



# Sustainability through Understanding and Reducing the Water Footprint at Georgia Institute of Technology



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# Presentation Content

A photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent clock tower. The building is surrounded by green trees and bushes. The sky is blue. The text 'Presentation Content' is overlaid at the top in white. Below it are three blue rounded rectangular boxes containing the text 'Why Water Reuse?', 'System Design', and 'Emory University WaterHub™ Update'.

Why Water Reuse?

System Design

Emory University WaterHub™ Update



# Proposed WaterHub Design at GT

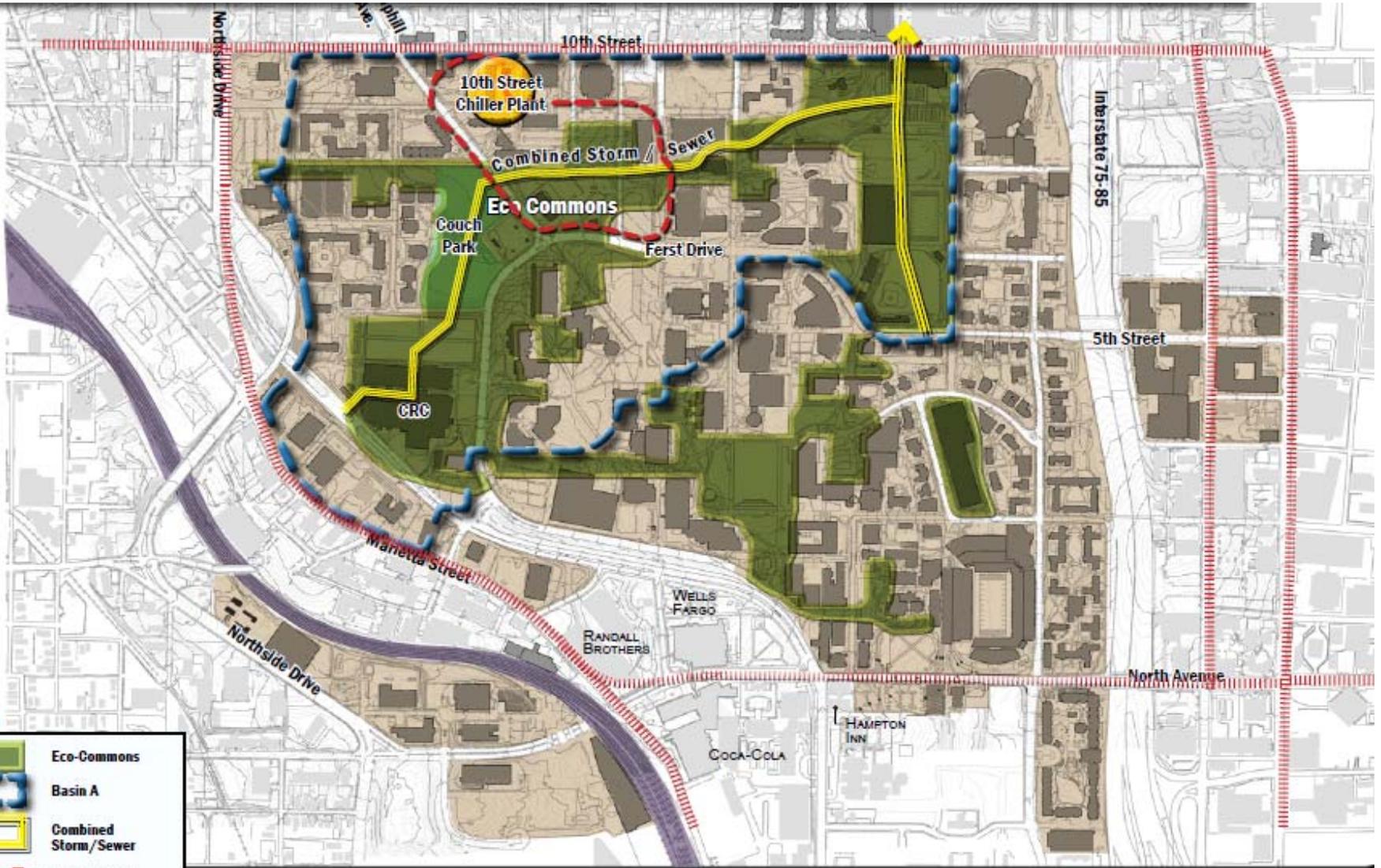


## System Overview:

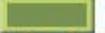
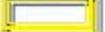
- 400,000 GPD ReCip / Hydroponic System
- Built into new “Eco-Commons” development, and as a component of master water and stormwater management strategy for campus
- **Phase 1:** 150,000 GPD ReCip System
  - Feeds 10<sup>th</sup> Street Chiller Plant
  - 1,200 linear ft. of water distribution piping
  - Recycles 46.5 million gallons annually
  - 30% of total utility demands
- **Phase 2:** 250–400,000 GPD Hydroponic expansion
  - Tenant build-out of new parking deck around eco-commons
  - Additional distribution added to Holland Utility Plant
  - 4,200 linear ft. of water distribution piping
  - Recycles 112 million gallons annually
  - 75% of total campus utility demands

Water-Centric Eco-Commons Includes WaterHub Technology

# Eco-Commons Master Plan



**LEGEND**

-  Eco-Commons
-  Basin A
-  Combined Storm/Sewer
-  Potential Black Water Treatment

A close-up photograph of a vibrant green leaf, likely from a plant like a succulent or a similar species, with a single, clear water droplet hanging from its tip. The leaf's texture and veins are visible, and the background is a plain, light color.

Why Water Reuse?

# Local Water-Related Stresses

## Aging Infrastructure

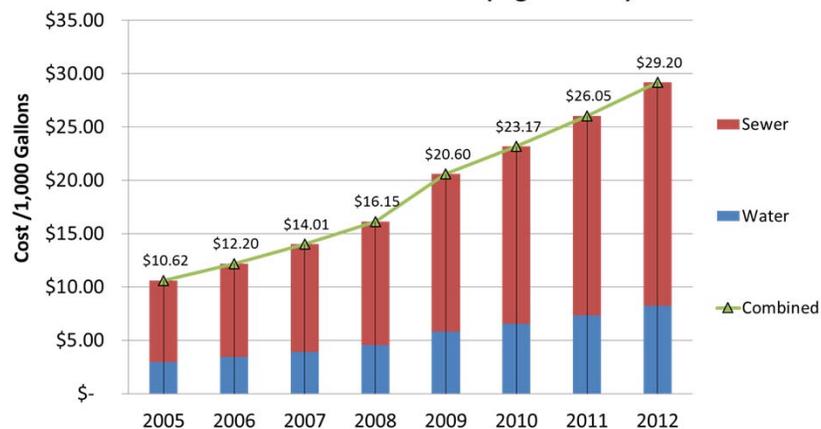


## Water Scarcity



## Rate Pressure 16% CAGR

Atlanta's Combined Water Rates (highest tier) 2005-2012



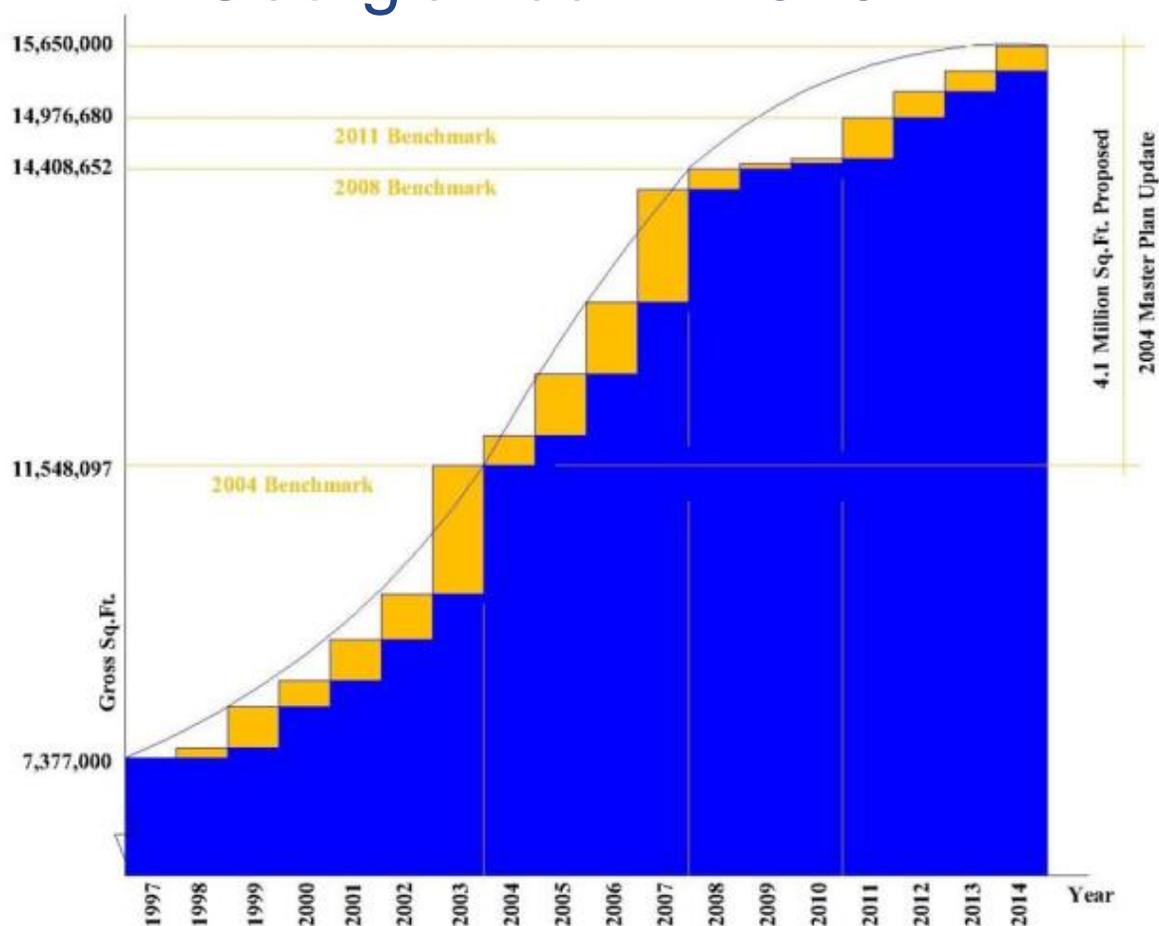
## Environmental Constraints



Rate Increases Are Necessary for Infrastructure Improvements

# Campus Growth

## Georgia Tech – 1920



- 1997 - 2011**
- **540,000 gsf** average growth per year
  - Faculty/Staff: 161 increase per year
  - UG Students: 248 increase per year
  - Grad Students: 297 increase per year
  - Total Population Growth: 706 per year

