

MIDDLE CHATTAHOOCHEE REGION

BACKGROUND

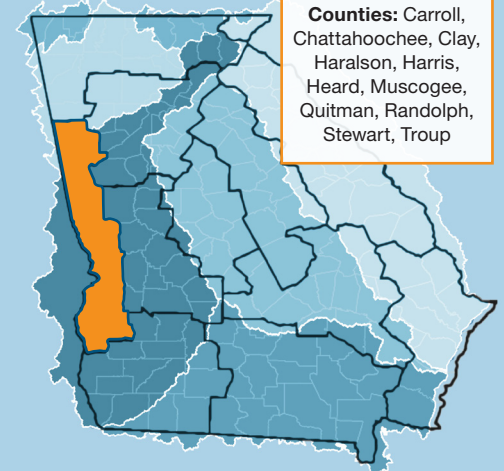
The Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan was first adopted in 2011, and a revised plan was adopted in 2017. The Plan is the product of the work of the Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Planning Council. The Regional Water Plan outlines strategies to meet water needs through 2050 and fulfill the Council's vision and goals for the water planning region. Major water resources in the water planning region include the Chattahoochee and Tallapoosa River Basins, Lakes West Point and Walter F. George, and the Cretaceous, Clayton, Claiborne, and Upper Floridan Aquifers.

SUMMARY OF RESOURCE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY: Results for the Claiborne Aquifer indicate that existing withdrawals and future projected withdrawals are lower than the sustainable yield range estimated by the resource assessment model.

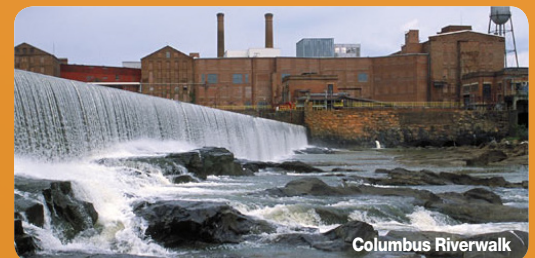
SURFACE WATER AVAILABILITY: Resource assessment model results in the Chattahoochee River Basin show significant Council-defined gaps for both current and future conditions related to minimum lake levels, particularly those that support recreation, and desired river flows. Potential gaps were also identified by the model results in the Tallapoosa and Little Tallapoosa River Basins.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY: The resource assessment model results indicated that most of the water planning region has available assimilative capacity for dissolved oxygen, with some localized exceptions, under current conditions. In the future, modeling results indicated that assimilative capacity can be managed through point source effluent permit limits. Point sources are the primary contributors of nitrogen and phosphorus loading in the watershed. Specific stream segments in this water planning region are listed as impaired for a variety of constituents, primarily fecal coliform.

