

FLOOD-TRACKING CHART FOR THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NEAR METROPOLITAN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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Abstract. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) operates a hydrologic monitoring network in the Chattahoochee River Basin (see Fig. 1), with support from the City of Atlanta, Georgia, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies. The network is comprised of several automated river stage stations that transmit stage data through satellite telemetry to the USGS Georgia Water Science Center in Atlanta, Georgia (see Fig. 2). Using data collected by this network, the USGS has compiled a flood-tracking chart for the Chattahoochee River near Metropolitan Atlanta.

The Flood-Tracking Chart supplements the USGS real-time hydrologic data network by providing local citizens and emergency management officials with a useful tool to track and compare floods in the Chattahoochee River Basin near Metropolitan Atlanta. The Flood-Tracking Chart is intended for emergency management officials who make decisions on road closures and evacuations, as well as property owners living within water's reach. Valuable information concerning precautions to take when dealing with a flood, as well as contact information for Federal, State, and local emergency management agencies also is provided on the chart.

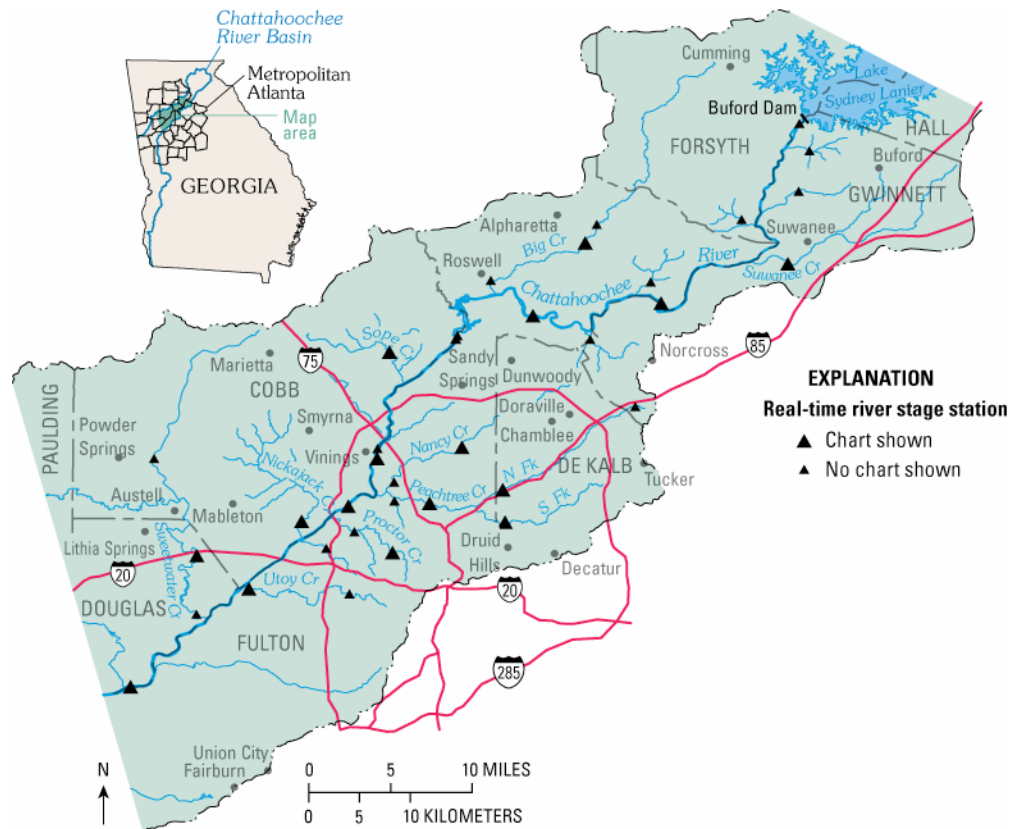


Figure 1. Hydrologic monitoring network in the Chattahoochee River Basin near Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia.



Figure 2. Typical flood-monitoring gage composed of a water stilling well and a gage house that shelters stage-recording equipment atop the stilling well.

The Flood-Tracking Chart summarizes historical water-level peaks for 16 of the 35 real-time gages operating in this part of the hydrologic data network. This chart includes the portion of the real-time network that extends from the Chattahoochee River at Buford Dam, near Buford, Ga., to the Chattahoochee River near Fairburn, Ga.; including the following tributary streams: Big, Nancy, Nickajack, Peachtree, Proctor, Sope, Suwanee, Sweetwater, and Utoy Creeks. The National Weather Service (NWS) uses 10 of the 16 gages and has established flood-stage levels for the gages. Flood warnings and predictions for the gages used by the NWS are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/serfc/>. These warnings and predictions are based on water level and discharge data provided by the USGS. These data are available on the World Wide Web at <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/>.

An example from the Flood-Tracking Chart is shown in Figure 3. 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 USGS. 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. The Flood-Tracking Chart is available on the World Wide Web at <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/floodtracking/chattahoochee/chattchart.html>

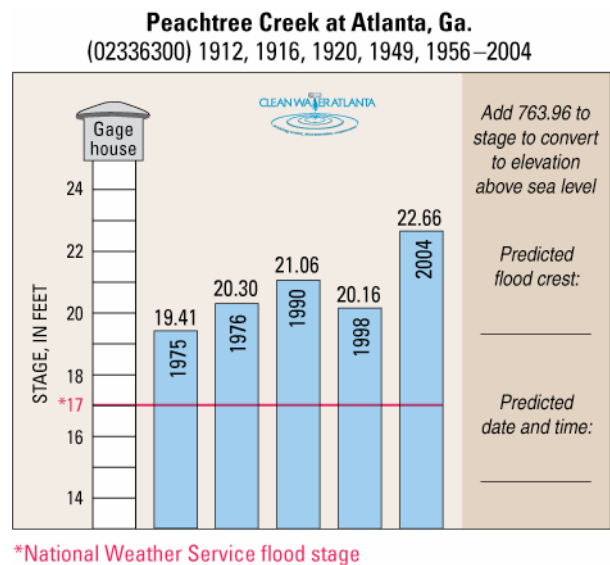


Figure 3. Flood-tracking chart for Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Georgia.