For more information

If you would like more information about one of the following agencies, please call, e-mail, or check the following Web sites:

U.S. Geological Survey
Director, Georgia Water Science Center
phone: 770.903.9100
e-mail: dc_ga@usgs.gov
URL: *http://ga.water.usgs.gov*

Georgia Emergency Management Agency
phone: 1.800.TRY.GEMA or 404.635.7000
URL: *http://www.gema.state.ga.us*

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
phone: 404.656.3500
URL: *http://www.gadnr.org*

National Weather Service—
Southeast River Forecast Center
e-mail sr-alr.river@noaa.gov
phone: 770.486.1133
URL: *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc*

Clean Water Atlanta
phone: 404.529.9211
URL: *http://www.cleanwateratlanta.org*

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
phone: 404-352-9828
URL: *http://www.chattahoochee.org*

Georgia Floodplain Management Office
phone: 404.656.6382

Federal Emergency Management Agency
email: FEMA-Correspondence-Unit@dhs.gov
URL: *http://www.fema.gov*

American Red Cross
phone: 404.876.3302
URL: *www.redcross.org* (To find your local Chapter, enter your zip code.)

Local flood emergency phone numbers

County Emergency Management Agencies

Cobb	770.499.4567
DeKalb	404.294.2000
Douglas	770.942.8626
Forsyth	770.887.0038
Fulton	404.730.5600
Gwinnett	678.518.4805
Paulding	770.222.1160

Chattahoochee River streamgaging network funded in part by:

City of Atlanta
Georgia Department of Transportation
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Power Company
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

By Jacob H. LaFontaine, Brian E. McCallum, Timothy C. Stamey, and Caryl J. Wipperfurth

Cover photograph: **Chattahoochee River floodwaters caused by Hurricane Dennis inundate public structures**
Photograph by Arthur C. Day, U.S. Geological Survey, 2005

General Information Product 34

U.S. Department of the Interior
DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Secretary

U.S. Geological Survey
P. Patrick Leahy, Acting Director

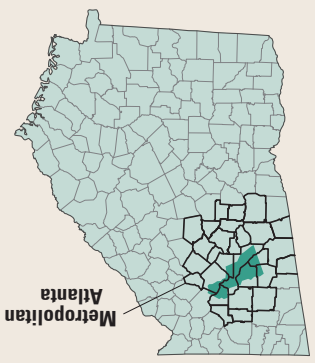
Reston, Virginia
2006

Prepared in cooperation with

City of Atlanta
UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER®
Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

Flood-Tracking Chart

Chattahoochee River Basin in Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia



USGS
science for a changing world

Flood Monitoring in the Chattahoochee River Basin

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—in cooperation with other Federal, State, and local agencies—operates a flood monitoring system in the Chattahoochee River Basin. This system is a network of 35 automated river stage stations that transmit stage data through satellite telemetry to the USGS Georgia Water Science Center in Atlanta. Charts for 16 of these stations are shown on the reverse side of this publication. During floods, the public and emergency response agencies use this information to make decisions about road closures, evacuations, and other public safety issues. The emergency phone number for your area is listed under "Local flood emergency phone numbers."

Typical flood-monitoring gage composed of a water stilling well and a gage house that shelters stage-recording equipment atop the stilling well. Gages are normally mounted to bridges and river stage data are transmitted to the USGS Georgia Water Science Center in Atlanta.

Flood-hazard areas

Flood maps and publications from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Insurance Administration are available for review at the local Department of Public Works, Building Permit offices, and local public libraries. The local Department of Public Works and Building Permit office provides flood zone determinations. Research the information provided at these offices before you build or make any attempt to flood proof your home or property.

How do I elevate or flood proof my home?

When elevating or flood proofing new or existing structures, consult a design professional, architect, structural engineer, or licensed contractor for advice. These generally are knowledgeable and experienced in flood-proofing methods. Many houses, even those not in a floodplain, have sewers that back up during heavy rains. One possible solution is to have a plumber install a plug, stand-pipe, or backup valve. FEMA has published manuals on flood proofing, which are available at your local library.

