

Air Quality during COVID-19

Ozone in the Atlanta Region

Abby Marinelli, ARC

TAQC

October 2020

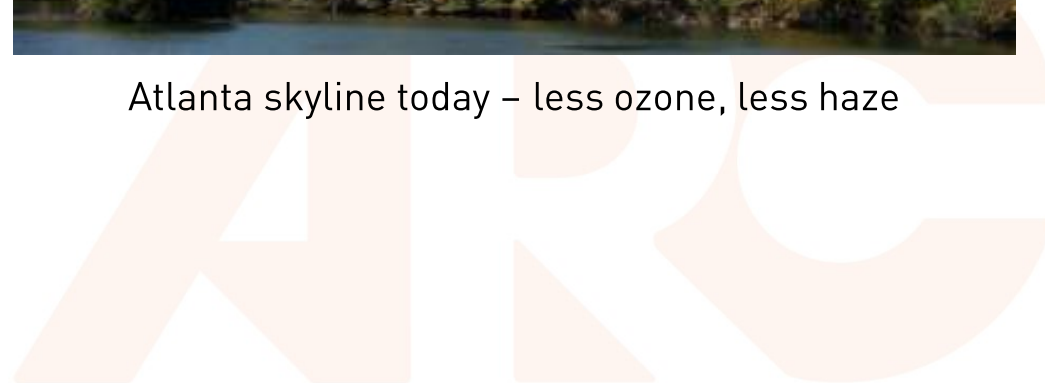




Atlanta skyline in the late 1990s – high levels of ground-level ozone leading to hazy skies



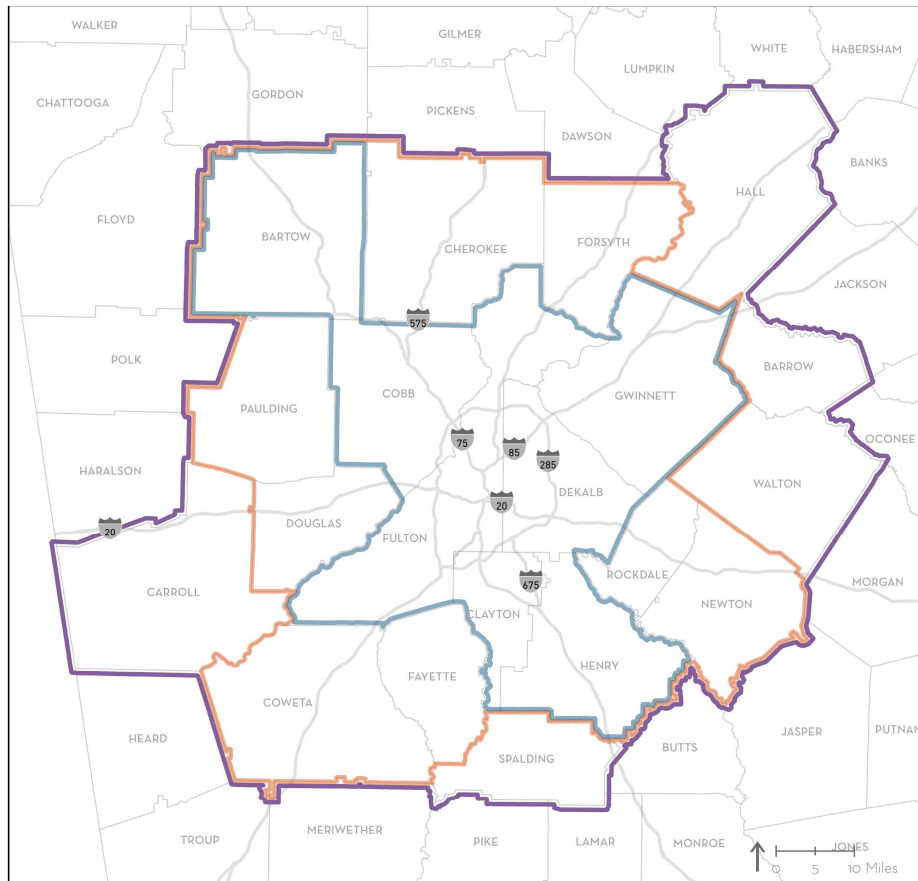
Atlanta skyline today – less ozone, less haze



NAAQS in the Atlanta Region

National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)

NAAQS	Current Designation
1997 8-hr. Ozone	Partial Orphan Maintenance Area
2008 8-hr. Ozone	Maintenance Area
2015 8-hr. Ozone	Nonattainment Area



