Protecting Water Resources:







ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS REPORT 2005



Message from the Chairman



December 2005

Protecting water quality and public water supplies is an important goal of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. Local governments, state agencies, water and wastewater utilities, technical experts, basin stakeholders and others are working together to achieve healthy rivers and streams and to ensure adequate supplies of clean water, both today and in the future.

On behalf of the governing Board and our supporters, I am proud of the District's accomplishments during the past year. The District and its partners are working hard to implement the three comprehensive water resource plans we adopted in September 2003.

This year the District offered technical assistance on stormwater ordinances, leak reduction for water utilities, commercial water audit programs, septic systems and floodplain management. Also, the District's regular Board, technical and basin advisory meetings continue to provide a forum where we can talk about the water issues we have in common and where stakeholders have the opportunity to work together. Our nationally recognized education and public awareness efforts continue as well, and more than 85 percent of local governments are actively implementing water resources education programs in their communities.

In addition, the District's planning process has become a model for other planning efforts. The District's framework is being reviewed as part of Georgia's statewide water planning process. Other regions of the country have recognized our organization and plans as a dynamic approach to comprehensive water resources management. The District is influencing actions in our region, and efforts to reduce pollution and use water more wisely are increasing.

2005 was a notable year, and momentum continues to build. We appreciate and look forward to your continued support for the District's efforts and programs.

Sincerely,

Kit Dunlap, Chairman

WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Officials

Atlanta: Mayor Shirley Franklin

Bartow: Mayor Mike Fields, Cartersville

Cherokee: Chairman Mike Byrd

Clayton: Chairman Eldrin Bell

Cobb: Chairman Sam Olens (Vice Chairman)

Coweta: Mayor Robert Hannah, Senoia

DeKalb: CEO Vernon Jones

Douglas: Chairman Tom Worthan

Fayette: Mayor Ken Steele, Fayetteville (Secretary-Treasurer)

Forsyth: Mayor H. Ford Gravitt, Cumming

Fulton: Chairman Karen Handel

Gwinnett: Chairman Charles Bannister

Hall: Chairman Tom Oliver

Henry: Mayor Lorene Lindsey, Locust Grove

Paulding: Mayor Boyd Austin, Dallas

Rockdale: Chairman Roy Middlebrooks

Walton: Mayor Jim Burgess, Social Circle

Citizen Members

Rebecca "Becky" Champion

Robert D. Cheeley

Kathryn "Kit" Dunlap (Chairman)

Michael J. Egan

P. Martin Ellard

Gardiner W. Garrard, Jr.

Birdel Jackson

Dennis McEntire

Robert Lipson

Laura Turner Seydel

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Official Code of Georgia § 12-5-586 provides:

The district shall submit a written report not later than December 31 of each year to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, and the chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, which report shall contain a detailed account of the activities and progress of the district throughout the previous year and an accurate accounting of all funds received and expended by the district and of the implementation of plans and attainment of goals.



OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICT

DISTRICT GEOGRAPHY

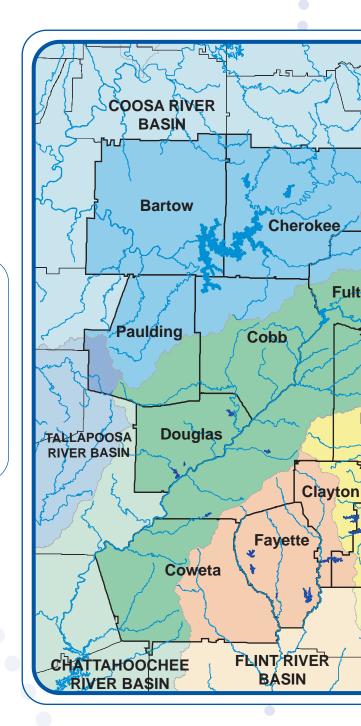
- 16 counties and 94 cities
- 5 major river basins
- · Over 4 million people
- 5,250 square miles

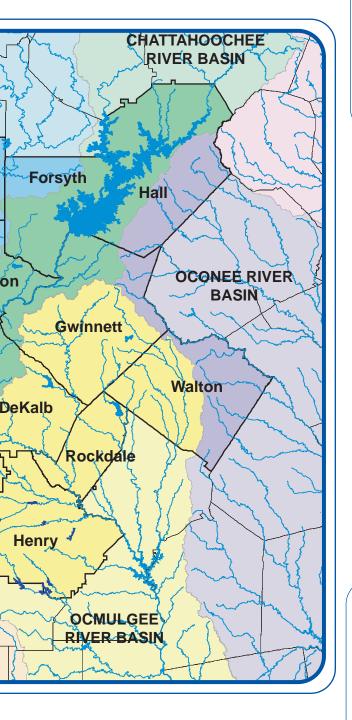
MISSION

The District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive regional and watershed specific water resources plans that are implemented by local governments in the District. These plans will protect water quality and public water supplies in and downstream of the region, protect recreational values of the waters in and downstream of the region and minimize potential adverse impacts of development on waters in and downstream of the region. (Adapted from O.C.G.A § 12-5-571)

DISTRICT BOARD

- 17 local elected officials
- 10 appointed citizen members
- Manages the business and affairs of the District





TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- Composed of more than 200 water resources officials from local governments within the District
- · Provides technical assistance to the staff and Board
- Divided into four subcommittees: stormwater, wastewater, water supply and conservation, and education

BASIN ADVISORY COUNCILS

- Involve more than 150 citizen stakeholders
- Guide the development and implementation of the District's plans and policies
- Divided into six councils: Chattahoochee, Etowah, Flint, Lake Lanier, Ocmulgee, Oconee

STAFFING AND ENFORCEMENT

- Atlanta Regional Commission Environmental Planning Division provides staffing.
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) approves plans and ensures local government compliance with the District plans through the permitting process.

THREE COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCE PLANS ADOPTED IN 2003

- District-wide Watershed Management Plan
- Long-term Wastewater Management Plan
- Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

of programs and activities to support the implementation of these strategies. Many of these programs provide education about our water challenges and the solutions needed to meet these challenges. Other programs provide technical assistance on the details of plan implementation and the necessary local government programs. Lastly, the District continually reviews the plans and their implementation to ensure that the District's goals are being met.

The District's plans set forth strategies and recommendations for effective water

Providing a Water Forum...

