

Georgia's 2017

CLEAN WATER HEROES

Cox Enterprises

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

Cox Enterprises' Water Conservation Program Makes Atlanta's Water Go Farther

INTRODUCTION:

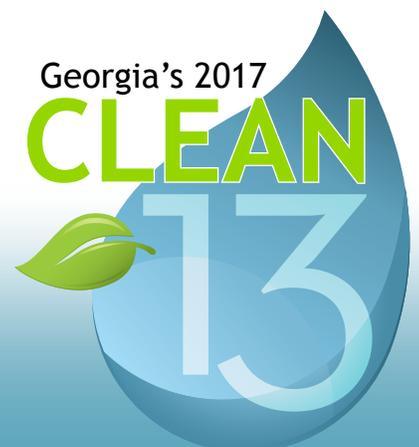
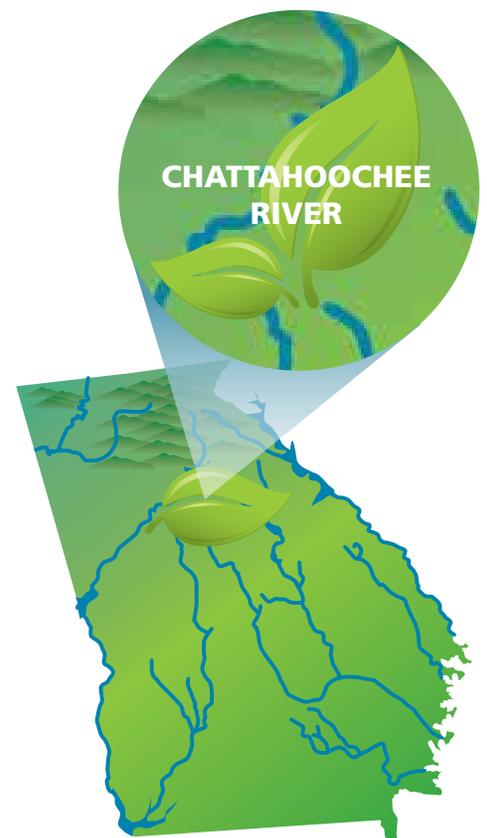
Imagine detailing 62,000 vehicles each year. That's the task facing Manheim Georgia, which is part of the world's leader in vehicle remarketing services. Vehicles of a variety of makes and models course through Manheim's facility just west of the Atlanta airport and each one must be cleaned and prepped for resale—a process that requires thousands of gallons of water daily and generates corresponding amounts of wastewater. Water scarce Atlanta, where extended droughts routinely create water supply crisis, would seem an unlikely location for such a facility, but Cox Conserves, the sustainability arm of Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises, has developed water conservation solutions that help the mega-car wash facility live in harmony with the Chattahoochee River and the some four million Georgians that depend on the river for their drinking water.

THE WATER BODY:

Nestled on the divide between the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers in southwest Atlanta, Manheim Georgia, like other businesses in metro Atlanta, depends upon the municipal water supplies from the Chattahoochee River to clean its ever-changing inventory of vehicles. The Chattahoochee supplies more than 70 percent of the water used by metro Atlanta's 5.7 million people—an average daily withdrawal of 450 million gallons a day. Additionally, residents downstream in cities like LaGrange, West Point and Columbus also depend on the river's flow. Since the early 1990s, Atlanta's dependence on the Chattahoochee has been at the center of a feud between Georgia, Alabama and Florida over water rights that remains unresolved and now sits before the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE CLEAN:

Sandwiched between bustling I-285 and South Fulton Parkway in southwest Atlanta is Manheim Georgia's sprawling 189-acre operation filled with a veritable sea of used vehicles. Amongst this sea is the Manheim Water Conservation Center, which cleans and repurposes water for its reconditioning center and returns clean water to the Fulton County Water Department.





Each day a steady stream of cars flows through Manheim Georgia's reconditioning facility and a steady stream of pressurized water is used to tidy up those vehicles. The used water is collected, equalized, treated with micro-organisms that remove oil, soap and grease, run through filters to remove additional solids and finally treated with reverse osmosis membranes to create reusable water.



When all is said and done, 60 percent of the water that enters the facility gets used on the next vehicles set for cleaning with the remainder sent to municipal wastewater treatment plants where it is ultimately returned to the Chattahoochee River.

The process produces 3,000 gallons of clean water each day and over the course of a year, saves two million gallons of water.

Combined with another Manheim conservation facility in Pennsylvania, Cox Enterprises saves 10 million gallons of water annually, keeping that water in our rivers where it sustains fisheries, recreational opportunities and drinking

water supplies for downstream communities. Through efforts at Cox Enterprises other subsidiaries, the company saves more than 32 million gallons of water annually.

In announcing the tenth anniversary of the company's sustainability program earlier this year, Cox Enterprises Chairman Jim Kennedy stated: "Cox Conserves is a story about taking action and inviting everyone to join us on our sustainability journey. While the world has seen drastic changes over the last decade, our commitment to sustainability has been unwavering. In fact, it's grown and will continue to do so. We know that efficiency is good for the environment and for the bottom line, but Cox Conserves is much more than just an operational program. It's a part of our culture that brings positive change to the communities around us."

In addition to water conservation efforts, Cox's employees are also active in river and ocean cleanups across the nation, having removed more than 25 tons of trash from waterways. Meanwhile, the company remains a strong supporter of numerous Georgia-based environmental organizations, including many members of the Georgia Water Coalition.



Top: Manheim Georgia details 62,000 vehicles each year. Left: Workers at the Manheim Water Conservation Center in southwest Atlanta recycle 60 percent of the water the facility uses to wash its inventory of vehicles. Above: The inner workings of the Manheim Water Conservation Center. The center saves about two million gallons of water annually.



For More Information Contact:

Elizabeth Olmstead, Cox Conserves, 678-645-0762, elizabeth.olmstead@coxinc.com
David Paule, GreenLaw, 404-659-3122, dpaule@greenlaw.org