Doubling Gross Square Footage Increases Water Demands

# Aging Infrastructure: A Local Concern

**Huge water main break in Chamblee**



**Collier Drive impassable due to water main break**



**Massive sinkhole shuts down busy northwest Atlanta road**



**Water main break causes icy mess on Northside Drive**



Atlanta's Water Needs Rely on a System Designed in 1875



SUSTAINABLE WATER

# Georgia Tech's Water Initiatives

## Rain Gardens / Infiltration



## Master Cistern Plan



## Stormwater Reuse



Strategic Imperatives Drives Project Execution for Small Yields: **Searching for Impactful Solutions**

# The Evolution of Water Conservation

## Simple Solutions

Stickers



Low Flow Fixtures



## Building-Based Solutions

Rain Barrels

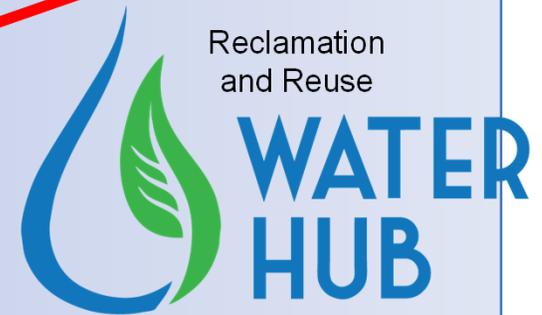


Stormwater Reuse

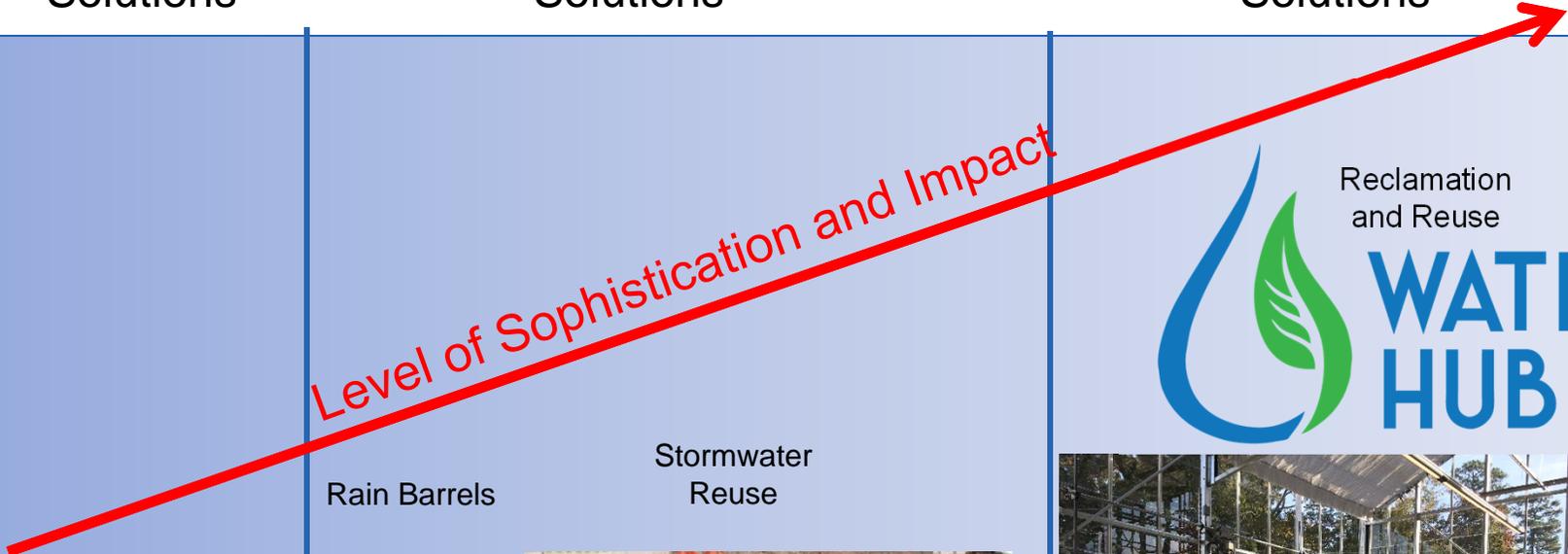


## Campus-Wide Solutions

Reclamation and Reuse



Level of Sophistication and Impact



The Most Impactful Solution That Exists



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# Municipal Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

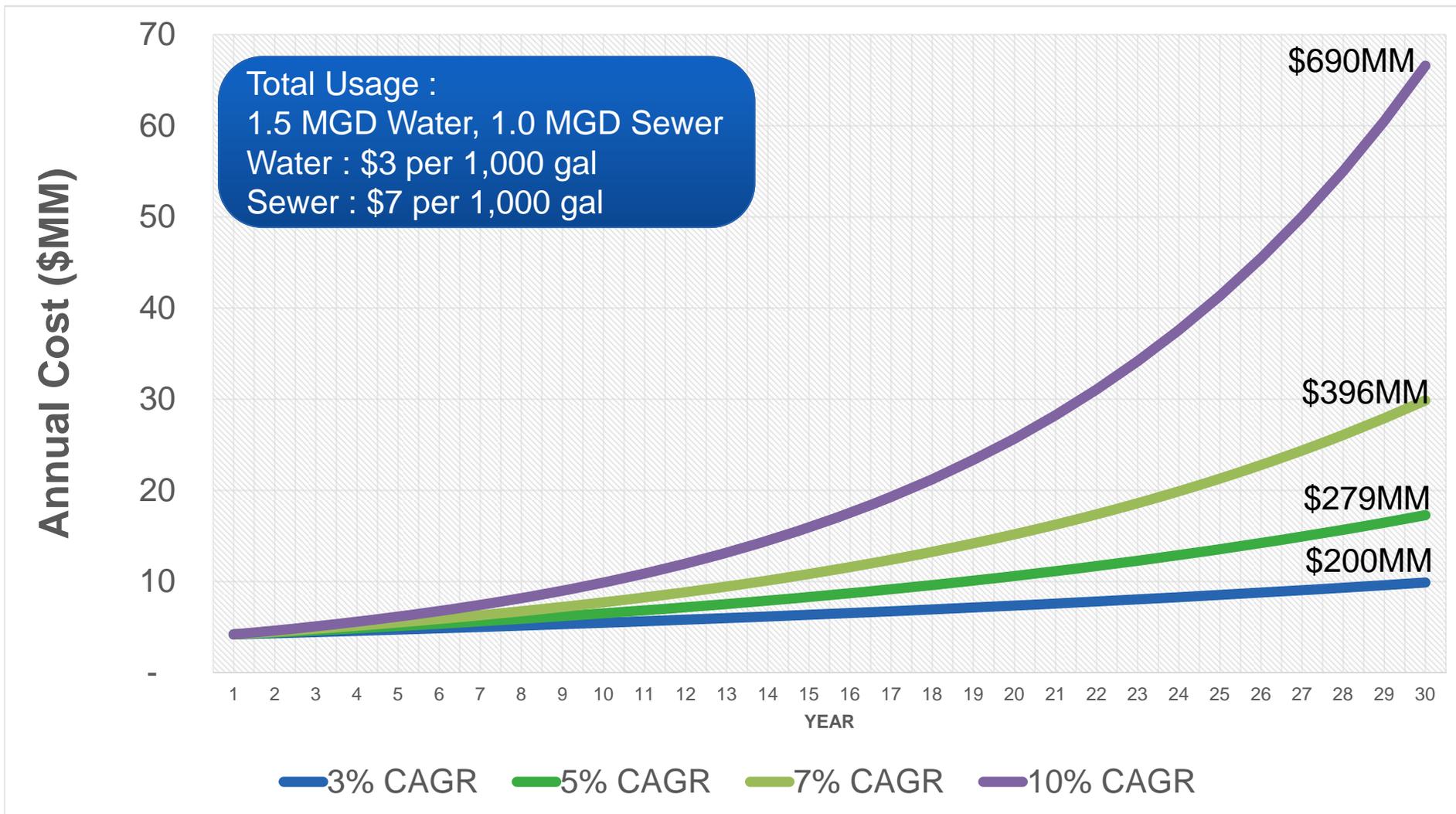


Lack of Existing Capacity— Supports Decentralized Solution



SUSTAINABLEWATER

# 30 Year Costs of Water at Various Muni CAGR's



Hundreds of Millions of Dollars Demands Executive Attention

# A more sustainable water cycle: Decentralized Reclamation and Reuse

Before



After



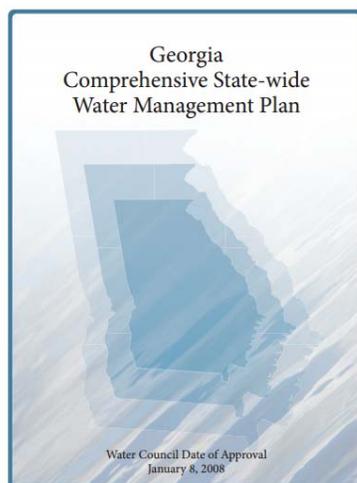
~Risk Management ~Cost Savings ~Environmental Responsibility



# Local Support for Water Reuse

“The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) encourages the use of reclaimed water as a substitute for potable water for the purposes identified.”

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, *Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse*



“Water reuse, or the use of reclaimed water is a viable water management practice that may help sustain Georgia’s water resources.”

