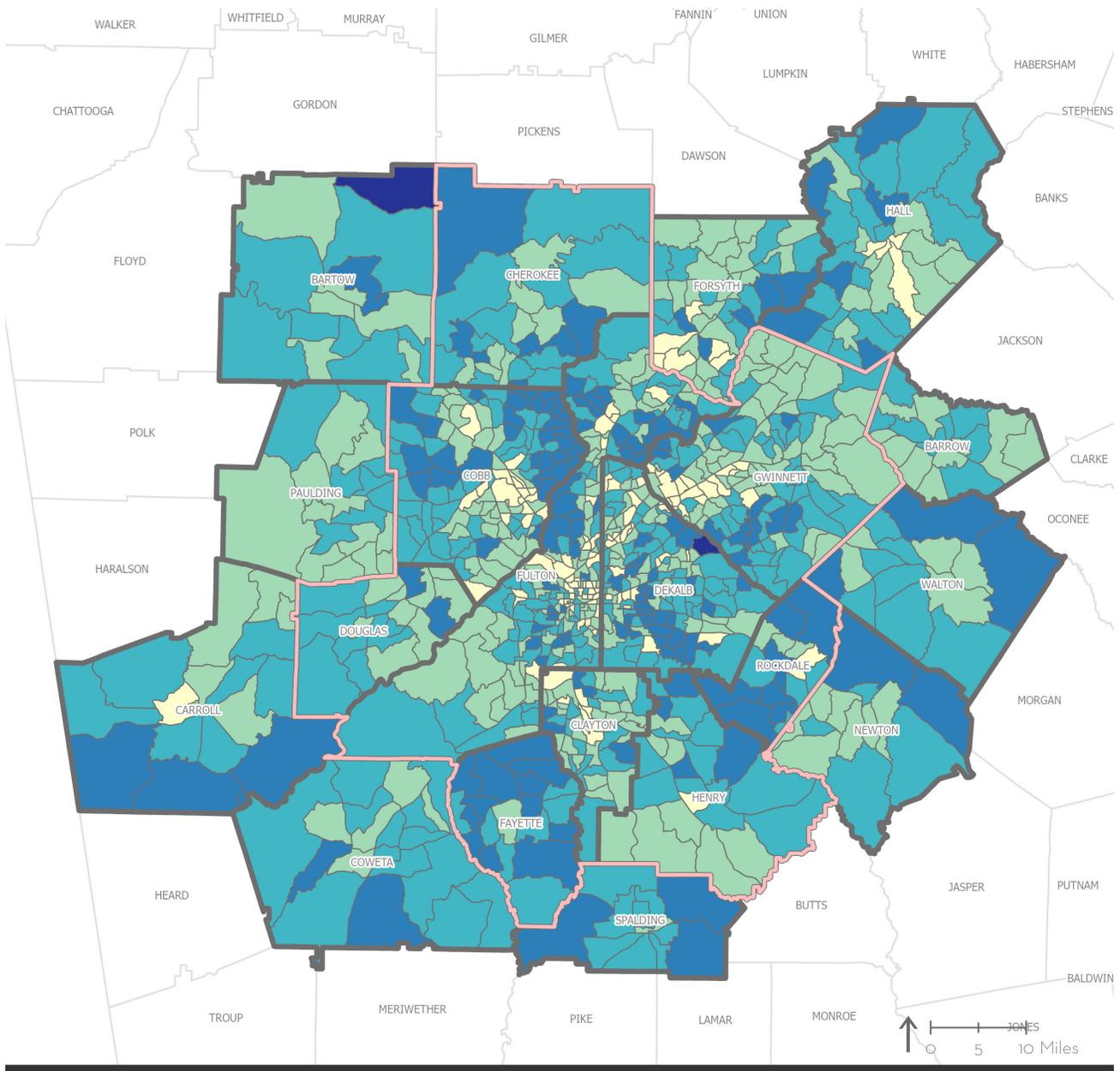
A concert in the town square. A mural on the side of an abandoned building. A former school turned into a showcase of local history. Often overlooked and underappreciated, these – and countless other examples of arts and culture - play an important role in defining a community and making it a thriving, vibrant place where people want to live, work, and play. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.

Leveraging investments in creative placemaking, allows communities to develop into unique destinations for both residents and visitors. Based upon the Atlanta Region Arts and Economic Prosperity Study, arts spending within Metro Atlanta equaled approximately \$471 million and supported 23,943 jobs. This equated to around \$65 million in state and local government revenue.



ARC's Community Development Assistance Program provides technical assistance with implementing Creative Placemaking Projects. In 2018 and 2019, ARC aided the City of Fairburn in developing a Creative Placemaking Strategy.

MAP 2-7 REGIONAL SHARE OF BABY BOOMERS



Percent Baby Boomer



income of \$48,000 in 2012 with an incarceration rate of 1.2%.⁸

AIRPORT AREA PLANNING

Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is the largest economic asset in the region and its continued success will require regional coordination of land use, transportation, and economic development in the surrounding communities.

CATLYST lists Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as the region's greatest strength in terms of competitiveness. With over 285,000 passengers a day, to over 225 destinations, 80 percent of the US population is within a two-hour flight of Hartsfield-Jackson.

The airport area is one of the largest employment centers within the region and is the largest employment center south of I-20. It has a direct economic impact of \$34.8 billion to the region's economy. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport ranks fourteenth in the United States in terms of cargo hauled. This is an area that the airport is looking to expand upon, which will have an impact on employment and transportation needs in the southern half of the region.

Since 2015, ARC in partnership with the Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance, and the local governments around Hartsfield-Jackson have been working together on implementing the Aerotropolis Blueprint. The Blueprint identified action steps for the communities and businesses surrounding Hartsfield-Jackson to leverage the airport as an economic investment.



Since 1998, Hartsfield-Jackson has been the busiest airport in the world, and averages 285,000 passengers a day and 2,700 arrivals and departures daily. With 192 gates, the Terminal Complex is around 6.8 million square feet.



3.0 OUR REGIONAL GROWTH

As the regional growth vision, the Unified Growth Policy Map illustrates ARC's vision of growth for the future. Developed with input from Local Comprehensive Plans and regional planners, developers, and economists, it is a policy input into a variety of ARC's plans and programs.

Many local governments have adopted local comprehensive plans, comprehensive transportation plans, and Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) studies over the past decade. The development of The Atlanta Region's Plan has involved close collaboration with local governments to assess community issues and growth needs specifically, to better integrate and improve the way policy and infrastructure investments enhance community design, leverage market, and demographic trends, and reinforce transportation and land use integration.

The Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM), first adopted in 2006, created a stronger link between regional patterns of development and transportation needs. There is a need to better acknowledge and detail regional priorities by area type, with appropriate development design for centers and corridors, and The Atlanta Region's Plan provides this guidance through a more detailed and community-responsive UGPM.

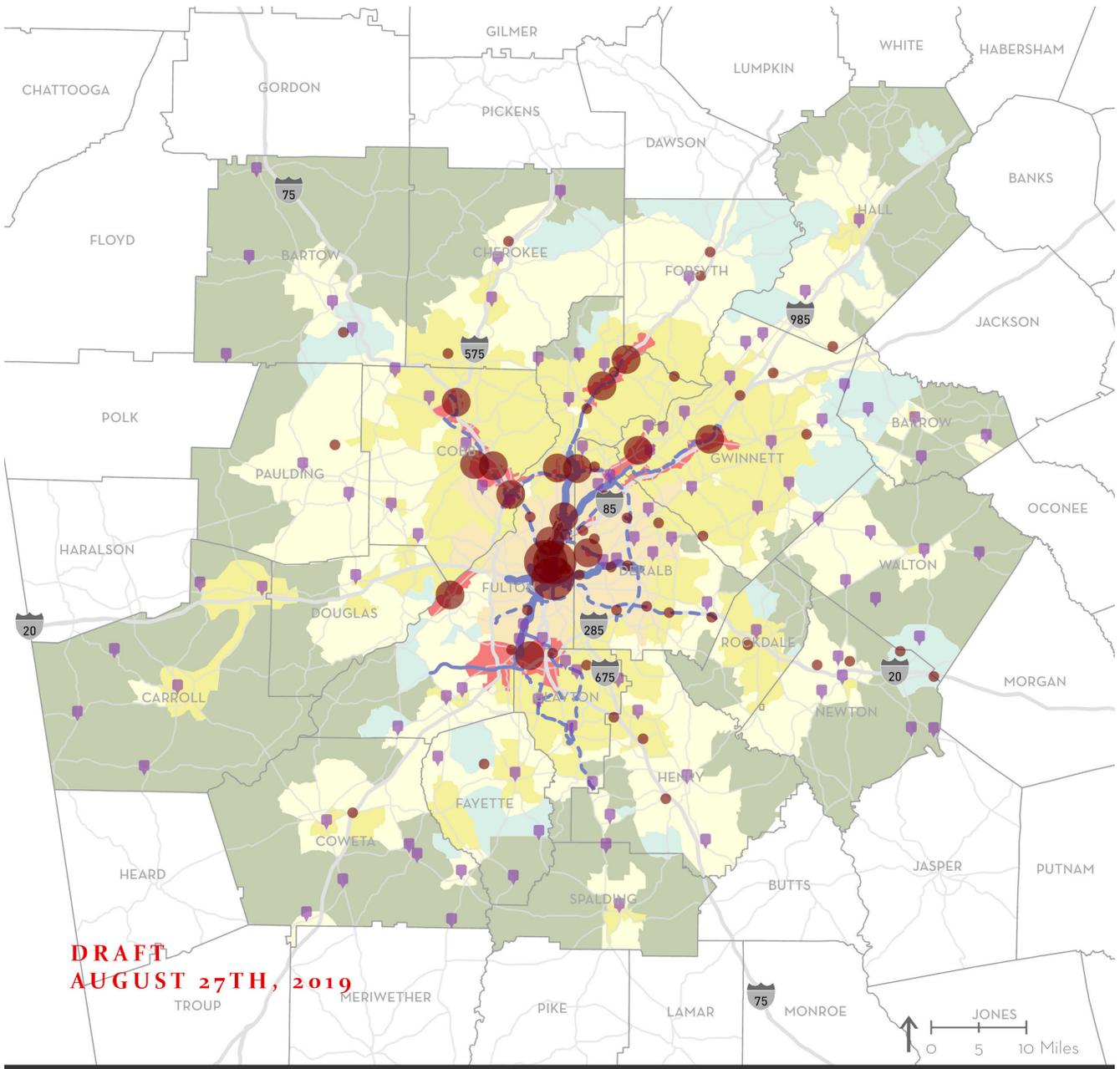
The UGPM provides direction for future growth based on the Areas and Places within the region. The UGPM represents local plans as well as The Atlanta Region's Plan policies and forecasts. An interactive UGPM and Development Guide is available at ugpm.atlantaregional.com

The UGPM is comprised of Regional Areas and Regional Places. Regional Areas directly influence the future forecasted growth of the region by describing future land use patterns in each part of the region. A large portion of the region's development landscape is built out, but opportunities remain for redevelopment and new investment. Places reflect concentrated uses that have generally defined boundaries and provide greater detail within Areas. The Development Guide provides the following for each Area and Place identified on the UGPM:

- A detailed map showing the specific location in the region
- A written description that includes a defining narrative and issue summary
- Guidelines for recommended building height and development density
- Pictures that characterize development patterns that are typical and desirable
- Implementation Priorities that identify measures from ARC to achieve desired development patterns

On the following pages are descriptions of the Areas and Places identified and described in the UGPM and Development Guide.

MAP 3-1 UNIFIED GROWTH POLICY MAP



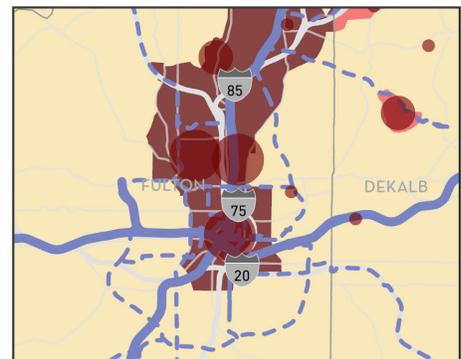
DRAFT
AUGUST 27TH, 2019

ATLANTA REGIONAL UNIFIED GROWTH POLICY MAP

Regional Areas

- Developing Rural
- Developing Suburbs
- Established Suburbs
- Maturing Neighborhoods
- Region Core
- Region Employment Corridors
- Rural Areas

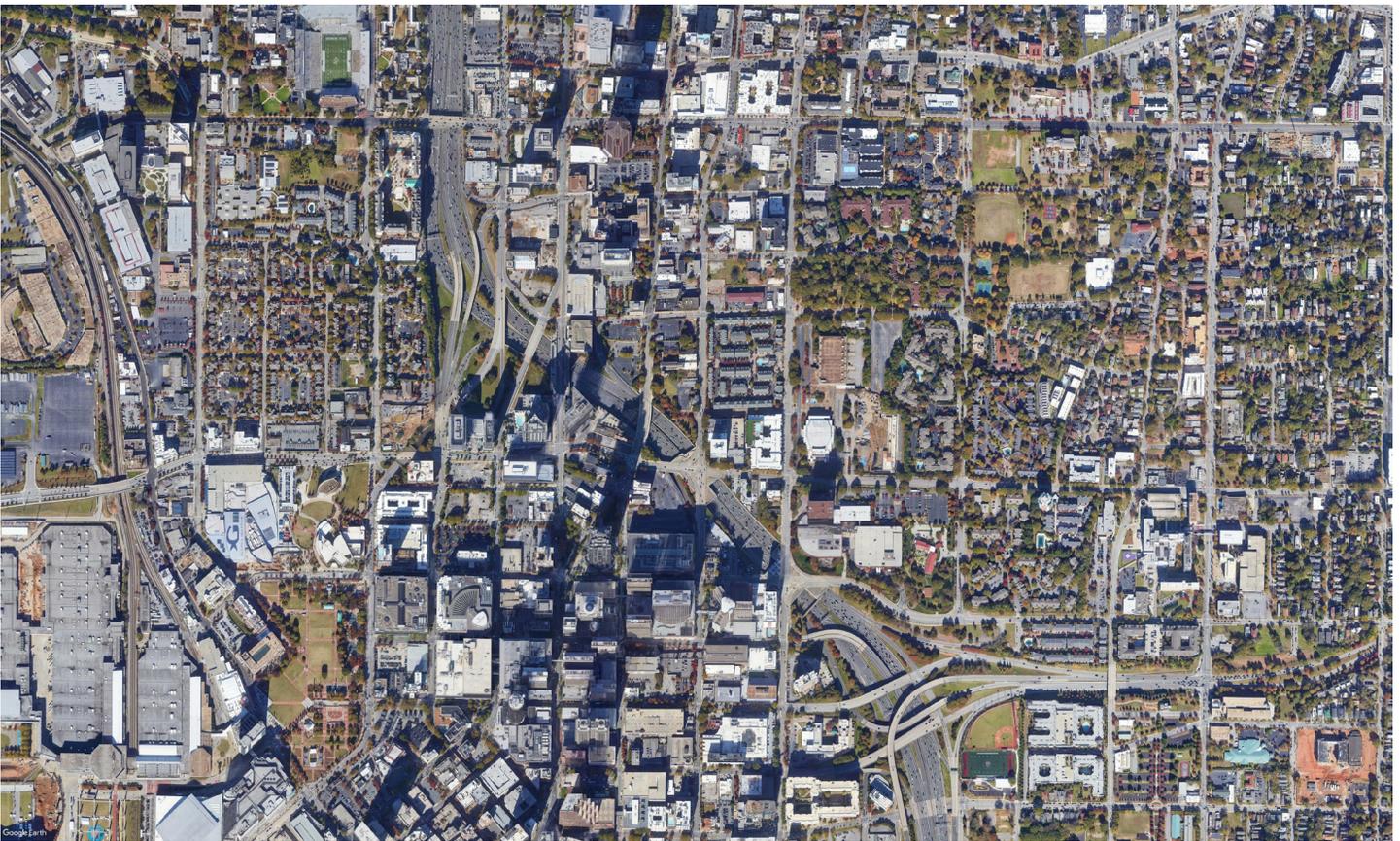
- Central City
- Regional Center
- Small Regional Center
- Town Centers
- MARTA Rail Lines
- Planned Premium Transit



REGION CORE

The Region Core, shown in maroon on the map, is the major economic, cultural, and transportation hub of the region. This area is the densest in terms of employment, residential, and cultural offerings throughout the region, with the most developed transit service in the region. The Region Core can handle the most intense development due to the amount of infrastructure already in place; however, this infrastructure may need improvements and enhancements due to its age and our region's changing lifestyle conditions. The lack of accessible public greenspace within the Region Core affects the area's aesthetics and overall quality of life for residents and workers.

The Region Core competes with other central city areas in the southeast. The region must work together to keep this area as competitive as possible to lure additional high paying jobs and residents. With a growing regional population and growing congestion, this center needs to maintain easy accessibility by expanding multi-modal transportation options and housing options.

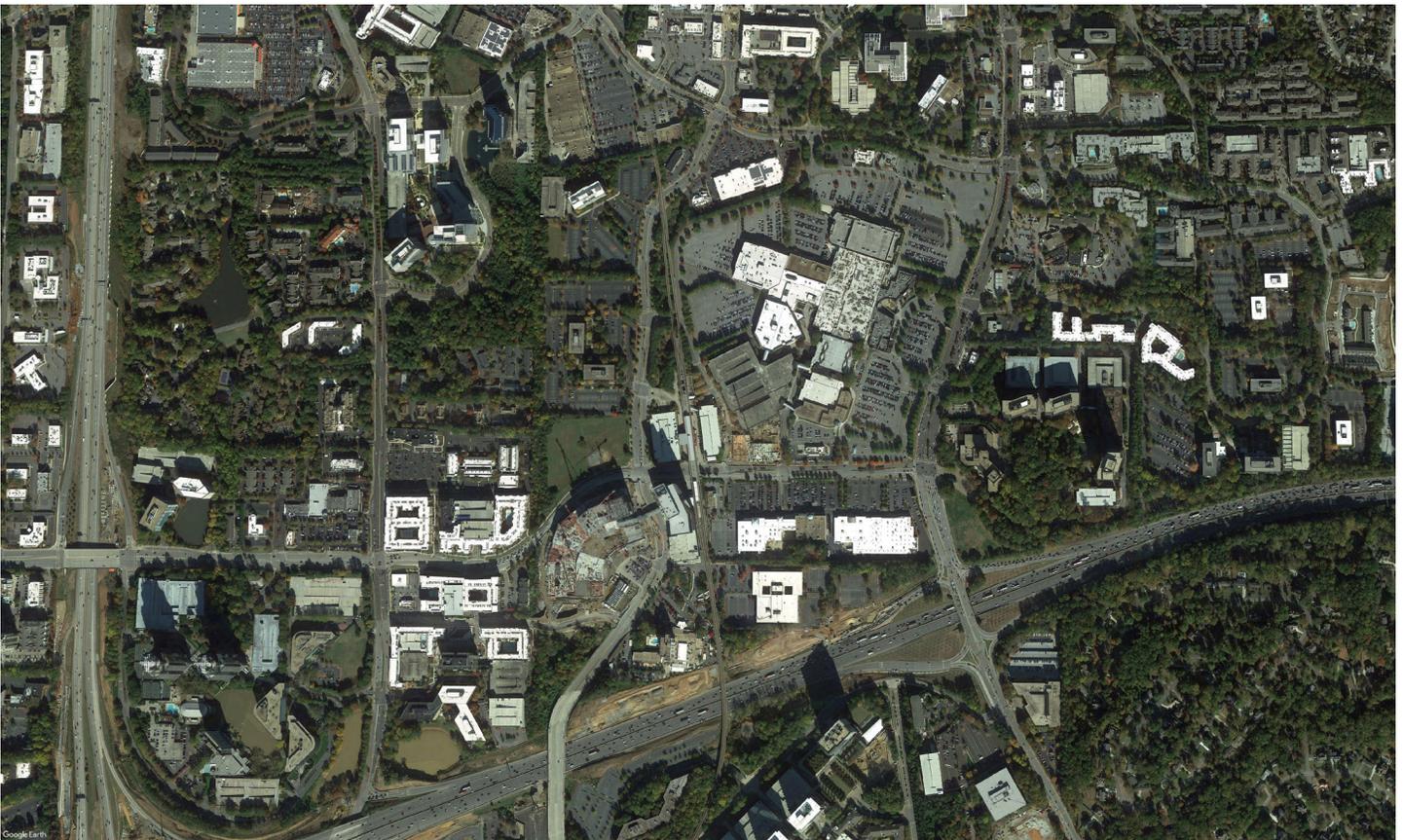


Downtown and Midtown Atlanta, is the largest employment area within the region. It has seen changes over the past twenty years becoming a hub for employment and residential.

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT CORRIDORS

Regional Employment Corridors, shown in pink, represent the densest development outside of the Region Core. Regional Employment Corridors connect several Regional Centers with the Region Core via existing capacity transportation facilities. These areas contain a large share of the region's jobs in a relatively small land area. These areas are also increasing in both housing and job density and are experiencing increased redevelopment and new uses in traditionally employment-focused areas.

There is a lack of accessible public greenspace within Regional Employment Corridors, which affects the overall aesthetics and quality of life for residents and workers.



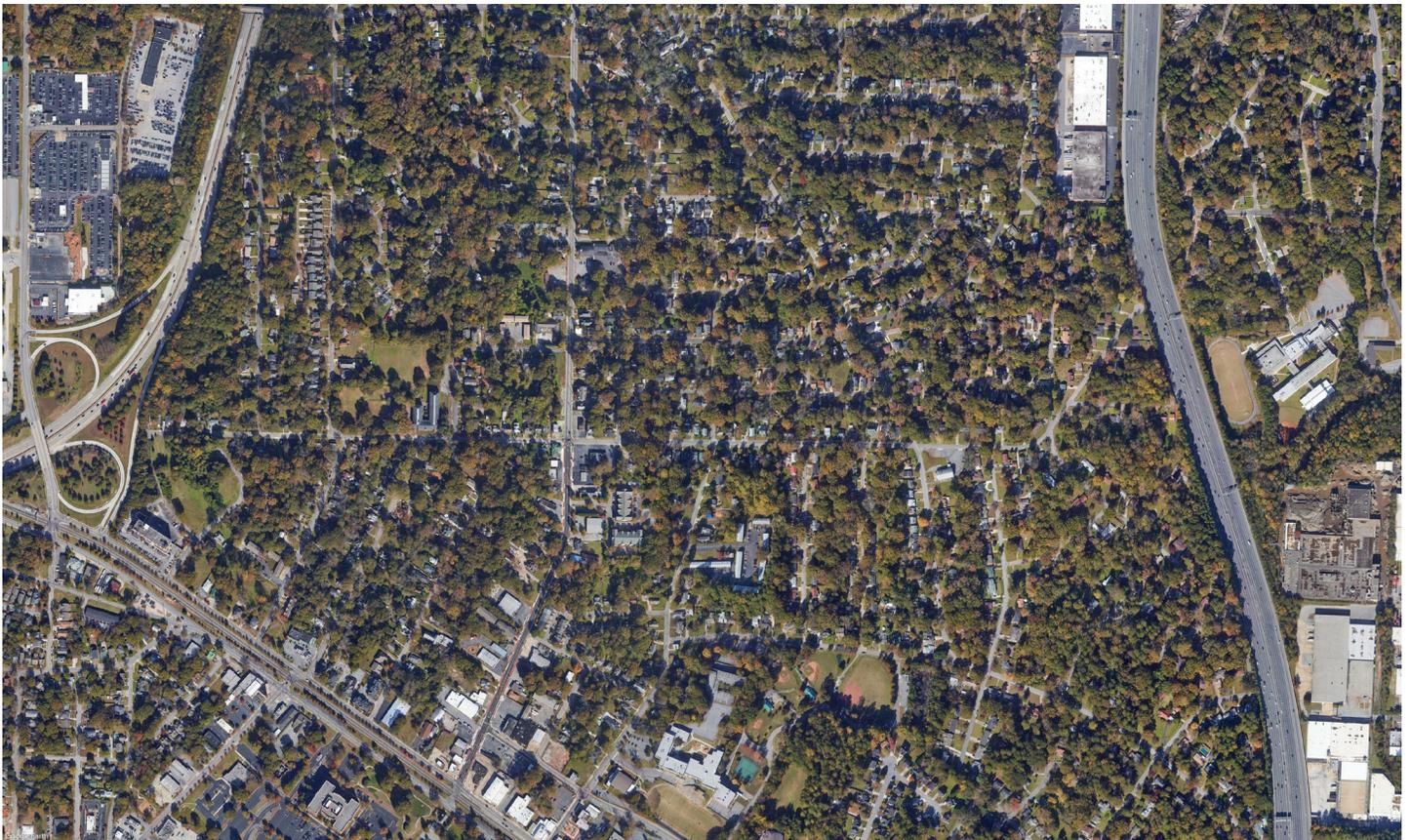
Perimeter Center is one of the region's largest employment centers within the region. Over the past twenty years, it has developed with both residential and jobs, and has made strides to become more walkable.

MATURING NEIGHBORHOODS

Maturing Neighborhoods, shown in tan on the map, are areas in the region characterized by older neighborhoods that include both single- and multi-family development, as well as commercial and office uses at connected key locations. This area is mostly built out before 1980.

These areas represent the largest part of the region that is facing infill and redevelopment pressures. In many cases, infrastructure is in place to handle additional growth, but in some areas, infrastructure is built out with limited capacity for expansion. This may constrain the amount of additional growth possible in certain areas. Many arterial streets in this area are congested due to their use as regional routes for commuters. Limited premium transit service is available in these areas.

The demand for infill development, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings in this area needs to be balanced with the preservation of existing single-family neighborhoods, as well as the need for additional usable parks and greenspace close to residents, including amenities such as trails and sidewalks.



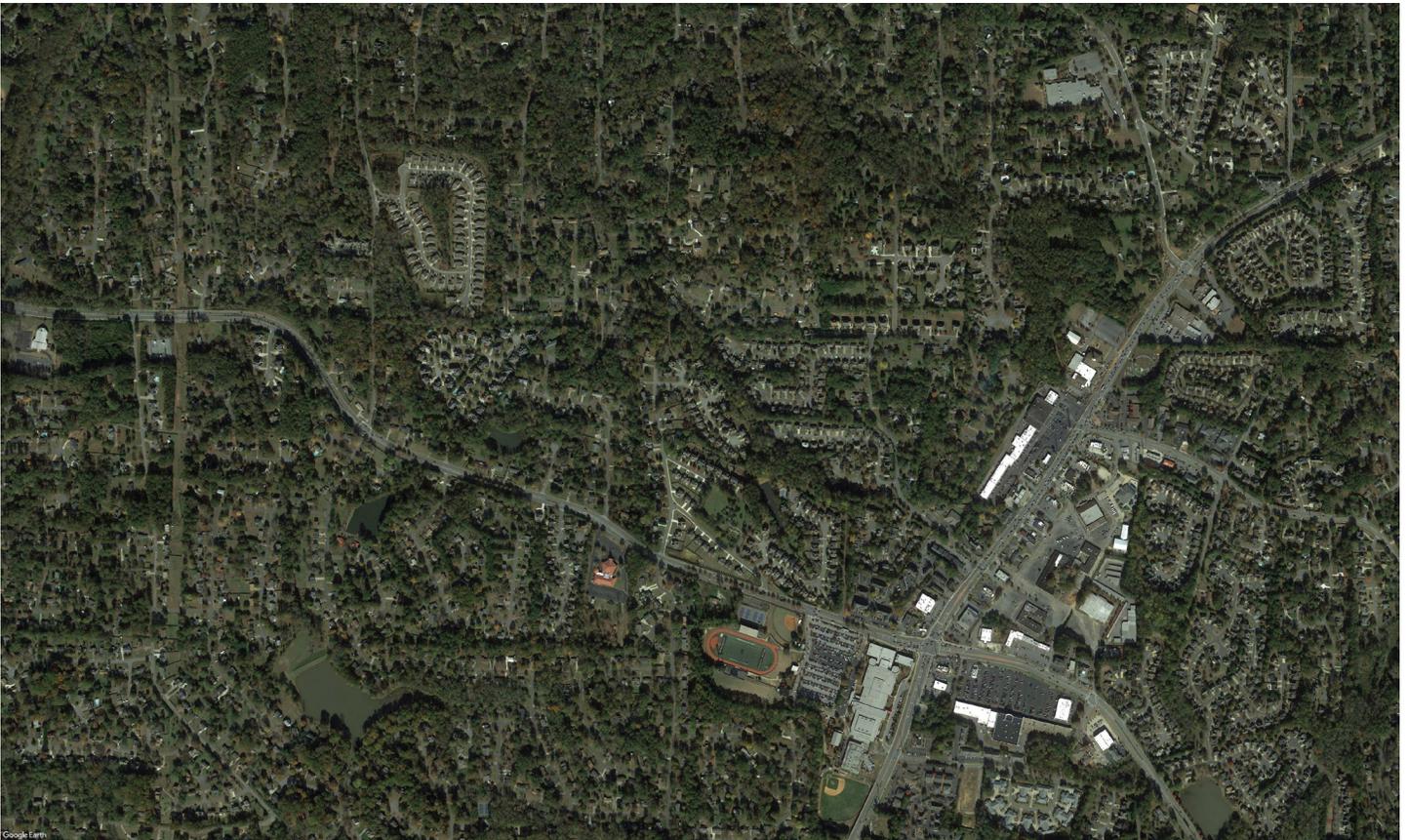
Hapeville is an example of a maturing neighborhood. This area is characterized by infill development and a gridded street pattern.

ESTABLISHED SUBURBS

Established Suburbs, in gold, are areas in the region where suburban development has occurred. These areas are characterized by single-family subdivisions, commercial development, and office, industrial and multi-family development in limited locations.

These areas represent the part of the region that has recently reached “build-out.” With few remaining large parcels for additional development, these are the areas in which the region may see the least amount of land-use change outside of retail and commercial areas.

While there is still room for limited infill development, these areas will begin to focus more on redevelopment over the next 30 years. Preservation of existing single-family neighborhoods is important, and wholesale change will most likely not occur in the single-family subdivisions that make up a majority of these areas. However, infill and redevelopment will occur in areas of retail/commercial concentrations, especially commercial corridors.



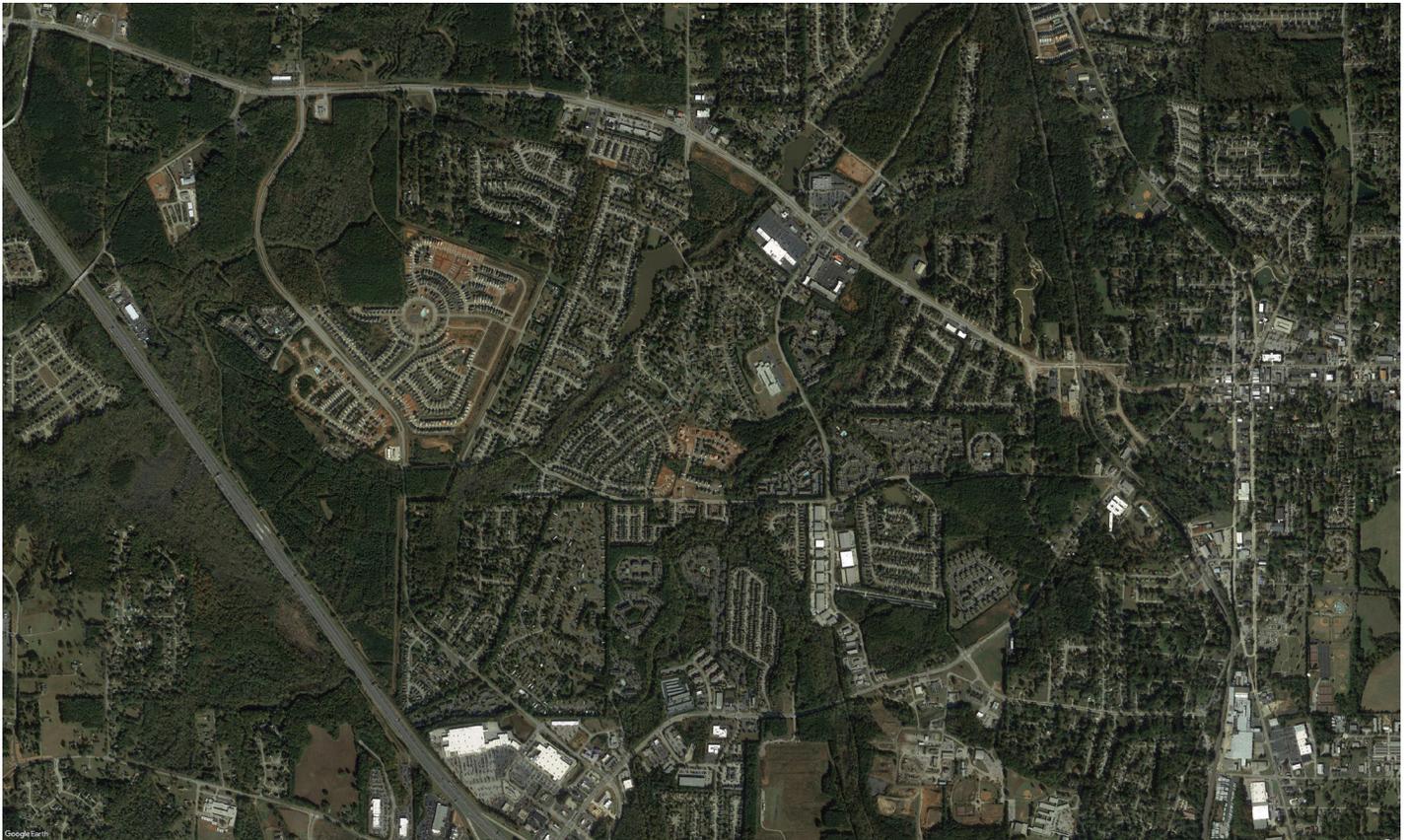
East Cobb County, is an example of an established suburb that is built out with established retail along major corridors.

DEVELOPING SUBURBS

Developing Suburbs, shown in light brown, are areas in the region where suburban development has occurred, and the conventional development pattern is present but not set. These areas are characterized by residential development with pockets of commercial and industrial development.

These areas represent the extent of the urban service area, and the region's first attempts at suburban smart growth can be found in these areas. There is a need in these areas for additional preservation of critical environmental locations and resources, as well as agricultural and forest uses.

Limited existing infrastructure in these areas will constrain the amount of additional growth that is possible. Transportation improvements are needed within these developing suburbs, but care should be taken not to spur unwanted growth.



McDonough in Henry County shows the suburban development pattern with opportunities for more growth.

DEVELOPING RURAL AREAS

Developing Rural Areas, in light green, are areas in the region where little to no development has taken place, but where there is development pressure. These areas are characterized by limited single-family subdivisions, large single-family lots, agricultural uses, protected lands, and forests.

The region should strive to protect these areas by limiting infrastructure investments to targeted areas and allowing no development or only low- intensity development.

Limited existing infrastructure in these areas will constrain the amount of additional growth that is possible. Some transportation improvements may be needed in developing rural areas.



Outside of Dacula, is an example of Developing Rural which the development pressure is visible near GA-316.

RURAL AREAS

Rural Areas, shown in dark green, are areas in the region where limited development has taken place or and where development pressure is low. These areas are characterized by sporadic, large single-family lots, agricultural uses, protected lands, and forests. These areas outline more central developed and developing areas and represent the limits of the urban service area in the Atlanta region.

There is a strong desire from residents and elected officials in these areas to keep them rural. Increased development threatens existing rural economic uses, such as forestry, agriculture, and tourism. To maintain economic viability without undesirable development, these areas may be appropriate as “sending” areas in potential Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs.

The region is striving to protect these areas by limiting infrastructure investments to targeted areas and allowing no development or only low impact development. There will be a continued need to maintain existing transportation infrastructure, but care should be taken not to spur unwanted growth by inappropriate expansion of infrastructure capacity.



Northern Cherokee County is currently rural and is planned to be rural in 2050.



REGIONAL PLACES

The Atlanta region consists of activity centers that provide a high quality of life to both residents and employees. ARC recognizes that each place has different needs and development issues and priorities. While the region has a variety of these places, ARC categorizes these places into two primary types: Regional Centers and Town Centers.

REGIONAL CENTERS

Regional Centers reflect concentrated uses that have generally defined boundaries. Regional Centers are areas of concentrated employment. People travel from around the region to these centers for employment, shopping, and entertainment. These centers should be connected to the regional transportation network with existing or planned high-capacity transit service. In most cases, these centers have a jobs-housing imbalance, so housing options should be expanded within their boundaries, especially around existing or planned transit.

Some Regional Centers could also be considered “Edge Cities,” developed in a suburban, auto-oriented way. They have limited multi-modal transportation options and are challenged by increasing congestion. Local plans and policies should support efforts to transform these areas into highly accessible mixed-use urban hubs. Some Regional Centers may have high concentrations of logistics or industrial uses. The retention of these uses is a key regional strategy. While some housing and other uses can be added, special attention should be given to reducing the impacts these will have on the existing logistics/industrial uses.





TOWN CENTERS

Town Centers are anchored by the Main Streets of our cities within the region. Some may be county seats or employment centers, but all are anchored by a Main Street. Many of these Town Centers have detailed master plans such as LCI plans that provide guidance on development, transportation, and economic development. As a result of these plans, many communities have seen a resurgence of Town Centers that should be connected to the regional transportation network. They should have a variety of transportation options available to residents, employees, and visitors. Land-use conflicts may occur if new development is taller and denser than existing development, however, local plans and policies should support efforts to encourage town centers to become accessible mixed-use centers with employment, retail, residential, and cultural amenities.

5.0 OUR BIG IDEAS

Since the adoption of The Atlanta Region's Plan in 2016, ARC has identified and developed plans to address some of the regional assets and challenges. These plans identify areas within the Atlanta region that ARC is working to tackle the regional challenges.

The areas described on the following pages are areas that ARC will target with regional investments, programs, and policies to move the region forward in order to win the future.

DEVELOPING A REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK

The Atlanta region is an ideal setting for a connected system of trails to serve both citizens and visitors for transportation and recreation. Over the past 20 years, local governments and private organizations have constructed trails that attract thousands of visitors. However, the disconnected nature of the region's trails limits their ability to serve as daily transportation and do not provide access for much of the region.

In 2016, ARC adopted an award-winning comprehensive regional vision for improving walking and bicycling titled Walk. Bike. Thrive! The plan estimated that only 70 miles of trails were necessary to build a connected regional trail network. This regional network would form a backbone of trails to support local trails within communities.

The demand for trails is high within the region and within local Comprehensive Plans and other planning processes. Community members continuously express that they are interested in seeing how trails can be incorporated within their community.

ARC's regional trail network strategy is focused on two primary objectives:

1. Closing identified network gaps in the trails of regional significance system, and
2. Expanding the network of regionally significant trails

This regional network of trails forms a regional hub-and-spoke system that, along with key cross-spoke connections, will connect across the region and form a "walking and biking highway system" for active transportation.

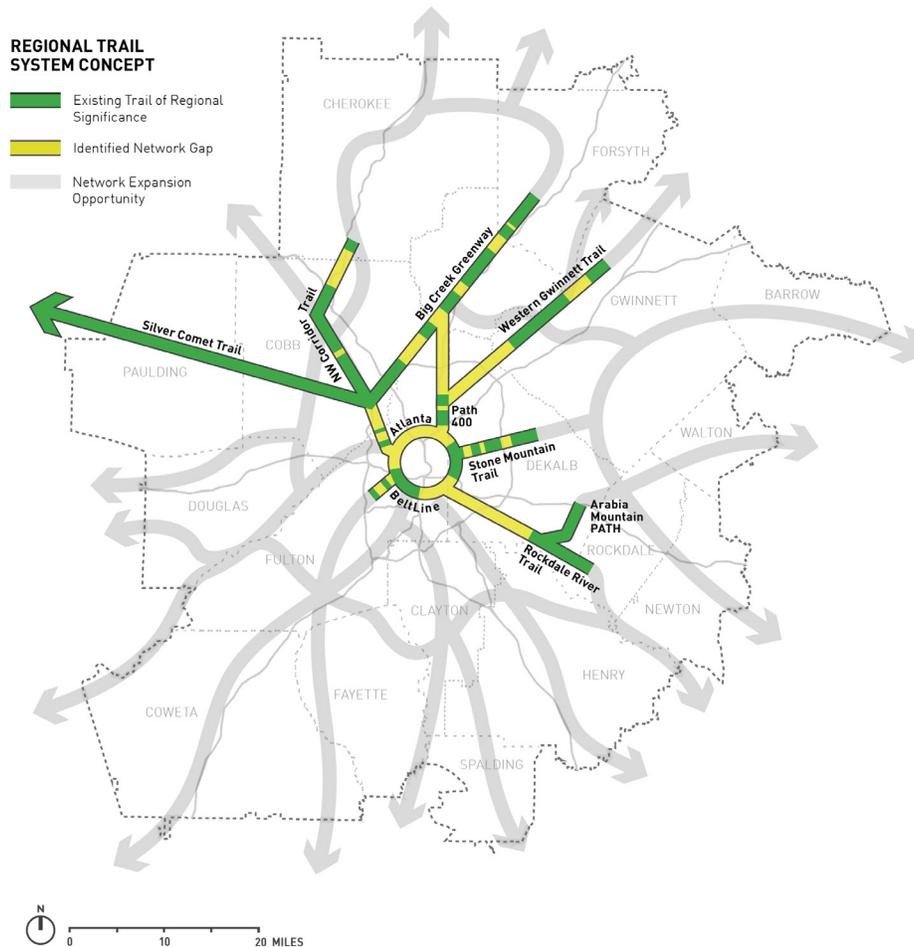
Filling about 70 miles of key gaps would create an approximately 225 mile connected regional trail network. Additionally, closing these key gaps would represent a 46% increase in the mileage for the network of regionally significant trails. Many of these trail gaps are in various stages of planning, with the PATH Foundation, local governments and others leading and supporting many of the efforts to build and close these key regional gaps. Continued investment and coordination from public and private partners will help the region work towards closing these gaps and having a truly regional trail network.

Secondly, ARC will also be opportunistic and strategic concerning expanding the existing system beyond gap closure. ARC is uniquely positioned to facilitate inter-jurisdictional trail planning and implementation through convening stakeholders and technical assistance. If the opportunity to develop additional regionally significant trails arises along a particular corridor or in a specific part of the region, ARC will work to support the implementation of the proposed trail.

To support regionally significant trail development, ARC will:

- Work with local partners to maintain a map to track existing, planned, programmed, and envisioned regionally significant trail corridors
- Develop a regionally significant trail corridor scoping program to evaluate and assist with trail corridor visioning and regional coordination

The diagram below illustrates existing trails of regional significance, identified network gaps, and network expansion opportunities.



