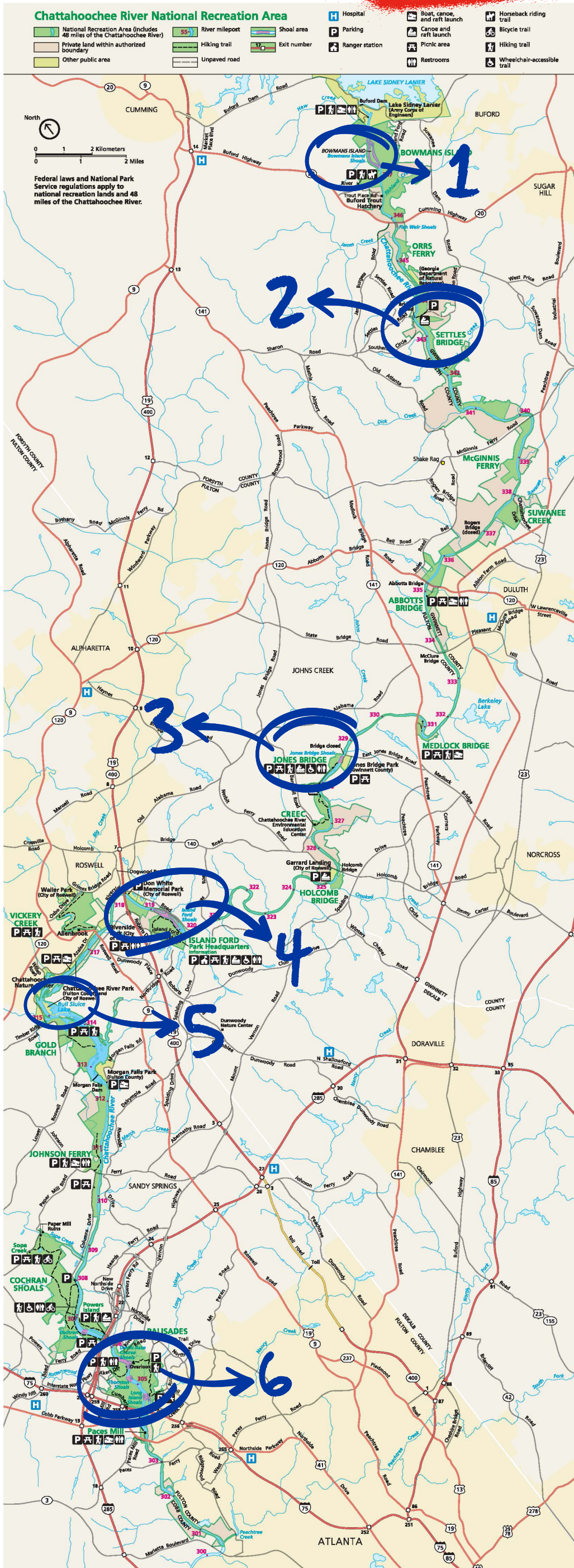


DECODED

A flyrodder's guide to the Chattahoochee River tailwater hot-spots



1) Buford Dam/Bowman's Island - The shoals at Bowman's Island

- Parking/Access- Parking at boat ramp is COE and is \$5. The parking at the lower pool is Chattahoochee National Recreation Area (CNRA) managed and is \$3. The lower pool parking is closer to the trail to access Bowman's Island.
- Target Fish- Rainbow and Brown trout
- Approach/Presentation- Be careful wading! This area is very slippery (you will take a few falls). The pockets in between the ledges can be deep. A lot of good pocket water from the boat ramp down to and all around the island. The majority of this area is very shallow, so use stealth with long fluro leaders in 5x-6x.
- Flies - Nymphs (Zebra Midges in various colors 18-24, WD-40 18-20, Hares Ear 16-18, Soft Hackles 18-20 - Dry Flies (Midges, BWOs in 16-24), Streamers (Sparkle Minnows 4-8 and the old Wooly Buggers)
- Angler Density-High