- Georgia Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan

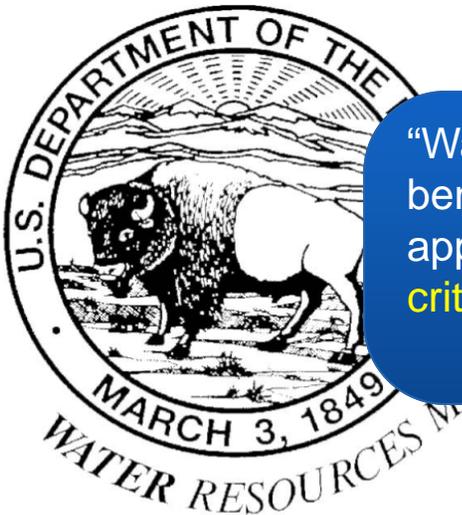
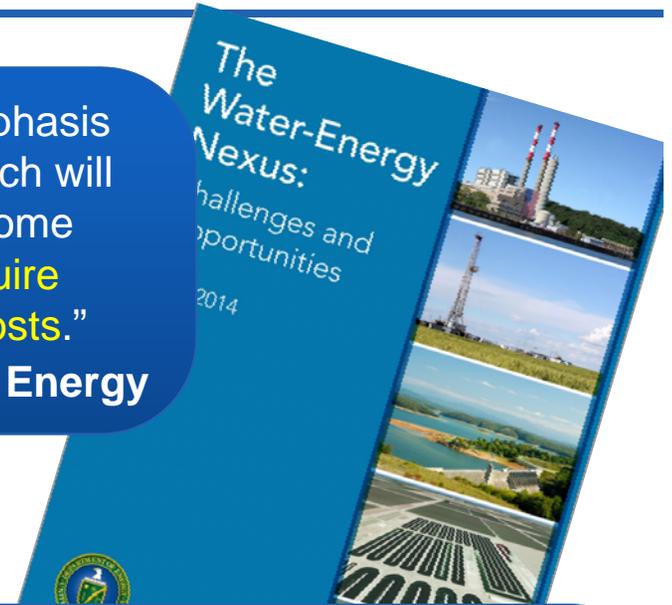
Water Reuse can help Mitigate Atlanta’s Major Water Crisis



# Federal Support for Water Reuse

“U.S. water and wastewater utilities are putting more of an emphasis on water reuse and improving energy and water efficiency, which will benefit both water and energy conservation. In recent years, some states have started to promote decentralized systems that require much less energy for delivery and much lower infrastructure costs.”

- US Department of Energy



“Water reuse is the reclamation of water from wastewater plants for beneficial non-potable and potable uses. As freshwater supplies are approaching or have reached full allocation, water reuse is becoming a critical part of community water supplies.”

- US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation



Decentralized Water Treatment and Reuse is becoming Nationally Accepted

# Campus Risk Mitigation

## N+1 Redundancy:

- Redundant Water Supply
- Additional On-Site Storage
- Reduced Environmental Impact
- Flexibility & Resilience
  - Drought
  - Municipal infrastructure failures
- Minimum recovery time
- Insulation from rising water costs
- Optimized process water quality and treatment programs

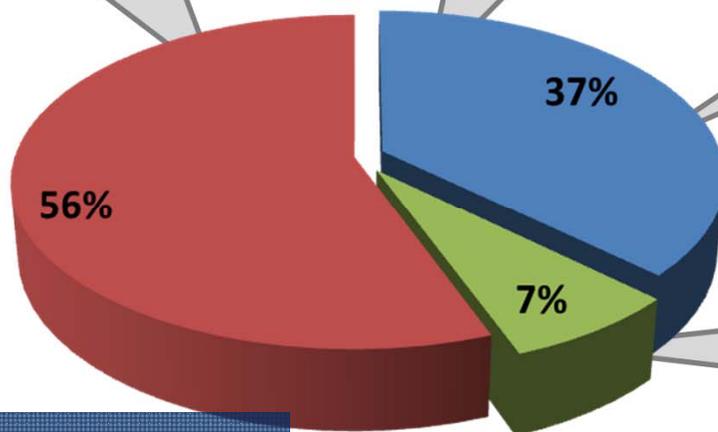


N+1: Reliable and Safe Alternatives to Potable Water



# Proposed System Design

# Water Use by Type



~425 M Gallons

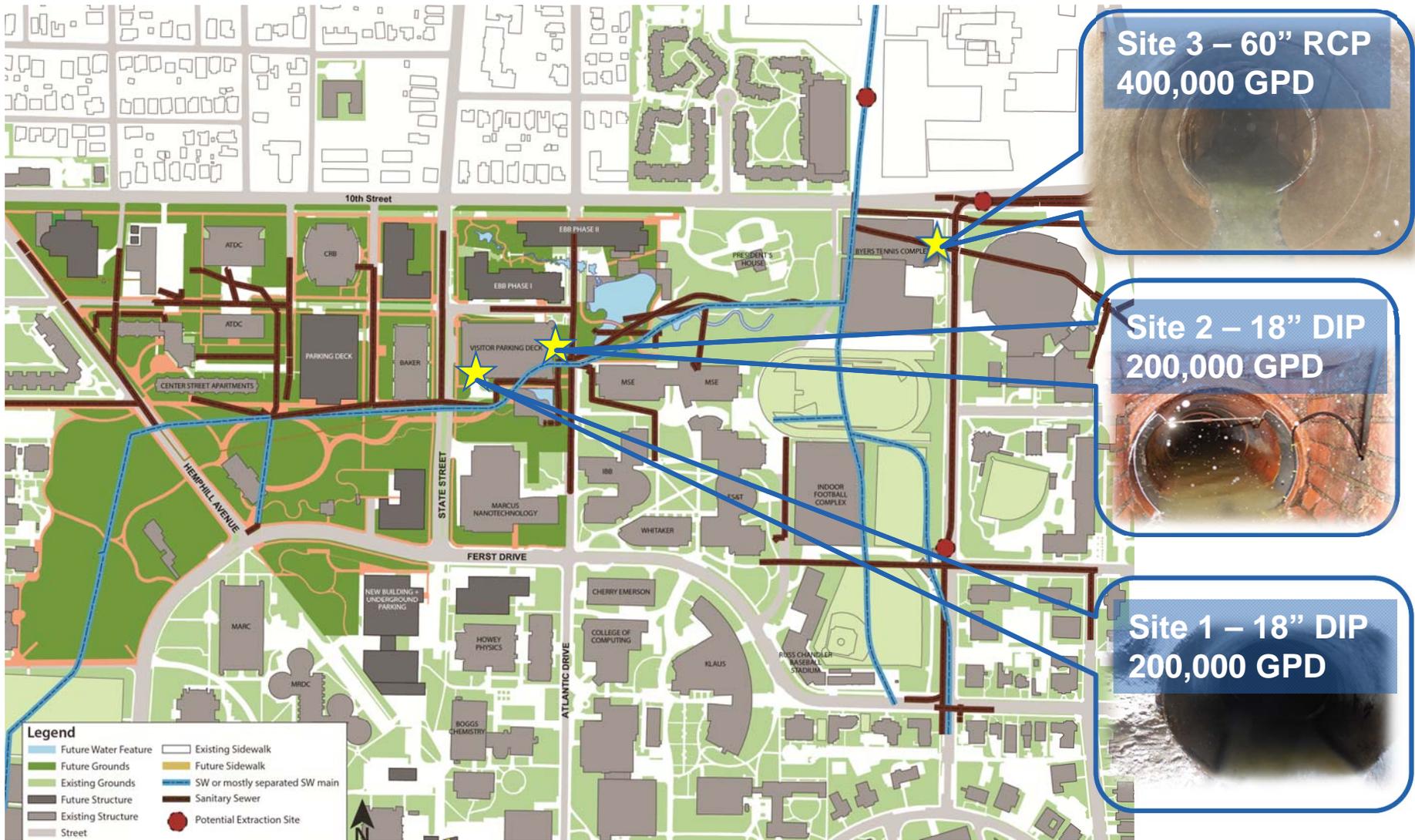
■ HVAC   ■ Irrigation   ■ Domestic

42% of Campus Water Use Considered Non-potable Demand



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# 3- Month Flow Monitoring Study