EXPANDING A REGIONAL TRANSIT NETWORK

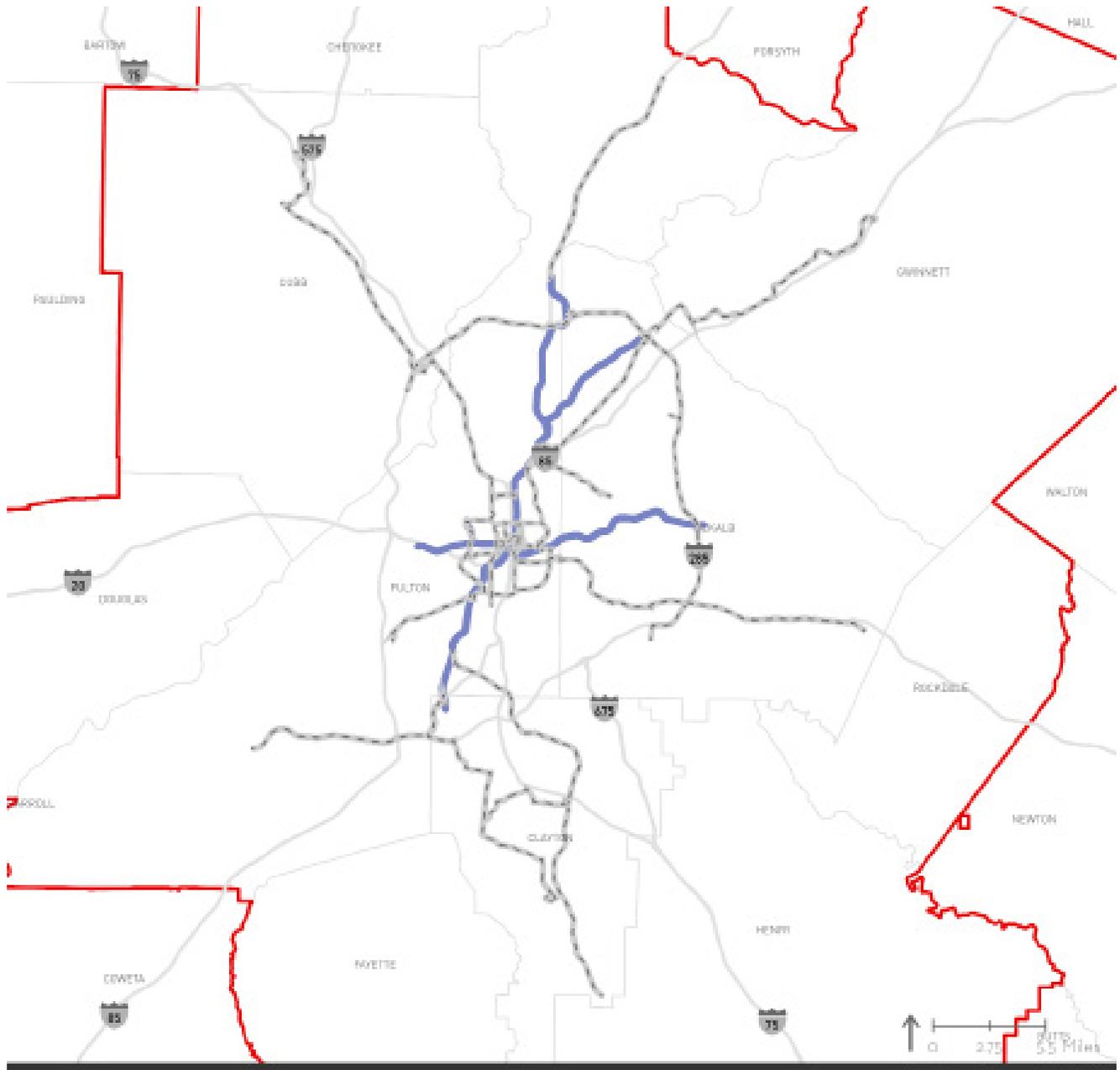
The desire for transit is at an all-time high in our region. Many counties and communities have completed or are looking at future transit expansions and plans. ARC recently updated the regional transit plan in 2018 with the adoption of Concept 3. Concept 3 lays the groundwork for the Regional Transit Plan. ARC is assisting communities with funding for these plans and is working with The ATL in the development of a Regional Transit Plan.

ARC within the RTP has identified Transit Expansion projects to 2050. These projects include the development of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network within the City of Atlanta, extensions of a regional BRT network into Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, and South Fulton Counties, a light rail system along portions of the Atlanta BeltLine, and Commuter Rail into Clayton County.

All of these investments will need supporting infrastructure and land use policies to ensure the success of transit investments. The Livable Centers Initiative Program (LCI) is the main policy tool that ARC uses to provide policy and infrastructure.



MAP 4-1 REGIONAL TRANSIT



-  ARC Regional Commission Boundary
-  Counties
-  Planned Premium Transit within the RTP
-  MARTA Rail Lines
-  Expressways

CREATING GREAT CENTERS

The Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) is a grant program that incentivizes local jurisdictions to re-envision their communities as vibrant, walkable places that offer increased mobility options, encourage healthy lifestyles, and provide improved access to jobs and services.

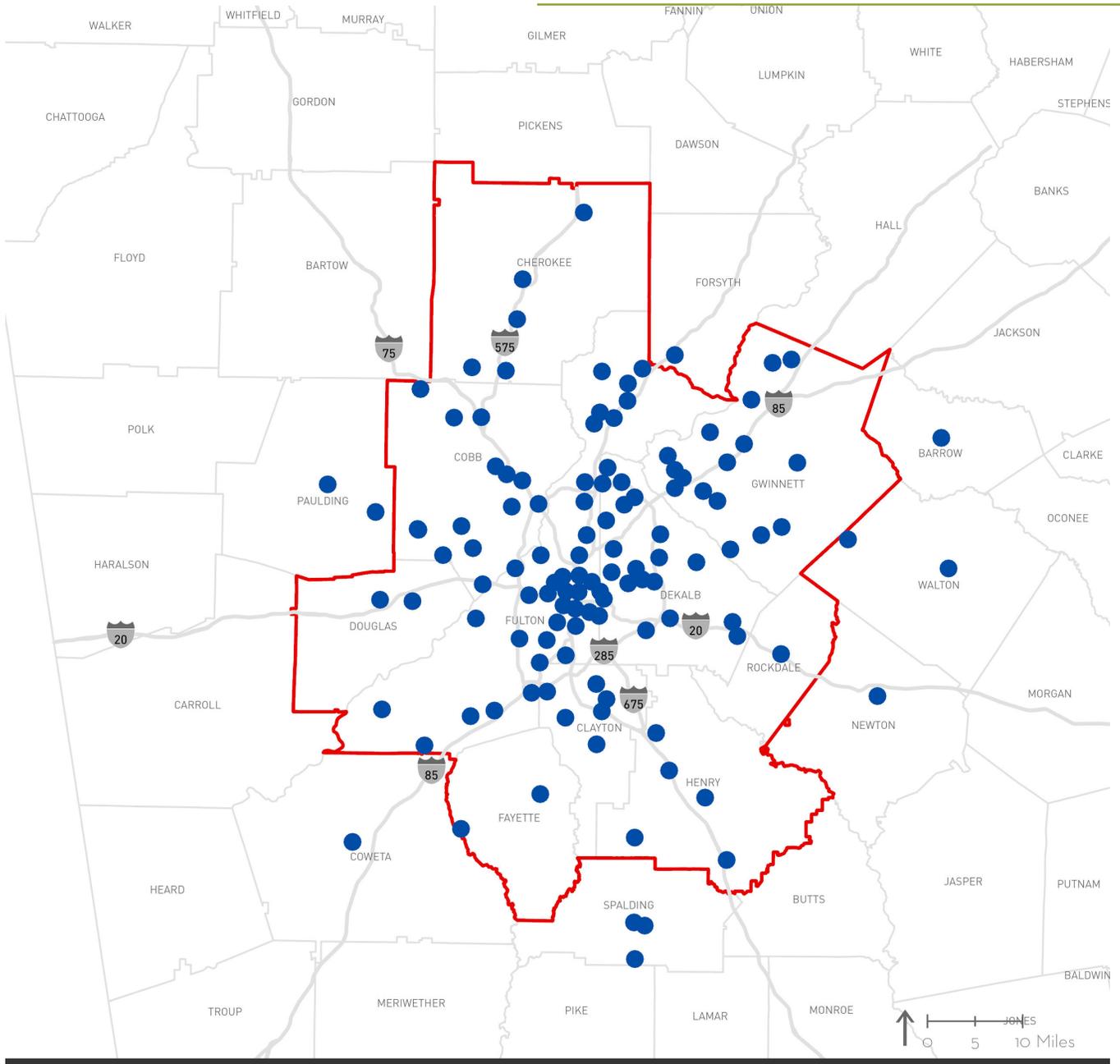
Since 2000, the LCI program has invested over \$255 million in 122 communities throughout the Atlanta region, helping pay for planning studies and the construction of transportation projects, such as sidewalks and intersection improvements, to bring those visions to life. The LCI program and investments within communities over the past twenty years have had a tremendous impact on community design and economic development. Using data from ESRI Business Analyst, ARC staff estimates that 1 in 3 jobs in the Atlanta region are located within LCI communities. While LCI areas make up less than 5% of the region's land area, they have seen an increase of 107,000 new housing units and a population increase of 166,000 new residents.

In 2018, ARC revised the program to focus on two main areas; Town Centers, and areas with current and planned premium transit. In addition, funding for the study portion of the program was increased to \$2 million per year. The primary goals of the program are to:

- Encourage a diversity of mixed-income residential neighborhoods, employment, shopping and recreation choices at the activity center, town center, and corridor level
- Provide access to a range of travel modes, including transit, roadways, walking and biking, to enable access to all uses within the study area
- Develop an outreach process that promotes the involvement of all stakeholders

With this update The Atlanta Region's Plan, ARC has continued the investment of the LCI program and extending the program to 2050, with an additional investment of \$100 million on top of the current commitment of \$500 million that was committed from 2000-2040.

MAP 4-2 LCI AREAS



- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- Counties
- LCI Communities
- Expressways

CREATING REGIONAL RIVER RESOURCES

The Chattahoochee River is the largest river in metro Atlanta and one of the region's most valuable resources, serving as the primary source of drinking water for millions of residents.

In 1972, the Atlanta Regional Commission completed the Chattahoochee Corridor Study in an attempt to quell a growing battle over the future of the Chattahoochee River in the Atlanta region. The study aimed to create a balanced, comprehensive plan for the future of the region's most essential valuable resource.

The following year, the Georgia General Assembly adopted the Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA), which protected a 48-mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek by creating a 2,000-foot buffer along both banks of the river and its impoundments. The Act was amended in 1998 to extend the Corridor an additional 36 miles to the downstream limits of Fulton and Douglas counties.

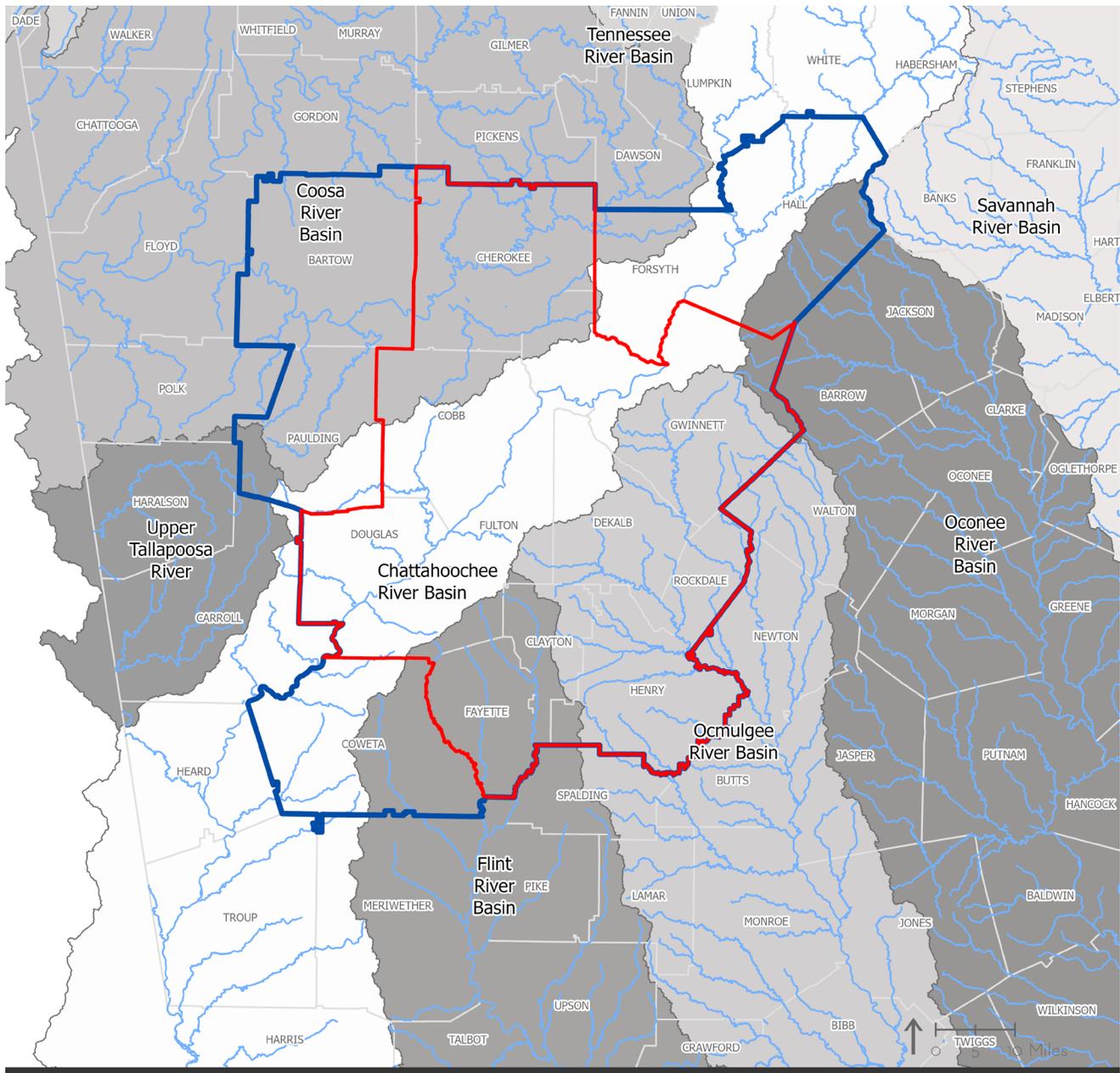
MRPA is designed to protect the water quality and environs of the Chattahoochee River for use as:

- The region's primary source of drinking water
- A major recreation area that includes the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area and the nation's first National Water Trail
- One of the southern-most trout streams in the United States (and one of the very few located in a major metropolitan area)

The Flint River is Georgia's second-longest river. With the headwaters of the Flint River located just north of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the Flint River flows 344 miles to the Florida state line where it joins the Chattahoochee to create the Apalachicola River. As one of the longest free-flowing rivers in the nation, the Flint River provides water for farms and families across the state and is home to several threatened and endangered species.

Currently, ARC is working with partners on creating a new vision for both regional rivers with two projects: Chattahoochee RiverLands; and Finding the Flint. Both projects are improving public awareness of the rivers, identifying areas of investments, and incorporating ecological conservation and green infrastructure. Targeted investments that will be developed within the visions will help improve water quality and generate economic investment. ARC will work with our regional and local partners to implement those visions.

MAP 4-3 REGIONAL RIVERS



- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- Counties
- Metro North Georgia Water Planning District
- Major Rivers

PRESERVING PRIORITY REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

ARC has been planning for natural, cultural, and historic resources since the 1950s, producing plans such as the 1954 Regional Development Plan, the 1963 Nature Preserves Plan, and the 1972 Chattahoochee Recreation Area Study. In the 1980s and 1990s, ARC began identifying Regionally Important Resources based on rules defined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. While these rules have changed to focus on the creation and documentation of a regional Green Infrastructure Network, the resource lists from the 1989 and 1996 Resource Plans provide insight into the region's priorities 30 years ago. The rules define the Green Infrastructure Network as "a strategically planned and managed network of wilderness, parks, greenways, conservation easements, and working lands with conservation value."

Many of the resources currently classified as Areas of Conservation and/or Recreation and Historic or Cultural Resources were already included in these plans. However, resources such as Greenways and Trails and some historic resources not listed on the National Register have been added as their importance and/or vulnerability in the region has grown. The 1996 plan highlights Prime Forest Land and Tree Cover, which did not appear in recent updates of the plan. However, Urban Forest has been added as a crucial component of the Green Infrastructure Network in this update due to the numerous environmental and social benefits of trees. While the 1989 and 1996 plans identified several pieces of the region's infrastructure as Regionally Important Resources, such as the Freeway System, the Public Transportation System, the Railroad System, and the Airport System, as well as Regional Hospitals and Publicly Assisted Housing, more recent updates of the Resource Plan have placed greater importance on regional connectivity through trails and greenspace, as well as agricultural and scenic resources.

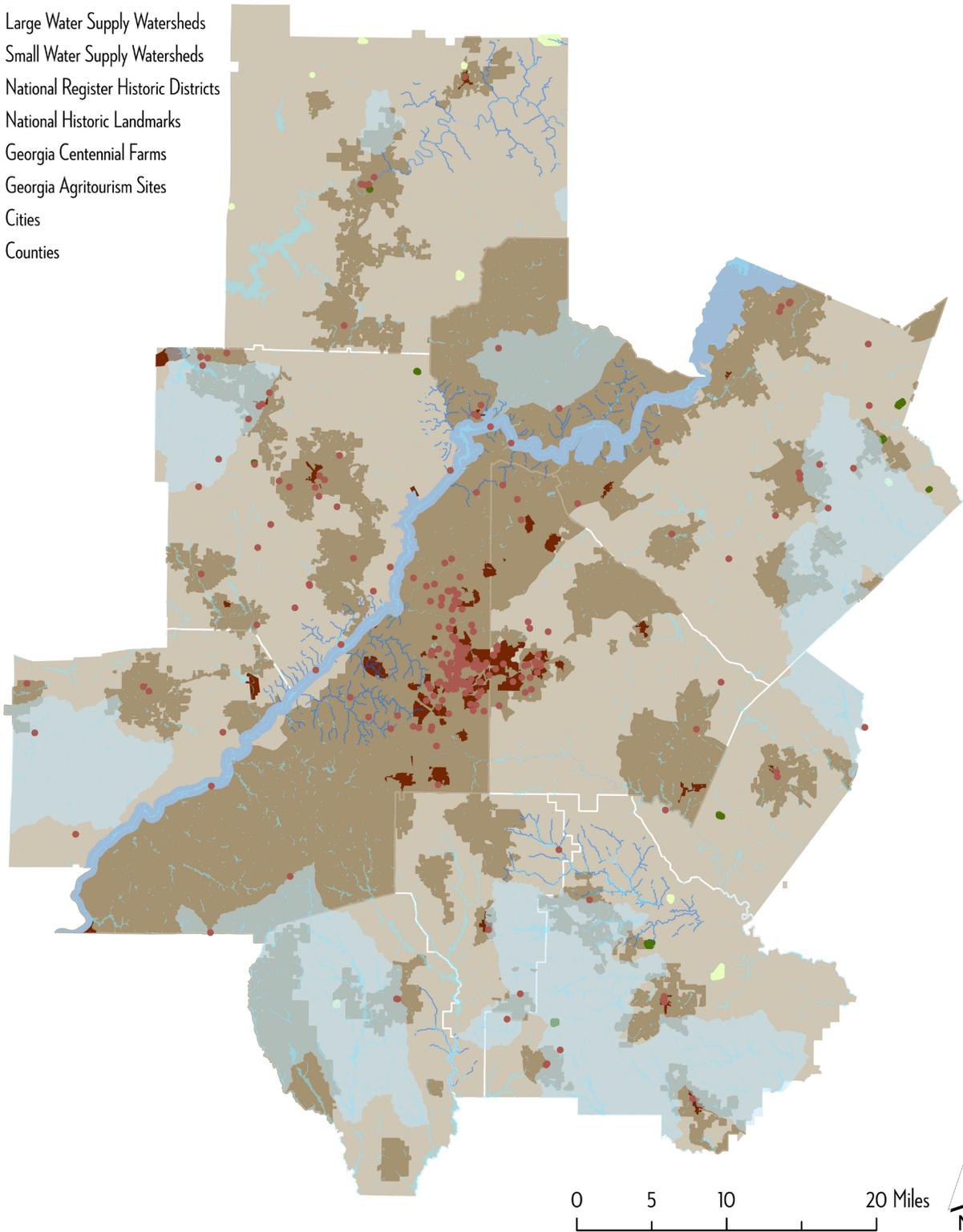
These resources have great value in the region's communities but face ever-growing pressure due to development and overuse.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs identifies threatened Regionally Important Resources as areas where significant natural or cultural resources are likely to be impacted by development. With limited guidance, Regional Commissions are left to identify the degree to which certain RIRs fall into this category based on a review of proximity to developed areas of the region. Metro Atlanta is a highly urbanized area, therefore many RIRs fall within developed areas. However, many also have developed long term protection methods to ensure the viability of the resource.

To meet the standard of identifying threatened resources as defined by DCA, ARC evaluated all resource categories from the 2016 Regional Resource Plan against the Value and Vulnerability Scale developed in the priority Regional Resource Plan Analysis & Guidance study. Feedback was received from technical experts and community stakeholders. Those resources where the scale shows high value and vulnerability are classified as Priority Regionally Important Resources (using "priority" in place of "threatened" as a way to more accurately describe the condition of these resources, and ARC's policies toward implementation.)

MAP 4-4 PRIORITY REGIONAL IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- National Register Historic Sites
- Wetlands
- Chattahoochee River
- Protected River Corridors
- Large Water Supply Watersheds
- Small Water Supply Watersheds
- National Register Historic Districts
- National Historic Landmarks
- Georgia Centennial Farms
- Georgia Agritourism Sites
- Cities
- Counties



ADDRESSING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

In November of 2019, ARC announced the completion of the Regional Housing Strategy. This strategy is designed to help local governments in the region's 10 core counties better understand their housing challenges – and begin to address them through actionable and proven strategies. The goal is to promote a stronger, healthier housing market that works for everyone: by promoting improved housing options, preserving diverse housing stock, and increasing the housing supply.

The Regional Housing Strategy is designed to be:

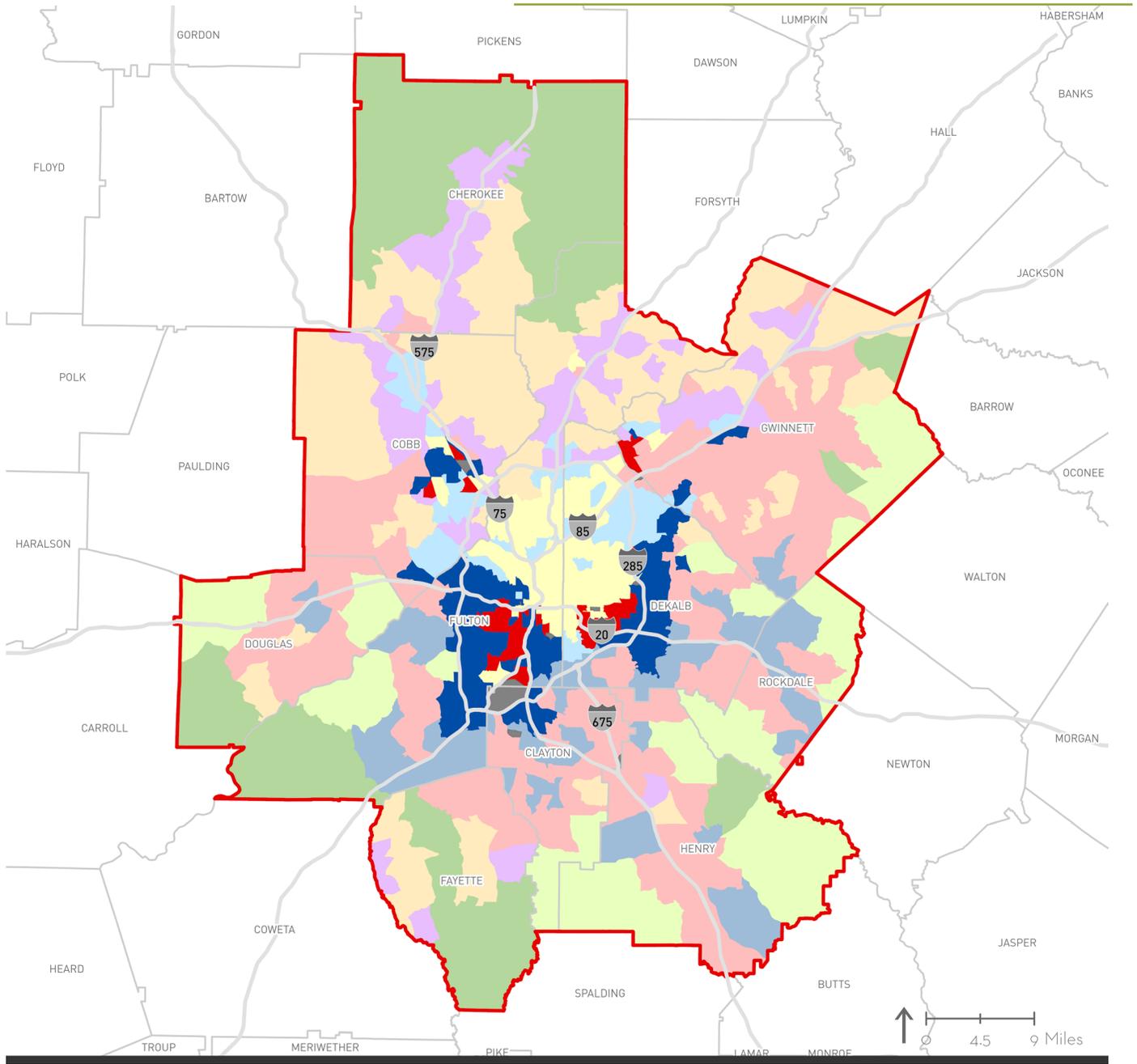
- Educational: serve as a source of information for policymakers and the general public to learn about housing affordability
- Analytical: provide a data portal to help communities understand their housing characteristics, issues, and opportunities.
- Actionable: provide local governments with the tools they need to identify local housing challenges and solutions.

With the data analysis conducted, the Regional Housing Strategy is designed to provide a baseline of information to spark discussions about the housing issues facing local communities. ARC has built an interactive digital tool that enables the Atlanta region to be separated into “housing submarkets” – small areas that have similar housing characteristics. Corresponding strategies have been developed that address housing choice and affordability in each submarket type.

Submarkets 3 and 4 are two areas that are both experiencing rapid change. Submarket 3 is experiencing the region's quickest increase in housing prices, with the greatest decline in the population of non-white residents. Submarket 4 is the only Submarket to have a net loss of housing units since 2010, more than 3,000 of which were multifamily and is experiencing the largest decline in homeownership. While all the submarkets need strategy assistance, these two markets are facing large challenges.

ARC will work in the coming years with local communities to address housing challenges through a dedicated program of staff assistance and prioritizing housing through the LCI program. In addition, ARC will continue to build awareness and educate stakeholders on the Regional Housing Strategy, and to report on the region's progress on addressing this issue.

MAP 4-5 REGIONAL HOUSING AREAS



- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
 - Counties
 - Expressways
- Regional Housing Strategy Submarkets**
- Subarea 1
 - Subarea 2
 - Subarea 3
 - Subarea 4
 - Subarea 5
 - Subarea 6
 - Subarea 7
 - Subarea 8
 - Subarea 9
 - Subarea 10
 - Non-Housing Area

FREIGHT AREAS AND ATLANTA AEROTROPOLIS

The Atlanta region is a global leader in freight and logistics, forming a key component of the Region's economic base. In 2018, freight dependent jobs were responsible for about \$514.8 billion of economic output, or 38% of the total regional output. This is projected to increase to about \$1.2 trillion in 2050. These industries include transportation/warehousing, manufacturing, wholesale, construction, and retail. Jobs in transportation/warehousing, manufacturing, and other goods movement/logistics can play a role in ladders of opportunity, as many of these jobs provide a livable wage but typically do not require a college education.

The 2016 Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update identified a lack of planning for local needs in industrial areas, resulting in the start of the Freight Cluster Plan program. Freight clusters have been identified as areas with the most intense industrial development in the region, and planning for these areas will provide guidance for project and policy implementation in the coming years. The locations of seven freight clusters and related freight cluster plans that have received funding are shown on the map to the right

The 2016 Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan Update, the Atlanta Regional Truck Parking Assessment Study, and each of these freight cluster plans will continue to provide guidance for freight planning and project and policy implementation in the coming years.

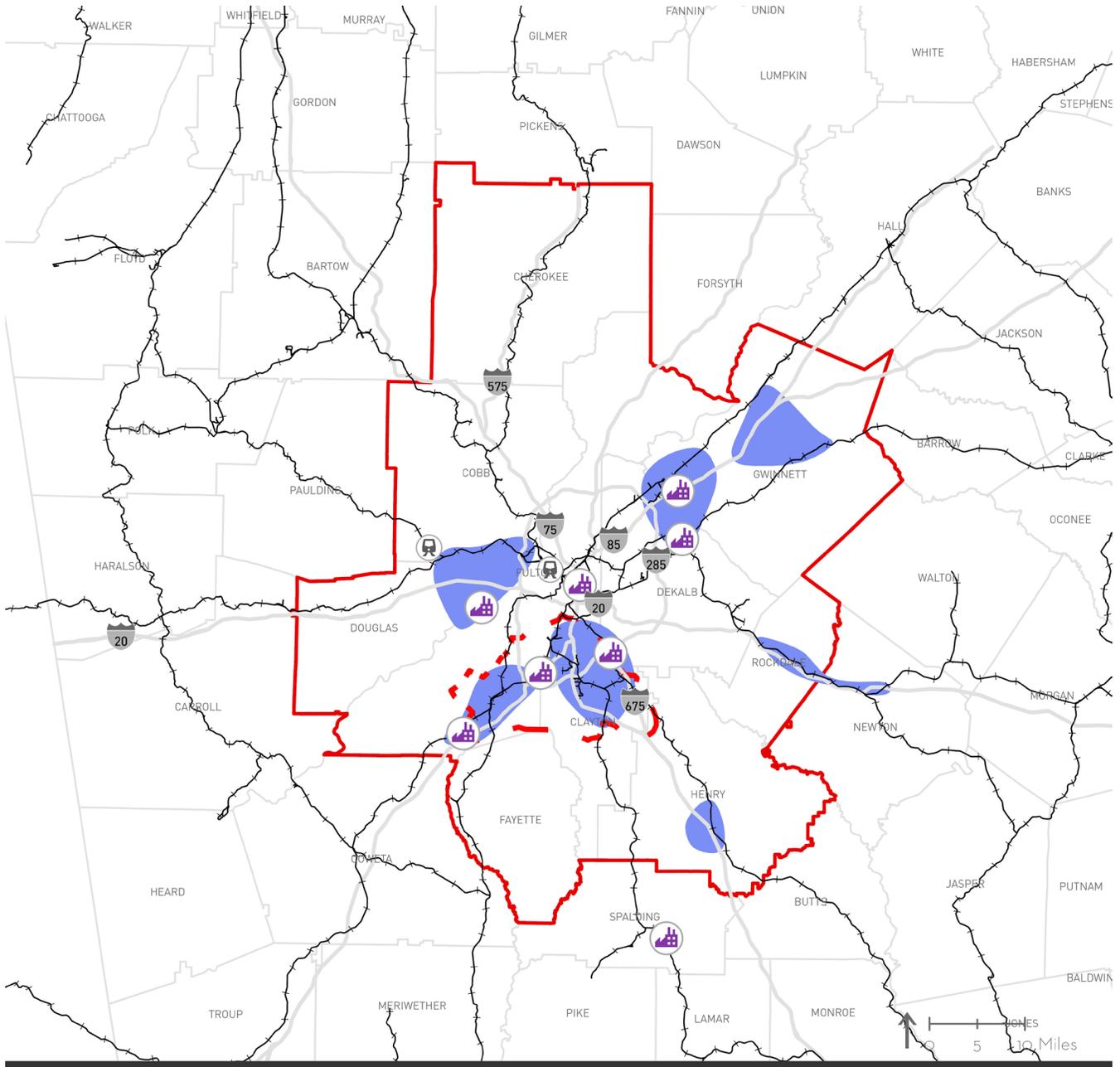
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, the world's most traveled airport, is arguably the region's biggest economic asset. It's directly responsible for more than 64,000 jobs and has an economic impact of more than \$34 billion a year. But the area around the airport, while home to several large corporate headquarters (Delta Air Lines, Chick-fil-A, and Porsche Cars North America), has lagged behind the rest of the region economically and has developed without a cohesive strategy.

Recognizing the potential, business and civic leaders worked with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to launch the Aerotropolis Atlanta Alliance, a coalition of Fortune 500 companies, local businesses, governments, and non-profits with the goal of transforming the airport area into a regional economic powerhouse.

In July of 2016, ARC in partnership with the Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance developed the Aerotropolis Blueprint (Blueprint). The Blueprint identified areas and types of future development within catalytic sites and aims to create an attractive environment for investors, employees, and residents. The plan calls for infrastructure improvements to create more walkable places across Aerotropolis Atlanta, as well as the creation of a "Green Corridor" of trails and sidewalks to tie together the area's natural, historic and cultural resources. This corridor could potentially connect to existing trail networks in the region, such as the Atlanta BeltLine.

ARC has supported the implementation of the blueprint through its programs with targeted studies and investments that implements the vision and has provided support to the Atlanta Aerotropolis Alliance to ensure

MAP 4-6 FREIGHT AREAS AND AEROTROPOLIS



- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- Counties
- Expressways
- Freight Clusters
- 🚂 Intermodal Yards
- 🏭 Freight Cluster Plans
- Aerotropolis Boundary
- USA Railroads

6.0 MOVING FORWARD

ARC has over 10 different regional plans that drive its work and these plans relate to The Atlanta Region's Plan Policy Framework. As these plans are revised, ARC will incorporate the Big Ideas into the new plans. In addition to the core functions of ARC, ARC has identified projects that it will undertake over the next five years to implement The Atlanta Region's Plan. These projects are identified within the appendix and will be updated annually to reflect the results of the evaluation and monitoring of The Atlanta's Region Plan.

ARC coordinates with a variety of regional and local entities to implement the Goals and Objectives of The Atlanta Region's Plan. Chief among ARC's partners are the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta, United Way, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce as well as other important organizations.

APPENNDIX LIST

The Atlanta Region's Plan Policy Framework

Regional Development Plan Work Program

Regional Resource Plan

Regional Development Plan Local government Implementation

DCA Data Supplement



ENDNOTES

- 1 Atlanta Airport Fact Sheet <http://www.atl.com/about-atl/atl-factsheet/>
- 2 Regional Freight Mobility Study <https://cdn.atlantaregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/atlanta-regional-freight-mobility-plan-update-2016.pdf>
- 3 CAGDP1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) summary by county and metropolitan area <http://apps.bea.gov>
- 4 Learn for Life 2019 Annual Report <https://l4lmetroatlanta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/L4L-2019-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf>
- 5 n. Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation, commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- 6 2015 MNGWPD Water Resource Management Plan https://northgeorgiawater.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Water-Resource-Management-Plan_Amended-20190227.pdf
- 7 Atlanta Region TOD Market Report
- 8 Opportunity Atlas <https://www.opportunityatlas.org/>
<http://www.atl.com/about-atl/atl-factsheet/>
<http://www.atl.com/about-atl/atl-factsheet/>
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/CreativePlacemaking-Paper.pdf>
- 9 <https://clustermapping.us/>
- 10 <https://www.peachpass.com/travel-data/>
- 11 <https://www.peachpass.com/travel-data/>

GREAT COMMUNITY
Many Stories





Atlanta Regional Commission

THE ATLANTA REGION'S PLAN

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Draft February 2021



Atlanta Regional Commission

CONTENTS

- 04** INTRODUCTION
- 04** IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
- 05** COMPETITIVE ECONOMY
- 06** WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE
- 09** HEALTHY LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

ARC establishes local performance standards to ensure local government consistency with The Atlanta Region's Plan Objectives.

Local governments are critical to the success of The Atlanta Region's Plan. Their responsibilities of providing infrastructure, land use decisions, and providing services are a key factor in the sustainability of the Atlanta region. The most important thing that a local government can do to implement The Atlanta Region's Plan is to take this responsibility very seriously.

This requires a local commitment to proactive planning, as well as the right set of planning tools, such as a current comprehensive plan, ordinances and other regulations that are consistent with the comprehensive plan, and trained decision makers who fully understand the impacts of their land use and infrastructure decisions.

Many local governments already do things that support the objectives of The Atlanta Region's Plan and many have plans and ordinances that are excellent examples of how The Atlanta Region's Plan can be implemented. These best practices should be promoted and shared throughout the region.

However, there is no "one size" fits all approach to implementing The Atlanta Region's Plan, and communities should be held responsible to achieve some minimum implementation of The Atlanta Region's Plan and as such the Georgia DCA rules require ARC to establish Minimum and Excellent standards for local government implementation of The Atlanta Region's Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

To ensure local government consistency with The Atlanta Region's Plan Objectives, ARC has established a Minimum and an Excellence threshold. The Minimum Standards are activities that are essential to the implementation of The Atlanta Region's Plan, while the Excellence Standards are activities that are desirable.

ARC is aware of the different needs and abilities of the local governments within the region, therefore there is a Required and Advanced Level of Standards. Local Governments that have limited staff and growth plans are exempt from the Advance Level.

Local Governments who are required to complete the Advanced Standards are required to complete fifty percent of the Advanced Standards in each Goal. Local Governments have until July 30th, 2024 to complete the Minimum Standards (Required and Advanced).

To be considered meeting the Excellence Standards, Local Governments are required to complete fifty percent of the Excellence Standards for each Goal and seventy-five percent of the Advanced Standards. In addition Local Governments can identify up to six innovation credits for either Advanced or Excellence Standards.

Local governments that achieve the Excellence Standard, will be designated as a Regional Leader in Sustainability. Incentives for Regional Leaders in Sustainability are still under development and are not finalized.

Local Governments who met the minimum and excellence standards through the Plan 2040 process will have their approval carried over to The Atlanta Region's Plan Local Performance Standards Process.

ARC anticipates providing assistance to local governments to meet all of the standards and implementation actions proposed in The Atlanta Region's Plan. It is the purpose of the planning standards to engage a coordination process with local governments and ensure continued effort to advance the regions planning. ARC is committed to working with local governments to provide technical assistance and support so as to achieve compliance with Minimum Standards in 100% of our jurisdictions.



COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

Objectives: to ensure that our existing and emerging employment centers support innovation and balance job growth and economic development, maintain the region's current successes in existing and emerging employment sectors, and to work with local communities to implement a regional approach to workforce development

GOAL: BUILDING THE REGION AS A GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED HUB OF INNOVATION AND PROSPERITY

MINIMUM STANDARDS - INNOVATION

MIN I.1 Develop or maintain a website and local government contact that provides information related to government information, development requirements, economic incentives, job resources, etc. **(REQUIRED)**

MIN I.2 Develop a process to share information, data and coordinate strategic actions with adjacent local governments, school boards and economic development agencies. **(REQUIRED)**

MIN I.3 Evaluate the need for incentives or regulatory changes to support redevelopment of sites or areas that have good access to infrastructure or existing job centers. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN I.4 Provide maps and locations of economic development opportunities or areas supported for redevelopment on the jurisdictions website. **(ADVANCED)**

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS - INNOVATION

EXC I.1 Develop a fiscal impact analysis review as part of the development review process for major development projects.

EXC I.2 Adopt and implement a Tax Allocation District (TAD).

EXC I.3 Develop business incubator space within the community.

EXC I.4 Develop a Local Business Requirement or preferences within purchasing procedures.

EXC I.5 Adopt and implement an Opportunity Zone.

EXC I.6 Develop a business retention and expansion program.

EXC I.7 Develop a process to align the resources and strategic actions of local governments and education and economic development agencies.

GOAL: DEVELOPING A HIGHLY EDUCATED & SKILLED WORKFORCE, ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF 21ST CENTURY EMPLOYERS

MINIMUM STANDARDS - EDUCATION

MIN E.1 Provide a venue for public access to technology, such as computer terminals, internet, educational software, etc. **(ADVANCED)**

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS - EDUCATION

EXC E.1 Develop a Main Street or a Downtown Development Authority within an established town center, or support the creation and/or continued operation of a Community Improvement District within a major employment center.

EXC E.2 Coordinate with large employers to implement employer-assisted housing programs and incentives to encourage residents to live near where they work.

WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

Objectives: to maintain and operate the existing transportation system to provide for reliable travel; improve transit and non-single occupant vehicle options to boost economic competitiveness and reduce environmental impacts; strategically expand the transportation system while supporting local land use plans; foster the application of advanced technologies to the transportation system; and promote an accessible and equitable transportation system

GOAL: ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, INCORPORATING REGIONAL TRANSIT AND 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

MINIMUM STANDARDS - TRANSPORTATION

- MIN T.1** Participate in the development and updates of local Comprehensive Transportation Plans (CTP). **(REQUIRED)**
- MIN T.2** Evaluate options of funding sources for local government transportation construction programs. **(REQUIRED)**
- MIN T.3** Evaluate zoning and development regulations at existing rail station communities and adopt supportive transit oriented development (TOD) requirements. **(REQUIRED)**
- MIN T.4** Identify appropriate land uses for areas adjacent to future transit station locations in the city or county comprehensive plan based on the station location areas in the ARC Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), where applicable. **(REQUIRED)**
- MIN T.5** Identify future transit station locations in the city or county comprehensive plan based on the station location areas in the ARC Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), where applicable. **(REQUIRED)**
- MIN T.6** Adopt regulations that require developers to construct pedestrian accommodations internal to the development and along the street frontage of the project. **(REQUIRED)**
- MIN T.7** Participate in ongoing training through ARC's Community Planning Academy (CPA) on transportation related topics, including Lifelong Community principles and design guidelines, access management planning, etc., or equivalent trainings provided by GDOT, APA, etc. **(ADVANCED)**
- MIN T.8** Evaluate the need for access management regulations for priority transportation corridors in the jurisdiction, where warranted. **(ADVANCED)**
- MIN T.9** Evaluate community-wide bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs particularly for access to existing transit services. Determine priorities for future local projects. **(ADVANCED)**
- MIN T.10** Develop a Capital Improvement Element (CIE) and include in the Comprehensive Plan. Undertake management procedures to prioritize, fund and enact the capital investments identified. **(ADVANCED)**
- MIN T.11** Adopt clean fuel fleet policies consistent with Georgia Clean fuel Fleets Program standards. **(ADVANCED)**
- MIN T.12** Adopt Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan for the jurisdiction (per federal requirements). **(ADVANCED)**

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS - TRANSPORTATION

- EXC T.1** Develop a dedicated funding source and programs for transportation system maintenance and improvements.
- EXC T.2** Adopt policies and regulations to implement access management plans for transportation corridors.

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS - TRANSPORTATION, CONTINUED

EXC T.3 Adopt parking facility design guidelines that require shared parking, parking maximums, pervious surface materials, and / or trees and landscaping, or other innovative parking policies that protect environmental quality. Include placement of parking behind buildings to encourage walkability.

EXC T.4 Adopt a community-wide bicycle and pedestrian transportation plan consistent with the 2016 Atlanta Region Bicycle Transportation & Pedestrian Walkways Plan.

EXC T.5 Participate in transportation demand management programs offered through regional Transportation Management Associations (TMAs), Employer Service Organizations (ESOs), and/or the Clean Air Campaign to provide travel options for employees to and from work.

EXC T.6 Adopt and implement a complete streets policy.

EXC T.7 Adopt ordinances or regulations to provide for and enhance roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian connectivity between neighborhoods and adjacent land uses to promote improve access and mobility.