Flood insurance for homeowners

Regular homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods; however, in communities that participate in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, separate flood insurance is available. This insurance is backed by the Federal Government and is available in the participating communities to everyone, even for properties that have previously flooded. Information about flood insurance is available through local insurance agents. Flood insurance must be purchased 30 days prior to filing any claims.

Some homeowners have purchased flood insurance because it was required when they obtained a mortgage or home improvement loan. These policies may cover only the structure and not the contents. The costs associated with replacing or repairing flood-damaged furnishings could be significant. Check your flood insurance policy to see if your home's contents are covered; if not, you might want to add this coverage.

Flood safety and property protection measures

If your property is known to flood or is located in a flood-hazard area and flood warnings are issued, take all necessary and appropriate steps to protect your family and property. These include sandbagging; turning off all electrical circuits and gas lines; and elevating furniture, carpets, and appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, clothes dryers, water heaters, and air-conditioning compressor units.

Surviving during a flood—do's and don'ts

Do leave if local authorities recommend evacuation. Their advice is based on knowledge of the predicted magnitude of the flood and the potential for death and destruction.

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Water currents can be deceptive; shallow but fast-moving water can knock you off your feet.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers—they are put up for your protection—the road or bridge beyond the barrier may be washed out.

Do not drink floodwater. Floodwaters carry harmful pollutants and waterborne diseases that can result in illness or death. When flooding interrupts normal drinking-water supply, consider bottled water or treating other forms of safe supply such as spring water, rainfall, or lake and stream water from areas not affected by the flood. Treatment methods include boiling, disinfection, and distillation.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two cause of flood deaths is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the power company or city/county emergency management office.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Look before you step. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours, so use caution when entering flooded buildings. Also, floodwaters will cover floors with slippery mud that can contain broken or dangerous objects.

Be extremely cautious using recently flooded electrical equipment. Some appliances such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.

The information on this page is provided in the interest of public safety and is taken from various sources including:

American Red Cross, Food and Water in an Emergency: American Red Cross, accessed at *http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/foodwtr.html* on August 24, 2001.

Baker, R.H., 1997, Don't build that ark!—Use the chart!: Washington, D.C., Congressman Rickard H. Baker, U.S. House of Representatives, Congress Watch, March 1997 [variously paged].

Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1994, National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System coordinator's manual: Indianapolis, Ind., Federal Emergency Management Agency [variously paged].

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

General Information Product 34

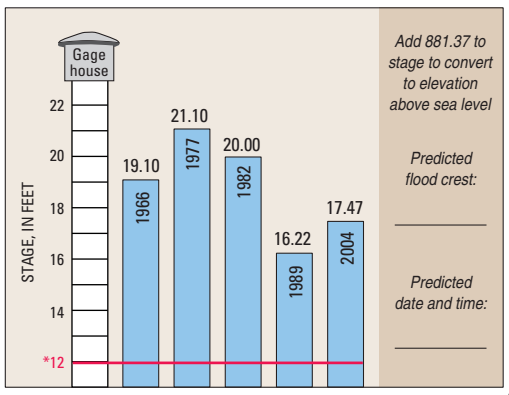
Flood-Tracking Chart for the Chattahoochee River Basin in Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia

This Chattahoochee River Basin Flood-Tracking Chart can be used by local citizens and emergency response personnel to record the latest river stage and predicted floodcrest information along the Chattahoochee River, and Big, Nancy, Nickajack, Peachtree, Proctor, Sope, Suwanee, Sweetwater, and Utoy Creeks in Metropolitan Atlanta. By comparing the current stage (water-surface level above a datum) and predicted flood crest to the recorded peak stages of previous floods, emergency response personnel and residents can make informed decisions concerning the threat to life and property.