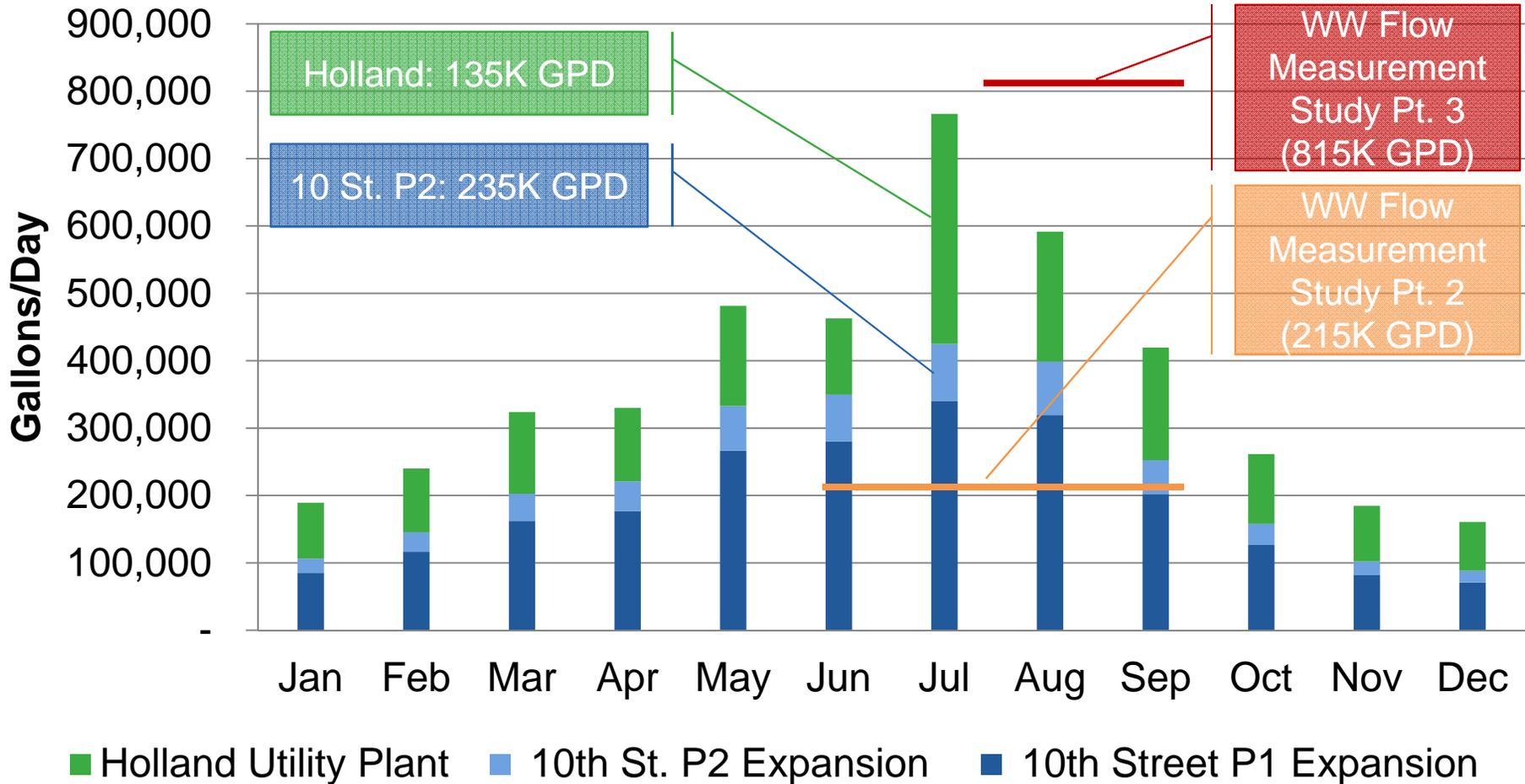


Investigated and Monitored Multiple Extraction Points on Campus



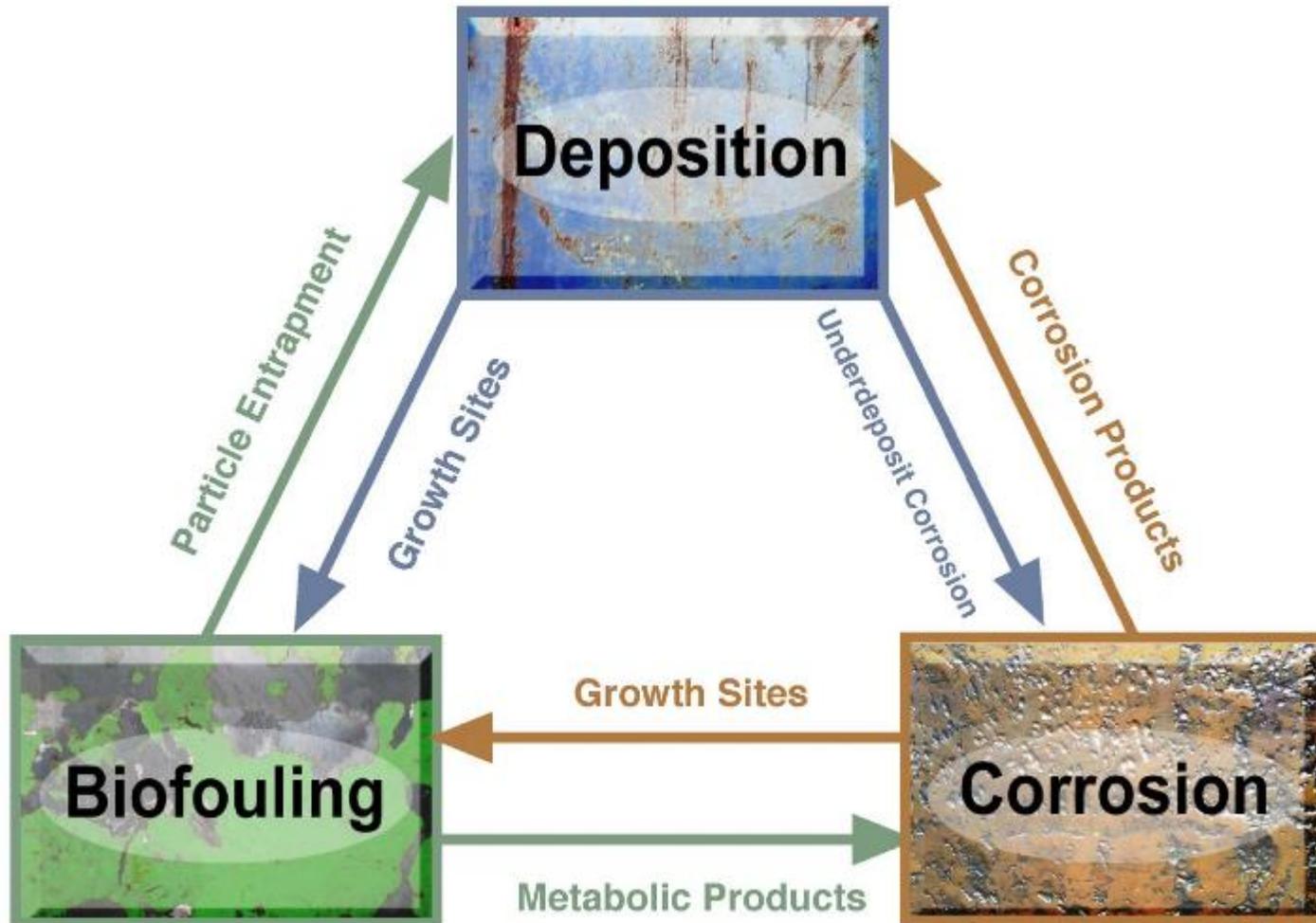
# Non-potable Demand Displacement

## Non-potable Water Demand vs WW Resources



Significant Resources Available to Displace Utility Water Makeup

# Understanding Water Issues

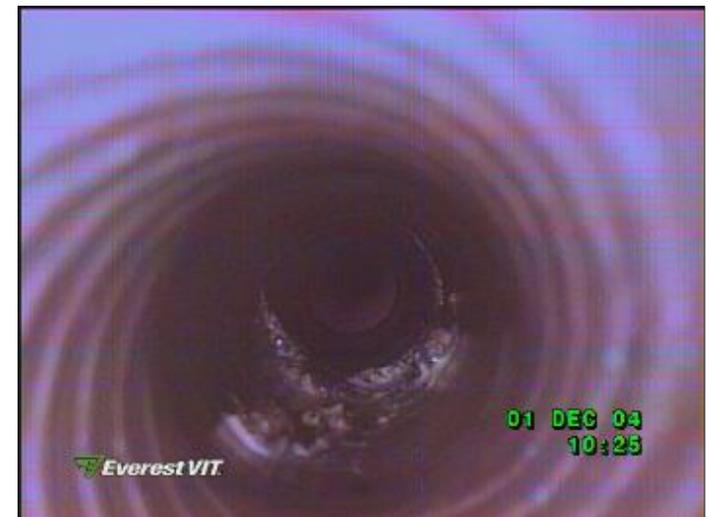
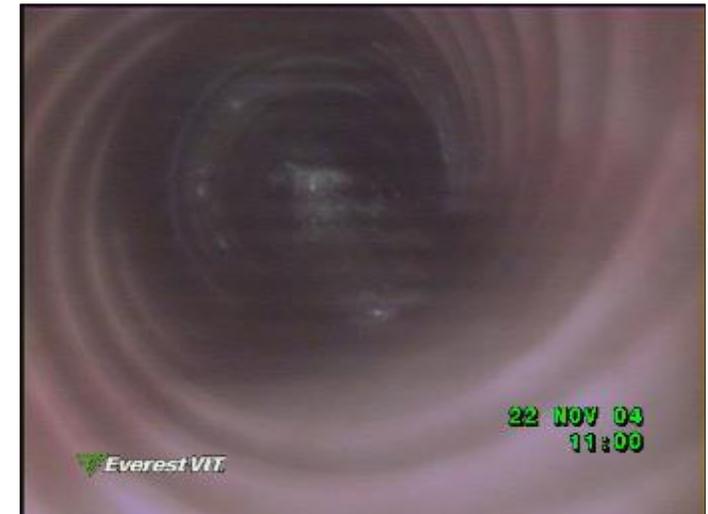
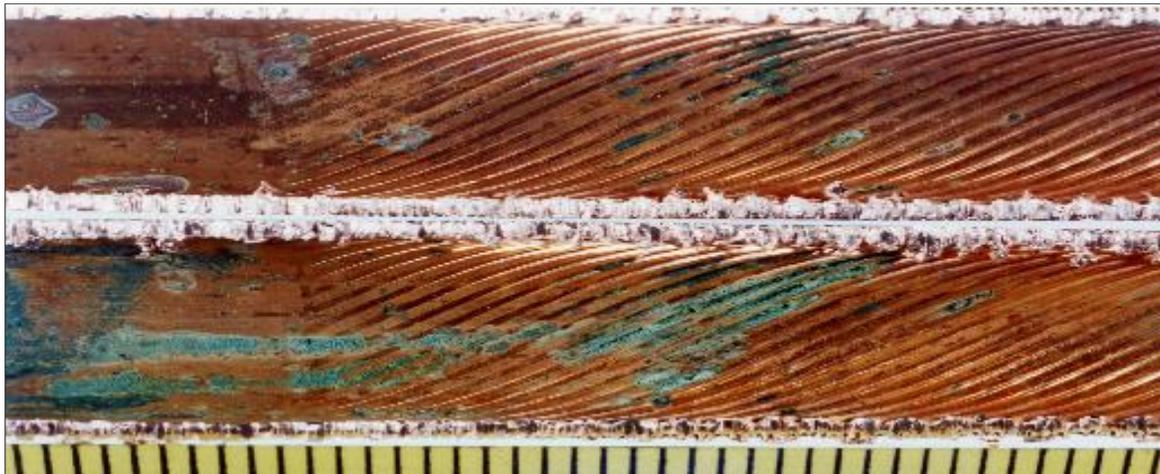


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Interdependent Results Require Systemic Solutions

# Failure Analysis

- Improper monitoring yields catastrophic results



Thoughtful Design Ensures Optimum Water Quality & Results



SUSTAINABLE WATER

# HVAC Utility Water Audit

**CoGen/Heating Utility Audit** SUSTAINABLE WATER

Client: Philip Morris  
Location (Plant) Name: CMP  
Chemical Treatment Supplier: Chemtreat  
Treatment Rep E-mail: edwards@chemtreat.com

**General System Data**

# of boilers: 3 Avg. Days/Year Operating: 365

Check all that apply:  
 FDA regulated  
 Steam humidification used  
 Blowdown heat exchangers  
 Steam turbines

**Plant Personnel**  
Chief Engineer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
Purchasing Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

**Steam Production**  
Annual Steam Capacity (lbs): \_\_\_\_\_  
Boiler Pressure (psi): \_\_\_\_\_  
% Condensate Return: \_\_\_\_\_  
Feedwater Temperature (°F): \_\_\_\_\_  
Condensate Return Method: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cooling System Utility Audit** SUSTAINABLE WATER

Client: Philip Morris  
Location (Plant) Name: Central Mechanical Plant  
Chemical Treatment Supplier: Chemtreat  
Treatment Rep E-mail: edwards@chemtreat.com

**General System Data**

# of Cooling Towers: 3 # of Chillers: 6 System Volume (gal): 40-60 k  
Total Centrifugal Tons: 20000

Please select any of the following that help describe utilization:  
 AC: Absorption  AC: Centrifugal  
 Evap. Cooler/Condenser  Cooling Water Throttled  
 Air Compressors  Air Washers  
 Extruder Cooling  Process Cooling  
 Process Refrigeration  Strainer Cycle  
 Cogeneration  Rebalanced Tower(s)  
 Engine jackets

**Plant Personnel**  
Chief Engineer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
Purchasing Manager: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maintenance Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

**Operation**  
Avg. Days/Year Operating: 365 Avg. Hours/Day Operating: 24 Cycles of Concentration: 4.5  
Circulation Rate (GPM): 20000-25000 3 units CT % of Circulation (GPM to A/C): \_\_\_\_\_  
Steel Corrosion Rate (mpy): <1.5mpy Copper Corrosion Rate (mpy): <.5mpy  
Most Critical Systems Tracked: \_\_\_\_\_ Max Water Temp.: <100F



