



# REGIONAL RESOURCES: CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION PLANNING

## Why plan for conservation and preservation of regional resources?

What do small water supply watersheds, natural habitats and civil war battlefields have in common? They are some of the vital resources that contribute to our quality of life in the metro Atlanta area.

An important element of regional planning is an understanding and assessment of how critical natural and cultural resources are responsibly used, managed and preserved. In a place like the metro area, growth can be rapid and sometimes impactful to the people, places and patterns that it envelopes. It is important to identify places that make the region great and find ways to ensure their viability.

As the region continues to grow and expand, it will become more difficult to balance the need to maintain areas of natural habitat, as well as clean air and water, with the requirements of our existing and future populations. Equally important are our shared cultural resources that identify who we are, where we came from and share our story with others.

## What is ARC's role in conservation planning?

During the past decade local governments have taken a larger role in greenspace acquisition by utilizing funding opportunities available from the State of Georgia and generating revenue locally.

In order to protect irreplaceable natural and cultural resources, planning for **green infrastructure** is needed. We must strategically manage networks of natural lands, working landscapes and other open spaces to conserve ecosystem values and functions that benefit the human populations.

Connecting green infrastructure demands a regional approach and perspective. Because of this, green infrastructure planning must take place on local, regional, state and federal levels. All these jurisdictions must communicate with one another to create an interconnected system. This ensures that the system is greater than the sum of its parts.

ARC's Regionally Important Resource Map will identify critical components of the region's green infrastructure. These include historic and cultural resources that all parties in the region will need to work to preserve and protect

## WHAT IS PLAN 2040?

**PLAN 2040** is metro Atlanta's long-range planning process for land development and transportation needs through the year 2040. It will guide growth by addressing not only land use and transportation issues, but economic, environmental, housing and human services challenges, as well.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION



## Identifying and protecting cultural and natural features in the metro Atlanta area

ARC will be developing a Regional Resource Plan as part of the overall Plan 2040 initiative. The Resource Plan will:

- Enhance the focus on protection and management of important natural and cultural resources in the Atlanta region.
- Provide for careful consideration of, and planning for, impacts of new development on these important resources.
- Improve local, regional, and state level coordination in the protection and management of identified resources.

The Resource Plan will be developed with input from numerous stakeholders around the region. It will be reviewed by the State of Georgia and ultimately adopted and communicated by ARC.

All interested parties from around the region including local governments, state and federal agencies, local land trusts, conservation organizations, and the public will be consulted in developing the Resource Plan.

## How can someone participate in developing Plan 2040?

Metro Atlanta residents can participate in ARC's Plan 2040 activities in several ways:

- Regularly visit the Plan 2040 Web site at [www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040](http://www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040) for the latest information about the planning process. Check the "Get Involved" section of the site for discussions, meetings and other ways to share thoughts and ideas.
- Email comments to ARC at [plan2040@atlantaregional.com](mailto:plan2040@atlantaregional.com)
- Share ideas at ARC's group page on LENS on Atlanta at [www.lensonatlanta.org](http://www.lensonatlanta.org)
- Call ARC with comments or questions:
  - 404. 463. 3272
  - TTY number is 404. 463. 3272

## Helpful links for more info

- [www.atlantaregional.com](http://www.atlantaregional.com)
- [Regional Development Plan](#)
- [ARC's Inventory of Greenspace Tools](#)

Other resources include:

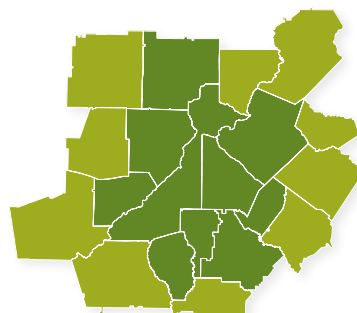
- [Green Infrastructure](#)
- [Regionally Important Resource \(RIR\) Rules](#)
- [Georgia Land Conservation Program](#)
- [Trust for Public Land](#)
- [Georgia Department of Community Affairs](#)

This document can be found on ARC's Web site at [www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040](http://www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040). For assistance in viewing this document, contact [plan2040@atlantaregional.com](mailto:plan2040@atlantaregional.com) or 404.463.3272.



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## WHAT IS THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION?

ARC is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency for the **10-county** metropolitan area. For transportation planning, ARC's area of responsibility includes all or parts of **20 counties** and the City of Atlanta.