



THE ATLANTA
REGION'S
PLAN

PRIORITY REGIONAL RESOURCE PLAN ANALYSIS & GUIDANCE

Draft September 2020



Atlanta Regional Commission

CONTENTS

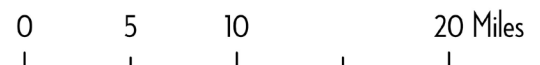
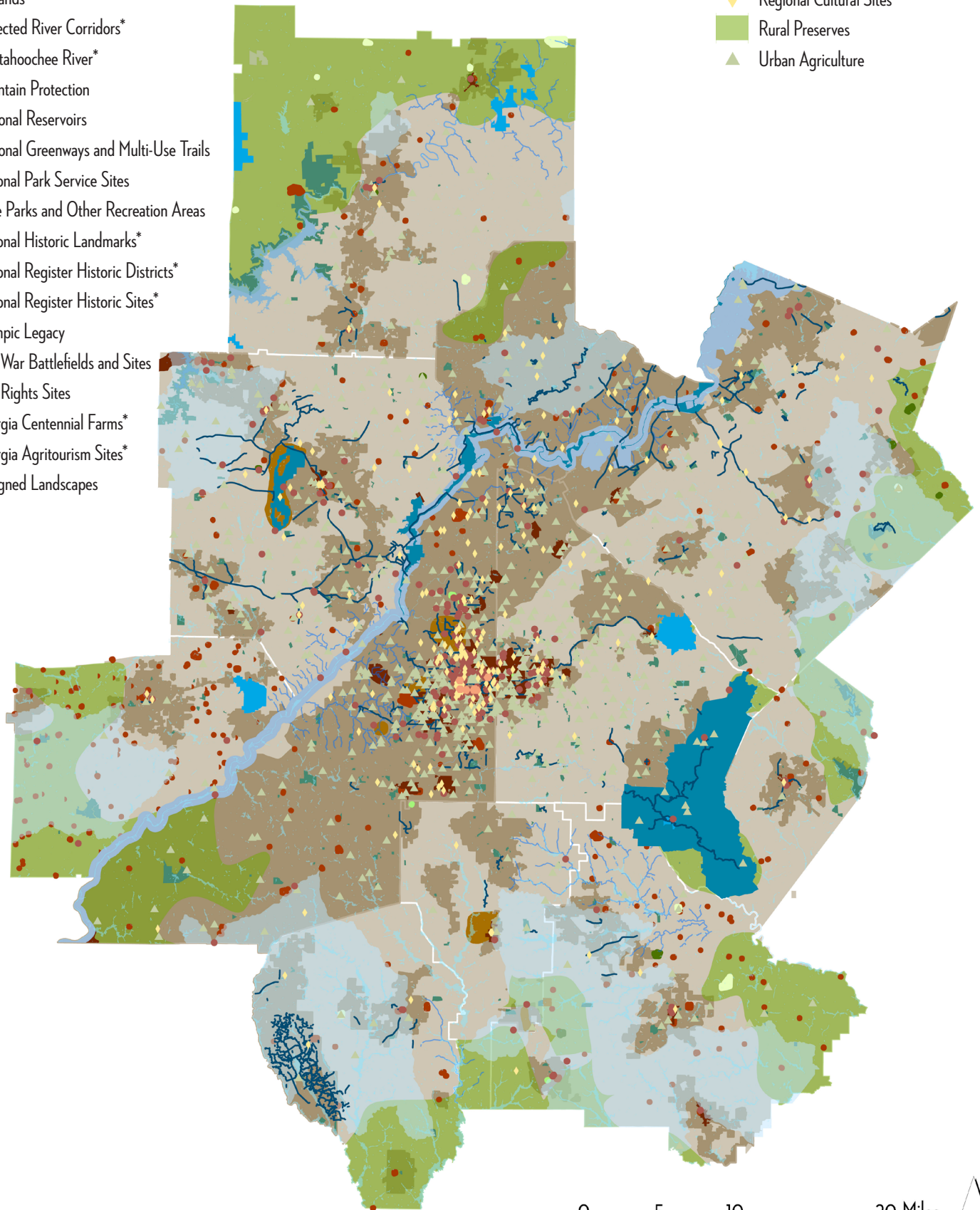
- 03** 2016 REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES MAP
- 04** INTRODUCTION
- 14** CONSERVATION AND RECREATION
- 38** HISTORY AND CULTURE
- 56** SCENIC AND AGRICULTURAL

REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- Small Water Supply Watersheds*
- Large Water Supply Watersheds*
- Wetlands*
- Protected River Corridors*
- Chattahoochee River*
- Mountain Protection
- Regional Reservoirs
- Regional Greenways and Multi-Use Trails
- 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
- Rural Preserves
- 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

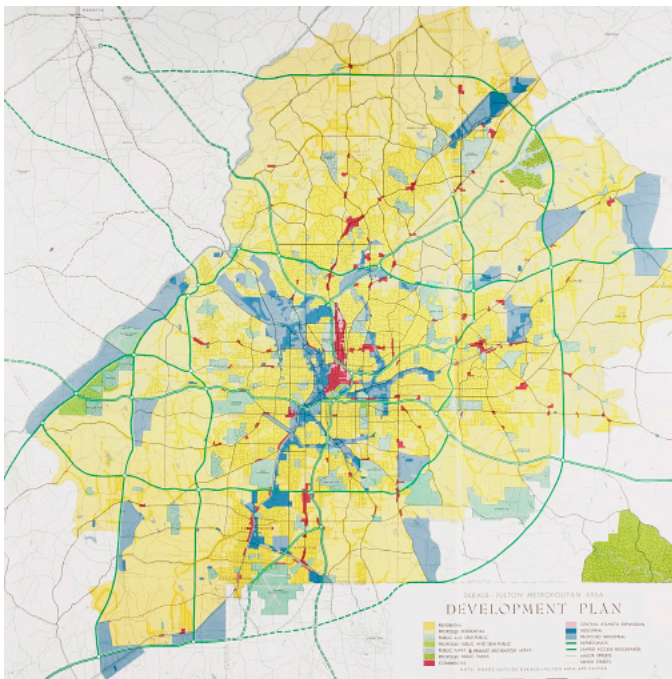
HISTORY OF REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

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



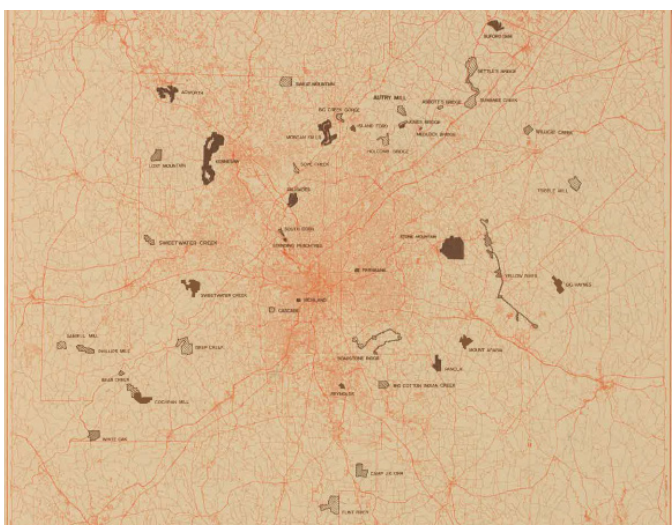


1954 REGIONAL PLAN

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.

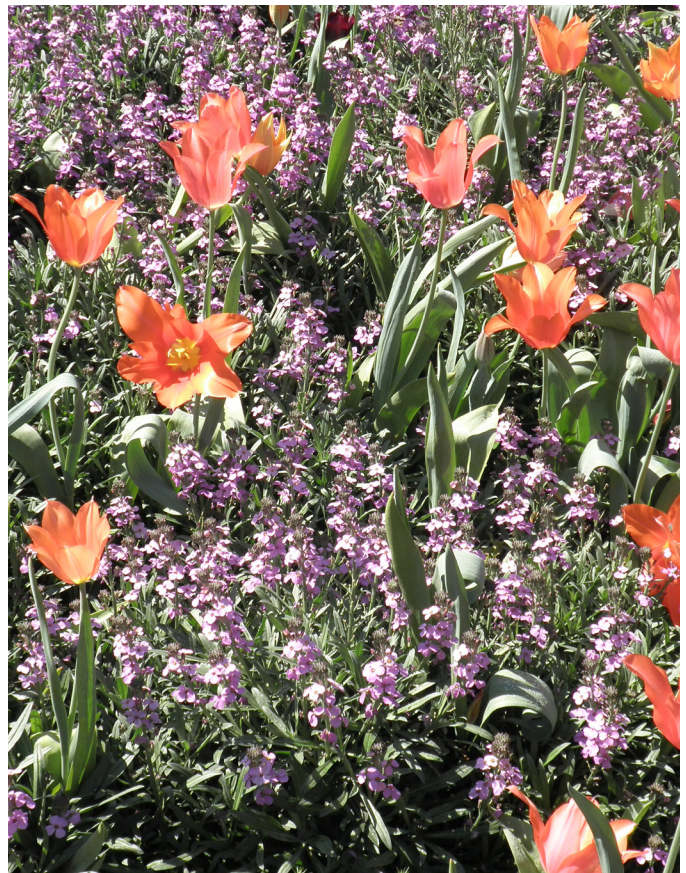
1. *Preserves water quality and quantity by protecting drainage, flood control, recharge areas, watersheds, buffers, etc.*
2. *Creates or preserves active or passive greenspaces including trails, gardens and informal places of natural enjoyment in areas currently underserved by greenspace*
3. *Protects 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										
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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														

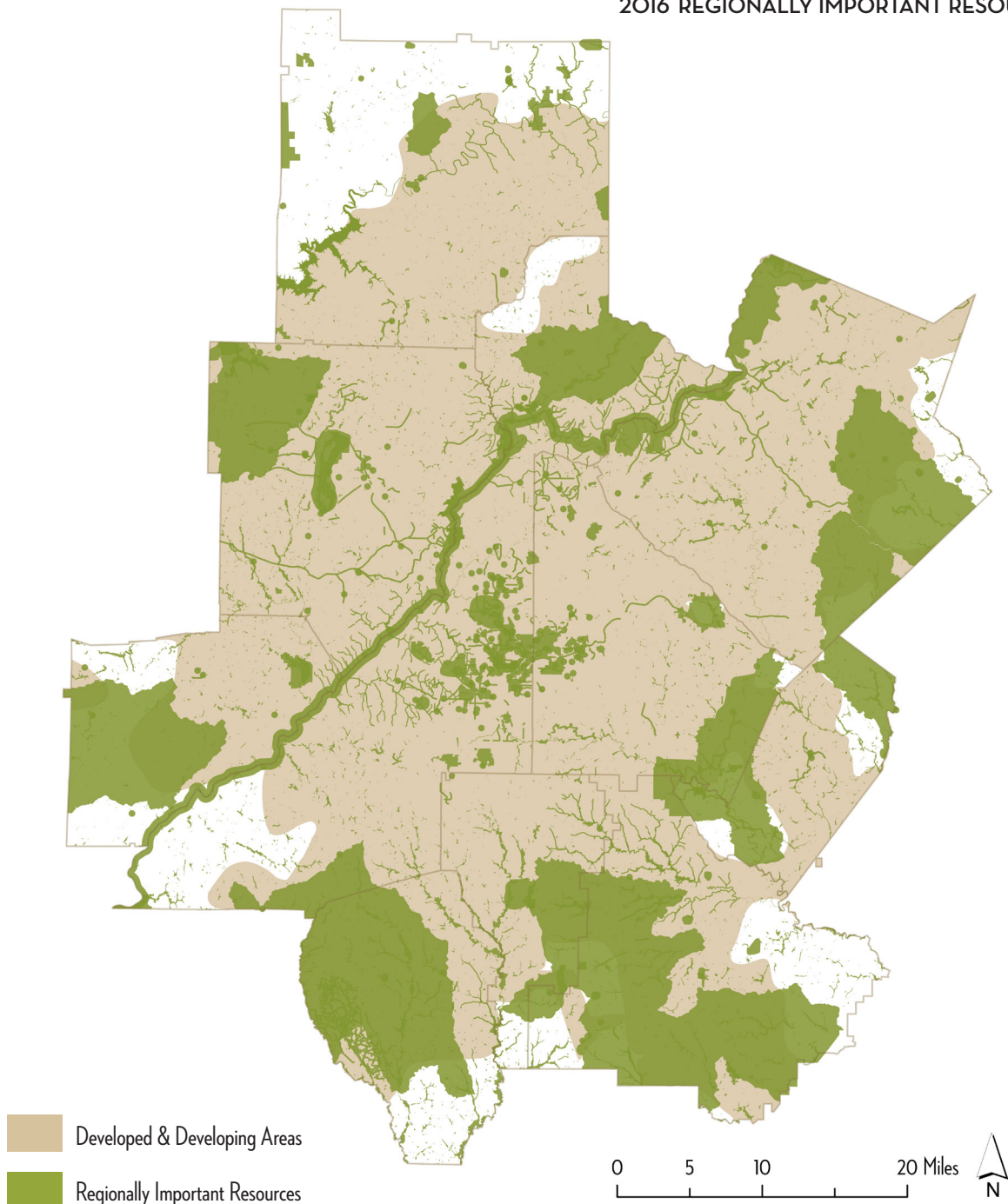
The Resource Narratives of this plan provide a description and additional information on the value and vulnerability of each Regionally Important Resource.