Local government officials, water resources professionals and other interested parties attended more than 50 meetings hosted by the District in 2005. These training opportunities and meetings continue to provide a forum where common water issues are discussed and stakeholders have the opportunity to coordinate solutions to the region's critical water issues.

Water Summit

One of the most successful District events of 2005 was a water summit, held in September. This half-day program brought together leaders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors to talk about water issues confronting the metro region. More than 140 persons attended the event. Speakers included **Kit Dunlap**, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District chairman; **Dr. Carol Couch**, director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division; **Rob Hunter**, commissioner of the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management; **Jim Stokes**, president of the Georgia Conservancy; **Kevin Green**, vice-president of environmental affairs for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; and **Pat Stevens**, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

Newsletter and E-News

In addition to face-to-face meetings, the District continually works to educate and engage our stakeholders through its written and electronic publications. The District newsletter focuses on the District's planning activities, implementation actions of its members and general water resource issues. More than 2,000 District stakeholders receive this publication.

The District launched Water E-News in 2005. This periodic electronic newsletter includes feature stories, events, news, media coverage and updates of District activities.

Evaluating the Plans...

The District's plans outline a comprehensive and integrated approach to water resources management within the District. However, these plans are not static documents. The District has a process to review minor amendments to the plans on an "as needed" basis and annually reviews its plans to determine if a major update is needed.

Consideration of Minor Amendments

During 2005 a number of local governments submitted written requests to amend the Long-term Wastewater Management Plan. Most of the requests were related to changes in wastewater capacity or schedule for existing facilities. The Executive Committee considered each proposal and adopted eight amendments to the plan after public review and comment.

2005 Annual Plan Review

The District is required to review the plans annually. During this process the District considered a number of topics identified during meetings and through the Plan Review Survey sent out to local governments in August. In coordination with staff, the Technical Coordinating Committee and Basin Advisory Councils, the Board developed specific recommendations as to how the plans should be amended. The Board released the proposed amendments for public comment in December, and they are scheduled to be adopted at the District's first meeting in 2006.

2005 PLAN AMENDMENT TOPICS

- · Revised Model Floodplain Management Ordinance
- Schedule modifications for water quality monitoring, stormwater operations and maintenance, and watershed improvements
- Buffer ordinance
- · Septic systems in "critical areas"
- Septic system maintenance
- New wastewater facilities
- Replacement of older, inefficient plumbing fixtures
- New pre-rinse spray valve retrofit program
- Sub-unit meters in new multi-family buildings

Communicating with Our Partners...

Reporting Our Progress

To track implementation of the plans, the District surveyed local governments about their activities. The results of this survey are used to evaluate progress and report the findings to the director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the Governor. The annual implementation report also allows local governments to compare their progress with other jurisdictions within their county and within the District as a whole.

Building Support

Water Dis

Implement

resource challenges. Successful implementation of the plans requires modification of a variety of ordinances, policies and programs. The District collaborated with diverse audiences from across the region – from elected officials in the Georgia House of Representatives to business leaders from several Chambers of Commerce to citizen stakeholders attending community roundtable discussions – in order to build support for such policy

Informed citizens and leaders are key elements of the solutions to the District's water

changes and promote awareness of the region's water resources problems and solutions.

Sharing Our Planning Expertise

In 2004, the Georgia General Assembly passed the Comprehensive Water Management Planning Act, charging the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) with drafting Georgia's first comprehensive statewide water plan. Georgia EPD subsequently asked the District to share its extensive experience and the knowledge it derived from developing and implementing the District plans. In 2005, the District joined Georgia EPD's first technical advisory committee, which addresses water conservation. This committee is charged with answering scientific and technical questions that to water use and evaluating conservation policies and practices being

related to water use and evaluating conservation policies and practices being considered for the statewide plan. Dr. Carol Couch, director of Georgia EPD, has asked the District to continue its involvement in 2006 as other parts of the plan are developed.

The District has also shared its planning experiences with other groups in Georgia as well as other regions of the country. District Chair Kit Dunlap, Vice Chair Sam Olens and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin traveled to Columbus to meet with local elected officials, water system professionals and business leaders. The District conducted technical briefings for Georgia EPD's Flint River Basin Planning Group and the Upper Etowah Habitat Conservation Planning Group. Nationally, the District presented its work at conferences in Chicago, Philadelphia and San Antonio.



Watershed Management

The District-wide Watershed Management Plan sets forth strategies and recommendations for effective watershed management and stormwater control. The Stormwater Subcommittee of the District Technical Coordinating Committee serves as a regional forum for discussing a wide range of stormwater-related topics, including implementation of model stormwater ordinances, extent and level of service for stormwater maintenance, floodplain management and stormwater program funding.

Promoting Best Practices...

Model Stormwater Ordinances

In February, the District held a workshop to educate local governments on the District's six model stormwater ordinances. These model ordinances are part of the District-wide Watershed Management Plan and are designed to address a number of issues related to stormwater runoff and watershed protection. The full-day workshop provided an overview of the model ordinances to local staff and officials, as well as useful information on how to adopt and implement the ordinances in their jurisdictions.

MODEL ORDINANCES

- Model Ordinance for Post-Development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment
- Model Floodplain Management / Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- Model Conservation Subdivision / Open Space Development Ordinance
- Model Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance
- Model Litter Control Ordinance
- Model Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance

Floodplain Mapping

More than 60 professionals attended the District's floodplain mapping seminar in August. Presenters shared efforts currently taking place in both Cobb and Gwinnett counties to determine new 100-year floodplain boundaries based on future land use conditions. By updating floodplain maps using expected future land use, District communities can better alert residents of flood risk, as well as more effectively regulate new development to keep it out of harms way.





In early 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Georgia EPD Floodplain Unit asked the District to revise the District Model Floodplain Management / Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in order to ensure compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Working with FEMA and Georgia EPD, District staff and the TCC Stormwater Subcommittee developed a revised model floodplain ordinance that ensures that District communities that adopt the ordinance are NFIP compliant. In addition, the updated ordinance incorporates a "zero-rise" approach that limits development in floodplain areas outside of the floodway to those projects that can demonstrate no adverse upstream or downstream impacts. The updated ordinance was sent out for public comment in December and will be considered for Board approval in early 2006.

Providing Implementation Assistance...

