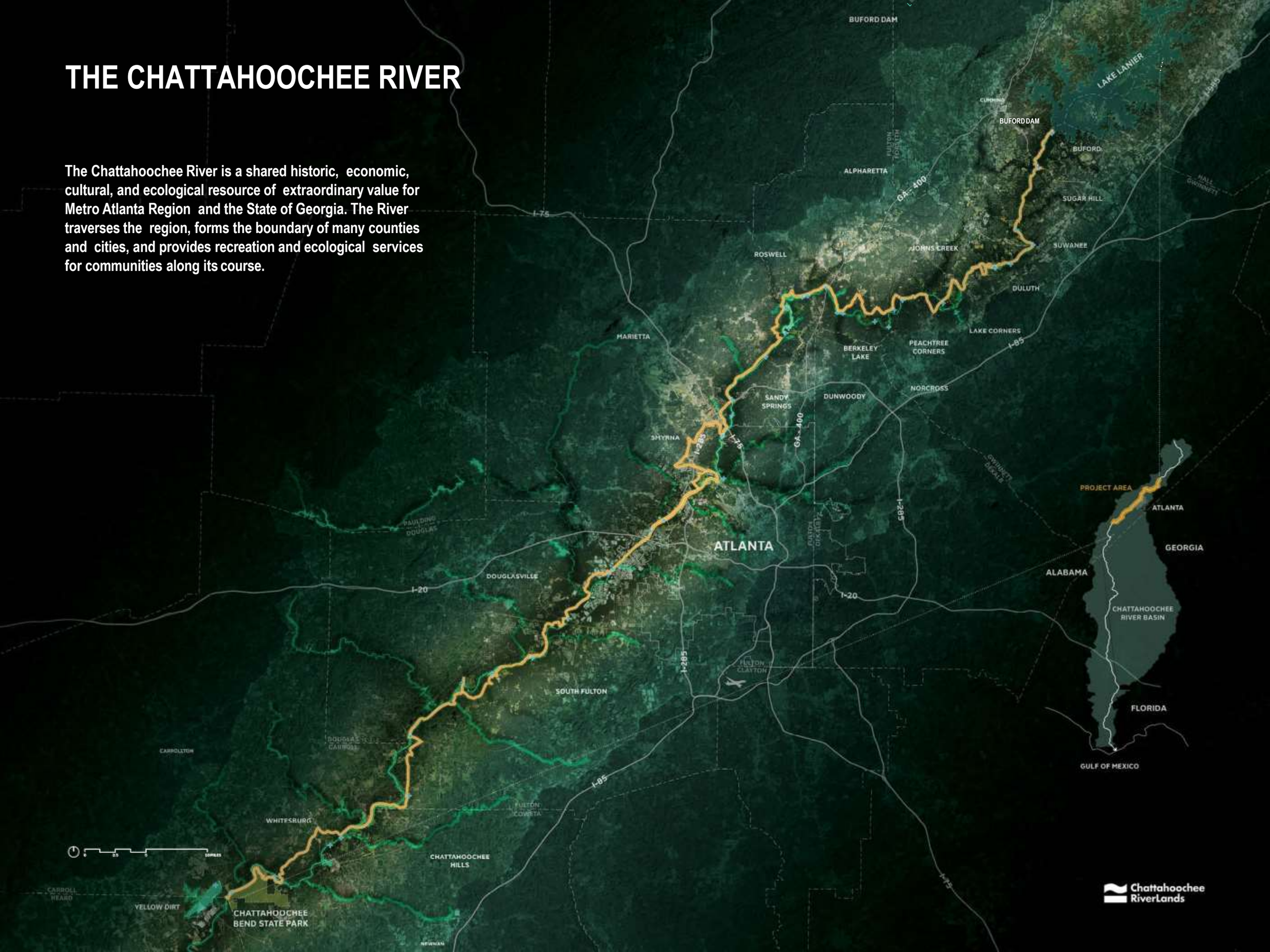
THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERLANDS

Chattahoochee RiverLands

THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

The Chattahoochee River is a shared historic, economic, cultural, and ecological resource of extraordinary value for Metro Atlanta Region and the State of Georgia. The River traverses the region, forms the boundary of many counties and cities, and provides recreation and ecological services for communities along its course.



THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERLANDS

THE GREENWAY
and River Destinations

- 125-mile multi-modal trail
- 19 cities across 7 counties
- Over 1 million residents within 15-minute bike ride
- 25 river crossings
- 42 trailheads
- 1 trailhead every 5 miles on average

THE BLUEWAY
and River Ecosystems

- 104-mile Blueway
- 42 water access points
- Over 26 parks connected

TRIBUTARY TRAILS
and Wider Communities

- 44 Tributary Trails
- 24 Cities within a 15 minute bike ride

THE RIVERLANDS

Project Goals:

- **A Safe, Connective Corridor**
- **A Common Ground for All**
- **An Ecological Refuge for the Region**
- **A Living Legacy for Future Generations**

Chattahoochee RiverLands

STUDY OVERVIEW

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

COBB COUNTY

CITY OF ATLANTA

with additional support from:
GWINNETT COUNTY

Chattahoochee RiverLands

DESIGN TEAM

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN

SCAPE

TRANSPORTATION, TRAIL DESIGN, AND NETWORK PLANNING

Gresham Smith

ECOLOGICAL DESIGN & PLANNING

Biohabitats

ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES
PROVIDING PERSPECTIVES ON THE PAST

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

DR. NA'TAKI OSBORNE JELKS, MPH

GEOGRAPHY

DR. RICHARD MILLIGAN

SURVEY

EDWARDS PITMAN

Chattahoochee RiverLands

CHATTAHOOCHEE WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTING ORGANIZATIONS*

Aerotropolis Atlanta
Atlanta Audubon Society
Atlanta Cycling
Atlanta Housing Authority
Atlanta Regional Commission
Atlanta Rowing Club
Atlanta's Upper West Side
Boulevard C.I.D.
Carroll County
Carroll County Historical Society
Carroll Tomorrow
Carroll Co. Chamber of Commerce
Chattahoochee NOW
Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
City of Atlanta
City of Chattahoochee Hills
City of Duluth
City of Johns Creek
City of Roswell
City of Sandy Springs
City of South Fulton
City of Sugar Hill
Cobb County
Coweta County
Cumberland C.I.D.
Douglas County
Forsyth Chamber of Commerce
Forsyth County
Friends of McIntosh Reserve
Friends of Sugar Hill Greenway
Fulton County
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia River Network
Georgia Power
Groundwork Atlanta
Gwinnett County
Historic Banning Mills
Invest Atlanta
Keep South Fulton Beautiful
Legacy at the River Line
Let's Go Fishing, Inc
Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Mableton Improvement Coalition
MTB Atlanta
Peachtree Corners Green Committee
Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
River Line Historic Area
Rivers through Atlanta
Riverwalk Atlanta
Roswell Creekways
Roswell, Inc.
Sandy Springs Conservancy
South Fulton C.I.D.
Sweetwater Creek Park
The Aimee Copeland Foundation
The Trust for Public Land
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. National Park Service (CRNRA)
Upper Chattahoochee Trout Unlimited
Upper West Side
Vinings Village Civic Club
Westside Future Fund

*As of April ,2020

Chattahoochee RiverLands

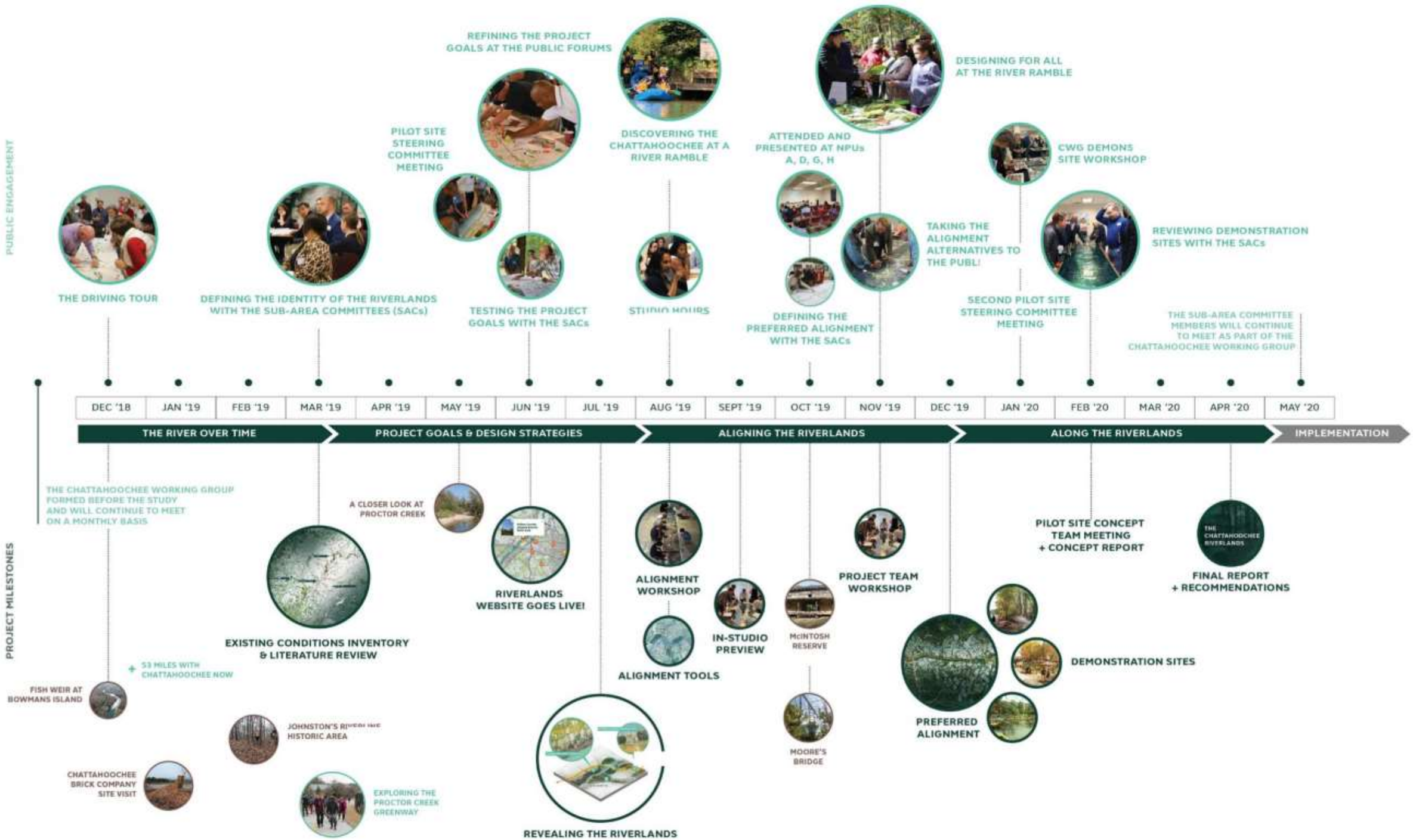
SUB-AREA COMMITTEES PARTICIPANTING ORGANIZATIONS*

Akens Design
Altanta Audubon
Army Corps
ATL Hawks
Atlanta Cycling
Atlanta Housing
Atlanta Rowing Club
Avid Paddler
Boulevard CID
Carroll County
Carroll Tomorrow
Chattahoochee Nature Center
Chattahoochee NOW
Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
City of Atlanta
City of Chattahoochee Hills
City of Douglasville
City of Duluth
City of Peachtree Corners
City of Roswell
City of Sandy Spring
City of Smyrna
City of South Fulton
City of Sugar Hill
Cobb County
Connect the Comet
Coweta County
Cumberland CID
Department of Natural Resources
Douglas County
East Cobb
Environmental Protection Agency
FOMR
Forsyth County
Georgia Aquarium
Georgia Conservancy
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Power
Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce
Groundwork Atlanta
Grove Park Neighborhood Association
Gwinett County
Historic Banning Mills
Historic Westside Gardens
Invest Atlanta
Johns Creek
Keep South Fulton Beautiful
Kimley Horn
Legacy at the River Line
Mableton Improvement Coalition
McIntosh Park
MTB Atlanta
My Hometown Realty Group
National Parks Service
Park Pride
Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
Providence Neighborhood
Raulet Property Partners
River Line Historic Area
Rivers Through Atlanta
Riverwalk Atlanta
Roswell Creekways
Sandy Creek Stewardship Council
Sandy Springs Conservancy
Serenbe Farms
SORBA (Sope Creek Trails)
Southern Conservation Trust
Sweetwater Creek State Park
University of Georgia
USEP
Upper Chattahoochee Trout Unlimited
Vinings Neighborhood
West Georgia University
Westside Future Fund

*As of April ,2020

Chattahoochee RiverLands

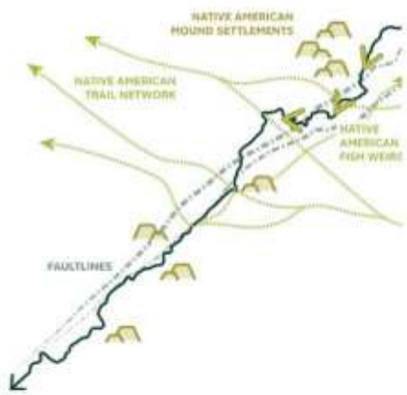
STUDY SCHEDULE



Chattahoochee RiverLands

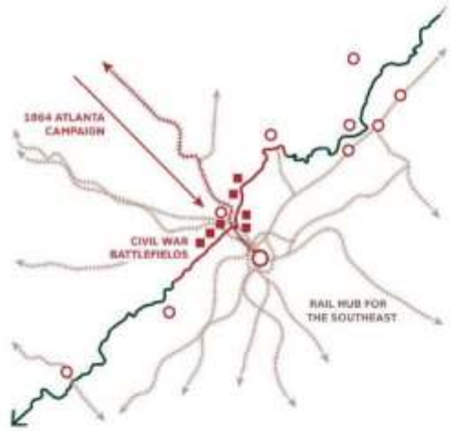
THE RESEARCH

THE RIVER OVER TIME

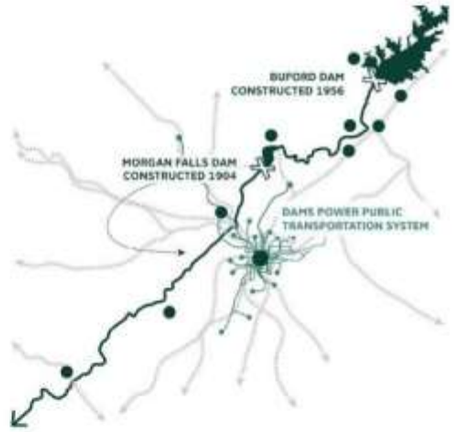


9350 B.C.E. - 1400 C.E
The River as a Way of Life

1800 - 1860
The River as a Driver of Industry

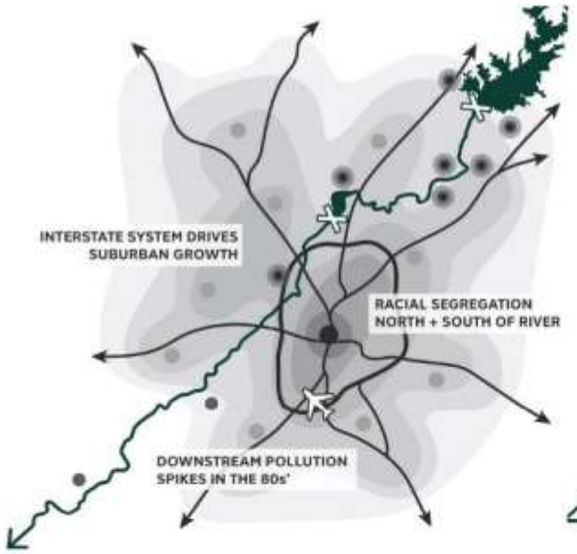


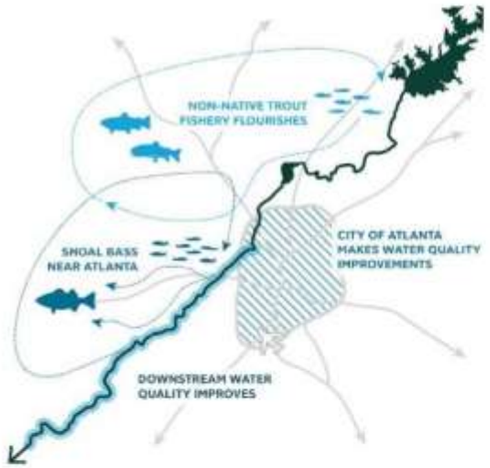
1860 - 1900
The River as a Barrier to Movement