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.

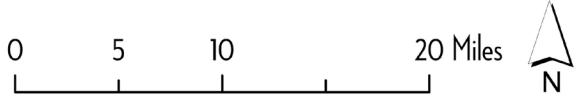
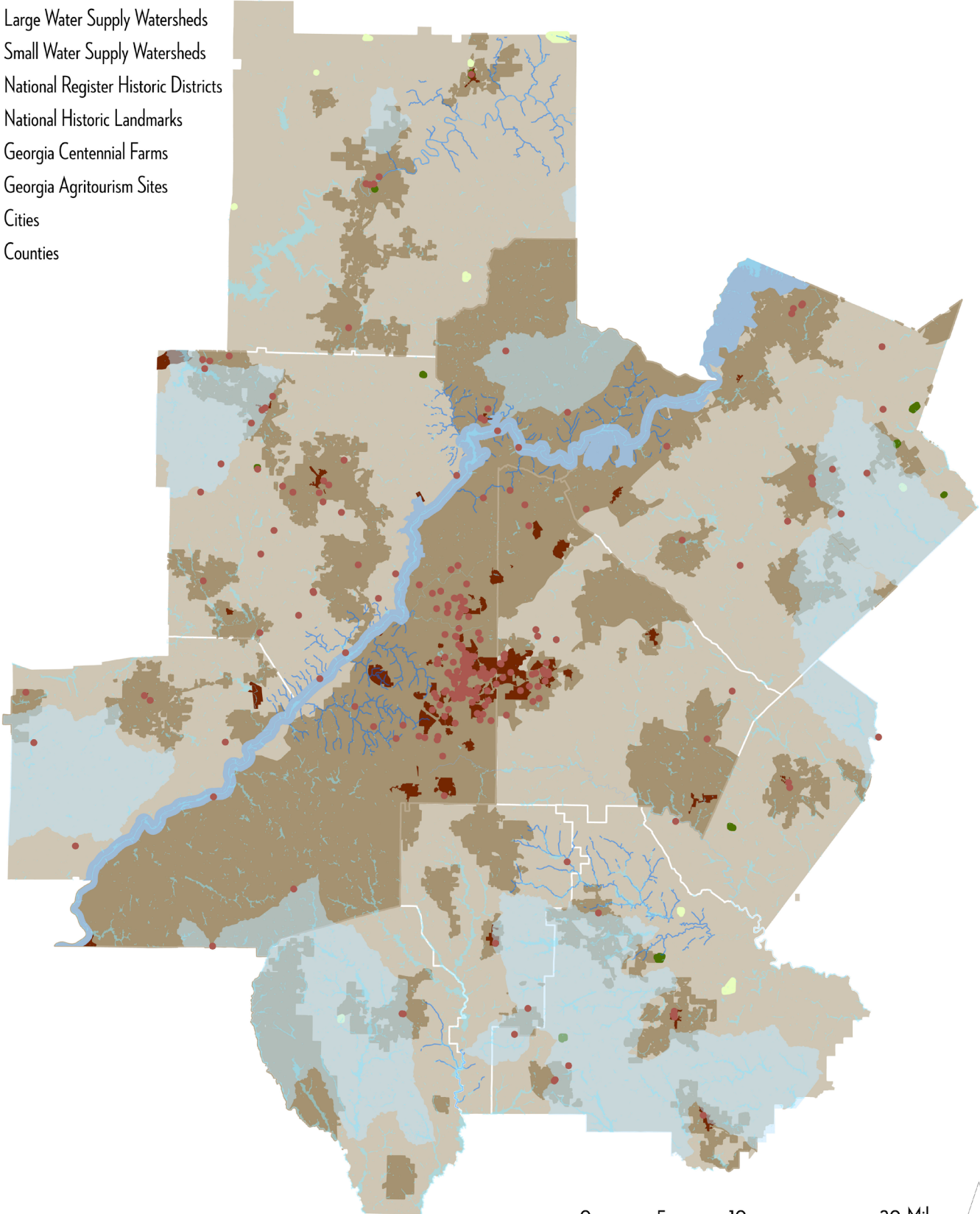
To meet the standard of identifying threatened resources as defined by DCA, ARC evaluated all resource categories against the Value and Vulnerability Scale developed in this analysis. Feedback was received from technical experts and community stakeholders. Those resources where the scale shows high value 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.)

2016 REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES MAP



PRIORITY REGIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES MAP

- 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 are further explored in its supporting narrative. Guidance for Appropriate Development Practices and General Policies and Protection Measures for the 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 2016 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.





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.



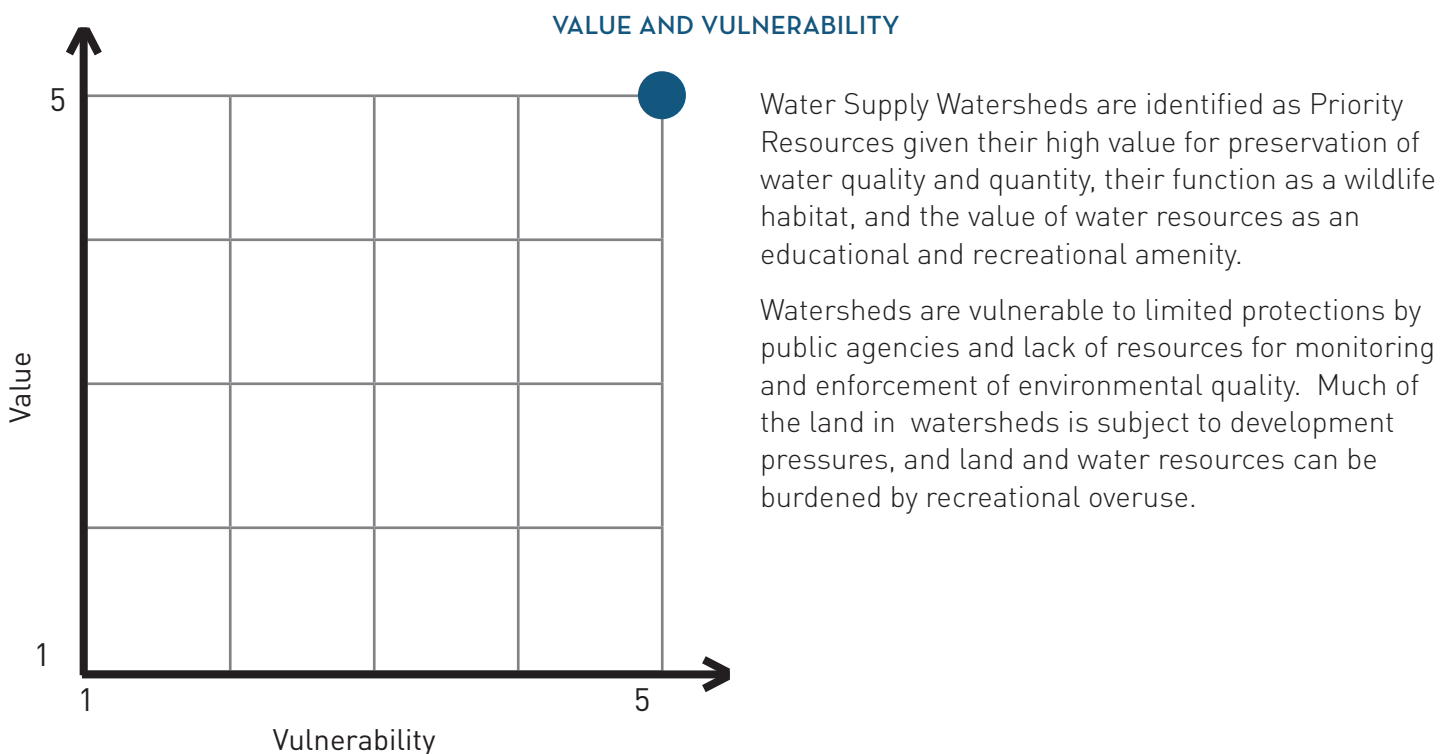
WATER SUPPLY WATERSHEDS

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.