Equipment / System Review

Water Sampling Review

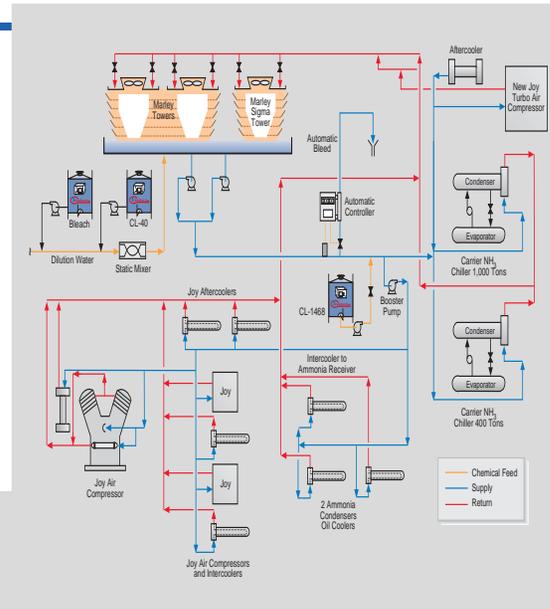
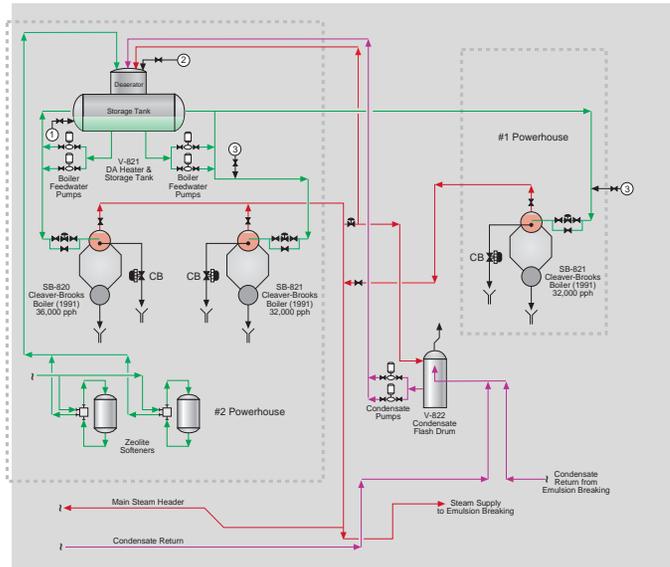
Chemical Mass Balance

Well Controlled Systems With Extensive Oversight

# Utility Assessment Overview



- Biological studies
- Corrosion studies
- Automation
- Treatability studies
- Equipment Integrity



## Recommendations

- Treatment Specifications
- Conservation
- Training
- Modifications
- Mechanical



Systematic Audit of Existing Conditions to Confirm Reliability

# Ecological Treatment Solutions



	ReCip® Tidal Wetlands	Hydroponic and Fixed Media	Moving Bed Bioreactor (MBBR)	Membrane Bioreactor (MBR)	Conventional Activated Sludge
Capital Expense	●	●	●	●	●
Operating Expense	●	●	●	●	●
Energy Efficiency	●	●	●	●	●
Effluent Quality	●	●	●	●	●
Footprint	●	●	●	●	●
Aesthetics	●	●	●	●	●

Increased Biodiversity, Reduced Energy Requirements

**Rostrifera**



**Collotheca**



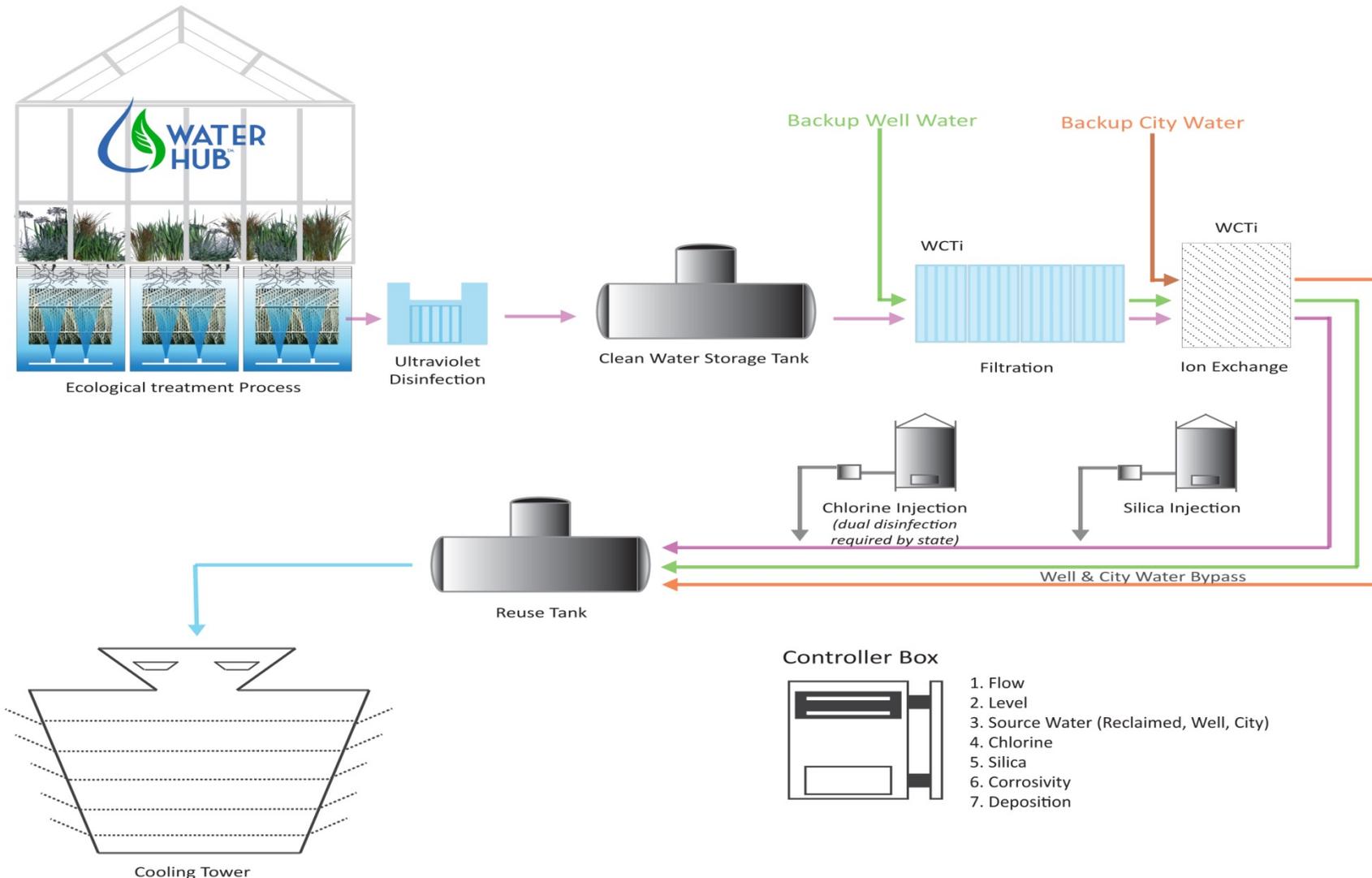
**Philodina**



**Aquatic  
Worm**



# GT Water Reuse Process Diagram



WCTI System Integrates Well into Overall Reclamation Strategy



# The Future: Decentralized Urban Reuse



Turn-key solution for an increasingly urban environment



# Complete Build-Out Concept

~Risk Management ~Cost Savings ~Environmental Responsibility



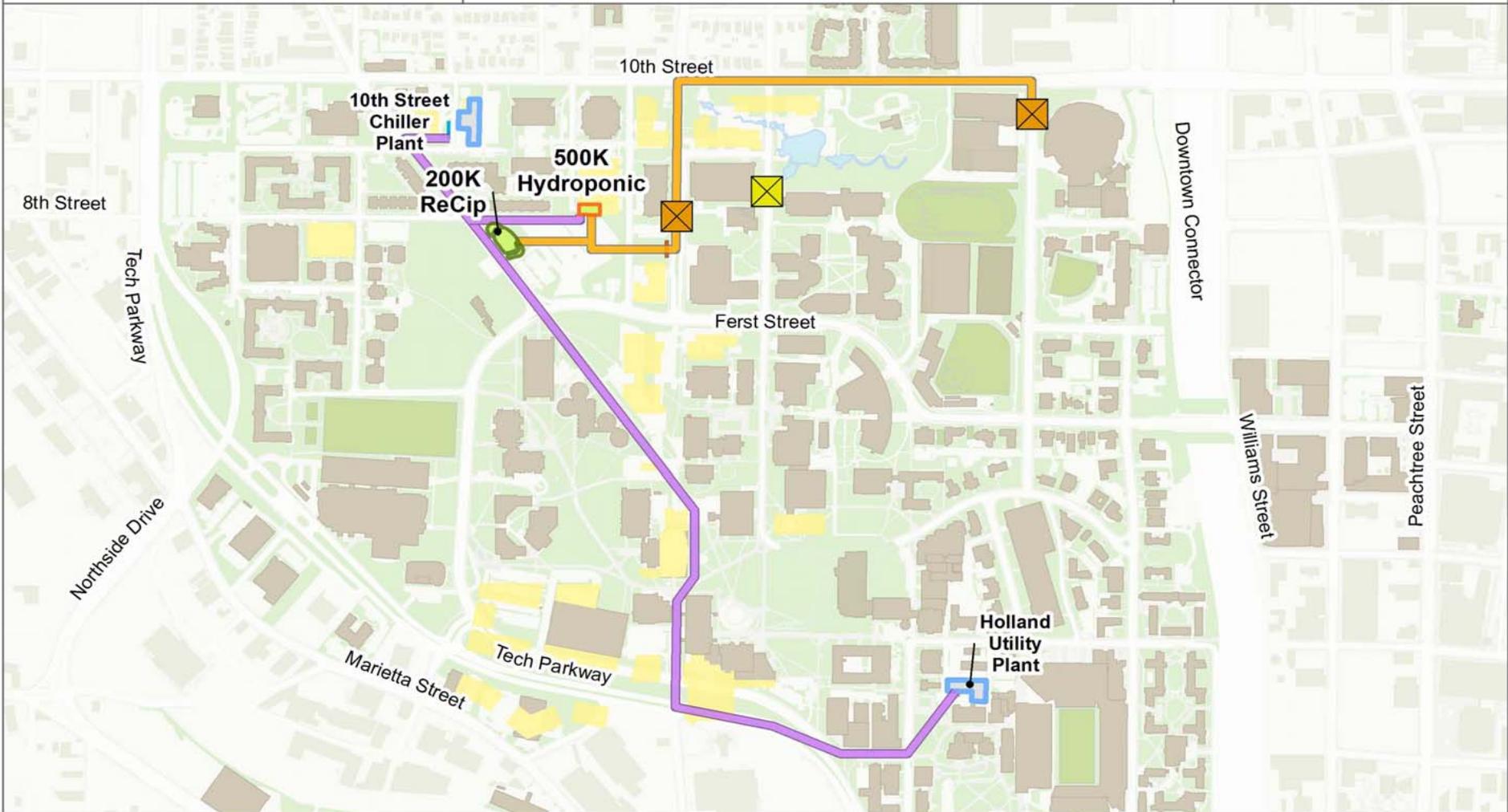
Design Helps Anchor the Centerpiece of the Eco-commons