MAP ii: AIR QUALITY BOUNDARIES

Legend

- 2015 Nonattainment Boundary
- 2008 Nonattainment Boundary
- 1997 Nonattainment Boundary
- Expressways
- Counties

Source: ARC's RTP (2020)



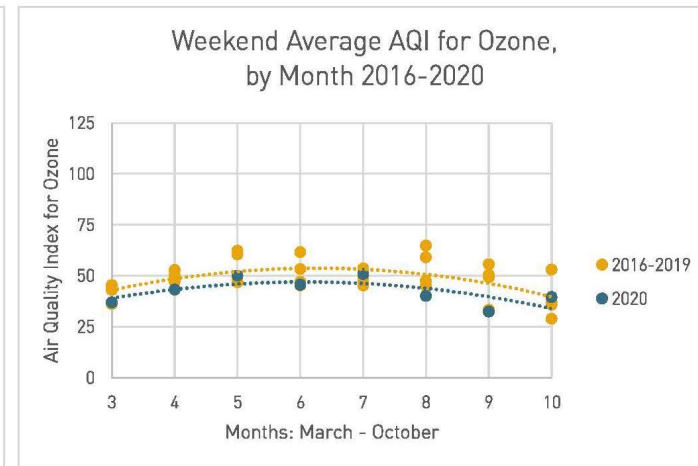
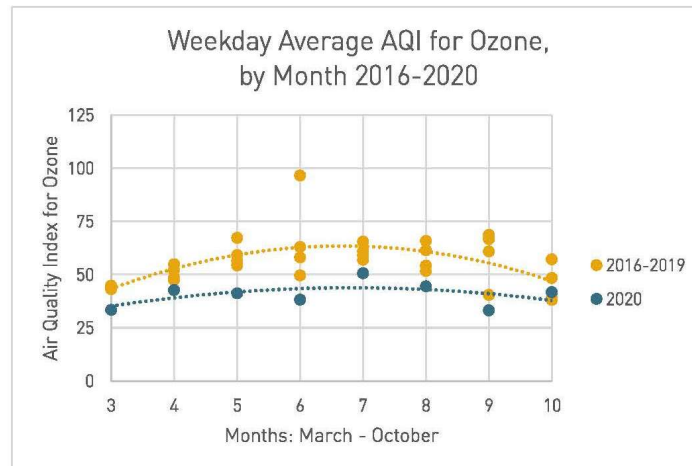
OZONE AQI COMPARISON 2016-2020



OZONE MONITORING SEASON: March 1 - October 31
APPLICABLE NAAQS LEVEL: 0.070 ppm per 2015 8-hr. Ozone Final Rule
NAAQS MINIMUM GEOGRAPHY: 7-county Nonattainment Area
DATE GENERATED: 10/8/2020

OBSERVATIONS:

Air Quality Index (AQI)		Lowest AQI (O3)		Highest AQI (O3)		Moderate Days as of 10/07		Exceedances as of 10/07	
0 - 50	Good	2016	21	2016	200	2016	99	2016	28
51 - 100	Moderate	2017	16	2017	150	2017	78	2017	8
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	2018	16	2018	133	2018	73	2018	8
151 - 200	Unhealthy	2019	19	2019	150	2019	95	2019	11
201 - 300	Very Unhealthy	YTD 2020	14	YTD 2020	101	2020	33	2020	1
301+	Hazardous								



OZONE SUMMARY - YTD 2020



AQ SEASON:

March 1 - October 31, 2020

POLLUTANT:

Ozone

NAAQS:

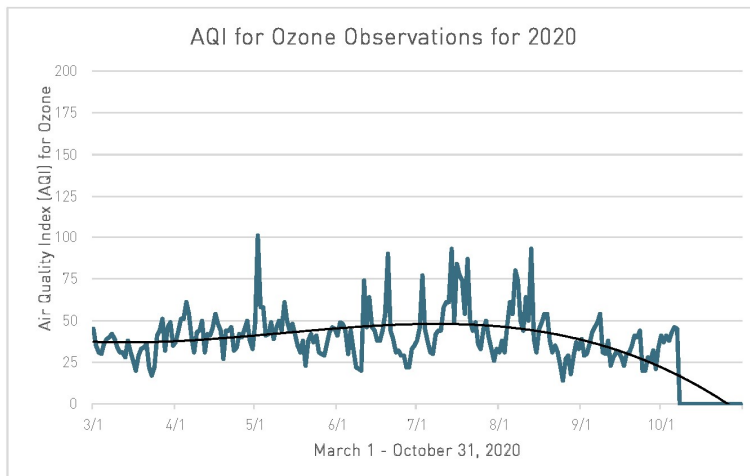
0.070ppm per 2015 8-hr. Ozone (7-county Nonattainment Area)

