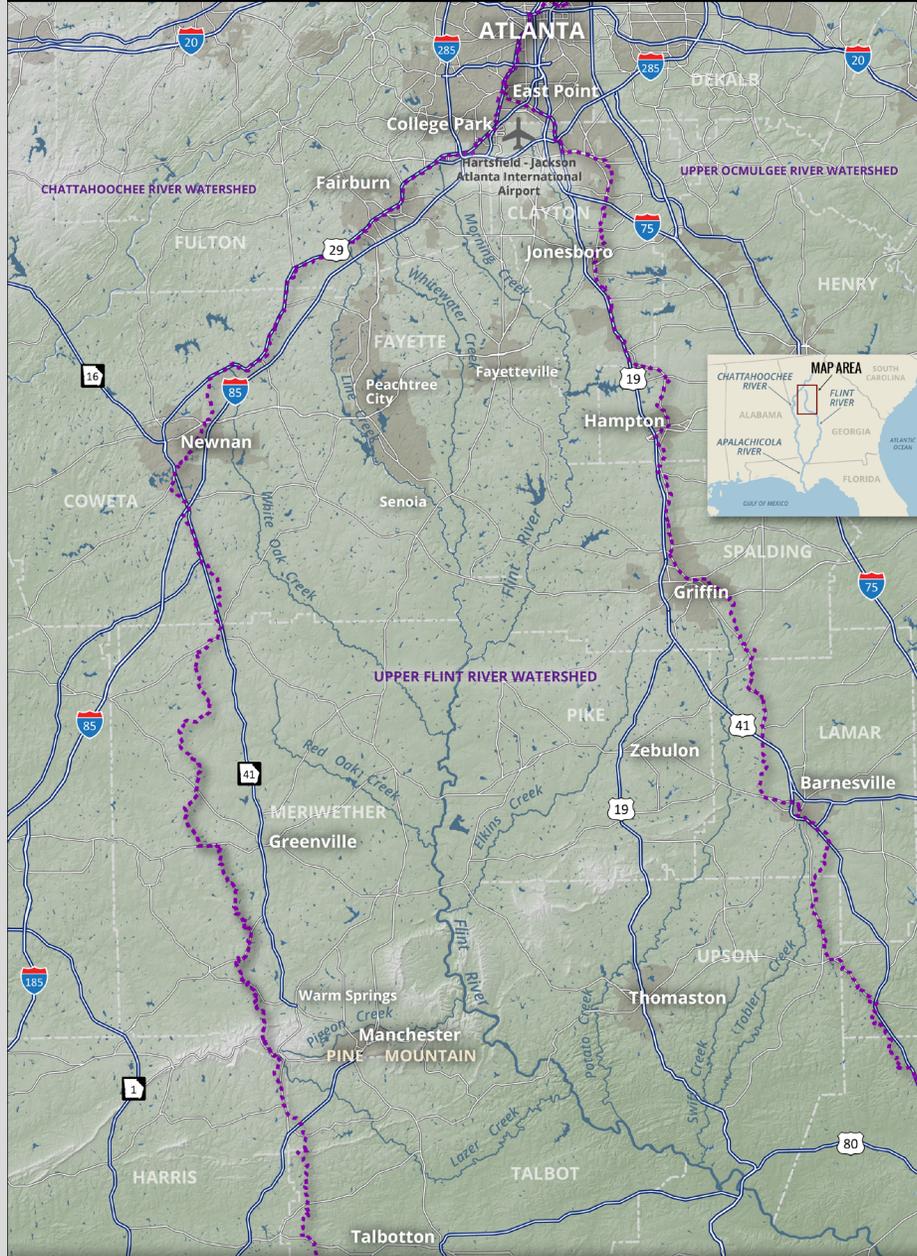# Improving Drought Resilience for People and Nature in the Upper Flint River Basin

ACF Waters Conference 2024

AMERICAN RIVERS

Upper Flint River Basin:

- ~2,000 square mile area
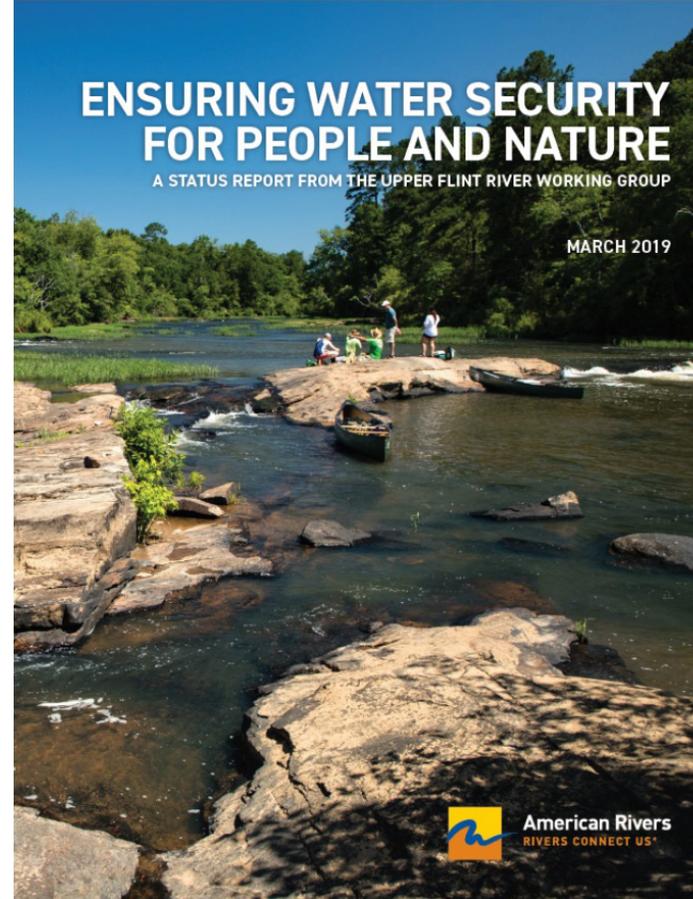- Urban-rural landscape gradient
- Water supply for 400,000+ Georgians