1900 - 1950
The River as a Regional Utility

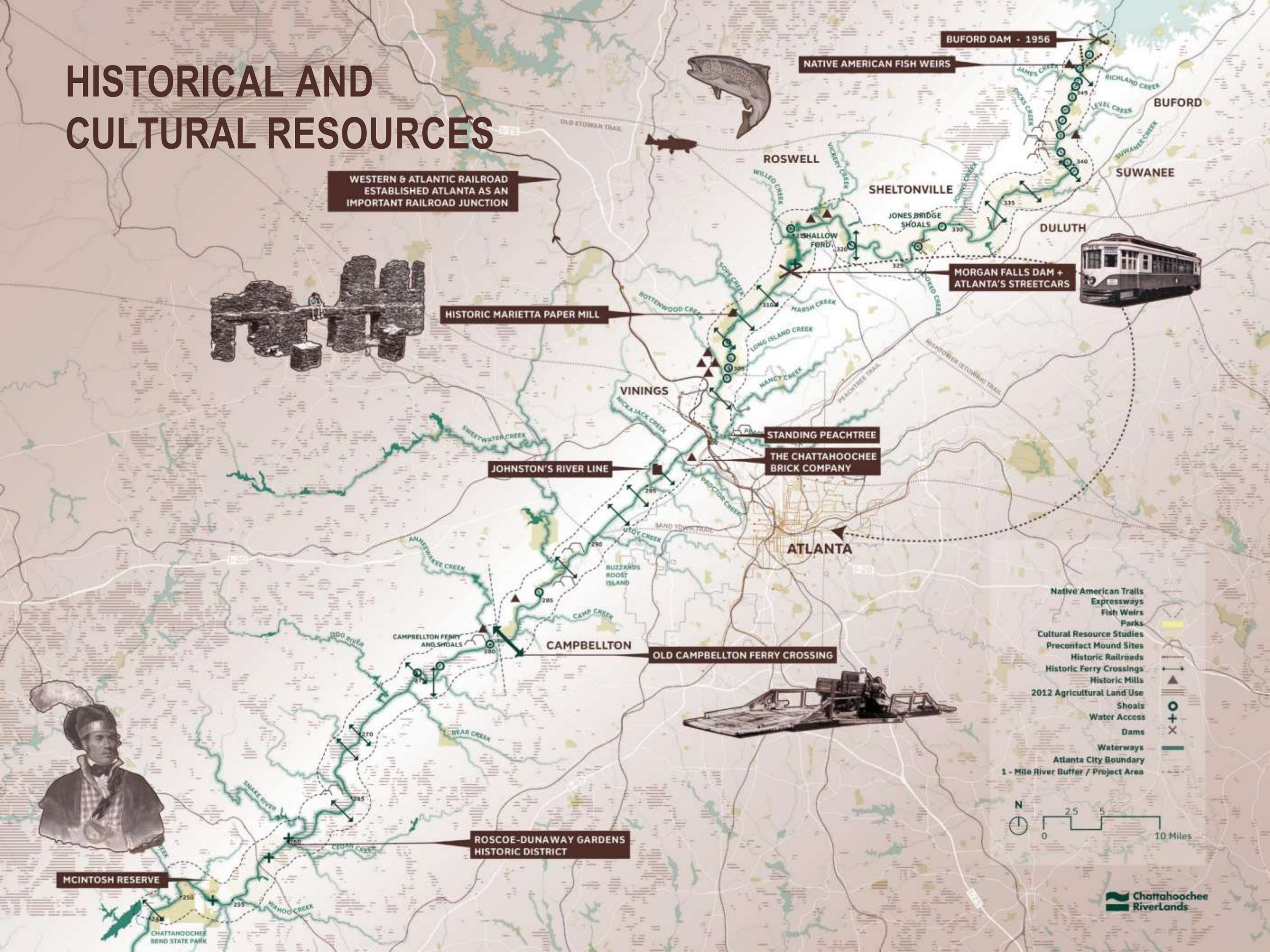
THE RIVER OVER TIME



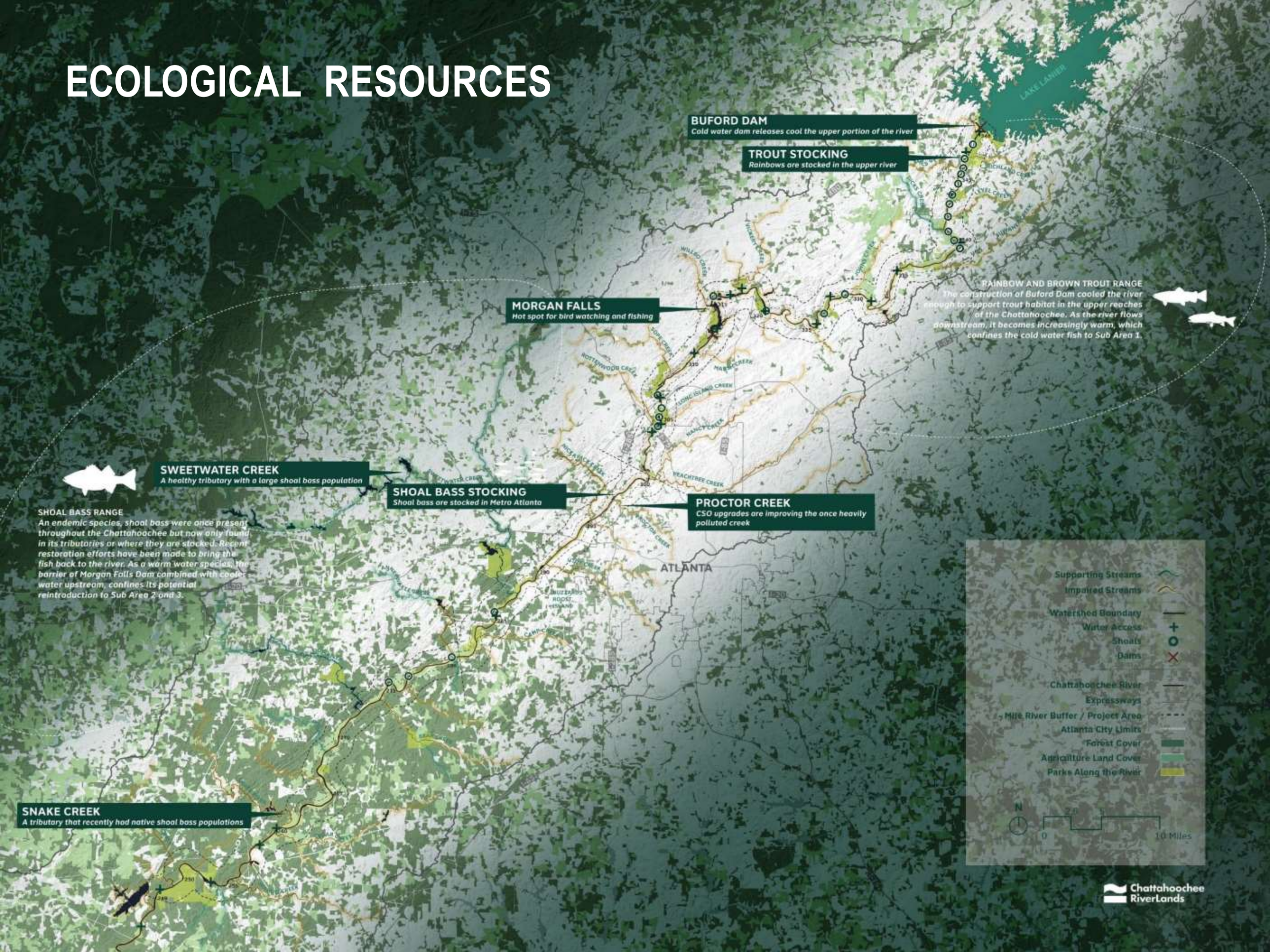


TODAY: It's Time to Reconnect with the River

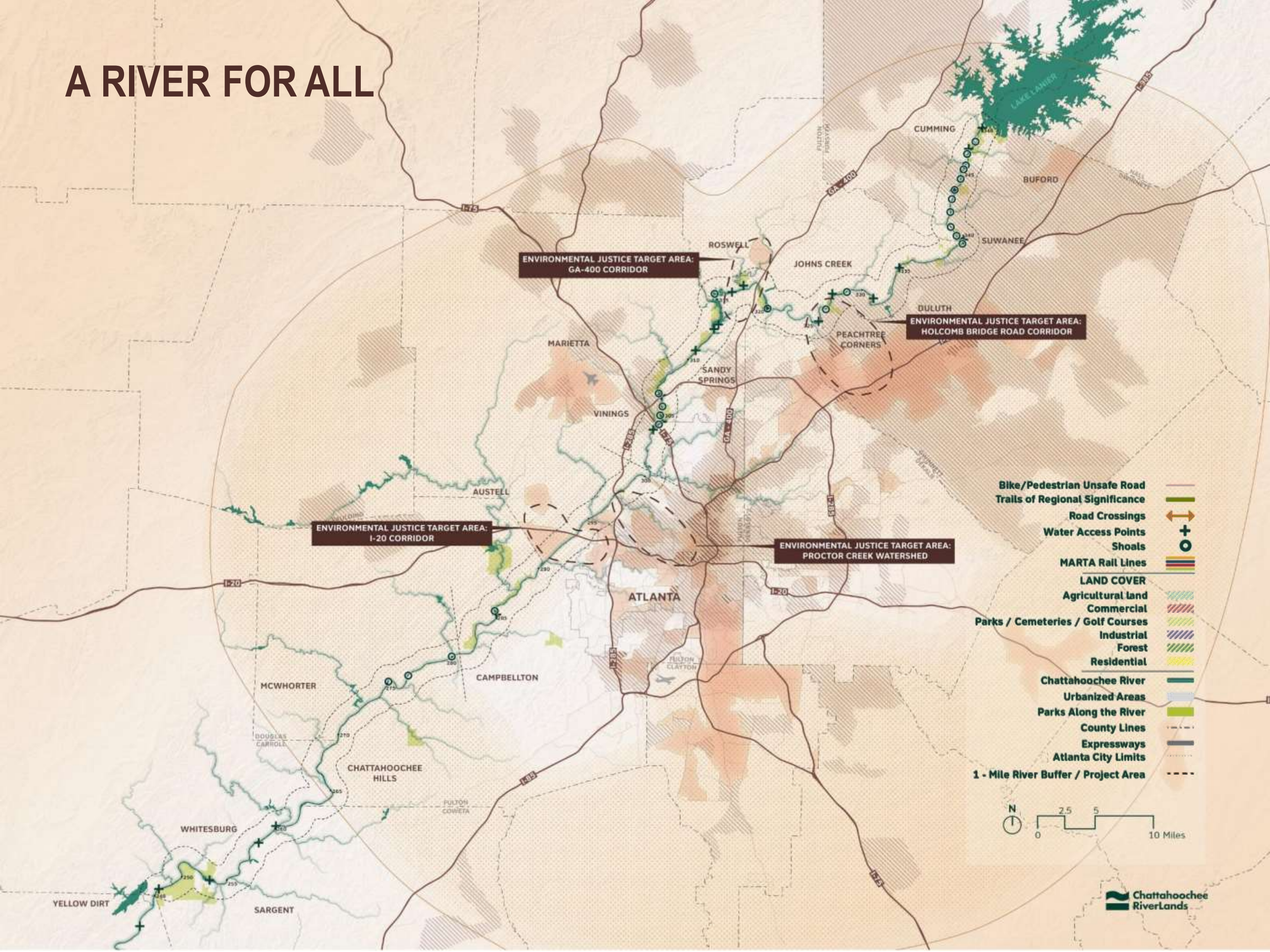
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES



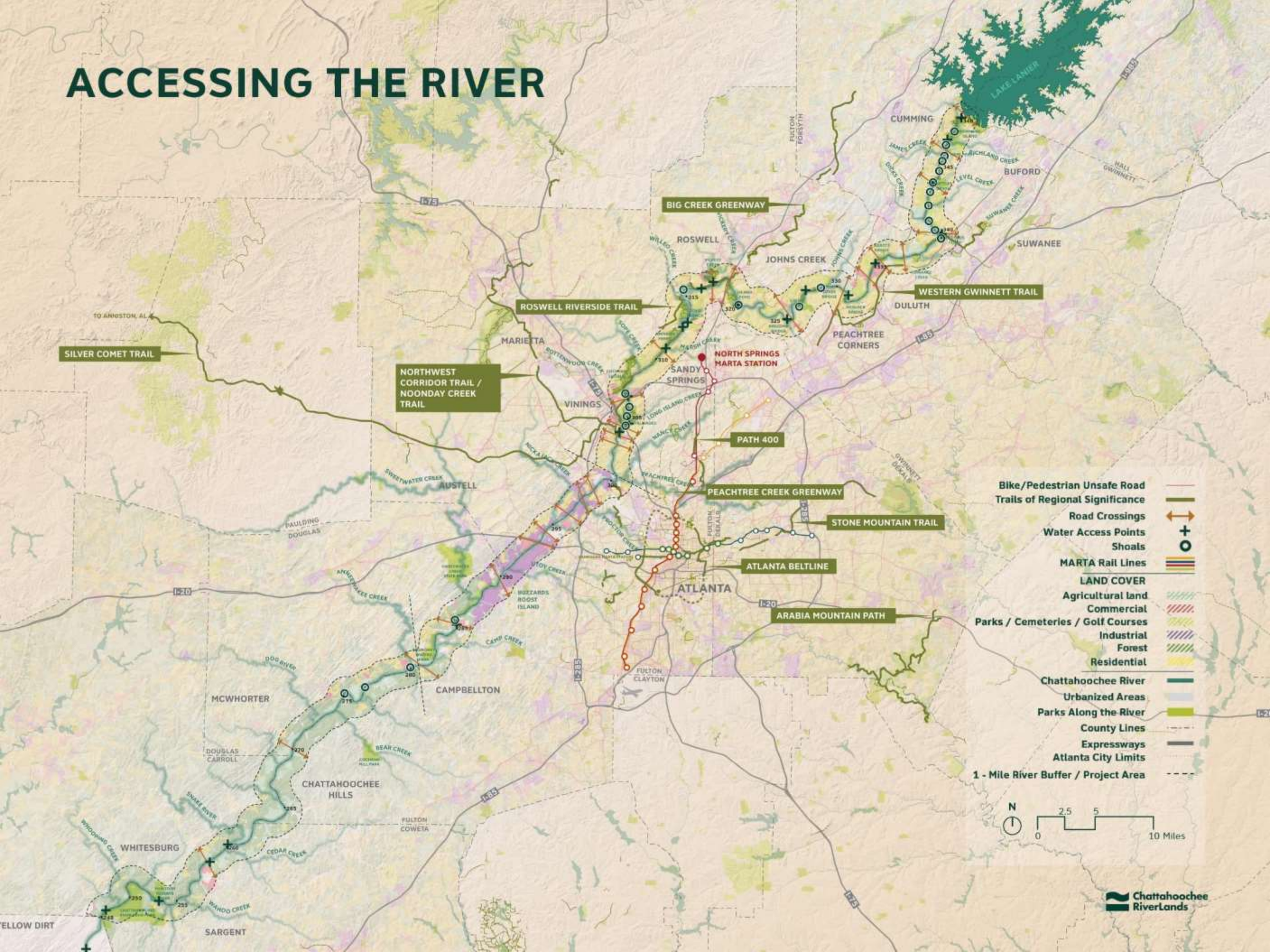
ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES



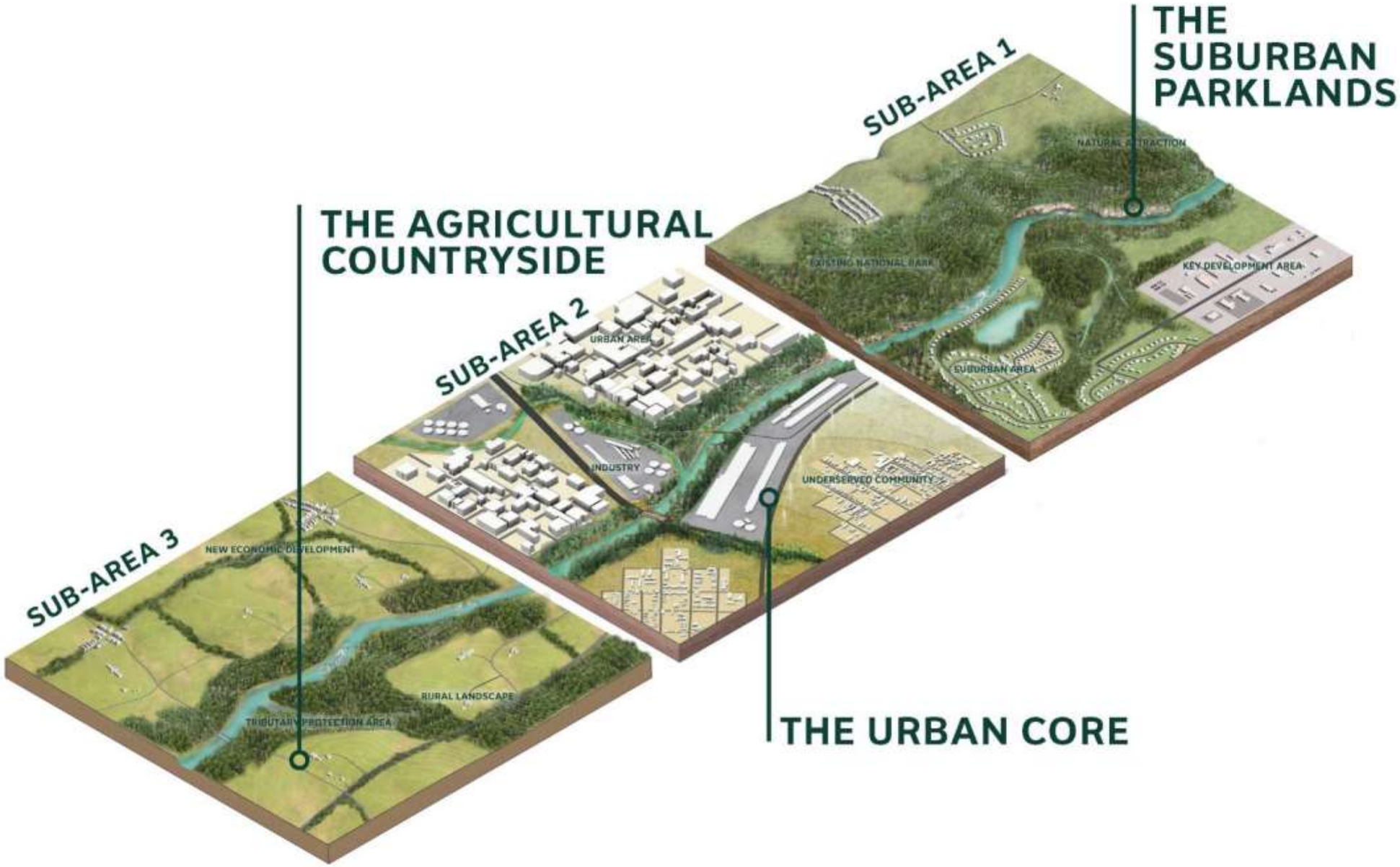
A RIVER FOR ALL



ACCESSING THE RIVER



THE RIVERLANDS IDENTITY



PROJECT GOALS & DESIGN STRATEGIES

GOAL: A SAFE, CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR

Chattahoochee RiverLands

GOAL: A SAFE, CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR

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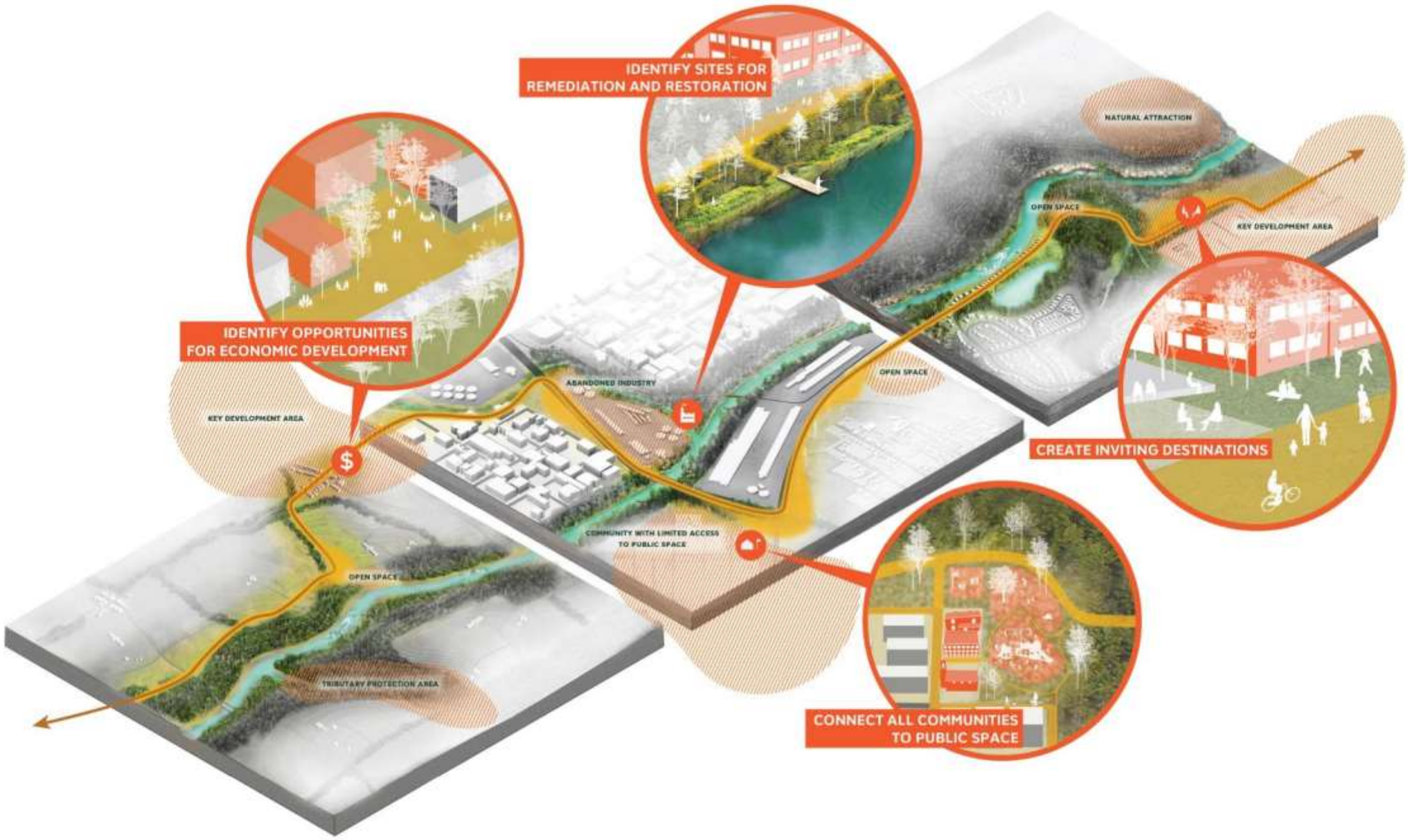
GOAL: A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