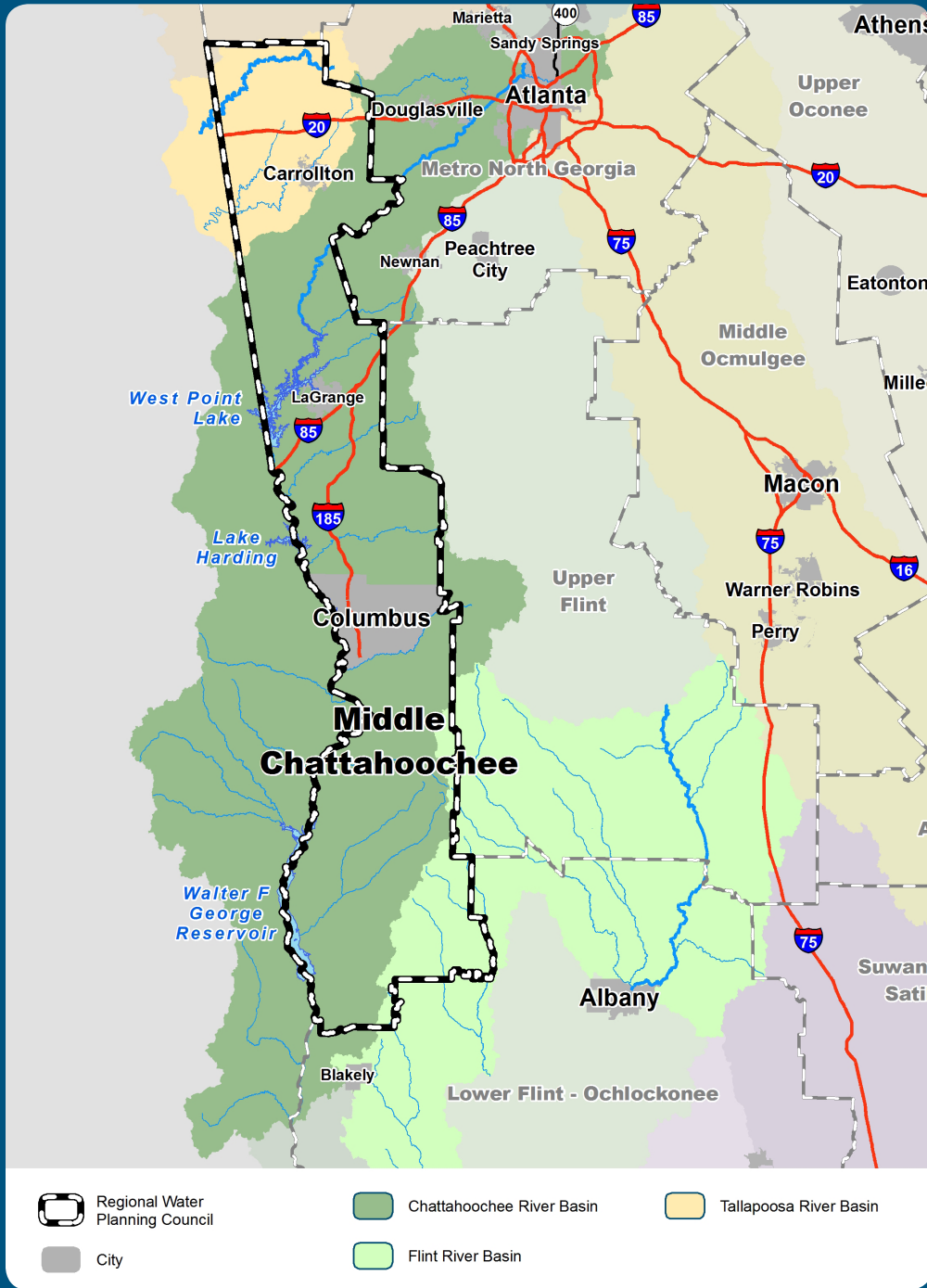


KEY WATER RESOURCE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE COUNCIL IN THE 2017 PLAN

1. Water demand and supply management to address potential gaps in water availability
2. Evaluation of changes in the operation of Chattahoochee Basin reservoirs to support higher lake levels and improved instream flows
3. Coordination with neighboring water councils
4. Improved implementation of Best Management Practices
5. Targeted water quality concerns



KEY WATER FEATURES OF THE MIDDLE CHATTAHOOCHEE REGION



MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

The Plan outlines management practices and recommendations to address potential gaps in water availability and water quality, to address Council-defined gaps in lake levels and instream flows, and to fulfill the Council's vision and goals. The high priority management practices are listed below (see Plan for a detailed description of all management practices and recommendations).

DEMAND MANAGEMENT
Support implementation of water conservation activities.

RETURNS MANAGEMENT
Encourage use of point source discharges for wastewater treatment effluent.

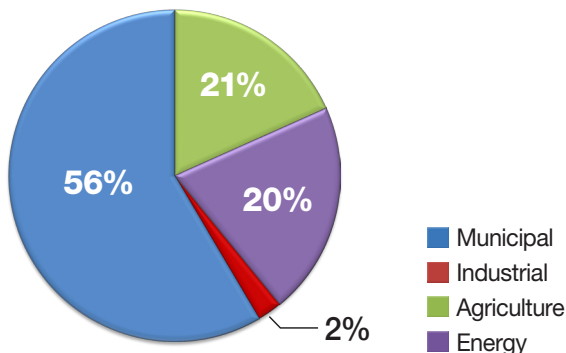
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT
Study the development of new or enhancement of existing water storage reservoirs and implement as necessary.

INSTREAM USE
Improve reservoir release quantity and timing in the Chattahoochee River; assess the potential to modify Chattahoochee River operations to protect instream uses and increase conservation storage.

WATER QUALITY
Improve water quality monitoring.

WATER POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
The Plan makes several recommendations regarding policies and programs to support plan implementation. The Plan also includes joint recommendations that the Council developed with neighboring regional water planning councils to address shared resources and concerns (see the Plan for more details).

2015 WATER DEMAND
TOTAL = 162 MGD



2050 WATER DEMAND
TOTAL = 192 MGD