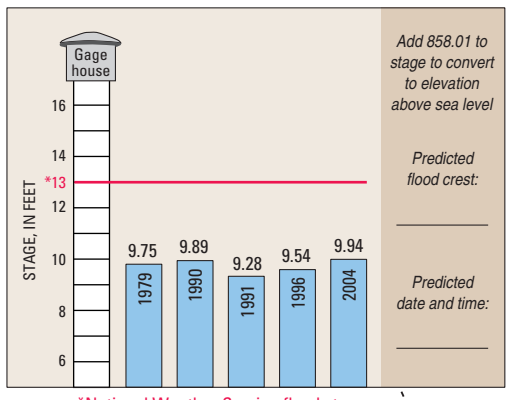
This chart shows a map of the basin with the location of selected real-time river stage stations, which are listed by name and station number. For each site, colored bars represent the five highest recorded peak stages and the years in which they occurred. The white bar provides a scale on which to record the most recently reported river stage from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS Georgia Water Science Center displays available real-time river stage data on the World Wide Web at *http://water.usgs.gov/ga/nwis/rt*

For each of the selected stations that is a flood-forecast point, the predicted flood-crest information from the National Weather Service (NWS) can be recorded. USGS data are used by the NWS for its flood-forecasting models. The NWS routinely broadcasts this forecast information to the news media and on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio (NWR). Current NWR broadcast frequencies can be accessed at *http://www.srh.noaa.gov*

Sope Creek near Marietta, Ga.
(02335870) 1963, 1966–67, 1969–70, 1977, 1982, 1985–2004

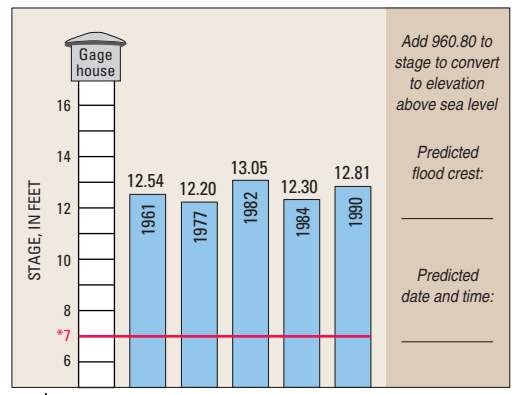


***Chattahoochee River above Roswell, Ga.**
(02335450) 1977–2004

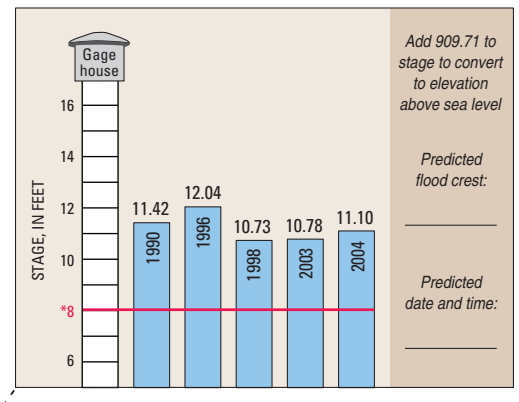


*National Weather Service flood stage

Big Creek near Alpharetta, Ga.
(02335700) 1961–2004

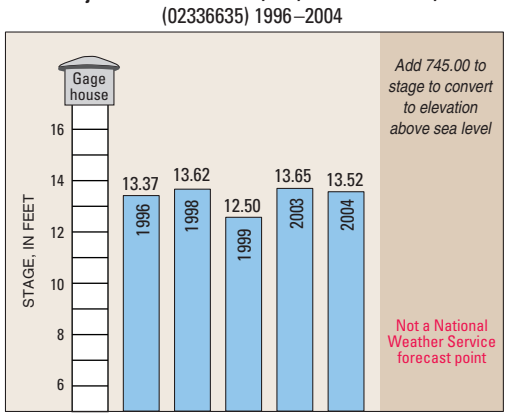


Suwanee Creek at Suwanee, Ga.
(02334885) 1985–2004



*Peak stages for Chattahoochee River sites are after 1956, when Buford Dam became operational