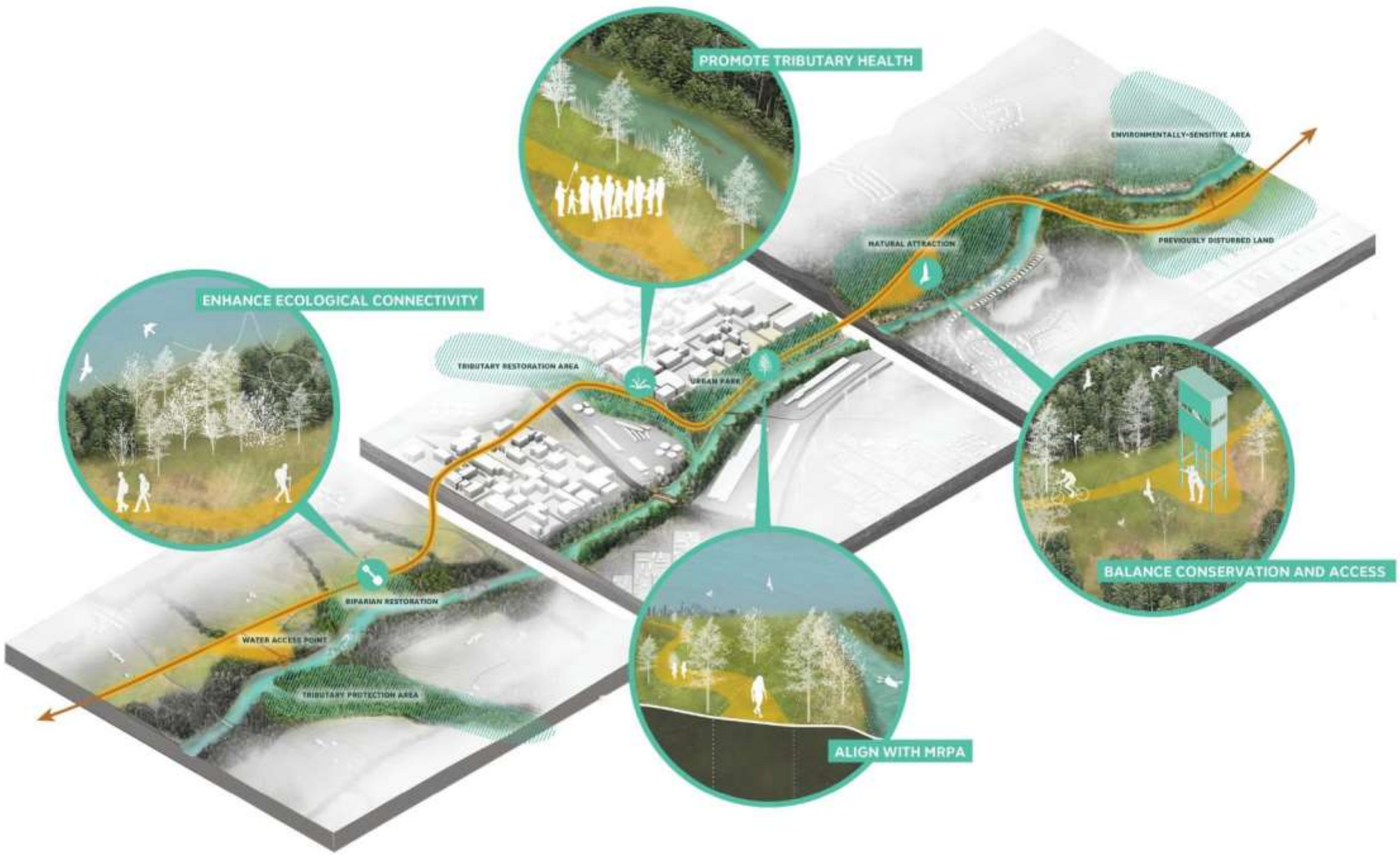
CREATE INVITING DESTINATIONS



GOAL: A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

GOAL: AN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE FOR THE REGION

BALANCE CONSERVATION AND ACCESS



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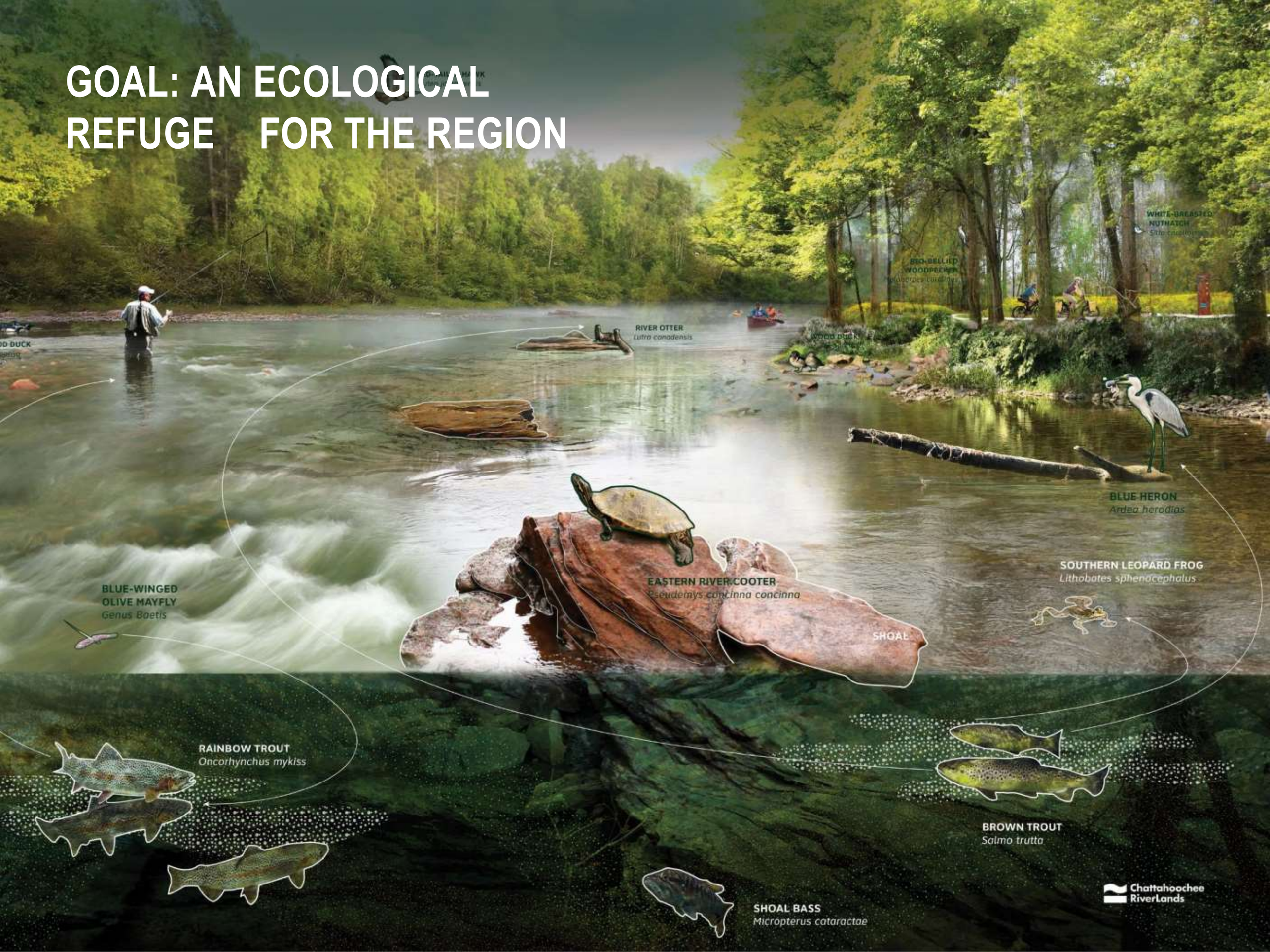
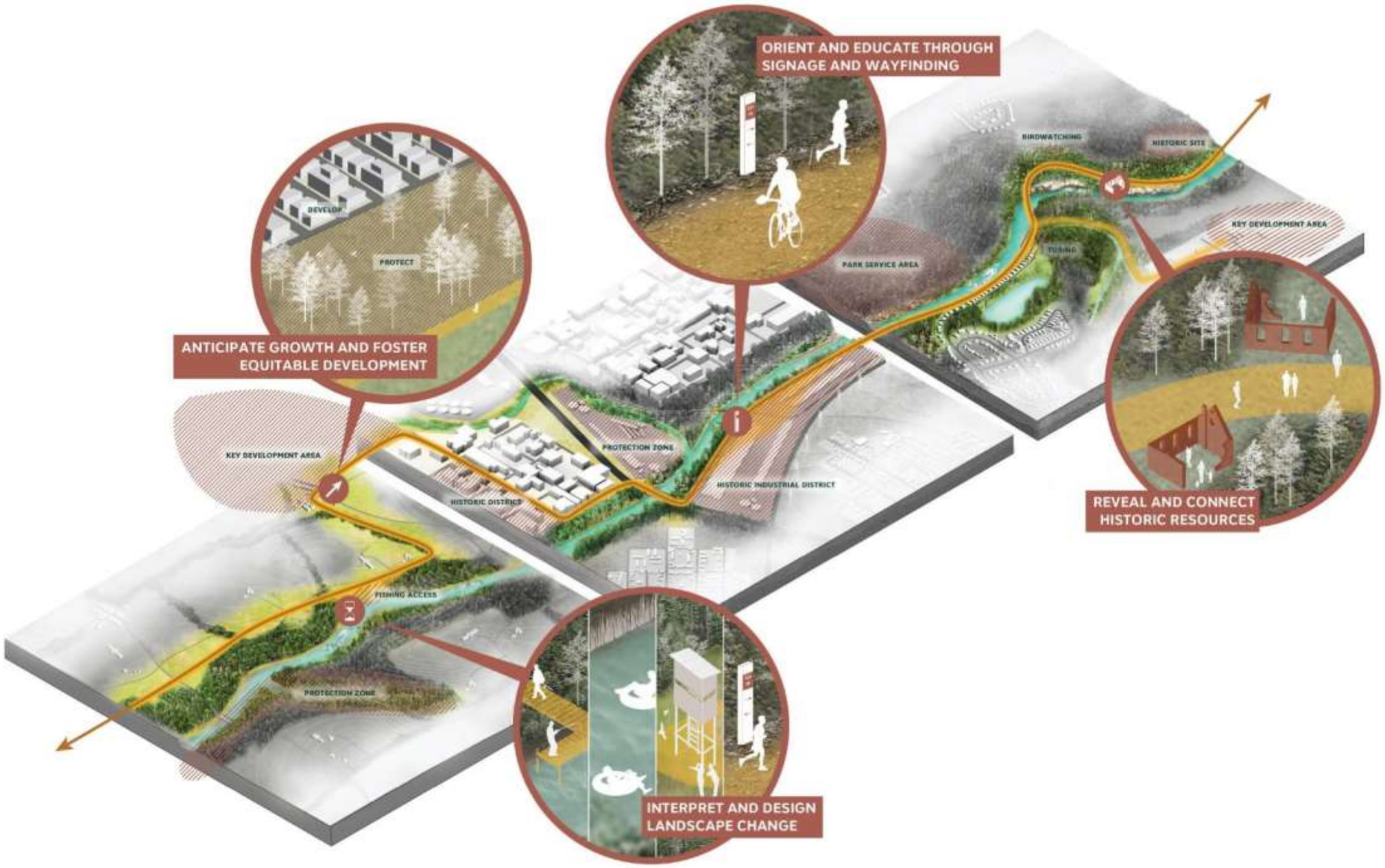
GOAL: AN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE FOR THE REGION



GOAL: A LIVING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

REVEAL AND CONNECT HISTORIC RESOURCES



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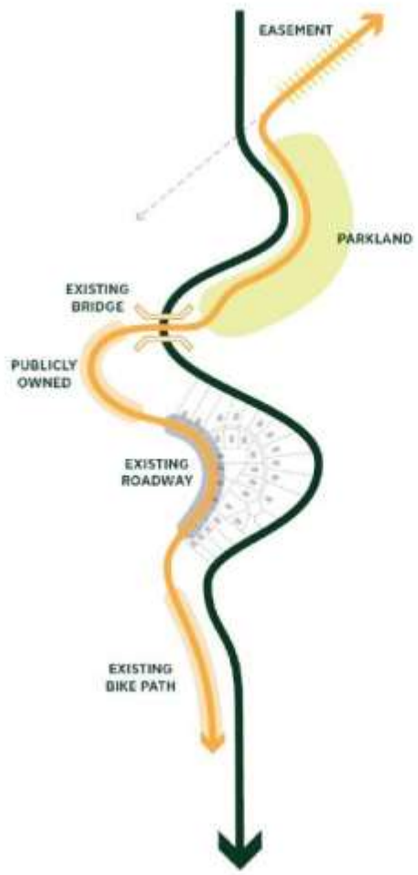
GOAL: A LIVING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

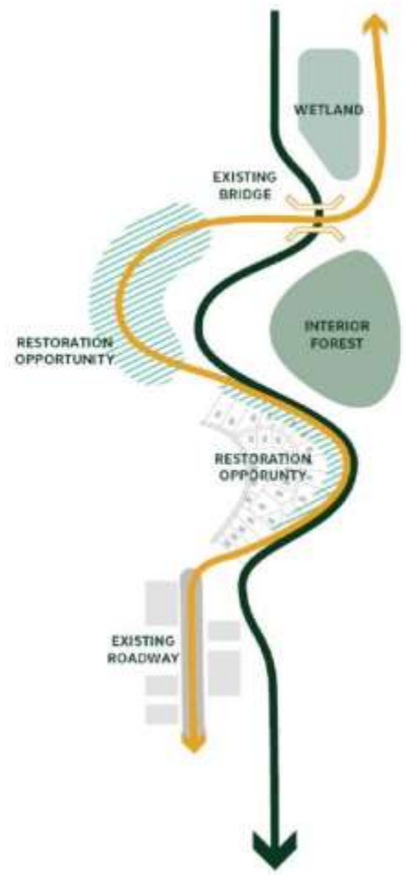
THE PLAN

ALIGNMENT WORKSHOP TOOLS

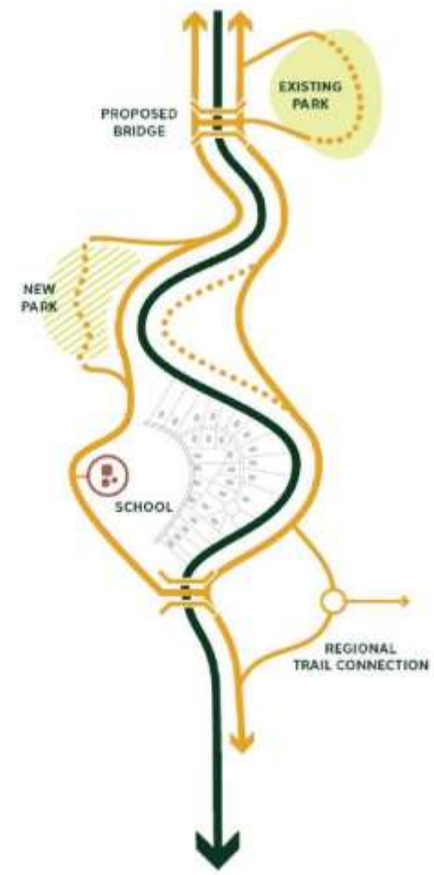
THE ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES



PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE



PATH OF LEAST ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS



NETWORK OF DESTINATIONS

PREFERRED ALIGNMENT

- Serves as a framework for aligning:
  - Greenway
  - Blueway
  - Tributary Trails
- Seamless network of public spaces and access points

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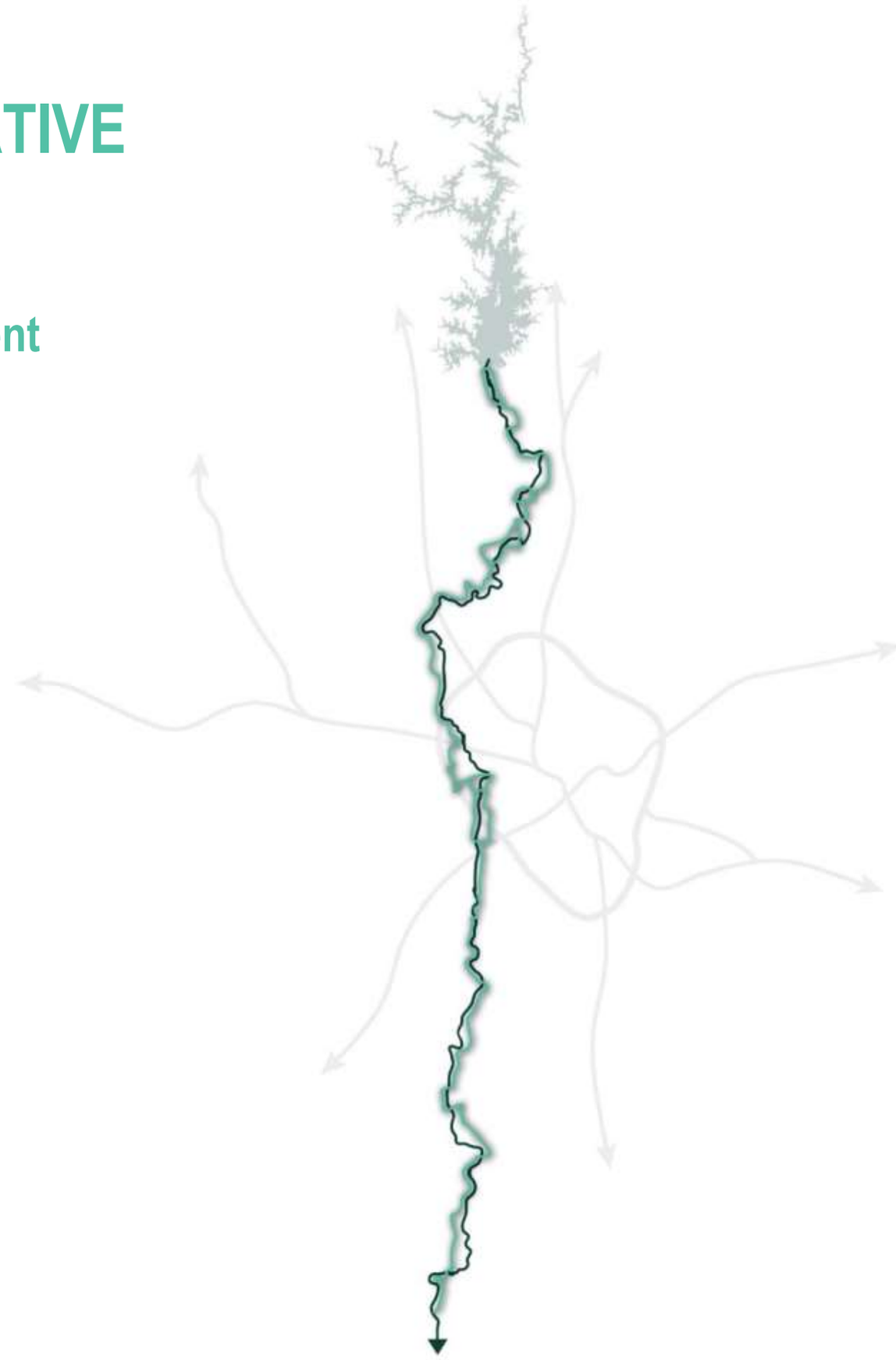
THE PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE

- Alternative where Preferred Alignment may prove infeasible
- May be easier to implement in some areas
- Less enjoyable experientially
- Takes advantage of:
  - Existing trail infrastructure
  - Easements
  - Publicly owned land
- Where hurdles to trail implementation are comparatively lower



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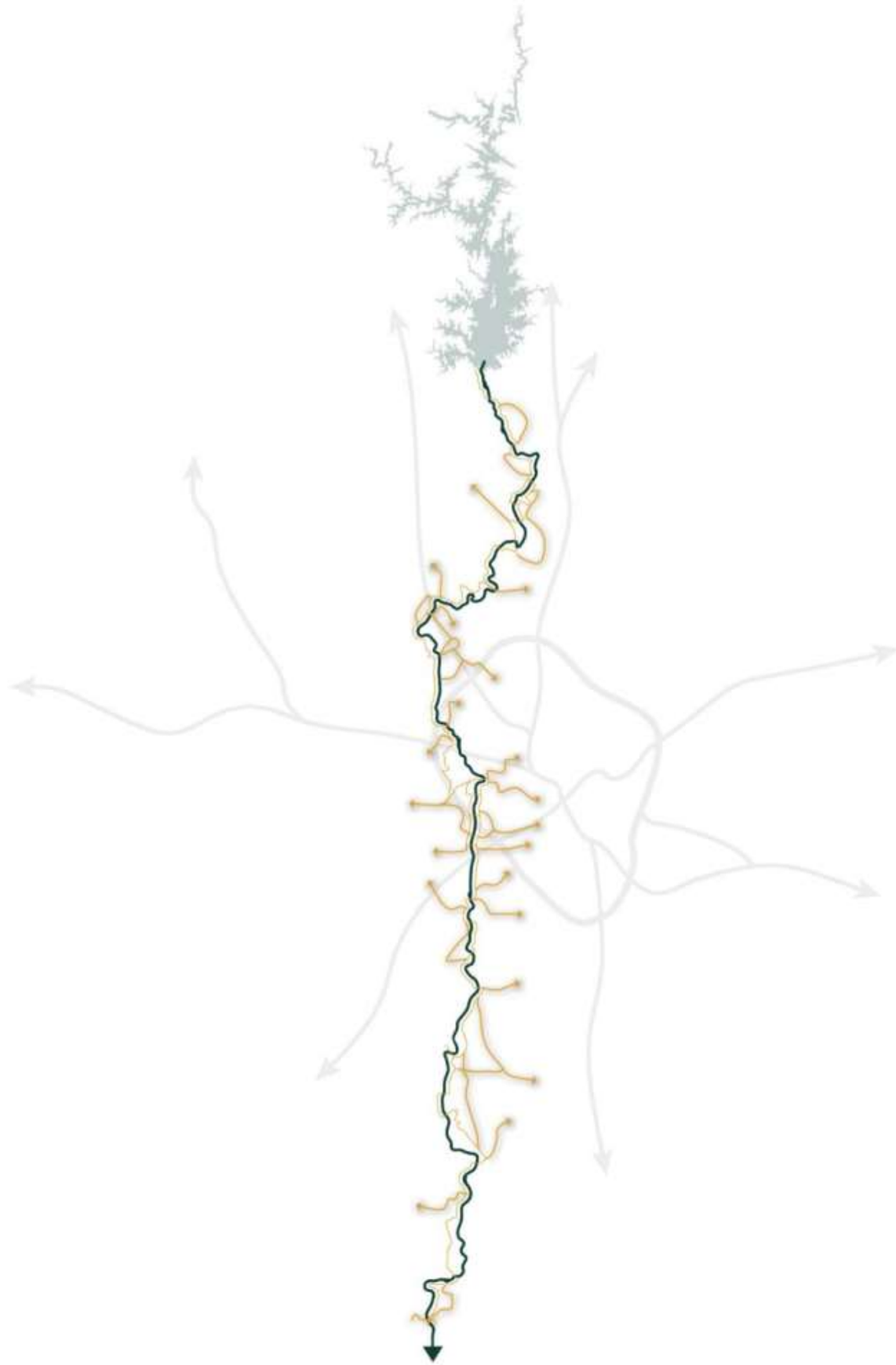
OTHER ALTERNATIVE

- Offers a better trail experience, closer to the River's edge, but more challenging to implement
- Represents aspirational options
- Important to document for future consideration
- Alternatives can be thought of as longer-term options or later phases of the RiverLands project

Chattahoochee RiverLands

TRIBUTARY TRAILS

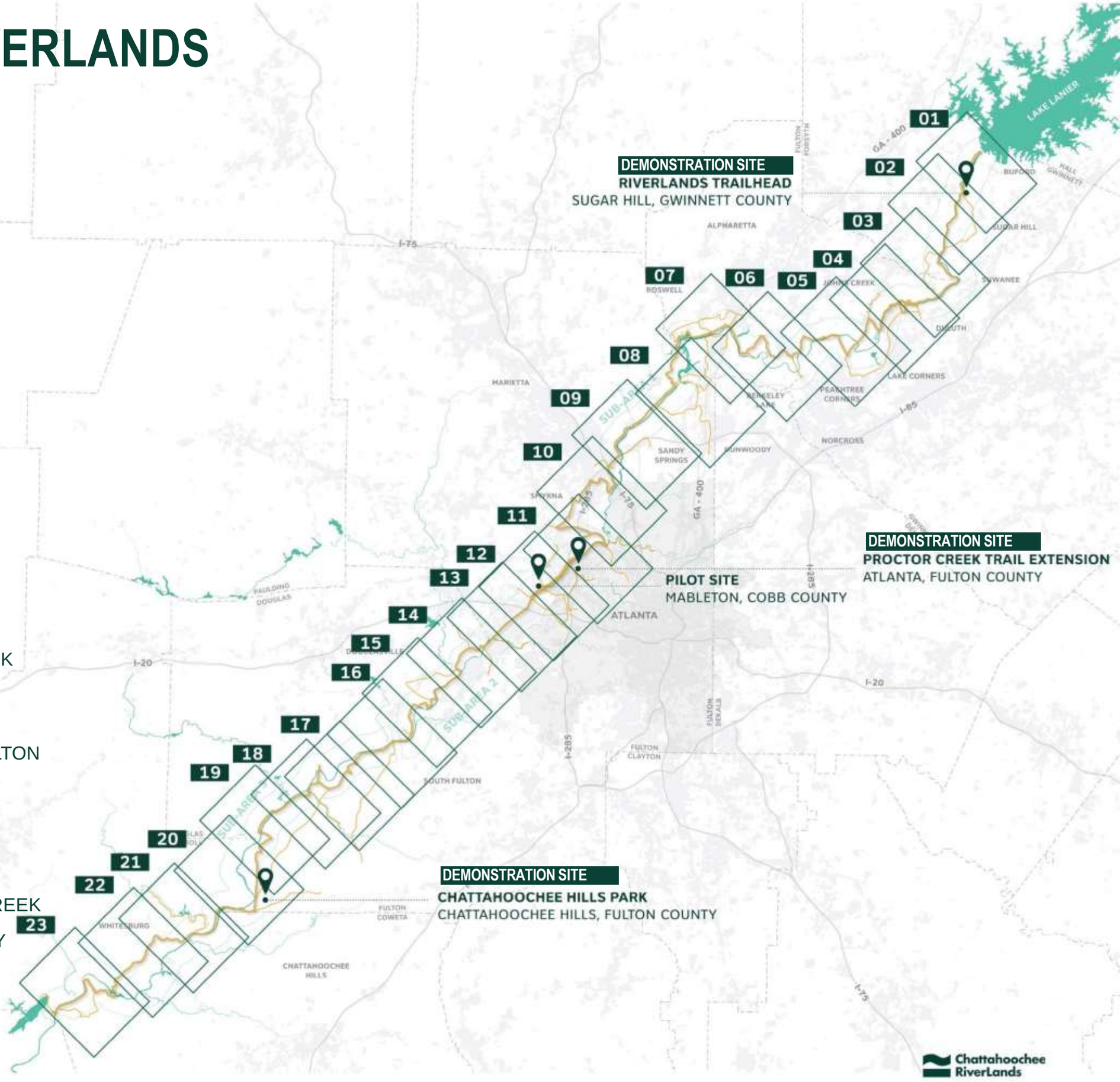
- Trail segments connect to RiverLands communities
- May, but do not necessarily follow tributaries of the river
- They are often existing, planned, or proposed trails or bike paths
- Provide connections between local destinations, regional trail facilities
  and the RiverLands
- Create a cohesive network or integrated system