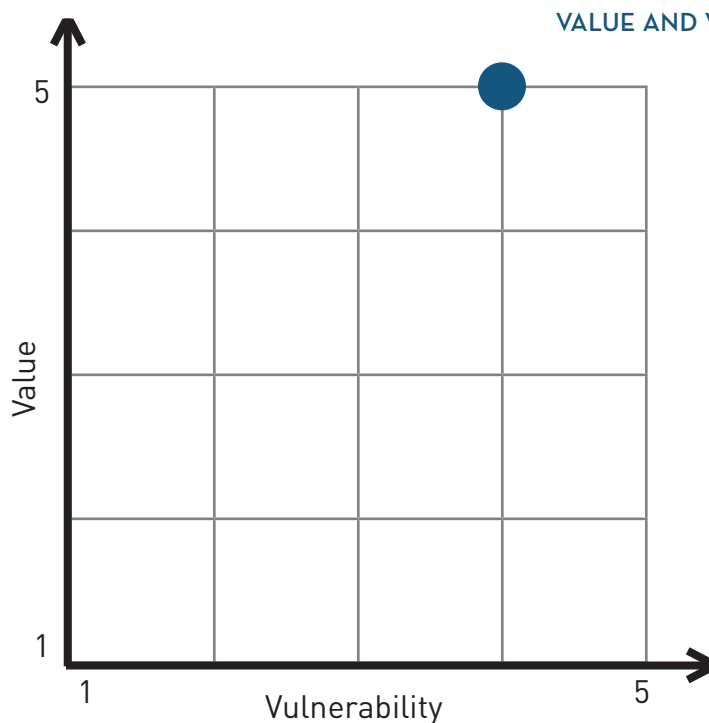




WETLANDS

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

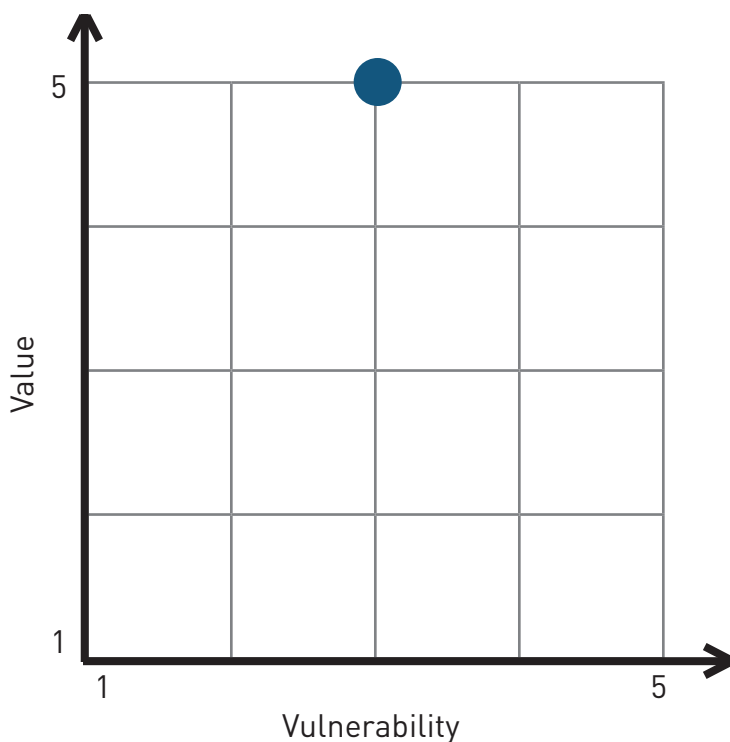
PRIORITY RESOURCE

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.

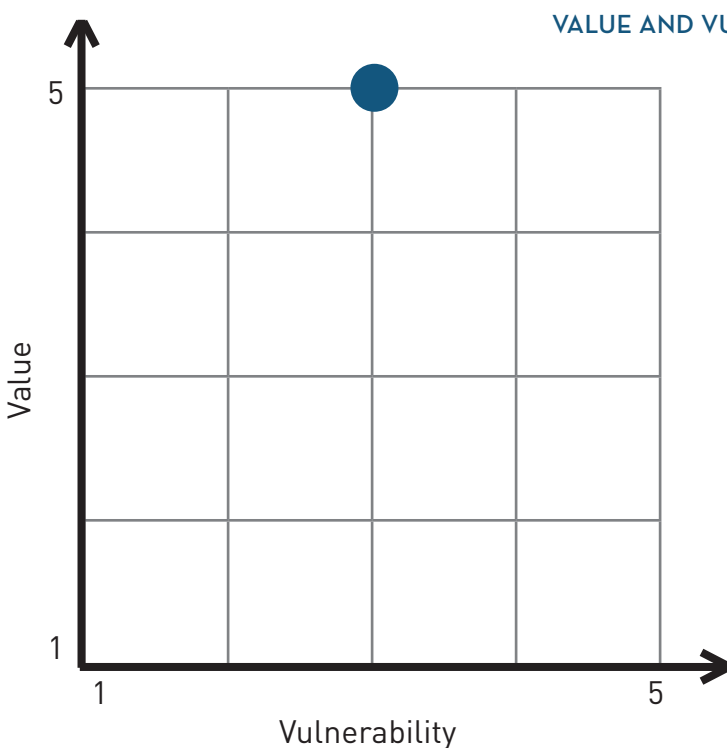


CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

PRIORITY RESOURCE

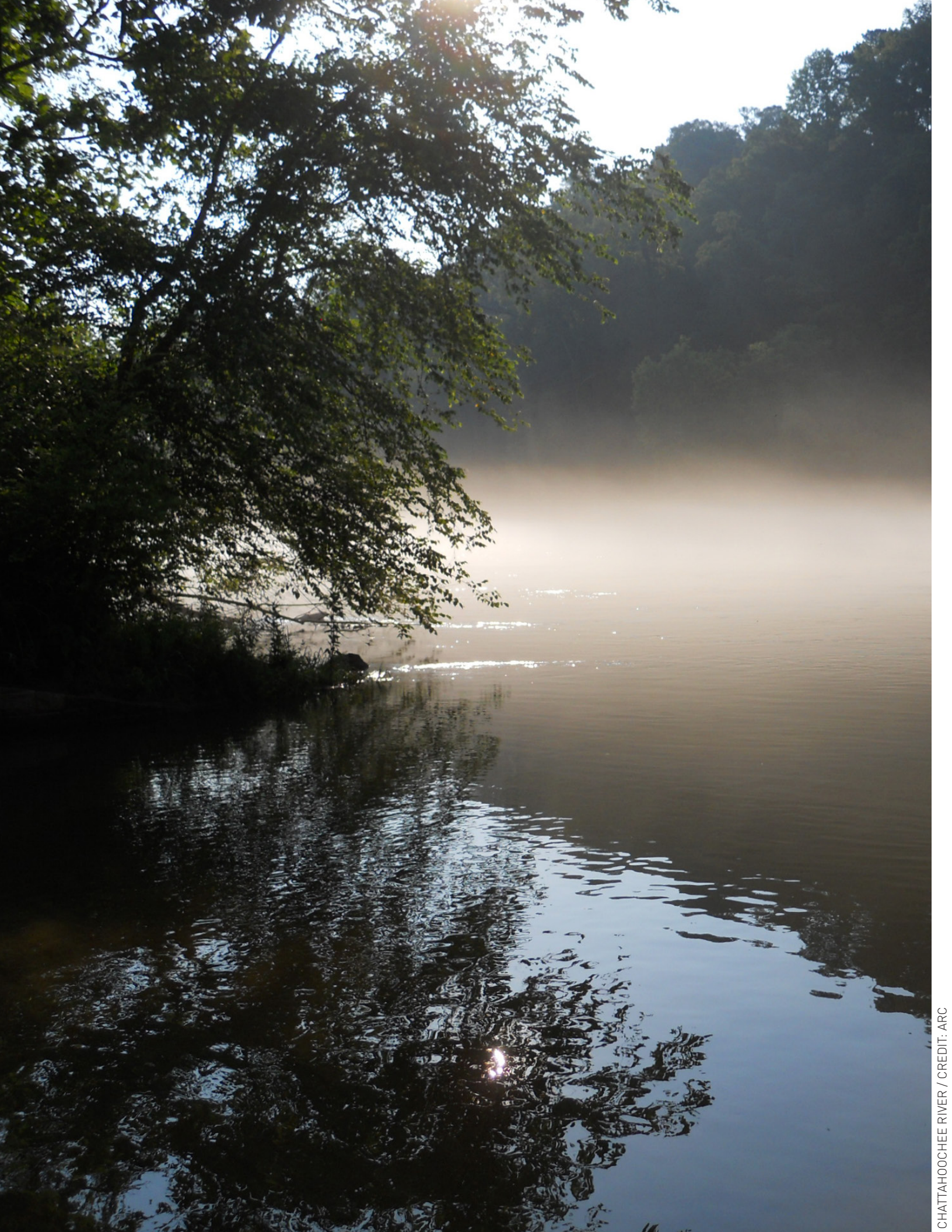
The Chattahoochee River flows through Cobb, Fulton, Douglas and Gwinnett Counties, but it is expressly exempted from the Environmental Planning Criteria because of its protections under the Metropolitan River Protection Act.

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.

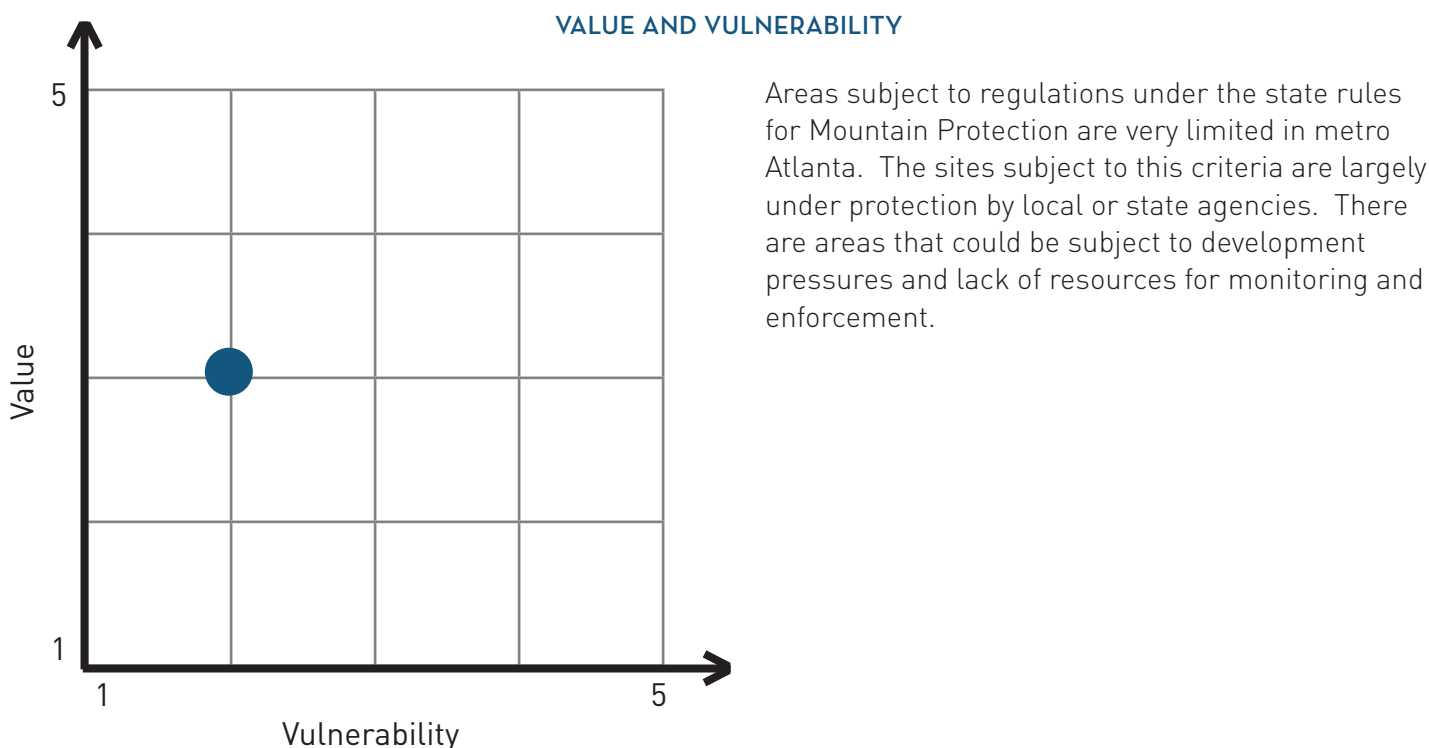
The Chattahoochee River has strong protections by public agencies, but is vulnerable to lack of resources for monitoring and enforcement of environmental quality. Much of the area along the Chattahoochee River is subject to development pressures, and land and water resources can be burdened by recreational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