EXC T.8 Develop and implement a transit access plan, including sidewalks, street crossings, bus shelters, etc. along with identifying priority areas for retrofitting existing roadways to meet minimum standards for providing accessibility to transit.

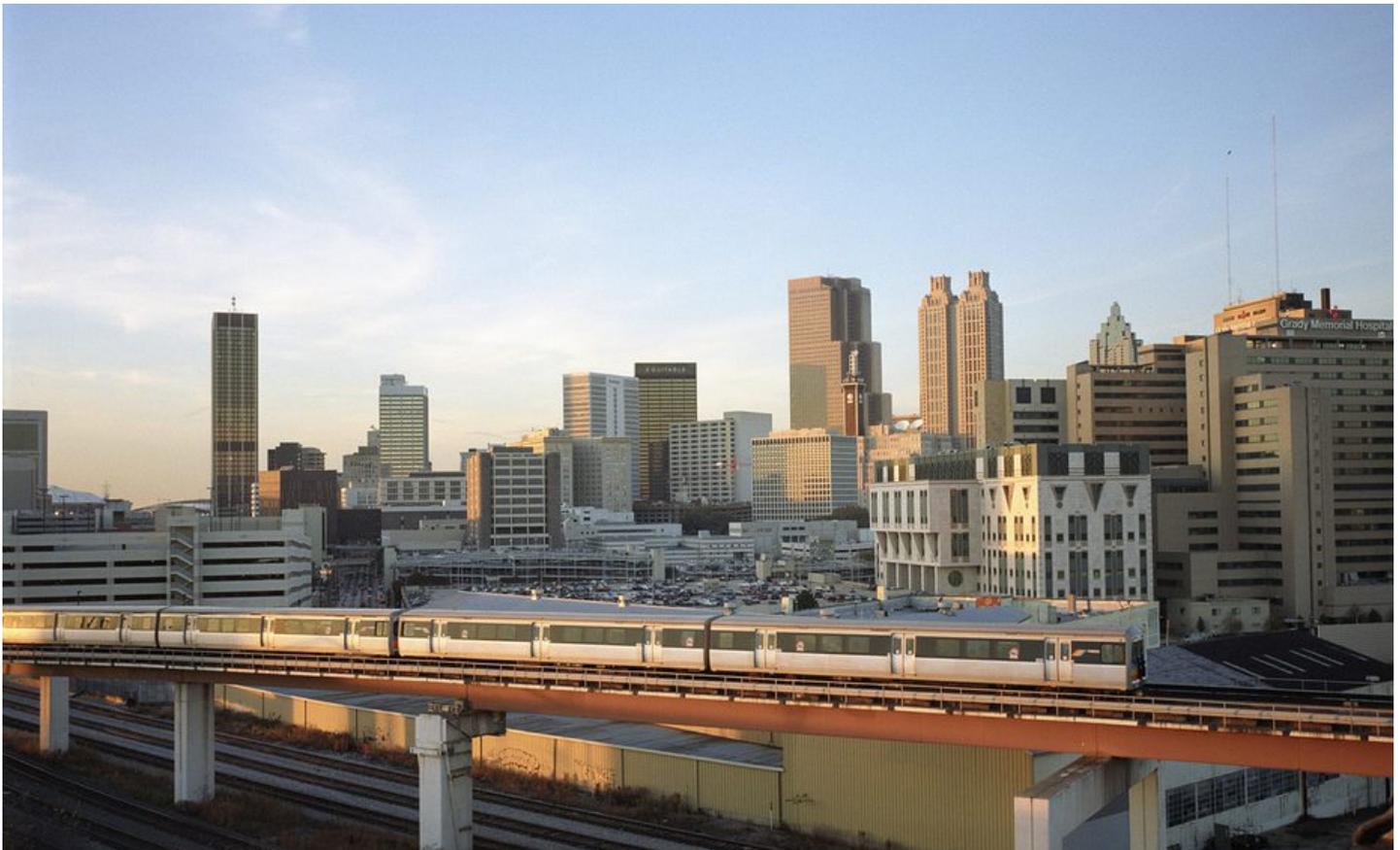
EXC T.9 Adopt a development review process to evaluate traffic impacts, design and accessibility issues, and compatibility with locally adopted land use and complete streets policies.

EXC T.10 Adopt a community-wide freight plan consistent with the 2016 Atlanta Region Freight Plan .

EXC T.11 Provide parking at city/county facilities for alternative vehicles such as Zip Car, scooters, bicycles, carpools and electric vehicles (including re-charging spaces).

EXC T.12 Coordinate with school districts to develop or maintain a “Safe Routes to School” program.

EXC T.13 Take steps to become Electric Vehicle ready.



MINIMUM STANDARDS - WATER

MIN W.1 Identify Regionally Important Resources (RIR) in the jurisdiction and depict as Areas Requiring Special Attention, Conservation Areas, or similar classification on the Future Development Map in the local comprehensive plan. **(REQUIRED)**

MIN W.2 Prepare an inventory of priority community green infrastructure resources that identifies, at minimum; passive parks, trails, forest and agricultural lands, water bodies stream buffers, and environmentally sensitive areas. The inventory should include a map of these areas. **(REQUIRED)**

MIN W.3 Adopt a tree ordinance, forest conservations ordinance or equivalent legislation that requires minimum tree retention standards for developments of a certain size. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN W.4 Prepare a code audit of local ordinances and development regulations to identify barriers to activities that would promote energy savings. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN W.5 Identify projects within the Short Term Work Program of the local Comprehensive Plan that improves conservation and preservation of resources that contribute to the community's green infrastructure network. **(ADVANCED)**

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS - WATER

EXC W.1 Develop and maintain a comprehensive community Greenspace/Green Infrastructure Plan.

EXC W.2 Participate in mitigation activities that reduce potential disaster losses through FEMA's HMA programs or other sources.

EXC W.3 Identify all impervious surfaces within the community using GIS or similar method.

EXC W.4 Implement projects, policies, design criteria, ordinances, or other tools that mitigate the negative impacts of impervious surfaces. This should include guidance for grading and landscaping.

EXC W.5 Implement optional local management measures described in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) Watershed Management Plan.

EXC W.6 Develop and maintain a Community Forest Master Plan.



HEALTHY LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Objectives: to equitably and strategically focus resources in areas of need and importance in partnership with local communities, and invest in equitable and improved access to a variety of safe, quality housing, including options for aging in place

GOAL: DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL WALKABLE, VIBRANT CENTERS THAT SUPPORT PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

MINIMUM STANDARDS - CENTERS

MIN C.1 Prepare and support small area studies (e.g. LCI) for priority redevelopment areas within the jurisdiction. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN C.2 Evaluate the jobs-housing-balance in Regional Centers, Regional Employment Corridors and Community Activity Centers as identified on the Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM). Identify strategies and incentives aimed at increasing housing types and satisfying the desired jobs-housing balance. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN C.3 Conduct code audit to identify regulatory barriers to construction of housing to meet the forecasted community needs and the attainment of the desired jobs-housing balance as identified in the comprehensive plan. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN C.4 Coordinate housing program staff, land use planners, private and non-profits within the county to discuss best practices and actions to overcoming foreclosures. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN C.5 Develop a coordination program or MOU with senior service providers or other entities regarding coordination of senior transportation, senior center location and programming, senior housing and other senior focused services. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN C.6 Analyze the relationship between existing senior center locations, senior focused housing and other senior focused services to existing transportation options, land use plans and health and supportive services. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN C.7 Assess the demographic and socio-economic data in the community in relation to existing senior center locations, senior focused housing and other senior focused services, and potential future locations. **(ADVANCED)**

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS -CENTERS

EXC C.1 Develop bilingual or multilingual services provided in key government operations.

EXC C.2 Implement an ongoing public engagement process with business leaders and owners and the general public, to sustain continued support and dialogue regarding comprehensive planning goals and objectives.

EXC C.3 Develop a program to mitigate the effects of property tax increases on existing residents in transit-enabled areas. The program should offer protection to existing residents if new development or increase valuations pose a threat.

EXC C.4 Locate government and civic buildings in existing communities.

EXC C.5 Adopt regulatory changes to allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in single-family neighborhoods.

EXC C.6 Implement actions to facilitate more workforce housing near major job centers and rail station communities.

EXC C.7 Develop or support a Housing Trust Fund to incentivize the construction of workforce housing.

EXC C.8 Provide better education or incentives that promote barrier-free housing options for individuals of all ages and abilities.

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS -CENTERS, CONTINUED

EXC C.9 Provide or offer support to programs that support multi- or single-family housing landlords' improvement of existing structures to preserve existing affordable housing.

EXC C.10 Implement a plan to eliminate barriers to housing construction and other development that seeks to meet forecasted community needs uncovered in a code audit.

EXC C.11 Leverage government owned properties for affordable housing and needed neighborhood amenities by identifying properties and working with partners to understand options.

GOAL: PROMOTING HEALTH, ARTS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

MINIMUM STANDARDS - QUALITY

MIN Q.1 Provide or support the development of civic spaces (such as park venues and community buildings) for residents in the community. **(REQUIRED)**

MIN Q.2 Identify locally designated historic districts and National Register historic districts in the local comprehensive plan. **(REQUIRED)**

MIN Q.3 Identify Wellness Districts, as defined by the UGPM and Regional Development Guide, in the local comprehensive plan. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.4 Adopt regulation that promotes accessibility and connectivity to health and supportive services. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.5 Adopt policies that incentivize the provision of a mix of basic services and health and support services within a community. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.6 Provide a neighborhood watch program and support creation of neighborhood level programs. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.7 Provide education and outreach efforts that further community awareness of initiatives that promote sustainability. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.8 Prepare a code audit to identify development and activities that are recommended by the adopted Comprehensive Plan versus permissible in a jurisdiction's zoning and regulations. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.9 Develop an infill housing ordinance, or equivalent (e.g. tear downs). **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.10 Adopt mixed-use development regulations that encourage housing choices. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.11 Adopt design regulations that encourage active ground floor retail spaces, pedestrian oriented design and pedestrian amenities in commercial districts. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.12 Prepare an inventory of vacant, underused or abandoned lots and subdivisions. Evaluate these parcels and prioritize infill and brownfield sites for redevelopment. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.13 Prepare an inventory of resources (including identified archaeological sites) that are listed on or qualify for the Georgia Register or National Register of Historic Places, or update a current inventory if prepared prior to 1995. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.14 Develop a program to engage citizen participation in government and planning initiatives. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.15 Provide training for at least 50% of the jurisdiction's planning commissioners by attending the introductory Community Planning Academy (CPA), or provide equivalent training for new planning commissioners within their first 6 months on the planning commission. **(ADVANCED)**

MIN Q.16 Develop a coordination program or memorandum of understanding (MOU) with school boards or system personnel to share information on school siting, forecasts, joint use of facilities, infrastructure plans, bus routes, and safe routes to school. **(ADVANCED)**

EXCELLENCE STANDARDS -QUALITY

- EXC Q.1** For areas identified as Wellness Districts in local comprehensive plans, adopt zoning ordinances and regulatory requirements to allow or require Lifelong Communities Principles.
- EXC Q.2** Develop a process to conduct health impact assessments (HIA) to evaluate government plans or programs (such as comprehensive plans or transportation plans), large-scale developments (including DRIs), and other related projects that may impact community health.
- EXC Q.3** Develop a communication program to distribute health tips, safety training and information on the other health related issues to employees and residents of the community.
- EXC Q.4** Prepare and publish crime statistics or maps.
- EXC Q.5** Develop a coordination program or MOU with organizations such as Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) and neighborhood associations to develop public safety programs.
- EXC Q.6** Amend zoning codes and development regulations to eliminate regulatory barriers that obstruct the support of Lifelong Community (LLC) Principles identified in a code audit.
- EXC Q.7** Adopt regulations requiring all new civic buildings to meet green building standards through certification programs such as LEED, EarthCraft, Energy Star or similar.
- EXC Q.8** Adopt building codes that exceed the requirements of the ICC codes, such as the National Green Building Standard (2008), the ICC Green Construction Cod or ASHRAE 189.1-2009.
- EXC Q.9** Participate in and/or receive recognition through a performance rating system or partnership.
- EXC Q.10** Identify projects within your community that have been recognized through a performance rating system focused on environmental quality in building or site design.
- EXC Q.11** Develop or support the protection and identification of Regionally Important Resources by local partners or community groups.
- EXC Q.12** Develop a distinctive wayfinding and signage system for key areas within the community.
- EXC Q.13** Implement an expedited plan and permit approval process for infill and mixed use projects.
- EXC Q.14** Adopt zoning regulations that support existing Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Plan(s).
- EXC Q.15** Implement a program to identify, reuse, rehabilitate or dispose of vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties.
- EXC Q.16** Develop incentives for the provision of underground or structure parking rather than surface.
- EXC Q.17** Develop a program or undertake planning that identifies and considers zoning, regulatory, public investments or other governmental support to convert declining shopping malls or centers and strip commercial corridors into residential, mixed-use or civic spaces.
- EXC Q.18** Become a certified Local Government by the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.
- EXC Q.19** Adopt parking maximums or reduced minimum parking requirements as a part of mixed-use zoning.
- EXC Q.20** Identify areas of active agricultural uses, including equestrian and livestock facilities, forestry uses, and operations that foster community-supported agriculture or other farm-to-market opportunities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Propose an innovative activity undertaken by the local government to further Objectives of the Local Government Plan Implementation Standards (Maximum of 6). **(VARIES)**



THE ATLANTA
REGION'S
PLAN

PRIORITY REGIONAL RESOURCE PLAN ANALYSIS & GUIDANCE

Draft February 2021



Atlanta Regional Commission

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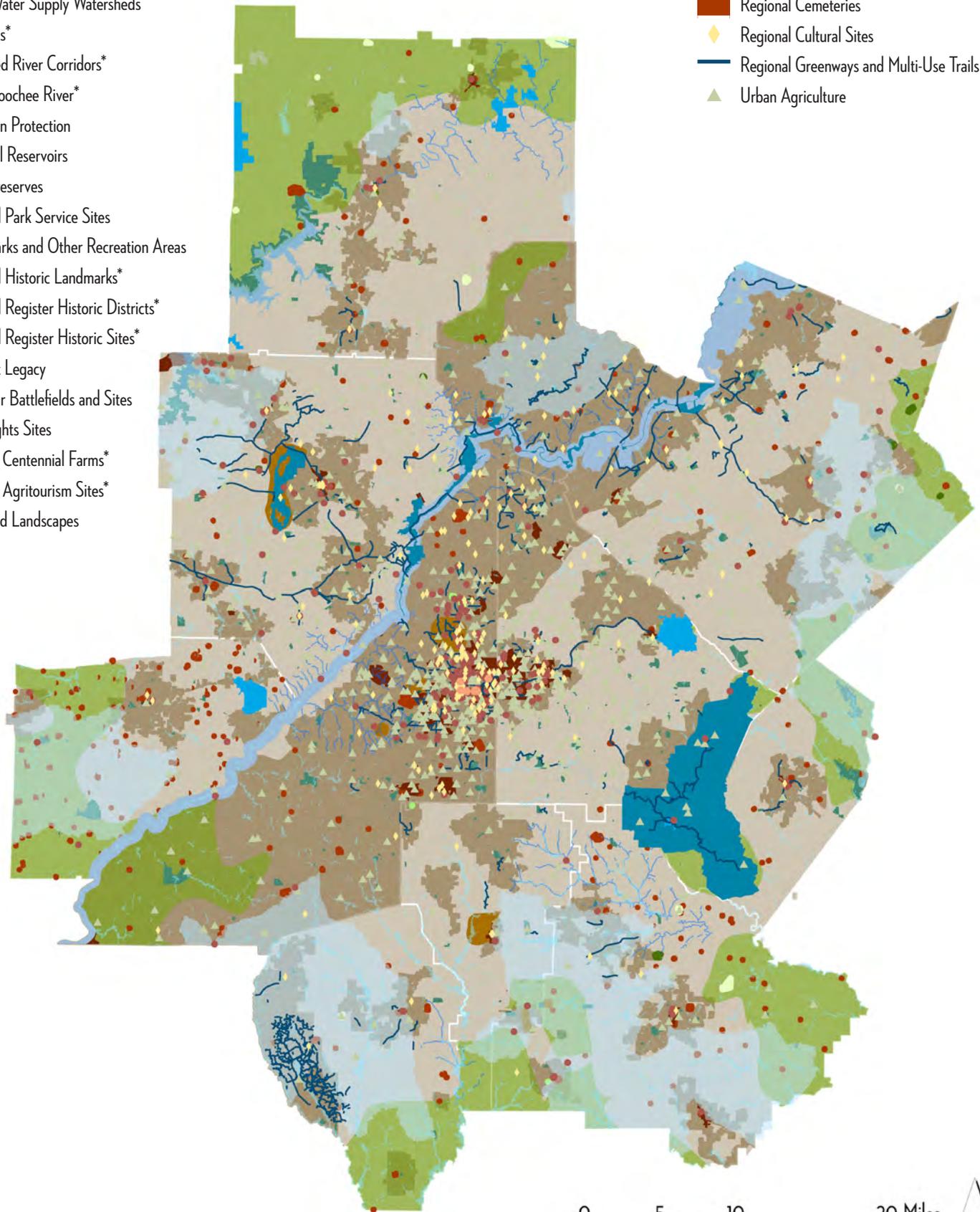
70 APPENDICES

REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- Small Water Supply Watersheds*
- Large Water Supply Watersheds*
- Wetlands*
- Protected River Corridors*
- Chattahoochee River*
- Mountain Protection
- Regional Reservoirs
- Rural Preserves
- National Park Service Sites
- State Parks and Other Recreation Areas
- National Historic Landmarks*
- National Register Historic Districts*
- National Register Historic Sites*
- Olympic Legacy
- Civil War Battlefields and Sites
- Civil Rights Sites
- Georgia Centennial Farms*
- Georgia Agritourism Sites*
- Designed Landscapes

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

- Regional Parks
- Regional Cemeteries
- Regional Cultural Sites
- Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails
- Urban Agriculture



*Classified as Priority Regionally Important Resources

INTRODUCTION

Regionally Important Resources are defined as “any natural or cultural resource area identified for protection by a Regional Commission.”

BACKGROUND

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency created by the local governments in the Atlanta region pursuant to legislation passed by the Georgia General Assembly. As an area of greater than 1,000,000 in population, ARC has authority under state laws as both a Metropolitan Area Planning and Development Commission (MAPDC) and Regional Commission (RC).

ARC engages in a continuous program of research, study and planning of numerous matters affecting the Atlanta region. As a Regional Commission, ARC must prepare and adopt a Regional Plan to meet both federal transportation planning rules and also minimum standards and procedures for regional planning developed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

ARC’s current Regional Resource plan including the current categories was adopted in 2016. With the revisions to Chapter 110-12-6, Standards and Procedures for Regional Planning, “Regional Planning Requirements.” in 2018, ARC needed to conduct analysis of the categories to identify “Threatened Regional Important Resources”, and develop guidance for development practices

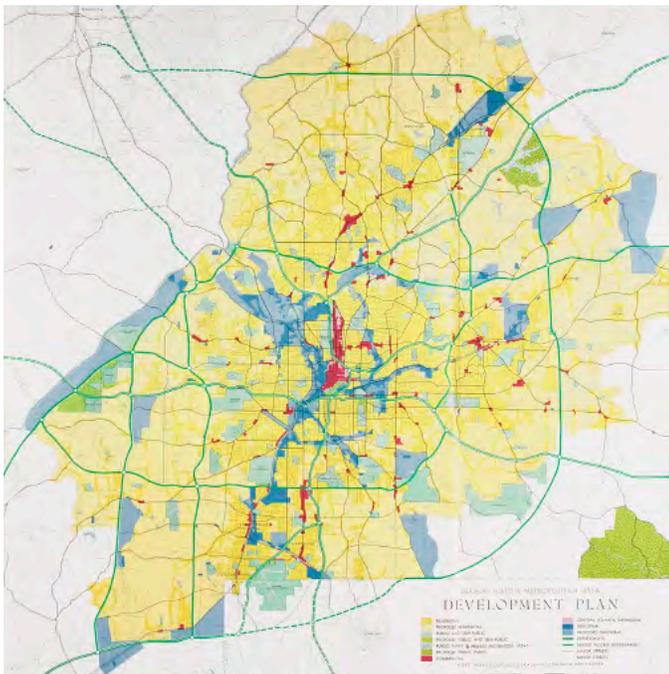
HISTORY OF REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The Atlanta Regional Commission has been planning for natural, cultural, and historic resources since the 1950s, producing plans such as the 1954 Regional Development Plan, the 1963 Nature Preserves Plan, and the 1972 Chattahoochee Recreation Area Study. In

the 1980s and 1990s, ARC began identifying Regionally Important Resources based on rules defined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. While these rules have changed to focus on the creation and documentation of a regional Green Infrastructure Network, the resource lists from the 1989 and 1996 Resource Plans provide insight into the region’s priorities 30 years ago. The rules define the Green Infrastructure Network as “a strategically planned and managed network of wilderness, parks, greenways, conservation easements, and working lands with conservation value.”

Many of the resources currently classified as Areas of Conservation and/or Recreation and Historic or Cultural Resources were already included in these plans. However, resources such as Greenways and Trails and some historic resources not listed on the National Register have been added as their importance and/or vulnerability in the region has grown. The 1996 plan highlights Prime Forest Land and Tree Cover, which did not appear in recent updates of the plan. However, Urban Forest has been added as a crucial component of the Green Infrastructure Network in this update due to the numerous environmental and social benefits of trees. While the 1989 and 1996 plans identified several pieces of the region’s infrastructure as Regionally Important Resources, such as the Freeway System, the Public Transportation System, the Railroad System, and the Airport System, as well as Regional Hospitals and Publicly Assisted Housing, more recent updates of the Resource Plan have placed greater importance on regional connectivity through trails and greenspace, as well as agricultural and scenic resources. These resources have



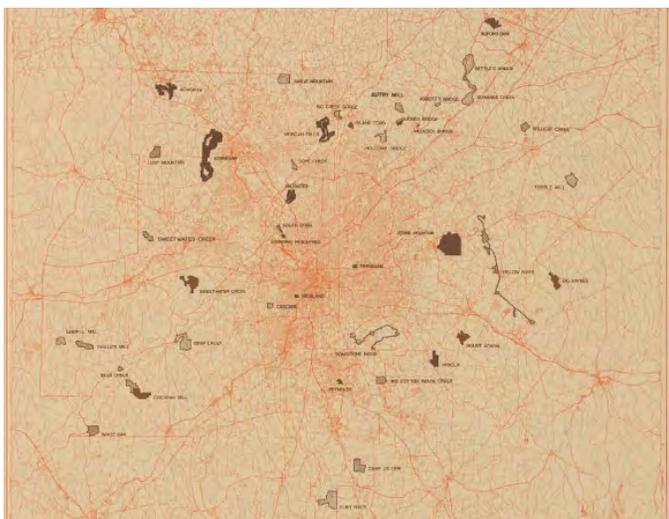


1954 REGIONAL PLAN

great value in the region's communities but face ever-



1963 NATURE PRESERVES PLAN



1976 NATURE PRESERVES PLAN

growing pressure due to development and overuse.

DESIGNATION OF REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

Pursuant to Rules of the Department of Community Affairs, Chapter 110-12-4, Regionally Important Resources are defined as “any natural or cultural resource area identified for protection by a Regional Commission following the minimum requirements established by the Department.” The 2016 Regional Resource Plan was designed to:

- Enhance the focus on protection and management of important natural and cultural resources in the Atlanta region.
- Provide for careful consideration of, and planning for, impacts of new development on these important resources.
- Improve local, regional, and state level coordination in the protection and management of identified resources.

The plan will identified the methodology and process involved in selecting Regionally Important Resources. It will include a map of Regionally Important Resources, a brief narrative relating the values and vulnerabilities of each resource, as well as guidance for appropriate development practices and general policies, protection measures, and management strategies for identified resources. Ultimately, the plan is used to “...coordinate activities and planning of local governments, land trusts and conservation or environmental protection groups’ activities in the region, and state agencies toward protection and management of the identified Regionally Important Resources.”

In 2016, ARC adopted the Regional Resource Plan and the current categories of the Regional Important Resources. That map is on page 9.

IDENTIFICATION OF REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The rules promulgated by the Department of Community Affairs give general direction in identifying potential resources.

1. Accept nominations by any individual, interested organization, local government/ government agency
2. Consider resources identified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as State Vital Areas
3. Consider natural or cultural resources that are already preserved by an existing conservation mechanism
4. Consider natural or cultural resources identified by other state agencies and/or environmental protection organizations

GIS data used for conservation mapping was collected and analyzed as the foundation of the 2016 Regionally Important Resources Map. ARC staff also reviewed existing state and federal programs that document and manage significant natural and cultural resources, as well as activities undertaken by a variety of non-profit organizations working to further conservation goals of the natural and built environment.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING VALUE OF REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES.

In addition to guidelines established within the DCA Rules, the ARC Board adopted six criteria to provide guidance in selecting resources that should be considered priorities.

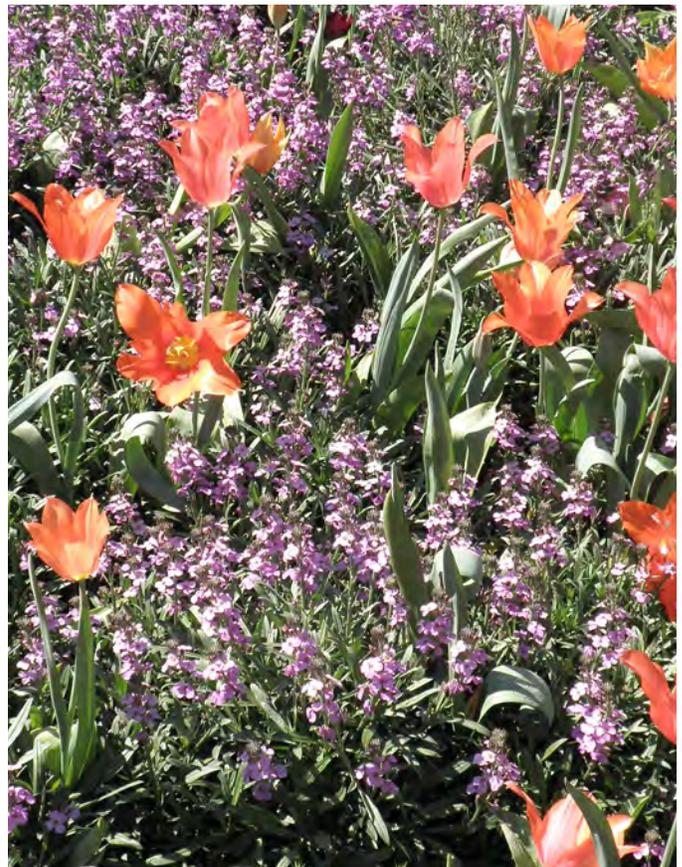
1. *Preserves water quality and quantity by protecting drainage, flood control, recharge areas, watersheds, buffers, etc.*
2. *Creates or preserves active or passive greenspaces including trails, gardens and informal places of natural enjoyment in areas currently underserved by greenspace*
3. *Protects wildlife habitat by creating, buffering, preserving habitat areas and corridors*
4. *Preserves areas that have historical or cultural value by virtue of history, place or time period represented*
5. *Preserves significant working agricultural or forest resources and/or creates opportunities for local food production activities*
6. *Areas that contribute to region-wide connections between existing and proposed regional resources*

IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABILITY OF REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES.

The criteria for determining Regionally Important Resources allows for a concise snapshot of the value of each resource to the Atlanta Region. In recognizing the value of these resources, consideration is also given to their potential vulnerabilities. Nominations included descriptions of the resource's vulnerabilities and the degree to which the resource is threatened or endangered. Review of the nominations for each resource provided a similar snapshot in regard to vulnerability. Generally, threats to resources fell within three broad categories.

- *Development Pressures*
 - » *Threatened by destruction of subsurface resources, such as archaeological sites*
 - » *Fluctuations in land values threatens economic viability of current use*

- » *Threatened by adjacent development that is incompatible in terms of design, scale or land use*
- » *Threatened by destruction of significant viewshed*
- » *Creation of urban heat island effect due increased impervious surface coverage*
- *Environmental Degradation*
 - » *Potential adverse impact on wildlife/ loss of biodiversity*
 - » *Subject to damaging pollutants and/ or contaminants*
 - » *Threatened by erosion and/ or stormwater run-off flows*
 - » *Threatened by the changing effects of extreme weather events*
 - » *Threatened by over-use of resource (i.e. inappropriate recreational use, too much traffic, etc)*
- *Resource Management*
 - » *Lack of protection through adequate regulations or easements*
 - » *Lack of enforcement of existing regulations*
 - » *Lack of financial resources for appropriate stewardship*
 - » *Lack of long-term ownership plan/ transitional ownership*
 - » *Lack of equitable access by all populations in the region*



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDENS / CREDIT: ARC

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY SCALE. A Value and Vulnerability Scale was developed for each area identified as a Regionally Important Resource. The Value and Vulnerability Scale evaluates the criteria proscribed by ARC and DCA, as well as other considerations, against each category of Regionally Important Resource. This scale will assist in identifying Regionally Important Resources that may meet the criteria of “threatened” RIRs as described in the Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Regional Planning Requirements, Chapter 110-12-6 (adopted 2018).

Value Matrix for Regionally Important Resources

	DCA Rules for Identification of Regionally Important Resources				Additional Criteria Adopted by ARC Board					
	Resource Nominated by an Individual, Interested Organization, Local Government/ Governmental Agency	Resource Identified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as a State Vital Area	Natural or Cultural Resource that is Already Preserved by an Existing Conservation Mechanism	A Natural or Cultural Resource Identified by Other State Agencies and/ or Environmental Protection Organization	Preserves Water Quality and Quantity by Protecting Drainage, Flood Control, Recharge Areas, Watersheds, Buffers, Etc.	Creates or Preserves Active or Passive Greenspaces, Including Trails, Gardens, and Informal Places of Natural Enjoyment in	Preserves Wildlife Habitat by Creating, Buffering, Preserving Habitat Areas and Corridors	Preserves Areas That Have Historical or Cultural Value by Virtue of History, Place or Time Period Represented	Preserves Significant Working Agricultural or Forest Resources and/ or Creates Opportunities for Local Food Production Activities	Areas that Contribute to Region-wide Connections Between Existing and Proposed Regional Resources
Areas of Conservation and/or Recreational Value										
Water Supply Watersheds										
Ground Water Recharge Area										
Wetlands										
River Corridors										
Chattahoochee River										
Mountain Protection										
Regional Reservoirs										
Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails										
National Park Service Sites										
State Parks and Other Recreation Areas										
Historic and Cultural Resources										
National Historic Landmarks										
National Register Historic Districts										
National Register Historic Sites										
Olympic Legacy										
Civil War Battlefields and Sites										
Civil Rights Sites										
Areas of Agricultural and/or Scenic Value										
Georgia Centennial Farms										
Georgia Agritourism Sites										
Designed Landscapes										

The Resource Narratives of this plan provide a description and additional information on the value and vulnerability of each Regionally Important Resource.

Vulnerability Matrix for Regionally Important Resources

Development Pressures					Environmental Degradation					Resource Management				
Threatened by destruction of subsurface resources such as archaeological sites	Fluctuations in land values threatens economic viability of current use	Threatened by adjacent development that is incompatible in terms of design, scale, or land use	Destruction of significant viewshed	Creation of urban heat island effect due to increased impervious surface coverage	Potential adverse impact on wildlife/ loss of biodiversity	Subject to damaging pollutants and/ or contaminants	Threatened by erosion and/ or stormwater run-off flows	Threatened by the changing effects of extreme weather events	Threatened by over-use of resource (i.e. inappropriate recreational use, too much traffic, etc)	Lack of protection through adequate regulations or easements	Lack of enforcement of existing regulations	Lack of financial resources for appropriate stewardship	Lack of long-term ownership plan/ transitional ownership	Lack of equitable access by all populations in the region

Areas of Conservation and/or Recreational Value

Water Supply Watersheds														
Ground Water Recharge Area														
Wetlands														
River Corridors														
Chattahoochee River														
Mountain Protection														
Regional Reservoirs														
Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails														
National Park Service Sites														
State Parks and Other Recreation Areas														

Historic and Cultural Resources

National Historic Landmarks														
National Register Historic Districts														
National Register Historic Sites														
Olympic Legacy														
Civil War Battlefields and Sites														
Civil Rights Sites														

Areas of Agricultural and/or Scenic Value

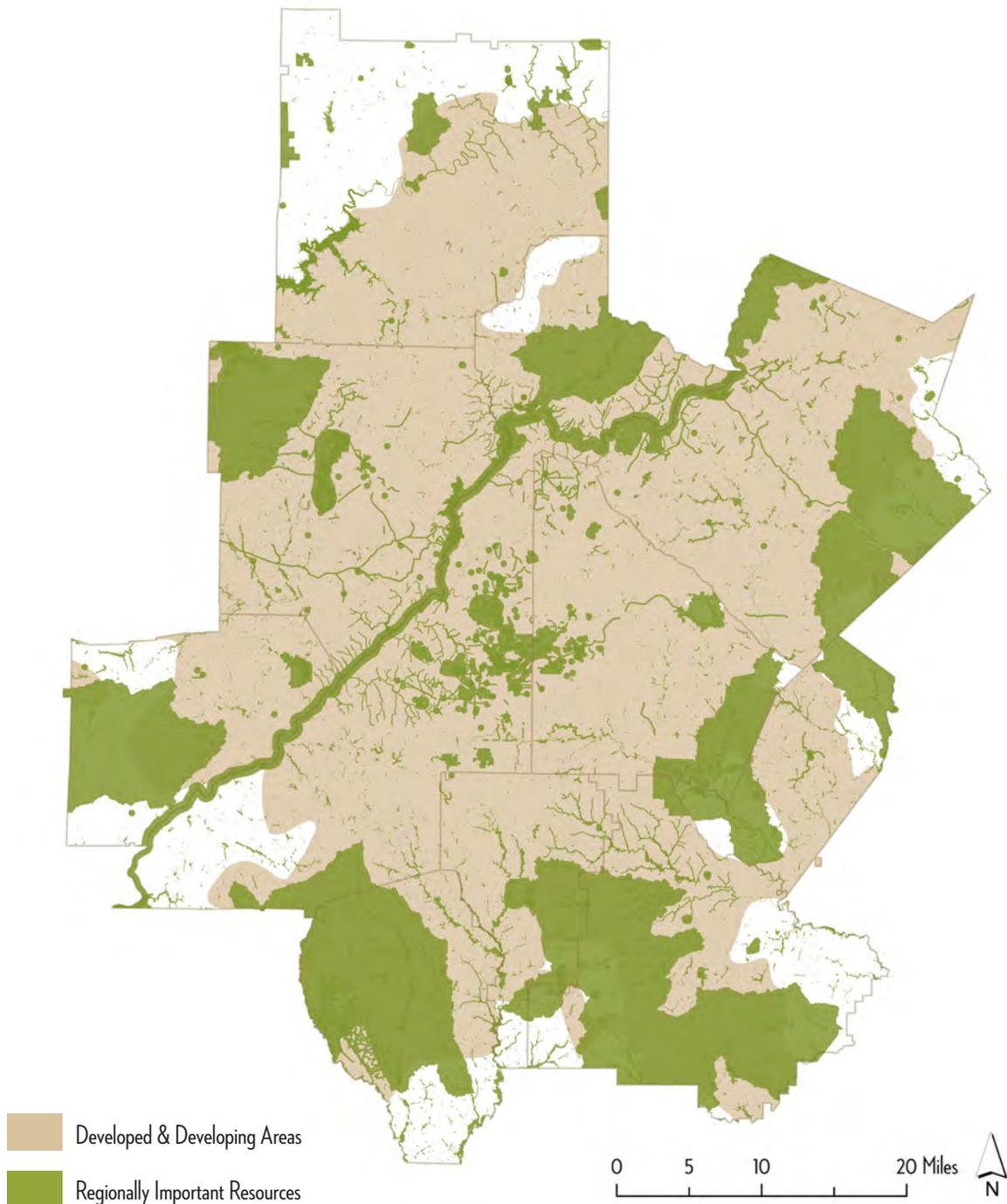
Georgia Centennial Farms														
Georgia Agritourism Sites														
Designed Landscapes														

The Resource Narratives of this plan provide a description and additional information on the value and vulnerability of each Regionally Important Resource.

PRIORITY REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

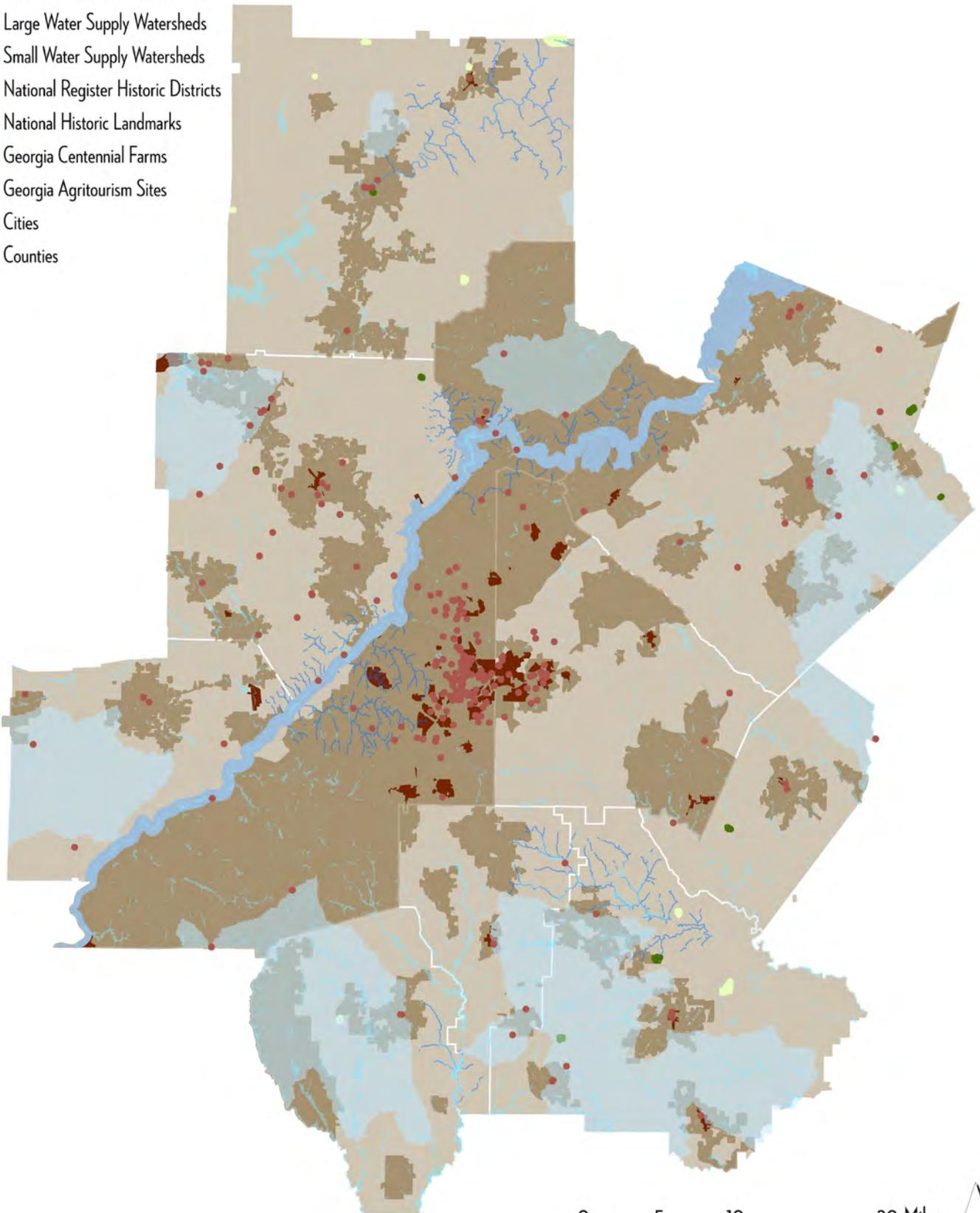
The Georgia Department of Community Affairs identify threatened Regionally Important Resources as areas where significant natural or cultural resources are likely to be impacted by development. With limited guidance, Regional Commissions are left to identify the degree to which certain RIRs fall into this category based on a review of proximity to developed areas of the region. Metro Atlanta is a highly urbanized area, therefore many RIRs fall within developed areas. However, many also have developed long term protection methods to ensure the viability of the resource.

To meet the standard of identifying threatened resources as defined by DCA, ARC evaluated all resource categories against the Value and Vulnerability Scale developed in this plan. Feedback was received from technical experts and community stakeholders. Those resources where the scale shows high value and vulnerability are classified as Priority Regionally Important Resources (using "priority" in place of "threatened" as a way to more accurately describe the condition of these resources, and ARC's policies toward implementation.)



PRIORITY REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- National Register Historic Sites
- Wetlands
- Chattahoochee River
- Protected River Corridors
- Large Water Supply Watersheds
- Small Water Supply Watersheds
- National Register Historic Districts
- National Historic Landmarks
- Georgia Centennial Farms
- Georgia Agritourism Sites
- Cities
- Counties



CATEGORIES OF REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The following categories were designed to broadly bracket the resources identified as regionally important.

AREAS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATIONAL VALUE.

This broad classification identifies the core natural resources within the Atlanta Region, as well as sites that provide unique opportunities for environmental conservation, heritage preservation and recreation. Consideration was given to areas under management by state or federal agencies, and those that serve populations extending through the region and beyond. In general, this category focuses on large-scale amenities, whose boundaries are often multi-jurisdictional. Local parks and some trails are assumed to be of local significance and best preserved by action at the local level, and not included as a regional resource.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES. This broad classification focuses primarily on those resources that meet the benchmarks established by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, as well as other resources identified through State agencies that represent the unique history and heritage of Georgia. In general, individually identified historic or cultural resources are assumed to be of local significance, and best preserved by action at the local level. Individually identified resources that were nominated and supported by a local government or other nominating party have been included in the Plan when it was found they represented unique or transcendent historic or cultural value to the region.

AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL AND SCENIC VALUE. Though the Atlanta Region primarily includes urban and suburban developed areas, the fact remains that many areas still reflect the character and aesthetic qualities of Georgia's agrarian roots. Local communities have recognized character areas within their communities that are intended to balance growth pressure with opportunities for rural preservation. Increasing demand for organic and locally grown food production creates new opportunities for agricultural land to remain economically viable without conversion to a more intensive use. These factors, as well as the pace of past development and the potential of future development, have made the recognition of these areas a priority. This category focuses on both site specific resources and broad boundaries of distinctive character within the Atlanta region.

The Rules of the Department of Community Affairs also direct Regional Commissions to "include linkages between [mapped] resources to form, to the maximum feasible extent, a continuous regional green infrastructure network." There is a definition of a green infrastructure network included in the Rules of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Regional Planning Requirements, Chapter 110-12-6 (adopted 2018):

A strategically planned and managed network of wilderness, parks, greenways, conservation easements, and working lands with conservation value that benefits wildlife and people, supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, links urban settings to rural ones, and contributes to the health and quality of life for the communities and citizens sharing the network. The network should encompass a wide range of elements, including: natural areas – such as wetlands, woodlands, waterways and wildlife habitat; public and private conservation lands – such as nature preserves, wildlife corridors, greenways, and parks; and public and private working lands of conservation value – such as forests, farms and ranches. It should also incorporate outdoor recreation and trail networks.