Chattahoochee RiverLands

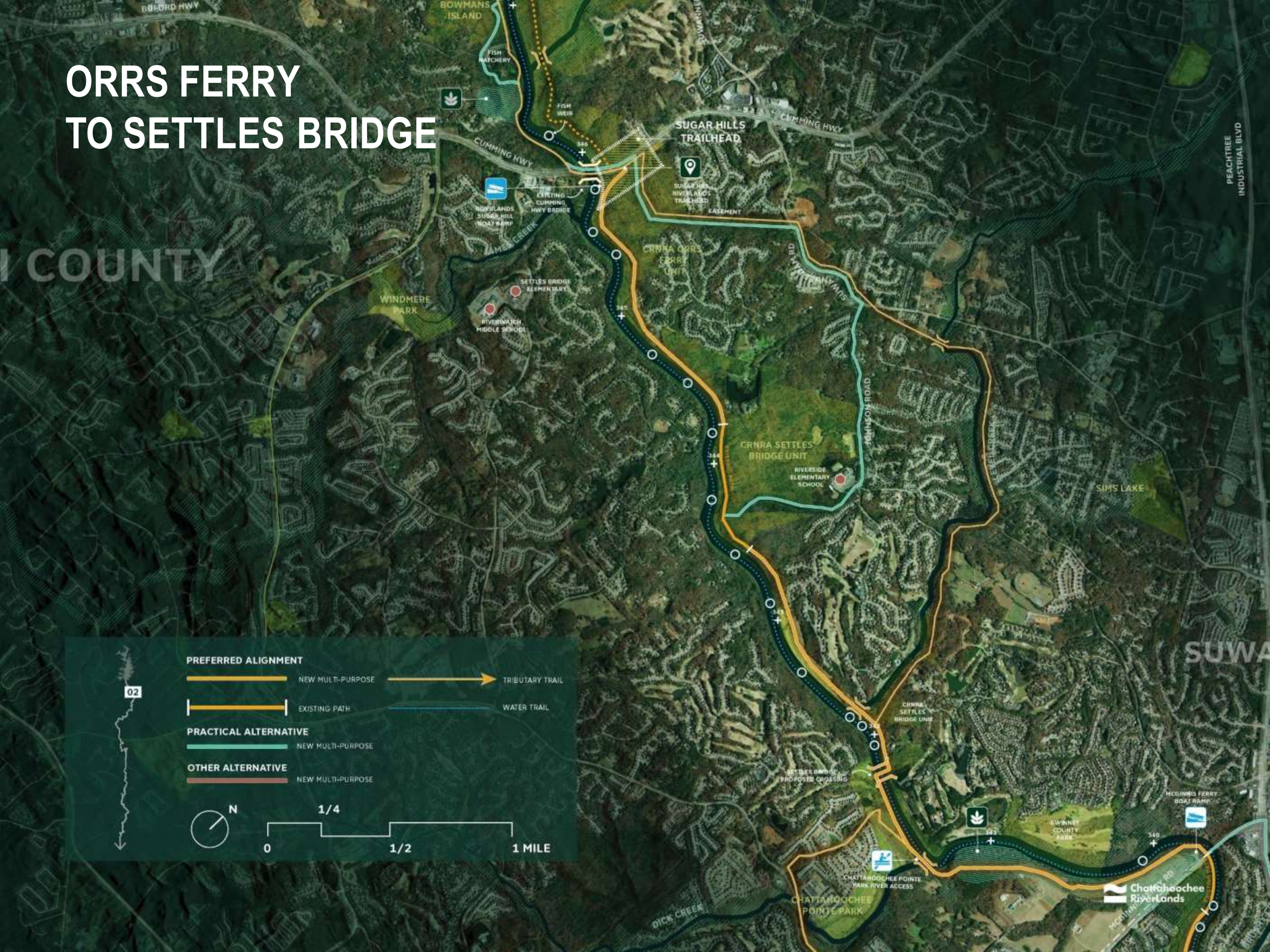
TRACING THE RIVERLANDS

1. BUFORD DAM TO ORRS FERRY
2. ORRS FERRY TO SETTLES BRIDGE
3. SETTLES BRIDGE TO CAULEY CREEK PARK
4. CAULEY CREEK PARK TO ABBOTTS BRIDGE
5. ABBOTTS BRIDGE TO JONES BRIDGE
6. JONES BRIDGE TO ISLAND FORD
7. ISLAND FORD TO GOLD BRANCH
8. GOLD BRANCH TO JOHNSON FERRY
9. JOHNSON FERRY TO THE PALISADES
10. THE PALISADES TO STANDING PEACHTREE
11. STANDING PEACHTREE TO PROCTOR CREEK
12. PROCTOR CREEK TO THE PILOT SITE
13. THE PILOT SITE TO UTOY CREEK
14. UTOY CREEK TO SWEETWATER CREEK
15. SWEETWATER CREEK TO PALMETTO FARMS
16. PALMETTO FARMS TO OLD CAMPBELLTON
17. OLD CAMPBELLTON TO DUNCAN MEMORIAL
18. DUNCAN MEMORIAL TO FOXHALL RESORT
19. FOXHALL RESORT TO HURRICANE CREEK
20. HURRICANE CREEK TO CAPPS FERRY
21. CAPPS FERRY TO MOORE'S BRIDGE
22. MOORE'S BRIDGE TO MCINTOSH RESERVE
23. MCINTOSH RESERVE TO CHATTAHOOCHEE BEND STATE PARK