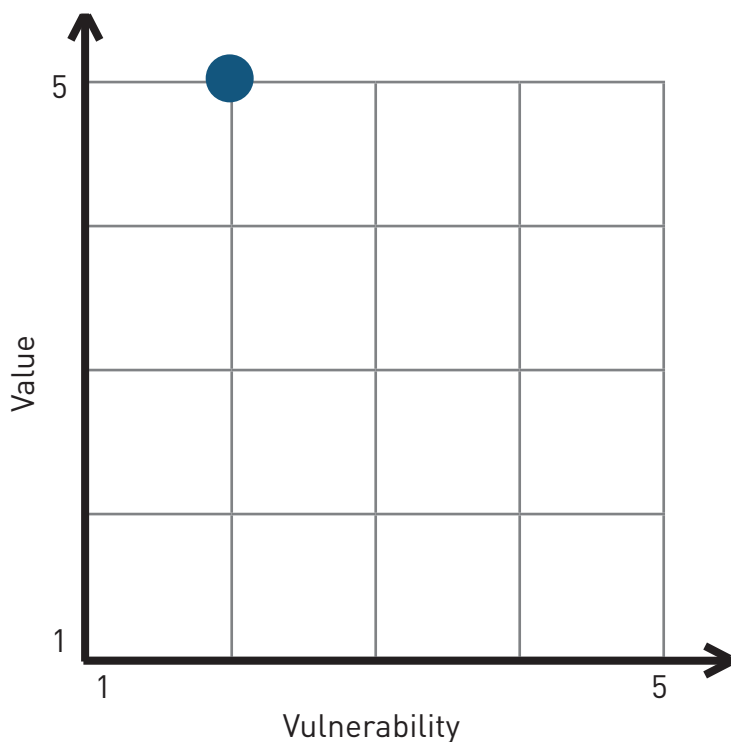




REGIONAL RESERVOIRS

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

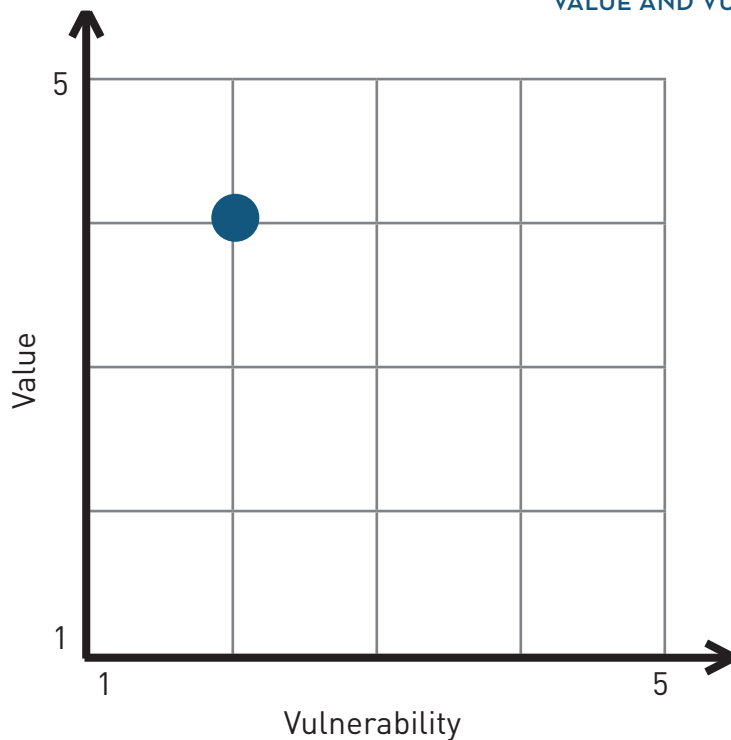
Both greenways and trails have been identified within the Regional Resource Plan for their conservation value, as well as their function as points of connectivity within larger green infrastructure and transportation networks. As advocacy efforts for greenway and trail building have increased, numerous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

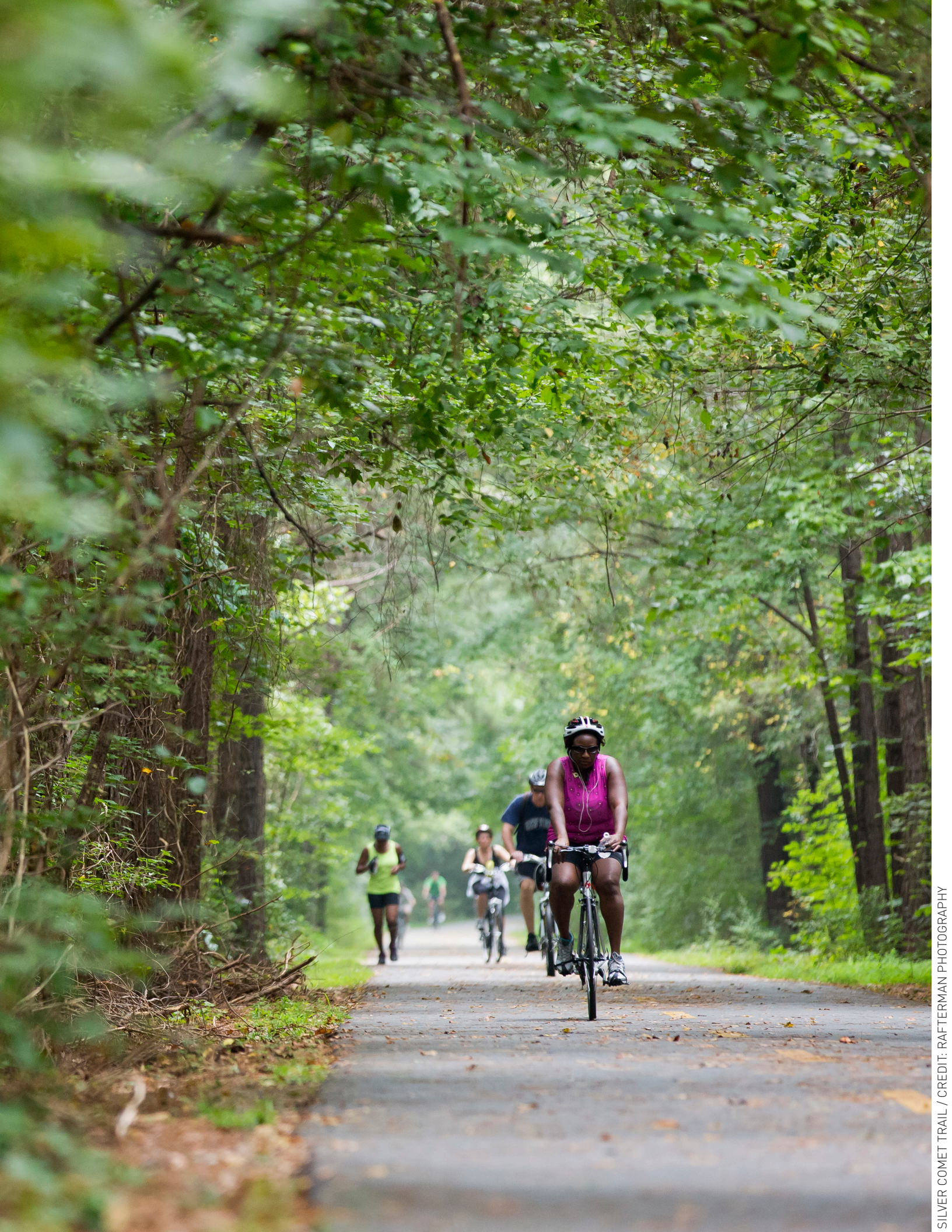
Multi-Use Trails. Trail systems can be combined with river greenways, but as often can be found utilizing other corridors such as city streets, public utilities, linear parks, or abandoned rail lines.

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.

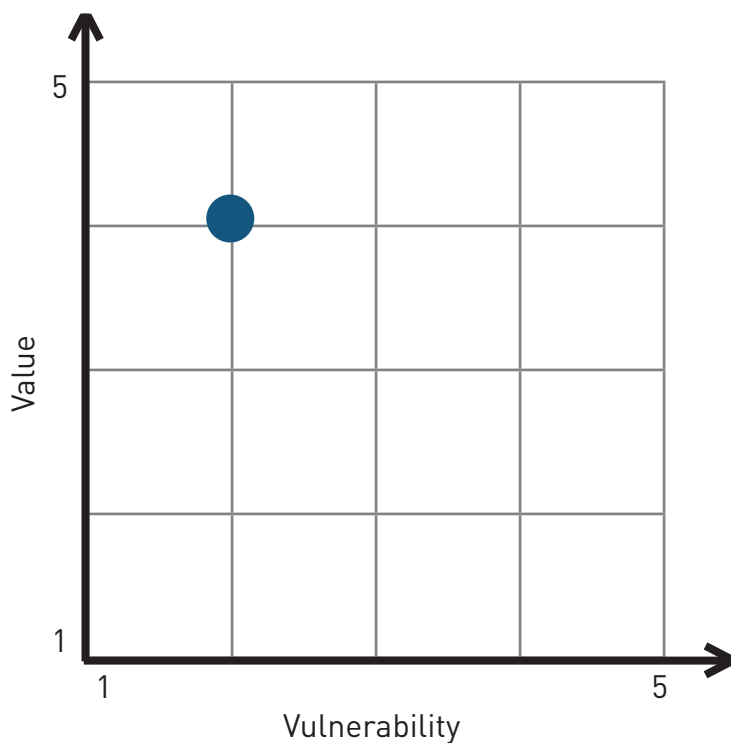
The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area consists of a 48 mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River and 14 land units along its corridor. It begins at Lake Lanier's Buford Dam and continues downstream through Forsyth, Gwinnett, Fulton and Cobb Counties to Peachtree Creek near downtown Atlanta. 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.

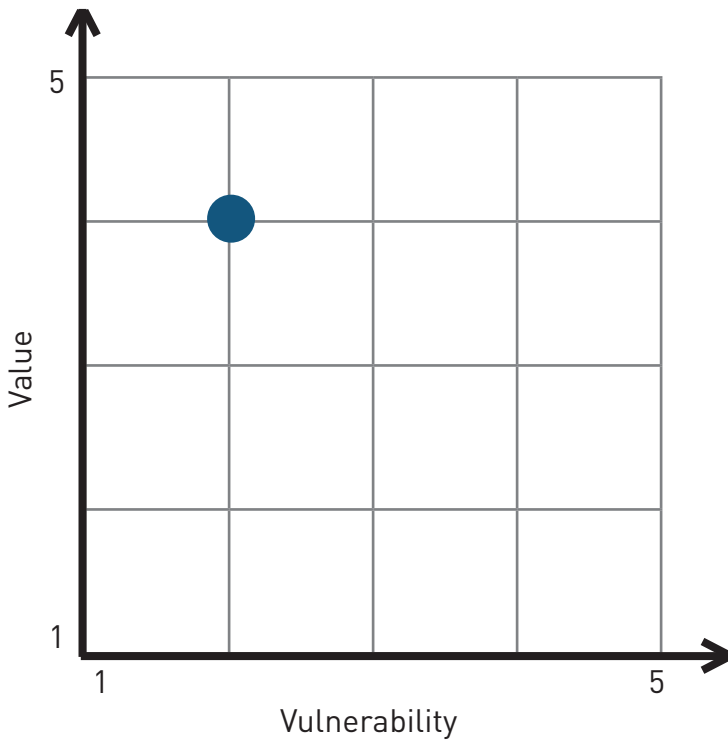
Panola Mountain State Park provides passive recreation and learning opportunities while preserving wildlife habitat, watershed protection, floodplain protection and preservation of delicate ecological features including many rare plants of the Piedmont region. Located in Rockdale County, Panola Mountain 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.