# Complete Build-Out Concept



- Risk Management
- Cost Savings
- Environmental Responsibility
  
- Results in 26% reduction in total campus water demand

Design Helps Anchor the Centerpiece of the Eco-commons



- |   |                              |   |                  |   |                        |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | Extraction Point             |  | 200K ReCip       |  | Georgia Tech Buildings |
|  | Alternative Extraction Point |  | 500K Hydroponic  |  | Utility Plants         |
|  | Reclaimed Water Distribution |  | Primary Tanks    |  | Reuse Tanks            |
|  | WW Extraction                |  | Future Buildings |   |                        |

Revised 10/14/2014



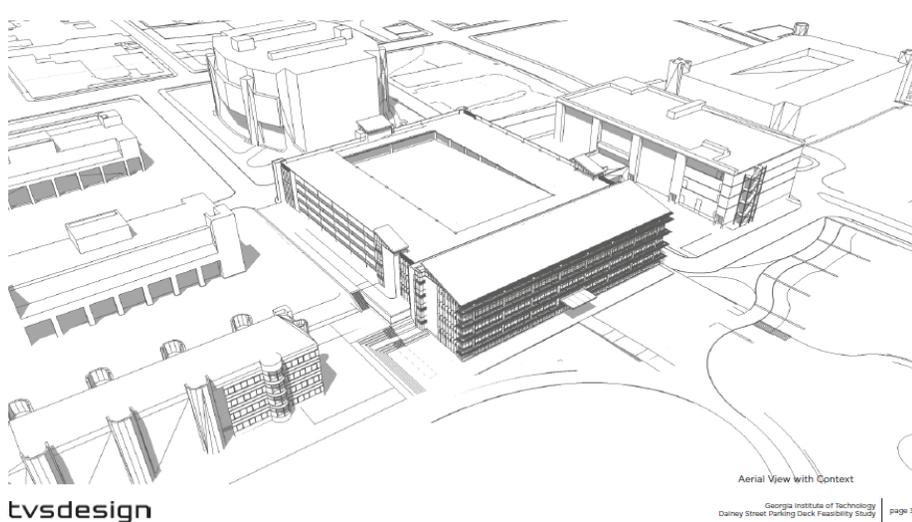
0 600 1,200 Feet

**Scale: 1:8,000**

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Georgia West FIPS 1002 Feet

Utility features portrayed on this map may not be survey verified.

# Dalney Street Parking Deck Concept



- Streamlined facility that allows for the construction of the Eco-commons Lawn
- Functional utility that provides a living, learning, laboratory
- 1,100 parking spaces and 55,000 sq. feet of glass laminated office space

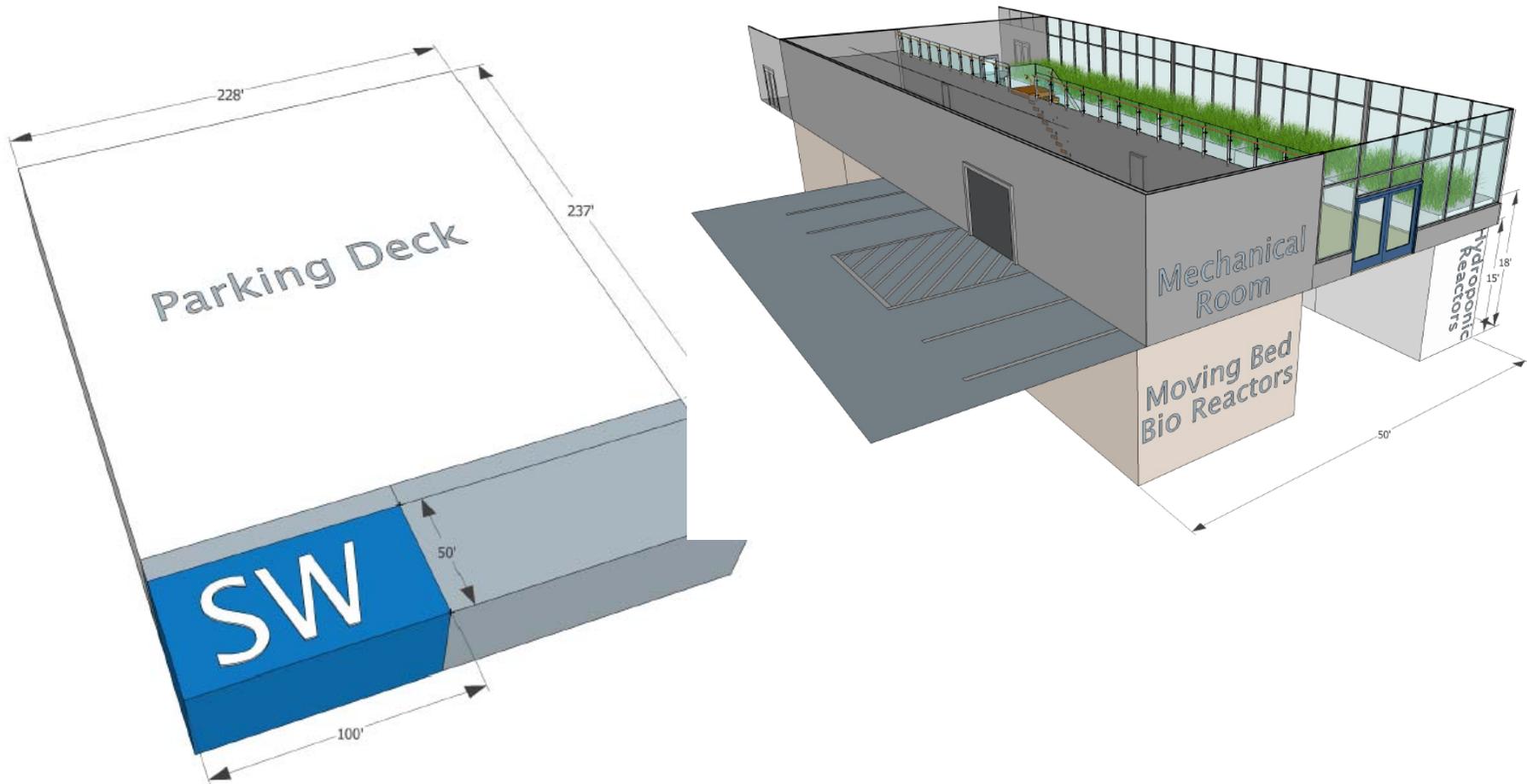


Option E (w/ roof)  
4-Bay N/S w/ Office Lamination  
Parking Deck: Basement + 6 Levels, 1,025 spaces  
Office Lamination: 4 Levels, 54,720 s.f.

Instructional Facility that Compliments the Eco-commons

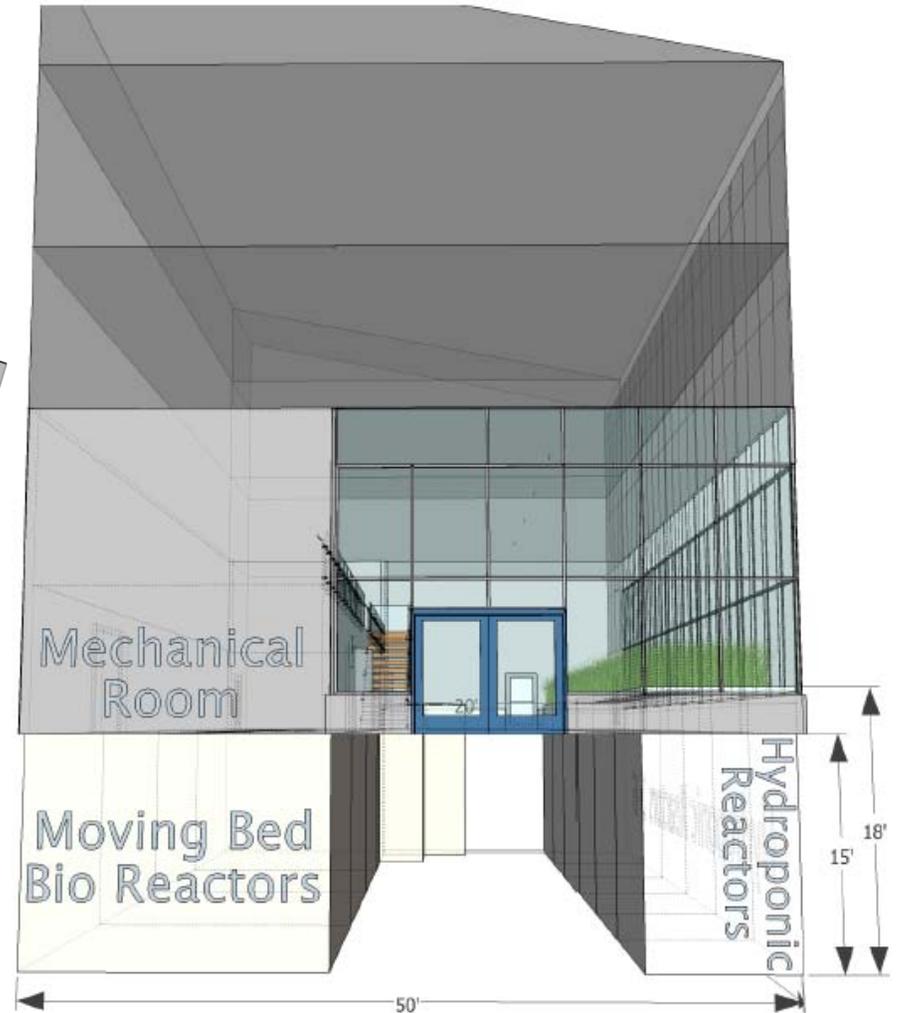
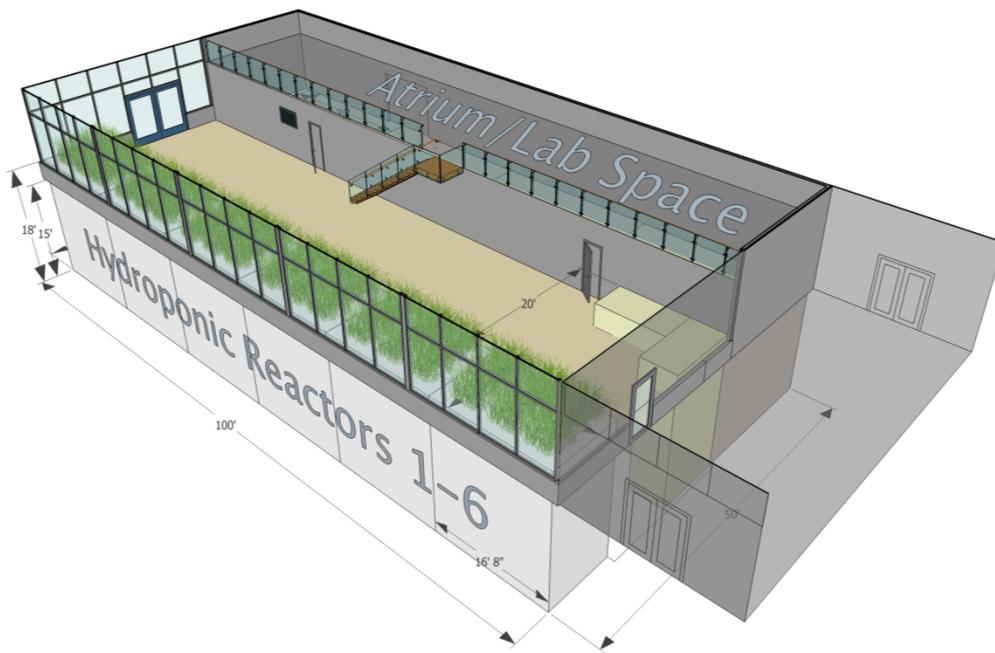