Stormwater Good Housekeeping Practices

As a component of the District-wide Watershed Management Plan, the District researched stormwater good housekeeping and pollution prevention practices. Staff is currently working with the TCC Stormwater Subcommittee on the best ways to promote and ensure adoption of these practices among businesses, governments and institutions.

Watershed Improvement Plan Guidelines

The District-wide Watershed Management Plan includes a number of complementary strategies designed to help communities in the District meet water quality standards and protect water resources. One of these strategies involves physical improvements to substantially impacted watersheds – those watersheds with an effective impervious area of 10 percent or greater. The plan recommends the development of Watershed Improvement Plans (WIPs) that establish the physical improvements required to address problems in these watersheds. In 2005, the District worked with the TCC Stormwater Subcommittee to develop a set of draft guidelines for the Watershed Improvement Plan process.

Water Quality Monitoring Coordination

The District, working with local governments and Georgia EPD, has prepared a set of water quality monitoring protocols and standards. District-wide implementation of the monitoring efforts was to begin in May 2005. However, Georgia EPD requested additional internal review of the monitoring plan and protocols. As such, the monitoring program is scheduled to begin in 2007.

Wastewater Treatment

The Long-term Wastewater Management Plan recommends strategies for more intensive management of privately owned septic systems and the development of high-performance public wastewater treatment systems. The District's Wastewater Subcommittee of the Technical Coordinating Committee and a new Septic System Subcommittee address these issues. The septic systems group includes representatives from local water and sewer departments, county environmental health offices and private on-site wastewater industry. Previously, these groups had little formal opportunity to work together, to share ideas or to develop a coordinated approach to addressing septic systems in the metro area. This group met four times during 2005 to discuss septic system issues, including disposal of septage, minimum lot size, septic system inspection and maintenance, critical areas, septic system education and septic system databases.



Gathering Septic System Information...

District staff surveyed each of the 16 county environmental health departments to gain a better understanding of how septic systems are managed in the District. There are an estimated 550,000 septic systems in the District, 37 percent of which are more than 20 years old. The three main reasons cited in the survey for failures were related to improper design, siting or installation, the age of the system and excessive water use. Historically, septic systems were seen as a temporary wastewater solution until communities extended the sewer line. This is no longer the case. Many communities view septic systems as a permanent wastewater solution. In seven of the 16 District counties, most new development relies on septic systems.

The survey revealed the desirability of involving local environmental health departments at the beginning of the development process (before roads and lots are cut) to identify and set aside the areas of best soils for locating septic systems. Also, lot sizes for septic systems need to be larger and based on septic siting criteria.

Sharing Local Experiences...

The Long-term Wastewater Management Plan recommends local utilities establish a capacity certification program for their wastewater collection system. Capacity certification programs are a mechanism for local jurisdictions to ensure that adequate wastewater collection and treatment capacities exist within their sewer systems before authorizing new flows and sewer system connections. The Wastewater Subcommittee is a forum for local information exchange. During one such meeting this year, Atlanta and Gwinnett County shared their experiences with capacity certification programs.

Estimated Number of septic systems in the District — 550,000

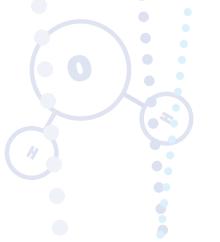
Estimated breakdown of the types of septic systems in the District:

90% Residential

9% Commercial

1% Other (schools & churches)





City of Atlanta

Beginning in 2000 as part of a consent decree, the City of Atlanta put in place a capacity certification program that is tied to the building permit application process. City staff use a dynamic hydraulic model of the sewer system to understand the system's capacity. Where capacity is limited, the City issues a conditional certification. These conditional certifications allow a project to be constructed but not occupied. As part of the consent decree, every linear foot of the 1,500 miles of sewer lines

will be inspected as part of the Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES). The City has certified more than 6,000 new sewer connections since 2000.

Gwinnett County

The Gwinnett County Department of Public Utilities uses a computer modeling program called SewerCAD to locate and identify "iffy" pipes. Using current sewer bills to establish actual user flows, as well as permanent flow meters interspersed throughout Gwinnett, the county can model current sewer capacity and flow and use this information to project capacity out to 2015. When a developer proposes a new project, the county runs a "what if" scenario in the model. This enables the county staff to identify any pipe sizes, system improvements or other requirements necessary to ensure that capacity is available for that development. Once the modelers have determined what changes need to be made to the sewer system, the developer is responsible for the cost of installing the larger pipe or other required infrastructure to meet the needs of his proposed development. Once the upgraded sewer line is installed, the pipe is owned by Gwinnett County. Gwinnett County has been using this system for just under a year, and they have a full-time modeling staff to handle this project.

Tracking Wastewater Issues...

It is critical the District be able to utilize the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries for water supply and wastewater treatment.

Georgia EPD and the Wildlife Resources Division of DNR are evaluating trout habitats in the river from Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek and have presented their work to the District's Wastewater Subcommittee. The District has asked Georgia DNR to establish a mechanism for the Chattahoochee River stakeholders to stay informed of the study's progress and be given an opportunity to comment during the work. By working cooperatively on this issue, local, District and state partners can ensure that this critical resource is protected.

Water Supply & Water Conservation

The Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan calls for a future of intensive water demand management and an aggressive water conservation program. The water conservation program included in the plan will reduce future demand by an additional 11 percent, beyond the eight percent savings expected with existing codes and appliances, for a total of nearly 20 percent savings. If the District can achieve this level of water savings, the needs of the District can be met through 2030 with some reserves.

Promoting Best Practices...

Residential Water Audits

The District has developed a brochure to show individuals how to conduct a household water audit. This user-friendly document leads homeowners step-by-step through the process of detecting major household leaks and addressing inefficient water use behaviors.

The District recommends that each water provider distribute this information to its highest 25 percent

of residential water users to encourage water conservation. The information is also helpful to customers who voice concerns about high water bills.

RECOMMENDED WATER CONSERVATION ACTIONS

- Conservation pricing for all District water systems
- · Water system leak reduction and repair
- Retrofit of older, inefficient plumbing fixtures
- Low-flow urinals for new buildings*
- Rain sensor shut-off switches on new irrigation systems
- Sub-unit meters in new multi-family buildings
- Residential water audits
- Commercial water audits
- Distribution of low-flow retrofit kits to residential customers
- Education and public awareness programs
- * This measure is under review and will likely be replaced in 2006 with a spray valve retrofit education program.