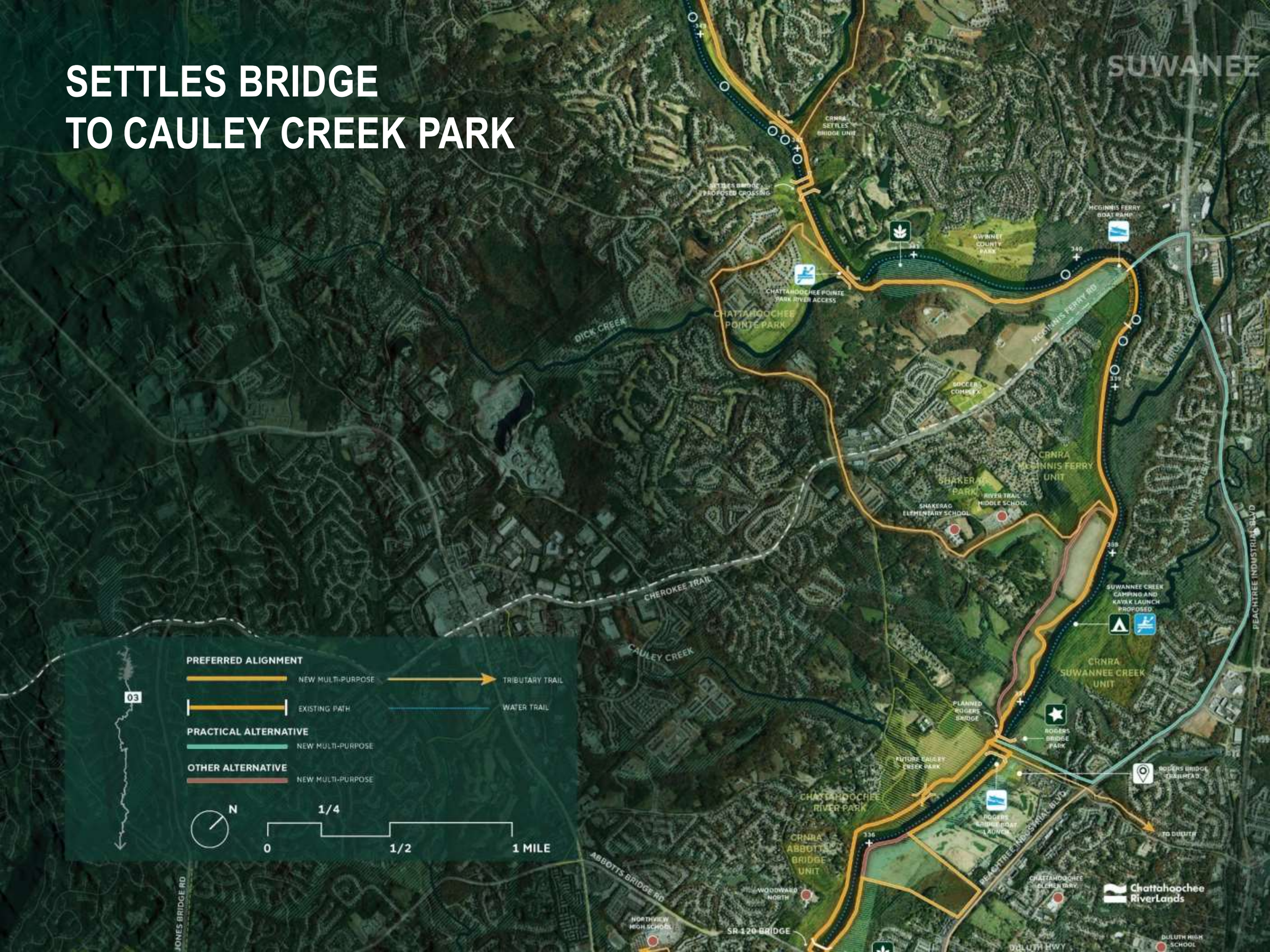


BUFORD DAM TO ORRS FERRY

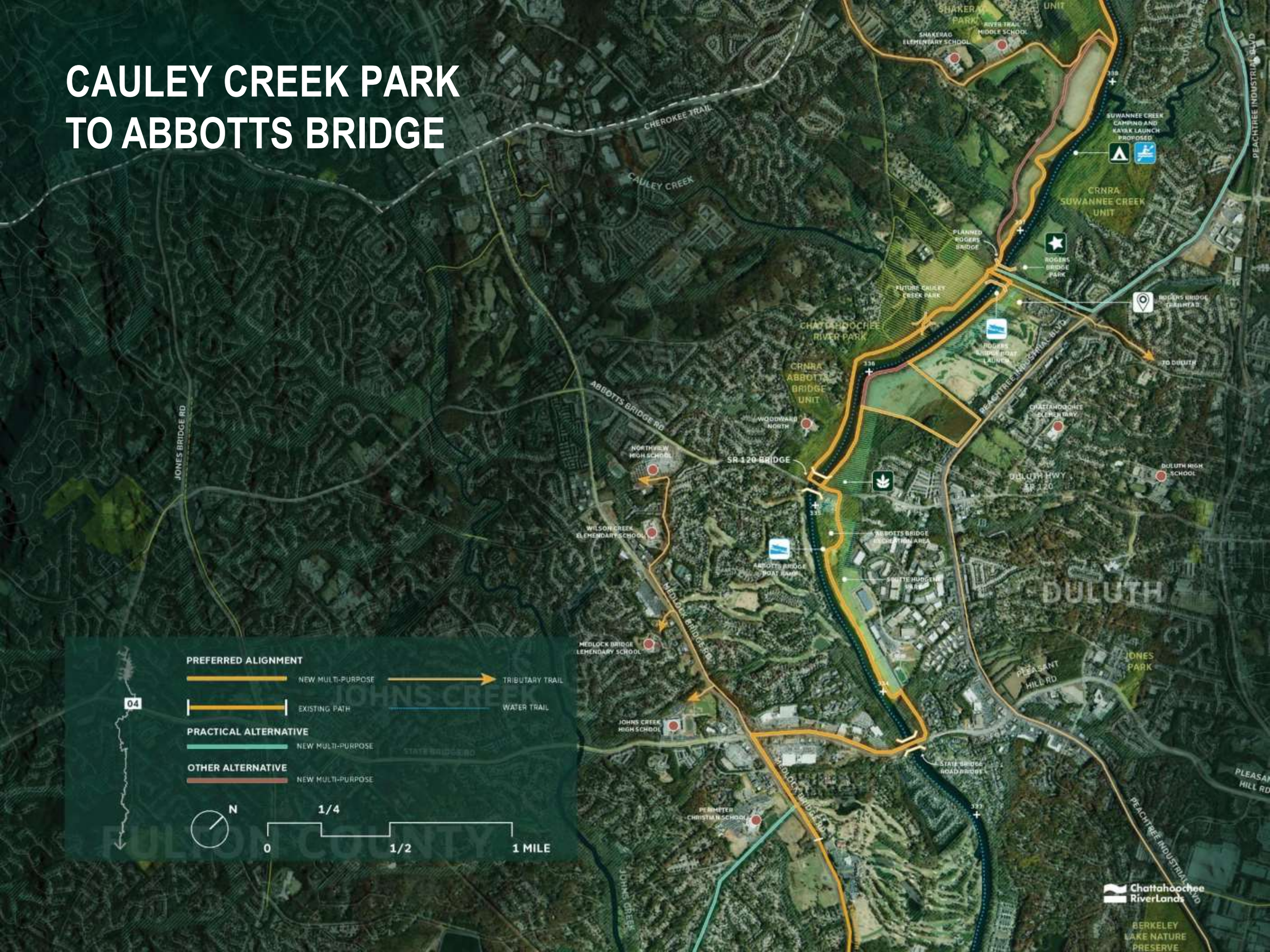
ORRS FERRY TO SETTLES BRIDGE



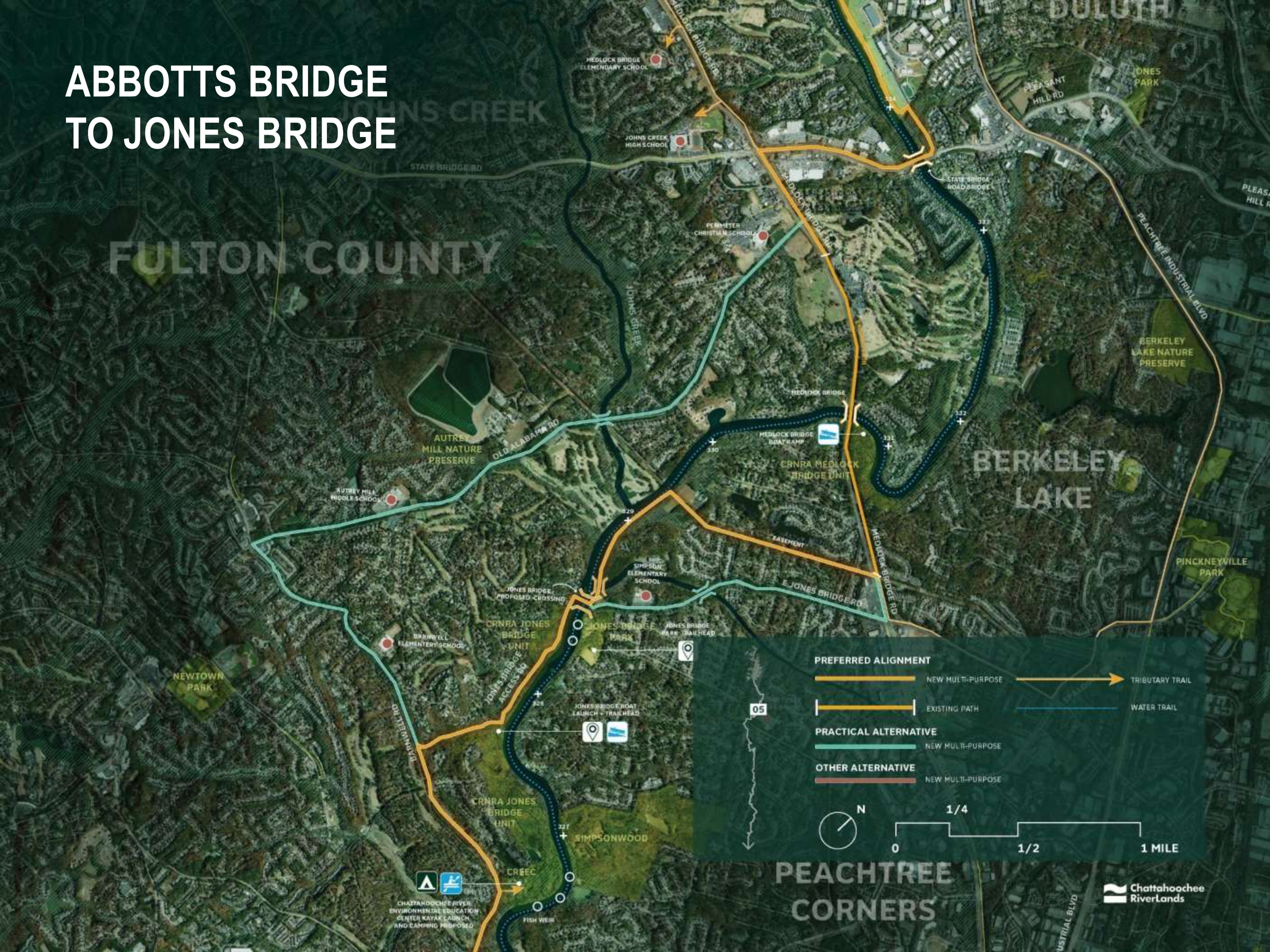
SETTLES BRIDGE TO CAULEY CREEK PARK



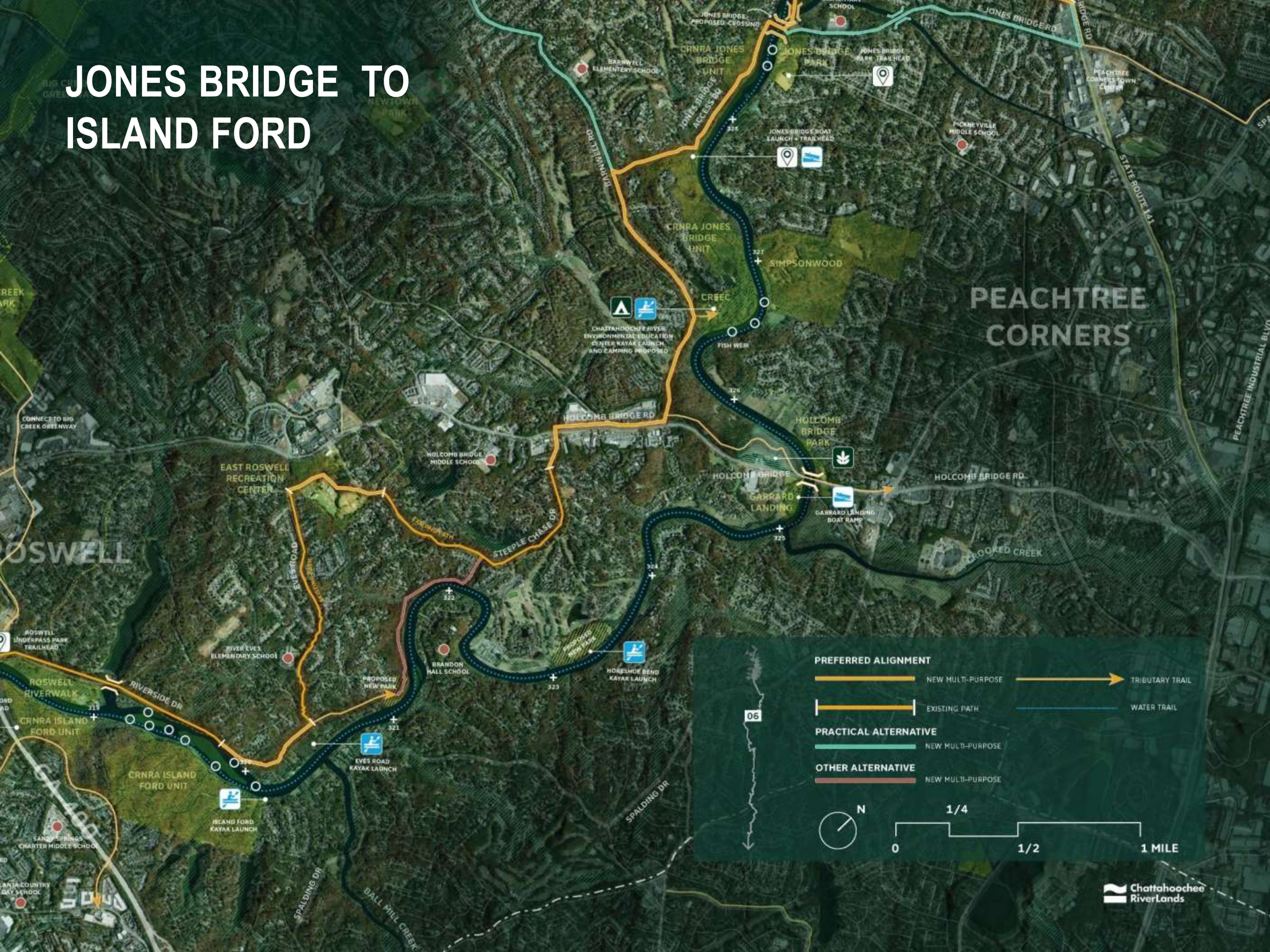
CAULEY CREEK PARK TO ABBOTTS BRIDGE



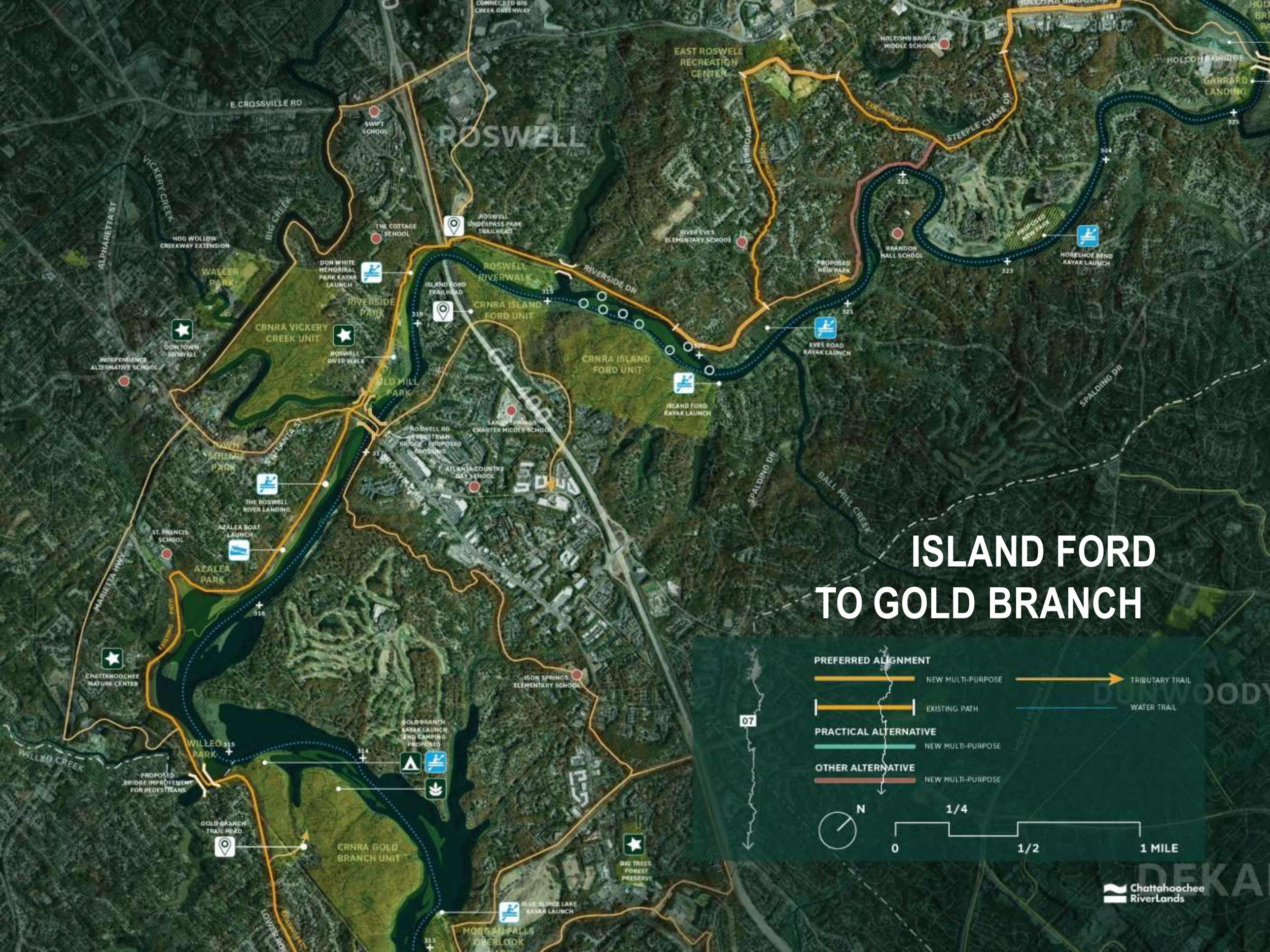
ABBOTTS BRIDGE TO JONES BRIDGE



JONES BRIDGE TO ISLAND FORD

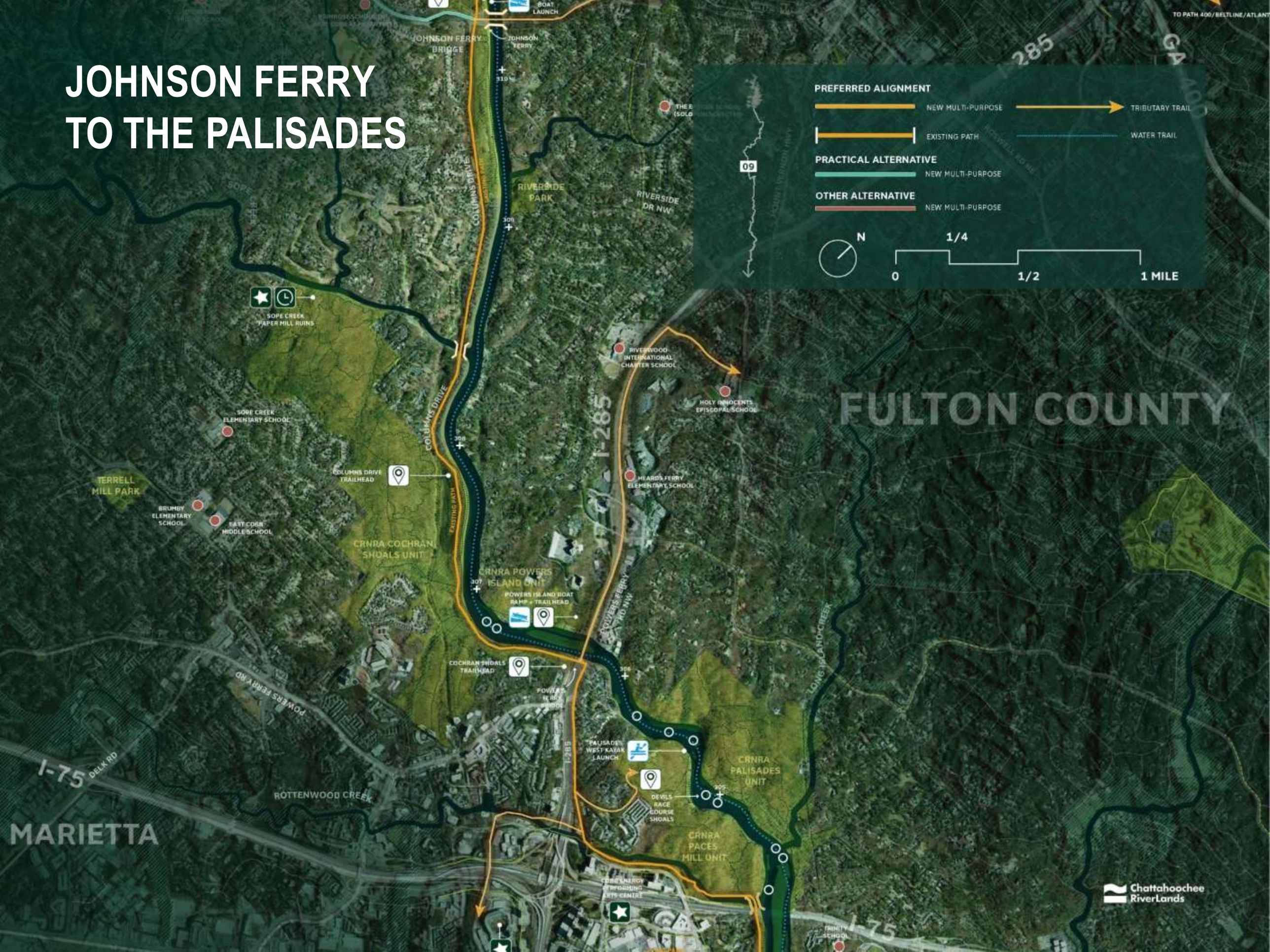


ISLAND FORD TO GOLD BRANCH

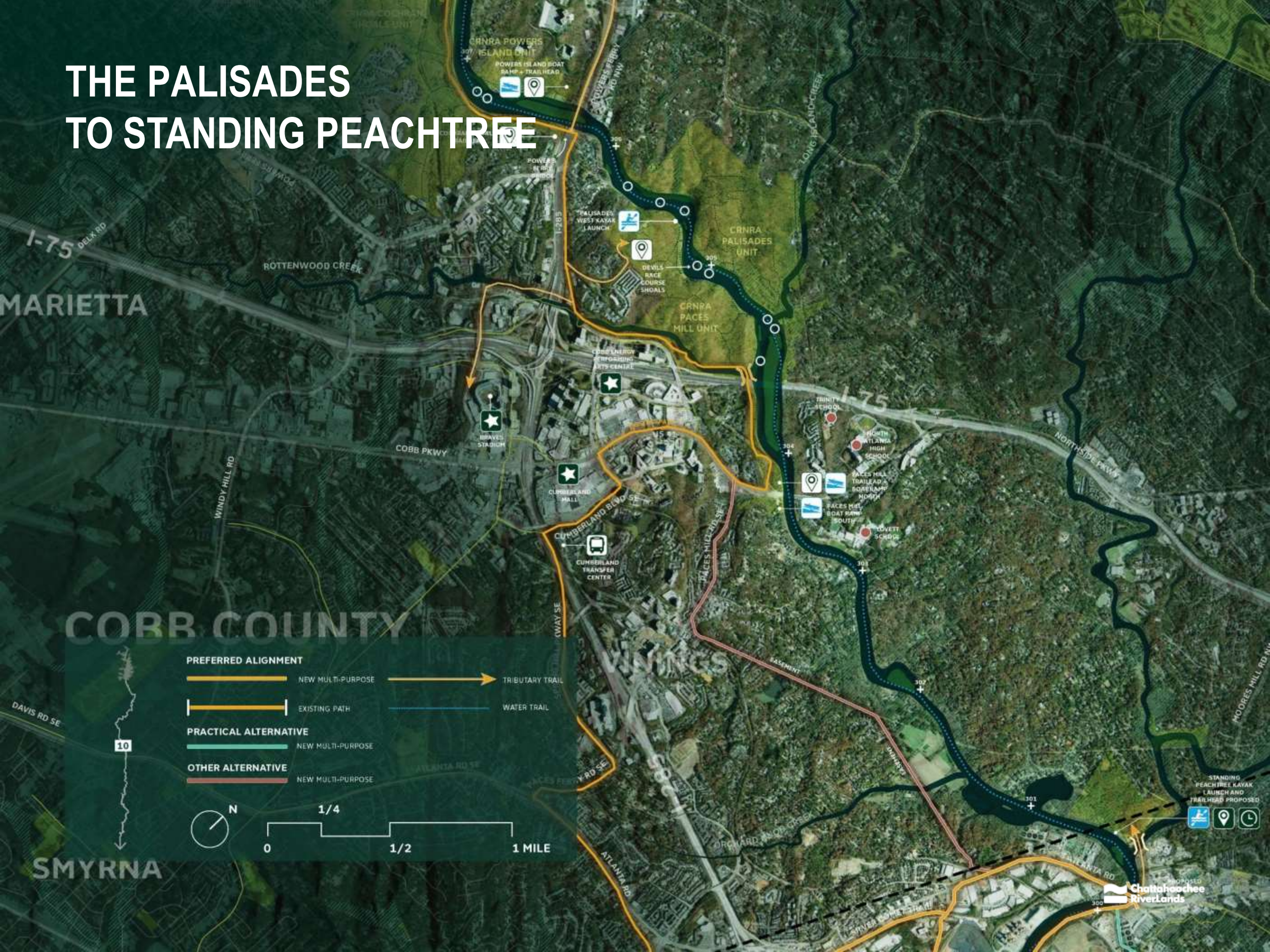


GOLD B RANCH TO JOHNSON FERRY

JOHNSON FERRY TO THE PALISADES

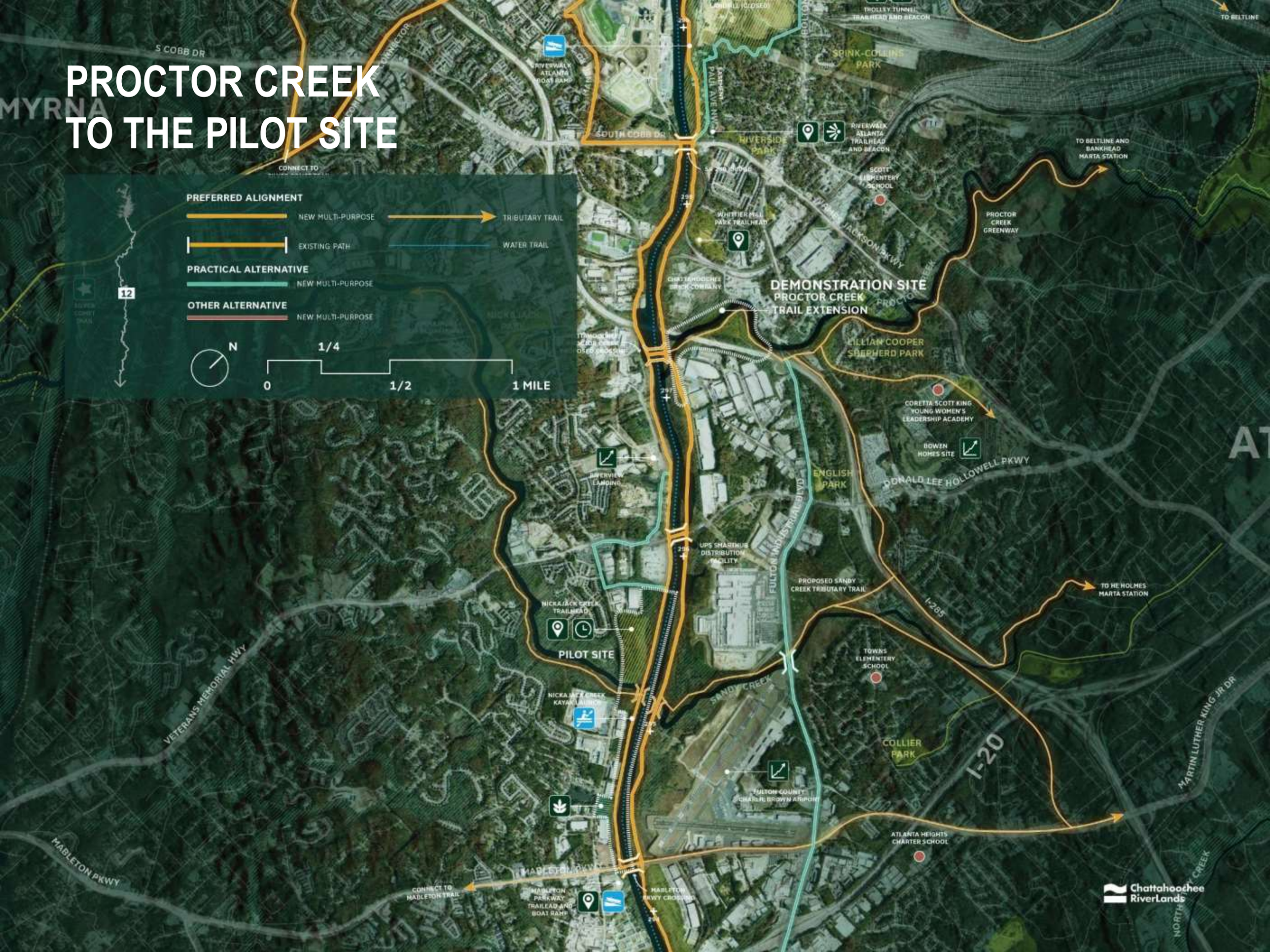


THE PALISADES TO STANDING PEACHTREE

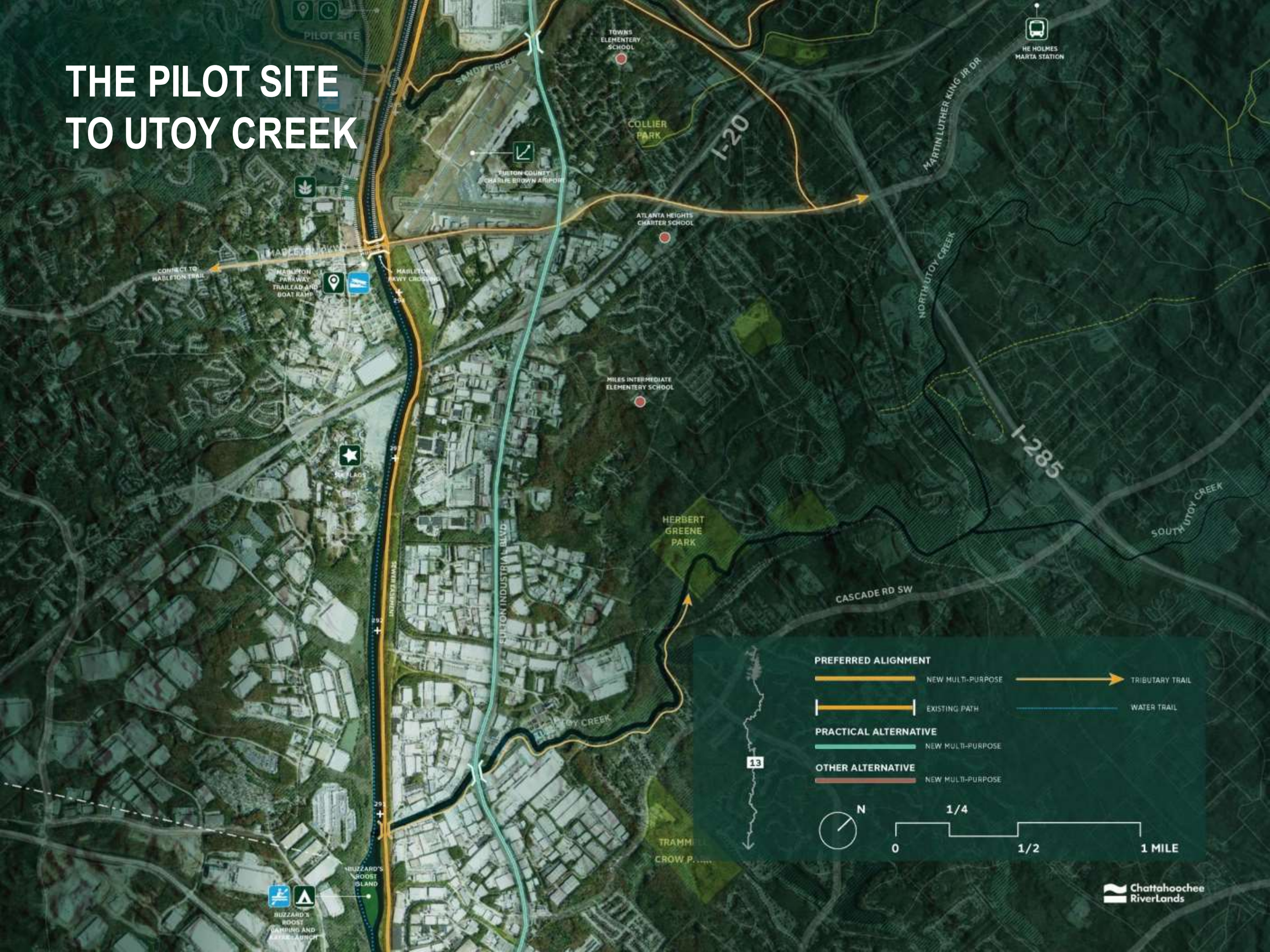


STANDING PEACHTREE TO PROCTOR CREEK

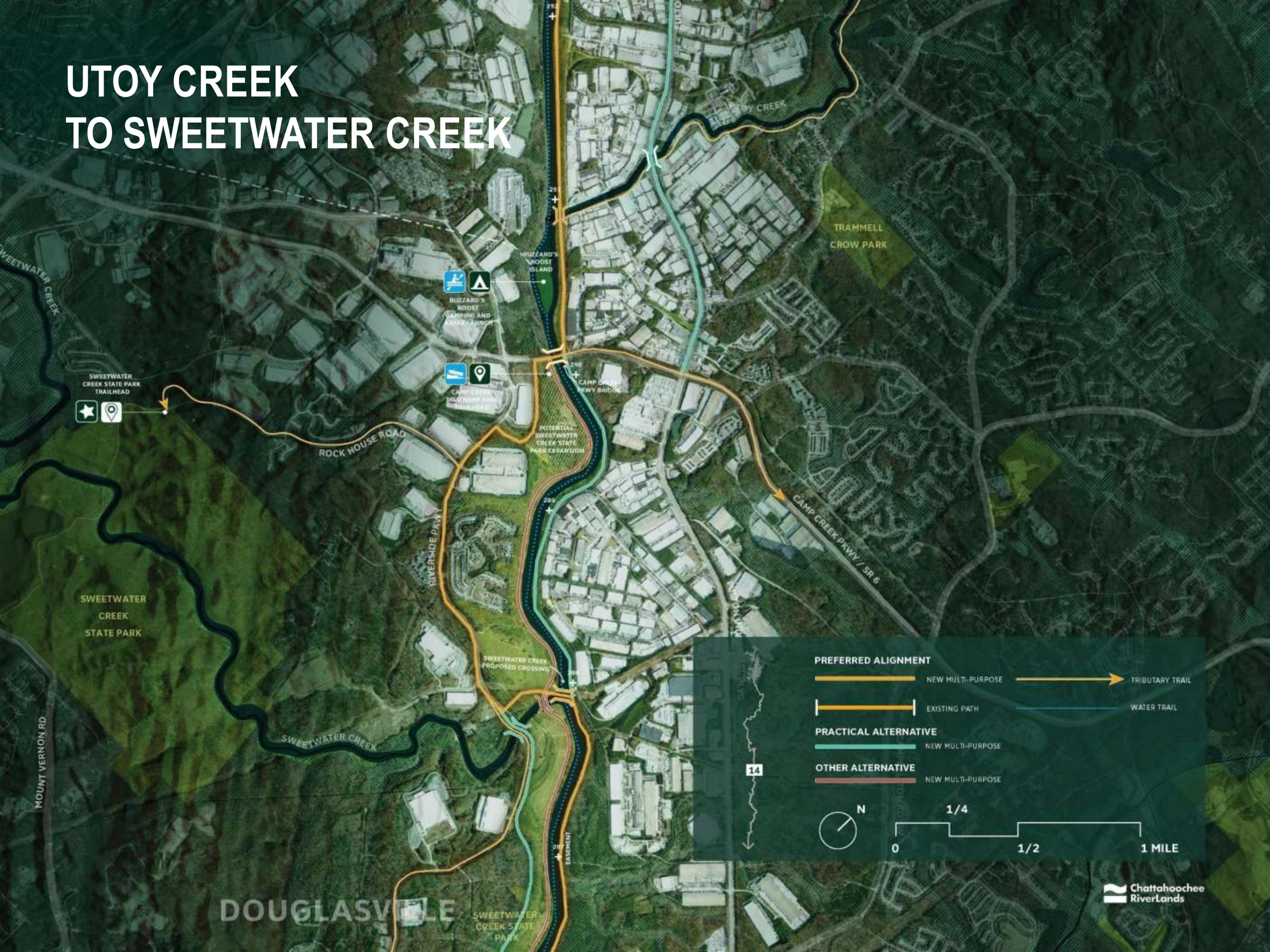
PROCTOR CREEK TO THE PILOT SITE



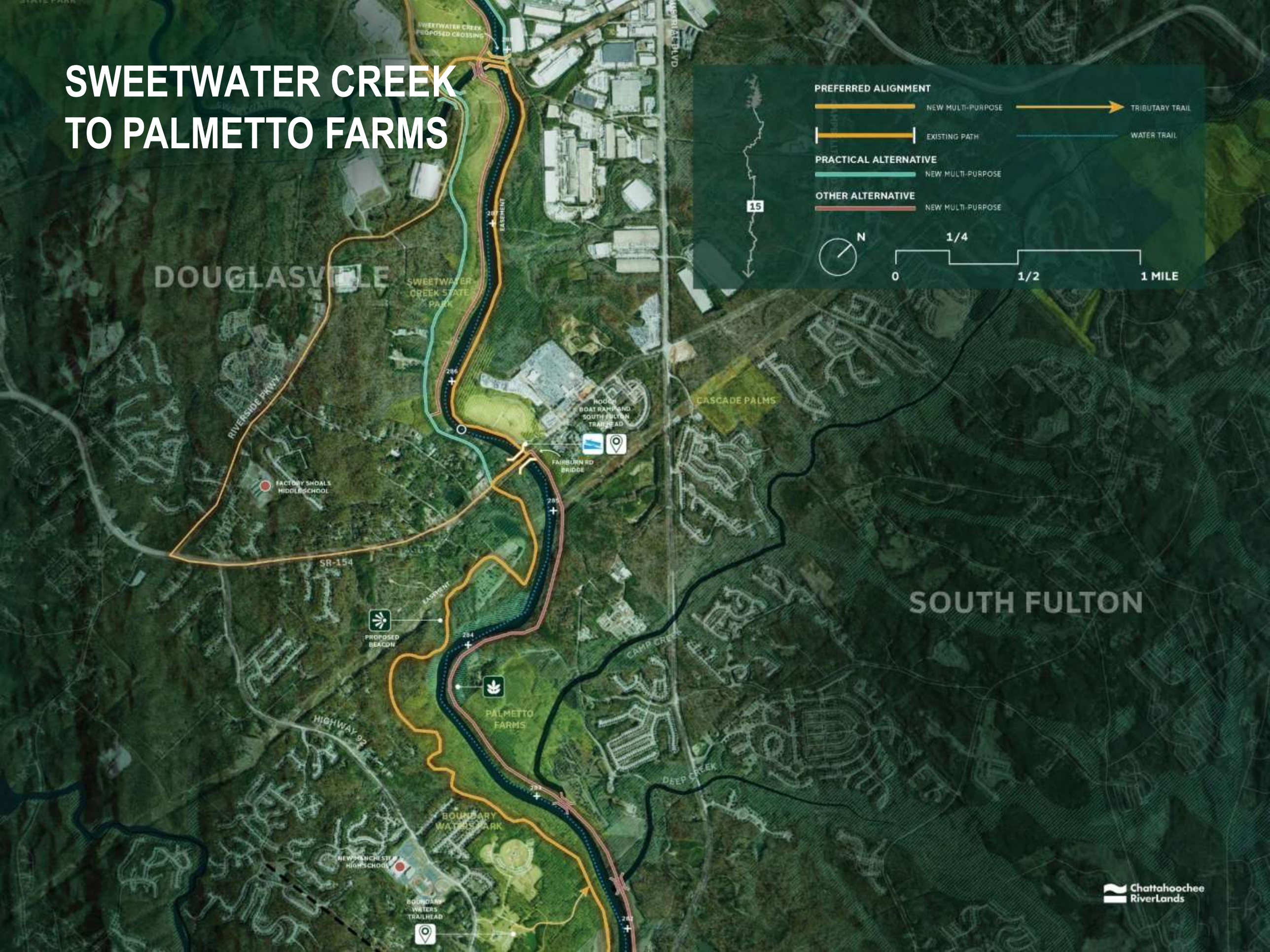
THE PILOT SITE TO UTOY CREEK



