



THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERLANDS

DEMONSTRATION SITE:
SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD

SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD

THE GATEWAY TO THE RIVERLANDS

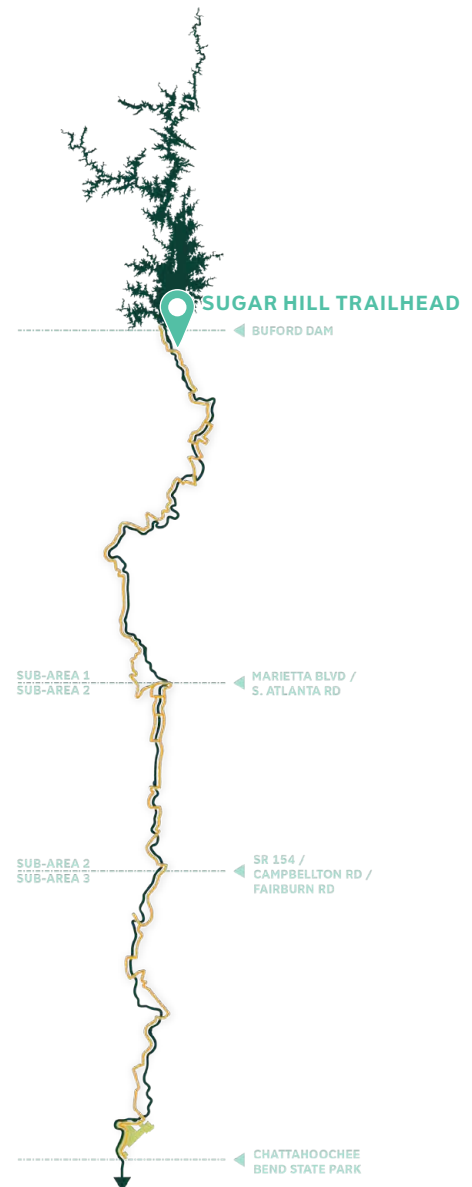
The Sugar Hill Trailhead will be the northernmost entrance to the RiverLands and represents a unique opportunity to develop trail amenities that will be iconic throughout the region.

The site for the Sugar Hill Trailhead is situated next to State Route 20 (Cumming Highway), making it a highly visible location for trail-related amenities. Nestled among some of the northern most areas of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, it also offers opportunities to support ecological restoration alongside the trail. This site's proximity to a variety of destinations, including the planned Sugar Hill Greenway, Lake Lanier, and a historic fish weir, is also considered an asset.

The design goals for the Sugar Hill Trailhead center around a desire to provide trail access to a wide range of users, while also providing amenities that can be replicated throughout the project area. In order to achieve this, the Design Team discussed potential site features including parking, a new boat ramp and wayfinding elements, extensively with a committee of stakeholders.

Based on those conversations, the programmatic amenities reflected in the design for this site include:

- A new boat ramp, kayak storage, and Blueway specific parking on the west side of the River, directly north of the SR-20 Bridge
- A new pedestrian and cyclist specific bridge across the Chattahoochee in order to bypass heavy traffic on SR-20
- Areas and overlooks along the River to observe and learn about the historic fish weir at Bowmans Island
- An expansion of the existing parking lot along SR-20 with a nook dedicated to orienting visitors to the trail
- An interpretive pavilion and associated parking specific to cyclists and pedestrians
- The Crayfish Creek Restoration Project, an effort led by the Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy and Upper Chattahoochee Trout Unlimited, will help mitigate the hydrologic effects of Buford Dam operations and local stormwater management





Aerial View Looking East Of The Sugar Hill Demonstration Site



View Of The Chattahoochee River From The Sugar Hill Demonstration Site

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BOWMANS ISLAND FISH WEIR

Just south of Buford Dam, a historic fish weir ripples the surface of the Chattahoochee River in a distinctive “V” shape, channeling fish and water towards the center of the River. It’s thought that the Cherokee who used to live on the land near the River built these fish weirs from stones hundreds of years ago. At the bottom of the V, a wooden basket would be placed to catch the fish flowing through.

Such hidden Native American sites will be woven into the planning and design of the Chattahoochee RiverLands Greenway. Knowledge of these practices enriches the River experience for visitors, expands our understanding of the River and the land before it was called Georgia, and finally, reminds us that we are part of a continuum of human cultures that have stewarded the RiverLands.

