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DEPARTMENT OF
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
Robert J. Hunter
Commissioner

Dear Educators,

Atlanta is known all over the world as the host city for the 1996 Olympics. The worldwide attention during the Olympic games put the spotlight on our city and attracted people who saw Atlanta as a great place to live, work and raise a family. As our city grows, so do the challenges facing the Department of Watershed Management, the agency responsible for providing drinking water and sewage collection and treatment services to our residents and businesses.

The Chattahoochee River, a small river by most standards, is metro Atlanta's principal drinking water source and also where wastewater is discharged once it is cleaned. Protecting this finite resource while making it available for potable water uses and recreation is important to sustaining the growth and prosperity our City has enjoyed. Over the next 14 years Atlanta's water systems will undergo major improvements. The Clean Water Atlanta Initiative will allow the City to continue to deliver safe and reliable drinking water and meet all state and federal water quality standards.

As our children become adults, it will become their responsibility to preserve the water resources that supports life in our city. It is important that they understand where their water comes from and the technologies that allow us to use the water then return it to the river so we can use it again. The urban curriculum and educational tools were developed to help teachers create an environment where these important lessons can be taught in an exciting and fun way.

This curriculum was created in partnership with Georgia Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) specifically for Atlanta educators with Atlanta specific water resource lessons for all disciplines. Students can enact the history in a play about Atlanta's wastewater system, build a delivery system model that supplies drinking water and collects wastewater from a community, or become "water" in a treatment plant and simulate the process as they move through a field of activities.

We hope that you will implement these engaging lessons and encourage today's youth to become advocates for water resource preservation. Please contact the City of Atlanta, Department of Watershed Management if you have questions or if we can provide other resources. Call 404-330-6980 or email us at www.cleanwateratlanta.org.

Thank you,

Marilyn Johnson, Program Manager
Public Involvement Office
Department of Watershed Management