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Water Audit Workshop

Industrial, commercial and institutional water use is approximately 27 percent of the total water demand in the District. To address water conservation for these customer groups, the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan recommends that each water provider rank their water users according to annual water use and offer a free water survey to those accounts that use the most water. The program should target hotels, motels, hospitals, restaurants and other customers with large needs for water.

The District conducted an ICI Water Audit Workshop in coordination with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P2AD) in October 2005. National expert Bill Hoffman from the City of Austin's Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Water Conservation Program and Philip Paschke from the Seattle Water Smart Technology Program presented information on how to start a successful ICI Water Audit Program and what to look for in when doing a water audit. Judy Adler and Adrienne Thorpe of P2AD also presented local resources for performing ICI water audits.





Retrofitting Older Inefficient Fixtures

One of the original measures in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan recommended that older residential buildings meet the plumbing codes for new buildings prior to transfer of ownership. This measure was found to be impractical. In 2005, the District convened a Water Conservation Retrofit Steering Committee to develop a new approach.

The committee was composed of leaders in the real estate community, both commercial and residential; mortgage brokers, water providers, environmental groups, representatives from state government and representatives

of the fixture industry. The committee examined a variety of strategies to achieve the results projected from the original measure and recommended a more flexible approach to be implemented by the water providers in the District, beginning by 2010. The steering committee's recommendation is being considered as an amendment during the 2005 Annual Plan Review.

Food Service Spray Valves

The food service industry uses a device called a pre-rinse spray valve to wash off dishes prior to using a dishwasher. According to the 2005 Energy Policy Act, all new pre-rinse spray valves manufactured must be low-flow devices. However, replacing the older, less efficient spray valves could save millions of gallons per day across the District. The District proposes to require local governments or water providers to distribute educational materials on these devices to food service industries. This new measure would replace the low-flow urinal measure originally recommended in the Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan. The urinal measure was determined to be neither cost-effective nor technically practical.

Multi-family Sub-Unit Meters

The Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan requires all new multifamily buildings be built so that individual tenants are billed for their water use. Studies show that tenants are more likely to conserve water and report leaks when they are responsible for the water bill. Buildings with sub-unit meters save 15 percent more water. During the year, the Water Supply and Water Conservation Subcommittee developed language to clarify that each water local agency could implement this measure through either local policy or ordinance and that responsibility for the management of the sub-unit meters could be with either the utility or the property owner. The subcommittee developed language that can be used in an ordinance or local policy to implement this water conservation measure.

Assisting Water Providers...

Reducing Water System Leakage

The District estimates that water providers in the 16-county area could save as much as 29 million gallons of water per day through aggressive water loss assessments and control methods. The District recommends water providers conduct water loss assessments using the American Water Works Association and the International Water Association (AWWA/IWA) methodology for assessing water system losses. This methodology is currently being revised, and the full document will not be available at least until 2007. However, computer software will be available by early 2006 that will allow water suppliers to calculate some elements of the full methodology. The District is monitoring the development of the software and methodology and will provide local water providers with more detailed information once it is available.

Enacting Water Conservation Pricing

Conservation pricing gives customers incentive to reduce excessive discretionary water use by making the cost of water increasingly more expensive. At a minimum, all the District utilities were required to implement uniform price structures by January 1, 2004, and at least three-tiered structures are required by 2006. In 2005, the District provided technical assistance to the water providers on the required conservation pricing structures.



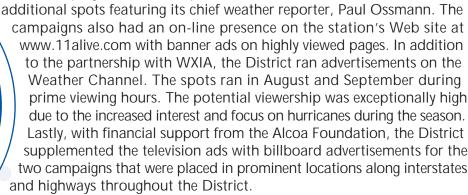
EDUCATION & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Raising Awareness Through Mass Media...

In 2005, the District continued efforts to increase public awareness of water issues through two mass media campaigns: the Clean Water Campaign (CWC) and Water Use It Wisely (WUIW). The Clean Water Campaign delivers pollution prevention messages to homeowners and businesses and produces a variety of programs designed to change behavior and reduce stormwater pollution. Water Use It Wisely focuses its messages on water conservation.

The District partnered with WXIA
(Channel 11) to air more than 600 Water
Use It Wisely and Clean Water Campaign
spots in 2005. The District provided PSAs

for both campaigns, and WXIA produced





The Clean Water Campaign held 42 workshops throughout the District in 2005. Attendance at the workshops averaged 30-40 attendees; however, some workshops drew more than 100 participants. The District partnered with the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service to present many of the workshops. Extension agents from each county led the personalized workshops that integrated pollution prevention and water conservation tips for residents.





WORKSHOP TOPICS

- Rain Gardens
- Planting Trees to Protect Streams
- Lawn Care
- · Automobile Service

- Xeriscaping
- Composting
- Septic System Maintenance

Rivers Alive

Now in its 14th year, Rivers Alive is an annual statewide event during the month of October that draws tens of thousands of Georgians for stream clean-ups around the state. In 2005, an estimated 26,000 volunteers participated in hundreds of cleanups in Georgia's streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and ocean from Lake Blue Ridge in North Georgia to the Ochlockonee River in the South. District staff coordinated publicity for Rivers Alive, generating newspaper articles and radio and television appearances throughout the District and statewide.



Educational Videos

The Water District, in partnership with Georgia Department of Natural Resources Pollution Prevention Assistance Division and the University of Georgia Urban Agriculture Program, developed a 30-minute video on how to install a rain garden which featured Dr. Rose Mary Seymour of the University of Georgia. Copies have been made available to local libraries, local government access channels, local governments and other interested agencies and organizations.

New - "U Fix-It Workshop"

In partnership with the Clean Water Campaign, the City of Gainesville and Hall County Environmental Health Services held a "U Fix-It Workshop" in May 2005. This new, interactive workshop highlighted simple ways to repair leaky appliances and maintain septic tanks that reduce water waste. These "fix-it" methods can help homeowners conserve water and save money. Dozens of residents participated in the workshop, which was successful in teaching practical and "handson" solutions to water conservation.





