



April 2016 Newsletter

What is the Chattahoochee River Corridor?

In 1973, in response to growing concerns about the **Chattahoochee River**, the Georgia General Assembly enacted the **Metropolitan River Protection Act** (Georgia Code 12-5-440 et seq.). It established a 2,000-foot Corridor along both banks of the Chattahoochee for the 48 miles between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek. The act was amended in 1998 to extend the Corridor an additional 36 miles to the downstream limits of Fulton and Douglas counties (the limit of the Atlanta region).

Why is it important to protect the River Corridor?

This protection is needed because the Chattahoochee River, the largest stream in metro Atlanta, has long been one of the region's most valuable resources:

- It is the region's primary source of drinking water.
- It is a major recreation area.
- It is one of the southern-most trout streams in the United States, and one of the very few located in a major metropolitan area.

The City of Peachtree Corners implements the Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA) for the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). Both clearing (which includes the removal of trees and/or shrubs) and the creation of impervious surfaces are restricted within the corridor based on vulnerability categories.

Areas within the river corridor or stream buffer must have 100 percent coverage with plants. The main objectives are to shade the stream, keep the water cool, and reduce erosion. Plants shall be installed manually (no motorized vehicles). Soil disturbance is limited to digging individual holes for the plants two times the diameter of the root ball. We encourage plants to vary in size to produce a more natural effect.

Developing in the River Corridor:

New developments must obtain a Chattahoochee River Corridor Certificate through the [Atlanta Regional Commission](#) (ARC) prior to submittal of construction documents.

New homes and additions within the Chattahoochee River Corridor must submit site plans showing vulnerability categories and the existing, proposed, and allowable clearing and impervious surfaces. The following [River Corridor Affidavit](#) shall be submitted with all permits within the Corridor.

Vulnerability Standards:

All corridor land is in one of six vulnerability categories based on land characteristics.

Each category has maximum amounts of land disturbance and impervious surface stated as a percentage of category area.

Land disturbance is any activity disturbing the land or existing vegetation.

Impervious surface is any paved, hardened or structural surface regardless of material and includes buildings, driveways, decks, patios, pools, etc.

Buffer Zone Standards:

50-foot undisturbed vegetative buffer along the river and its impoundments.

50-foot undisturbed vegetative buffer along flowing streams in the corridor.

150-foot impervious surface setback along the Chattahoochee river and its impoundments.

Please contact Melissa Schwartz at mschwartz@peachtreecornersga.gov or at 470-395-7022 for more information.

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