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The Importance of the Middle Chattahoochee River Basin

Where does water come from? Perhaps your mind immediately jumps to the faucet. Or perhaps you are someone who knows that there is a more complex story behind that question. If you are one of the latter, you know that our main supply of water comes from the various river basins of Metro Atlanta. Here in Marietta, one of the most important water basins is the Middle Chattahoochee, part of a unique river vital to our history and culture.

The Chattahoochee River served as an essential water source, a source of power for textile mills, and a major transportation and trade channel in the past, heavily influencing the growth of nearby cities. The Middle Chattahoochee is the part of this prominent river in closest proximity to Marietta. It is important to Marietta's history for these same reasons – drinking water, hydroelectricity, and trade routes were vital to the development of this city. Additionally, the Middle Chattahoochee is very important to Marietta's culture as well. Today, many families' summer traditions include visiting this noteworthy river. People in Marietta enjoy many exciting recreational activities at the Chattahoochee, including hiking, tubing, fishing, and simply enjoying being in the great outdoors.

It is extremely important for the people in my community to know about the Middle Chattahoochee because, aside from leisure, it is used as a major source of water, just like in the past. Many people only think of recreation when the Chattahoochee is mentioned, but there is so much more to this key river than fun activities. We rely heavily on this river for all of the necessities related to water, such as drinking, bathing, and washing hands. Without water from the Chattahoochee, those needs could never be fulfilled. All life on Earth, including humans, would not survive without water. Furthermore, my community must be educated on the Middle Chattahoochee and its highly critical ability to provide us with water because it is in danger. The Chattahoochee River is facing a threat: pollution. One form of pollution is stormwater pollution, the detrimental occurrence of polluted rainwater flowing into bodies of water. This can harm and unbalance delicate ecosystems, leading to further consequences. For instance, as I previously mentioned, the Middle Chattahoochee is a heavily utilized water source. This water will be filtered, but there is always the risk that toxic pollutants could slip through and greatly affect humans. Therefore, educating my community on this topic is very important, for it could help people be more mindful of pollution and its repercussions.

In conclusion, river basins are extremely important to history, culture, and life as we know it. The specific river basin that Marietta depends on is the Middle Chattahoochee, an immensely influential water source; however, this river is vulnerable to harmful pollutants. So, ask yourself again, where does water come from? Keep this question close, for it has the power to make a difference. One voice will lead to many more joining in support of the protection of the river basins of Metro Atlanta.