Essay Contest

Through its annual Clean Water Campaign/Water Use It Wisely Essay Contest, the District hopes to educate children about water quality and conservation efforts in Georgia. Students research and share their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution are important for the future of their rivers, lakes and streams. The main goal of the essay contest is to challenge students to think of creative ways to conserve water and improve

water quality in metro Atlanta.

The essay contest was open to middle school students throughout the 16 counties (grades 6-8). More than 1,000 students participated in 2005. A winner was selected for each county that participated in the contest.

Kelley Miller from North Hall Middle School was the District-wide winner. In addition to her essay, Kelley puts her words into action by participating in stream cleanup events throughout Hall County. She has worked with various Hall County organizations and has taken part in Rivers Alive cleanups.



Project WET Educator Workshop

The District sponsored a Project WET Educator Workshop that drew educators from around the metro area. Local government representatives and teachers participated in the interactive workshop, which covered the Conserve Water and Project WET curriculum. Participants learned creative ways to reach youth and adults in their schools and communities with messages and activities of how to protect water resources.

Children's Water Festival

The District participated in the 2005 Children's Water Festival, held this year in Dalton. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs organizes and coordinates this festival, which drew students from the 16 counties and beyond.

Hundreds of students participated in games to learn the value of being a responsible steward of the environment. Students learned the difference that they can make individually in their community and how it can affect the health and quality of water resources.

Awards and Recognition...

In 2005, the District's Clean Water Campaign public service announcements received several prestigious awards:

- Horizon Interactive Award Competition (Bronze)
- Atlanta Marketing Association's AMY Awards (Bronze)
- 2005 Telly Awards (Bronze)
- 2005 Aurora Awards (Platinum-Best of Show)

The award-winning public service announcements are available on the Clean Water Campaign's Web site at www.cleanwatercampaign.com/resources/multimedia.html.

Clean Water Campaign Nationally Recognized

The U.S. Environmental Protection Administration has developed a series of stormwater case studies to help Phase II municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) get started on or improve their stormwater management programs. EPA featured the Clean Water Campaign in one case

study for its public outreach initiatives, specifically the

Campaign's workshop program.

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation invited the Clean Water Campaign to contribute to its environmental information service for broadcast meteorologists in major U.S. media markets. This service uses simple factoids to explain the link between weather and the environment and offers viewers tips for action. The foundation sent the Campaign's tips to meteorologists and weather anchors across the country.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

2005 Plan Implementation Questionnaire

The District is required to review the implementation of its plans and report to the director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) on an annual basis. As part of this reporting, the District surveyed the implementation activities of local governments in the fall of 2005. A questionnaire, which focused on a variety of local government implementation activities from each of the three District Plans, was sent to 120 District local jurisdictions and water and sewer authorities.

Responses to the questionnaire provided the District with significant information about progress at the local level. Local government implementation is critical to the District's goal of ensuring adequate supplies of drinking water, protecting water quality and minimizing the impacts of development on watersheds and downstream communities. Following is a summary of the responses received. A report of the full responses from each jurisdiction has been prepared and is available on the District Web site: www.northgeorgiawater.org.

District-wide Watershed Management Plan

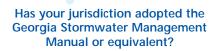
The District-wide Watershed Management Plan outlines strategies and tasks that cities and counties should implement to manage stormwater and protect watersheds. Eighty-one local governments responded, which represent approximately 98 percent of the District's population.

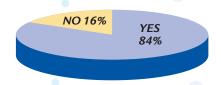
Stormwater Management Model Ordinances

Six model ordinances are included in the District's approach to protect water quality and address stormwater impacts. All cities and counties within the District are required to adopt either the model stormwater ordinances or ordinances at least as effective. The table on the following page summarizes the status of local adoption of the model ordinances based on the questionnaire responses.

The Post-Development Stormwater Management Ordinance is intended to address permanent stormwater runoff control on new development and redevelopment projects in the District. This ordinance provides the stormwater policies and performance criteria for managing stormwater quality and quantity, whereas the technical criteria and design specifications for stormwater controls and drainage design are typically included in a separate manual. Local governments that have adopted the Post-Development Stormwater Management Ordinance were asked if they have adopted supporting stormwater technical design criteria, such as the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual or equivalent technical manual. Fiftyone cities and counties responded that they have adopted and are currently using the manual.









Stormwater Model Ordinance Adoption by Local Governments (As of October 2005)





- Ordinance for Post-Development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment
- Floodplain Management / Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- ▲ Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Ordinance
- ★ Conservation Subdivision / Open Space Development Ordinance
- Litter Control Ordinance
- Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance
 - * Did not return questionnaire

Local governments required to adopt the model stormwater ordinances by April 2006

Bartow County Cities Adairsville * Cartersville Euharlee • Kingston * Taylorsville * White *

Cherokee County Cities Ball Ground 🔺 🖈 🔸

Nelson * Waleska

Ke

Coweta County Cities

Corinth * Grantville * Haralson

Moreland * Senoia *

Sharpsburg • ■ ▲ ★ ◆ ❖ Turin 🔺 🤄

Douglas County Cities Villa Rica ■ *

Fayette County Cities Brooks

Gwinnett County Cities

Braselton * Rest Haven *

Woolsey**

Hall County Cities Clermont *

Gillsville * Lula *

Henry County Cities Locust Grove ○ ▲ ★ ◆ ❖

Paulding County Cities Braswell *

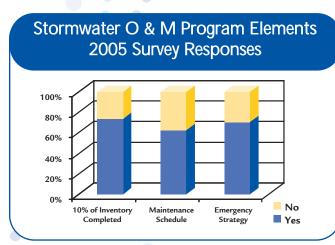
Walton County Cities

Between * Good Hope * Jersey * Monroe • Social Circle * • Walnut Grove • • • •

** Stormwater management in the City of Woolsey is handled by Fayette County

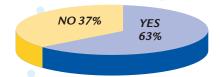
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Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Programs



Operations and maintenance activities undertaken by local governments ensure that stormwater drainage, control and conveyance systems are providing for the safe passage of runoff and the removal of non-point source pollution. The District-Wide Watershed Management Plan provides that cities and counties in the District should inventory and map their stormwater system in order to support operations and maintenance activities. At least 10 percent of this inventory was to be completed by this year. In addition, the plan proposes that local communities develop an inspection and maintenance schedule for those system components for which they take responsibility as well as develop an emergency response strategy for threats to public safety.