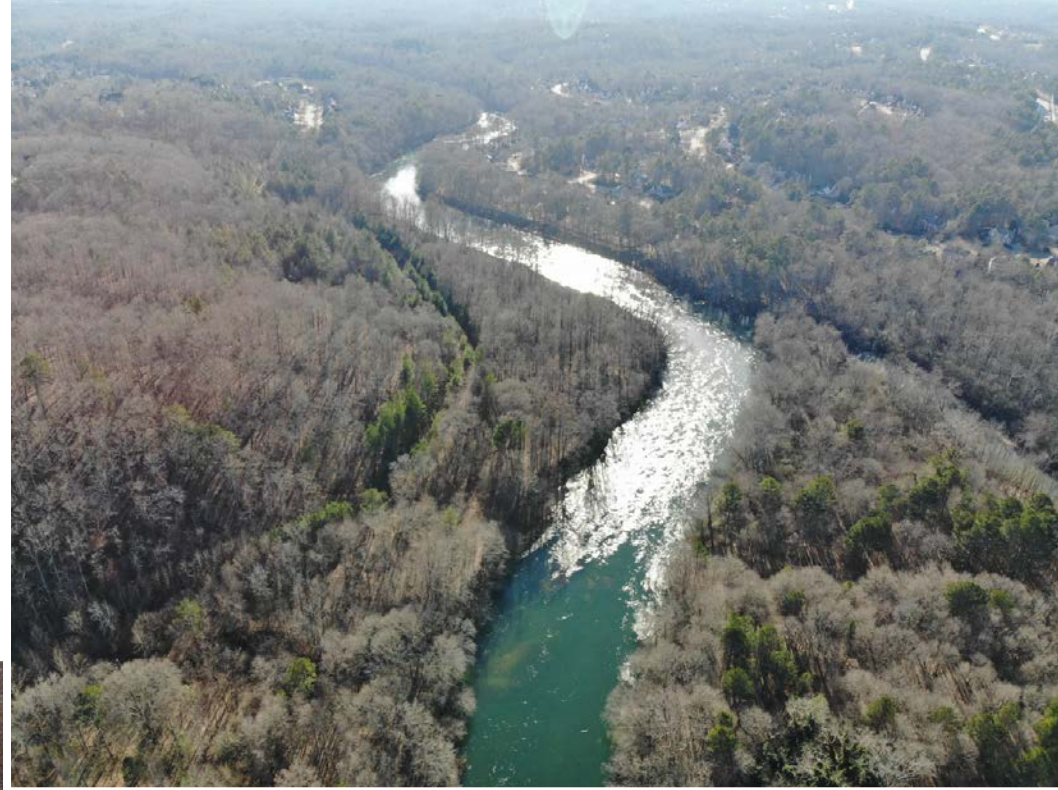
A CLOSER LOOK AT CRAYFISH CREEK

Throughout its units, the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area protects floodplain, riparian, and adjacent lands using a science-based approach to management and restoration needs. The downstream portion of the Sugar Hill Trailhead includes Crayfish Creek, where the CRNRA is working with key stakeholders such as Trout Unlimited and University of Georgia to restore a degraded stream.

A recent monitoring report on CRNRA’s wadeable streams found that Crayfish Creek, with its natural load of woody debris, provides some rich habitat for small aquatic organisms. However, the mouth of the creek has been reconfigured by land use and the pulsing release of water from Buford Dam. Today the stream is eroding and becoming more deeply entrenched in the earth. Working with a broad range of partners, the National Park Service participates in a variety of stream and upland restoration projects in the Study area every year, from removing invasive plants to reversing some of the impairments of its tributary streams.

TODAY, RESTORATION EFFORTS INCLUDE HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS FOR SHOAL BASS, WHICH ARE NO LONGER COMMON IN THE STUDY AREA.





SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD

PROGRAMMATIC ZONING

THIS ILLUSTRATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A DESIGN PROPOSAL
NOR SHOULD IT SET ANY EXPECTATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION



TO LAKE LANIER

JAMES CREEK

ORIENTATION NOOK

NATURE PLAY

HISTORIC NOOK

FISH WEIR
SHOALS

OVERLOOK

INTERPRETIVE PAVILION

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

FORSYTH COUNTY
GWINNETT COUNTY

TO CHATTAHOOCHEE
BEND STATE PARK

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
ORR'S FERRY UNIT

**CHATTATHOOCHEE RIVER
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
BOWMANS ISLAND UNIT**

OUTFITTER

OPEN FIELD

KAYAK STORAGE



BOAT RAMP

NEW BRIDGE CROSSING

SR-20



CONNECTION TO
SUGAR HILL GREENWAY

CRAYFISH CREEK

SUGAR HILL



CRAYFISH CREEK
RESTORATION
PROJECT

SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD



SUGAR HILL

VEHICULAR
ENTRANCE

EXISTING
PARKING

ORIENTATION
NOOK

CRAYFISH CREEK
RESTORATION PROJECT

CHATTATHOOCHEE RIVER
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
BOWMANS ISLAND UNIT

BOAT RAMP

NEW BRIDGE

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FORSYTH COUNTY
GWINNETT COUNTY

