

# FINDING THE FLINT



## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

- The Flint is Georgia's 2nd longest river. It starts in Atlanta and runs 344 miles to the Florida state line where it joins the Chattahoochee to create the Apalachicola River.
- The river provides water for 1 million people and 10,000 farms.
- As one of the longest free-flowing rivers in the nation, it is home to several threatened and endangered species.
- The uppermost Flint headwaters run throughout urban East Point, College Park, Hapeville and underneath the airport and into Clayton County.



“What if this area was defined not only by the airport, but also by its natural assets?” —RYAN GRAVEL

## THE CHALLENGE

Recently named one of *America's Most Endangered Rivers*<sup>®</sup>—Georgia's Flint River is a regional water source that is running dry. The rapid urbanization of the Flint's headwaters—which flow in, around, and underneath the world's busiest airport—is one of the chief reasons for low flow issues during drought. Meanwhile, the headwaters have been so well hidden in the landscape, most Atlantans don't even know they're there, until it rains and they flood bridges and backyards.

**Finding the Flint** is an effort to reveal these hidden headwaters in a way that restores healthy river flows and connects communities. It's a big vision for a healthier river and better quality of life in the airport area, comprised

of project concepts that meaningfully incorporate the urban headwaters into the plans and identity of the Aerotropolis.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

Over the last 3 years, collaborative Aerotropolis plans in the Atlanta airport area have taken off. What if we integrated the Flint into that vision?

**Finding the Flint** proposes key opportunities for the river and Aerotropolis to come together. The headwaters can provide the centerpiece for public spaces and connected trails. Meanwhile, green infrastructure can address flooding while protecting Atlanta's most valuable infrastructure investment, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.