



WATER TODAY. WATER FOR THE FUTURE.

For as long as records have been kept, Georgia has been one of the **wettest states in the wettest region of our country**. Over the past decade, Georgia ranks seventh among the contiguous states in annual precipitation, at 49.21 inches, according to the National Climatic Data Center. It has helped Georgia become a national leader in agriculture, energy and other businesses that rely on clean, safe water.

We've known that **population growth and economic prosperity are tied to our water resources, and we've prepared accordingly**. For 20 years, Georgia has researched and planned to secure abundant water for generations to come. Georgia understands its water consumption better than any other state in the nation and is turning plans developed through extensive study from the past decade into action.

We are working to **expand the long-term use of Lake Lanier as a water source beyond flood control**. Despite over 50 years of consumptive use, in July 2009 U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson ruled that Lake Lanier, a key source of water for metro Atlanta, was not authorized as a water source for municipal and residential use. The ruling by Judge Magnuson does not impact Georgia's riparian water rights or ability to plan and build alternative water supplies.

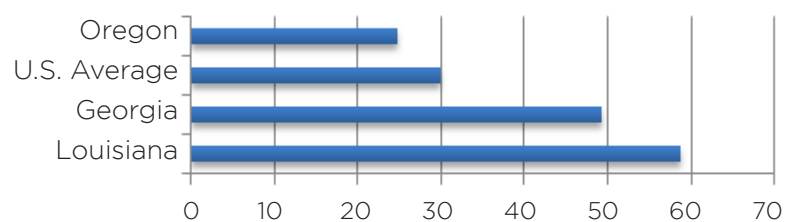


In the wake of the ruling, Former Governor Sonny Perdue instituted a four-pronged response plan. In addition to the following conservation approaches, Georgia re-opened negotiations with its neighbors to find a fair and equitable water-sharing solution. Governor Nathan Deal has continued these negotiations with Florida and Alabama. Georgia is also appealing Judge Magnuson's ruling and recently achieved major victories in the U.S. District Court. We have worked closely with our Congressional delegation to pursue authorization of Lake Lanier as a water-supply reservoir. Those efforts are still underway.

'Georgia now leads most states in the nation when it comes to 21st century water supply solutions.'

- Jenny Hoffner, Water Supply Program Director, American Rivers

Average Precipitation, 2000 - 2009 (inches)



National Climatic Data Center

8

new reservoirs
under development

16

targeted for
possible expansion

144

potential sites
identified

‘Georgia’s leaders, with the assistance of the business community, have taken significant steps to secure our water future.’

- Suzanne Sitherwood
President, AGL Resources and
Former Chair, Georgia Chamber of
Commerce

In July 2010, Judge Paul Magnuson issued a ruling in Phase II of the debate rejecting all of Florida’s claims under the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, Judge Magnuson sided with Georgia against Alabama and Florida in stating that the Corps of Engineers should consider water supply from Lake Lanier in future analysis of needs in the river basins. Judge Magnuson also agreed with Georgia that the water control manuals for the river basins should be updated, and that when they are, water supply should be considered.

In January 2011, Governor Nathan Deal set aside \$46 million in his proposed budget to encourage development of new reservoirs and to create a Water Supply Development Task Force.

WE’RE TAKING TANGIBLE STEPS TO SECURE OUR FUTURE

- Georgia is the *only* state with a complete inventory of water systems, giving us a head start in creating solutions for the future.
- Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has produced draft baseline water resource assessments, draft forecasts of agricultural irrigation water demand and forecasting methodologies for municipal and industrial water demand.
- In the Georgia Water Supply Act of 2008, ten additional regional water planning councils were formed. The councils joined the Metro Atlanta Water Council, created in 2000, and provide water planning for all 159 Georgia counties. The act also created new loan programs to fund new reservoirs and the interconnection of water and wastewater systems.
- The 2010 Water Stewardship Act puts Georgia ahead of most states in statewide water efficiency policy. The act provides incentives that encourage innovation and creativity among our water providers. The legislation protects water-sensitive industries and equips us with tools to navigate future water shortages caused by natural occurrences.
- American Rivers called the 2010 act an important step forward and encouraged more states in the Southeast and across the country to take Georgia’s lead and implement these and other cost-effective, proven and reliable water efficiency measures that will secure today’s water supply. Founded in 1973, American Rivers is a leading conservation organization promoting healthy rivers so communities can thrive.
- Georgians will meet—and exceed—goals for conservation. During the “once in a century” drought Georgia experienced beginning in 2007, individuals and business more than doubled Gov. Perdue’s request to reduce consumption by 10 percent - with an average of 25 percent savings across the state.
- Atlanta has invested \$4.1 billion to repair water, sewer and storm water systems, which will reduce loss due to leakage.

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