The green infrastructure network for the Atlanta Region includes diverse resources such as cemeteries, community parks, community gardens. Taken collectively, these resources are not included as Regionally Important Resources and are not subject to any additional Guidance, Policies or Protection Measures. They do function as a backdrop to the Regionally Important Resources Map to form a continuous regional green infrastructure network.



LOVEJOY CITY GARDEN / CREDIT: ARC

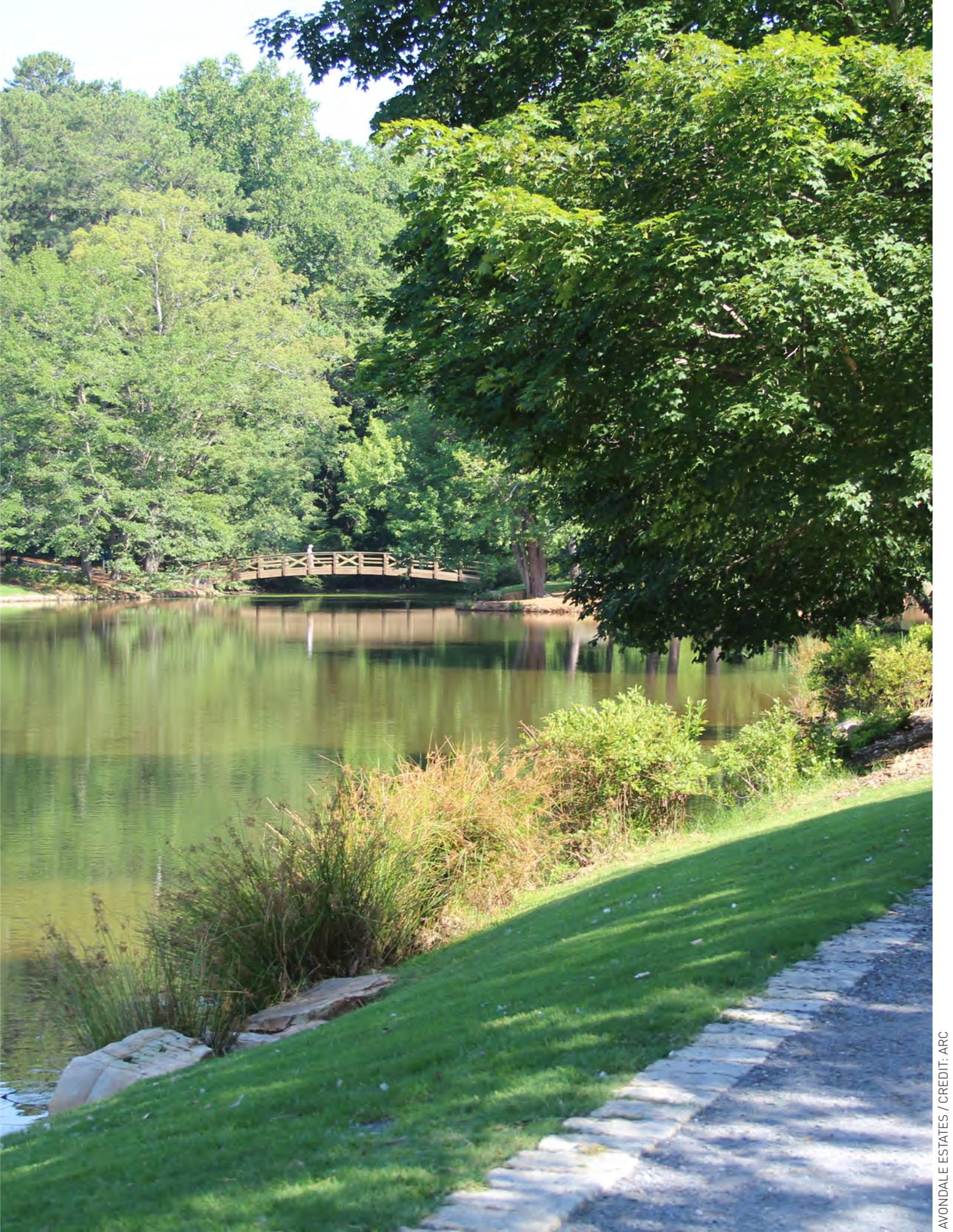
The Regionally Important Resources Map includes all of the resources in the region identified as having regional importance as defined by the criteria established by DCA and ARC. In addition to the map, a snapshot of the value and vulnerability of these resources is included in Figure X, and are further explored in its supporting narrative. Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices and General Policies and Protection Measures for Regionally Important Resources are included within the narrative.

Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices is a listing of best practices to be considered by developers for designing new developments located within one mile of any area included on the Regionally Important Resources Map. The recommendations included within the Guidance section reflect broad management practices, but may not be appropriate for every type of development. ARC staff will use professional judgment to determine whether recommendations are applicable to a project under review within one mile of a Regionally Important Resource.

General Policies and Protection Measures are targeted toward local governments that make decisions which affect Regionally Important Resources.

The Plan concludes with an Appendix of supporting material to further elaborate on the Process and Methodology and reinforce the determinations made for Regionally Important Resources.





CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Communities throughout the Atlanta Region emphasize the importance of conservation and recreation areas to maintain quality of life, health, and welfare. Within this plan, the foundation of natural resources planning has been the Environmental Planning Criteria for State Vital Areas. Defined in compliance with the 1989 Georgia Planning Act, Minimum Planning Requirements, these requirements govern water supply watersheds, groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, river corridors and mountains. Development limitations mandated by the State provide a level of protection for these resources; several communities in the Atlanta Region have voluntarily adopted more stringent protections for water features than the minimum required by the state.

Beyond State Vital Areas, other natural resources have been managed in ways that provide conservation and recreation value to the region. Regional river greenways include river corridors that have been enhanced by improvements (such as trails or greenways) and protections (such as easements). Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier are two regional water reservoirs that are identified for the multiple roles they have for conservation and recreation (smaller water reservoirs are generally encompassed within water supply watersheds). National and State Parks, and other recreational and multi-use trails round out this category.

Local, state and non-profit organizations have invested in parks, trails, and recreational amenities that lay the foundation of an interconnected green infrastructure system in the region. The need to protect and enhance natural and recreational resources has been bolstered by the connection to economic vitality within a community. Access to parks, trails and greenspace adds value to real property, and conservation of natural resources protects environmental quality and can deter expensive mitigation measures or fines for environmental degradation.



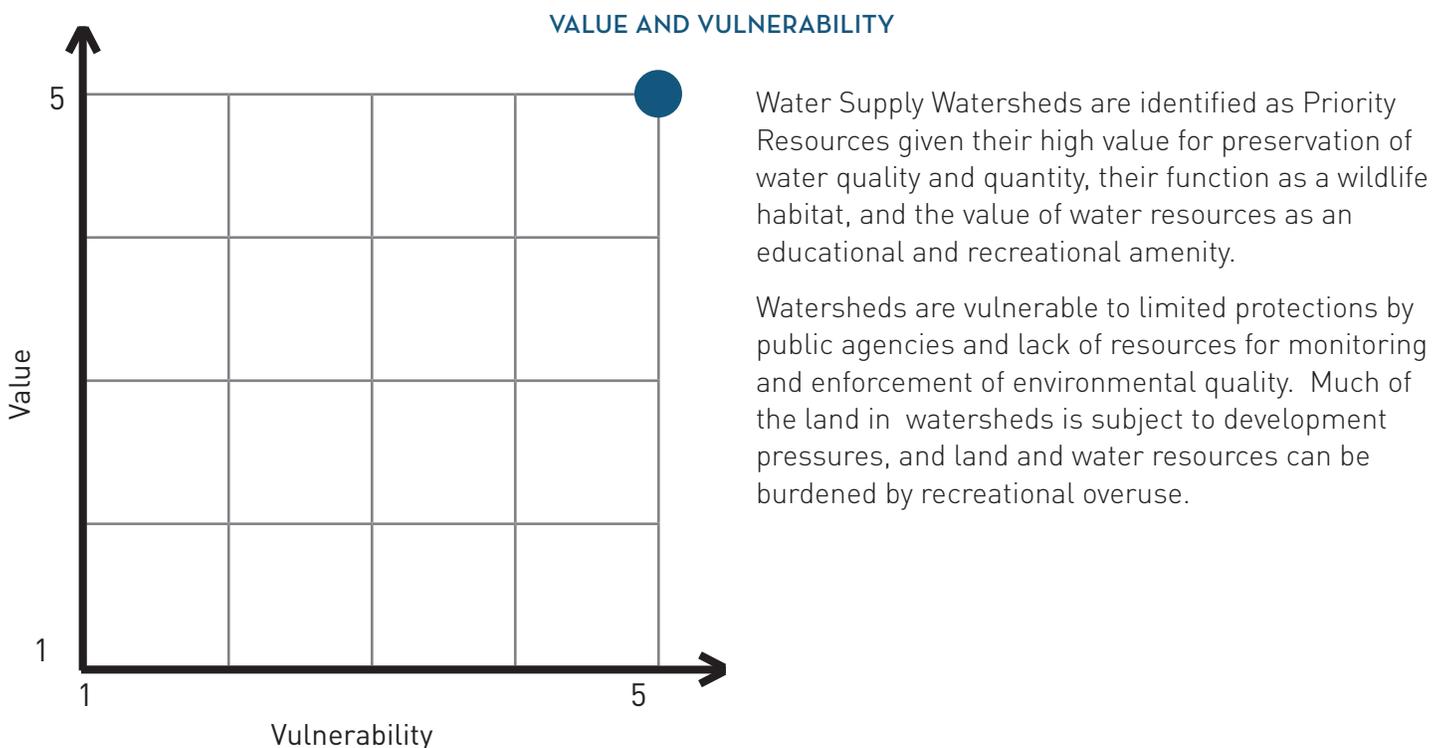
WATER SUPPLY WATERSHEDS

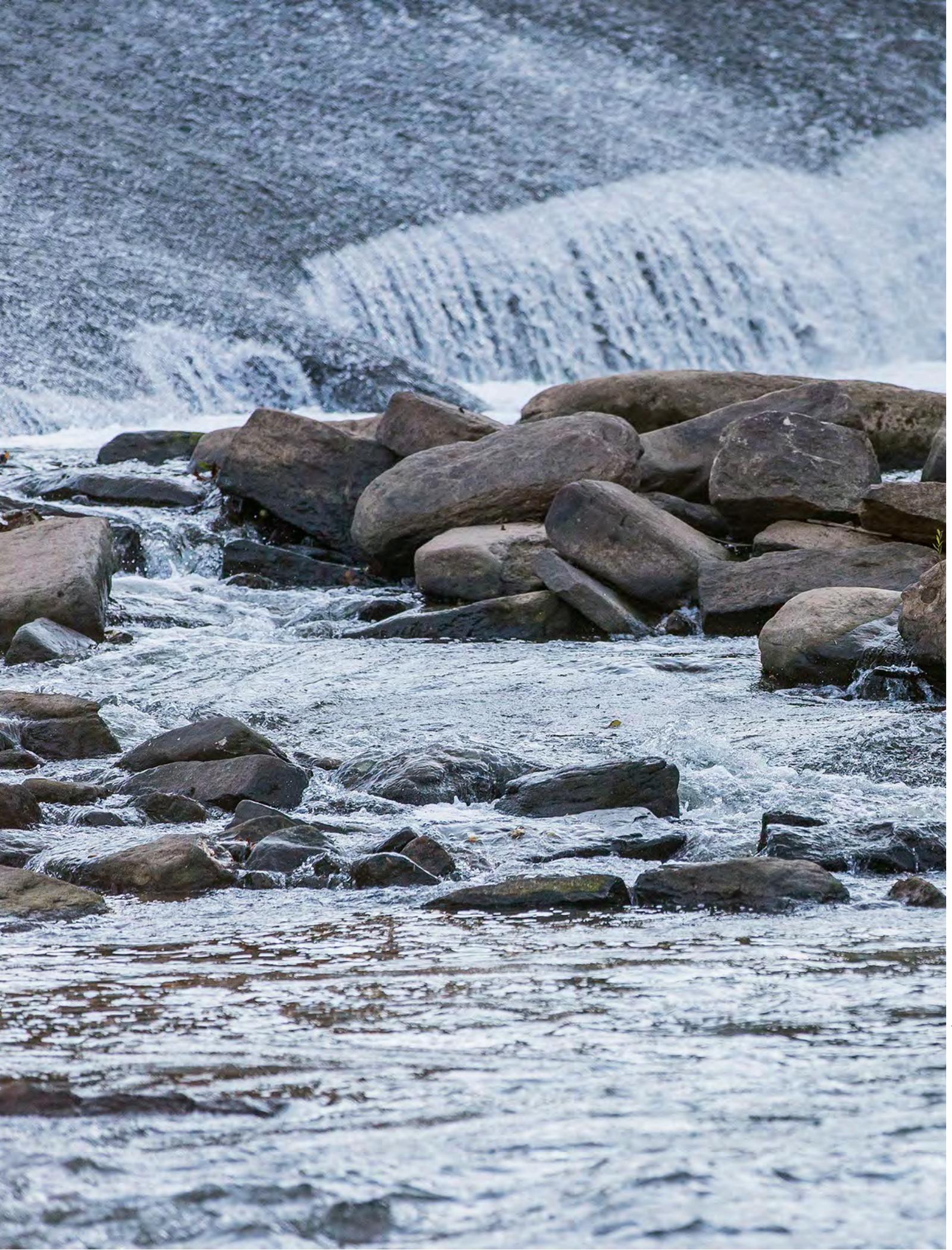
PRIORITY RESOURCE

In compliance with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Minimum Planning Requirements, the Department of Natural Resources defined Environmental Planning Criteria for the protection of water supply watersheds, which fall under the classification of a State Vital Area. Water supply watersheds are identified within the context of regional river basins. The Criteria for water supply watersheds protect community drinking water sources through the imposition of land use restrictions such as impervious surface limitations and minimum required buffers along stream channels. These development limitations provide a degree of protection for these resources, but several communities within the Atlanta Region have voluntarily adopted more stringent protections for water features within these watersheds than the minimum requirement mandated by the State.

The protection of water supply watersheds is a multi-jurisdictional responsibility. Developments that affect a water supply watershed may be located in an adjacent city or county from the intake point, thus their stewardship qualifies as a regional issue. The Criteria for water supply watersheds distinguish between small watersheds (less than 100 square miles) and large watersheds (greater than 100 square miles), and different rules are imposed for the critical area within a 7 mile upstream radius of the intake point. Within small water supply watersheds, RIR mapping includes the entire impacted land area, however within the large water supply watersheds, only buffer zones along impacted streams are mapped.

Several agencies play diverse roles in water planning and conservation in the Atlanta Region. It is the goal of the Regional Resource Plan to reinforce the recommendations of existing agencies and enhance the guidance set out in other planning documents of these agencies. The recommendations of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's (MNGWPD) Water Resource Management Plan were used for developing Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices and General Policies and Protection Measures of this Plan. The specific recommendations for Guidance and Policies in regard to watershed protection in the Regional Resource Plan focus mostly on broad best management practices in deference to specific implementation strategies of other regional water quality plans.

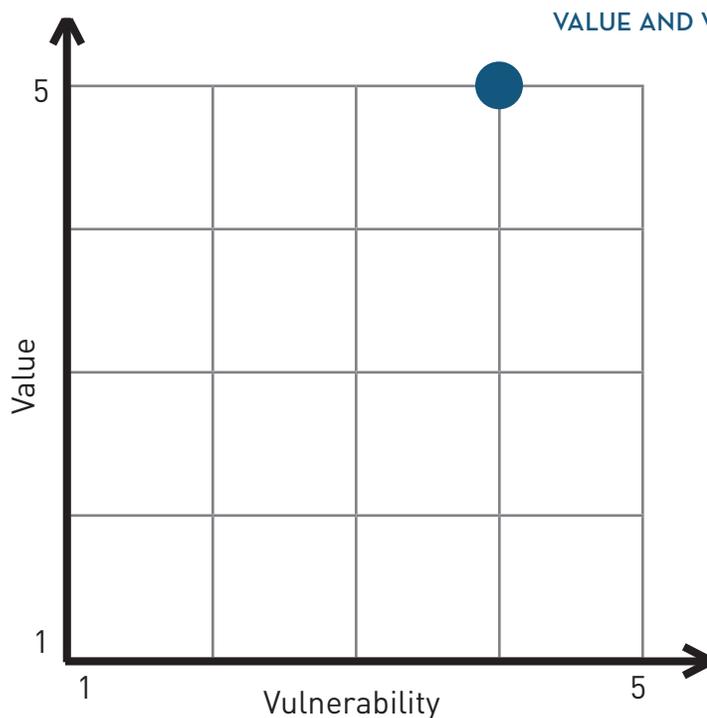




WETLANDS

PRIORITY RESOURCE

In compliance with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Minimum Planning Requirements, the Department of Natural Resources defined Environmental Planning Criteria for the protection of wetlands, which fall under the classification of a State Vital Area. The Criteria for wetlands protect land areas adjacent to surface water bodies that sustain vegetation typically found in areas with saturated soil conditions. These areas support a variety of ecosystems that make dynamic environmental contributions and are important to sustainable planning and practice. Wetlands are generally found along or adjacent to stream corridors in this region. To mitigate their disturbance, communities have incorporated them into trails and greenways, thus still preserving a sensitive habitat while creating a community amenity. Preserving the diversity of wildlife supported by wetlands further lends to creating a recreational and educational amenity on otherwise undevelopable land. In instances where alteration or degradation of wetlands is unavoidable, federal regulations generally require “no net loss of wetlands,” therefore the creation of wetlands banks have become more widespread. The disturbance of wetlands is permitted through the US Army Corps of Engineers and governed by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.



Wetlands are identified as Priority Resources given their high value for preservation of water quality and quantity, their function as a wildlife habitat, and the value of water resources as an educational and recreational amenity.

Wetlands are vulnerable to limited protections by public agencies and lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement of environmental quality. Much of the land in wetlands is subject to development pressures, and land and water resources can be burdened by recreational overuse.

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

In compliance with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Minimum Planning Requirements, the Department of Natural Resources defined Environmental Planning Criteria for the protection of groundwater recharge areas, which fall under the classification of a State Vital Area. The Criteria for groundwater recharge areas protect those areas that are particularly suitable for the penetration of water into the aquifers that hold the groundwater supply. Using the DRASTIC methodology, a standardized system for evaluating groundwater pollution potential, it has been determined that there are no areas meeting the criteria for high pollution susceptibility groundwater recharge areas in the Atlanta Region. There are areas of soils that are susceptible to the infiltration of pollutants, which are also governed by the Environmental Planning Criteria, however these areas do not meet the specifications identified within the Rules for identifying Regionally Important Resources.



PROTECTED RIVER CORRIDORS

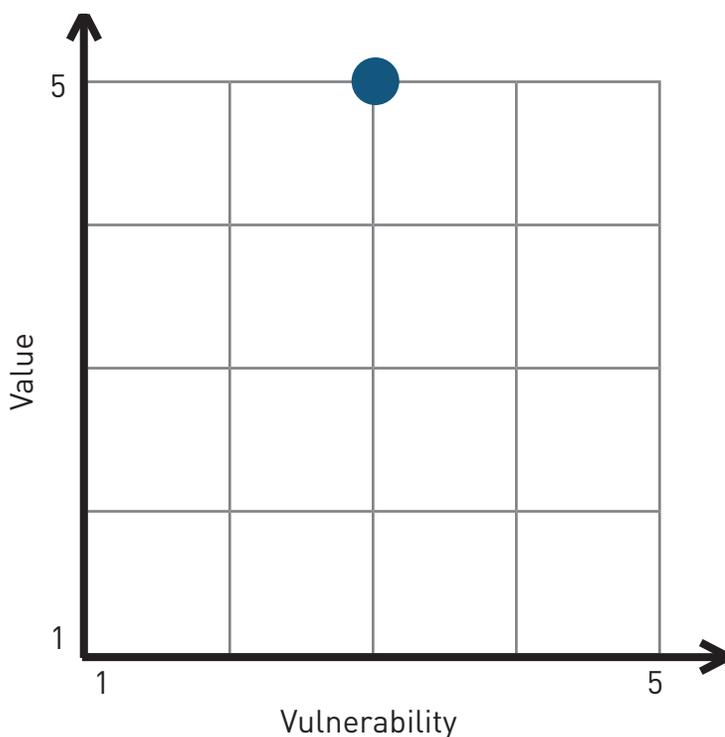
PRIORITY RESOURCE

In compliance with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Minimum Planning Requirements, the Department of Natural Resources defined Environmental Planning Criteria for the protection of rivers, which fall under the classification of a State Vital Area. The Criteria for protected river corridors focus on preserving the land adjacent to rivers to support a diversity of wildlife, recreational interests, and water quality. Land adjacent to rivers is also subject to periodic inundation due to flooding and other changes in water currents. Limiting development along river corridors enhances the environmental quality within a community and protects investments in real property from damage due to flooding. Within the area served by ARC, several counties have been identified as having protected River Corridors. The Etowah River flows through Cherokee County and the South River flows through Henry, Rockdale, DeKalb, and Fulton Counties. The Chattahoochee River flows through Cobb, Fulton, Douglas and Gwinnett Counties, but it is expressly exempted from the Environmental Planning Criteria because of its protections under the Metropolitan River Protection Act.

Pursuant to the Criteria “river corridor” refers to areas of a protected river and being within 100 feet on both sides of the river as measured from the river banks. A “protected river” is distinguished by exceeding a threshold for average annual flow as determined by the U.S. Geological Service.

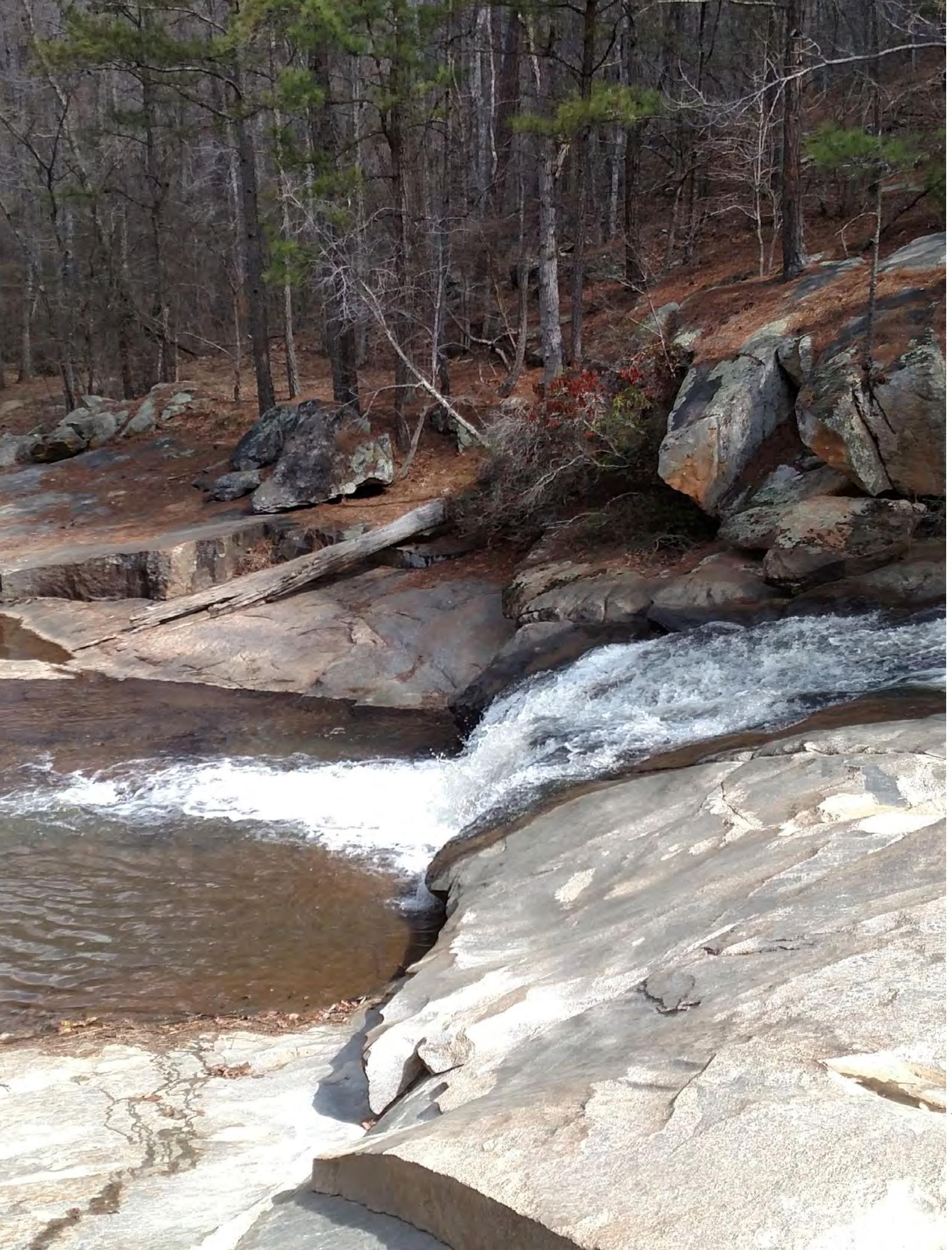
The Endangered Species Act of 1973 allows for the creation of Habitat Conservation Plans to protect endangered wildlife species. The Etowah River Habitat Conservation Plan was initiated by the local governments within the Etowah River Basin, and after several years of planning, a document was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comment.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Protected River Corridors are identified as Priority Resources given their high value for preservation of water quality and quantity, their function as a wildlife habitat, and the value of water resources as an educational and recreational amenity.

Protected River Corridors are vulnerable to limited protections by public agencies and lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement of environmental quality. Much of the land in Protected River Corridors is subject to development pressures, and land and water resources can be burdened by recreational overuse.

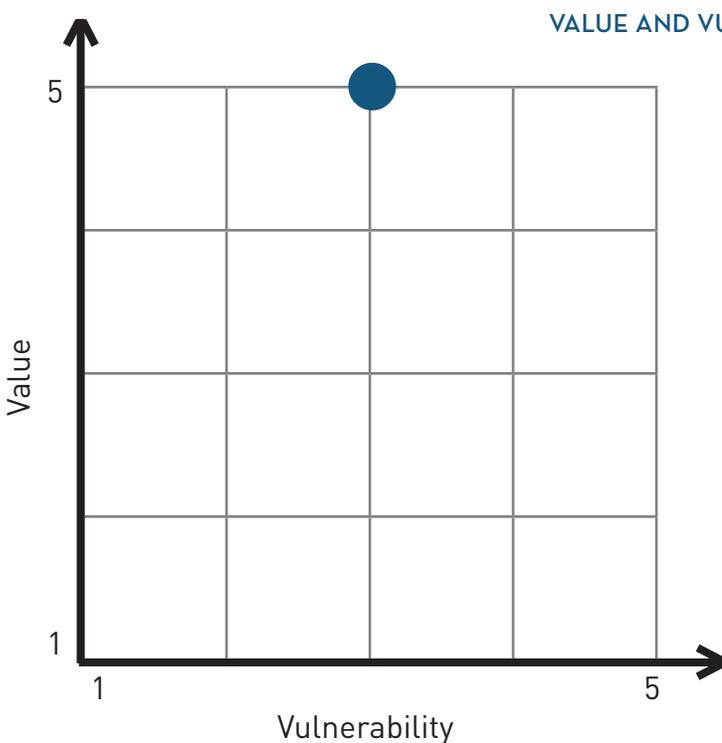


CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

PRIORITY RESOURCE

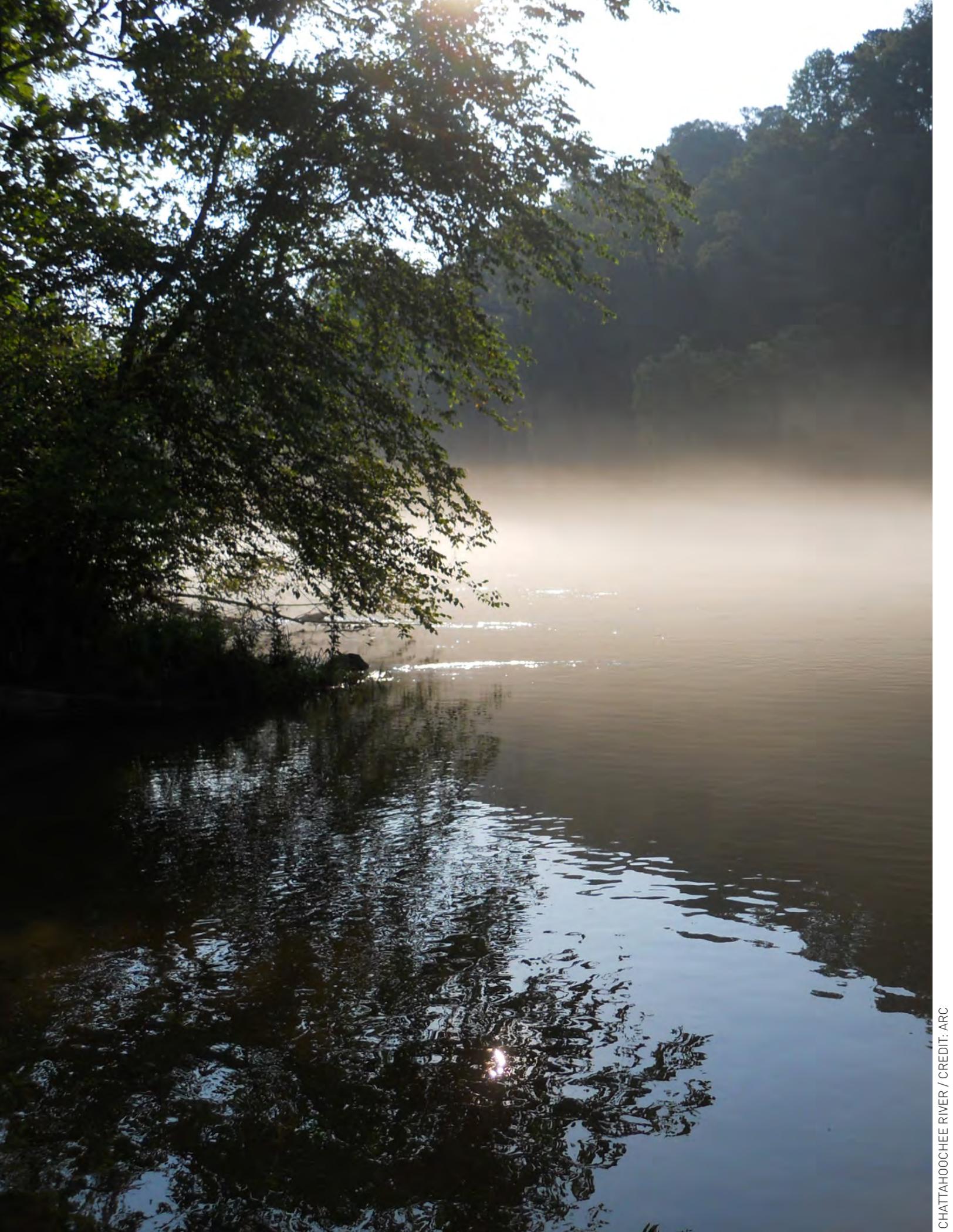
The Chattahoochee River flows through Cobb, Fulton, Douglas and Gwinnett Counties, but it is expressly exempted from the Environmental Planning Criteria because of its protections under the Metropolitan River Protection Act.

In 1973, the Georgia General Assembly passed the Metropolitan River Protection Act. The initial Act, and a later amendment in 1998, establishes a 2,000 foot corridor along the Chattahoochee River through the Atlanta Region, beginning at Buford Dam and extending through Douglas County. Pursuant to the regulations of the Act, ARC oversees the process whereby all land disturbing activity within the corridor is reviewed, approved and certified for consistency with Corridor Standards.



The Chattahoochee River is identified as a Priority Resource given its high value for preservation of water quality and quantity, its function as a wildlife habitat, and the value of water resources as an educational and recreational amenity.

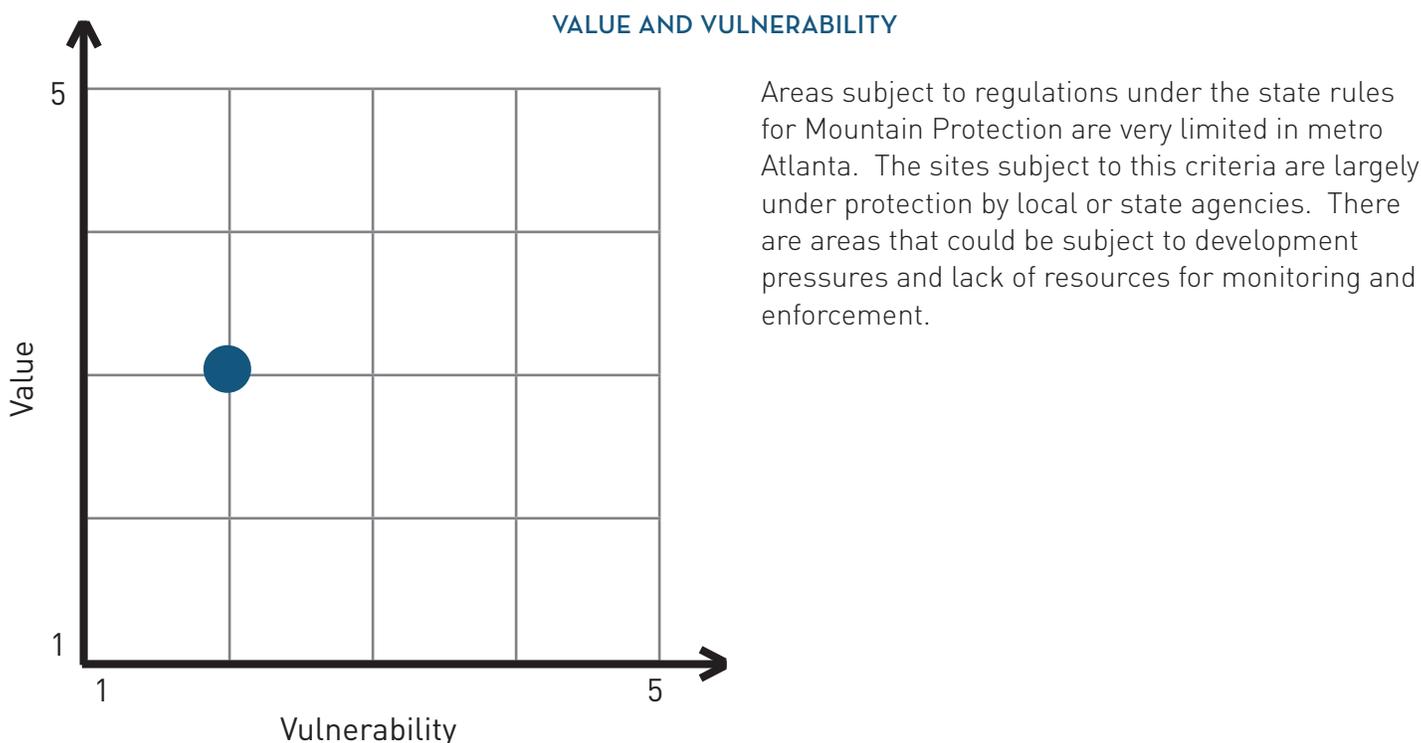
The Chattahoochee River has strong protections by public agencies, but is vulnerable to lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement of environmental quality. Much of the area along the Chattahoochee River is subject to development pressures, and land and water resources can be burdened by recreational overuse.

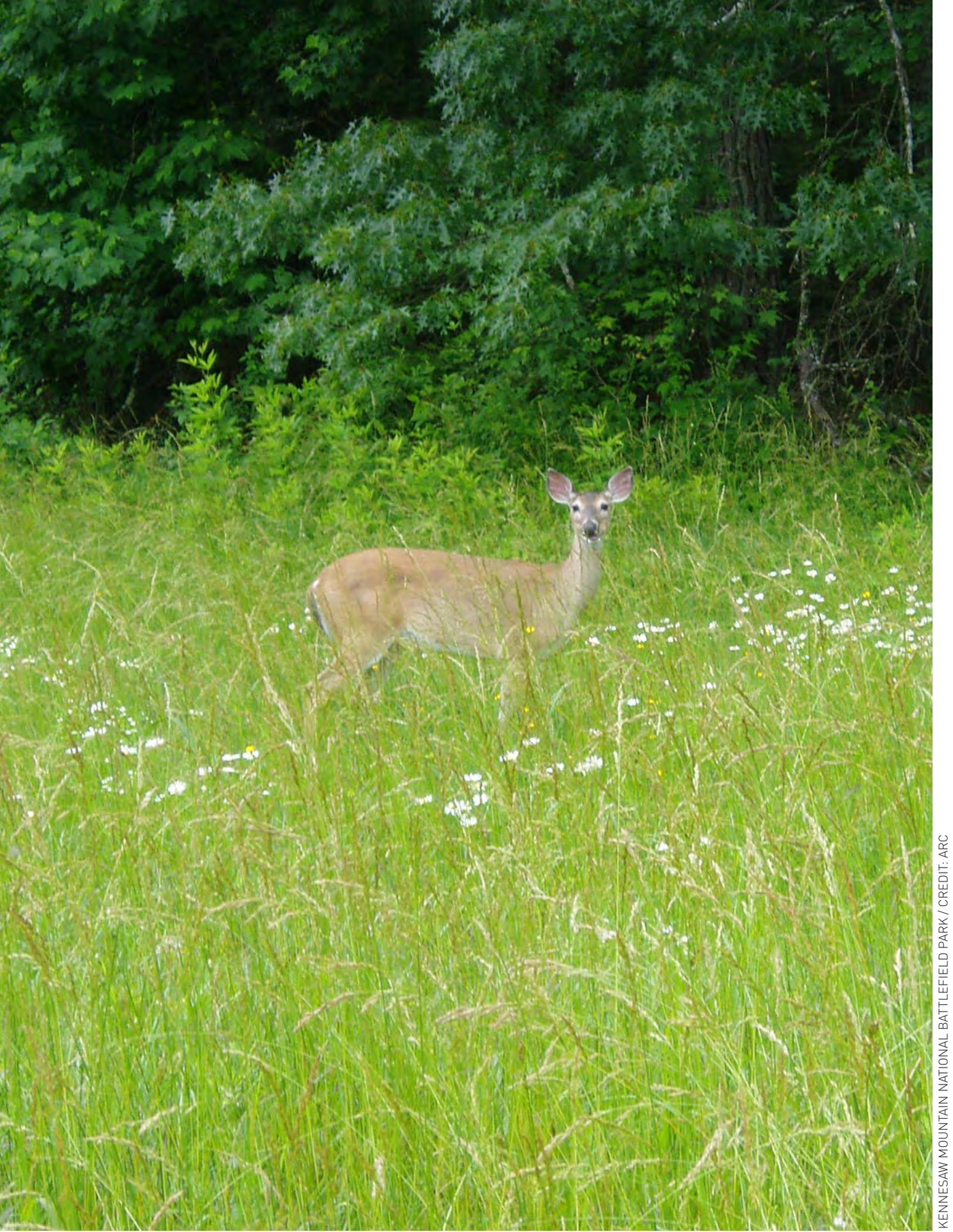


MOUNTAIN PROTECTION

In compliance with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989, Minimum Planning Requirements, the Department of Natural Resources defined Environmental Planning Criteria for the protection of mountains, which fall under the classification of a State Vital Area. The Criteria for protected mountains are designed to limit development activities on sensitive mountain slopes to protect the general health, safety and public welfare of a community. Located at the convergence of the Blue Ridge and Piedmont Regions of the state, limited areas of Protected Mountain resources are found within the Atlanta Region.

Mountains contain unique natural and topographic features that support a diversity of wildlife and contribute to the scenic qualities of a community. However, those same features can be fragile and can threaten water quality, real property investments and public welfare. Within the area served by ARC, mountain protection requirements have been established in Cherokee County in proximity to Kennesaw Mountain and Pine Log Mountain. Much of Pine Log Mountain is leased by Georgia DNR as a Wildlife Management Area. Garland Mountain, also in Cherokee County, has not been identified as a Protected Mountain by the State criteria, but Cherokee County does own a large portion of the site.

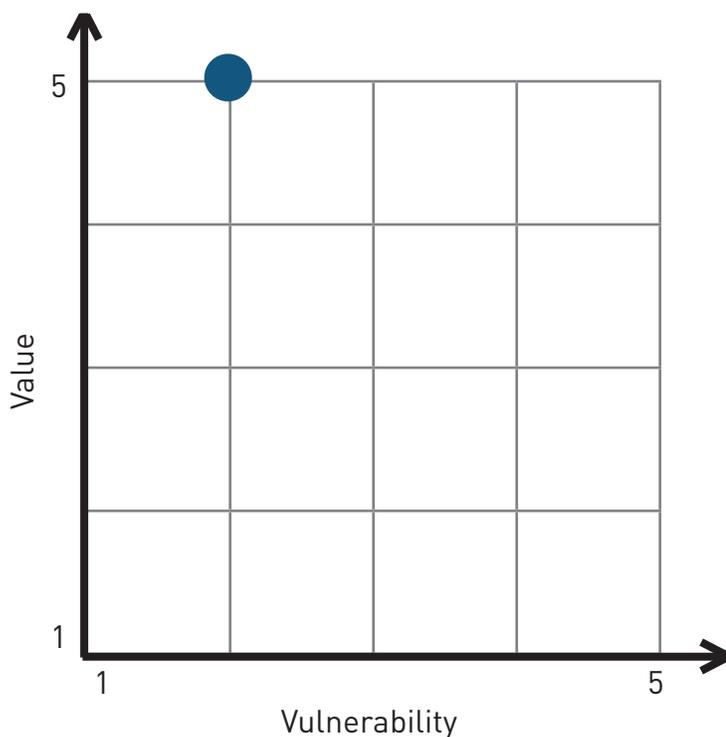




REGIONAL RESERVOIRS

Major lakes in the region serve multiple purposes, including preservation of wildlife habitat, recreational amenities and critical drinking water supplies. Lake Allatoona is located within Bartow, Cherokee, and Cobb Counties and is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is an integral part of the system of rivers, lakes and reservoirs that provide drinking water to the Atlanta region. The shoreline of the lake includes numerous recreation facilities that are open to the public. The lake is also buffered by greenspace that is not open to the public, but is nonetheless critical to maintaining the lake and providing species habitat. Lake Lanier, located mostly within Forsyth and Hall County beyond the 10-county region, is a significant resource for the Atlanta Region. It serves as a source of drinking water, power generation, and flood control, as well as a recreational and economic development amenity for the Atlanta Region. The construction of Buford Dam and the subsequent creation of Lake Lanier was a significant force in shaping the region and marking Atlanta as an emerging major metropolitan area.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Regional Reservoirs have high value for preservation of wildlife habitat and preservation of the region's water supply and water quality. Regional reservoirs offer recreational and scenic amenities, and attract users from beyond the jurisdiction in which they are located. Regional Reservoirs are managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, but nonetheless are still vulnerable to natural processes resulting in pollution, erosion, and stormwater runoff. Litigation surrounding Lake Lanier is ongoing.