UTOY CREEK TO SWEETWATER CREEK



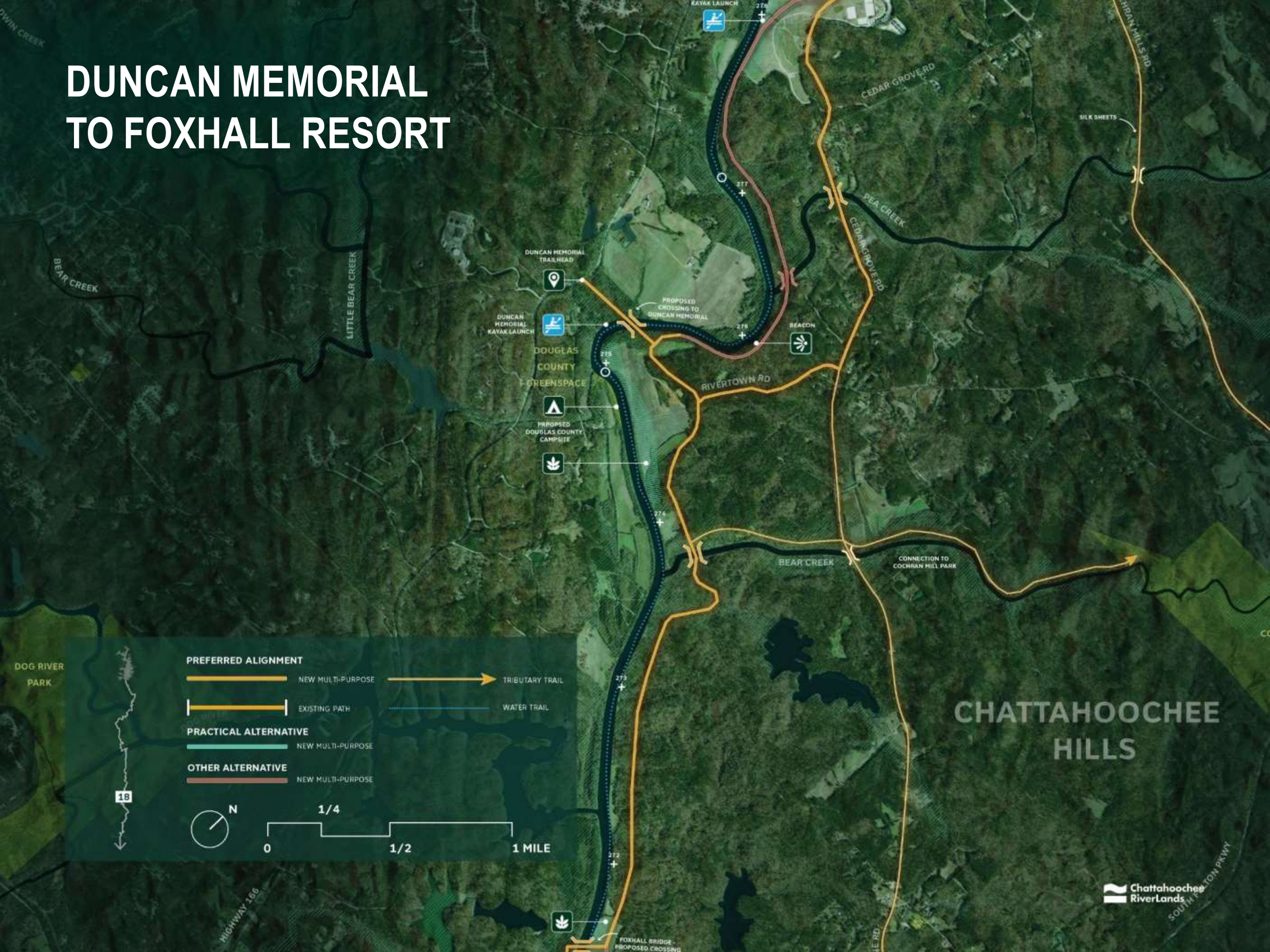
SWEETWATER CREEK TO PALMETTO FARMS



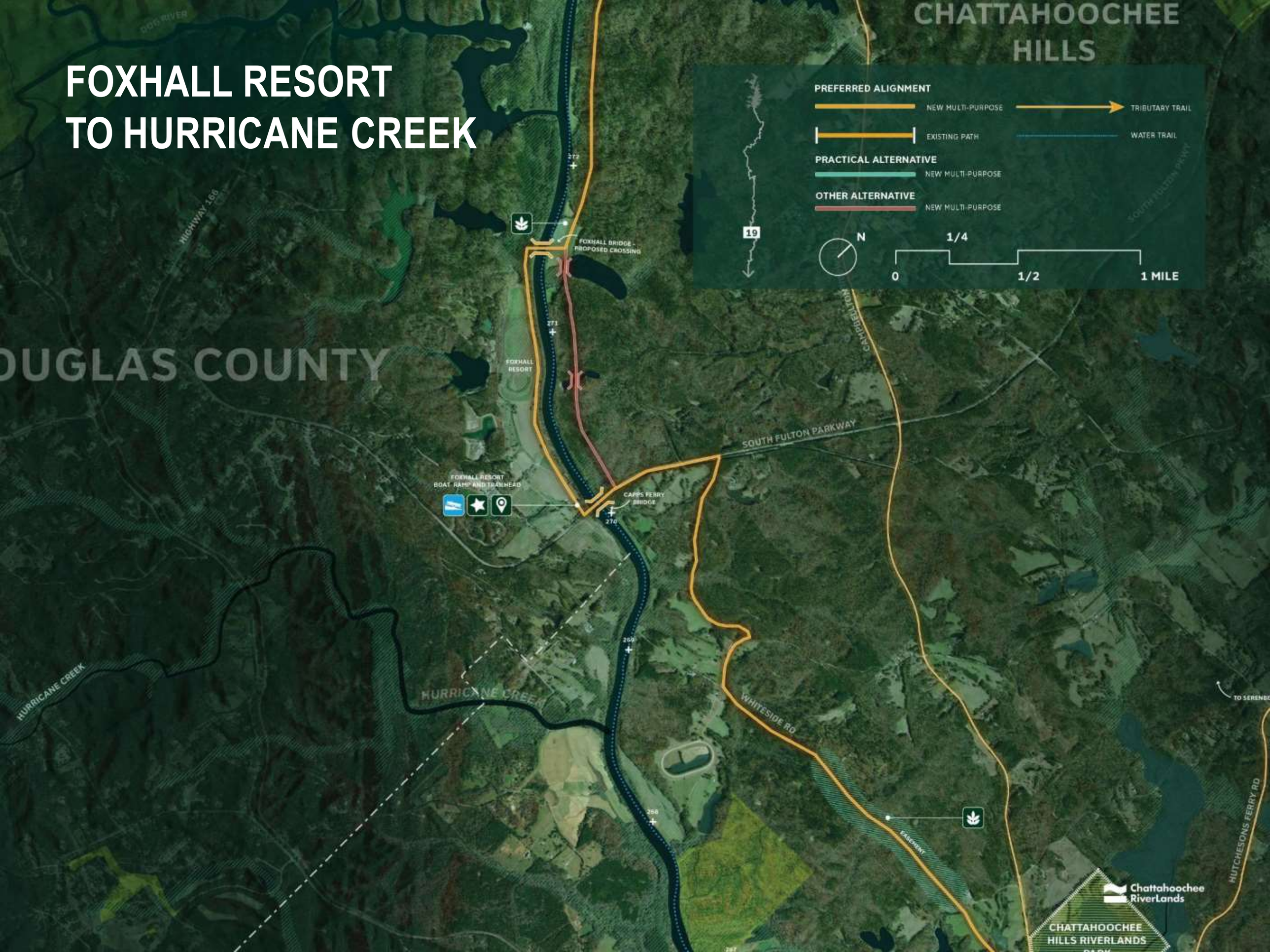
PALMETTO FARMS TO OLD CAMPBELLTON

OLD CAMPBELLTON TO DUNCAN MEMORIAL

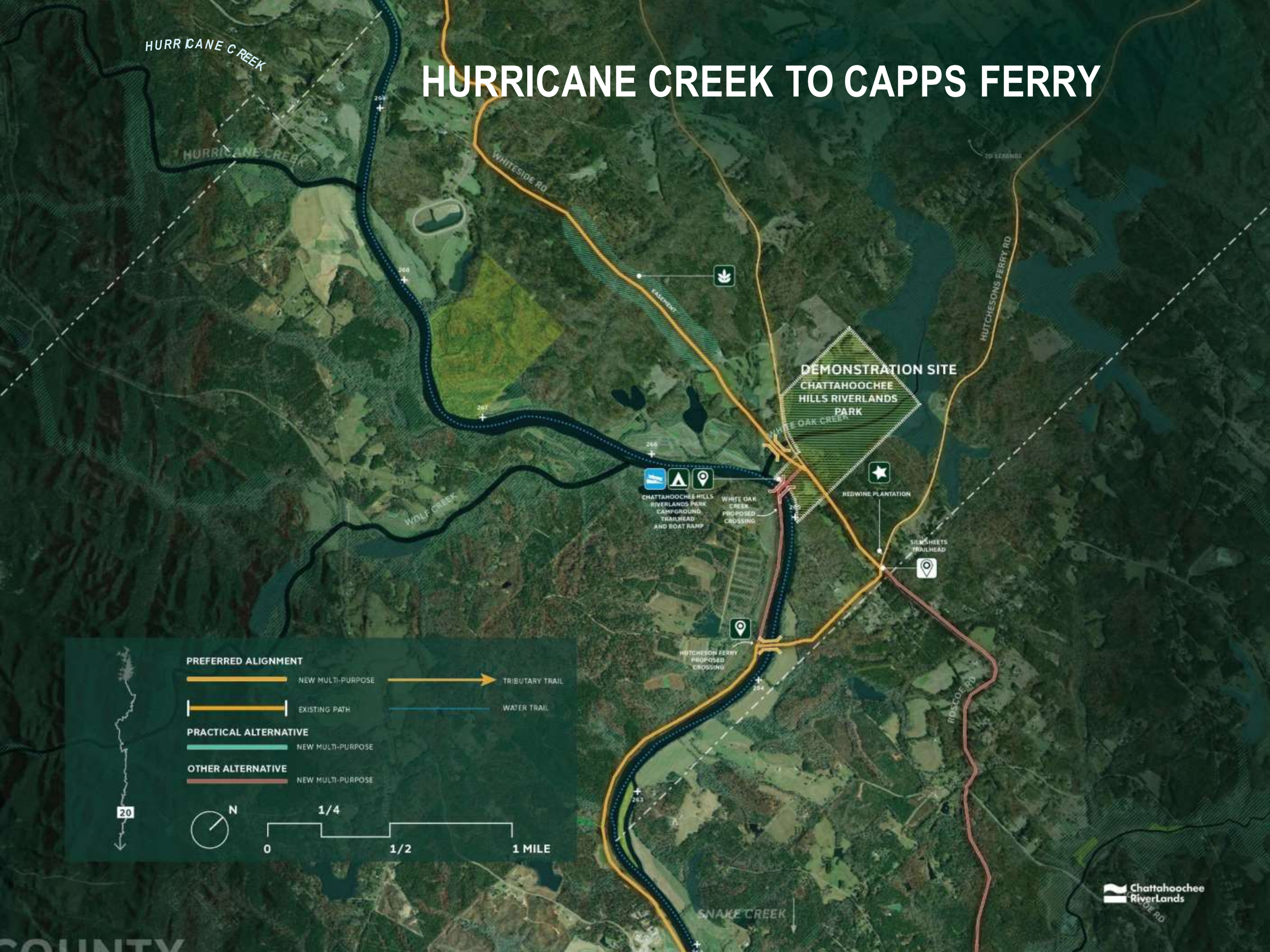
DUNCAN MEMORIAL TO FOXHALL RESORT



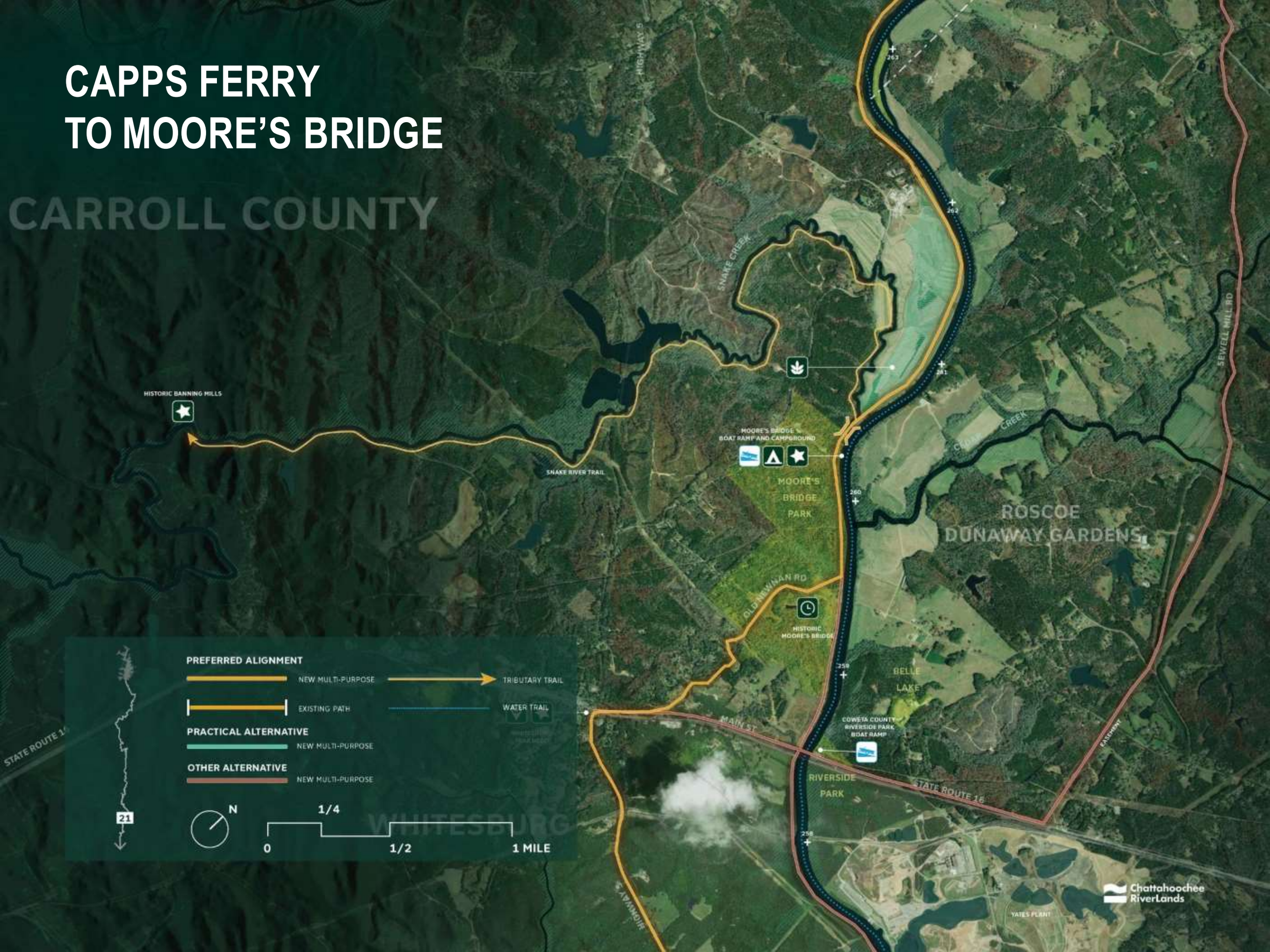
FOXHALL RESORT TO HURRICANE CREEK



HURRICANE CREEK TO CAPPS FERRY



CAPPS FERRY TO MOORE'S BRIDGE



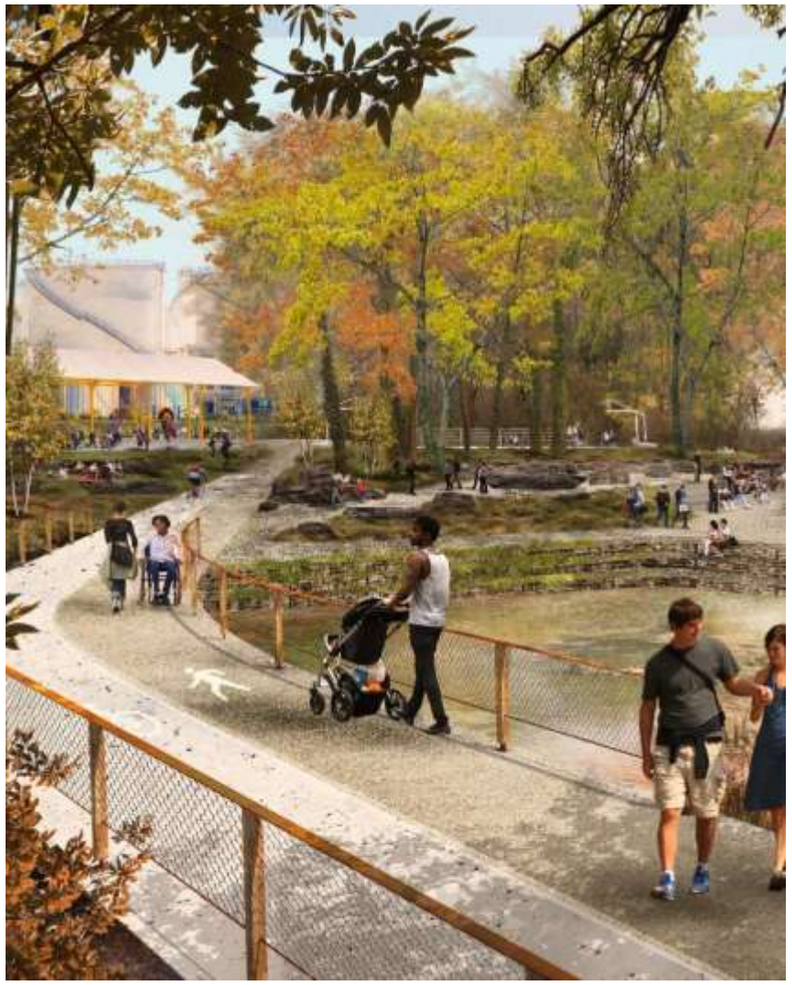
MOORE'S BRIDGE TO McINTOSH RESERVE PARK

McINTOSH RESERVE PARK TO CHATTAHOOCHEE BEND STATE PARK

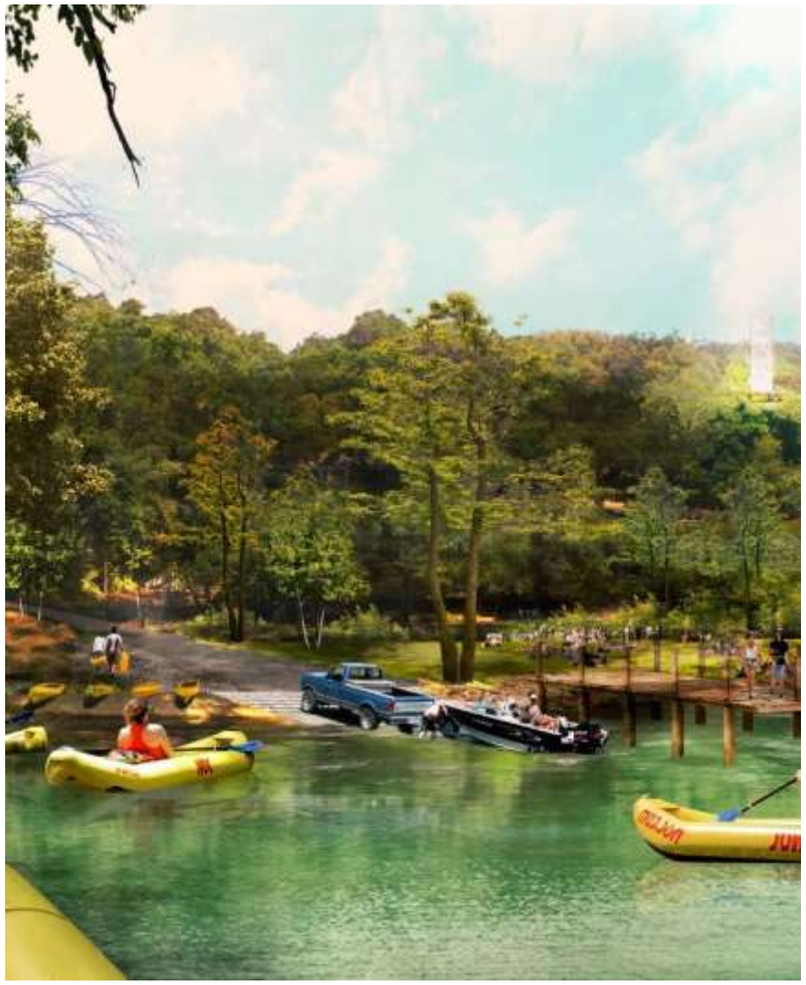
IMPLEMENTING THE RIVERLANDS

DEMONSTRATION SITES

SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD



PROCTOR CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION



CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS RVERLANDS PARK