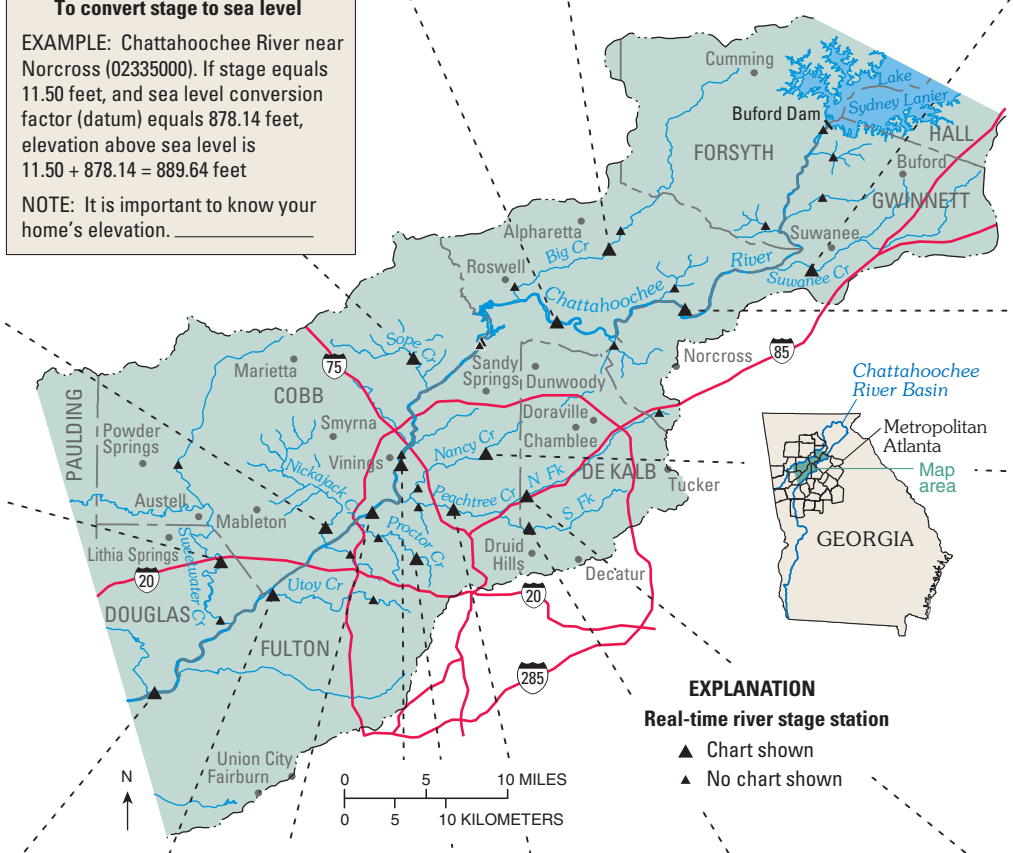
Nickajack Creek at U.S. 78/278, near Mableton, Ga.
(02336635) 1996–2004



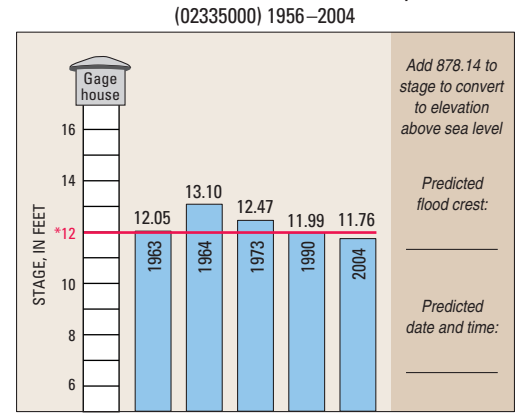
To convert stage to sea level

EXAMPLE: Chattahoochee River near Norcross (02335000). If stage equals 11.50 feet, and sea level conversion factor (datum) equals 878.14 feet, elevation above sea level is 11.50 + 878.14 = 889.64 feet

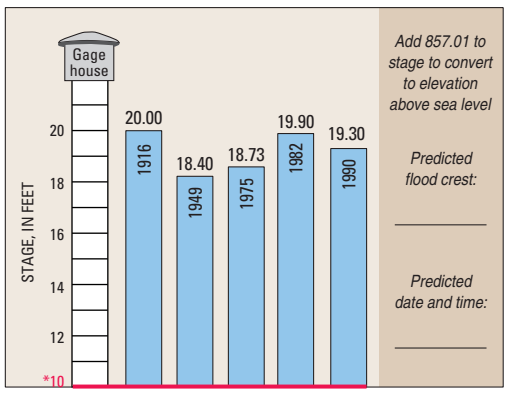
NOTE: It is important to know your home's elevation. _____