REGIONAL GREENWAYS AND MULTI-USE TRAILS

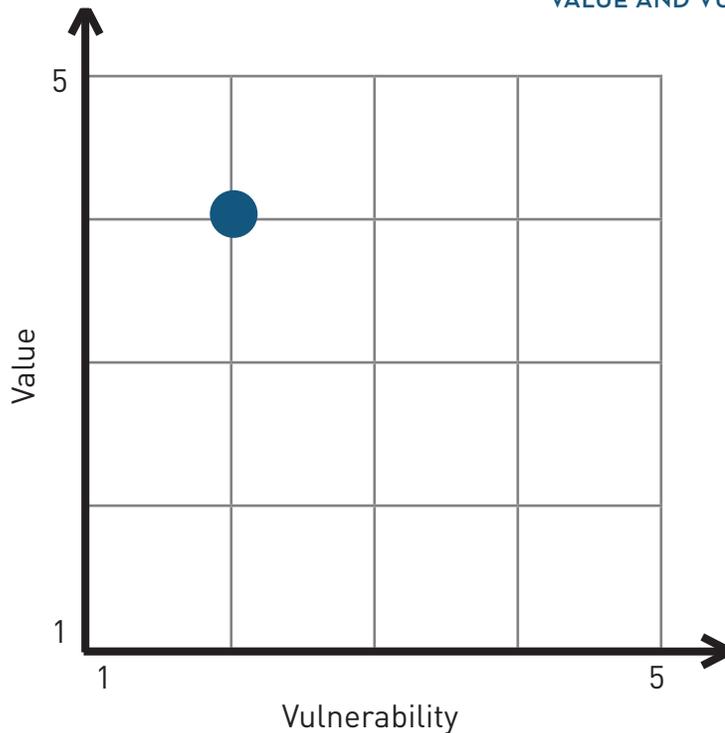
Both greenways and trails have been identified within the Regional Resource Plan for their conservation value, as well as their function as points of connectivity within larger green infrastructure and transportation networks. As advocacy efforts for greenway and trail building have increased, numerous local governments have begun to identify and develop local greenway and trail systems within their own communities.

Greenways. The area adjacent to all rivers can be considered a greenway, but this plan focuses on those areas that are enhanced by active conservation measures and/ or recreational use of their greenways.

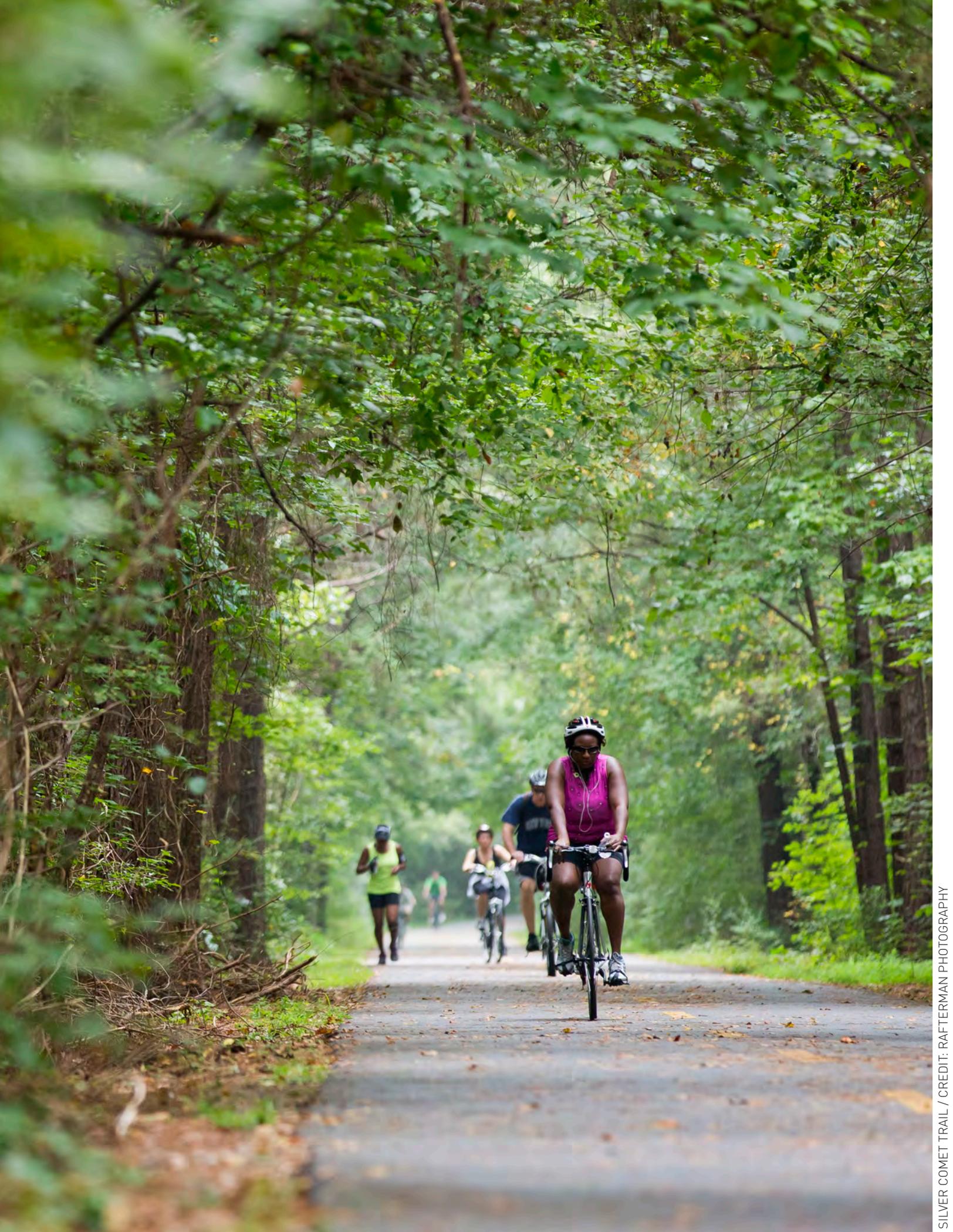
Multi-Use Trails. Trail systems can be combined with river greenways, but as often can be found utilizing other corridors such as city streets, public utilities, linear parks, or abandoned rail lines.

Development of river greenways facilitates conservation and recreational amenities and is closely linked to the protection of river corridors and wetlands, enhancing the protection of water quality and water supply sources. Multi-use trails establish connectivity to parks, historic districts, and other cultural amenities and provide additional opportunities for community and economic development. If strategically planned, greenways and multi-use trails can provide alternate routes for transportation choices for both functional and recreational purposes.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails have high value for preservation of environmental corridors and providing alternative transportation opportunities. They offer recreational and scenic amenities and attract users from beyond the jurisdiction in which they are located. Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails are generally managed by a local government or similar group that undertakes responsibility for maintenance and safety. However, they are nonetheless vulnerable to lack of resources for ongoing maintenance and potential overuse by the community.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES

The National Park Service has created several classifications for park sites, a variety of which are found in the Atlanta Region. Collectively, these sites encompass several thousand acres and offer unique opportunities for environmental conservation, heritage preservation and recreation.

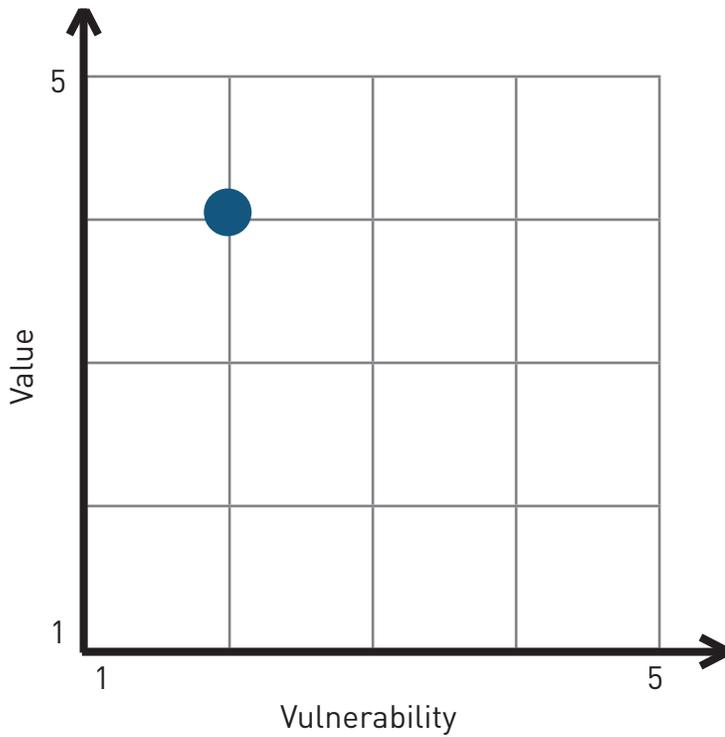
The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area consists of a 48 mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River and 14 land units along its corridor. It begins at Lake Lanier's Buford Dam and continues downstream through Forsyth, Gwinnett, Fulton and Cobb Counties to Peachtree Creek near downtown Atlanta. It is the site of both prehistoric and historic resources and wildlife habitat, and welcomes millions of visitors annually. Recreational activities at the site include hiking, fishing, picnicking, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and evening family programs. The Chattahoochee River was identified by the National Park Service as the country's first National Water Trail in 2012.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb County is a site affiliated with the Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War. Encompassing approximately 3,000 acres, it is reflective of cultural elements of Native American, Antebellum, and Civil War history that unfolded on this site. It includes a trail network and several different forms of interpretive media that detail the significance of the site. Other elements of this cultural landscape include historic earthworks, monuments to commemorate fallen soldiers, and historic structures such as Kolb's Farm and family cemetery.

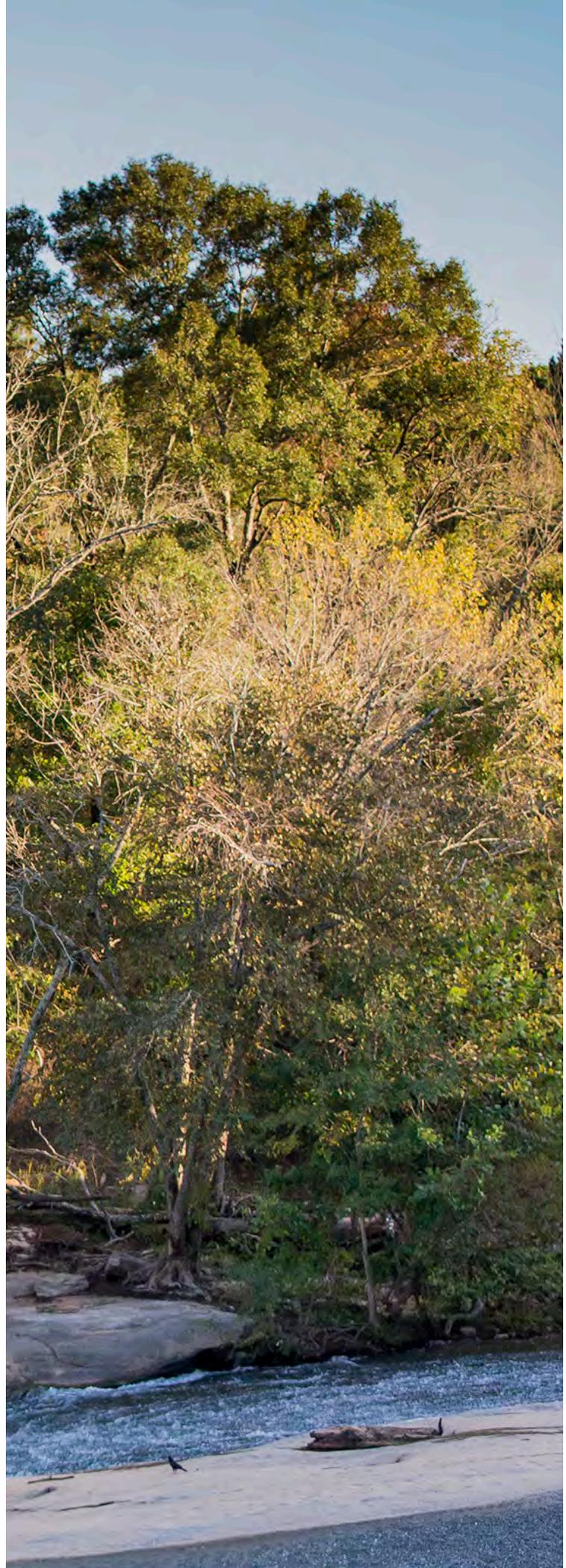
The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area offers a unique showcase of natural, cultural and historic legacies concentrated in portions of DeKalb, Rockdale, and Henry Counties. The land that comprises the Heritage Area includes active quarries, rolling topography, rural landscapes and unique granite outcroppings – a singular habitat feature of the Georgia Piedmont Region. This area has been linked to human settlement and activity for thousands of years and contains unique and diverse ecosystems that encompass spiritual landscapes, mountains, quarries, woodlands, lakes, rivers and farmland. Land acquisition as a part of this project has been identified as an endorsed project by the Georgia Land Conservation Program. Included within the Heritage Area are unique resources, including Panola Mountain State Park, the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, and the Monastery of the Holy Spirit.

Panola Mountain State Park is registered as a National Natural Landmark and its vast granite outcroppings preserve features of the Georgia Piedmont habitat that have been threatened or lost in the vicinity due to residential developments. Located in Rockdale County, it provides passive recreation and learning opportunities while preserving wildlife habitat, watershed protection, floodplain protection and preservation of delicate ecological features including many rare plants of the Piedmont region. It is a key component in both the Arabia Mountain Trail and the Rockdale River Trail, and land acquisition at this site has been targeted as an endorsed project within the Georgia Land Conservation Program.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



National Park Service sites create opportunities for protection of wildlife habitat, as well as provide protection for scenic and historic amenities. They are used for recreational opportunities by people beyond the boundaries of the jurisdiction in which they are located. They are managed by the National Park Service in partnership with various local entities, but they can be vulnerable to over-use, inappropriate development, and lack of financial resources for maintenance.



STATE PARKS AND OTHER RECREATION AREAS

Similar to National Park Sites, State Parks also provide opportunities for environmental conservation, heritage preservation and recreation.

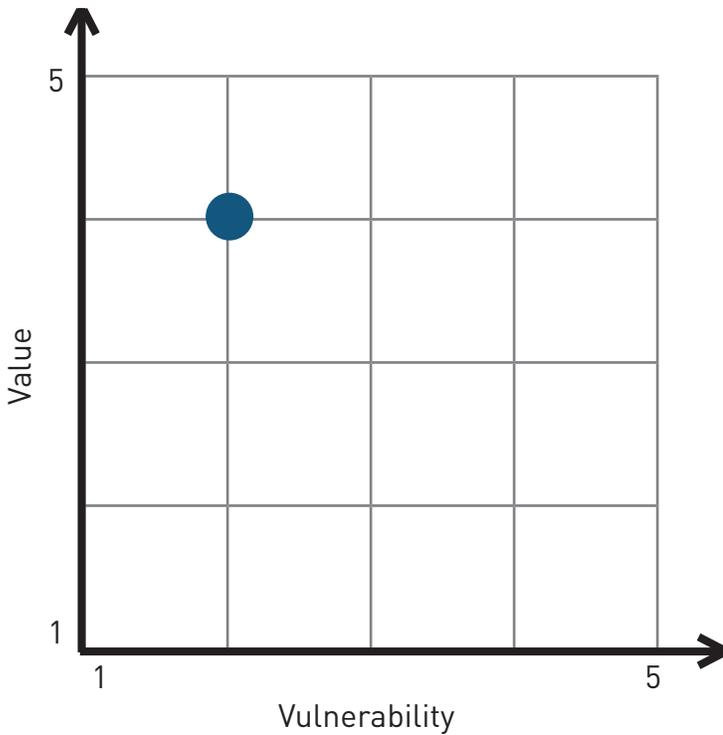
Panola Mountain State Park provides passive recreation and learning opportunities while preserving wildlife habitat, watershed protection, floodplain protection and preservation of delicate ecological features including many rare plants of the Piedmont region. Located in Rockdale County, Panola Mountain State Park is registered as a National Natural Landmark and its vast granite outcroppings preserve features of the Georgia Piedmont habitat that have been threatened or lost in the vicinity due to residential developments. It is a key component in both the Arabia Mountain Trail and the Rockdale River Trail, and land acquisition at this site has been targeted as an endorsed project within the Georgia Land Conservation Program.

Sweetwater Creek State Park, located in Douglas County, includes the ruins of the New Manchester Manufacturing Mill, several miles of hiking trails, and the George Sparks Reservoir. The Visitors Center at the site includes information on recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and historic resources, and also boasts LEED Platinum certification for its environmentally friendly building design. It is a model structure within the state park system as well as the larger built environment of the region.

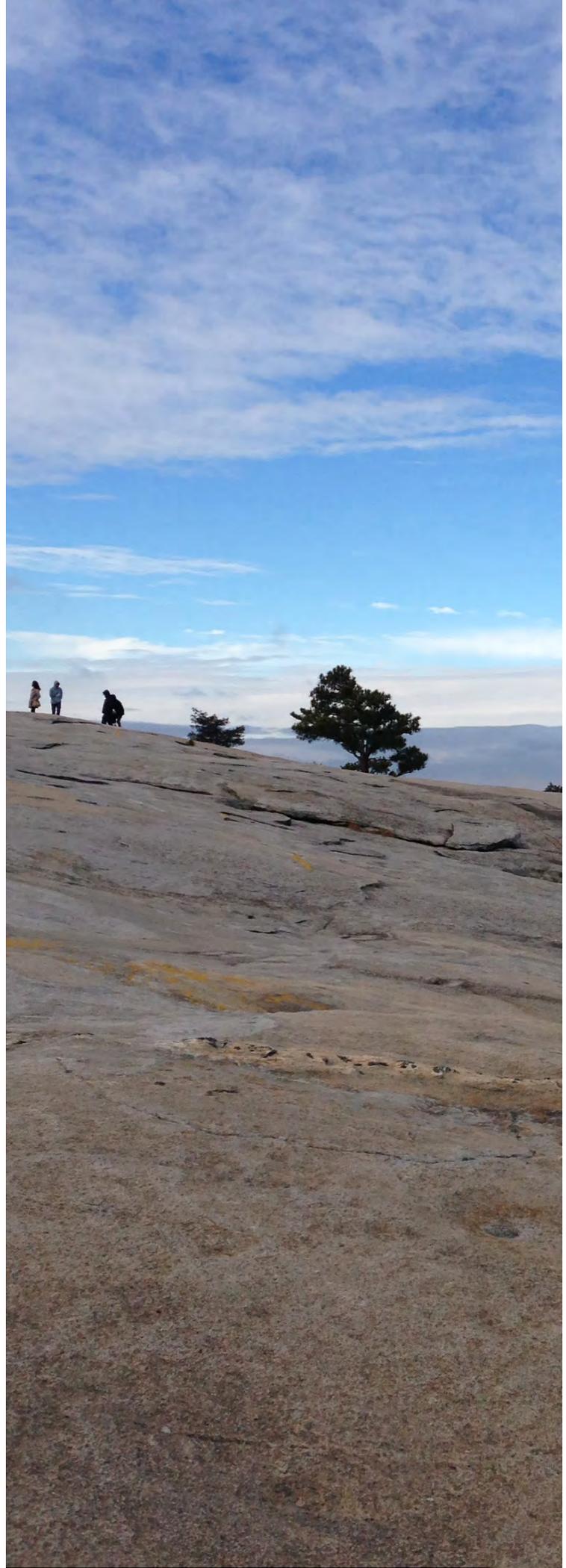
Stone Mountain, at 825 feet tall and reaching 1,683 feet above sea level, is the world's largest known free-standing piece of exposed granite. Stone Mountain Park hosts festivals and family-oriented activities, and boasts trails, lakes and opportunities for wildlife viewing. It includes more than 3,000 acres of parkland and attracts over 4 million visitors annually. Located in DeKalb County, the view from the top of the mountain provides a scenic panorama of many parts of the region. The mountain is approximately five miles in circumference at its base, but its subterranean reach is more extensive.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) support habitats of diverse wildlife species and provide recreational opportunities for public hunting, fishing and related sports. The Atlanta Region includes the Allatoona WMA, the Pine Log WMA, and the McGraw Ford WMA all in Cherokee County. Fee simple land acquisition within the McGraw Ford WMA was identified as an endorsed project by the Georgia Land Conservation Program. The area in Cherokee County around Lake Allatoona which is under the stewardship of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also serves a similar function to that of recreational amenities such as State Parks and WMAs.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



State Parks and Other Recreation Areas create opportunities for protection of wildlife habitat, as well as provide protection for scenic and historic amenities. They are used for recreational opportunities by people beyond the boundaries of the jurisdiction in which they are located. They are managed by the State of Georgia in partnership with various local entities, but they can be vulnerable to over-use, inappropriate development, and lack of financial resources for maintenance.

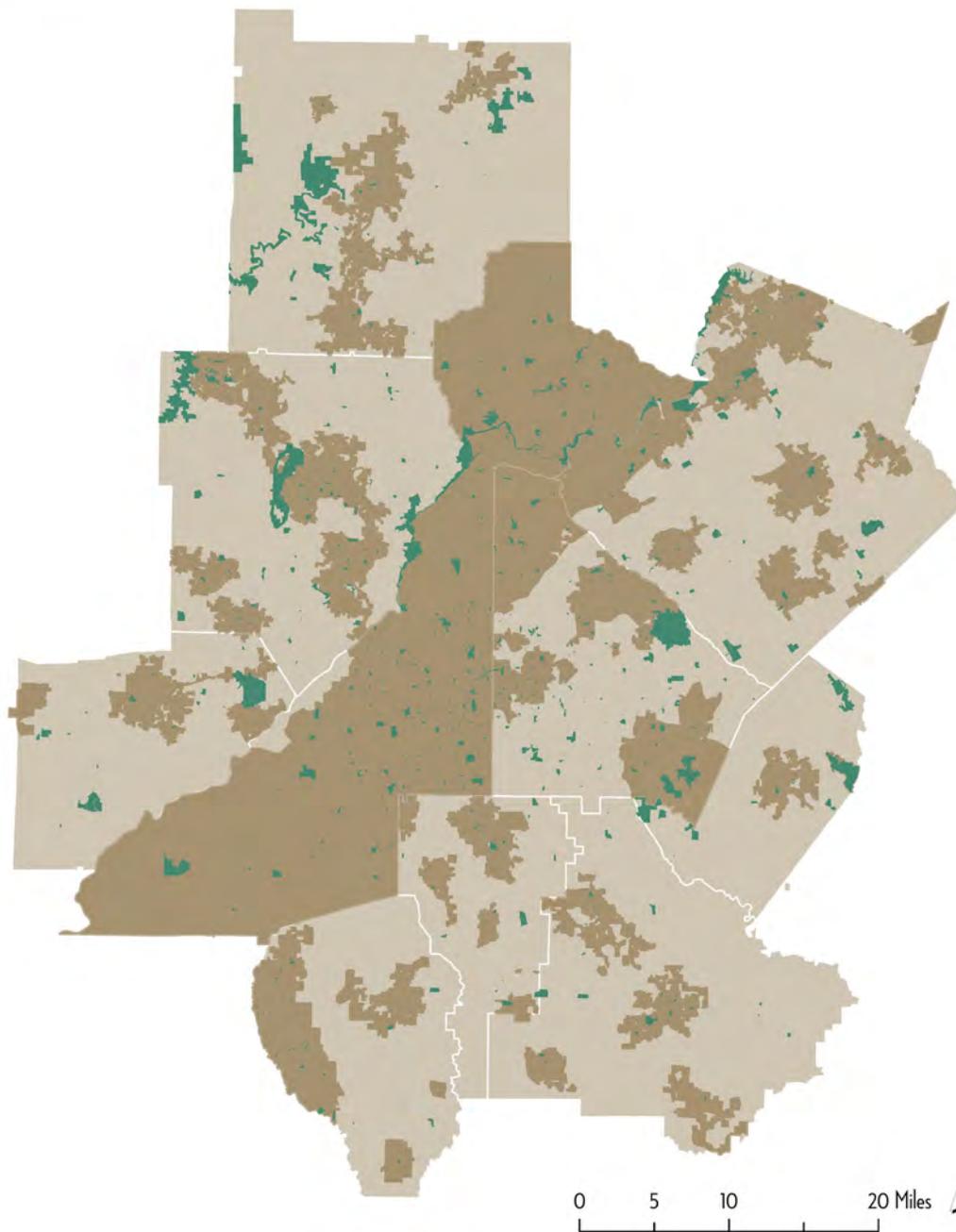


REGIONAL PARKS

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

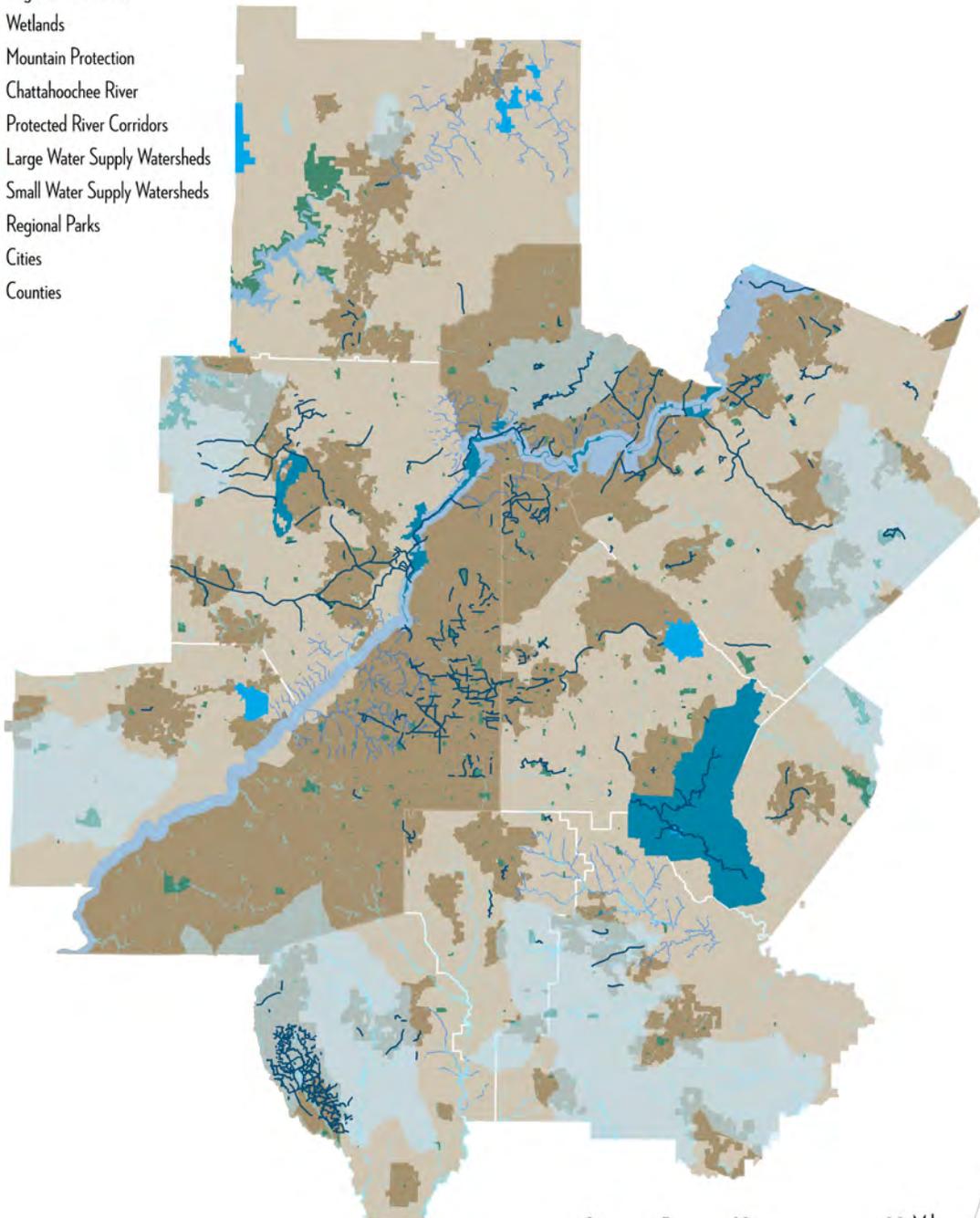
The regional park network contributes to the core of a green infrastructure plan. The Atlanta region includes thousands of acres of community parks in all forms and sizes. Many parks are the legacy of historic events such as Piedmont Park, which was the site of the 1895 Cotton States Exposition, or Kennesaw Mountain, site of a key Civil War battle. Others provide environmental protection, such as the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The majority are designed to commemorate key events or important citizens for the local community, or provide recreational areas for neighborhoods. Pursuant to the DCA Rules for Regional Resource Plans, parks in the Atlanta Region are included as part of the Green Infrastructure Network. [Resources in the Green Infrastructure Network are not considered to be Regionally Important Resources for the purposes of this plan.]

- Regional Parks
- Cities
- Counties



CONSERVATION & RECREATION REGIONALLY IMPORTANT & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK RESOURCES

- Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails
- State Parks and Other Recreation Areas
- National Park Service Sites
- Regional Reservoirs
- Wetlands
- Mountain Protection
- Chattahoochee River
- Protected River Corridors
- Large Water Supply Watersheds
- Small Water Supply Watersheds
- Regional Parks
- Cities
- Counties



Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices Matrix

Areas of Conservation and/or Recreational Value

	Water Supply Watersheds	Groundwater Recharge Areas	Wetlands	River Corridors	Chattahoochee River	Mountain Protection	Regional Reservoirs	Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails	National Park Service Sites	State Parks and Other Recreation Areas
Regulations and Plans										
Adhere to all local, state and federal regulations for the protection of State Vital Areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Where practical, exceed minimum required buffers from protected areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Encourage the voluntary set aside of land in a development that is part of a conceptual greenway connectivity plan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Site Design and Connectivity										
Use alternative designs and materials to minimize the use of impervious surface to the greatest practical extent	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Where possible, utilize natural features on site for stormwater management	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Install green infrastructure, such as rain gardens or vegetated swales, within the landscape of the project to enhance the quality of stormwater run-off	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Where possible, retain existing vegetation and topography	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Locate structures and impervious areas as far away as possible from water resources, including wetlands and flood prone areas on the development site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Undertake stream restoration or streambank stabilization for any compromised areas of a stream	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Where possible, link areas along river corridors to existing greenways or establish a conservation mechanism for future greenway development	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do not disturb land in proximity to the boundary of a potential subsurface resource, such as a cemetery or archaeological site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Incorporate, as practical, edible landscape options or space for gardens or orchards within community common areas or buffers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Where possible, use multi-use trails to link new developments to public access points for national or state parks and other recreation areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Preserve tree canopy to aid in mitigation of urban heat island effect	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Architectural and Design Aesthetics										
Consider impact to viewsheds and take appropriate steps to mitigate impacts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Design of new development should be compatible in terms of size, scale, and aesthetic appearance near existing resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New developments should complement, but not copy, historic precedents	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programs and Protections										
Consider the donation of a conservation easement for land that will be impacted by development in proximity to a historic or cultural resource, and/ or rural or agricultural area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Voluntary covenants should be placed on adjacent developments that acknowledge the right to farm of existing agricultural operations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

General Policies and Protection Measures Matrix

Areas of Conservation and/or Recreational Value

	Water Supply Watersheds	Groundwater Recharge Areas	Wetlands	River Corridors	Chattahoochee River	Mountain Protection	Regional Reservoirs	Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails	National Park Service Sites	State Parks and Other Recreation Areas
Regulations and Plans										
Meet or exceed all state and federal regulations for the protection of State Vital Areas										
Adopt model ordinances (or their equivalent) as recommended by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District										
Within the context of a community green infrastructure plan, develop watershed improvement projects that will enhance the health of watersheds in the local community										
Within the context of a community green infrastructure plan, develop a local greenway management plan that considers both conservation and recreational uses of wetlands, flood										
Within the context of a community green infrastructure plan develop local connections among regional parks, trails and other community resources										
Site Design and Connectivity										
Promote the redevelopment of existing sites and address any prior water quality impacts at the time of redevelopment										
Adopt a conservation subdivision/ cluster subdivision option where appropriate; review and revise existing conservation subdivision/ cluster subdivision ordinances to ensure they accomplish conservation goals										
Ensure local development review process adequately addresses protections for areas that are important to water quality and ensure that local ordinances do not preclude site design standards that improve water quality										
Ensure that current development ordinances limit or prohibit the location of structures in flood prone areas										
Establish incentives for development projects that provide access to a community greenway or trail										
Establish criteria to identify potential corridors that possess unique natural, scenic, or cultural value										
Architectural and Design Aesthetics										
Document significant features that contribute to the scenic viewshed of natural, historic and rural areas and develop design guidelines to mitigate the visual impact of new development in these areas										
Programs and Protections										
Work cooperatively with adjacent jurisdiction to protect environmental quality for resources that cross jurisdictional boundaries										
Implement a conservation easement donation program for the public holding of easements and/ or explore options for the fee simple ownership of greenspace by local governments										
Work proactively to foster partnerships/ "friends of" programs to enhance the effective stewardship of greenways, trails, parks, historic and cultural resources										

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Historic and cultural resources create the contextual setting for many of the character defining features of a community. Historic preservation planning is generally governed by the parameters established by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards are the benchmark by which a property is deemed to have historic significance. A property listed on the National Register of Historic Places has been vetted through an extensive review process and is, by definition, a historic place worthy of preservation.

Communities in the Atlanta Region have recognized projects that demonstrate historic preservation initiatives on multiple scales – from identification of National Landmarks to documentation of subsurface archaeological resources. Included in the Regional Resource Plan are structures that reflect both high-style and vernacular architectural traditions. It includes landscapes by the Olmstead Firm, structures by Heinz, Reed and Adler, and cultural repositories of arts and archives. The diversity of resources within the Atlanta Region is reflected through a multitude of historic districts and individual sites that trace significant cultural events from its prehistoric occupants, through early European settlements, the Civil War, the New South and into the mid-20th century.

In the Atlanta Region, historic preservation and resource conservation have been used as tools for benchmarking community identity beyond just proscriptive architectural requirements. Cultural sites express distinctive beliefs, qualities or ideas of regional importance, and serve as repositories for collections of cultural objects. An increasing awareness of the importance of cultural landscapes – sites and places identified with the unique heritage of a community or region whereby context is created by a combination of historic and natural resources – can overlap with more traditional elements of a green infrastructure network. They can enhance interest and appeal beyond the natural and recreational qualities of a community, and often add an educational component beyond understanding the need to preserve biodiversity and environmental quality.



LYONS FARM AT ARABIA MOUNTAIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA / CREDIT: ARC

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

PRIORITY RESOURCE

There are fewer than 2,500 National Historic Landmarks identified throughout the United States, and the Atlanta Region is fortunate to have nine National Historic Landmarks, all located within the City of Atlanta. National Historic Landmarks are properties identified as having exceptional value or quality in illustrating the history of the United States, therefore they have been identified as Regionally Important Resources.

The Georgia State Capitol: Constructed between 1884 and 1889, the Georgia Capitol is a Neoclassical government building that follows the design of the U.S. Capitol. It is symbolic of the “capitol” of the New South, as Atlanta considered itself to be after Reconstruction.

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and District: This district includes the Martin Luther King Jr. birth and childhood home, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Fire Station #6 and the King Center.

Sweet Auburn Historic District: Sweet Auburn is a 1 ½ mile stretch along its namesake Road, Auburn Avenue. This neighborhood, adjacent to the Martin Luther King National Historic Site, is associated with significant events of the Civil Rights Movement, as well as the New South experiences of African Americans.

Herndon Mansion (1910): The Herndon Mansion was the home Alonzo Herndon and wife Adrienne, who was also the designer of the residence. Alonzo was born into slavery and raised in a sharecropping family, but would later become Atlanta’s first black millionaire as a real estate investor and founder of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company in the Sweet Auburn neighborhood.

Wren’s Nest – the Joel Chandler Harris House (c.1880): The Wren’s Nest is the home where Harris wrote many of his Uncle Remus/ Br’er Rabbit tales. He spent his early years growing up on a southern plantation where he was exposed to these stories and their storytellers first hand. His position with the local newspaper, the Atlanta Constitution, provided a forum for widespread dissemination of these tales.

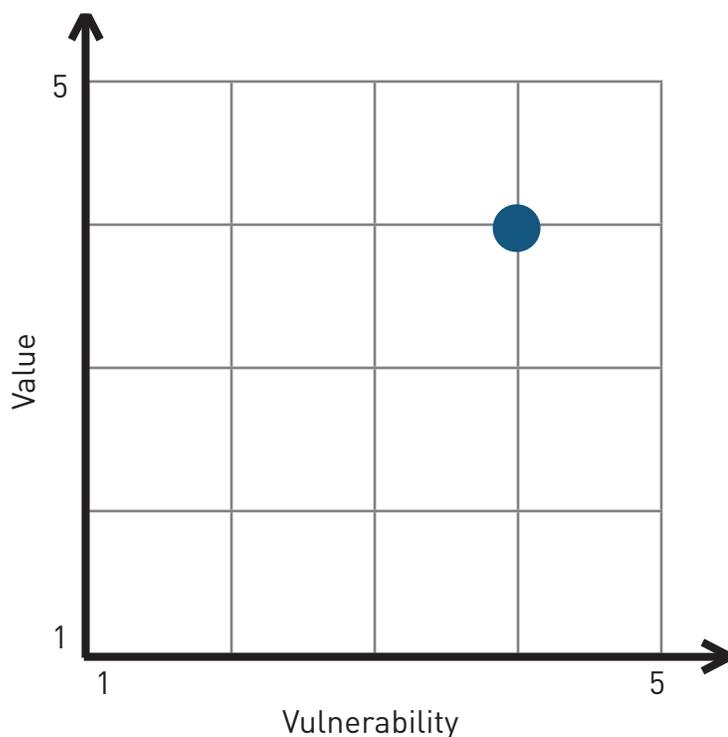
Fox Theatre (1929): The Fox Theatre is a unique example of neo-Mideastern exotic revival architecture and has played a significant role in the cultural heritage of Atlanta. It is also an outstanding example of the classic ornate movie palaces that thrived in the early 20th century.

Dixie Coca Cola Bottling Plant (c.1900): This plant is the first Georgia bottling plant of the Coca-Cola Company, an international beverage icon. In addition to being the oldest surviving building of the early history of the Coca Cola Company, it is also a unique example of Victorian-era commercial architecture.

Stone Hall, Atlanta University (1882): Serving historically as the administration building for Atlanta University between 1882 and 1929, Stone Hall is an icon of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) and part of the larger campus for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

U.S. Post Office and Courthouse (1911): Covering an entire downtown city block, the Second Renaissance Revival structure served as the central post office until services were moved in the early 1930s. As the home of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals it is named in honor of Judge Albert P. Tuttle.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



National Historic Landmarks are identified as Priority Resources given their high value for preservation of historic and cultural resources and the role they play as an educational amenity in the community. Landmarks are recognized by the National Park Service, but they are owned by a variety of private and public entities. They have no specific protection outside of the federal and state review process when public funds are allocated toward infrastructure projects. Therefore, they can be vulnerable to development pressures, lack of financial resources, and lack of adequate regulations for long-term protection.



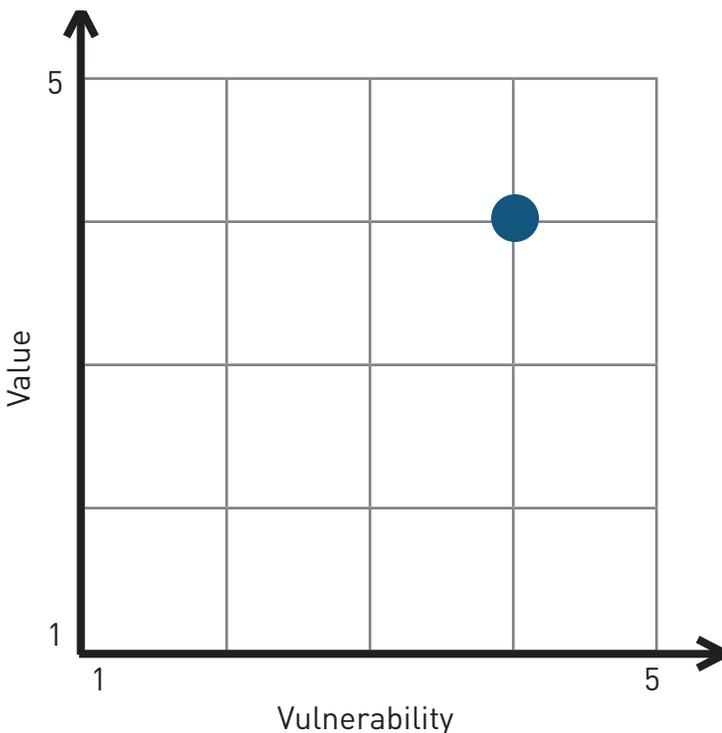
NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS & SITES

PRIORITY RESOURCE

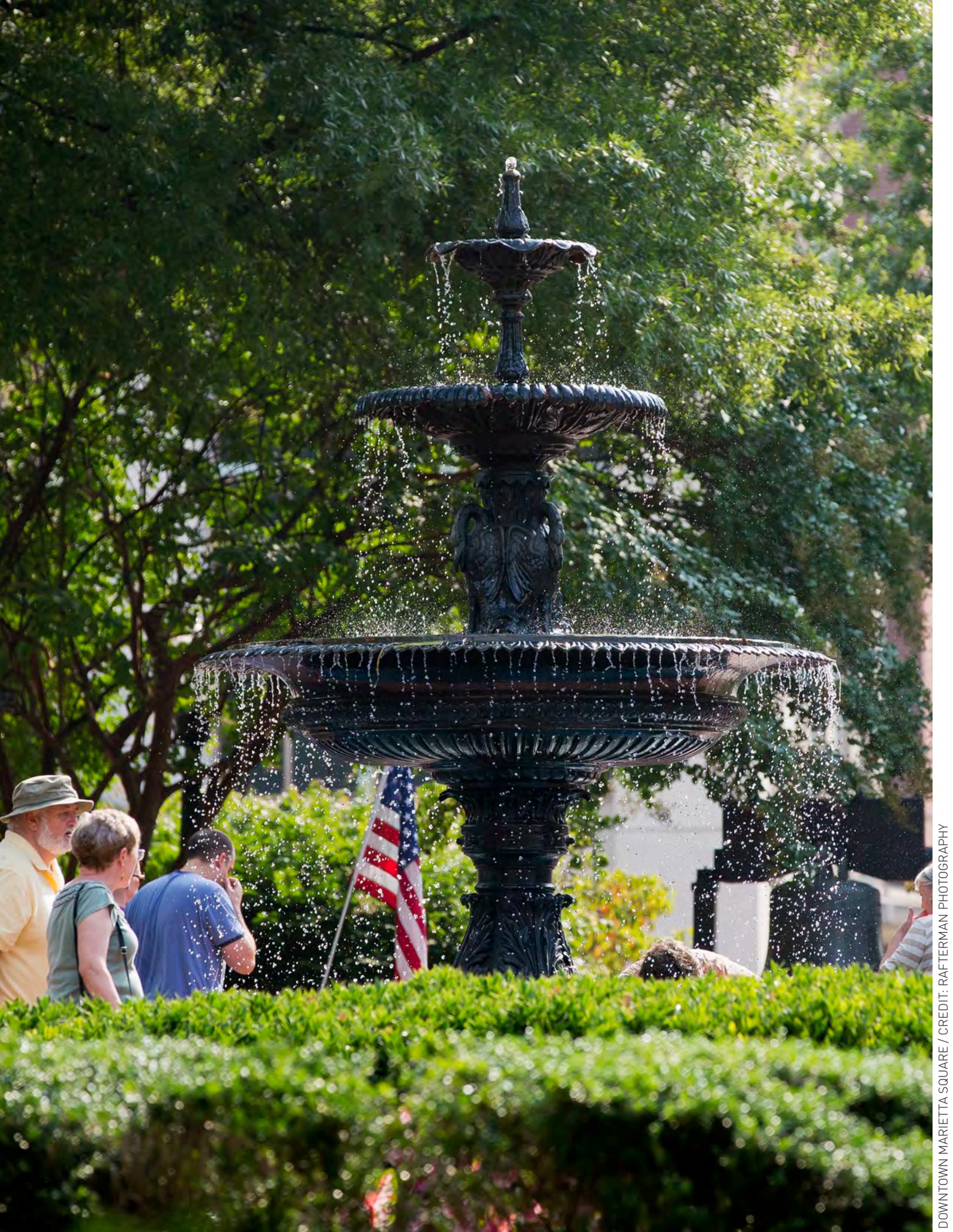
National Register Historic Districts include buildings, structures, sites and objects that are, by definition, worthy of preservation. Districts reflect the core community building blocks of neighborhoods and activity centers that are the character and culture of our region. They encompass a scale and diversity of resources that are appropriate to be considered as regionally significant. Several individual districts were nominated by local jurisdictions for inclusion, and it was deemed equitable to include all National Register districts as equally important. In several instances, National Register Districts also encompassed sites that had been individually nominated as Regionally Important Resources, including Piedmont Park, the Olmstead Parks in the Druid Hills Neighborhood, Grant Park in the city of Atlanta and Woodward Academy, Barrett Park and the City Amphitheatre and Cemetery in the city of College Park.