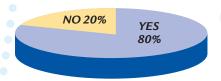
Have you coordinated your source water protection efforts with your comprehensive plan and/or greenspace plan?



Water Supply Source Watershed Protection

In the District, the vast majority of public drinking water supplies come from surface water sources. Sixty-one percent of survey respondents indicated that they had a water supply source watershed in their jurisdiction. The Watershed Management Plan includes a number of strategies for protecting watersheds that serve a public water supply source, including the implementation of local source water assessment programs (SWAPs), stormwater management activities, Georgia Part V planning criteria, greenspace acquisition, pollution prevention education and integration with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans.

Does your jurisdiction have a local stormwater public information and education program?

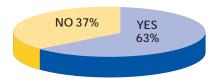


Stormwater Public Awareness and Education

Local public awareness and outreach activities are critical to preventing stormwater pollution and protecting or improving the quality of our water resources. By working with the District's Clean Water Campaign, cities and counties can effectively leverage the regional efforts in developing their own local stormwater education programs.

Eighty-eight percent of respondents said that they were using materials from the Clean Water Campaign in their local programs. In addition, almost 75 percent reported that they were performing stenciling or applying curb markers telling citizens to "Keep it Clean, Drains to Stream" near storm drains and inlets in their community.

Are you considering a stormwater utility if you don't already have one?



Stormwater Program Funding

As cities and counties focus more on stormwater management and watershed protection, it becomes apparent that program funding is critical to implementing an effective and successful program. In 2005, more local governments began to look at the creation of stormwater utilities as a way to provide additional funding. In addition, more jurisdictions are also looking at bond sales, review fees and development impact fees as other options to supplement funding from general revenues.



Long-term Wastewater Management Plan

The Long-term Wastewater Management Plan contains a variety of activities that focus on wastewater collection system inspection and maintenance, septic systems and decentralized systems, and local wastewater planning. Eighty-four percent of sewer systems in the District responded to the plan implementation questionnaire, which represent 97 percent of the sewered population in the District.

Local Plans

Local utilities need to integrate the District plan into their own local master plans. Thirty-seven District sewer systems have reviewed their wastewater master plan to ensure consistency with the District plan.

Local Policy for Private Wastewater Systems

Local governments are required to develop policies on private wastewater systems specific to their own needs. Some jurisdictions prohibit private wastewater systems, while others may allow them under very limited situations and others may include them as part of a long-term plan. Twenty-five local governments already have local policies addressing private wastewater systems.

Sewer System Maintenance Programs

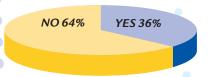
Each District sewer system is required to establish maintenance procedures and implement a sewer system maintenance program. The purpose of the maintenance program is to ensure that the sewer system is maintained in a manner that minimizes failures and extends the longevity of the system. Forty-one District sewer systems utilize a sewer system maintenance program.

These sewer system maintenance programs should consist of several minimum elements. Because the discharge of grease into sewer systems poses serious clogging problems and substantial costs, a grease management program should be developed. To help ensure adequate protection of human health and the environment from sanitary sewer overflows, a written overflow response program is needed. Sewer rehabilitation is necessary to restore the structural integrity of a sewer system and to reduce the hydraulic loads by eliminating infiltration and inflow. As the first step in developing a sewer system model, each local utility is required to develop a sewer system inventory. Capacity certification programs allow various jurisdictions to determine whether adequate wastewater collection and treatment capacities exist within their sewer systems, before authorizing new flows and sewer service connections. Each local utility is required to develop procedures for certifying available capacity for proposed developments as part of establishing a sewer capacity certification program. Prior to developing inspection and maintenance training programs, each local utility is required to outline training needs for program and employee training.

Has your utility conducted a review of your local wastewater master plan for consistency with the District Long-term Wastewater Management Plan?

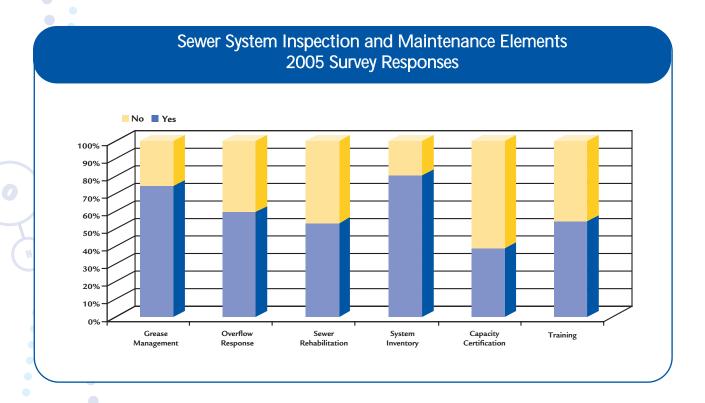


 Does your local government have a local policy for private wastewater systems (does not include individual septic systems)?

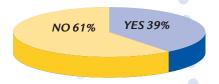


Does your utility have a Sewer System Maintenance Program?





Does your utility accept septage at local wastewater treatment plants or provide alternative treatment locations?



Has your local government begun to develop local plans to determine future sewered and unsewered areas of the jurisdiction?



Has your utility begun to develop policies for connecting to public sewer?



Septage Disposal

An effective method for extending the life of a septic system and insuring its proper operation is to pump out settled solids from the septic tank before excessive amounts accumulate and begin to migrate into the absorption field. As more homeowners are educated how to properly maintain their septic systems, local jurisdictions will need to plan for disposing of the septage at local wastewater plants or provide alternative locations.

Sewered vs. Unsewered Area Planning

The Local Wastewater Management Plans should identify areas for long-term septic system use, as well as those areas where public sewer service will eventually be available. Forty-two District local governments have already begun to identify future sewered and unsewered areas of their jurisdiction.

Sewer Connection Policy

Each sewer system is required to establish policies concerning connection to public sewers by the end of 2005. Forty-two District sewer systems have already established policies for connecting to public sewer.

Water Supply and Water Conservation

Management Plan

The Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan includes a framework for water supply facilities and strategies for resource management. There was a 83 percent response rate to the questionnaire from the water suppliers in the District. The 53 suppliers who responded serve approximately 99 percent of the District's population.



A critical element of the District plan is water conservation. The water conservation program includes measures that will reduce water use and water losses and help local jurisdictions.