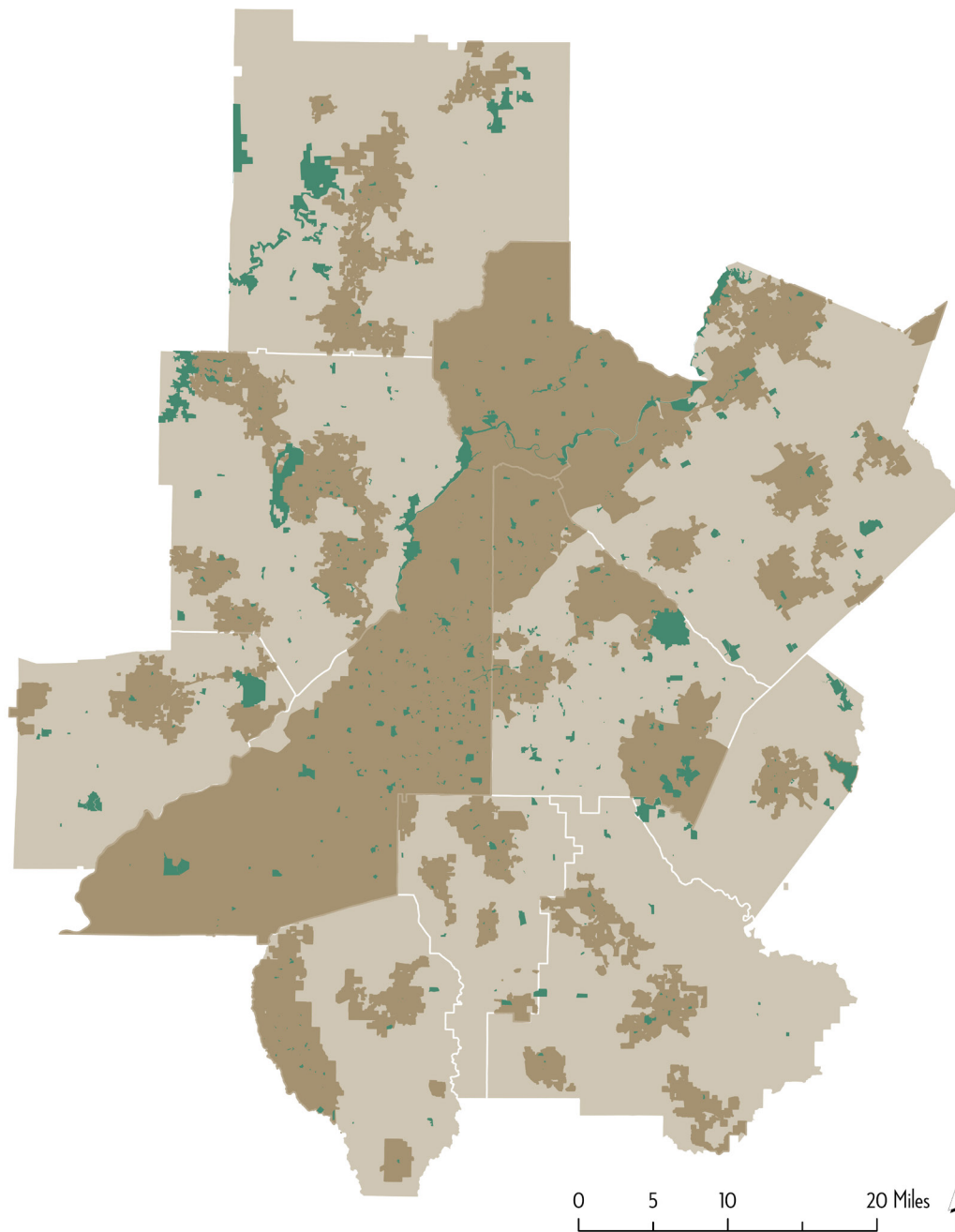


REGIONAL PARKS

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

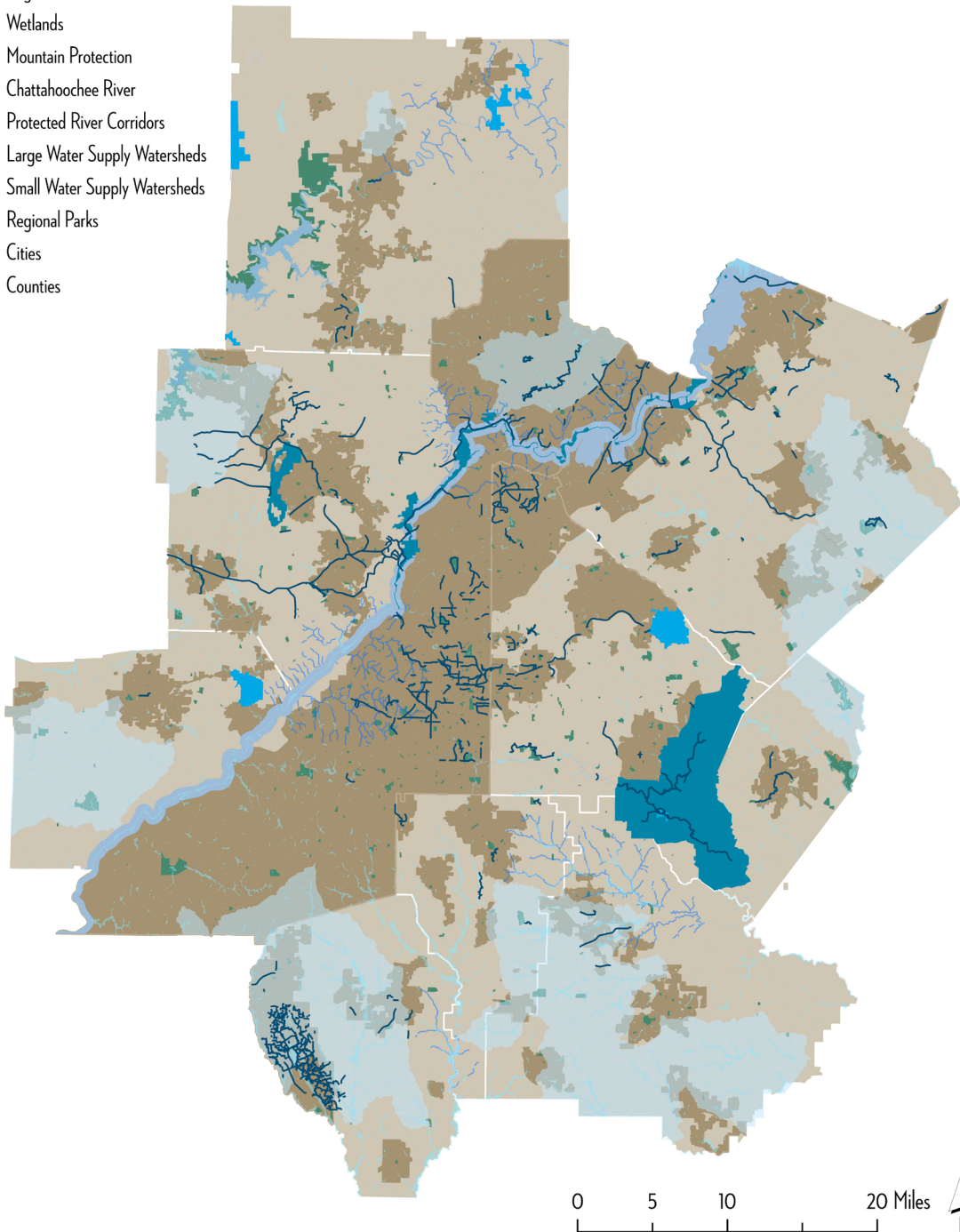
The regional park network contributes to the core of a green infrastructure plan. The Atlanta region includes thousands of acres of community parks in all forms and sizes. Many parks are the legacy of historic events such as Piedmont Park, which was the site of the 1895 Cotton States Exposition, or Kennesaw 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 RESOURCES & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

- 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.



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.

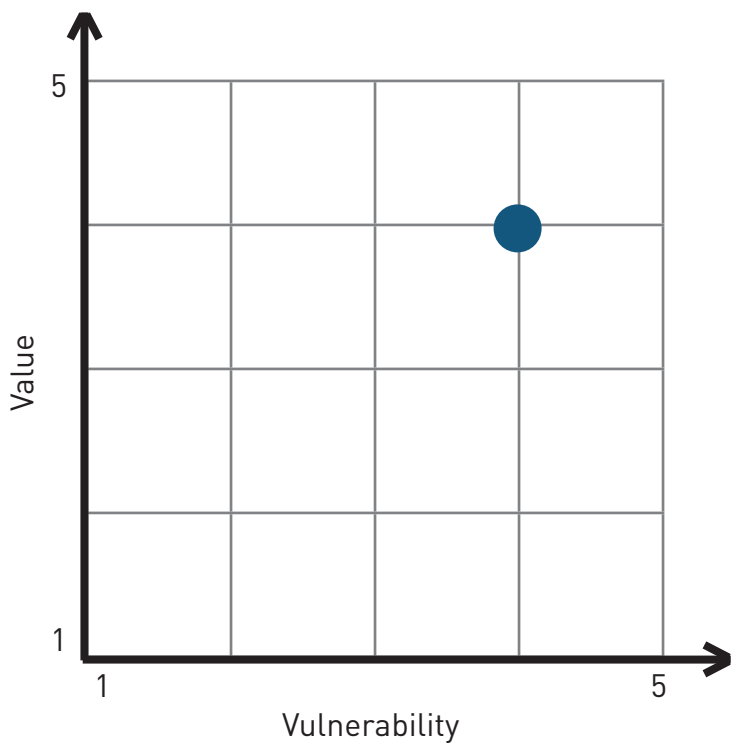
Fox Theatre (1929): The Fox Theatre is a unique example of neo-Mideastern exotic revival architecture and has played a significant role in the cultural heritage of Atlanta. It is also an outstanding example of the classic ornate movie palaces that thrived in the early 20th century.

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.



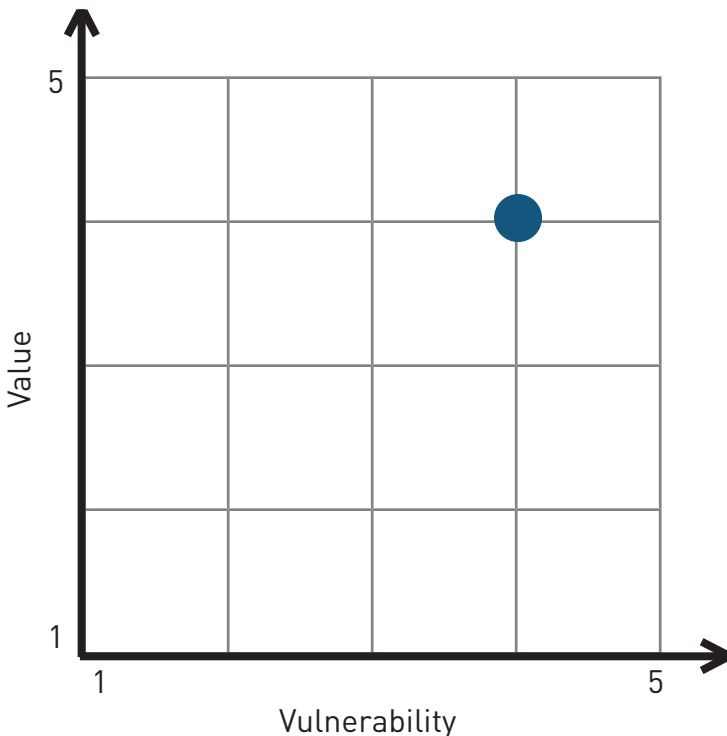
NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS & SITES