As with districts that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, individually listed sites bridge the gap among those places in between neighborhoods and commercial centers that laid the foundations of communities. Metro Atlanta claims almost 300 individually listed National Register sites, with countless more eligible sites identified through regular evaluation. These sites are more than just the private homes of important citizens and early civic buildings. They include sites such as the military earthworks at Johnston's Line from the Atlanta Campaign of the Civil War; objects such as the Riverview Carousel and the Memorial to the Six Million. They include commercial and industrial buildings, hotels and schools, churches and train depots. All of these buildings are integral to the history and community development of their cities and towns, and they provide connections in the larger cultural infrastructure network of the Metro Atlanta region.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



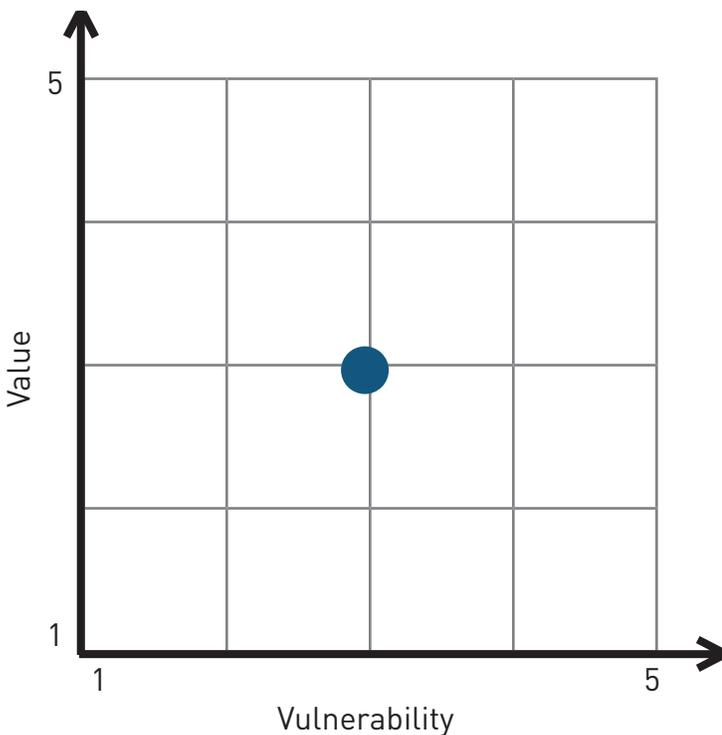
National Historic Districts and Sites are identified as Priority Resources given their high value for preservation of historic and cultural resources and the role they play as an educational amenity in the community. National Register Districts and Sites are recognized by the National Park Service, but they are owned by a variety of private and public entities. They have no specific protection outside of the federal and state review process when public funds are allocated toward infrastructure projects. Therefore, they can be vulnerable to development pressures, lack of financial resources, and lack of adequate regulations for long-term protection.



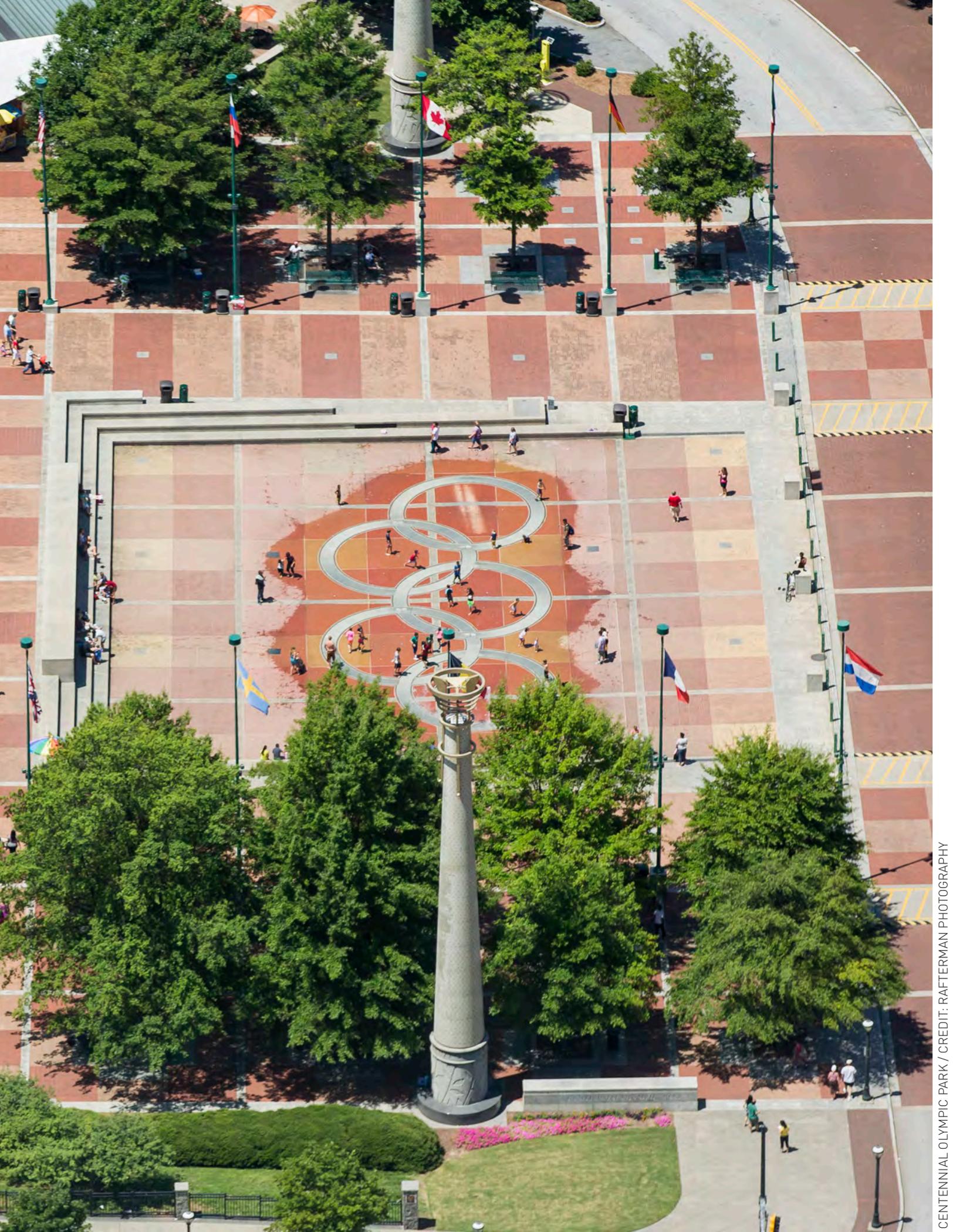
OLYMPIC LEGACY

Atlanta hosted the Summer Olympics in 1996, and the entire region and State had the benefit of the exposure as a world class city, capable of hosting such an event. The modern Olympics began in 1896, and since that time, only two other U.S. cities have had the distinction of serving as host communities for the Summer Olympics. The 1996 games in Atlanta coincided with its centennial celebration, adding another level of significance to the experience. Within the Atlanta Region, Olympic events were held at fifteen different locations, but Centennial Olympic Park stands out as Georgia's lasting legacy of the Centennial Olympic Games. Located in downtown Atlanta, the 21-acre park includes commemorative features such as 600,000+ engraved bricks sponsored by private donors; granite from each of the five continents represented in the Olympic Games; and the Fountain of Rings – using the Olympic symbol of five interconnected rings. As a symbol of the Olympic legacy in Georgia, Centennial Olympic Park has been identified as a Regionally Important Resource.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Centennial Olympic Park recognizes an event of historic and cultural significance. As a public park, it is vulnerable to over-use and lack of resources.



CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARK / CREDIT: RAFTERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS AND SITES

The National Park Service has taken the lead on recognizing the importance of Civil War Battlefields within the context of our local and regional cultural heritage, as well as for their implications for our national history. Working through local partnerships with organizations such as the Georgia Battlefield Association, continued documentation has identified remnants of several significant sites in the Atlanta Region. These are sites of value as both historic resources and cultural landscapes. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission has identified seven primary Civil War Battles that are associated with the Atlanta Campaign (1864) within the Atlanta Region: Ezra Church/ Battle of the Poor House (Fulton County); Jonesborough (Clayton County); Kennesaw Mountain (Cobb County); Kolb's Farm (Cobb County); Lovejoy's Station (Clayton County); Peachtree Creek (Fulton County) ; Utoy Creek (Fulton County). Nominations were also submitted for additional Civil War sites: Nash Farm Battlefield Park (Henry County) and the remnants of the earthwork Shoupades constructed by Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston (Cobb County).

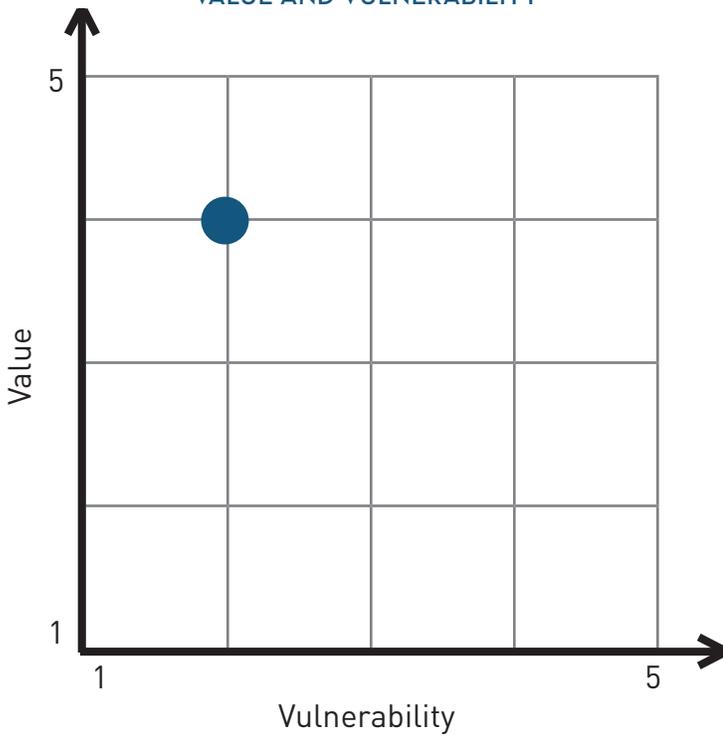
In addition to battlefields, the Atlanta region has several sites affiliated with events of the Civil War, which are accessible to the public. Located in downtown Kennesaw, Camp McDonald Park (Cobb County) was a Confederate Civil War training ground.

The remnants of Fort Walker (Fulton County) are located in the city of Atlanta on the edge of National Register listed Grant Park. It includes the remains of earthworks that were formerly a four-gun battery. Also referred to as a redoubt (a protected place of refuge or defense), Fort Walker was constructed in 1863 as a part of the defensive line surrounding the city of Atlanta.

The Concord Bridge Historic District and Heritage Park, including the site of the Concord Woolen Mill (Cobb County) was a complete mill community with a school, church and general store. Developed by Martin Ruff and Robert Daniel beginning in the 1830s, the Union Army destroyed the factory on July 4, 1864. Shortly thereafter on July 9, 1864, the Union Army had moved into Douglas County and burned the New Manchester Mills at Sweetwater Creek State Park, also a listed as a Regionally Important Resource. The Concord Woolen Mill was rebuilt in 1869, and Ruff and Daniel are also credited with building the Concord Covered Bridge in 1872.

Finally, cemeteries throughout the region include individual burials or small sections of Confederate soldiers. In addition to the Confederate Cemetery found at Oakland Cemetery, the Jonesboro Confederate Cemetery (Clayton County) and Marietta Confederate Cemetery (Cobb County) are both under the stewardship of the Georgia Building Authority in addition to four other confederate cemeteries in the State. The Marietta National Cemetery was established in 1866 with a program to reinter 10,000 deceased Union soldiers from Sherman's Atlanta Campaign. The Marietta National Cemetery is listed as a Regionally Important Resource as a National Register listed Cemetery.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Civil War Battlefields and Sites preserve a historic and cultural legacy and play a role as an educational and greenspace amenity. These sites are recognized by groups such as the American Battlefield Trust and the National Park Service, but they are owned by a variety of private and public entities. They generally have no specific protection outside of the federal and state review process when public funds are allocated toward infrastructure projects. Therefore, they can be vulnerable to development pressures, lack of financial resources, and lack of adequate regulations for long-term protection.

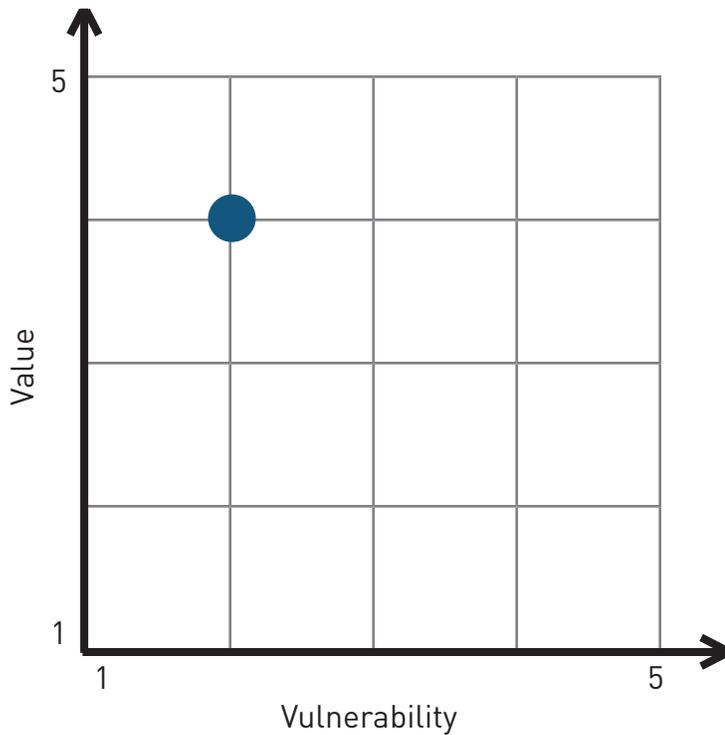


CIVIL RIGHTS SITES

Many of Metro Atlanta’s Civil Rights Sites also fall under other categories of Regionally Important Resources, including National Park Service Sites, National Historic Landmarks, and National Register Historic Districts and Sites. The importance of these areas cannot be over-emphasized, and recent efforts to coordinate a cohesive identity for the Civil Rights story draws attention to their significance. Georgia State University has been working to identify and nominate Civil Rights Sites as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. UNESCO is the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Over 1,000 properties have been identified as World Heritage Sites, but only 23 of those are in the United States.

The United States Civil Rights Trail also identifies sites that are significant for understanding the Civil Rights story in the Southeast. It guides travels to locations in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. The sites identified in metro Atlanta include the Apex Museum; the Center for Civil and Human Rights; the Ebenezer Baptist Church; the Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals building; the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home; the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park and the King Life Home; the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum; and The King Center.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Civil Rights Sites preserve a historic and cultural legacy and play a role as an educational and greenspace amenity. These sites are recognized by groups such as the National Civil Rights Trail and the National Park Service, but they are owned by a variety of private and public entities. They generally have no specific protection outside of the federal and state review process when public funds are allocated toward infrastructure projects. Therefore, they can be vulnerable to development pressures, lack of financial resources, and lack of adequate regulations for long-term protection.

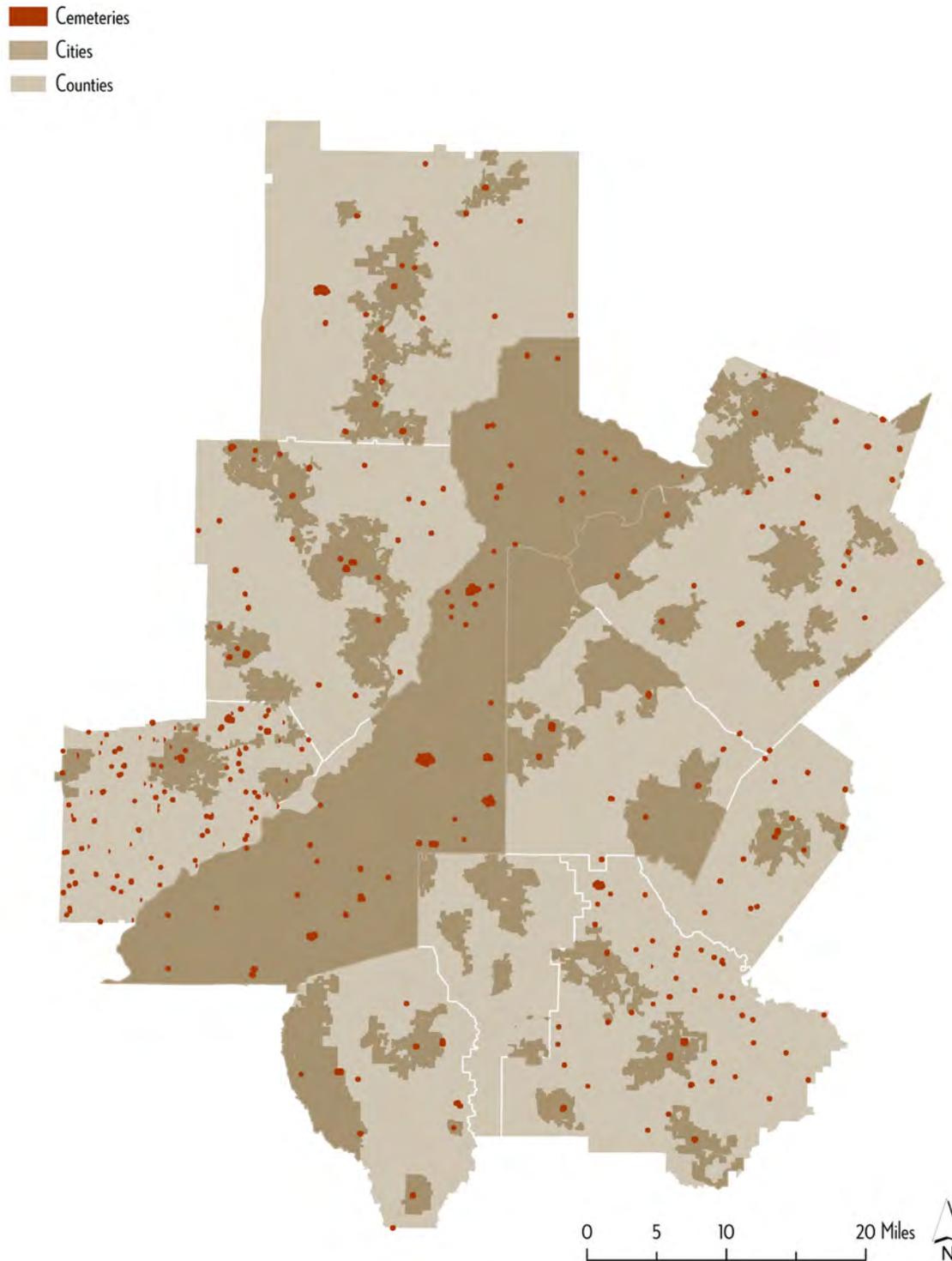
MARTIN LUTHER
KING
JR.
NATIONAL
HISTORICAL
SITE



REGIONAL CEMETERIES

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Cemeteries also create a larger regional network of unique resources. Over 400 individual cemeteries have been identified in the Atlanta Region. Ongoing research will continue to identify previously undocumented cemetery sites. Cemeteries are significant not only as community greenspace, but also for their value as historic and cultural resources, genealogical records, and their value to foster a local sense of place. Pursuant to the DCA Rules for Regional Resource Plans, cemeteries in the Atlanta Region are included as part of the Green Infrastructure Network. [Resources in the Green Infrastructure Network are not considered to be Regionally Important Resources for the purposes of this plan.]



REGIONAL CULTURAL SITES

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Metro Atlanta is home to world class cultural infrastructure. Cultural Sites include sites or corridors that express distinctive beliefs, qualities or ideas of regional importance. Cultural sites can include, but are not limited to

- Repositories for a collection of natural, scientific, historic, literary, artistic, or other cultural objects;
- Sites with distinctive features that are emblematic of the region; and/ or
- Cultural centers with strong cultural ties.

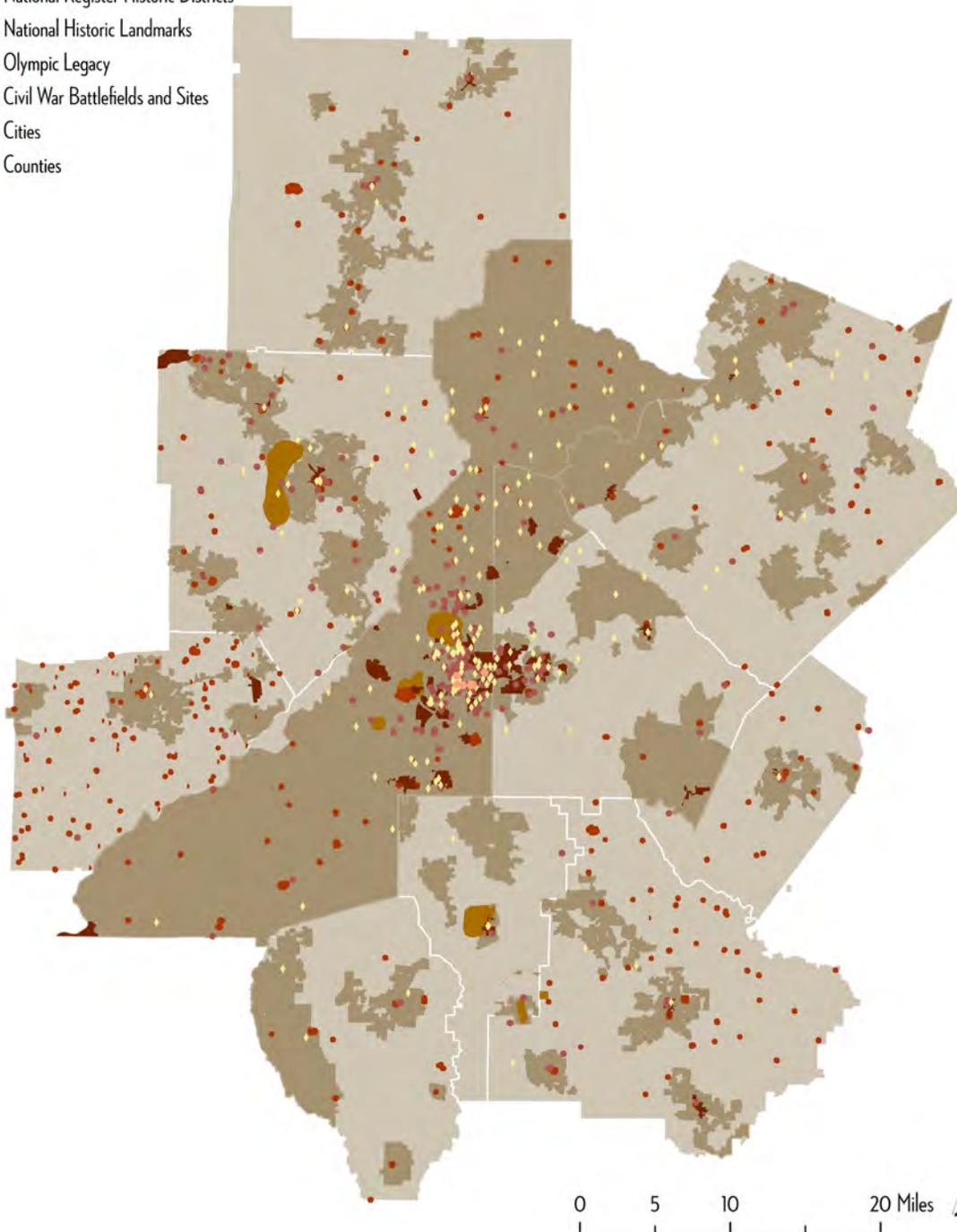
Over half of the cultural non-profit organizations in the State of Georgia are located in the 10-county Atlanta region, with over \$1.8 billion in assets. The Atlanta region also ranks at the top of the scale among our national peers in the number of arts related businesses and the employees that work in those industries. Libraries, museums, and theaters provide the front-line opportunities for public access to arts and cultural opportunities in communities across the region and they are included as links in the regional Green Infrastructure Network. [Resources in the Green Infrastructure Network are not considered to be Regionally Important Resources for the purposes of this plan.]

- Regional Cultural Sites
- Cities
- Counties



HISTORIC & CULTURAL REGIONALLY IMPORTANT & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK RESOURCES

- Civil Rights Sites
- Regional Cultural Sites
- National Register Historic Sites
- National Register Historic Districts
- National Historic Landmarks
- Olympic Legacy
- Civil War Battlefields and Sites
- Cities
- Counties



Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices Matrix

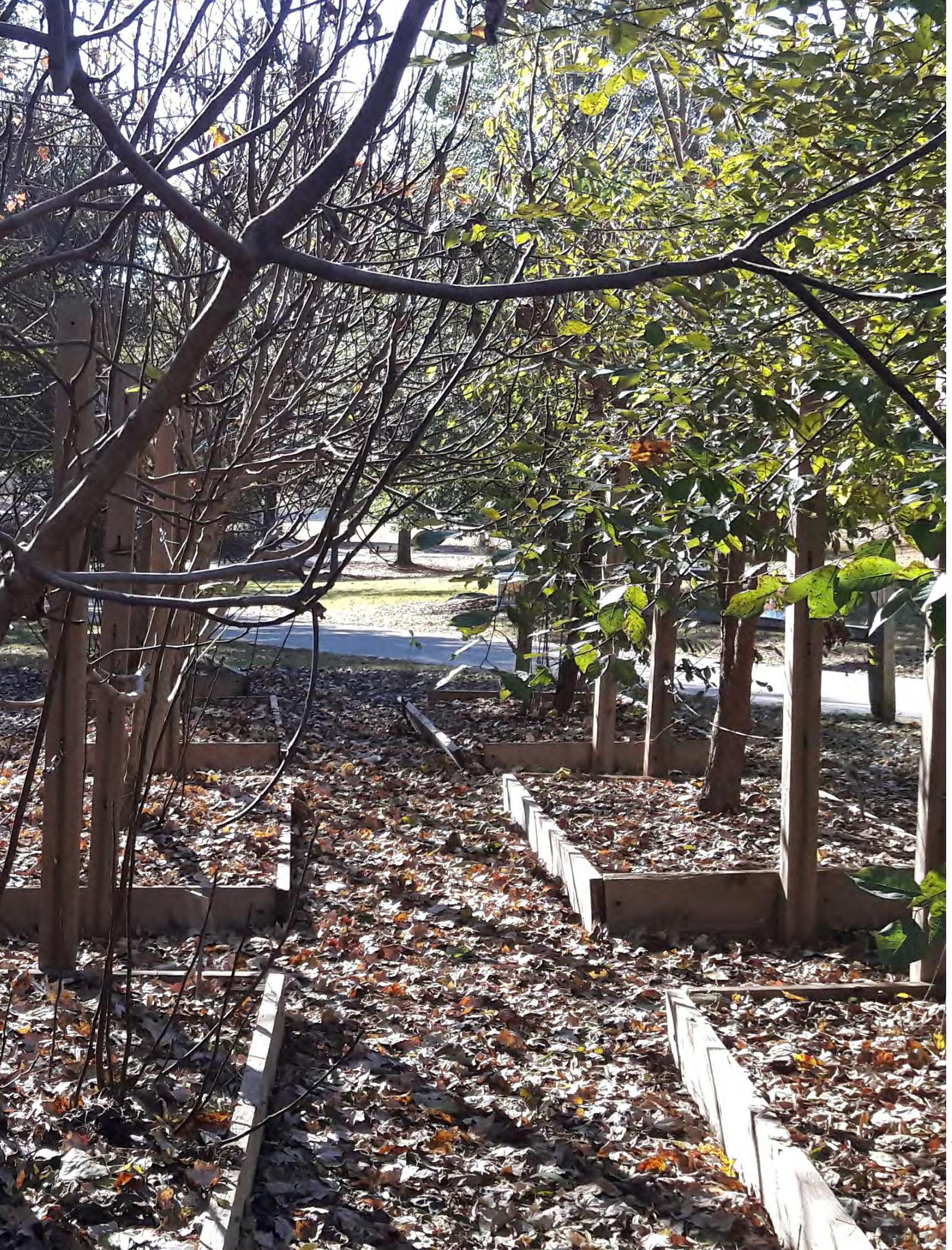
Historic and Cultural Resources

	National Historic Landmarks	National Register Historic Districts	National Register Historic Sites	Olympic Legacy	Civil War Battlefields and Sites	Civil Rights Sites
Site Design and Connectivity						
Do not disturb land in proximity to the boundary of a potential subsurface resource, such as a cemetery or archaeological site						
Where possible, use multi-use trails to link new developments to public access points for national or state parks and other recreation areas						
Architectural and Design Aesthetics						
Consider impact to viewsheds and take appropriate steps to mitigate impacts						
Design of new development should be compatible in terms of size, scale, and aesthetic appearance near existing resources						
New developments should complement, but not copy, historic precedents						
Programs and Protections						
Consider the donation of a conservation easement for land that will be impacted by development in proximity to a historic or cultural resource, or rural or agricultural area						
Advocate for properties that are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places						

General Policies and Protection Measures Matrix

Historic and Cultural Resources

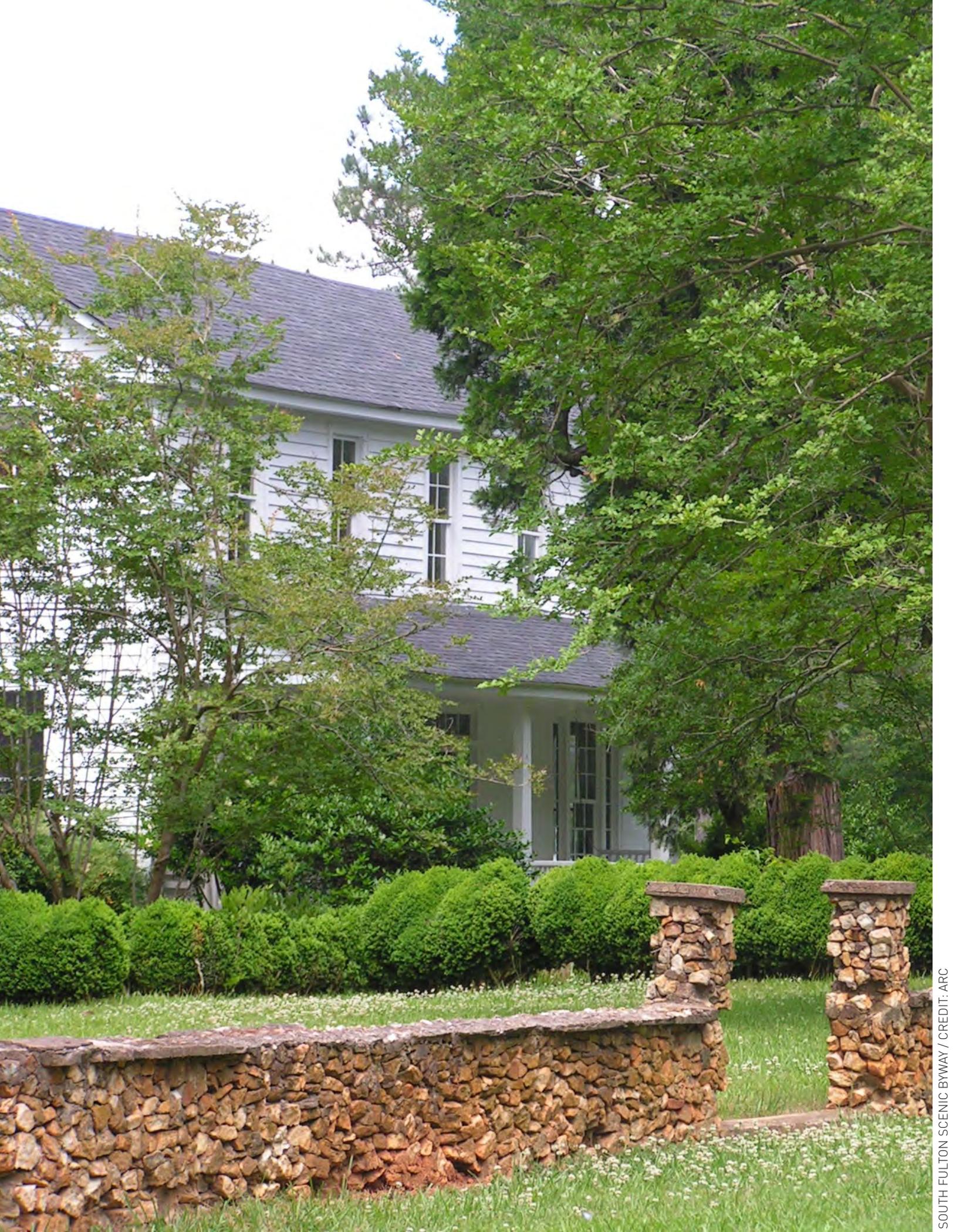
	National Historic Landmarks	National Register Historic Districts	National Register Historic Sites	Olympic Legacy	Civil War Battlefields and Sites	Civil Rights Sites
Regulations and Plans						
Within the context of a community green infrastructure plan develop local connections among regional parks, trails and other community resources	[Shaded]					
Incorporate a heritage tourism and/ or agritourism component into community economic development plans	[Shaded]					
Site Design and Connectivity						
Establish criteria to identify potential corridors that possess unique natural, scenic, or cultural value		[Shaded]			[Shaded]	
Architectural and Design Aesthetics						
Document significant features that contribute to the scenic viewshed of natural, rural, and agricultural areas and develop design guidelines to mitigate the visual impact of new development in these areas		[Shaded]			[Shaded]	
Understand and advocate the role that historic structures play in promoting energy conservation and sustainable community design	[Shaded]					
Programs and Protections						
Implement a conservation easement donation program for the public holding of easements and/ or explore options for the fee simple ownership of greenspace by local governments	[Shaded]				[Shaded]	
Work proactively to foster partnerships/ "friends of" programs to enhance the effective stewardship of greenways, trails, parks, and historic and cultural resources	[Shaded]				[Shaded]	
Pursue programs such as Preserve America and/ or Certified Local Government status to increase access to funding opportunities for historic and cultural resource protection	[Shaded]				[Shaded]	
Enhance traditional historic preservation efforts by developing an interpretive context through oral history, wayfinding signage, and installation of historic markers	[Shaded]					



SCENIC AND AGRICULTURAL

The pace and scale of the urbanization that has taken place in the Atlanta Region has precluded many of the traditional land uses associated with the rural, agrarian character found throughout Georgia. Nonetheless, there are communities that desire to preserve of their rural character as a tool to manage growth. With growth in the demand for locally grown and/or organic foods, preservation of rural areas and agricultural uses is an important consideration in the overall growth strategy of the region. Portions of the outer periphery of many metro counties still retains the feel and character of rural communities. Local Comprehensive Plans for these areas reflect the desire to protect this character against the pressures of continued development. Within these areas and other isolated pockets throughout the Atlanta Region, small-to-medium size farms have been able to engage in agricultural production. Much of this is done on a limited scale and may be sustained by access to local farmers markets or Community Supported Agricultural cooperatives. Community gardens are established in neighborhoods in every county and many cities.

Overall, each of these areas of agricultural and scenic value encompass a broad range of unique issues and opportunities. Their inclusion in this plan results from the distinctive niche they hold in an otherwise largely urban and suburban region. Within each, there is an array of existing mechanisms to control land use patterns – zoning and development regulations, overlay districts, and future development plans, to name a few. Identifying these areas as Regionally Important Resources or part of the regional Green Infrastructure Network reinforces many of the local policies and regulations that govern these areas and enhances the awareness of the value of cultural landscapes within these areas. Of all resources defined within this Plan, areas of agricultural and or scenic value can benefit from holistic land planning efforts that consider their value defined within a larger context and merges the best of natural resource conservation with historic preservation.

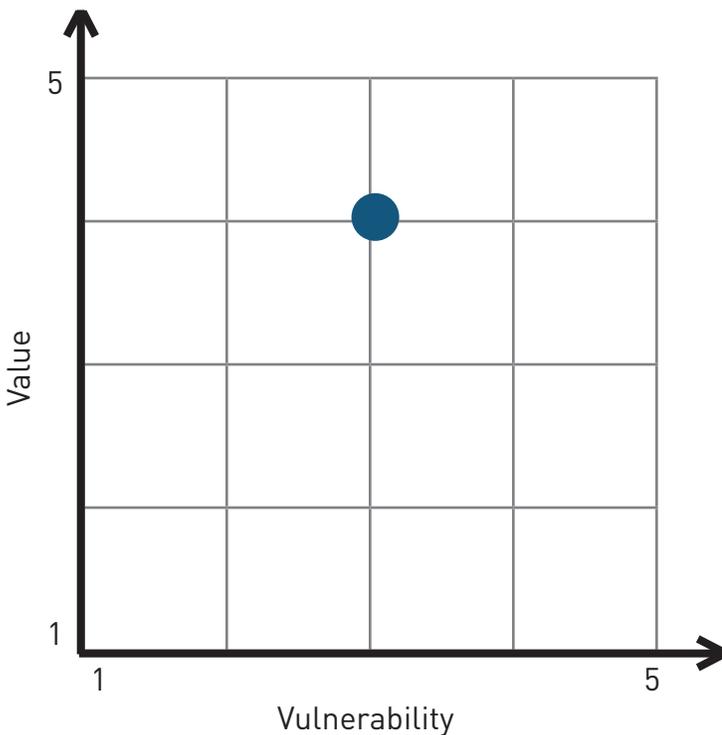


GEORGIA CENTENNIAL FARMS

PRIORITY RESOURCE

The Georgia Centennial Farm Program recognizes the agricultural heritage of the state and the families who have been integral to its history. It focuses on farms that have been in operation for over a century - some held by the same family, and some meeting the criteria to be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Centennial Farms in the Atlanta Region have not only been identified as significant historic resources and cultural landscapes by a state agency, but also connect with the ARC criteria of preserving significant working agricultural resources. Ten farms have been recognized in the Atlanta Region through the Centennial Farm Program: A.W. Roberts Farm (Cherokee); Lake Laura Gardens (Cobb); Moss Clark Farm (Henry); Fieldstone Farm (Henry); Rolling Acres Farm (Rockdale); Gresham Galt Farm (Cherokee); Mabry Farm (Cobb); Alfarminda Farm (Gwinnett); Benefield Farm (Gwinnett); Dr. Samuel Locklin and Alice Stanley Hinton Farm (Gwinnett).

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Sites recognized through the Georgia Centennial Farm Program are Priority Resources because they provide a range of value to the community, including preservation of historic and cultural resources, providing greenspace along with areas for active food production, and the opportunity to create an educational amenity for the community. They are vulnerable to a lack of protection by state or federal agencies, and they may be subject to different development pressures due to a variety of conditions of private ownership. They are subject to development pressures and lack resources long term preservation.



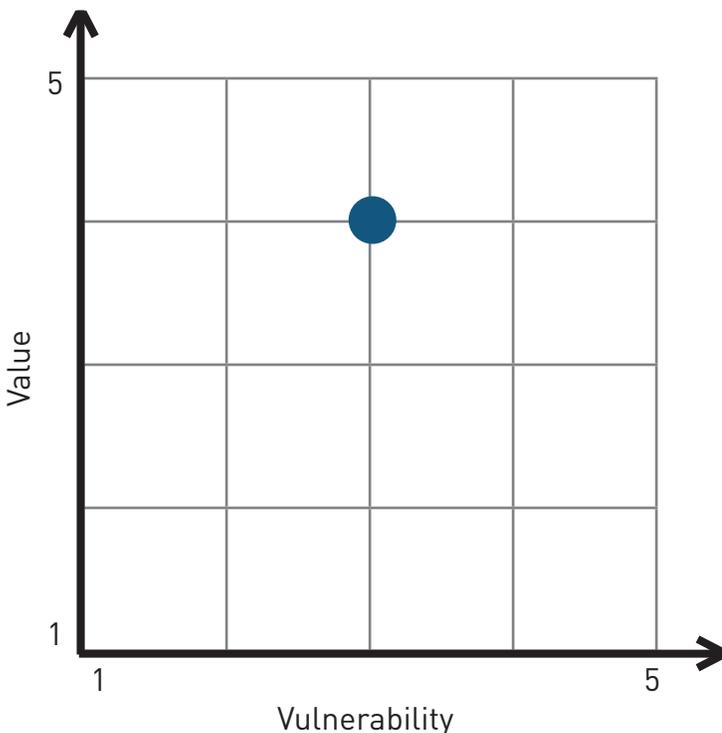
GEORGIA AGRITOURISM SITES

PRIORITY RESOURCE

The Georgia Agritourism Program fosters greater awareness of agritourism destinations by working with local farms to provide signage and other resources to increase visibility. Agritourism programs are a key benefit to maintaining the economic sustainability of regional resources of agricultural importance. Ten farms have been recognized in the Atlanta Region through the Georgia Agritourism Program: Rancho Alegre Farms (Gwinnett), Southern Belle Farms (Henry), Yule Forest/ The Pumpkin Patch (Henry), Adams Farm (Fayette), Gibbs Gardens (Cherokee), Feather’s Edge Vineyards (Cherokee), Pleasant Union Farm (Cherokee), Lewallen Farms (Cherokee), Big Springs Farm (Cherokee), and Big Door Vineyards (Cherokee).