Conservation Pricing

By January 1, 2006, all District water suppliers are required to adopt a multi-tiered rate

structure. The goal of conservation pricing is to reduce excessive discretionary water use, especially outdoor irrigation, by making water use increasingly more expensive. Twenty-five District water suppliers already meet that goal.



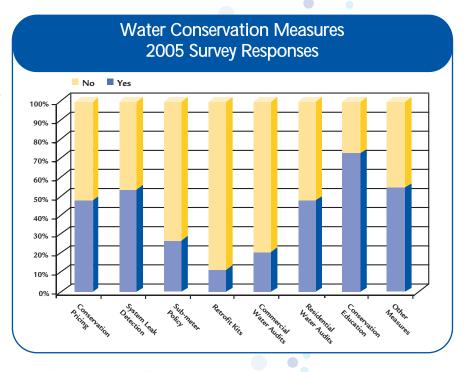
A major component of the District's program is leak reduction, which has the potential to provide much of the planned water savings. Water suppliers must identify methods to reduce leakage in their systems and to reduce unbilled water. Twenty-eight water suppliers have on-going leak detection programs.

Multi-family Sub-Unit Meters

Local ordinances or policies requiring that new multi-family buildings (i.e. apartments, townhomes, condominiums) be built with either individual water-utility-owned meters on each unit or sub-unit meters owned and managed by the property owner with a utility-owned master meter. This measure allows water service to each unit to be based on volume of use, thus giving individuals incentive to use water efficiently. Studies show sub-unit meters can save 15 percent. Fourteen water suppliers have already implemented this measure.

Water Audits and Retrofit Kits

The plan contains several water conservation measures that focus on helping individuals and businesses assess their water use and provide recommendations and tools to reduce water use.





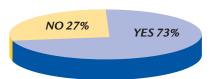
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Has your jurisdiction conducted a review of local water plans for consistency with the District Water Supply and Conservation Management Plan?



Has your jurisdiction developed an emergency water plan?



Is your jurisdiction developing joint water plans as identified by the District?



Water suppliers within the District are required to begin or expand a program for residential customers that provides water audit or leak detection information. It is recommended that the water suppliers target large water users. Twenty-five water suppliers have implemented this measure.

Water suppliers are also required to begin or expand a program to provide water audits to commercial customers. Eleven water suppliers have implemented this measure.

Water suppliers are also required to begin or expand a program to distribute low-flow retrofit kits to customers. These kits could include low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and other applicable retrofit items. The kits would be distributed to the portion of the service areas that have pre-1992 homes that were built before these low-flow fixtures were required as part of the plumbing code. Six water suppliers currently distribute low-flow retrofit kits.

Water Conservation Public Education

Education and public awareness are critical to achieving support of the District's water conservation goals and, ultimately, the reduction in water use. Each water provider is required by the water supply plan to create or expand its public information campaign. Thirty-eight water suppliers currently provide conservation materials to their customers.

Other Measures

Water suppliers also support water conservation through a variety of other measures, including the WaterSmart program, showerhead exchanges, Xeriscaping workshops, water reuse programs, service line replacement and enforcement of the state-wide "Rules for Outdoor Water Use."

Local Water Supply Planning

Local water management plans are needed to support proposed infrastructure and improvements. In some cases, local plans need to be revised to incorporate the District's principles. Thirty-four local jurisdictions have developed local water supply plans that conform to the District plan.

Emergency Water Plan

Each water system needs to develop or update its emergency plan. Thirty-eight water suppliers have developed emergency water plans.

Joint Planning

Water supply efficiency and reliability are enhanced through the interconnection of adjoining water systems. Encouraging interconnections between water systems in the District is particularly important in the event of a drought or emergency situation. Five of the six major joint water supply plans identified in the plan are being developed. In addition, eighteen other water suppliers are working across jurisdictional lines.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Water Planning District operates on a calendar year. On June 3, 2004, the Board approved the District's 2005 budget. A detailed accounting of the funds received and expended by the District are listed below.

Projects Funding

Successful implementation of the plans hinges on the ability to fund both capital improvements and the programmatic measures. Estimated costs for these improvements and activities are expected to reach into the billions of dollars over the next 30 years, with the majority of these funds raised at the local level. The District continues to work to identify additional funding at the state and federal level to supplement these local dollars. The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) has met with the District to educate local governments on how they can secure financing for District projects using the state's bonding capacity.

In addition, the District is in its fourth year of working to secure federal funding for District projects and has focused on the EPA Appropriations Bill. To date, the District has secured federal grants totaling \$2.6 million dollars through the FY 2005 appropriation cycle. This work continued in 2005, and although there was strong support from the Georgia delegation, funds were not secured for this program in the FY 2006 appropriation cycle. While this is a setback, the District and its partners will continue to work with the Congressional delegation to educate the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the importance of federal funding for the District. In 2006, the District will also investigate additional funding options through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).



During 2005, the Board and its committees discussed issues surrounding the funding of the District's 2006 budget (\$1,116,199). The board agreed to continue to fund the District through the per capita assessment option at a rate of \$.15 per capita. This amount generates \$596,199 in local dues for the 2006 budget. The Board has requested \$250,000 in the FY 2007 Georgia state budget for the District's 2006 calendar year.

Funds Expended (as of December 7, 2005)

	2005 Budget	Expended or Under Contract Through 12/7/2005	Remaining Budget
Chairman's Allowance	3,000	0	3,000
District Special Projects	135,000	115,052	19,948
Public Education	207,000	206,186	814
Salaries	267,109	250,425	16,684
Fringe Benefits	157,594	147,751	9,843
Water Board Contracts	28,000	28,000	-
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	109,585	72,137	37,448
Overhead	164,785	154,492	10,293
Totals	\$1,072,073	\$974,043	\$98,030