# Dalney Street Parking Deck Design



Collaborative Design Between Georgia Tech and Sustainable Water

# Dalney Street Parking Deck Design



A Living, Learning, Laboratory



# Advantages to Phase 1 System

- 1. Significant economic savings immediately**
  - *Parking Deck design Timeline*
  - *Phase II Facility Fully Operational – 3 years best case*
  
- 2. Allows GT to undertake phased approach to water reuse**
  - *Utilize and review how a smaller system is working before complete system is finalized, helps influence the final build-out.*
  
- 3. Design provides built in redundancies**
  - *Dual extraction points*
  - *Redundant water storage capacities (primary equalization and clean water)*

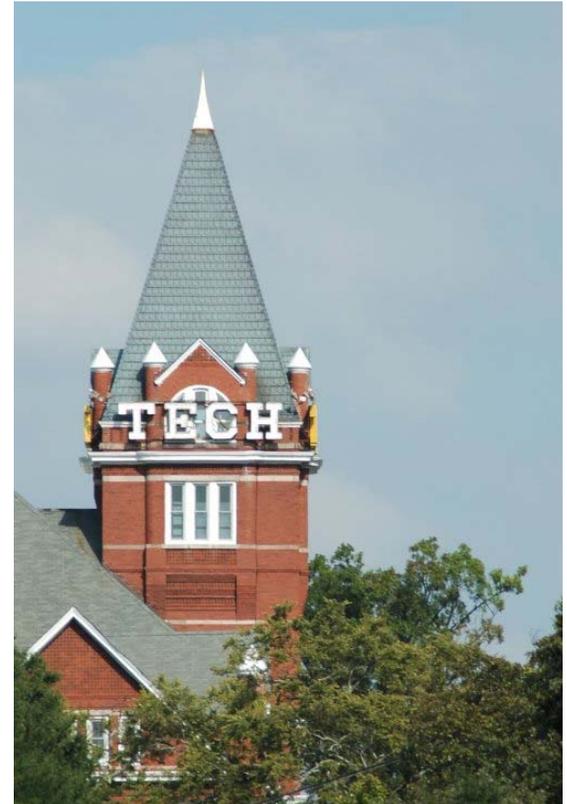
Multiple Advantages to a Phased Build-Out



# Comprehensive Approach to Sustainability

## *“Georgia Tech as a Living Learning Laboratory”*

- Education
  - Learning in the Classroom
- Research
  - Discovery in the Laboratory
- Campus
  - Practice in Managing our Campus