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



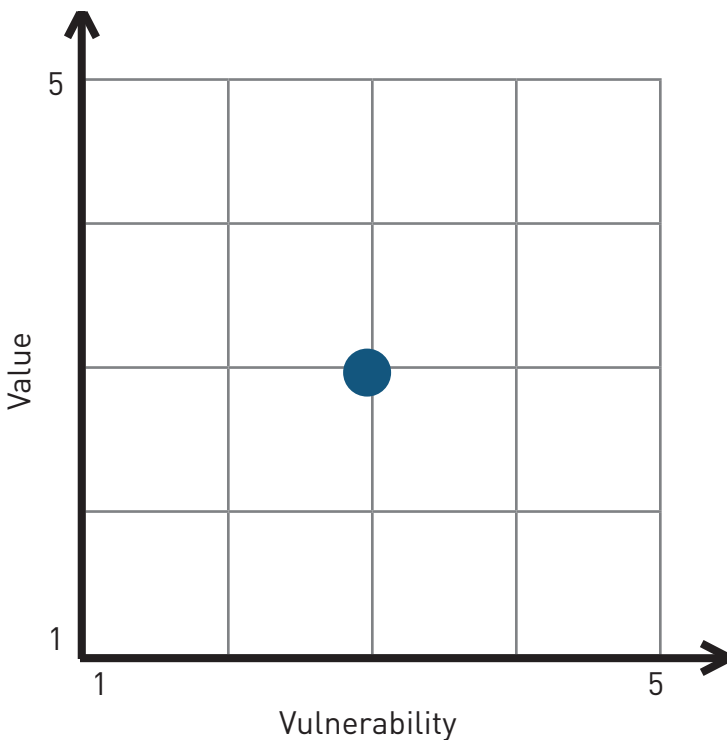
National Historic Districts and Sites are identified as Priority Resources given their high value for preservation of historic and cultural resources and the role they play as an educational amenity in the community. National Register Districts and Sites are recognized by the National Park Service, but 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.



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).

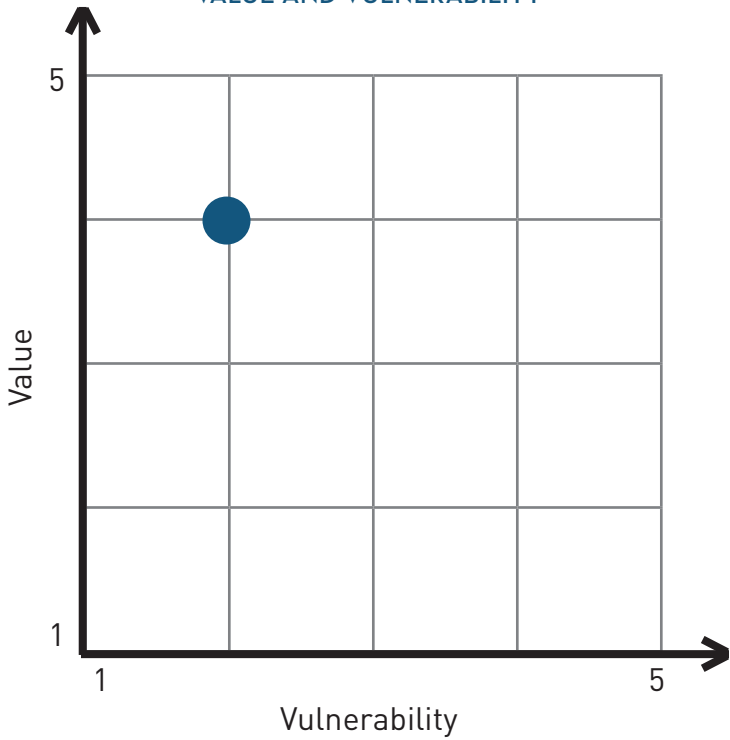
In addition to battlefields, the Atlanta region has several sites affiliated with events of the Civil War, which are accessible to the public. Located in downtown Kennesaw, Camp McDonald Park (Cobb County) was a Confederate Civil War training ground.

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.

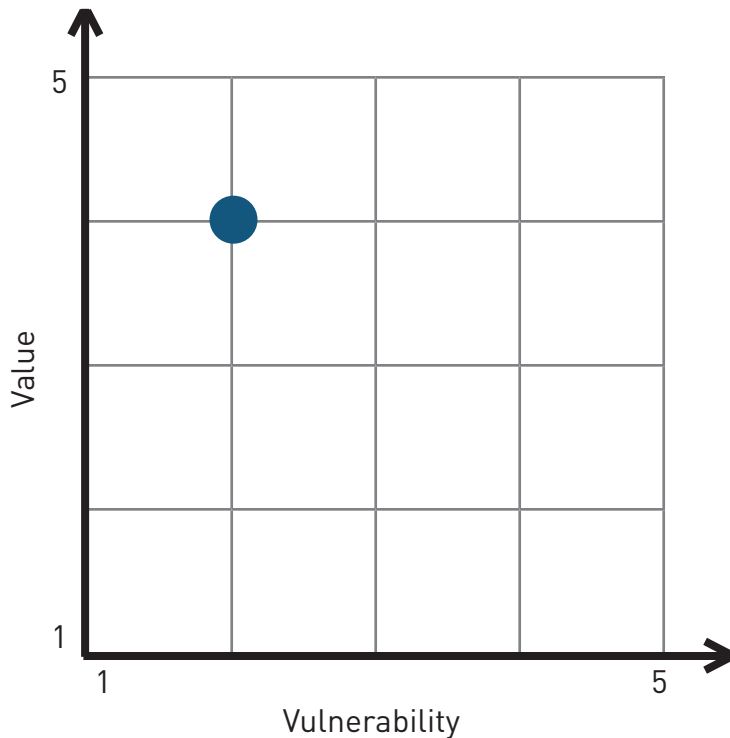


CIVIL RIGHTS SITES

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.

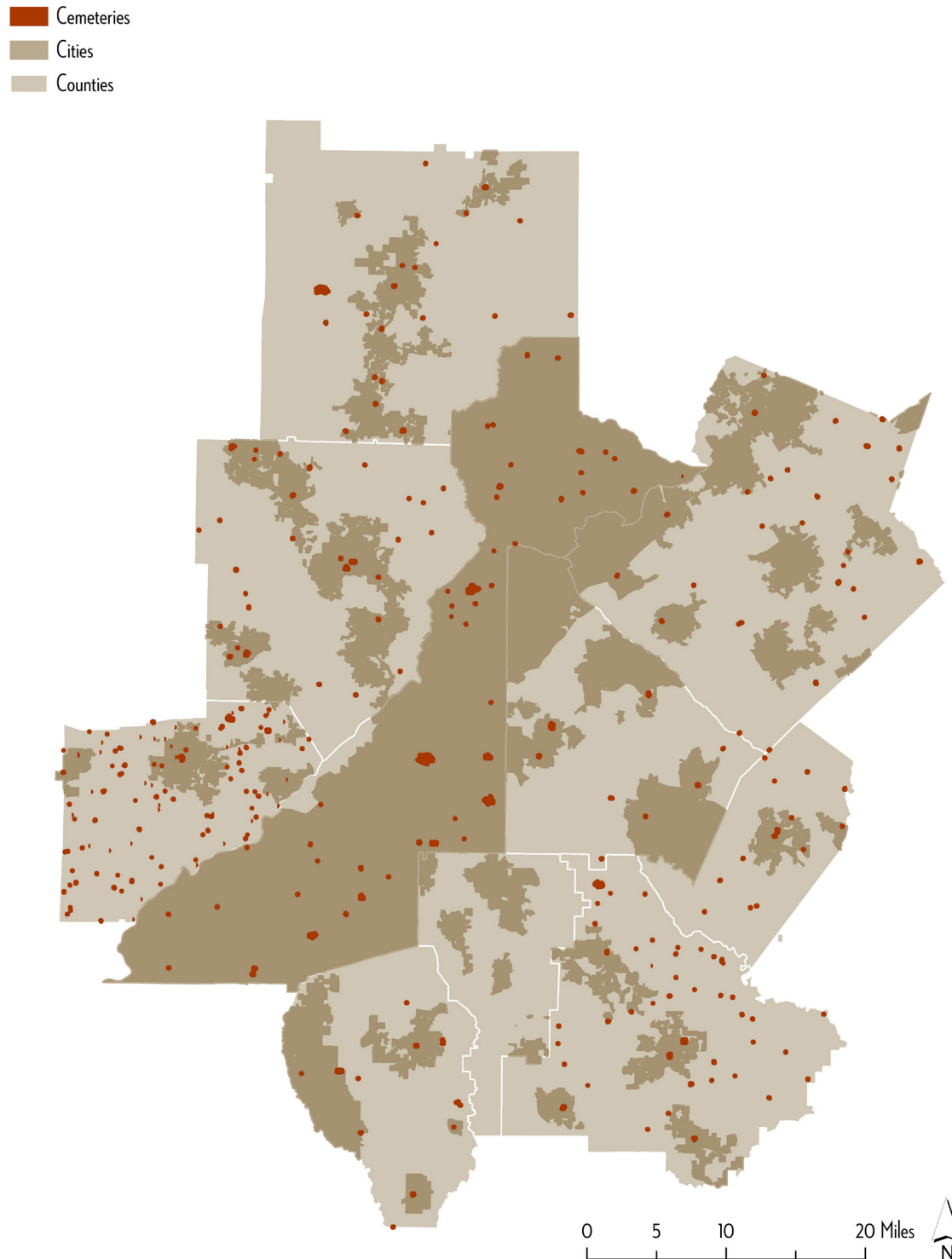
MARTIN LUTHER
KING
JR.
NATIONAL
HISTORICAL
SITE



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

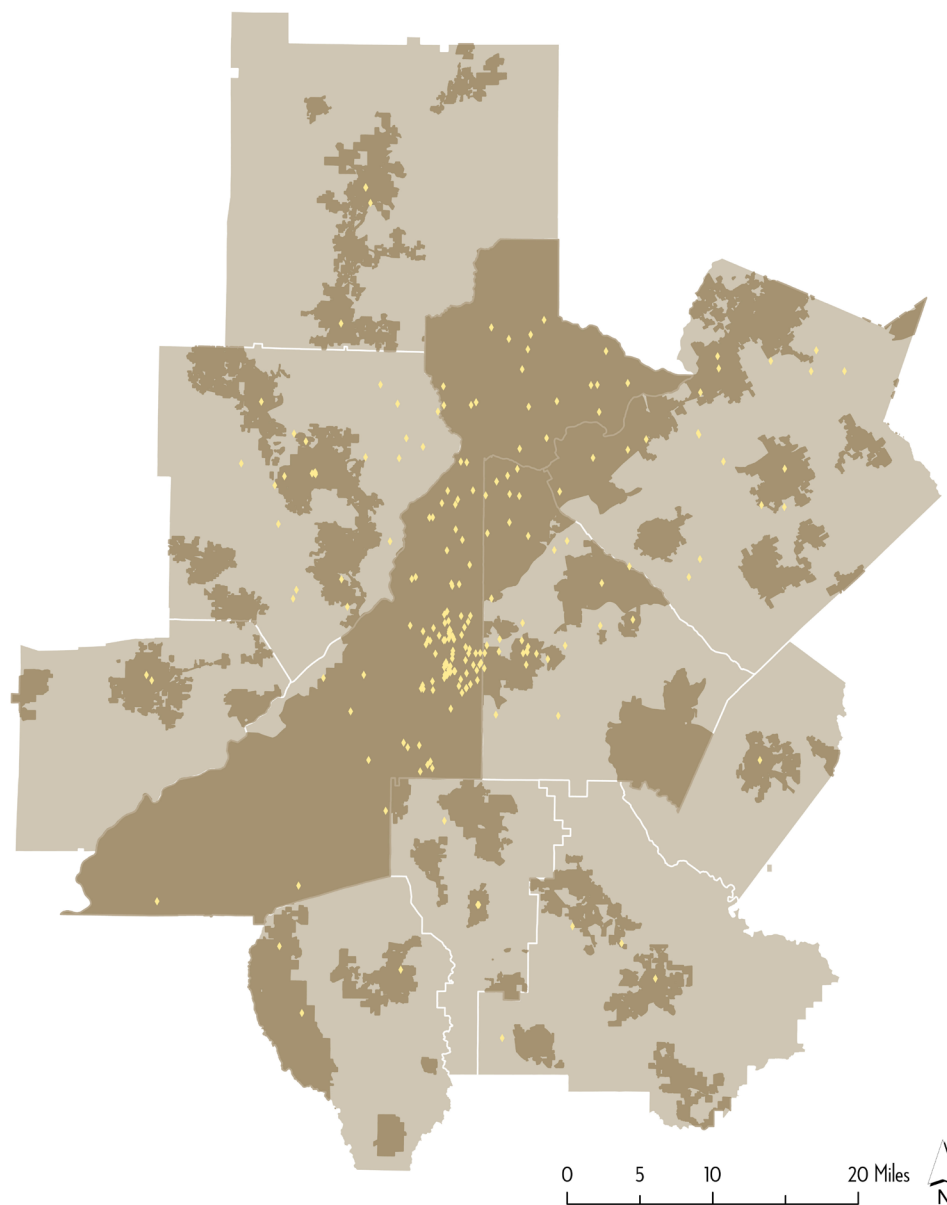
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

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.