TO BURRODOW



INTERPRETIVE PAVILION

NATURE PLAY

PARKING

CHATTATHOOCHEE RIVER
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
ORRS FERRY UNIT

OVERLOOK

TO CHATTATHOOCHEE
BEND STATE PARK

FISH WEIR
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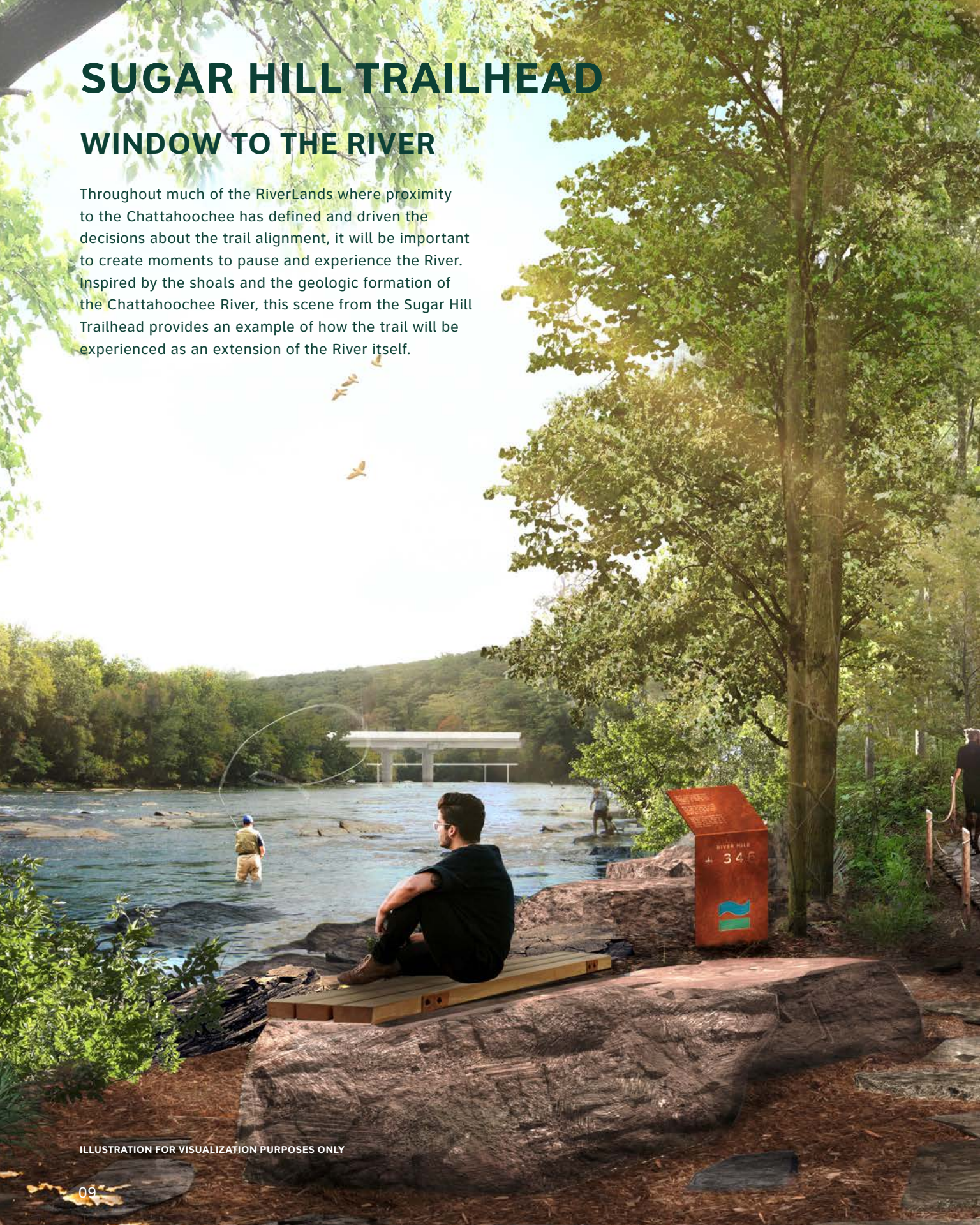
SR-20

COMFORT STATION

SUGAR HILL TRAILHEAD

WINDOW TO THE RIVER

Throughout much of the RiverLands where proximity to the Chattahoochee has defined and driven the decisions about the trail alignment, it will be important to create moments to pause and experience the River. Inspired by the shoals and the geologic formation of the Chattahoochee River, this scene from the Sugar Hill Trailhead provides an example of how the trail will be experienced as an extension of the River itself.







For more information and to get involved:

WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEERIVERLANDS.COM

