

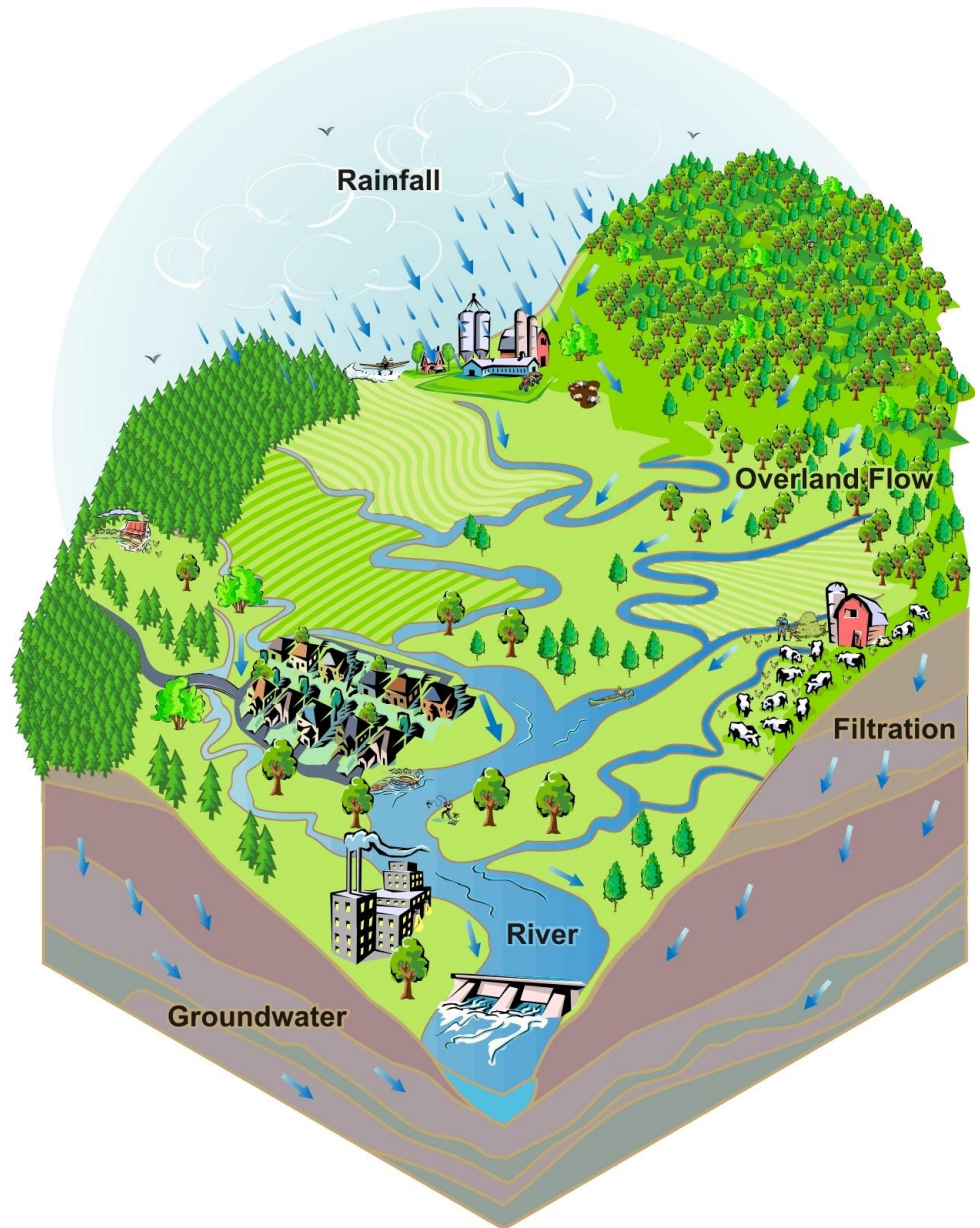
Discovery Center Watershed Information

What Is A Watershed?

We are all a part of one, no matter where we go! Houses, open fields, office buildings and forests are all part of a watershed. Any piece of land which collects precipitation that drains into a common body of water is a watershed. Networks of creeks, streams, rivers, and storm drains shape a watershed. High and low points of the land determine how rain water that falls there eventually finds its way into our rivers. A watershed is a funnel! Everything that falls into it, flows together, concentrates and flows from a single point into a receiving body or river.

Healthy watersheds are essential for providing clean drinking water, recreational activities and wildlife habitat. Because we all belong to a watershed, each of our actions affects its health. CNC's watershed, the Chattahoochee River, provides 70% of metropolitan Atlanta with drinking water. Ours is the smallest watershed in the United States based on the number of people now relying on it.

The Atlanta Regional Commission projects metro Atlanta will add an additional 2.3 million residents in the next decade. With that projection of growth and the river already being heavily used, an increase in individual conservation will be key to balancing growth with a high quality of life.



Georgia has 14 primary watersheds. These 14 are divided into 52 secondary watersheds. Notice how the watersheds extend into bordering states. Within Georgia, the Chattahoochee Watershed is divided into the Upper, Upper Middle, Lower Middle & Lower Chattahoochee Watersheds.

Georgia's 52 Large Watersheds