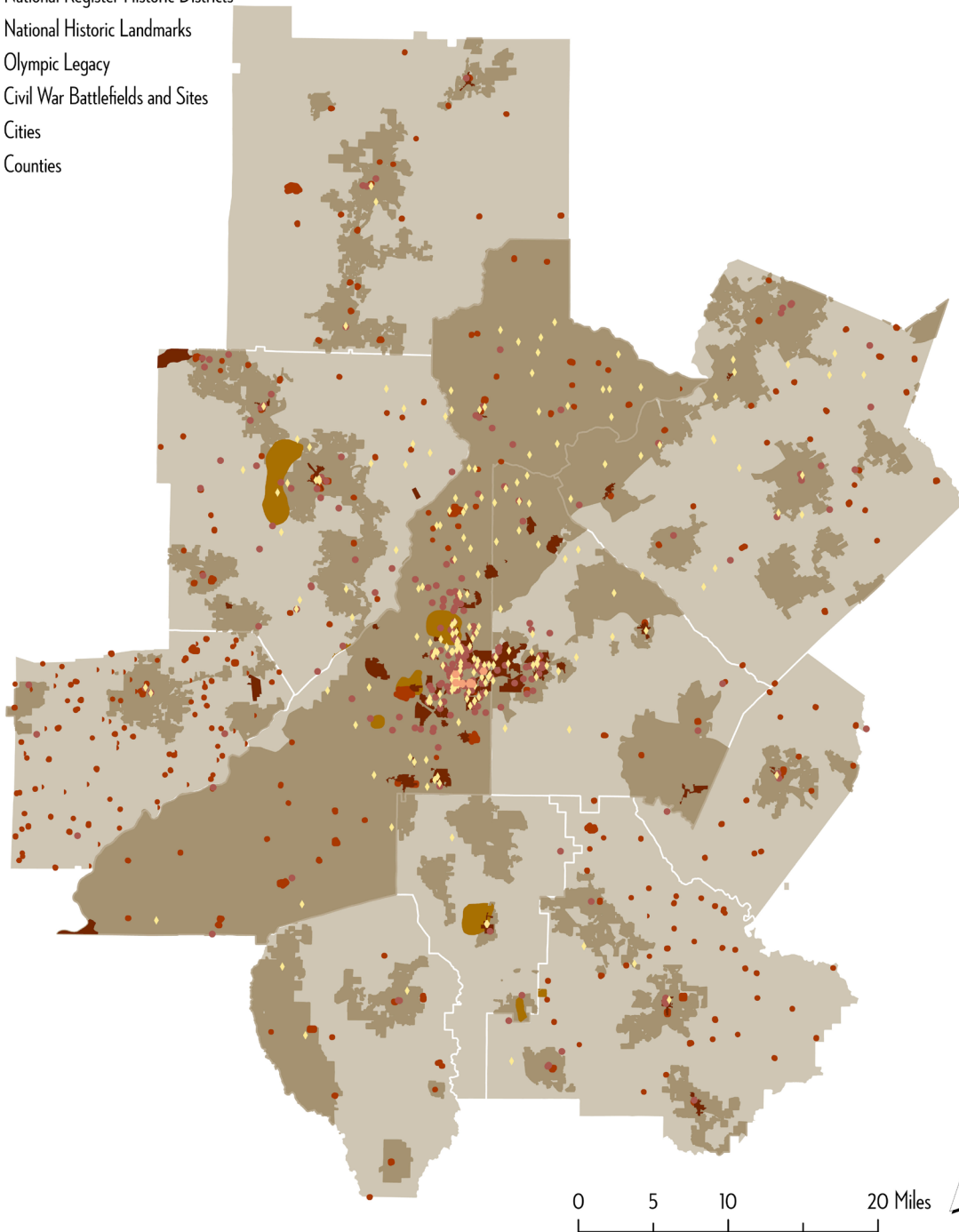
Over half of the cultural non-profit organizations in the State of Georgia are located in the 10-county Atlanta region, with over \$1.8 billion in assets. The Atlanta region also ranks at the top of the scale among our national peers in the number of arts related businesses and the employees that work 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 RESOURCES & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

- 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	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	Blue	Blue
Where possible, use multi-use trails to link new developments to public access points for national or state parks and other recreation areas	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Architectural and Design Aesthetics						
Consider impact to viewsheds and take appropriate steps to mitigate impacts	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Design of new development should be compatible in terms of size, scale, and aesthetic appearance near existing resources	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
New developments should complement, but not copy, historic precedents	Blue	Blue	White	White	Blue	Blue
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	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	Grey	Grey
Advocate for properties that are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places	White	Grey	White	White	Grey	Grey

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]	[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]			[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]			[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]			[Shaded]	
Enhance traditional historic preservation efforts by developing an interpretive context through oral history, wayfinding signage, and installation of historic markers	[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[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.

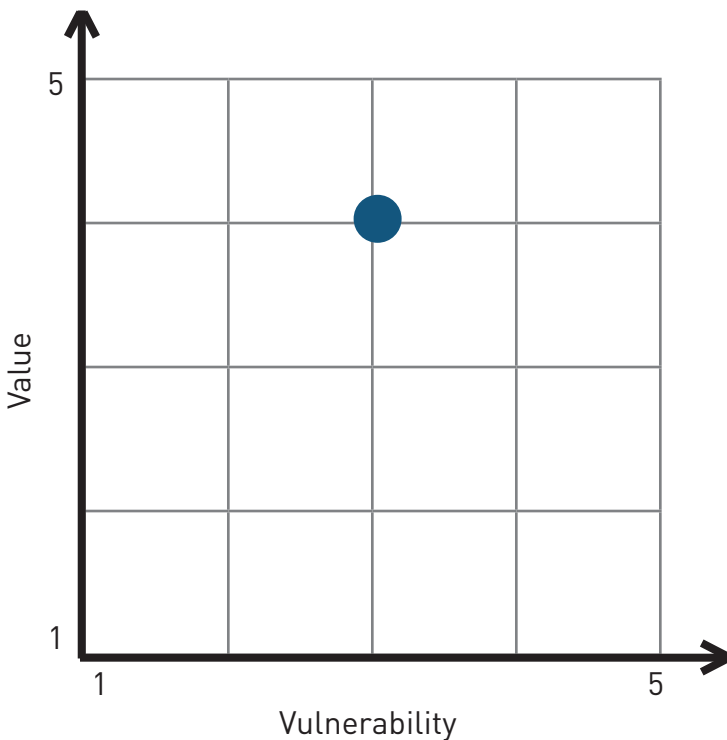


GEORGIA CENTENNIAL FARMS

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.



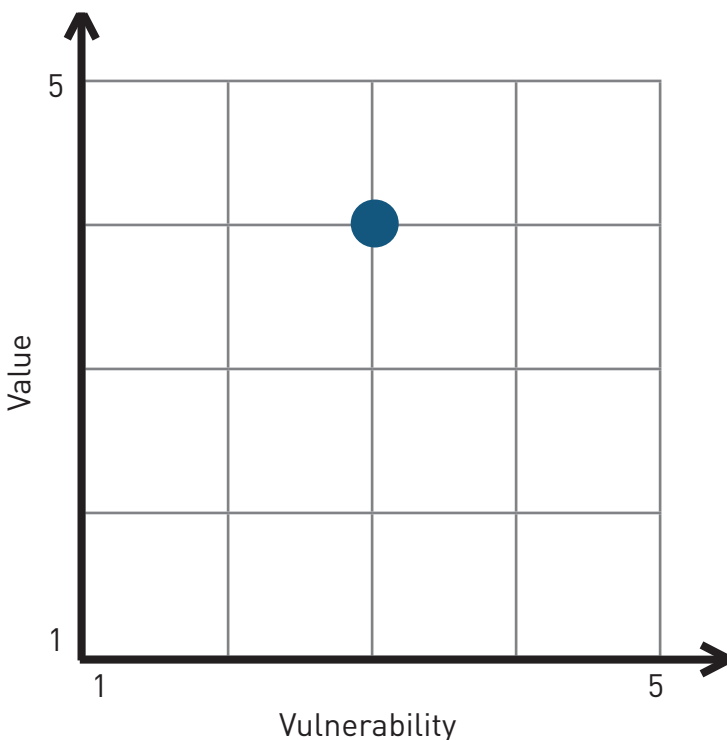
GEORGIA AGRITOURISM SITES

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.

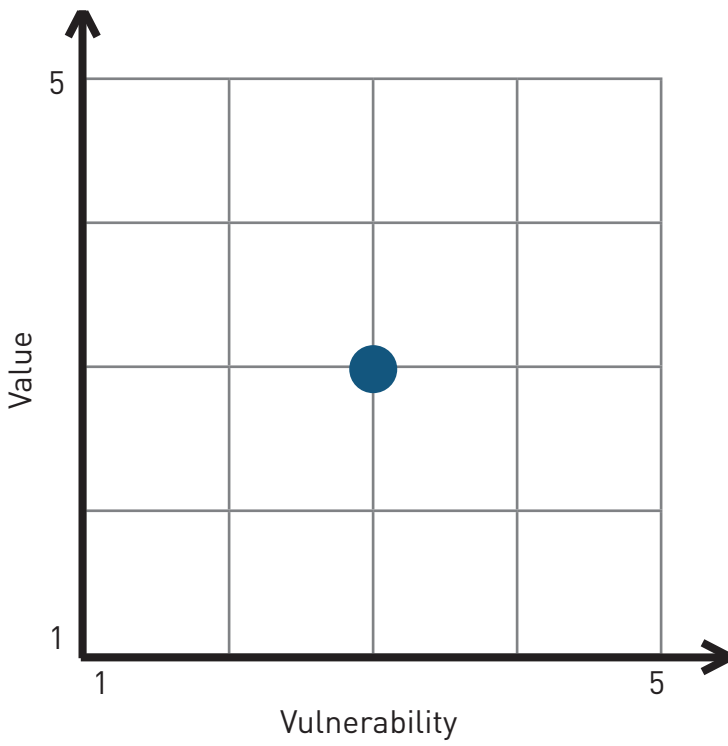
Iris Garden: Described as a “beautiful showcase of irises,” the Iris Garden is located near Ansley Park in the city of Atlanta. The garden is maintained by the city of Atlanta and the Iris Garden Club.