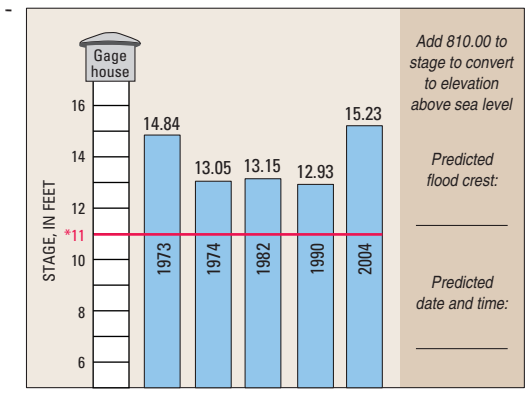
***Chattahoochee River near Norcross, Ga.**
(02335000) 1956–2004



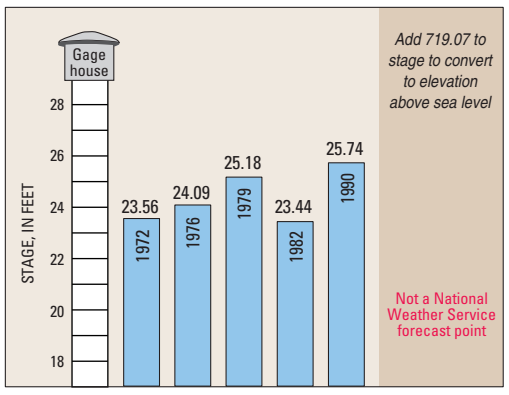
Sweetwater Creek near Austell, Ga.
(02337000) 1904–05, 1916, 1937–2004



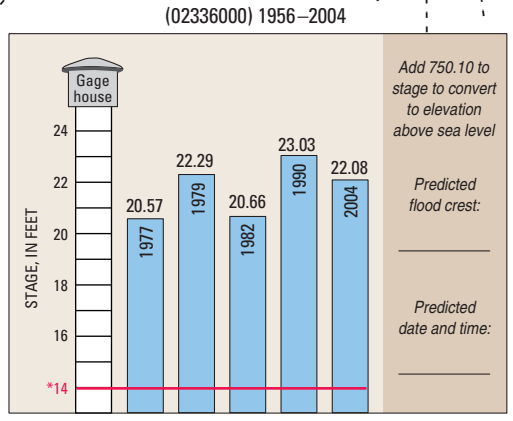
Nancy Creek at Rickenbacker Drive, at Atlanta, Ga.
(02336360) 1963–64, 1966–67, 1969, 1973–75, 1982, 1990, 2003–2004



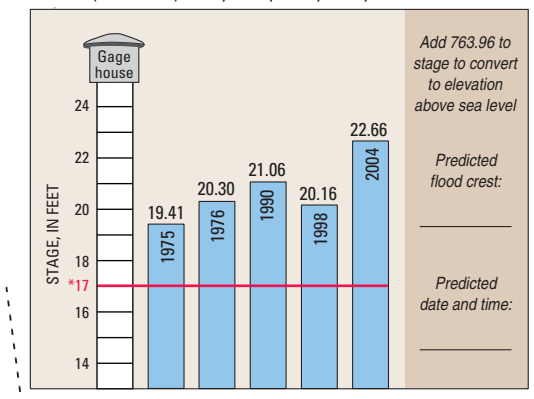
***Chattahoochee River near Fairburn, Ga.**
(02337170) 1966–2004



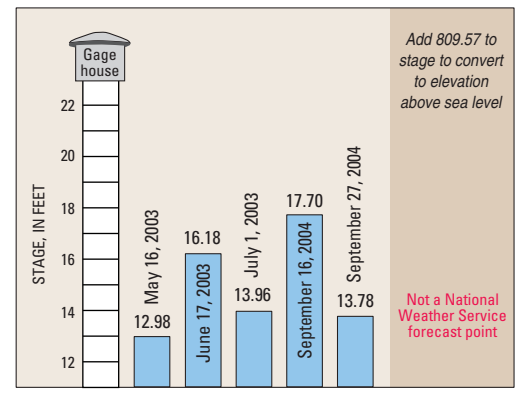
***Chattahoochee River at Atlanta, Ga.**
(02336000) 1956–2004