Rancho Alegre Farms promotes a variety of opportunities, including field trips, camps, farmers market, and rental space in an environment that includes food gardens, livestock and other elements of agricultural education. Southern Belle Farms includes an operational dairy farm alongside a corn maze and pick your own berry patch. They also offer field trips, seasonal special events and rental space on the farm. Yule Forest/ The Pumpkin Patch has a diversified offering of farm activities that features pick-your-own berries, landscape and holiday trees, and an outdoor classroom experience. Adams Farm shares their produce through a roadside stand, pick-your-own berries, and sale of value added farm products. Gibbs Gardens is a private estate open to the public that features acres of formal gardens, including thousands of daffodils, extensive water lily gardens, and a Japanese garden. Feather’s Edge Vineyards offers locally sourced wines and is home to the art gallery Wildcat on a Wing. Pleasant Union Farm hosts a variety of events, including U-pick events, flower design workshops, and dinners. They specialize in blueberries, blackberries, seasonal vegetables, and cut flowers, and sell goats milk soap and lotion and free-range eggs at farmer’s markets. Lewallen Farms covers 400 acres and host events ranging from farmer’s markets to duck hunts. Big Springs Farm grows pumpkins for sale in the fall, and offers events and opportunities for field trips throughout the year. Big Door Vineyards hosts events including corporate retreats and weddings in addition to regular wine tastings and music performances.

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Georgia Agritourism Sites are Priority Resources because they provide a range of value to the community, including preservation of historic and cultural resources, providing greenspace along with areas for active food production, and the opportunity to create an educational amenity for the community. They are vulnerable to a lack of protection by state or federal agencies, and they may be subject to different development pressures due to a variety of conditions of private ownership. They are subject to development pressures and lack resources long term preservation.



DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

Criteria established by the ARC Board for consideration of Regionally Important Resources includes areas that create or preserve passive greenspaces including gardens. To further refine different types of gardens, the Designed Landscape category includes landscaped areas containing both plant materials and hardscape elements placed in an intentional design – formal or informal – including areas of institutional land uses. In many instances, designed landscapes also include both historic and cultural value, by their association with historic sites or the presence of heirloom plan material. The Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative has identified several gardens in the Atlanta Region that have value as both historic resources and greenspace opportunities.

The Spring at Kennesaw: The records of the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative identify that, “the spring provided water for 150 years to the people of the community. It was the main water source for Camp McDonald prior to and during the Civil War.” The Spring was included in the design of Kennesaw’s City Hall when their new building was constructed in 1983.

Archibald Smith Plantation Garden: The Archibald Smith Plantation originally sat on 300 acres of farmland in what is now Roswell. Eight acres along with the house and outbuildings remain. The Roswell Garden Club maintains a Rose Garden on the property, and recreated an antebellum garden at the rear entrance.

Barrington Hall: Built from 1839-1842 on 12 acres at the highest point in Roswell, Connecticut architect Willis Ball designed the home. An unnamed landscape architect from England planned the ornate grounds, though the stone mason, also from England, is credited as Mr. Francis Minhinnett. Many remnants of the original garden design remain.

Bulloch Hall: Bulloch Hall bears a resemblance to Barrington Hall. The home, built in 1840 by the same Connecticut architect, Willis Ball, also has a heart shaped front drive. Though little is known about the original design of the grounds, the trees in the landscape point to clues of the layout. This site was the childhood home of Mittie Bulloch, mother of Theodore Roosevelt.

Goodrum – Abreau House and Grounds: The house and gardens are an excellent example of Regency design in the Atlanta area. Atlanta architect Phillip Trammell Shutze designed the home and grounds from 1929-1930.

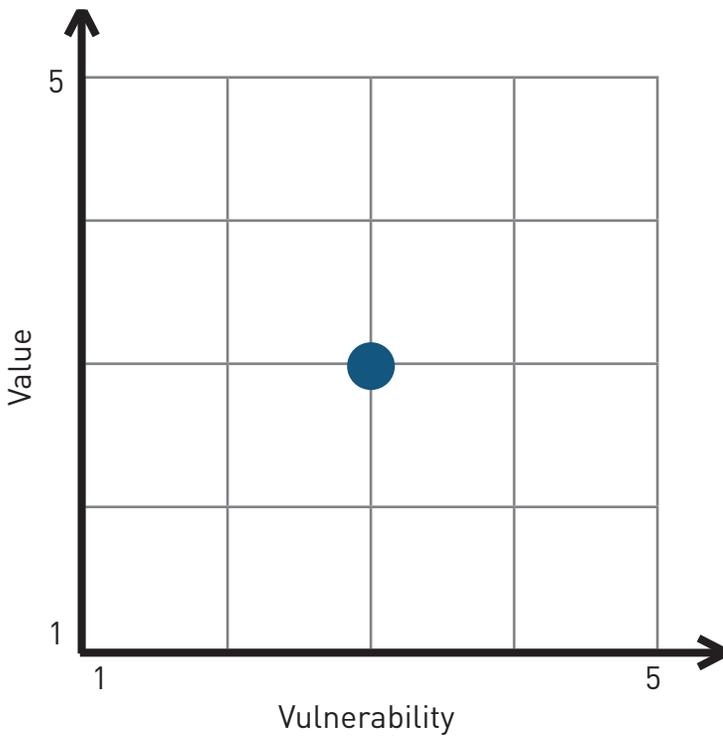
Iris Garden: Described as a “beautiful showcase of irises,” the Iris Garden is located near Ansley Park in the city of Atlanta. The garden is maintained by the city of Atlanta and the Iris Garden Club.

Woodhaven (Georgia State Governor’s Mansion): Woodhaven was the name of a Tudor-Revival estate house that occupied the grounds of the current Georgia State Governor’s Mansion. The estate house was demolished (partially by fire) to make way for the current structure built in 1967. Much of the design of the grounds was left intact from the days of Woodhaven.

The Atlanta History Center Grounds, including the Swan House Gardens and Grounds: The Atlanta History Center includes several distinct designed landscapes on the 33 acre property. The Mary Howard Gilbert Memorial Quarry Garden; Tullie Smith Farm Gardens ; Cherry Sims Asian American Garden; Frank A. Smith Rhododendron Garden; Swan House Gardens and Grounds; and Swan Woods Trail.

In addition to sites identified by the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative, other public gardens can be visited throughout the region. Elements of historic value, species diversity, and a unique design aesthetic are on display. Included in this list are Hartsfield Jackson International Airport Floral Clock (Atlanta, Fulton County); Atlanta Botanical Gardens (Atlanta, Fulton County); Lewis Vaughn Botanical Garden (Conyers, Rockdale County); Claude T. Fortson Memorial Garden (Hampton, Henry County); Cator Woolford Gardens (Atlanta, DeKalb County); Callenwolde Park (Atlanta, DeKalb County); and Gibbs Gardens (Ball Ground, Cherokee County).

VALUE AND VULNERABILITY



Designed Landscapes provide community greenspace along with areas for active food production. They are vulnerable to a lack of resources for maintenance long term preservation.



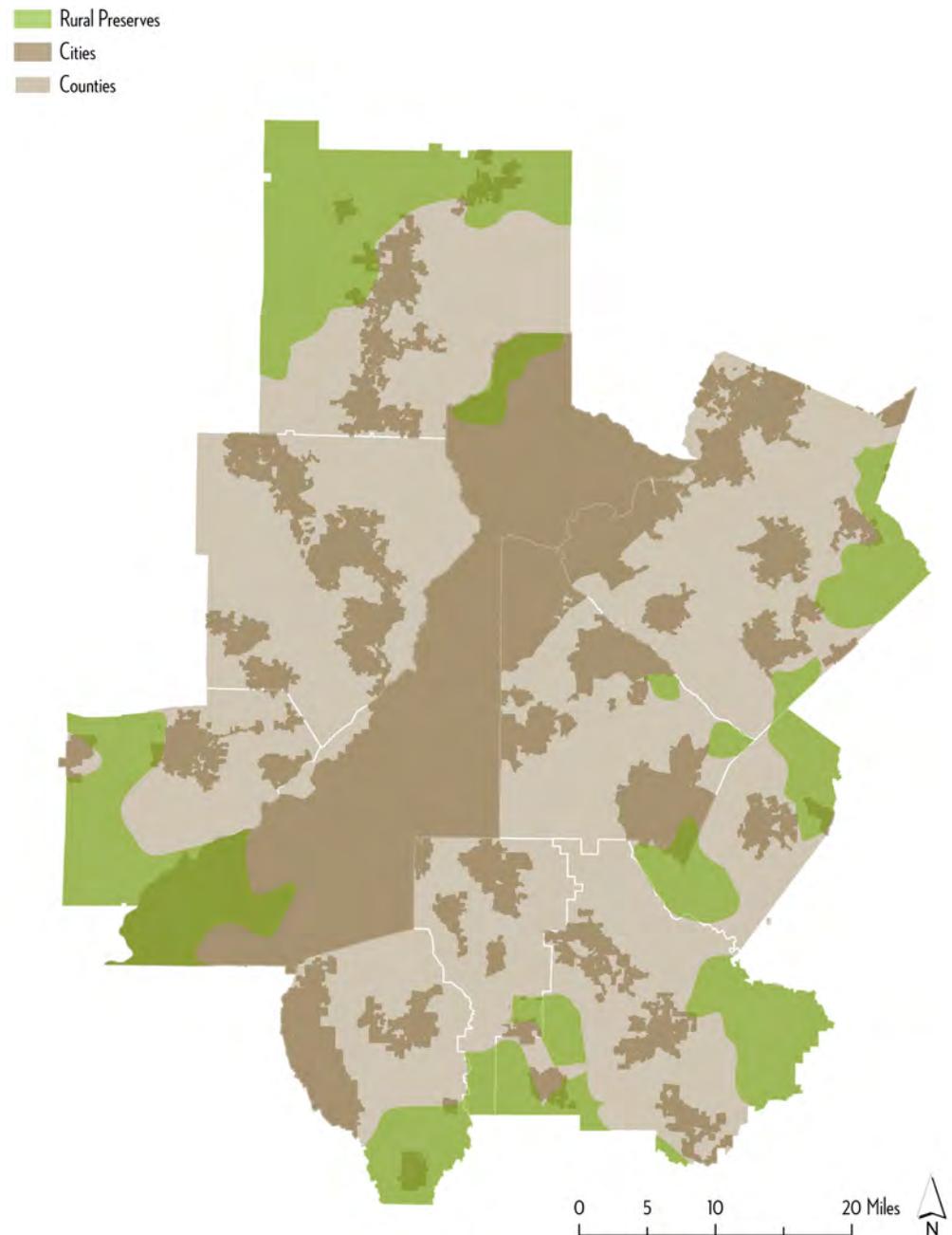
RURAL PRESERVES

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

The Unified Growth Policy Map provides direction for future growth within the region. It represents local plans along with regional policies and forecasts. On the whole, it represents the region's vision for growth and development, as well as areas of protection.

The map depicts Rural and Developing Rural Areas. Taken together, these areas represent mostly undeveloped land in the region. Developing Rural areas may experience limited new growth, whereas Rural areas are planned for limited or no growth. Both of these areas may have limited infrastructure and services. These areas prioritize the maintenance of rural characteristics, including road profiles, and protections for scenic corridors are encouraged. Opportunities existing for conservation style development, along with heritage, recreation and agriculturally-based economic development initiatives.

Rural Preserves are identified based on the Rural and Developing Rural categories of the Unified Growth Policy Map and they are included here as a part of the regional Green Infrastructure Network. [Resources within the Green Infrastructure Network are not considered to be Regionally Important Resources for the purposes of this plan.]



URBAN AGRICULTURE

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

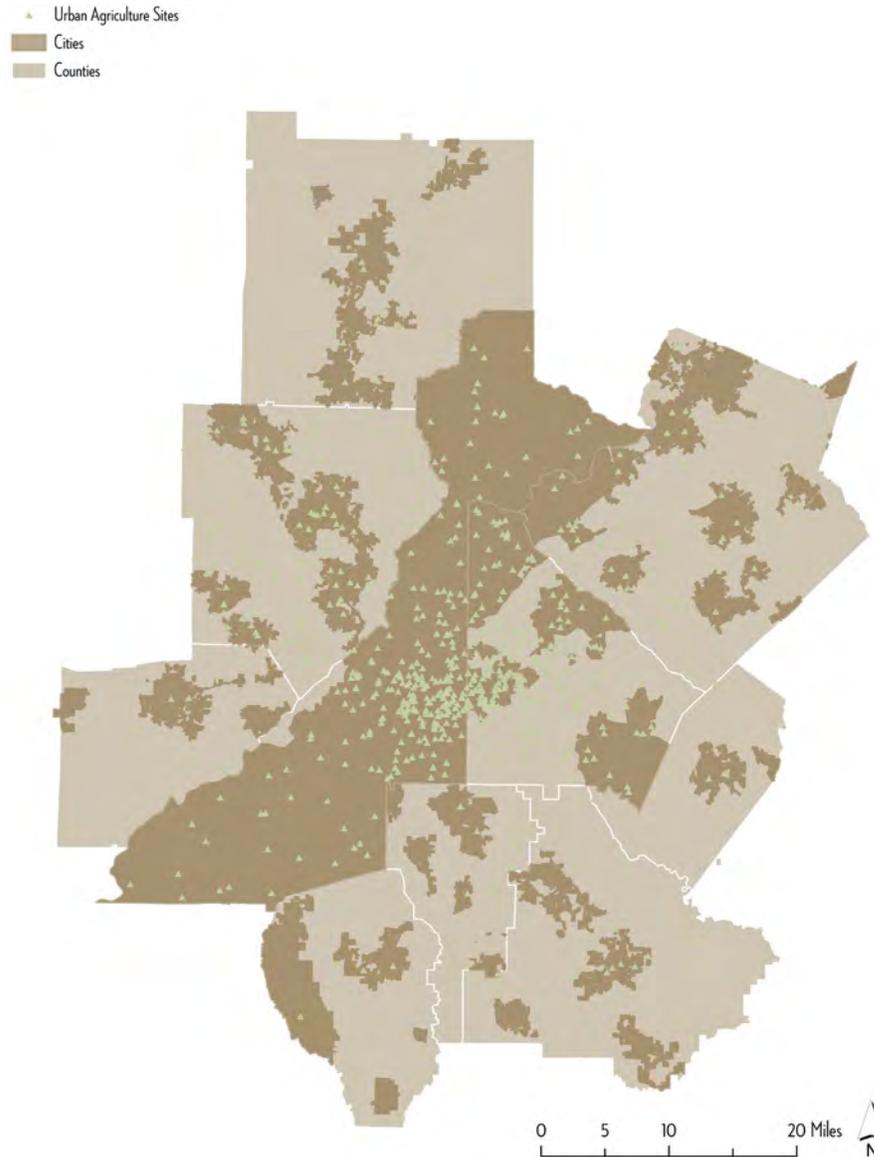
The Regional Resource Plan gives consideration to areas that create or preserve passive greenspaces including gardens, as well as opportunities for local food production activities. This plan includes three distinct areas for their contribution to local food production: Community Gardens, Urban Farms and Urban Orchards.

Community Gardens are greenspace areas used for limited production of food and/ or ornamental plants that are gardened and managed collectively by a limited group of individuals. Community gardens effectively combine both of the adopted goals of preserving greenspace and areas for local food production.

Urban Farms are generally larger in scale than community gardens, and are often cultivated for the commercial sale of products as an agriculturally-oriented business. Some urban farms may be developed in combination with a community garden; some may be operated as a home-based business; some may be operated on agricultural land leased or owned for the purpose.

Urban Orchards are found in combination with Community Gardens and Urban Farms, or as their own grove. Orchards typically include fruit and nut trees, and often require less regular maintenance than community gardens or urban farms.

Urban Agriculture Sites are included here as a part of the Regional Green Infrastructure Network. [Resources in the Green Infrastructure Network are not considered to be Regionally Important Resources for the purposes of this plan.]



URBAN FOREST

POLICY CONNECTION

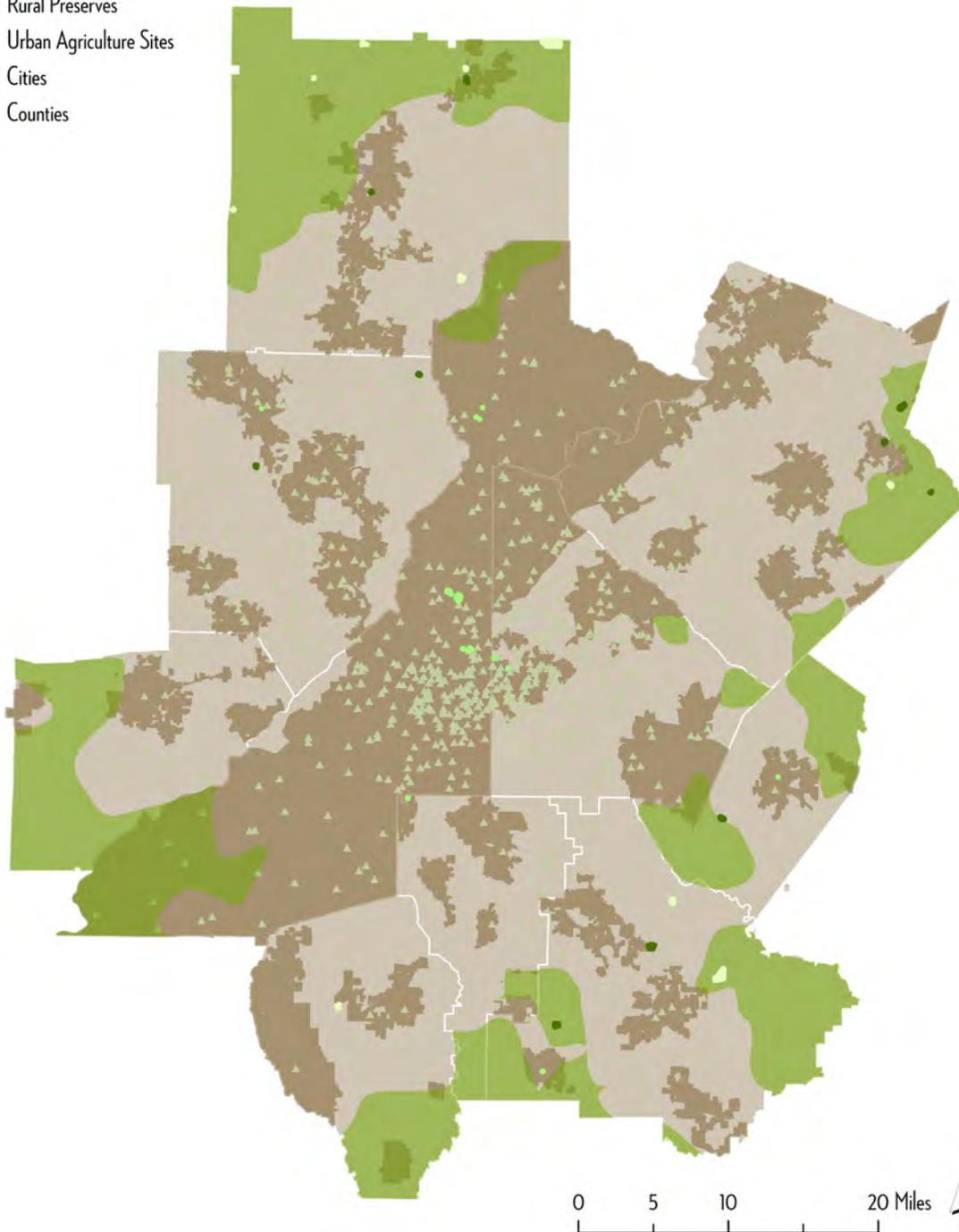
Any trees, whether growing individually along a street, in a park, or under forest conditions, make up the region's urban forest. Trees provide numerous environmental and social benefits, and are consistently threatened by development in metropolitan areas. As the region's communities face ever-growing effects of climate change, trees play important roles in removing carbon dioxide from the air and producing oxygen, and helping to manage stormwater runoff by reducing the amount of water falling directly onto impervious surfaces. Additionally, trees help to curb the urban heat island effect, which often causes cities to be several degrees warmer than the surrounding areas due to the number of buildings and paved surfaces, by providing shading. This evens out temperatures and lowers energy demand. The ability of trees to reduce both pollution and the urban heat island effect offers health benefits ranging from the reduction of respiratory illnesses to heat induced illnesses. Trees have also been shown to improve the livability of neighborhoods, offering desirable aesthetics and psychological benefits. Especially in the "city in a forest," as Atlanta is often called, it is important to preserve existing and increase tree canopy wherever possible.

Policy Connections reflect areas of evolving focus in the agency work program. ARC anticipates a greater focus on the urban forest and its role in planning for resiliency in the region. [Policy Connections are not considered to be Regionally Important Resources or Green Infrastructure Network for the purposes of this plan.]



SCENIC & AGRICULTURAL REGIONALLY IMPORTANT & GREEN INFASTRUCTURE NETWORK RESOURCES

- Georgia Centennial Farms
- Georgia Agritourism Sites
- Designed Landscapes
- Rural Preserves
- Urban Agriculture Sites
- Cities
- Counties



Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices Matrix

Areas of Agricultural and/or Scenic Value

	Georgia Centennial Farms	Georgia Agritourism Sites	Designed Landscapes
Regulations and Plans			
Where practical, exceed minimum required buffers from protected areas			
Encourage the voluntary set aside of land in a development that is part of a conceptual greenway connectivity plan			
Site Design and Connectivity			
Where possible, retain existing vegetation and topography			
Do not disturb land in proximity to the boundary of a potential subsurface resource, such as a cemetery or archaeological site			
Incorporate, as practical, edible landscape options or space for community gardens within community common areas or buffers			
Where possible, use multi-use trails to link new developments to public access points for national or state parks and other recreation areas			
Architectural and Design Aesthetics			
Consider impact to viewsheds and take appropriate steps to mitigate impacts			
Design of new development should be compatible in terms of size, scale, and aesthetic appearance near existing resources			
Programs and Protections			
Consider the donation of a conservation easement for land that will be impacted by development in proximity to a historic or cultural resource or rural or agricultural area			
Voluntary covenants should be placed on adjacent developments that acknowledge the right to farm of existing agricultural operations			

General Policies and Protection Measures Matrix

Areas of Agricultural and/or Scenic Value

	Georgia Centennial Farms	Georgia Agritourism Sites	Designed Landscapes
Regulations and Plans			
Within the context of a community green infrastructure plan develop local connections among regional parks, trails and other community resources			
Ensure that local ordinances do not preclude existing agricultural uses, nor the development of new agriculturally-oriented businesses, such as equestrian uses, home occupations, and local food production, where appropriate			
Clearly define animal units per zoning district that are appropriate to the scale of agricultural operations within the community			
Incorporate a heritage tourism and/ or agritourism component into community economic development plans			
Site Design and Connectivity			
Adopt a conservation subdivision/ cluster subdivision option where appropriate; review and revise existing conservation subdivision/ cluster subdivision ordinances to ensure they accomplish conservation goals			
Establish criteria to identify potential corridors that possess unique natural, scenic or cultural value			
Architectural and Design Aesthetics			
Document significant features that contribute to the scenic viewshed of natural, rural, and agricultural areas and develop design guidelines to mitigate the visual impact of new development in these areas			
Programs and Protections			
Implement a conservation easement donation program for the public holding of easements and/ or explore options for the fee simple ownership of greenspace by local governments			
Work proactively to foster partnerships/ "friends of" programs to enhance the effective stewardship of greenways, trails, parks and historic and cultural resources			
Enhance traditional historic preservation efforts by developing an interpretive context through oral history, wayfinding signage, and installation of historic markers			

APPENDIX A

PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES - PRIOR TO 2009

The Atlanta Regional Commission has been planning for natural, cultural, and historic resources since the 1950s, producing plans such as the 1954 Regional Development Plan, the 1963 Nature Preserves Plan, and the 1972 Chattahoochee Recreation Area Study. In the 1980s and 1990s, ARC began identifying Regionally Important Resources based on rules defined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Over the years, these rules have changed to focus on the creation and documentation of a regional Green Infrastructure Network; however, the initial RIRs identified in the 1980s and 1990s highlight regional priorities at the time.

PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES - THE 2009 UPDATE

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs established rules and procedures for the identification of Regionally Important Resources (RIR). The rules require the development of a plan for protection and management of regional resources and review of activities potentially impacting these resources. ARC is the agency charged with developing a Regional Resource Plan and RIR Map for the 10-county area of the Atlanta region (Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale Counties). In support of other agency initiatives ARC is also interested in resources identified in the additional 10 counties within the non-attainment area for air quality (Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Coweta, Forsyth, Hall, Newton, Paulding, Spalding, and Walton Counties). Generally, the focus of the plan is on the core 10-county area served by the ARC, with the exception of limited multi-jurisdictional resources that overlap the core boundary.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS - THE 2009 UPDATE

The process for identifying Regionally Important Resources included a comprehensive approach, described below.

NOMINATION AND EVALUATION: ARC held a nomination process for potential resources to be included as Regionally Important Resources beginning in the fall of 2009. ARC made significant efforts to encourage local governments, non-profit organizations, citizens and the State of Georgia to submit nominations for potential inclusion in the Regionally Important Resources (RIR) map.

A nomination form was distributed to local governments and active non-profits engaged with issues related to potential regional resources (e.g. historical societies, land trusts, etc.). Additionally, ARC developed a specific nomination form that was hosted on the ARC web site that was geared toward generating nominations from the general public. This tool also allowed for the submission of photographs in support of nominations.

The public nomination process was opened on August 3, 2009 and remained open through the end of September 2009. Over 150 nomination forms were submitted. Many individual nomination forms referred to multiple resources, meaning that several hundred resources had been identified by stakeholders and citizens in the region. Nominations were considered against the criteria established by DCA and ARC as well as other factors. To reinforce the local support within a community, emphasis was placed on including resources that were nominated by a local government or other agency within their community. Certain types of resources were nominated throughout different communities, therefore the determination was made to include specific types of resources (i.e. all State and National Parks, all National Register Historic Districts, etc.) throughout the region, even if not specifically nominated by a local agency.

There were instances in which it was difficult to classify a resource within a broad typology or rationalize how its inclusion could be equitably justified among the 10-county region. Without diminishing their local significance, ARC determined that rather than designate them as a Regionally Important Resources at this time, they could be included in the regional Greenspace Inventory. Since 2005, ARC has documented publicly accessible greenspace as a part of their overall regional planning efforts. This inventory includes many of the local sites, such as parks and historic features, nominated by local governments through this process. Individually, these

resources may not rise to the level of classifying them as regionally important, however collectively, they may play a role in connecting the larger green infrastructure network throughout the region and state.

This section also includes a complete listing of all resources nominated through this process. An explanation clarifies whether the resource was included in the Plan as a Regionally Important Resource; included within the boundaries of a Regionally Important Resource; or not included as a Regionally Important Resource.

The Regional Resource Plan was adopted by the ARC Board in October 2010 as part of ARC’s Regional Agenda, PLAN 2040. The Resolution to adopt the plan requires that, “...the Atlanta Regional Commission will use the PLAN 2040 Regional Resource Plan as the basic planning assumptions for these areas and review them annually to make changes to the documents to reflect current planning assumptions.” During 2011, ARC continued to work with its internal committees and regional stakeholders to revise categories of RIRs to ensure consistency with current planning assumptions. A second call for nominations was distributed in August 2011 and responses informed the inclusion of several new categories of RIRs consistent with criteria set forth by both DCA and the ARC Board. The Resource Plan was re-adopted in 2014 as a part of The Atlanta Region’s Plan regular update. Changes were minimal at this time.

STAKEHOLDER REVIEW: Subsequent to determining the final draft plan of Regionally Important Resources in 2010, ARC convened five meetings across the region to discuss nominated resources and to gather additional input as to how resources should be evaluated. All parties that nominated resources were invited to attend the consultation meetings, as well as any local government that was impacted by a nomination.

The Regional Resource Plan was reviewed and approved internally by ARC’s Land Use Coordinating Committee and Environment and Land Use Committee (currently Community Resource Committee) prior to being approved by the ARC Board with a Resolution to transmit the Plan to DCA for review.

Upon adoption ARC has implemented the promulgation of the Regional Resource Plan through various activities, including

- Informational meetings with regional stakeholders and interested parties
- Presentations to educational groups and other interested parties
- Ongoing data collection and documentation
- Review and comment for plans and projects that may impact RIRs

ARC’s PLAN 2040 Implementation Program (now The Atlanta Region’s Plan Implementation Program) includes the agency’s Short Term Work Program which identifies further activities to promulgate the Regional Resource Plan.

RESOURCES NOMINATED IN 2009

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
AREAS OF CONSERVATION OR RECREATION VALUE					
Alcovy River (Gwinnett to Jackson Lake)	Newton County			X	Majority of resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Alcovy River Greenway (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Majority of resource located outside of 10-county ARC region

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (DeKalb, Rockdale and Henry Counties)	Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance and DeKalb County	X			
Atlanta Beltline (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta, Park Pride, and Alida C. Silverman	X			Included for its trail and greenspace concept
Atlanta Parks System (Fulton County)	Park Pride		X		Many are included within boundaries of RIRs, such as National Register Districts; others are reflected on the Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix, but not specifically identified as RIRs
Barrett Park (Fulton County)	City of College Park		X		Captured within the College Park Historic District National Register Boundary; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Bear Creek Reservoir (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Majority of resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Big Creek Watershed (Forsyth County)	Smart Growth Newton County			X	Majority of resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Big Haynes/ Little Haynes Creeks (Gwinnett, Walton, Newton and Rockdale Counties)	Newton County			X	Significant watersheds were identified within the 10-county ARC region; much of this resource is located outside of the 10-county ARC region
Bullard-Stockton Property (Cobb County)	Cobb County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; will be reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory once it is improved for public access
Burge Plantation (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Cedar Rock (Fulton County)	Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association		X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
Centennial Olympic Park (Fulton County)	Park Pride			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Centerville Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; will be reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory once it is improved for public access

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Charles E. Phillips Sr. Esquire Park (Fulton County)	City of College Park			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory (as Jamestown Park) included within the Appendix
Chastain Memorial Park (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Chattahoochee Hill Country Forests, Watersheds and Wildlife			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton and Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Chattahoochee River (Cobb, Douglas, Fulton and Gwinnett Counties)	Trust for Public Land , Cobb County and Joni House	X			
Chattahoochee River and River Corridor Parks and Greenspace (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County	X			
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (Cobb County)	Cobb County	X			
Chattahoochee River Park (Fulton County)				X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; will be reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory once it is improved for public access
City of Atlanta Greenway Corridors (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta		X		These areas are generally captured within wetlands, water supply watershed areas, and river basins but only river greenways with public access improvements were individually identified
City Pond (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Cochran Mill Park (Fulton County)			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
College Park Golf Course (Fulton County)	City of College Park			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
DeShong Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Etowah River Corridor (Cherokee, Dawson and Forsyth County)	Cherokee County		X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – North Cherokee Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Factory Shoals Park (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Flat Creek Nature Area	City of Peachtree City			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Flint River	Fayette County		X		Resource captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreation Value – Regional River Basins and Water Supply Watersheds
Freeman’s Mill Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Georgia Wildlife Federation Headquarters – Alcovy Conservation Center (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
George Pierce Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreation Value – Regional River Greenways; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Grant Park (Fulton County)	Park Pride		X		Captured within the Grant Park National Historic Register District Boundary
Graves Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County				Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Gwinnett Rivers and Protected Watersheds	Gwinnett County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreation Value – Water Supply Watersheds and Protected River Corridors
Gwinnett County Major Lakes	Gwinnett County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreation Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Gwinnett Greenway System	Gwinnett County	X			Constructed portions identified under Regional River Greenways
Gwinnett Parks System	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Harbins Alcovy Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County		X		Captured in areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Hightower Trail (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Hutcheson Ferry Park			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
Hutcheson Rock Outcrop			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
Indian Mill				X	Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
Lake Allatoona (Bartow, Cherokee and Cobb Counties)	Cobb County	X			
Lake Allatoona – Corps Property (Bartow, Cherokee and Cobb Counties)	Cherokee County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds and Regional Reservoirs
Lake Horton, including Woolsey Creek, Antioch Creek and Horton Creek (Fayette County)	Fayette County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Lake Kedron, including Lake Peachtree and Flat Creek (Fayette County)	Fayette County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Lake Lanier/ Buford Dam (Forsyth and Hall Counties)	Gwinnett County	X			

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Lake McIntosh, including Line Creek and Shoal Creek (Fayette County)	Fayette County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Lake Roy Varner (Newton and Walton Counties)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Line Creek Nature Area (Fayette County)	City of Peachtree City			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Little Mulberry Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Little River Corridor (Cherokee County)	Cherokee County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
McDaniel Farm Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Middle Chattahoochee River (Fulton, Douglas, Coweta and Carroll Counties)	Georgia Land Conservation Program		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Regional River Basins and Water Supply Watersheds
Mill Creek Nature Center and Preserve (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Noonday Creek – Chastain Meadows (Cobb County)	Cobb County Water System		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Noonday Creek – Mark Avenue (Cobb County)	Cobb County Water System		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Olmstead Linear Parks (DeKalb County)	Park Pride		X		Captured in the Druid Hills National Historic Register District
Panola Mountain State Park (Rockdale County)	Rockdale County	X			

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Peachtree Creek Watershed (Fulton and DeKalb Counties)	DeKalb County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds
Pine Log Mountain (Cherokee County)	Cherokee County	X			
Richard D. Zupp Jr. Park (Fulton County)	City of College Park				Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Shoupade Park (Cobb County)	Cobb County		X		Captured under Historic and Cultural Resources – Civil War Battlefields and Sites
Silver Comet Trail – Cobb County extent	Cobb County	X			
South River to Lake Jackson (DeKalb, Rockdale, Newton Counties)	Newton County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Regional River Basins
Starr’s Mill (Fayette County)	Fayette County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Suwanee Creek Park and Greenway (Gwinnett County)	City of Suwanee		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreation Value – Regional River Greenways
Three Mountains Natural Heritage Area (DeKalb and Rockdale Counties)	Georgia Land Conservation Program		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area and Panola Mountain State Park
Suwanee Town Center Park (Gwinnett County)	City of Suwanee			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
Tribble Mill Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County		X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – Gwinnett County
Watershed Protection District for Rockdale County	Rockdale County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Water Supply Watersheds

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Whitewater Creek (Fayette County)	Fayette County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Regional River Basins and Water Supply Watersheds
Yellow River to Lake Jackson (Gwinnett, DeKalb, Rockdale and Newton Counties)	Newton County		X		Captured in Areas of Conservation and Recreational Value – Regional River Basins and Water Supply Watersheds
Yellow River Park (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; reflected in the ARC Greenspace Inventory included within the Appendix
HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES					
Abercrombie-Jarrard Farm (Fulton County)			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
Ball Ground Historic District (Cherokee County)	Cherokee County	X			
Bert Adams Boy Scout Camp (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Majority of resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Brick Store (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Camp McDonald Park	Friends of Camp McDonald Park	X			
Canton Historic District (Cherokee County)	Cherokee County	X			
Cemeteries of Chattahoochee Hills (Fulton County)			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
City Hall/ Rico Elementary School (Fulton County)				X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Civil War Sites	Georgia Battlefield Association	X			
Clarkdale Historic District (Cobb County)	Cobb County	X			

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
College Park Auditorium (Fulton County)	City of College Park		X		Captured within the College Park Historic District National Register Boundary
College Park Cemetery (Fulton County)	City of College Park		X		Captured within the College Park Historic District National Register Boundary
College Park Historic District (Fulton County)	City of College Park	X			
Concord Road and Covered Bridge Road Local Historic District (Cobb County)	Cobb County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR; if designation as a National Historic District is pursued, inclusion as a RIR is possible
Covington Historic District (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Dixie Coca-Cola Bottling Company (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta	X			
Druid Hills Historic District (DeKalb County)	DeKalb County	X			
Fayette County Courthouse (Fayette County)	Fayette County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Fort Daniel Archaeological Project (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County	X			
Fox Theatre (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta	X			
Gaither Plantation (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Georgia Gwinnett College (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Garland Mountain (Cherokee County)	Cherokee County	X			
Georgia International Convention Center (Fulton County)	City of College Park			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Georgia State Capitol (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Gwinnett National Register Sites	Gwinnett County		X		National Historic Register Districts were included as RIRs; individual historic sites may provide connectivity, but not included as RIRs
Gwinnett Braves Stadium	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Gwinnett Civic and Cultural Center/ Gwinnett Arena	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Gwinnett Public Library System	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Gwinnett Water Towers	Brian French			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Herndon Mansion (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta	X			
Hyde Farm (Cobb County)	Cobb County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Judge William Wilson House (Fulton County)	Vernelle Cowan			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Mansfield Historic District (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Midtown Arts District	Midtown Alliance			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Martin Luther King Jr. Historic Site and District (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta	X			
Monastery of the Holy Spirit (Rockdale County)	Rockdale County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Nash Farm Battlefield Park (Henry County)	Henry County		X		Captured under Historic and Cultural Resources – Civil War Battlefields and Sites
National Register Archaeological Sites	Society for Georgia Archaeology			X	Nominating party requested that sites not be mapped to protect the security of resources
Newborn Historic District (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
Oxford College (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Oxford Historic District (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Piedmont Park (Fulton County)	Park Pride and City of Atlanta		X		Captured in the Piedmont Park National Register Historic District
Porterdale Historic District (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Redwine Plantation (Fulton County)			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
River Line Historic Area (Cobb County)	River Line Historic Area		X		A portion of the earthworks are included within 100 acres owned by Cobb County
S.D. Truitt 4-H Camp (Fulton County)	City of College Park			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Salem United Methodist Church and Campground (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Simpsonwood United Methodist Conference Center (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Sixes Mill (Cherokee County)	Dave Henson			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Smith-Gilbert Gardens (Cobb County)	City of Kennesaw			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
Soapstone Ridge National Historic District (DeKalb County)	DeKalb County	X			
Starrsville Historic District (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Stone Mountain Stadium (DeKalb County)	Gwinnett Sports Council			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC

RESOURCE AND LOCATION	NOMINATING PARTY	INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	INCLUDED WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	NOT INCLUDED AS A REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCE	EXPLANATION
The Varsity (Fulton County)	Midtown Alliance			X	Determined to be outside of the criteria for RIRs as set for by the Department of Community Affairs and ARC
Weaver-Hearn House and Farm (Fulton County)			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
Woodward Academy (Fulton County)	City of College Park		X		Captured within the College Park Historic District National Register Boundary
Wren’s Nest – the Joel Chandler Harris House (Fulton County)	City of Atlanta	X			
AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL AND SCENIC VALUE					
Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport Floral Clock	City of Atlanta Department of Aviation	X			
Five Forks – Trickum Corridor (Gwinnett County)	Gwinnett County			X	Determined to be locally significant and not an RIR
McGuirts Bridge Road (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
Old Social Circle Road (Newton County)	Newton County			X	Resource located outside of 10-county ARC region
South Fulton Scenic Byway (Fulton County)			X		Captured in Areas of Scenic and Agricultural Value – South Fulton
Tapestry WIC Garden	Tapestry WIC Garden	X			
Truly Living Well Gardens	Truly Living Well	X			
Wesley Way Community Garden	Wesley Way Community Garden	X			

APPENDIX B

As part of The Atlanta Region’s Plan, the Regional Resource Plan addresses The Policy Framework, adopted by the ARC Board in 2014. The policies listed below focus on a threefold vision of providing world-class infrastructure, building a competitive economy, and ensuring the region is comprised of healthy and livable communities. This matrix highlights which policies are furthered by the protection of or work with the resource categories in the Regional Resource Plan.

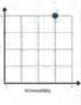
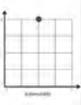
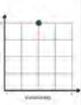
-  Resources minimally further the policy
-  Resources somewhat further the policy
-  Resources strongly further the policy

Policies		Areas of Conservation and/or Recreational Value	Historic and Cultural Resources	Areas of Scenic and/or Agricultural Value
Fully leverage economic generators through planning, partnerships and investments				
Support communities to achieve higher levels of investment and development in line with their local vision				
Promote transit and active transportation modes to improve access				
Promote equity of access to digital infrastructure like high speed internet				
Support diverse housing options				
Support engagement of a rapidly growing older workforce				
Maintain and improve the economic viability and accessibility of key intermodal freight facilities				
Competitive Economy Continue to grow the region as a top market for academic research, innovation, and commercialization				
Encourage start-up opportunities, local business development and expansion by improving access to capital and incentives				
Coordinate efforts to promote Metro Atlanta as a place to live, work, visit and do business				
Advance public policies that make the entire region more attractive and competitive for business				
Elevate public education to the top of local, regional and state policy and public awareness				
Support education leaders to integrate best practices, processes, innovative programs to positively impact PreK-12 classrooms				
Support the creation of, and maturing of, a regional workforce development system				
Promote the development of skills and education needed for key jobs within the region				
Improve coordination between education, workforce organizations, employers and government				
Develop and support comprehensive youth workforce development programs				
Ensure equitable access for people of all ages, abilities and income levels to educational opportunities, career training, and skills development to match employer demands				

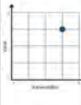
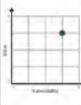
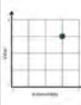
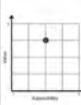
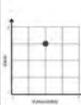
Policies		Areas of Conservation and/ or Recreational Value	Historic and Cultural Resources	Areas of Scenic and/or Agricultural Value
World Class Infrastructure	Prioritize data-supported maintenance projects over expansion projects			
	Promote system reliability and resiliency			
	Promote transit and active transportation modes to improve access			
	Establish effective transit services that provide regional accessibility			
	Prioritize transit projects in areas with transit-supportive land use, plans and regulations			
	Promote bicycle transportation by developing safe and connected route options and facilities			
	Promote pedestrian-friendly policies and design			
	Enhance and expand Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs			
	Prioritize solutions that improve multimodal connectivity			
	Direct federal funding for road capacity expansion to the regional strategic transportation system, including the managed lanes system			
	Road expansion projects in rural areas should support economic competitiveness by improving multi-modal connectivity between centers			
	Implement a complete streets approach on roadway projects that is sensitive to the existing community			
	Promote and enhance safety across all planning and implementation efforts; including support for the state strategic highway safety plan			
	Coordinate security and emergency preparedness programs across transportation modes and jurisdictions			
	Maintain and expand transportation options that serve the region's most vulnerable populations			
	Improve connectivity around transit stations and bus stops for all users			
	Increase funding for HST and Medicaid Transportation services			
	Increase access to areas with essential services, including healthcare, education, recreation, entertainment and commercial retail			
	Provide safe and reliable access to freight land uses and major intermodal freight facilities			
	Promote the use of information technologies to foster the most efficient movement of freight			
	Preserve industrial land uses in proximity to existing freight corridors			
	Pursue the application and use of advanced technologies			
	Encourage the application of passenger information technologies			
	Encourage innovative approaches and leverage resources to secure, conserve and develop the region's water supplies			
	Encourage and support innovative approaches to improving water quality			
	Work with local jurisdictions to promote growth in a way that protects natural resources			
	Include system resiliency in water and other planning efforts			
	Plan for and support the implementation of regional green infrastructure			
Encourage communication within and amongst governmental bodies				

Policies		Areas of Conservation and/or Recreational Value	Historic and Cultural Resources	Areas of Scenic and/or Agricultural Value
Healthy Livable Communities	Encourage development, redevelopment, and transportation improvements to consider impacts on neighborhoods and communities			
	Foster inclusive communities integrating residents of all ages, cultures and incomes			
	Promote and support urban design standards that enhance elements of accessibility and livability			
	Encourage increased housing, services and equal employment opportunities for residents around transit stations			
	Focus investments in redevelopment opportunities of a regional scale			
	Implement targeted planning efforts for areas with infrastructure of strategic regional importance			
	Encourage equitable access to opportunities and resources for the region's disadvantages and vulnerable populations			
	Support local jurisdictions through resources and technical assistance			
	Encourage local communities to increase housing options near large employment centers			
	Support the preservation of existing, and the construction of new, mixed-income housing near transit and employment centers			
	Encourage local communities to diversify housing options within existing neighborhoods, including equal access to housing options			
	Encourage appropriate redevelopment of the built environment in the region's developed areas			
	Balance investment to promote equitable growth in the region's unique communities as identified in regional and community plans			
	Integrate public health into initiatives, programs and investment priorities			
	Identify opportunities for local food production, access to healthy food options and nutrition education			
	Support regional greenspace networks, which may include green infrastructure, to foster improved conservation and recreation spaces			
	Promote public safety efforts to create vibrant 24-hour communities			
	Mitigate the impacts of impaired air quality			
	Advance technologies and strategies that improve energy efficiency and use renewable sources			
	Plan for the impacts of extreme weather events on community services and infrastructure, including system resiliency			
	Protect natural resources to attract and retain people and businesses			
	Identify cultural resources and promote the development of cultural amenities			
	Encourage opportunities for integration of public art into planning for infrastructure and public spaces			
	Foster improved access to cultural assets			
	Connect existing cultural partners with new audiences			
	Seek ways to activate underutilized spaces and transform them into community assets			
	Encourage communities to improve resident participation in the planning process			
	Support regional policy through data and research			
	Foster improved coordination for federal, state and local programs			
	Serve as a convener on topics of importance to the quality of life of the region			

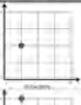
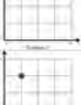
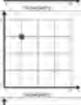
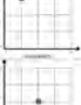
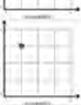
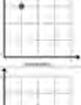
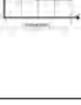
APPENDIX C

PRIORITY REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES VALUE & VULNERABILITY CONSIDERATIONS				
Resource	Explanation	Score	Agree	Disagree
 <p>Water Supply Watersheds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Wildlife habitat + Preservation of water quality and quantity + Educational/recreational amenity - Limited protection by state or federal agencies - Development pressure - Recreational overuse - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			
 <p>Wetlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Wildlife habitat + Preservation of water quality and quantity + Educational/recreational amenity - Limited protection by state or federal agencies - Development pressure - Recreational overuse - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			
 <p>Protected River Corridors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Wildlife habitat + Educational/recreational amenity - Limited protection by state or federal agencies - Development pressure - Recreational overuse - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			
 <p>Chattahoochee River Corridor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Wildlife habitat + Educational/recreational amenity - Limited protection by state or federal agencies - Development pressure - Recreational overuse - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			

These are resources that have been classified as PRIORITY Regionally Important Resources per the DCA rules.