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

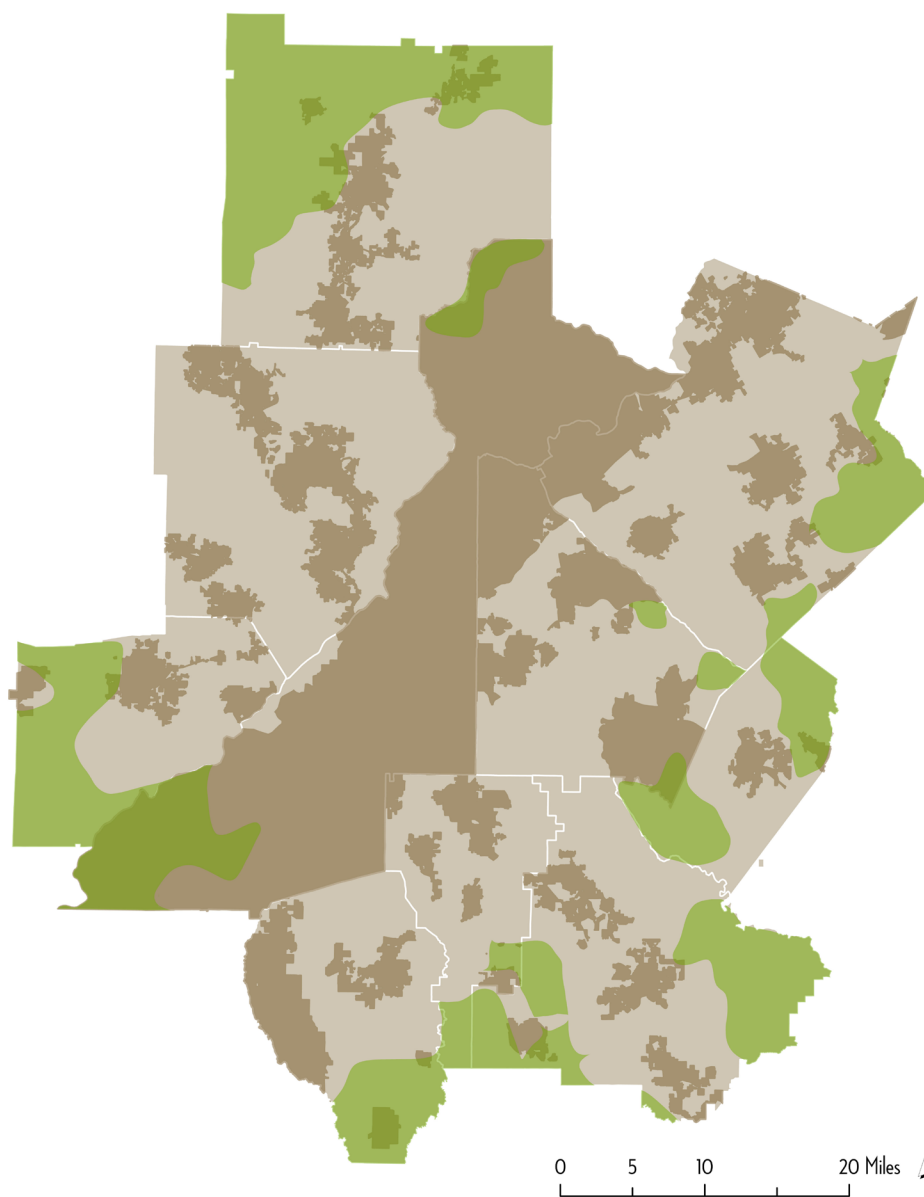
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

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.]

-  Rural Preserves
-  Cities
-  Counties



URBAN AGRICULTURE

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

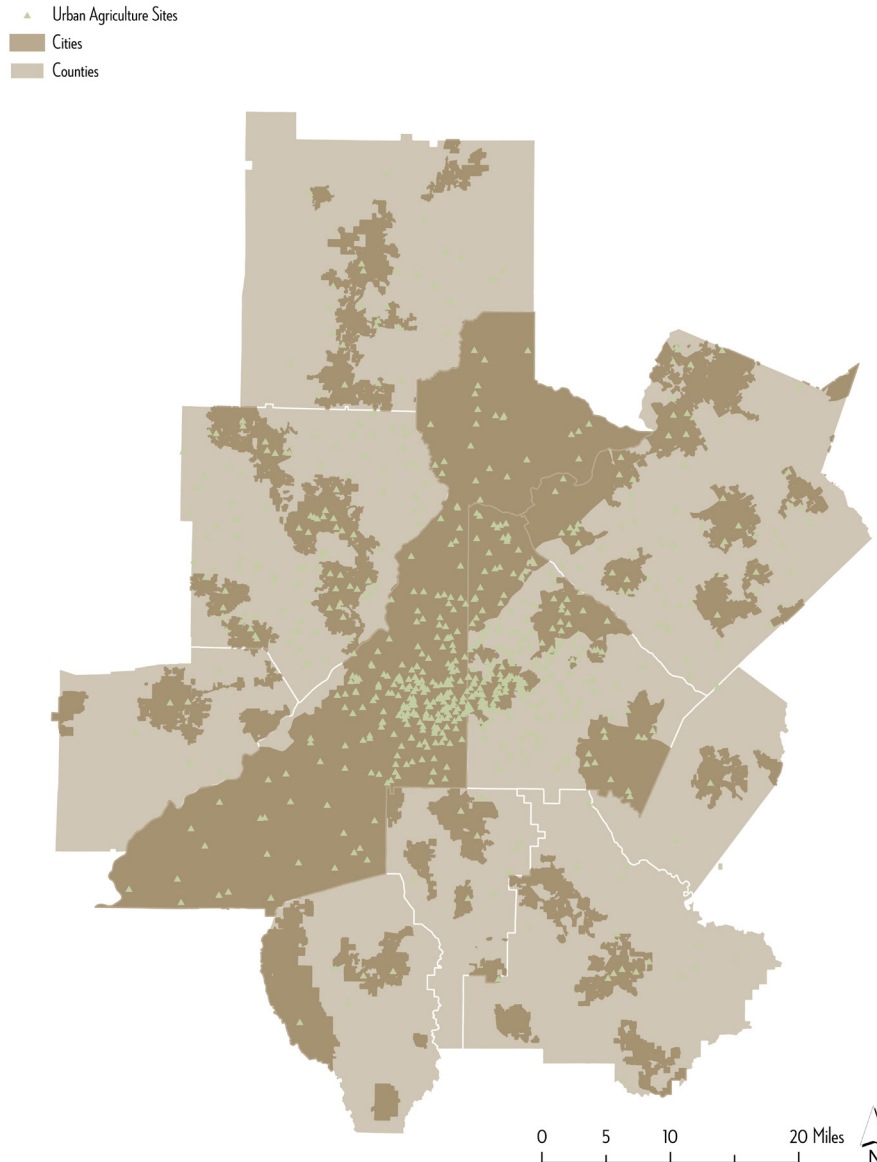
The Regional Resource Plan gives consideration to areas that create or preserve passive greenspaces including gardens, as well as opportunities for local food production activities. This plan includes three distinct areas for their contribution to local food production: Community Gardens, Urban Farms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

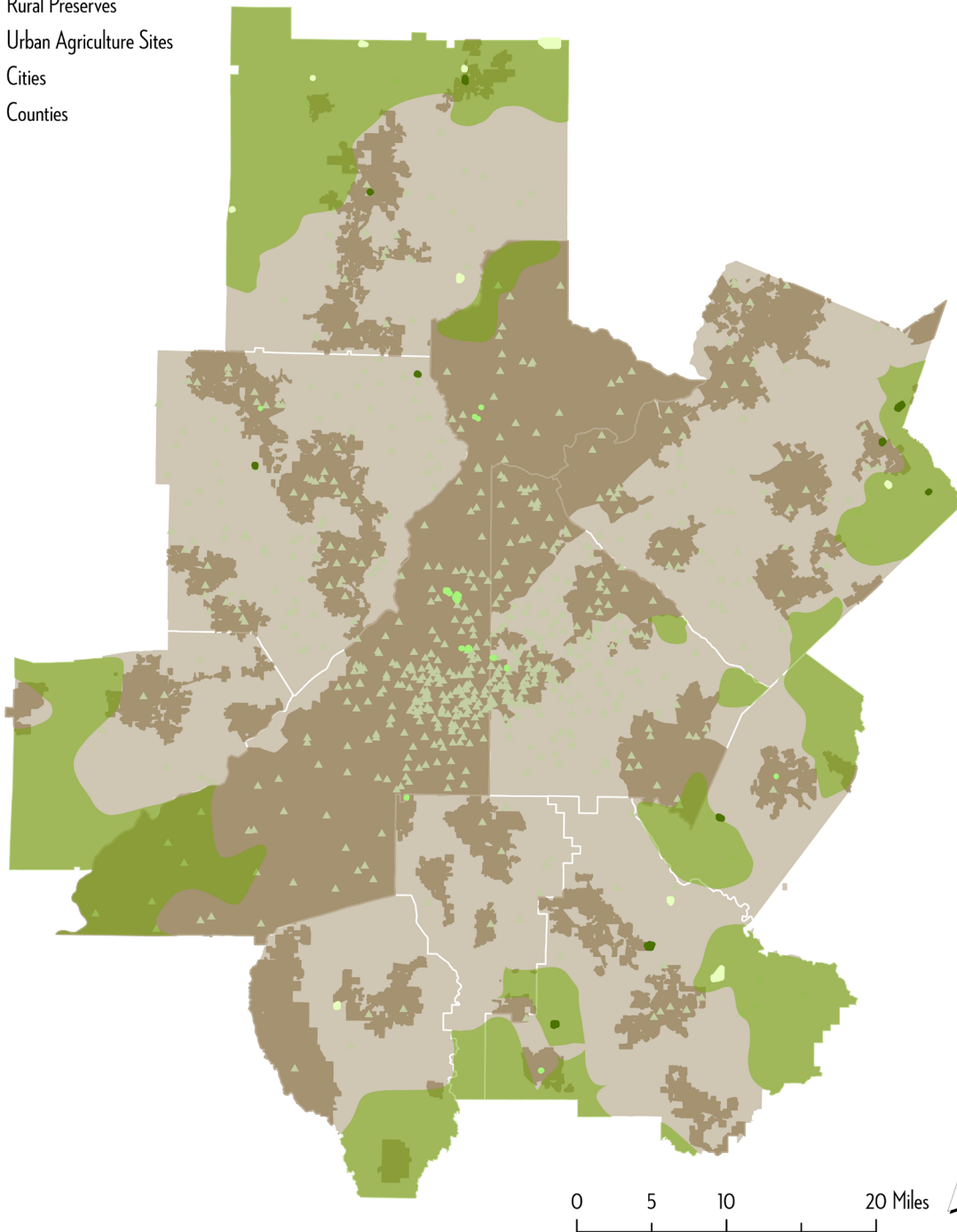
Any trees, whether growing individually along a street, in a park, or under forest conditions, make up the region's urban forest. Trees provide numerous environmental and social benefits, and are consistently threatened by development in metropolitan areas. As the region's communities face ever-growing 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 RESOURCES & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

- 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			



Atlanta Regional Commission