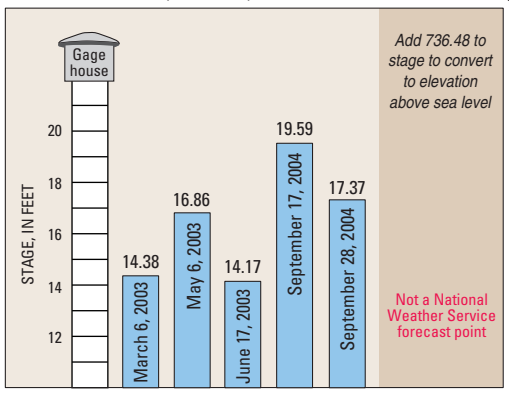
Peachtree Creek at Atlanta, Ga.
(02336300) 1912, 1916, 1920, 1949, 1956–2004



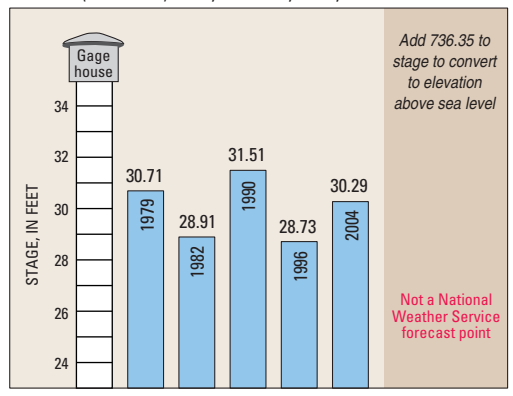
North Fork Peachtree Creek at Buford Highway, near Atlanta, Ga.
(02336120) 2003–2004



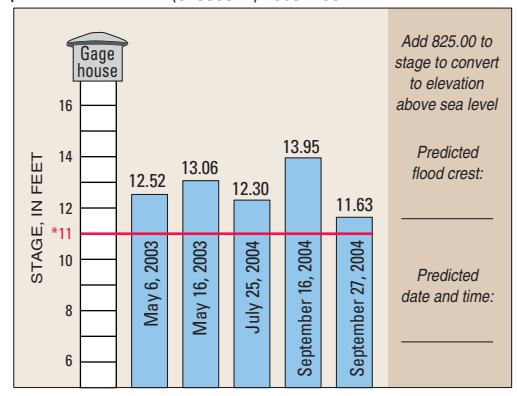
Utoy Creek at Great Southwest Parkway, near Atlanta, Ga.
(02336728) 2002–2004



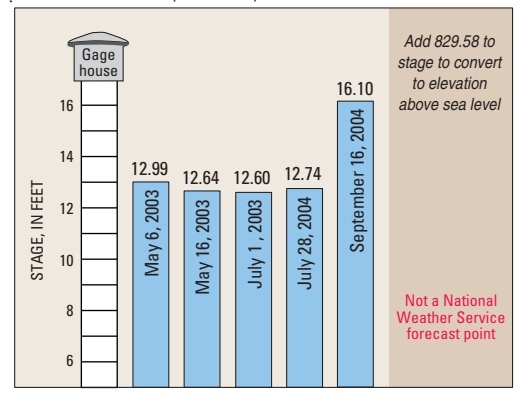
***Chattahoochee River at GA Highway 280, near Atlanta, Ga.**
(02336490) 1961, 1972–77, 1979, 1982–2004



Proctor Creek at Hortense Way, at Atlanta, Ga.
(02336517) 2003–2004



South Fork Peachtree Creek at Johnson Road, near Atlanta, Ga.
(02336240) 2003–2004



USGS science for a changing world

For real-time streamflow data and other water-resources information, access the USGS Georgia Water Science Center home page at *http://ga.water.usgs.gov*

For National Weather Service predicted peaks and other information, access the Southeast River Forecast Center home page at *http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc*

Flood-Tracking Chart prepared in cooperation with

City of Atlanta

National Weather Service

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