The Chattahoochee River starts high in the Southern Appalachian Mountains in the Mark Trail Wilderness Area. Flowing from a patch of sand and gravel, the river trundles down the steep mountainside, growing quickly, fed by many springs and small tributaries. The river passes through scenic mountain villages, past farms, factories, and subdivisions and into Lake Lanier. After dropping 197 feet, the river enters the base of Buford Dam to begin its 48 mile journey as the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area under the stewardship of the National Park Service. The beautiful river and the land along it have a rich history dating back for centuries. The word Chattahoochee is Native American and is thought to mean “River of Painted Rocks.”

The Cherokee referred to the Chattahoochee River Corridor as the Enchanted Land. This guide is designed to help you discover the enchantment.

### American Indians

#### Home Progression

American Indians first encountered the Chattahoochee River near Andrews, Georgia. Over the years for protection from the river increased with the growing population.

#### Fishing the American Indian Way

Fishing for fish was an important part of the diet and trade for the American Indians. The flathead catfish, one of the most common fish in the river, was prized for its large size and flavor. The river contained large numbers of fish, and the area was rich in wildlife, including deer, turkey, and small game.

#### Fords, Ferries, Bridges

As settlement of the area increased, ferries began to appear along the river. Ferries were the major means of crossing the river for many years. As travel increased, ferries were replaced by covered bridges. The first covered bridge in the area was built in 1880, and the last one was built in 1960.

#### Dry Feet

As settlement increased, the need for dry crossings became evident. As settlement increased, the need for dry crossings became evident. These footpaths resulted in the establishment of paths used for trade. These footpaths were later replaced by covered bridges.

#### Spanning the River

As travel increased, the need for dry crossings became evident. These footpaths resulted in the establishment of paths used for trade. These footpaths were later replaced by covered bridges. The first covered bridge in the area was built in 1880, and the last one was built in 1960.

### Enchanted Land

Enchanted Land. This guide is designed to help you discover the enchantment.

### Chattahoochee River National Park

The Chattahoochee River National Park is a haven for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. The park offers a wide range of activities, including hiking, fishing, and wildlife watching. The river meanders through a scenic landscape, providing a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of the natural world. The park is home to a variety of plant and animal species, including rare and endangered species. The park is also a popular destination for paddlers and kayakers, who can enjoy the calm waters and the beautiful scenery.

### Indian Key and Cane Creek Bridge

As travel increased, ferries were replaced by covered bridges. The first covered bridge in the area was built in 1880, and the last one was built in 1960. These bridges were important in connecting the communities along the river.

### Settles Bridge

As settlement increased, the need for dry crossings became evident. These footpaths resulted in the establishment of paths used for trade. These footpaths were later replaced by covered bridges. The first covered bridge in the area was built in 1880, and the last one was built in 1960.

### Lake James Creek

Lake James Creek is a beautiful body of water located in the park. The lake is a popular spot for fishing, boating, and swimming. The lake is also a home to a variety of plant and animal species, including rare and endangered species. The lake is also a popular destination for paddlers and kayakers, who can enjoy the calm waters and the beautiful scenery.

### Federal law and National Park Service regulations apply to national recreation lands and 48 miles of the Chattahoochee River.
Look Up
Large birds of prey are on the hunt for their next meal. Watch for golden eagles, osprey, and bald eagles, with sharp eyes perched in the leafy treetops. On a cool day, scan the river, and you'll be rewarded with the sight of bald eagles reaping their dinner or ospreys plucking their prey from the water.

Flora and Fauna of the Chattahoochee River

Look Down
Look to the river and you'll be greeted with a wealth of aquatic life. From the small aquatic insects to the birds that feed off the river, the Chattahoochee is teeming with life. The river is a critical habitat for many species, including the American alligator, which can be seen wading in the shallows.

Glass containers are not permitted on the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Holcomb Bridge. Glass containers must be carried or discarded properly. Failure to comply may result in a $100 fine.

Fish the Chattahoochee River

General Fishing Regulations
Due to the cold water released from Buford Dam, the river within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area is a designated trout stream. Fishing is managed under Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulations. Georgia fishing regulations must be followed. Persons 16 and over are required to purchase a Georgia fishing license. Georgia DNR periodically tests fish from the river and has found the quality of fish for eating to be very good. For current information, visit www.gofighgeorgia.com or call 770-918-6418.

Artificial Lures Only
Effective January 1, 2021, the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area has implemented the use of artificial lures only. This includes any artificial lure designed to mimic fish, including a fishing rod or pole. This regulation is intended to protect the natural habitat of the river.

Delayed Harvest
Chattahoochee River for Delayed Harvest streams apply to the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Holcomb Bridge. Georgia Trout Stream Regulations apply above Buford Dam. For current information, visit www.gofighgeorgia.com or call 770-918-6418.

Water Quality
The water quality of the Chattahoochee River on the downstream side of Buford Dam is the best in the world. The river is a critical habitat for many species, including the American alligator, which can be seen wading in the shallows.

Fish Consumption
The water quality of the Chattahoochee River does not affect the consumption of fish. The river is managed by the Chattahoochee River Commission (CRC), which is responsible for maintaining water quality and ensuring that the river is safe for swimming and other recreational activities. The CRC has found that the water quality of the river is excellent. For more information, visit www.crcga.gov or call 770-538-1201.