PRIORITY REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES VALUE & VULNERABILITY CONSIDERATIONS				
Resource	Explanation	Score	Agree	Disagree
 <p>National Historic Landmarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Historic and cultural value + Educational amenity - Limited protection by state or federal agencies - Ownership of site - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			
 <p>National Historic Districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Historic and cultural value + Educational amenity + Limited protection by state or federal agencies - Ownership of site - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			
 <p>National Historic Sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Historic and cultural value + Educational amenity - Limited protection by state or federal agencies - Ownership of site - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			
 <p>Georgia Centennial Farms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Historic and cultural value + Greenspace + Food production + Educational amenity - Lack of protection by state or federal agencies - Ownership of site - Development pressures - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			
 <p>Georgia Agritourism Sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Cultural value + Greenspace + Food production + Educational amenity - Lack of protection by state or federal agencies - Ownership of site - Development pressures - Lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement 			

These are resources that have been classified as PRIORITY Regionally Important Resources per the DCA rules.

REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES VALUE & VULNERABILITY CONSIDERATIONS			
Resource	Score	Agree	Disagree
Mountain Protection			
Regional Reservoirs			
National Park Service Sites			
State Parks and Other Recreation Areas			
Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails			
Olympic Legacy/ Centennial Olympic Park			
Civil War Battlefields and Sites			
Civil Rights Sites			
Designed Landscapes			

These are still considered Regionally Important Resources, but have not been classified as PRIORITY resources per the DCA rules.

In this update of the Regional Resource Plan, a working group comprised of staff subject matter experts was convened to discuss the existing list of resources, while also considering how to approach the newly added category of Threatened RIRs (in this plan referred to as Priority RIRs). In the first meeting, staff were given an overview of the previous list of resources and asked to identify anything that was missing or should be changed given priorities for the region. In order to classify the Priority RIRs, matrices based on the value and vulnerability of each resource were created. The working group gave input on this approach in the second meeting, helping to define the terms 'value' and 'vulnerability' more clearly and offering thoughts the matrices themselves. These matrices were shown to the Land Use Coordinating Committee (LUCC) for an interactive exercise to gain their feedback as well. Responses from the working group and LUCC were incorporated into the matrices seen in this plan.

APPENDIX D

Protection Resources Listing and Other Resources Consulted:

- Georgia Land Conservation Program
- The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan
- Georgia State Parks locator
- National Park Service locator
- National Register of Historic Places
- Farmland protection through the Centennial Farm Program
- Community Comprehensive Plans for Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale Counties; City of Atlanta, City of Milton, City of Johns Creek
- Green Infrastructure Toolkit developed by the ARC, the Georgia Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land
- Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Resource Management Plan
- Georgia Trails
- Georgia Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS
- National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program
- Georgia Battlefields Association
- Centennial Olympic Park
- PATH Foundation
- The Fort Daniel Foundation
- Hidden Reservoir: Why Water Efficiency is the Best Solution for the Southeast published by America Rivers
- Georgia's Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP) published by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- DRI Rules
- MRPA Rules
- The Wren's Nest, Home of Joel Chandler Harris
- The Fox Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia
- Georgia Agritourism Sites
- Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative records available at the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center

THE ATLANTA REGION'S PLAN

DCA SUPPLEMENT

Draft February 2021



Atlanta Regional Commission

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DCA DATA SUPPLEMENT

The following pages contain additional elements and maps that are required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

BROADBAND

The Atlanta region is fortunate to be well served by Broadband (defined as speeds of 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up). There are some areas within South Fulton and other rural areas within the region that do not meet this standard. In addition, recent events, including the COVID-19 pandemic have stressed the importance of having reliable broadband service for all residents and businesses. Ensuring that reliable and affordable broadband is available to every resident will be examined with communities during their comprehensive plan process.

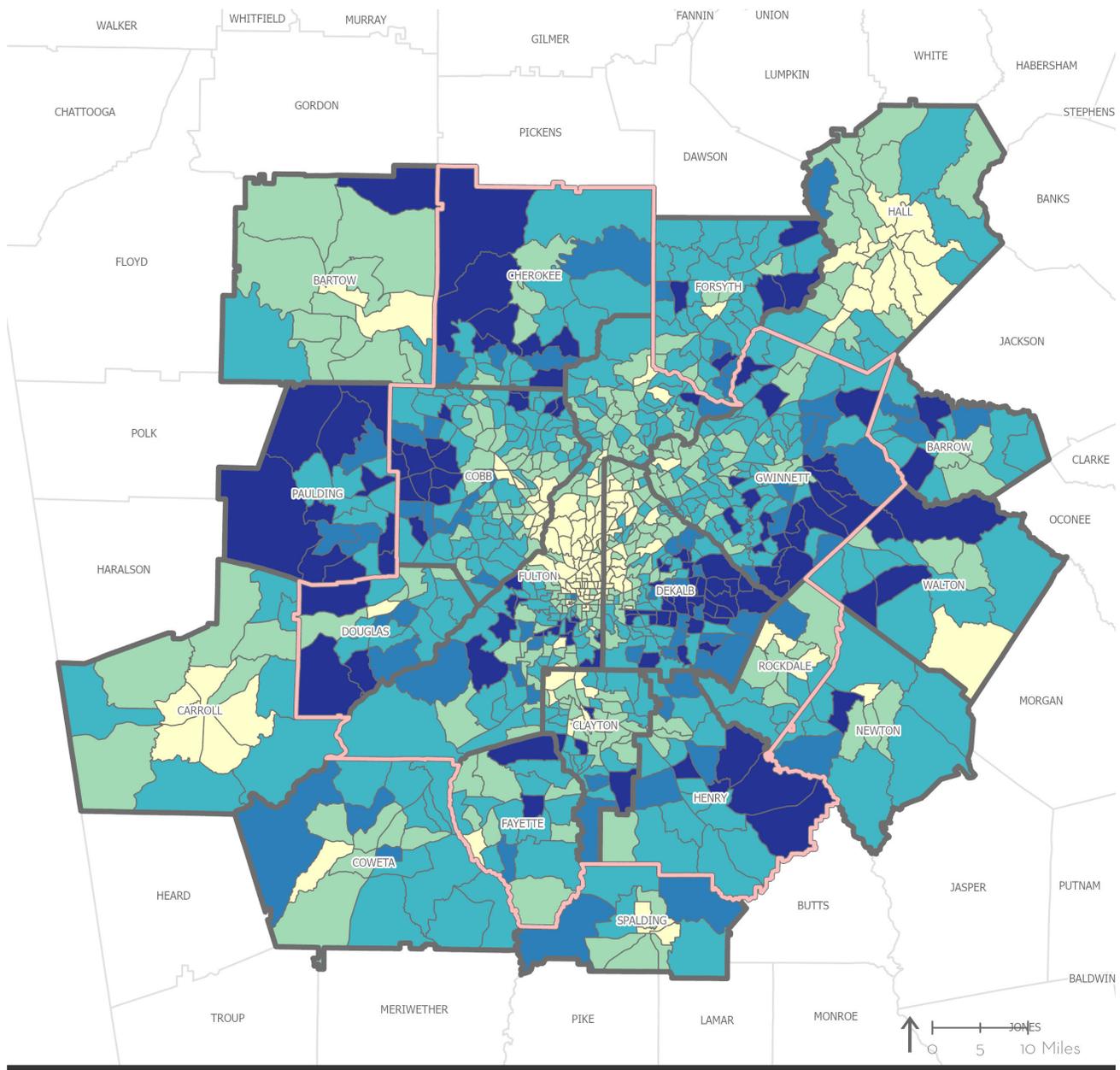
APPROPRIATE LAND USES

Each Big Idea Policy Area is required to have recommendations for appropriate land uses. Table A-1 illustrates the recommended land uses. While each area has appropriate land use, it is recommended that each plan is also examined for appropriate design and density recommendations for individual projects. Map A-6 illustrates the required components of the Areas Requiring Special Attention Map. The implementation strategies are documented within the Big Idea section within the Regional Development Plan.

TABLE A-1 BIG IDEAS APPROPRIATE LAND USES

Big Idea Area	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Office	Mixed-Use
Regional Trails	✓	✓		✓	✓
Regional Transit	✓	✓		✓	✓
Regional Centers (Redevelopment Areas)	✓	✓		✓	✓
Regional Rivers					
Priority RIR Areas (Threatened Regionally Important Resources Areas)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Housing Areas Sub-Markets 3 and 4 (Redevelopment Areas)	✓	✓			✓
Freight Areas and Atlanta Aerotropolis (Rapid Development Areas)			✓		

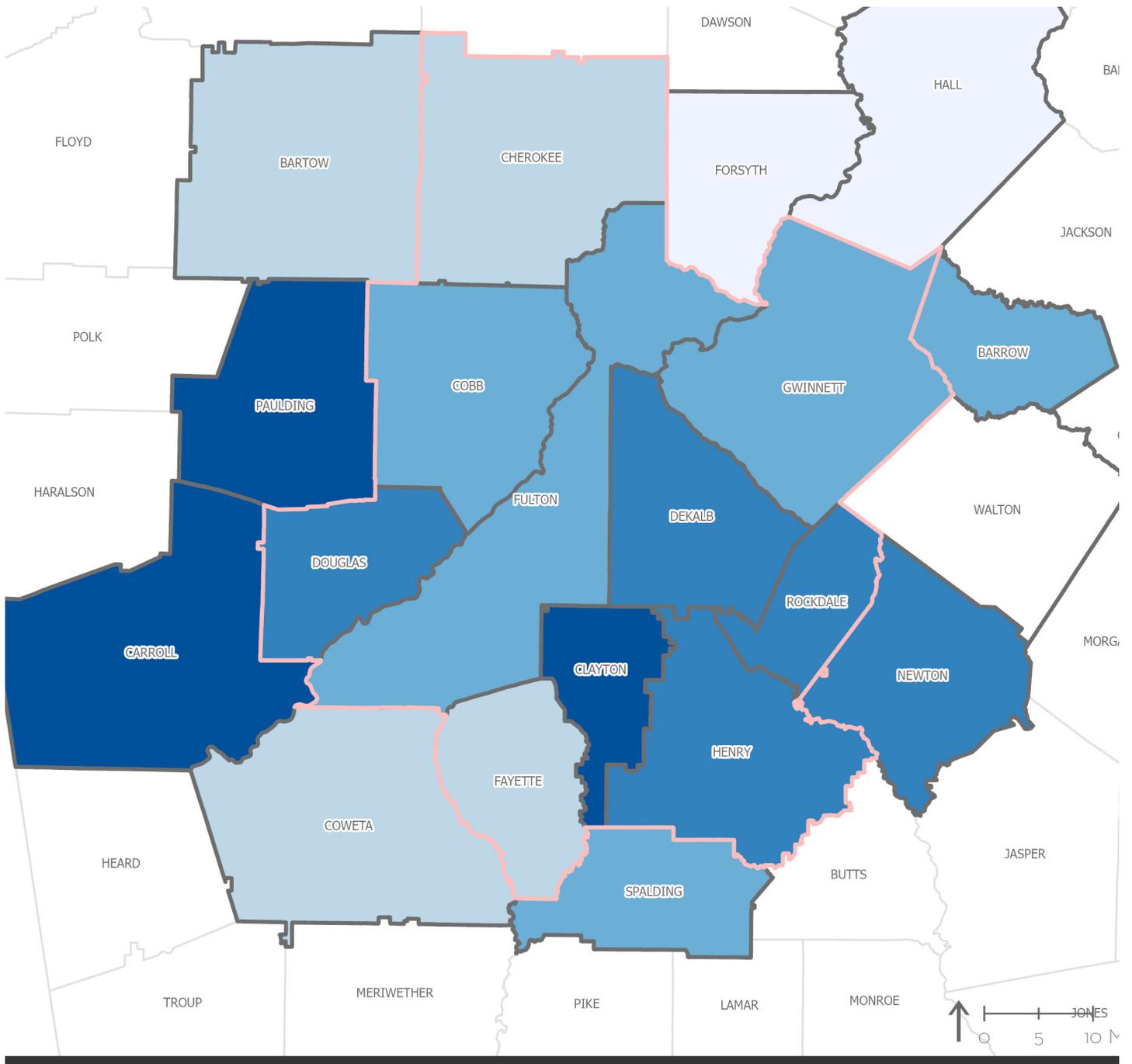
MAP A-1 REGIONAL TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



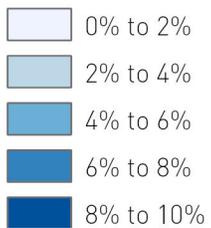
Travel Time to Work

- Less than 25 Minutes
- 25 - 30 minutes
- 30 - 35 minutes
- 35 - 40 minutes
- More than 40 minutes
- ARC 20 County
- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- Counties

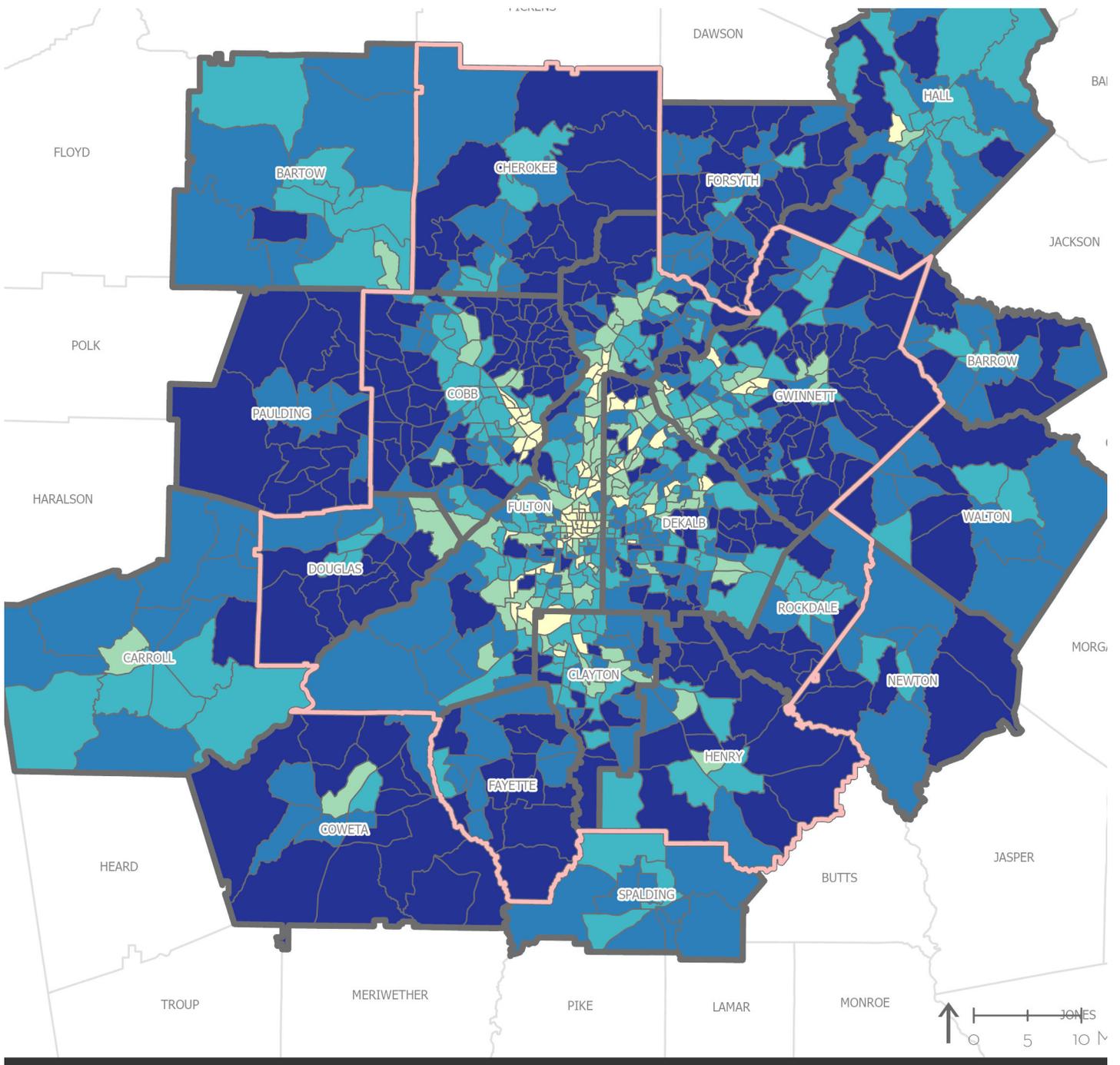
MAP A-2 2017 EVICTION RATES BY COUNTY



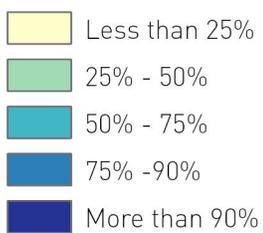
Eviction Rate



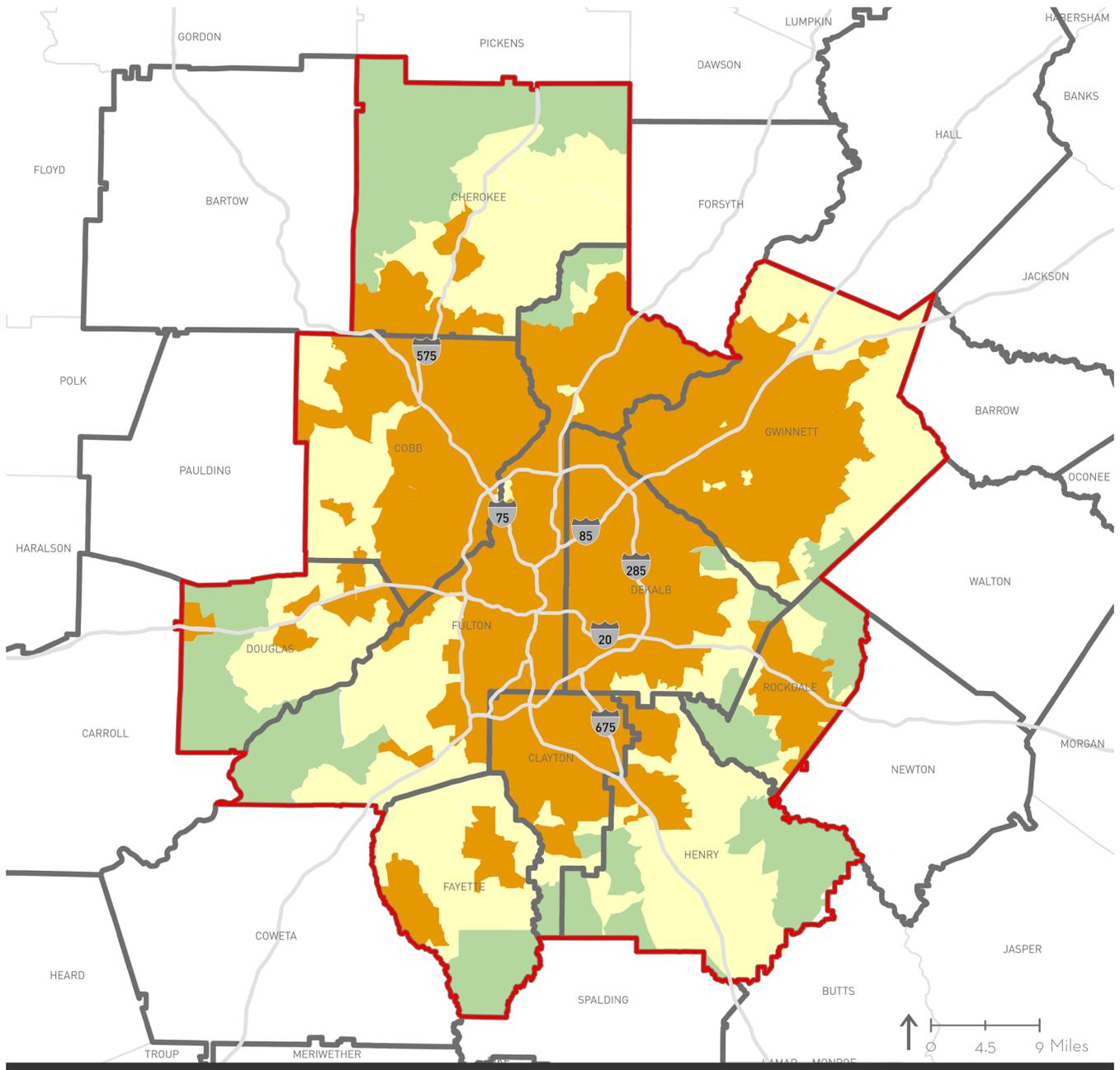
MAP A-3 SHARE OF SINGLE FAMILY HOMES



Percent Single Family

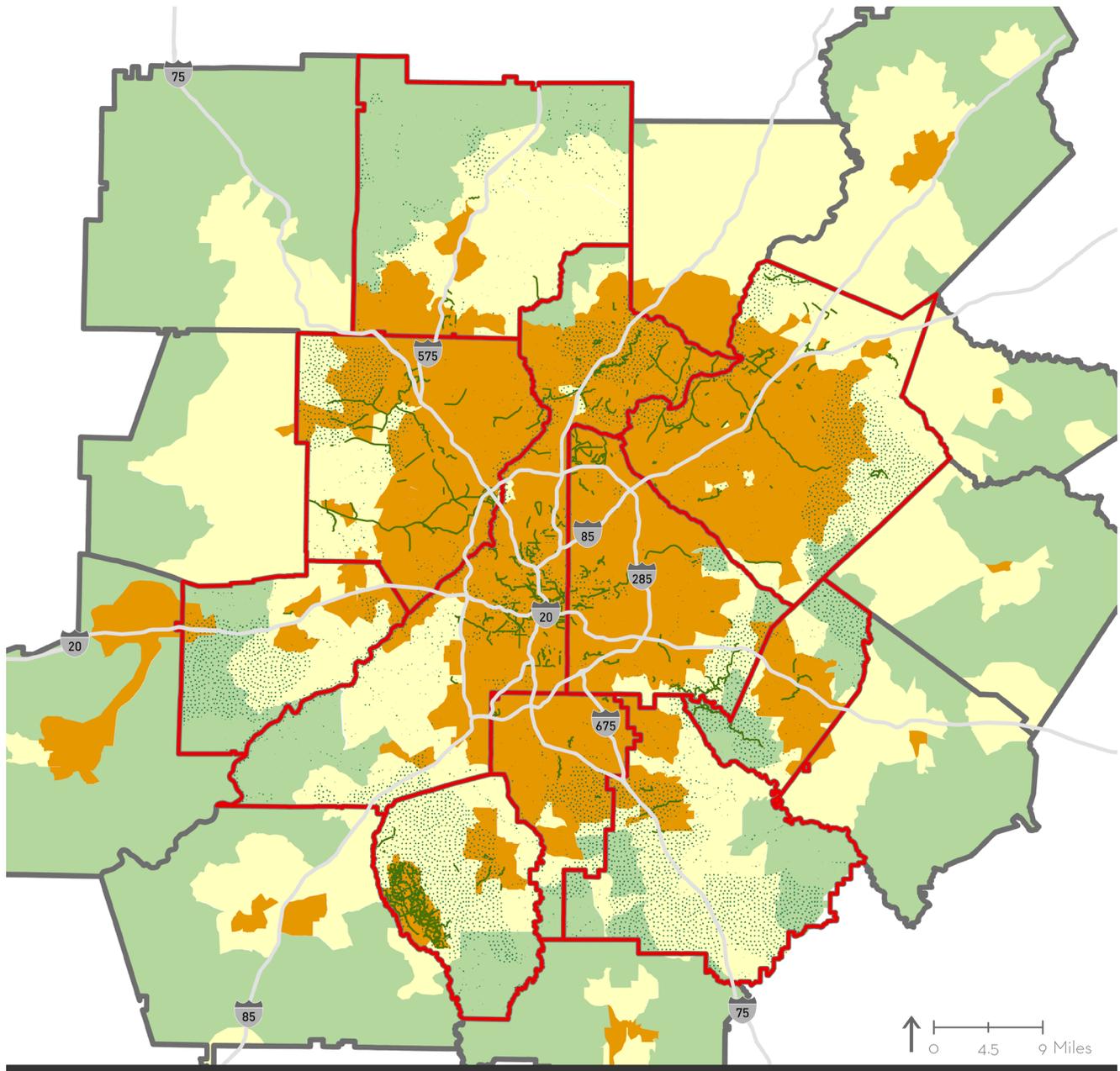


MAP A-4 DCA FUTURE LAND USE



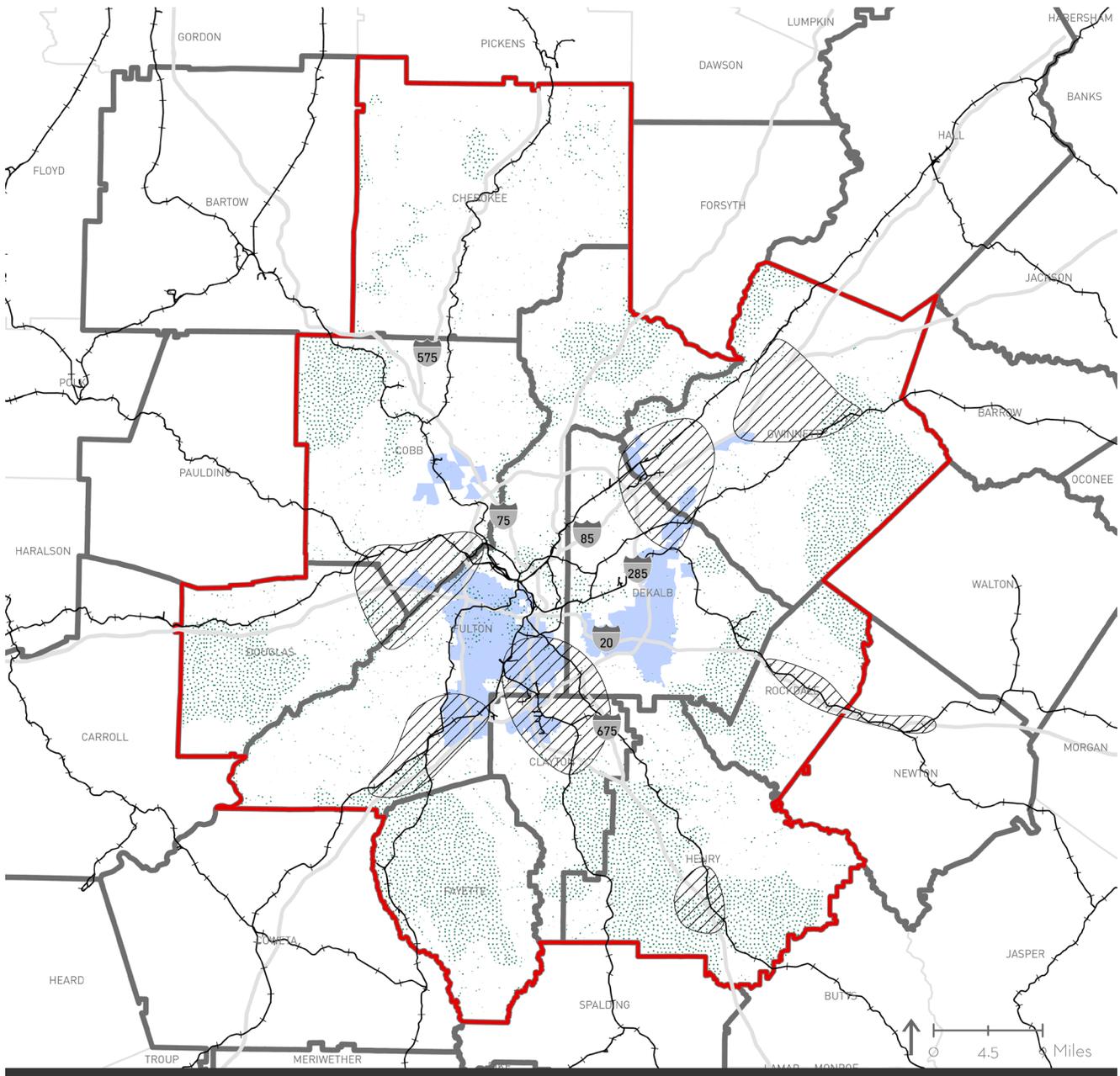
-  ARC 20 County
-  ARC Regional Commission Boundary
-  Counties
-  Expressways
-  Developing
-  Developed
-  Rural

MAP A-5 CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT MAP



- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| — Expressways | ■ Developed |
| ▭ ARC Regional Commission Boundary | ■ Rural |
| ▭ ARC 20 County | ▫ Conservation and Green Infrastructure Layer |
| ▭ Counties | — Linear Green Infrastructure Network |
| ■ Developing | |

MAP A-4 AREAS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION



- Expressways
- ARC Regional Commission Boundary
- ARC 20 County
- Counties
- Priority Regional Important Resources
- Areas facing Redevelopment Pressures (Housing Submarkets 3 & 4)
- Rapid Development Areas (Freight Cluster)
- USA Railroads



QUALITY COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

The 10 objectives outlined below are adapted from generally accepted community development principles to fit the unique qualities of Georgia's communities. These objectives are intentionally crafted with significant areas of overlap, such that, by addressing one or more of the objectives, a community will also end up addressing aspects of others.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Encourage development or expansion of businesses and industries that are suitable for the community.

The Great Recession challenged the Atlanta region on many levels. As the region emerged from the recession, the key for continued success and economic growth was collaboration – among partners including local governments, businesses, economic development professionals, school systems and non-profits. Innovation within our leading industries will attract new investments and support growth in new technologies, business processes and emerging sectors.

Long known as a center for commercial air travel, the region is increasingly a hub for freight movement and logistics as well. Manufacturing has increased as companies look for ways to maximize their supply chains. Institutions of higher learning, Fortune 500 headquarters and a highly educated workforce have led the region's emergence as a knowledge hub. TV and film production industry, an established music industry, and emerging digital animation and gaming sector offer robust entertainment exports.

Metro Atlanta has long been considered an attractive place to do business due to low corporate income taxes, strong infrastructure, right-to-work status, the HOPE scholarship, Quick Start and other talent development incentives and a diverse labor pool for a wide array of job types. The drive of the post-recession economy is the intersection of the region's knowledge, production, logistics, and entertainment hubs.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Make educational and training opportunities readily available to enable all community residents to improve their job skills, adapt to technological advances, manage their finances, or pursue life ambitions.

ARC has undertaken the challenge of understanding the “cradle-to-career” pipeline as a part of the CATLYST and support Learn4Life. This includes the full range of forces that allows a young person to succeed in school, enter a career and achieve financial independence. Implicit in this pipeline is also consideration of post-secondary education, as an estimated 60% of jobs in Georgia will require a post-secondary degree (whether a certificate, two-year, or four-year degree) by 2020.

Early success in the cradle-to-career pipeline will give consideration to elements as varied as stable childcare networks for families and opportunities for academic enrichments. As individuals advance along the pipeline, on-going training, and in some circumstances, re-tooling and re-training will be needed to keep job skills current in the changing landscape of the Georgia workforce. Technology and data play a role in education and workforce like never before.

ARC serves at the Atlanta Regional Workforce Board for seven counties in the metro area. In this capacity, it provides numerous services including Career Resource Centers, Training, and Technical Assistance.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Ensure that all community residents, regardless of age, ability, or income, have access to critical goods and services, safe and clean neighborhoods, and good work opportunities.

Metro Atlanta is changing. 25% of the region is faced with the challenge of living in areas with high concentrations of poverty. 20% of the region is over age 60. By the year 2040, there will be no racial or ethnic majority.

ARC creates efficiency by combining the resources of multiple State and Federal agencies. ARC serves as the Regional Commission (State), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (Federal), the Area Agency on Aging (Federal), the Atlanta Regional Workforce Board (State) and the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District (State). This comprehensive approach allows for the collaborative planning of multiple facets of community development: transportation, natural resources, housing, economic development, educational resources, employment, aging and health needs, arts, culture and recreation.

Programs at ARC are tailored to be responsive to the changing needs of communities. A broad cross section of examples include:

- **Georgia Commute Options:** A focal point of the Commute Options program that includes Guaranteed Ride Home and SchoolPool incentives, along with technical information .
- **Community Development Assistance Program:** Resources, training, and implementation assistance tailored to the specific requests of local governments and non-profits.
- **Neighborhood Nexus:** A regional information system that provides data, tools and expertise and is publicly available on the internet.
- **Green Communities:** A voluntary certification program for local jurisdictions to encourage sustainable practices throughout the region.
- **Human Services Transportation:** Planning for service options designed to meet the needs of the region's transportation disadvantaged, including older adults, persons with disabilities, and individuals with lower incomes.
- **Livable Centers Initiative:** Planning grants awarded on a competitive basis to local governments and non-profit organizations to prepare plans for the enhancements of existing centers and corridors.
- **LINK:** A leadership program that brings together the region's most influential leaders to learn how metropolitan areas throughout the country are addressing the same issues and challenges faced by the Atlanta region.
- **RLI:** The Regional Leadership Institute is a comprehensive program designed to better prepare a diverse group of community leaders to work collaboratively to address regional issues.
- **Lifelong Communities:** A program designed to promote housing and transportation options, encourage healthy lifestyles, and expand information and access to services, with a focus on the older adult population in the region.

EFFICIENT LAND USE

Maximize the use of existing infrastructure and minimize the costly conversion of undeveloped land at the periphery of the community.

ARC ties its transportation infrastructure investments to the Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) which allows ARC to explicitly tie investments to planned and forecasted land use growth at a regional level. Over half of the UGPM identifies Metro Atlanta in a Rural or Developing Rural classification, which will mitigate the types of infrastructure expansion supported in areas that are not appropriate.

The Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) continues to be a popular program for fostering compact growth around the region's centers, with 111 identified LCI areas to date. Further supporting the increased demand for compact living, a report undertaken by The Center for Real Estate and Urban Analysis at The George Washington University showed that over 50% of development dollars between 2009-2013 went to areas of Metro Atlanta that are classified as "Walkable Urban Places." This is a significant increase from previous real estate cycles analyzed in the report.

One of the region's most tremendous assets in the Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, and ARC has initiated a planning effort to create a Community Improvement District and related improvements. As one of the region's greatest centers, the new facility around the Porsche headquarters has caused many to rethink the potential for development around the airport and its attraction to the global community.

Conservation planning continues to be a popular alternative in communities around Metro Atlanta that desire a different pattern of development from typical patterns of sprawl.

HOUSING OPTIONS

Promote an adequate range of safe, affordable, inclusive, and resource efficient housing in the community.

The Regional Development Guide implements the Unified Growth Policy Map (UGPM) by suggesting appropriate development practices and densities for the metro region. This guide encourages higher density housing in areas of the core while recognizing the importance of preserving the character of traditional neighborhood housing and lower densities in rural areas of the region. Through programs such as the Livable Centers Initiative and Lifelong Communities, we incentive communities to promote a mix of housing options that meet the needs of a variety of residents in places that are appropriate within their community. Through partnerships, such as the TOD Collaborative, we have successfully worked with MARTA to activate underutilized parking lots for the redevelopment of mixed-used housing opportunities.

To further promote the efficient development of new housing, ARC has revisited the thresholds for Developments of Regional Impacts. The system for metro Atlanta is tied to a tiered scale whereby higher intensity uses in areas that can readily accommodate them do not have the same level of review as higher intensity uses in less urban areas.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Cooperate with neighboring jurisdictions to address shared needs.

To build the trust and consensus needed to overcome significant challenges, regular collaboration is needed. ARC is the site of monthly meetings of its governing Board, comprised of elected officials and citizen representatives. ARC also serves as the convener of the Atlanta Regional Workforce Board and the Board of the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District.

The agency work program is informed by several formal subcommittees of the ARC Board. ARC hosted coordinated committees of technical staff for transportation, water, housing, and land use planning, as well as regularly convene the network of professionals that operate Senior Centers and provide other older adult services. Beyond these monthly technical meetings, ARC offers a variety of forums open to our professional colleagues and members of the public around an issue of regional importance.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Promote the efficient use of natural resources and identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas of the community.

WATER

As the administrator of the Metropolitan River Protection Act (Georgia Code 12-5-440 et seq.), ARC ensures compliance with the requirements established within a 2000-foot corridor along both banks of the Chattahoochee River and its impoundments between Buford Dam through Douglas and Fulton Counties. ARC has played a central role in the Tri-State Water Wars, protecting access to Lake Lanier as a drinking water supply for Metro Atlanta, while leading efforts to educate the region on conservation. Metro Atlanta obtains 99 percent of its water supply from surface water sources, such as rivers, lakes and streams, given that ground water sources are restricted due to the nonporous hard bedrock of our area. Per capita water use as decreased 27 percent since 2001, showing that water conservation advocacy by ARC and its partners is making a difference in our region.

ENERGY

Leading by example has been an effective way to make strides in regional energy efficiency. ARC provides ongoing technical assistance to metro governments desiring to incorporate sustainable practices into both operations and community development. Communities learn from one another, but also see the value of sustainable development that are benefiting their peers. Throughout metro Atlanta, local governments have:

- Upgraded traffic signals to LED lamps
- Instituted Green Roof/ Cool Roof construction in Civic Buildings
- Joined partnerships for programs such as Energy Star and EPA Green Power Partner
- Promoted night sky ordinances
- Installed solar panels in civic buildings and radar speed signs
- Initiated methane capture in landfills
- Actively inspect residential and commercial construction for compliance with Georgia Energy Codes
- Undertaking LEED certification for civic buildings and encouraging need construction to utilize LEED, Earthcraft or similar sustainable building methods

GREENSPACE

Metro Atlanta has an amazing range of complex environmental ecosystems – mountains, river greenways, forested areas, and working farmland. And many areas serve a dual purpose of both conservation and recreation, such as our wealth of National and State Parks. Approximately 5% of the land in metro Atlanta is dedicated to some sort of conservation or recreation use through both public and private ownership mechanisms. ARC has been working to develop a vision for a regional multi-use trail network that could eventually connect the Silver Comet Trail to the PATH network through the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area.

ARC Programs that will support the Region's Resource Management:

- Green Communities
- Clean Water Campaign
- My Drop Counts
- Regional Resource Plan

SENSE OF PLACE

Protect and enhance the community's unique qualities.

Metro Atlanta is too often cast as one sprawling geography. Within the core ten counties, there are 70 different municipalities. Looking at the communities within the twenty county UGPM boundary, there are over 100 different municipalities. The advantage of so many different jurisdictions is the diversity of options and opportunities it creates for Metro Atlanta residents.

Twenty-one communities have chosen to foster preservation of the historic fabric through participation in the Certified Local Government Program with the State Historic Preservation Office, and 14 participate in the National Main Street Program. There are almost 150 districts and 400 individual sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Metro Atlanta.

Metro Atlanta is also seeing many of its mid-century suburban neighborhoods become eligible for historic designation, which calls attention to the time period that the region really began to expand. Between 1950 and 2000, the expansion of suburban development created the identity that many associate with the Atlanta region. And these communities provide comfortable, affordable homes with access to good jobs and retail and service establishments. The “suburbs” are the part of the region that the majority of the population continues to call home.

The Livable Centers Initiative supports over 120 areas that foster compact development within dense centers, and the Walk UP Wake Up Call: Atlanta study identified 46 Walkable Urban Places throughout the region. Areas of less density can still benefit from walkability, as is seen by the extraordinary 90+ miles of multi-use paths in Peachtree City, or the network of trail connectivity within the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area.

The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area and its resources found in DeKalb, Rockdale, and Henry County is just one type of unique character protected through partnership with the National Park Service. Metro Atlanta is recognized on the national level with three significant sites: The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. Panola Mountain State Park is also a registered National Natural Landmark. State Parks and community parks protect a network of ecological and cultural resources while providing recreational and educational amenities.

Metro Atlantans can have their choice of living in high, medium or low density communities in urban, suburban, or rural environments all with access to 21 regional employment centers and world class recreational infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Address the transportation needs, challenges and opportunities of all community residents.

ARC has many different initiatives to encourage transportation alternatives. The award winning Livable Centers Initiative (LCI), Regional Vanpools, and Regional Express Bus service have been developed or expanded in the past twenty years.

Although there is some success over the past 20 years, there is still a need for more alternatives throughout the region. The location of low-earning workers and accommodating their needs must be a critical strategy in developing a program of transportation strategies that addresses full spectrum of travel needs in the region. These workers are in most need of alternative transportation strategies.

The largest concentrations of these workers reside inside of I-285 and south of I-20. Additional areas are found in several areas that are not currently served by high capacity transit, including Monroe, Conyers, McDonough, and Marietta. Most of these areas in the core 10-county region are served by local transit systems, with several exceptions in Henry and Rockdale Counties. A foundation of local bus services exists to build on expanded services can meet the needs of the transportation disadvantaged. The region's long-range transit vision, Concept 3, provides an extensive expansion of regional transit services that meets the transit needs of the region and communities around the region.





Atlanta Regional Commission