Flint River at Sprewell Bluff, Oct. 2016 (Alan Cressler)

Upper Flint Basin Hydrology Since ~1975:

- Increasing variability

- Lower overall water yield

ENSURING WATER SECURITY FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE
A STATUS REPORT FROM THE UPPER FLINT RIVER WORKING GROUP
MARCH 2019
American Rivers
RIVERS CONNECT US®

Gordon Rogers

Upper Flint River Working Group

A voluntary, collaborative group of conservationists, water utilities, scientists and other key upper-basin stakeholders

Changes in Upper Basin Water Management

- Newnan Utilities: Low-Flow Protection via Pump Station Upgrades

- Fayette County Water System: Reservoir Management Improvements (ongoing)

- Clayton County Water Authority: Return Flows

  …and more throughout the basin

Works in Progress

…in a context of growth and emergent challenges
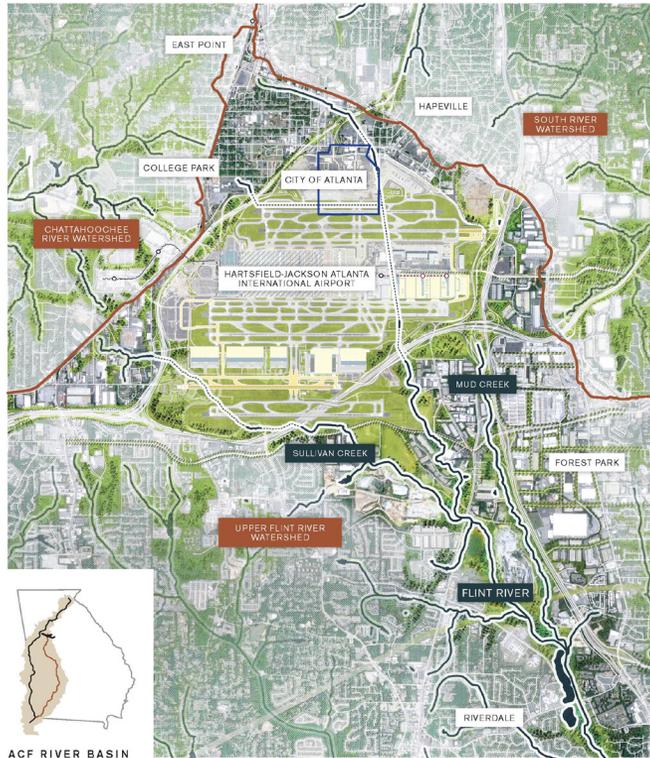

Alan Cressler

- Land Application System Phase-Out

- Drought Response Enhancements

- Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements to Promote Infiltration

Headwaters Updates
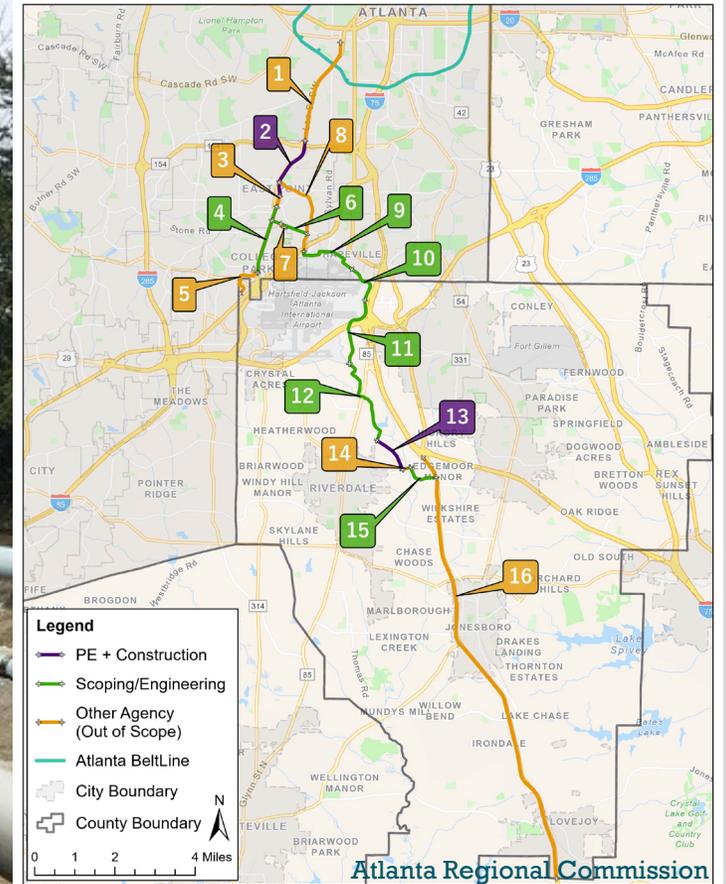

Flint River at Upper Riverdale Road (Hannah Palmer)

Georgia Regional Water Planning Seed Grant

American Rivers & UGA River Basin Center

RJ Gipaya, Flint Riverkeeper

- Improve understanding of ecosystem drought impacts

- Evaluate drought response and water management options

- Utilize Basin Environmental Assessment Model (BEAM)

Thank You!

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Alan Cressler

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