OBSERVATIONS:

	Stations						
	SDeKalb	Coryers	UtdAve	Gwinnett	Douglasville	McDonough	Kennesaw
4th Highest Value	0.061	0.060	0.063	0.066	0.056	0.058	0.056
Design Value	0.065	0.066	0.069	0.066	0.062	0.069	0.063

OUTCOME:

Because none of the design values are expected to exceed 0.070 ppm, it is likely that the Atlanta region will attain the 2015 8-hr. ozone standard.



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POLLUTANT:

Ozone

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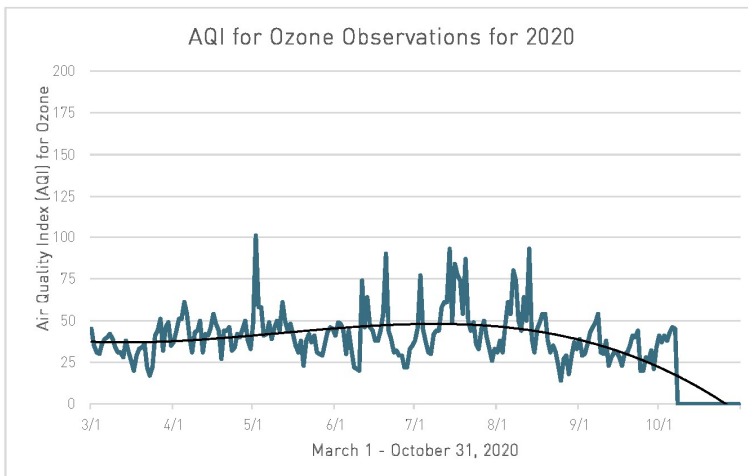
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EPA considers the **design value** when determining whether an area has attained a standard.

Design value is defined as the 3rd year average of the 4th highest value per year at each monitoring station.

The current design value calculation covers 2018, 2019, and 2020.



OZONE SUMMARY - YTD 2020



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March 1 - October 31, 2020

POLLUTANT:

Ozone

NAAQS:

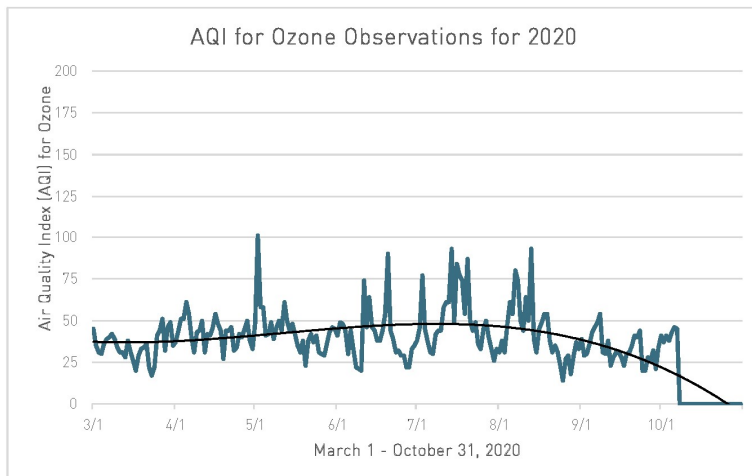
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2019 Data

OBSERVATIONS:

	Stations						
	SDeKalb	Conyers	UtdAve	Gwinnett	Douglasville	McDonough	Kennesaw
4th Highest Value	0.067	0.069	0.071	0.066	0.066	0.079	0.067
Design Value	0.067	0.068	0.072	0.065	0.065	0.072	0.066

OUTCOME:

Since the area monitors have flagged at least one design value as above 0.070, the Atlanta area will not be able to demonstrate attainment of the 2015 NAAQS during the 2017-2019 Ozone seasons. The next opportunity to do so will be the 2018-2020 Ozone seasons.



Potential Next Steps

If Atlanta attains 2015 NAAQS:

- Revised SIP
- New conformity analysis

If Atlanta does not attain 2015 NAAQS:

- 12-month grace period to attain
 - Only projects included in the most recent RTP and TIP can be funded.

ARC

Questions?

Thank you!

Abby Marinelli

Atlanta Regional Commission
amarinelli@atlantaregional.org