Sustainability is an Integral Component of Georgia Tech

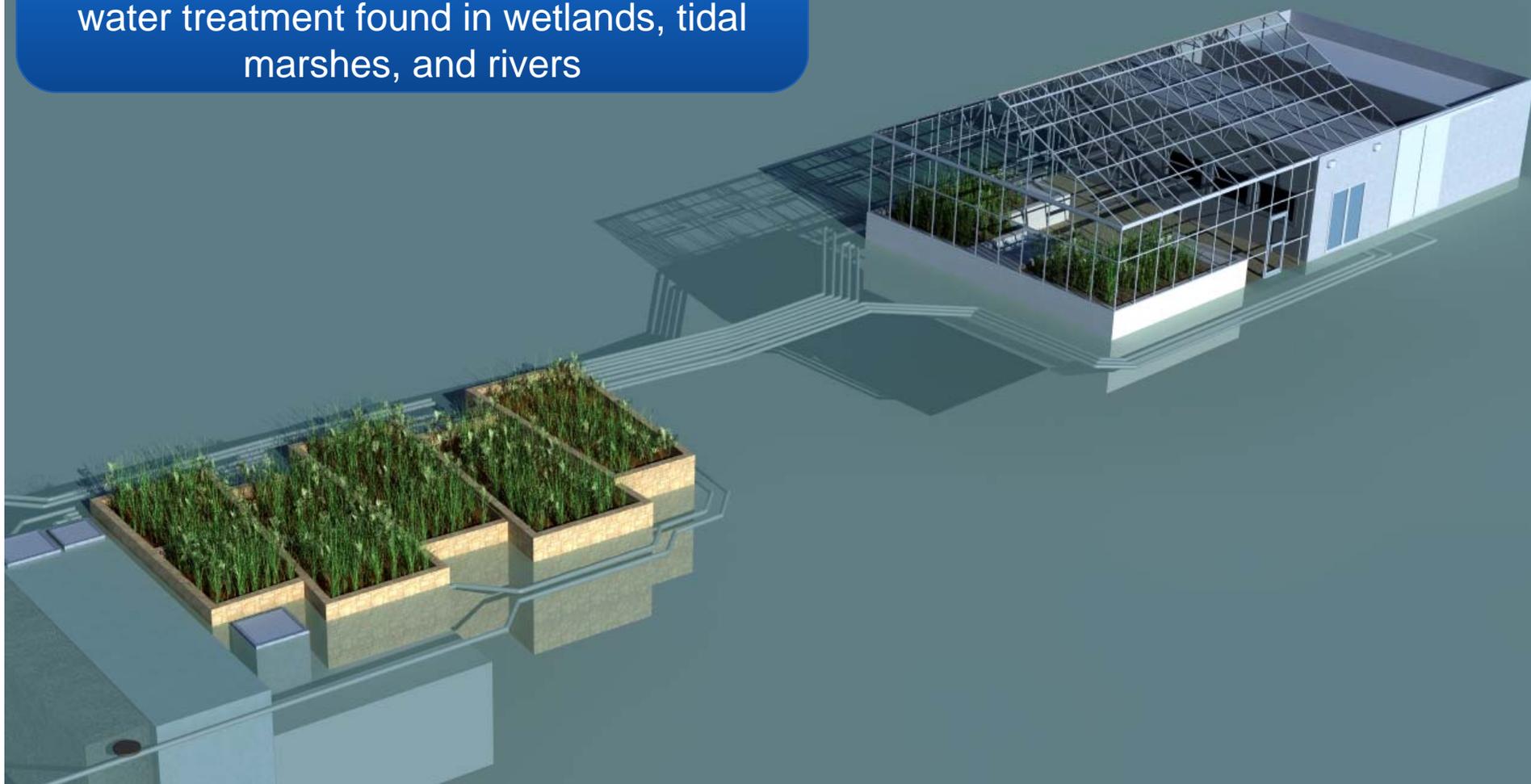


# Update at Emory University



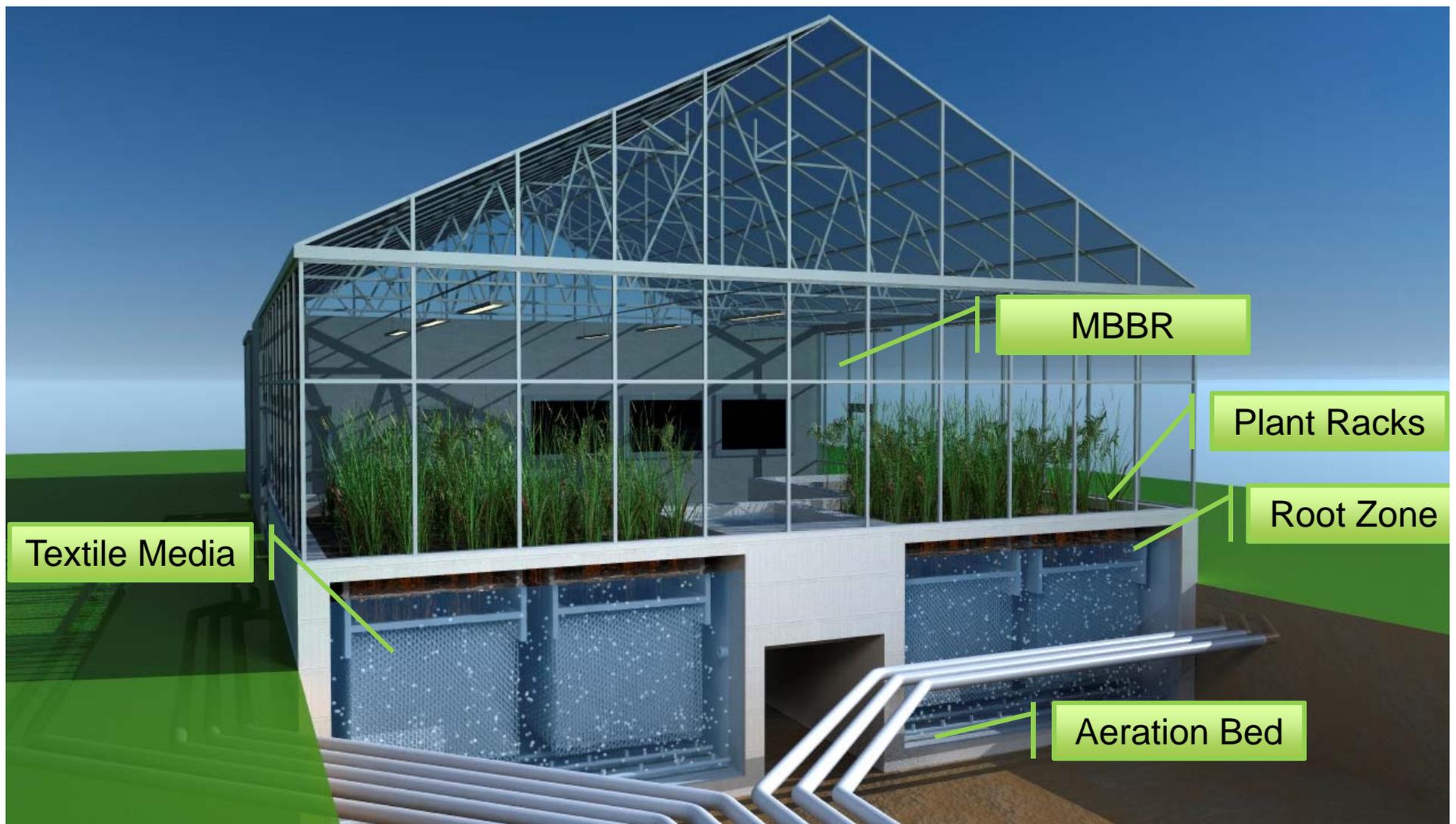
# Ecological Treatment Design

- The WaterHub mimics natural methods of water treatment found in wetlands, tidal marshes, and rivers



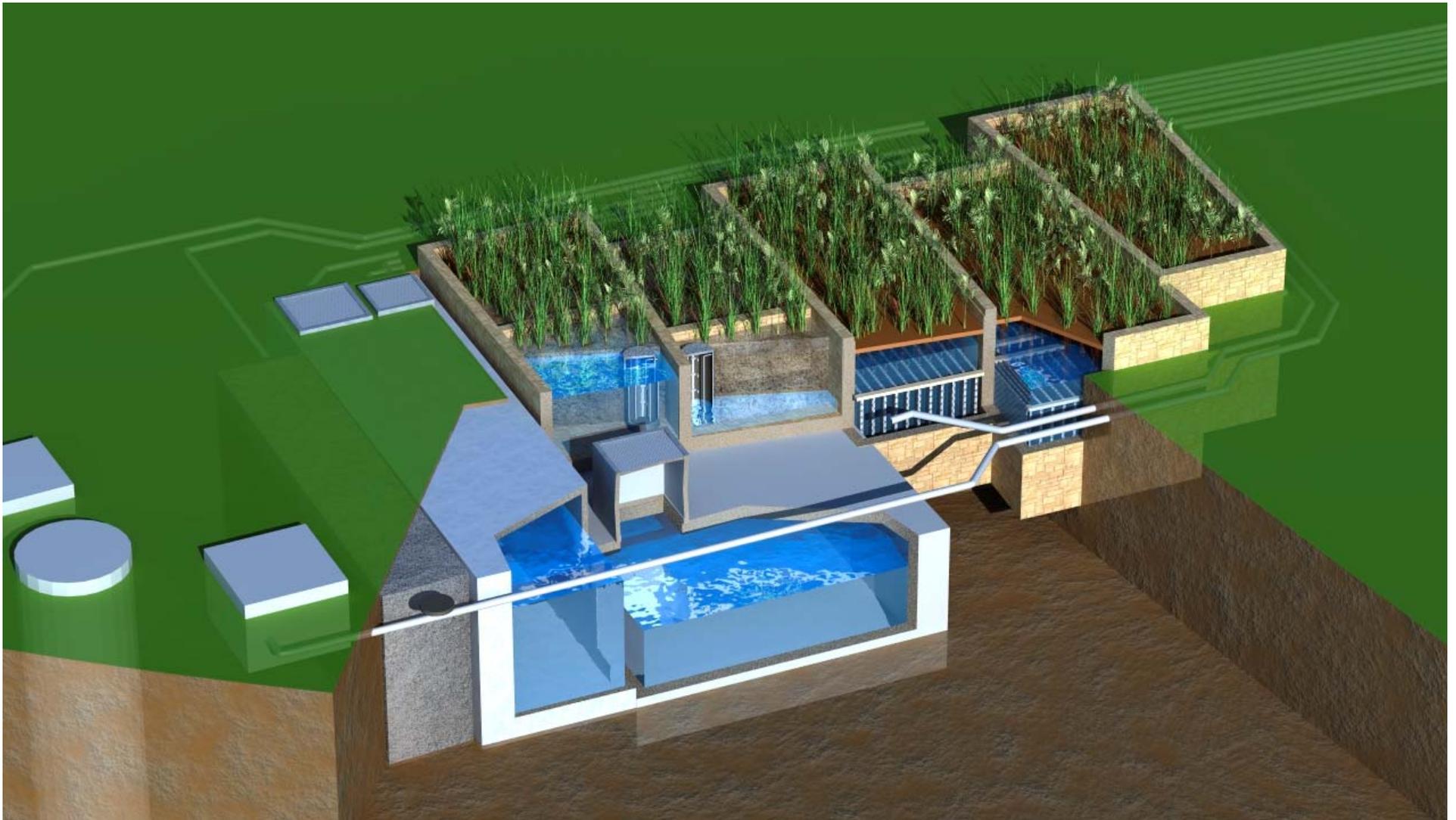
Integrated into the Built Environment

# GlassHouse (Upper Site)



GlassHouse Footprint Compact and Efficient at 2,200 ft<sup>2</sup>

# Outdoor System (Lower Site)



Convergence of Multiple Ecological Treatment Technologies



# Emory - Aerial View: Under Construction



Small Physical Footprint, Sited in the Middle of Campus



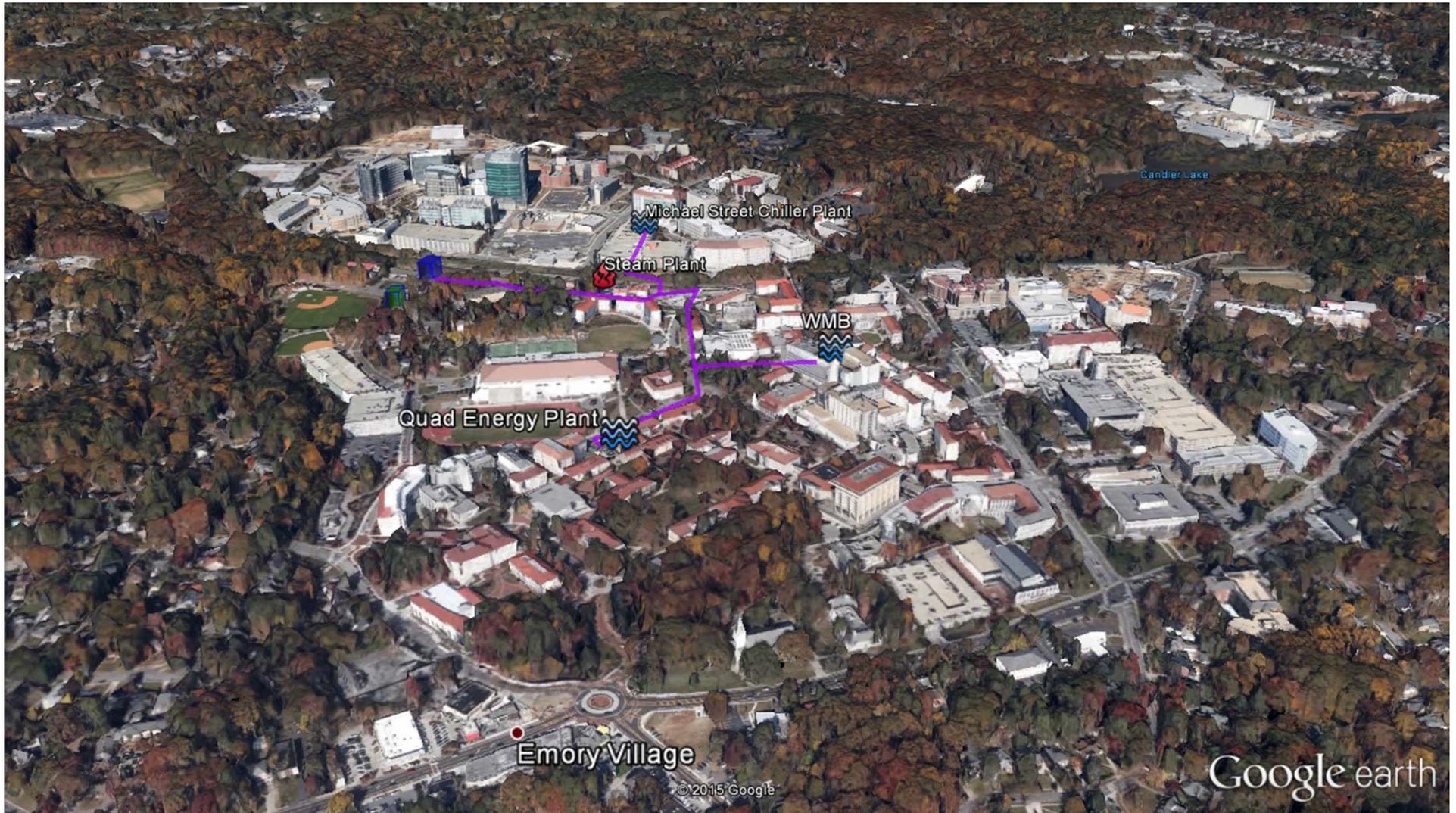
# The WaterHub at Emory University



First and Only Ecological, Decentralized Reuse System in the U.S.

# Time Lapse of Project





4,425 Linear feet of distribution piping



# EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Tours Emory University's WaterHub



Gina McCarthy @GinaEPA · Feb 5

.@EmoryUniversity cut water use by ~35% w/new WaterHub, saving the school big on utility costs. A model for us all!



Gina McCarthy @GinaEPA · Feb 5

.@EmoryUniversity WaterHub isn't a typical treatment facility. It filters wastewater thru plant roots & microbes clean out organic material.



Federal Validation for an Ecological Solution to Wastewater Management



**EXTENDING THE LIFECYCLE OF WATER.**

**Nature's Idea. Our Science.**

**QUESTIONS?**

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