2) Settles Bridge

- Parking/Access-\$3 CRNA Parking
- Target Fish- Rainbow and Brown trout
- Approach/Presentation- Some wading access upstream from the old bridge and very little downstream. This area has deep pocket water requiring more boulder hopping and fishing from rock outcroppings just upstream from bridge. Dredge the bottom through the deeper seams.
- Flies - Nymphs (Hares Ear 12-18, Rainbow Warriors 12-16, Blue Assassin 14-16, Pheasant Tail 12-16, Prince 12-16, Stoneflies 8-12, Soft Hackles 16-20) Dry Flies(BWOs 14-20, Midges 18-22, Black Caddis 16-18, Hoppers in Summer) Streamers (Black and olive Buggers in various sizes, Sculpin patterns in olive and brown, and don't be afraid to throw some big articulated streamers in early morning or late evening.
- Angler Density- Medium

3) Jones Bridge - The shoals at Jones Bridge-Gwinnett Co.

- Parking/Access- Free Parking - Gwinnett County Park. \$3 to park on Jones Bridge Unit Acces Road - Fulton Co.
- Target Fish- Rainbow and Brown trout
- Approach/Presentation- A great amount of wading access. Can get crowded, but you usually can get away from the crowd. Target all the pocket and ledge water all around the island and don't overlook the gravel bars.
- Flies -Nymphs (Hares Ear 12-18, Rainbow Warriors 12-16, Blue Assassin 14-16, Pheasant Tail 12-16, Prince 12-16, Stoneflies 8-12, Soft Hackles 16-20) Dry Flies(BWOs 14-20, Midges 18-22, Black Caddis 16-18, Hoppers in Summer) Streamers (Black and olive Buggers in various sizes, Sculpin patterns in olive and brown, and don't be afraid to throw some big articulated streamers in early morning or late evening.
- Angler Density- High

4) Island Ford - The shoals at Island Ford

- Parking/Access- \$3 CRNA Parking - There are a couple of parking lots on the entrance to the CNRA. Parking is also available at the CNRA Headquarters. Trails lead down to the river from the parking lots.
- Target Fish - Rainbow and Brown trout
- Approach/Presentation- Access the river at different spots along the trail. This area has a lot of good pocket water and ledges.
- Flies- Nymphs (Hares Ear 12-18, Rainbow Warriors 12-16, Pheasant Tail 12-16, Prince 12-16, Stoneflies 8-12, Soft Hackles 16-20) Dry Flies(BWOs 14-20, Midges 18-22, Black Caddis 16-18, Hoppers in Summer) Streamers (Black and olive Buggers in various sizes, Sculpin patterns in olive and brown.
- Angler Density- Medium

5) Bull Sluice Lake - The slow-water flats above Morgan Falls

- Parking/Access- Free Parking -Azalea Park - City of Roswel Park
- Target Fish- Warmwater Species (Carp, bass, bream, etc..)
- Approach/Presentation- Fish the banks and structure for bass and bream. Fish the mudflats in the later spring and summer for carp.
- Flies- Streamers for bass and various flies for carp (Headstands and Backstabbers for carp)
- Angler Density- Medium

6) Cochran Shoals/Devils Shoals/West Palisades/Long Island Shoals /White Water/Paces Mill

- Parking/Access-\$3 CRNA Parking at Cochran, West Palisades, White Water, and Paces Mill
- Target Fish - Rainbow and Brown trout
- Approach/Presentation- This is the Delayed Harvest section which runs from November 1 to May 14th every year. This section is heavily stocked during this time. A lot of wading access in these areas.
- Flies - Nymphs-Junk flies (Y2K, San juans, egg patterns, etc...) work great during the beginning of the season. Once the stockers get settled they start keying in on more natural patterns (Pheasant tails 12-16, Soft hackles 12-16, Rainbow Warriors 12-16) Dry Flies (Black and brown caddis in 12-18, BWOs 12-20).
- Dry fly fishing during April and May here can be epic at times!

The Chattahoochee: DECODED is brought to you by Deep South Fly Anglers and The Strip Set Journal. For more info or to book a trip with DSFA, go to deepsouthflyanglers.com or call 678-986-9240



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Anglers on the Chattahoochee must beware of variable river flows. Water levels can rise more than 8 feet during periods of power generation at Buford Dam and Morgan Falls Dam. Call (770) 945-1466 for the daily water release schedule at Buford.