DEMONSTRATION SITE: SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD

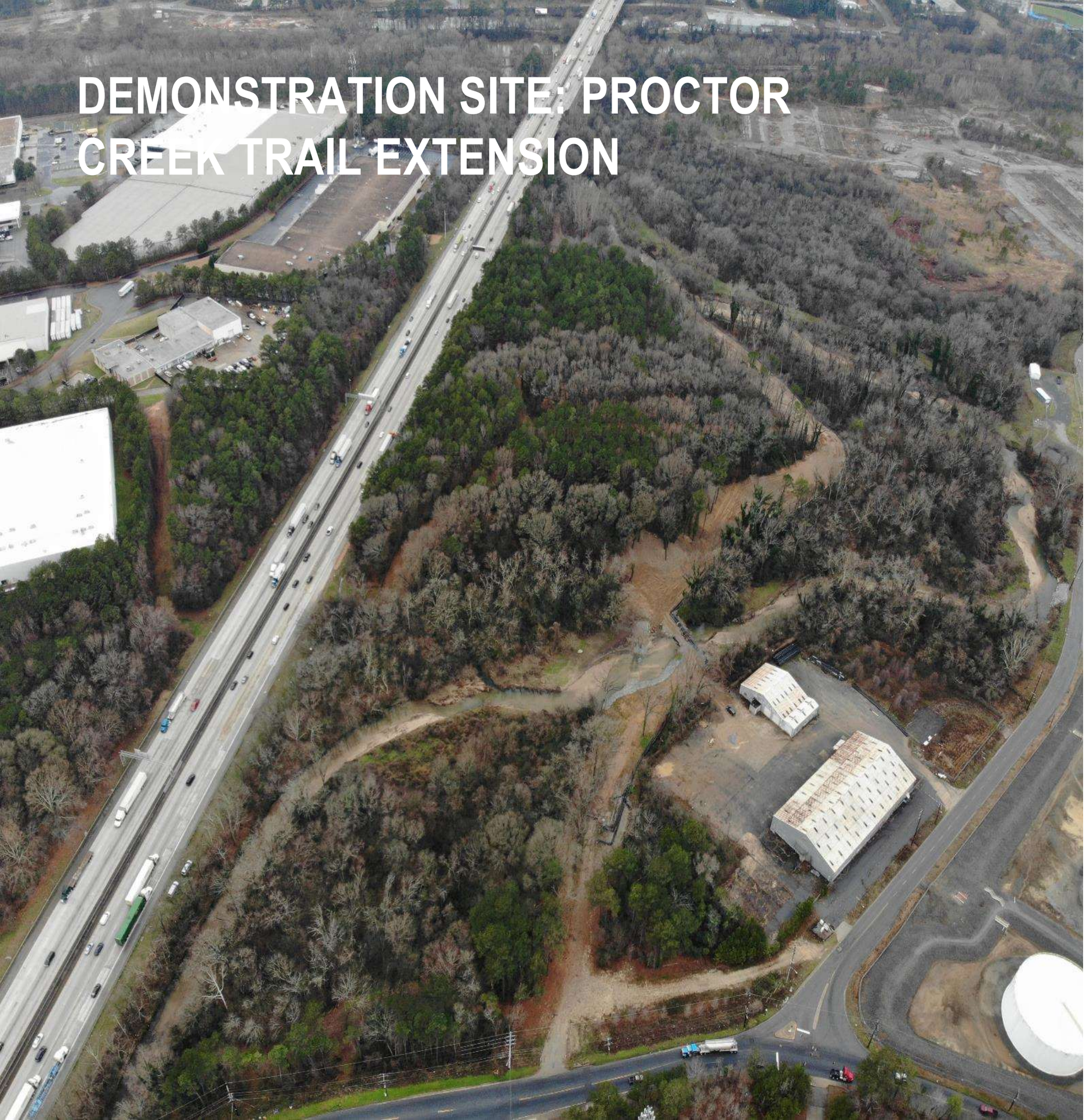
Chattahoochee RiverLands

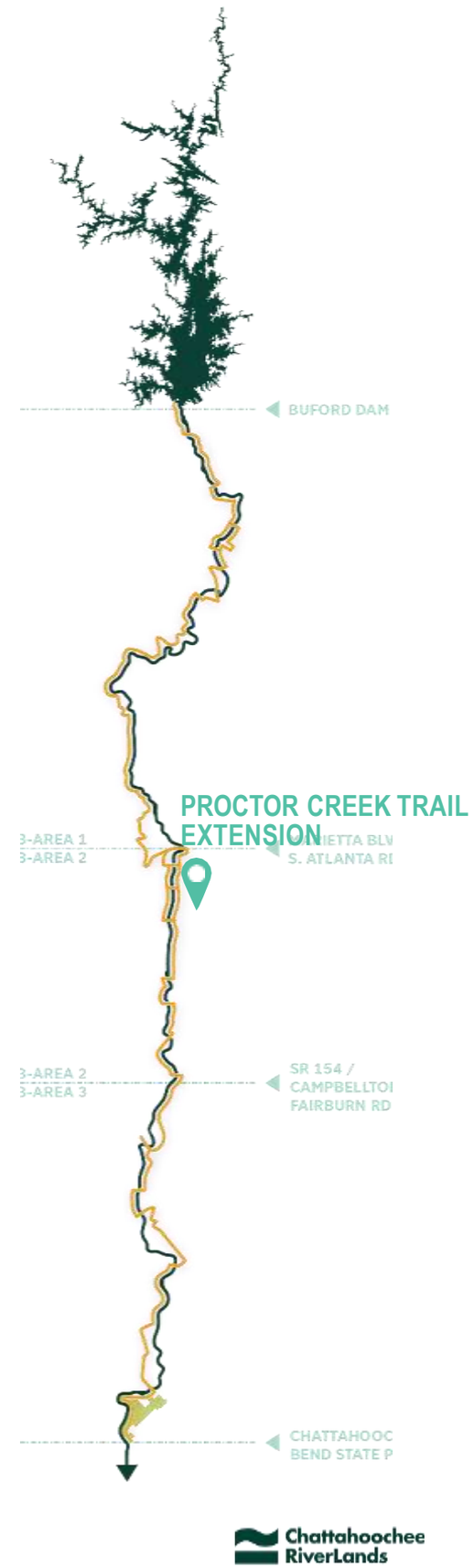
SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD

SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD

WINDOW TO THE RIVER

DEMONSTRATION SITE: PROCTOR CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION





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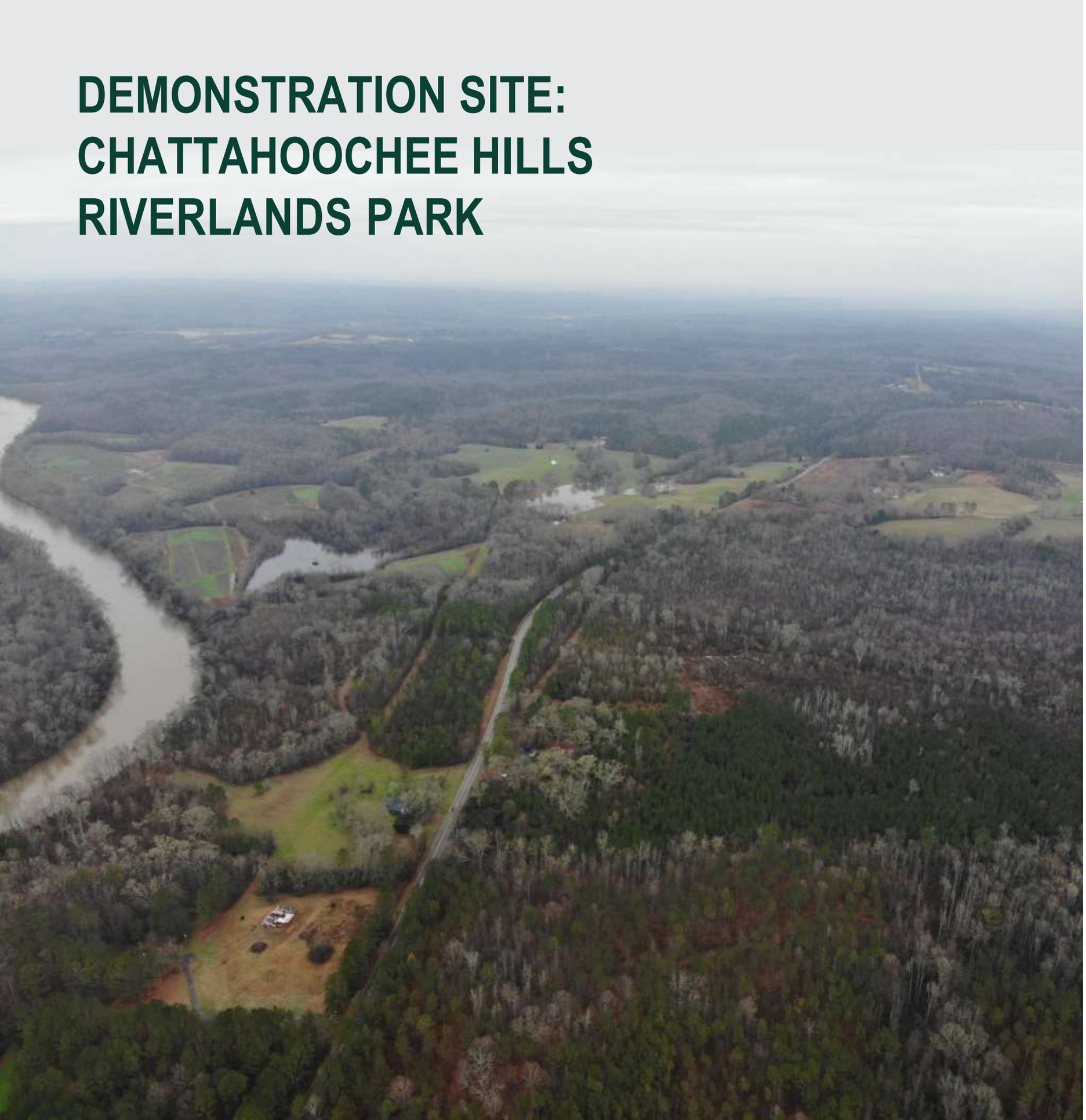
PROCTOR CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION

PROCTOR CREEK TRAIL EXTENSION

FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP AND HANDS-ON LEARNING

DEMONSTRATION SITE: CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS RIVERLANDS PARK



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CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS RIVERLANDS PARK