Receipt Register

Date	Payor	Interest	State	Local	Special Purpose Funds	s Total
1/3/05	City of Cartersville				10,000.00	10,000.00
1/14/05	Rockdale County			1,753.00	•	1,753.00
1/14/05	City of Stockbridge				5,000.00	5,000.00
1/14/05	Forsyth County			14,761.00		14,761.00
1/21/05	City of McDonough				5,000.00	5,000.00
1/31/05	Clayton County			11,826.00		11,826.00
1/31/05	Interest Income	1,280.82		47.004.00		1,280.82
2/7/05	Henry County			17,901.00	F 000 00	17,901.00
2/14/05 2/14/05	Henry Water and Sewer				5,000.00	5,000.00
2/14/05	Locust Grove Rockdale County			1,753.00	5,000.00	5,000.00 1,753.00
2/14/05	Interest Income	1,155.52		1,755.00		1,155.52
3/11/05	Fulton County BOC	1,133.32			35,000.00	35,000.00
3/11/05	Fulton County BOC			10,733.00	33,000.00	10,733.00
3/11/05	Fulton County BOC			10,733.00		10,733.00
3/11/05	Coweta County			13,382.00		13,382.00
3/11/05	City of Hampton			-,	5,000.00	5,000.00
3/11/05	City of Ballground				5,000.00	5,000.00
3/30/05	Rockdale County			1,753.00		1,753.00
3/31/05	Interest Income	1,444.74				1,444.74
4/14/05	Douglasville Douglas County			13,826.00		13,826.00
4/14/05	Fulton County BOC			10,733.00		10,733.00
4/22/05	Rockdale County			1,753.00		1,753.00
4/29/05	Interest Income	1,587.47				1,587.47
5/11/05	Coweta County			13,382.00		13,382.00
5/27/05	Fulton County BOC			10,733.00		10,733.00
5/27/05	Rockdale County	1 4 4 2 0 4		1,753.00		1,753.00
5/31/05 6/14/05	Interest Income Cobb County	1,642.94		91,163.00		1,642.94 91,163.00
6/30/05	Interest Income	1,618.54		91,103.00		1,618.54
7/5/05	Rockdale County	1,010.54		1,753.00		1,753.00
7/31/05	Interest Income	1,428.07		1,700.00		1,428.07
8/26/05	Henry County	1,120.07		17,901.00		17,901.00
8/31/05	Interest Income	1,330.48		,		1,330.48
9/14/05	Hall County				12,500.00	12,500.00
9/14/05	City of Atlanta			62,471.00		62,471.00
9/14/05	Rockdale County				7,500.00	7,500.00
9/14/05	City of Gainesville				10,000.00	10,000.00
9/21/05	Fulton County BOC			10,733.00		10,733.00
9/30/05	Interest Income	1,351.59				1,351.59
10/18/05	Fayette County			13,689.00		13,689.00
10/18/05	Paulding County			12,252.00		12,252.00
10/18/05	Henry County			17,901.00		17,901.00
10/31/05 10/31/05	Cherokee County Hall County			21,285.00 20,892.00		21,285.00
10/31/05	Cobb County			91,163.00		20,892.00 91,163.00
10/31/05	Interest Income	1,230.17		91,103.00		1,230.17
11/9/05	Gwinnett County	1,230.17		88,267.00		88,267.00
11/15/05	Walton County			9,103.00		9,103.00
11/30/05	DeKalb County			95,414.00		95,414.00
11/30/05	Clayton County			11,826.00		11,826.00
11/30/05	Interest Income	1,637.19		•		1,637.19
12/7/05	Fulton County BOC	•		10,733.00		10,733.00
	Clayton County			23,652.00		23,652.00
12/7/05	Fulton County BOC			64,396.00		64,396.00
12/13/05	GA Dept. of Natural Resources		250,000.00			250,000.00
2005 Tota	ls	15,707.53	250,000.00	801,369.00	105,000.00	1,172,076.53

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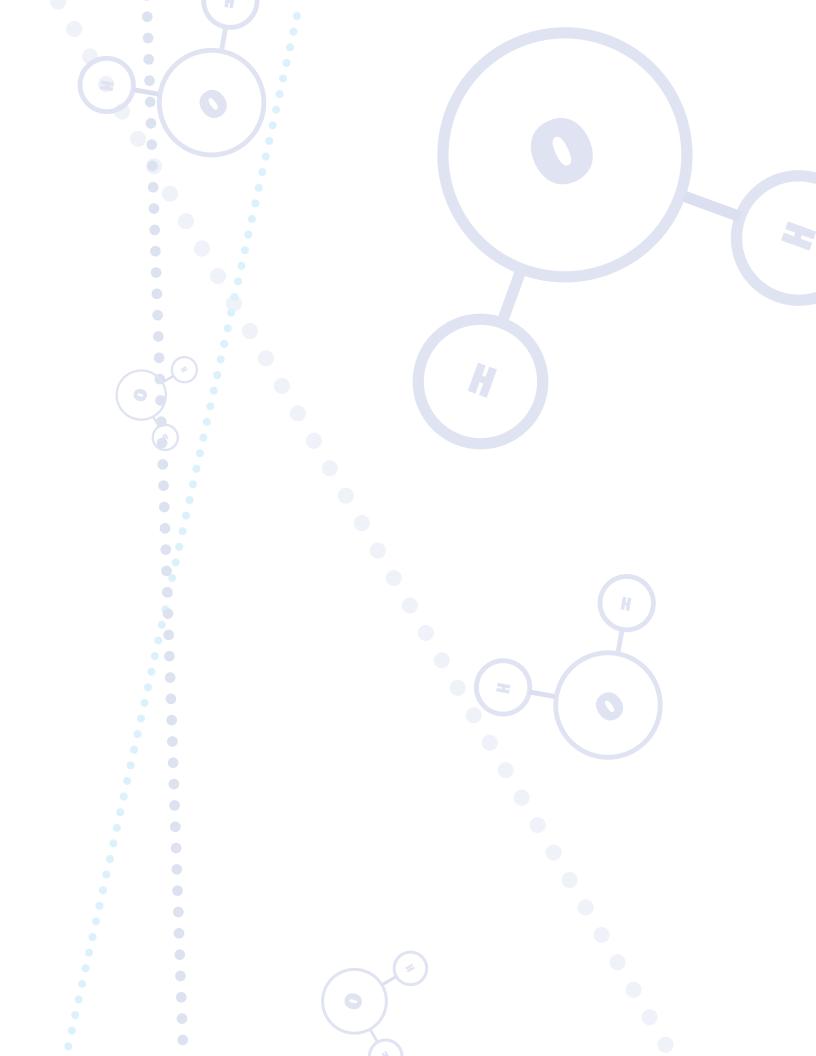
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Barbara Noon













CONTACT US

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District 40 Courtland Street NE • Atlanta, Georgia 30303 phone: 404.463.3344 • fax: 404.463.3254

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