BIRDS-EYE VIEW

CHATTAHOOCHEE HILLS RIVERLANDS PARK

EXPERIENCING THE BLUEWAY

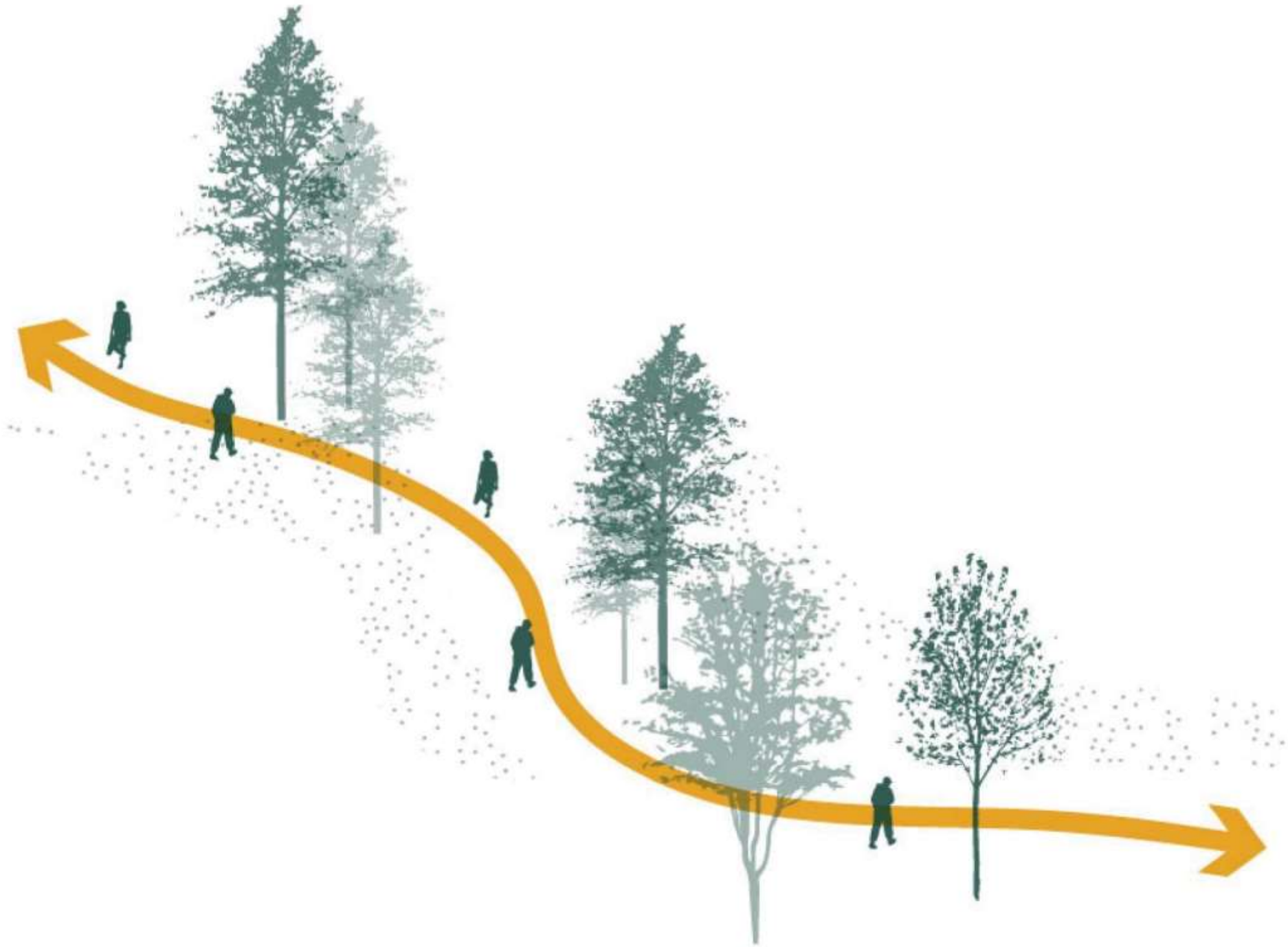
PILOT SITE

Nickajack Creek Meets The Chattahoochee River At Cobb Beach

Chattahoochee RiverLands

TRAIL COMPONENTS

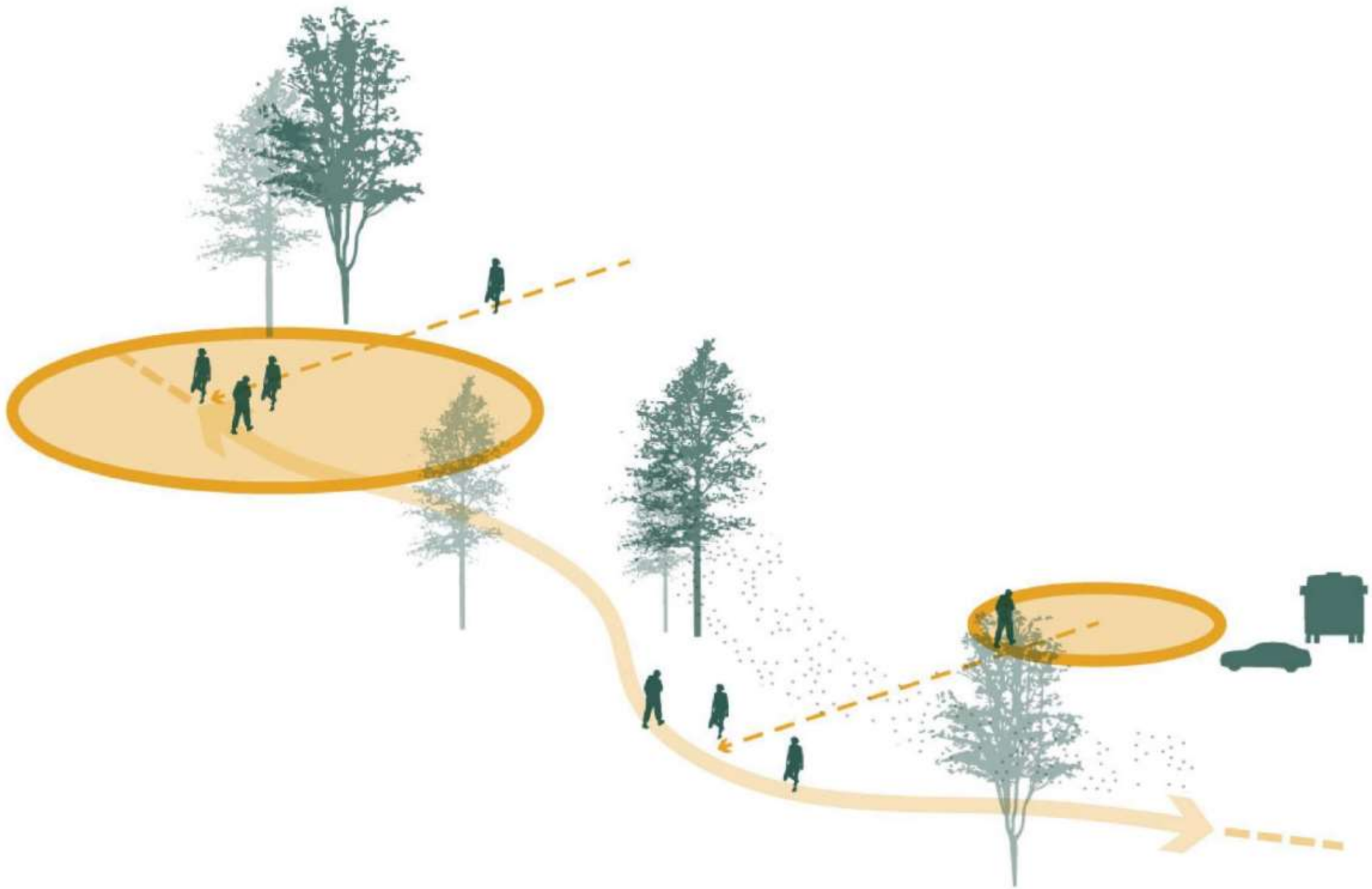
MAIN TRAIL



Chattahoochee RiverLands

TRAIL COMPONENTS

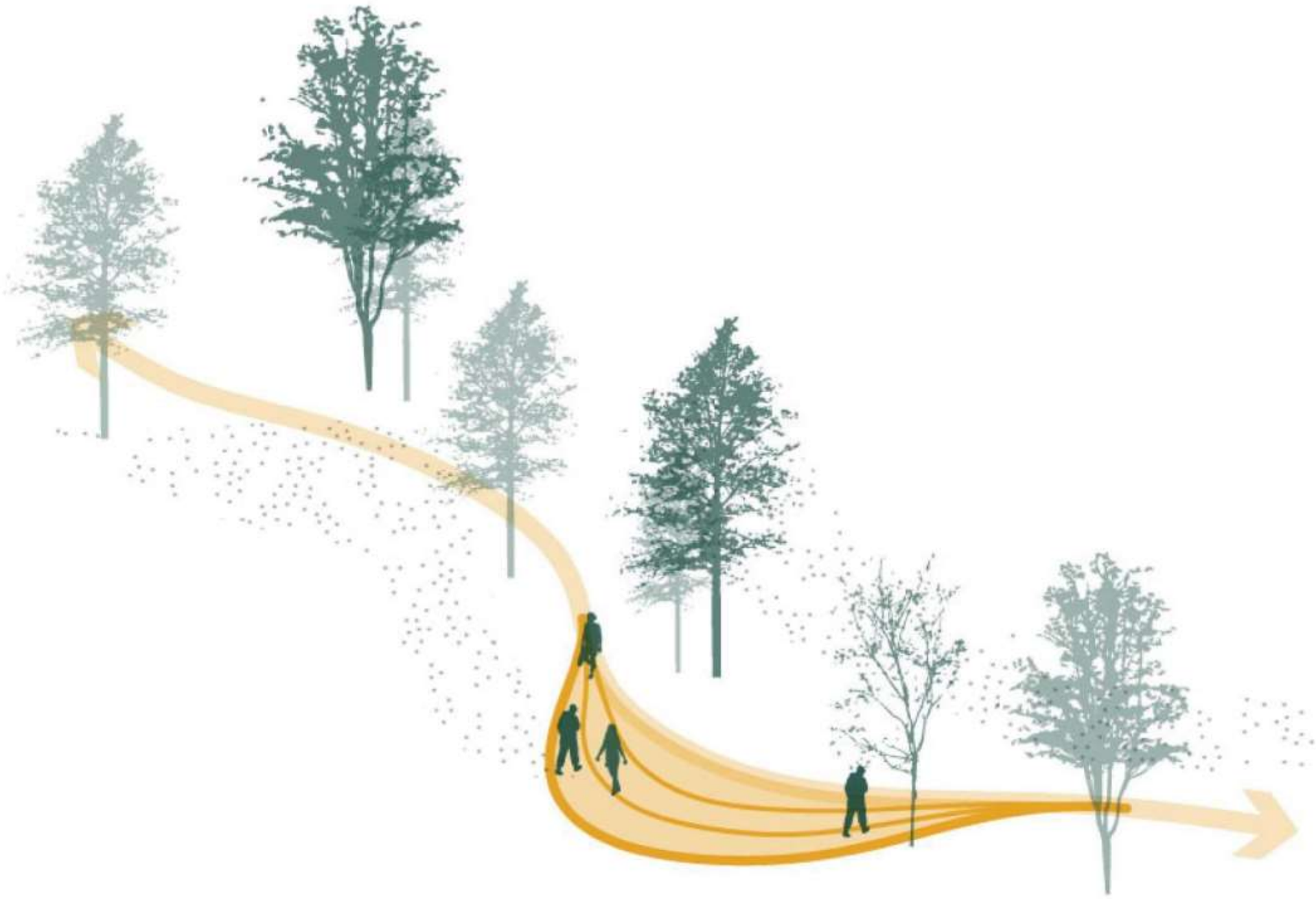
TRAILHEAD



Chattahoochee RiverLands

TRAIL COMPONENTS

NOOKS



Chattahoochee RiverLands

COMBINED PATH

2′	8″	6′	6″	8′	8″	2′
MOWN EGDE	EDGE	PEDESTRIAN PATH	DIVIDER	BIKE PATH	EDGE	MOWN EDGE

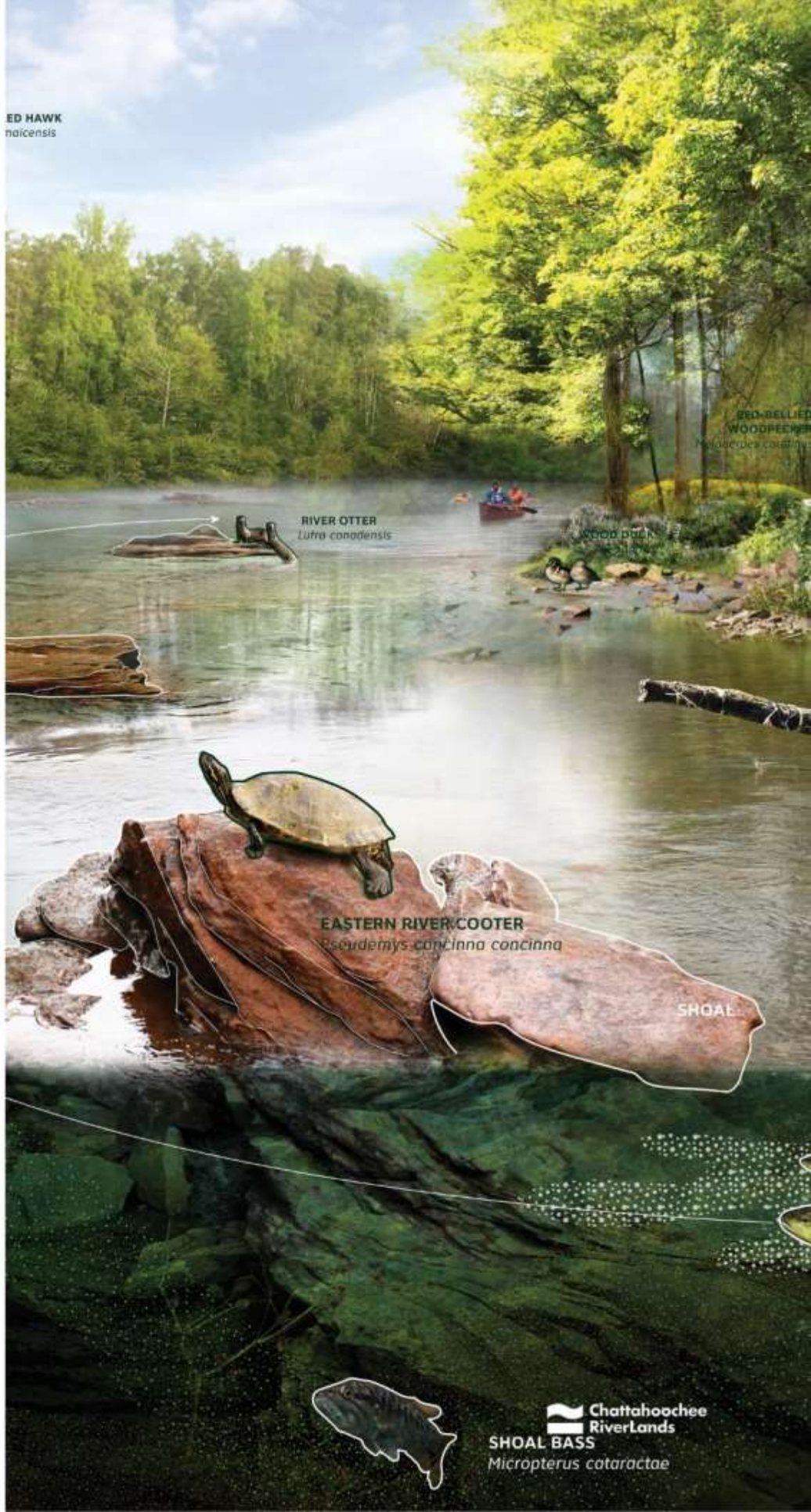
Chattahoochee RiverLands

SOCIAL NOOK

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE

- Align with the vision of Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA)
- Widen the shared sense of stewardship for the Chattahoochee River
- With targeted restoration sites and new trails bordered by vegetation that connect parks and greenspace to enhance
  ecological connectivity for wildlife and promote tributary health
- Utilize thoughtful siting and design that responds to the ecological sensitivity of the landscape, to balance conservation and access

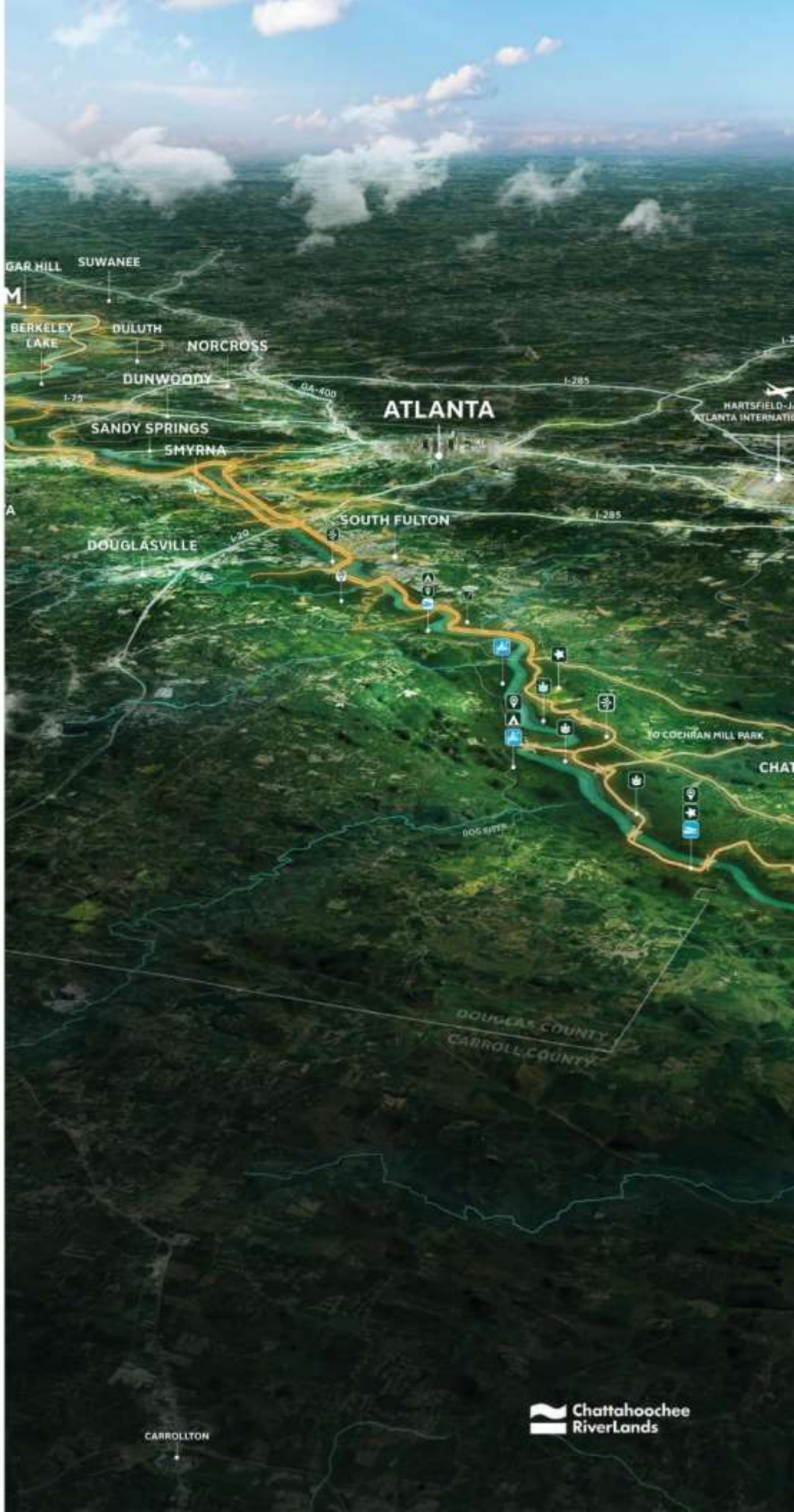


RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

- Prioritize vulnerable communities that lack access to the River and greenspace
- Engage communities at risk of gentrification to develop anti-displacement strategies early and often
- Educate and inform planning agencies and partners on the risks of green gentrification
- Develop collaborative entities that bring both affordable housing and green space advocates to Greenway planning decisions
- Increase income and make housing affordability

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SAFE, CONNECTIVE CORRIDOR

- Develop design guidelines with detail for what happens at roadway crossings and key trail intersections
- Design for the full spectrum of users – in terms of age, speed, and mode of travel
- Avoid placing trails alongside high-speed, high volume roadways
- Provide adequate separation between travel lanes and the trail along roadways
- Provide dedicated space for cyclists and pedestrians at intersections or roadway trail crossings
    - Minimize potential conflicts and provide adequate sight distance and visibility



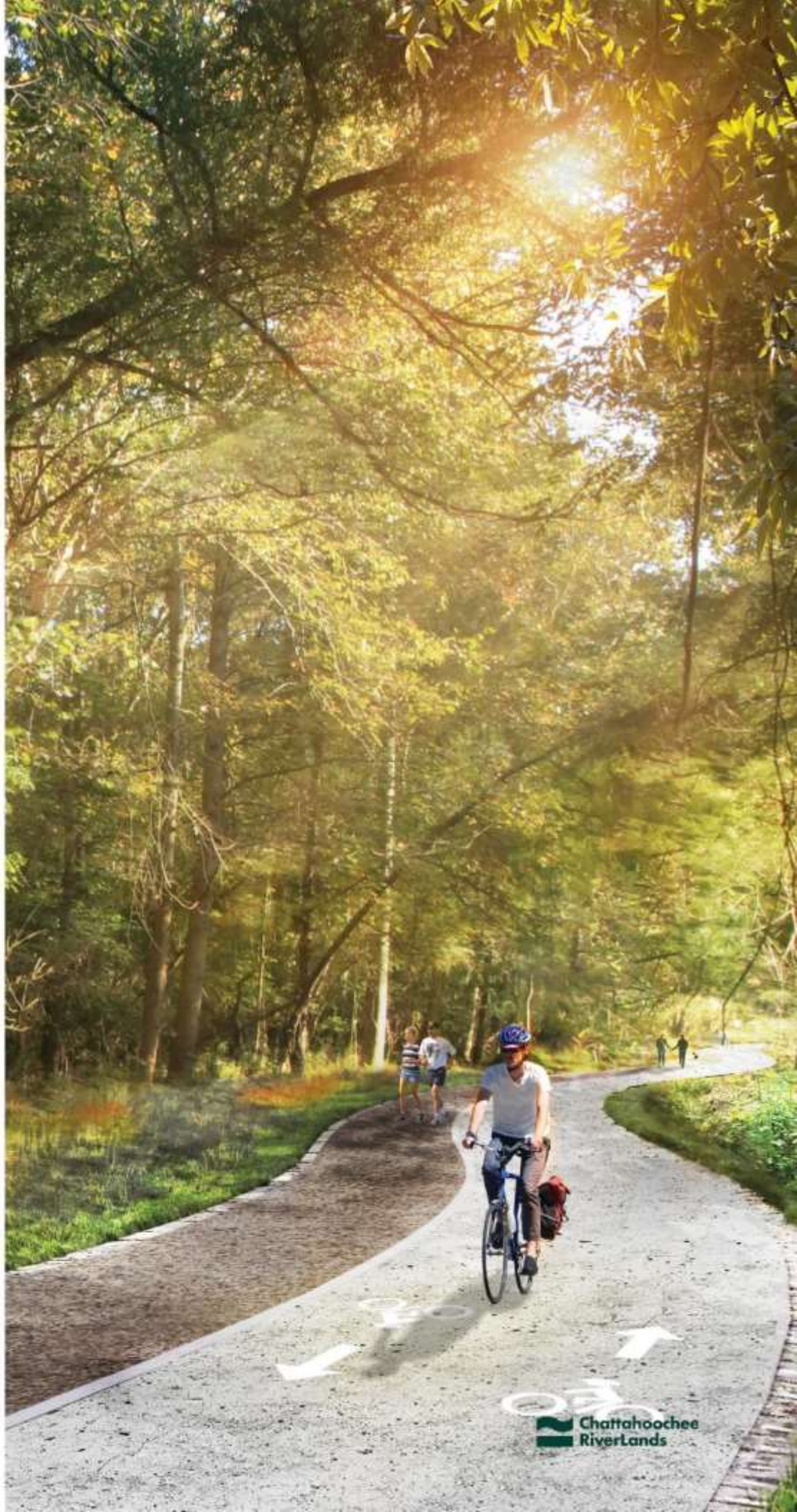
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING A LIVING LEGACY

- Ensure active support and participation from key stakeholders and the general public to continue the momentum and facilitate implementation

- The ARC, Cobb County, City of Atlanta, and TPL will continue to play an important role

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Agencies and Acts to Consider:
  - National Environmental Policy Act if federally funded
  - Georgia Environmental Policy Act if state funded
  - Clean Water Act if dredging or filling
  - FEMA regulations if within 100-year floodplain
  - MRPA from Buford Dam to Fulton aand Douglas Counties
  - Georgia Department of Transportation and local DOT or public works if along roadway



RIVERLANDS IN NUMBERS

PREFERRED ALIGNMENT
125 MILES
78% OR 97 MILES WITHIN 1/2 MILE OF THE RIVER
64% OR 80 MILES WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF THE RIVER

RIVER CROSSINGS
25 NEW & EXISTING

AVERAGE OF 5 MILES BETWEEN RIVER CROSSINGS

44 TRIBUTARY TRAILS

PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE
140 MILES

ASPIRATIONAL ALTERNATIVE
154 MILES

KEY
RIVER CROSSINGS

Chattahoochee RiverLands

LANDUSE PATTERNS

LAND USE PATTERNS

38 MILES WITHIN OR ALONG **GREENSPACE**

39 MILES WITHIN OR ALONG **EASEMENTS**

49 MILES ALONG **ROADWAYS**

LAND OWNERSHIP

70% OF THE TRAIL IS ON **PUBLIC LAND**

30% OF THE TRAIL IS ON PRIVATE LAND

EAST / WEST DISTRIBUTION

60% OR 76 MILES ON THE WESTERN SIDE

40% OR 49 MILES ON THE EASTERN SIDE

KEY

- GREENSPACE
- EASEMENTS
- ROADWAYS

Chattahoochee RiverLands

A COMMON GROUND FOR ALL

PEOPLE LIVING WITHIN A 15 MINUTE BIKE RIDE OF THE TRAIL

1 MILLION

CITIES

19 WITHIN 3 MILES OF THE TRAIL

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

114 SCHOOLS

13 PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1237 BUS STOPS

6 MARTA RAIL STATIONS

WITHIN 3 MILES OF THE TRAIL

4 ENVIRONMENTAL **JUSTICE** TARGET AREAS

LIVING WITHIN A 15 MINUTE BIKE RIDE OF THE TRAIL

128,992

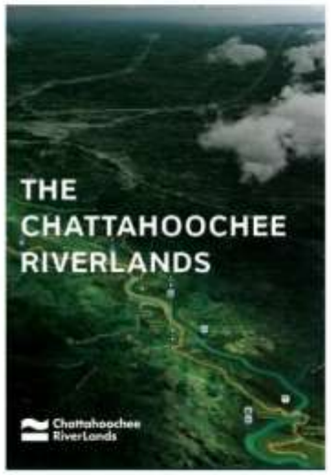
HOUSEHOLDS LIVING WITHIN 3 MILES OF THE TRAIL EARN UNDER THE MEDIAN INCOME IN METRO-ATLANTA

KEY

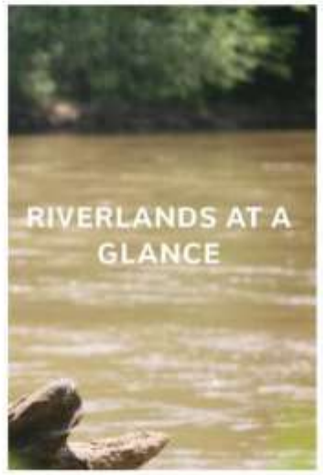
- SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES
- PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ROUTES
- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TARGET AREA
- EXISTING MARTA RAIL STATION

Chattahoochee RiverLands

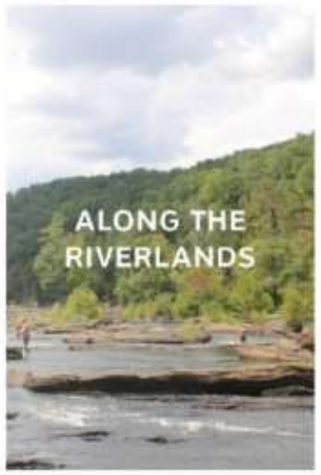
MEETING-ON-THE-GO MATERIALS



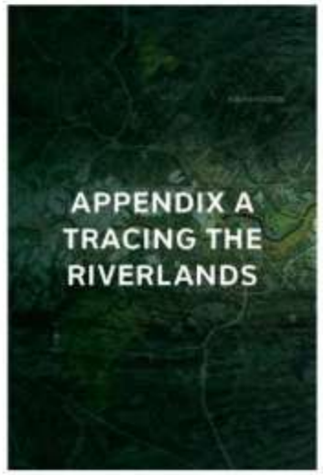
LEGACY DOCUMENT



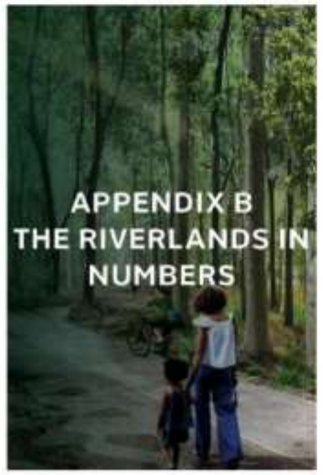
RIVERLANDS AT A GLANCE



ALONG THE RIVERLANDS

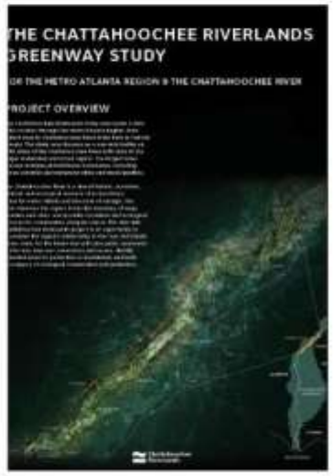


TRACING THE RIVERLANDS



THE RIVERLANDS IN NUMBERS

FOLDED MAP



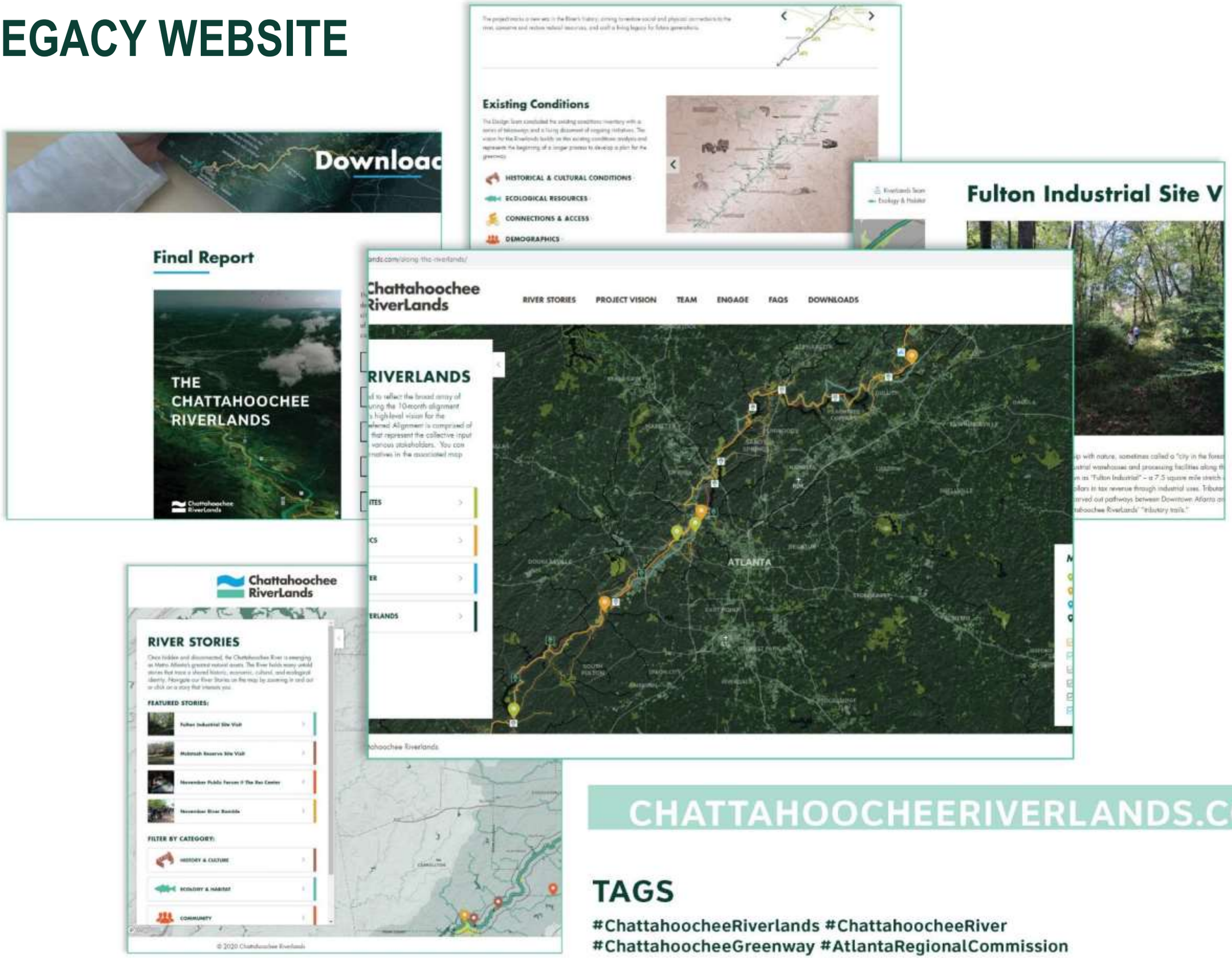
PROJECT PAMPHLET

RIVERLANDS PRESENTATION

SELECTION OF KEY IMAGES

Chattahoochee RiverLands

LEGACY WEBSITE



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TAGS

#ChattahoocheeRiverlands #ChattahoocheeRiver
#ChattahoocheeGreenway #AtlantaRegionalCommission

@TrustForPublicLand @CityOfAtlanta @Scape_Studio @Biohabitats
@Gresham_Smith @GoodThinkingAtlanta @NewSouthAssoc @PlanAtlanta

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THANK YOU!

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