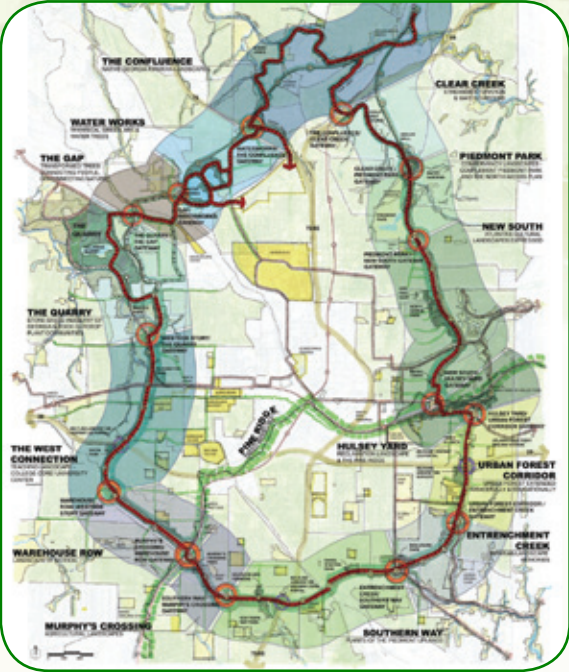


What is the Atlanta BeltLine and Arboretum?



The Atlanta BeltLine is being implemented to connect 45 Atlanta neighborhoods and 40 city parks with transit, trails, greenspace, and new development along 22 miles of historic rail segments that encircle the city's urban core. The BeltLine is attracting and organizing some of the region's future growth around transit, trails, and parks, helping to change the pattern of regional sprawl and leading to a vibrant and livable Atlanta with an enhanced quality of life. The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum is an outdoor, living tree museum following the path of the BeltLine around Atlanta's city center. The BeltLine Arboretum will include planting and care of fourteen unique tree collections; provide educational programming to all neighborhoods and constituents; and serve as a corridor of scientific research and education. The first section of BeltLine Arboretum is open in Atlanta's West End; the balance will be built over the next twenty years. The BeltLine Arboretum will be a success when everyone in Atlanta can identify their neighborhood by the trees that surround them, and therefore understand the value of trees in an urban environment. www.beltline.org



Exploring YOUR Natural Neighborhood



What is Unique About the Confluence Natural Neighborhood ?

The Confluence natural neighborhood is a haven for wildlife and birds. The area is situated along the forested creek margins of Tanyard, Peachtree and Clear Creeks. Neighborhoods in this area include Collier Hills, Collier Hills North, Channing Valley, Spring Lake, Ardmore Park, Haynes Manor, Peachtree Hills, Garden Hills, Lindbergh and Brookwood Hills. Trees in this neighborhood highlight the importance of wetland, floodplain, and stream edge/riparian species for water quality, flood protection and wildlife habitat.

This special natural neighborhood not only provides trails and an important tree canopy (see "What are the Benefits of the Trees in My Neighborhood?" inside), but it gives birds and wildlife suitable green space to thrive and flourish. Spring and fall migrant species of birds will rest and refuel here before traveling on. Birds and other wildlife that make this area their home year-round will also benefit from the Confluence natural neighborhood. You will find many common birds here including Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, American Crows, Northern Mockingbirds and various warblers. Other wildlife might include deer, foxes, beavers, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, opossums, along with various types of reptiles and amphibians. With all of the streams, there are bound to be a lot of bugs. Birds eat bugs and so do bats. In fact, female bats can eat their weight in insects every night. Take a walk at night and observe wildlife feeding on pesky mosquitoes and sharing your natural neighborhood.



Atlanta Audubon Society

Atlanta Audubon Society is the region's primary education and conservation group dedicated to birds. Educational programs, conservation initiatives and community outreach are at the heart of the organization. Atlanta Audubon provides the community with important educational opportunities including field trips, workshops, the exclusive

Master Birder Program, birding camps for young people and scholarship programs. Individuals and communities are engaged in unique ways to directly impact the conservation of birds. Atlanta Audubon's conservation work focuses on "Creating, Promoting and Preserving Bird-Friendly Habitat," and includes overseeing the Georgia Important Bird Areas program, monitoring eastern hemlock trees to combat the hemlock woolly adelgid in the North Georgia Mountains, managing the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Certification program, and serving as the steward for a 183-acre wildlife sanctuary. Protecting the birds that we love is the most important thing we do. www.atlantaaudubon.org

TREES ATLANTA

Trees Atlanta

Trees Atlanta is a nationally recognized citizens group dedicated to protecting and improving Atlanta's urban forest by planting, conserving and educating. Trees in urban areas provide a number of economic, health and social benefits and are essential for clean air, storm water management, erosion control, noise absorption, bird and wildlife habitat, and more. Since 1985, Trees Atlanta has planted and distributed 75,000 trees. Trees Atlanta programs include *NeighborWoods*, volunteer-based planting and care of trees 6-10 feet tall; *Large Trees*, planting and care of trees 10-15 feet tall; *Forest Restoration*, a program that teaches citizens about the problems of invasive species and how to evaluate, manage and improve community green spaces; *Neighborhood Arboreta*, a program that places identifying markers next to neighborhood trees along with a self-guided walking tour map of the area; and *Education*, offering programming year round to teach citizens about the importance of trees. Trees Atlanta does not just plant trees...we plant communities. www.treesatlanta.org

About the Photos

Cover:
Luna Moth, Monarch Caterpillar, Monarch Butterfly and Blue Grosbeak by Dan Vickers; *Bald Cypress* by Steve Sanchez
Inside Left Panel:
Sycamore and Musclewood by Steve Sanchez; *Squirrel, Eastern Chipmunk, and Raccoon* by Dan Vickers; *Green Tree Frog* by Darlene Moore
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Confluence Symbolic Bird



Red-headed Woodpecker

The Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, is one of Georgia's most beautiful and vibrant woodpeckers. It was once used as a war symbol by the Cherokee Indians.

The dark red color on the head of adult birds and the distinctive black and white wing patterns—which are also visible in flight—distinguish the Red-headed Woodpecker from other woodpeckers. The Red-bellied Woodpecker is often labeled incorrectly due to the splash of orange-red color on its head. Males and females of this species are identical in coloration. Its call sounds like a raspy, wheezy sound, and its territorial drumming is weak and fairly slow.



Red-headed Woodpecker by Dan Vickers

This bird prefers edge habitats that can be found in wooded environments, including open disturbance-maintained areas. Standing dead trees provide very important habitat for this bird. During the spring, Red-headed Woodpeckers create cavities in dead trees and tree limbs in which they lay four to seven white eggs. By vacating their cavities after breeding season, Red-headed Woodpeckers act as woodland ecosystem engineers by creating opportunities for other cavity-nesting species to raise young. It is an omnivorous bird that will store food, which may include live grasshoppers, in various locations.

Confluence Symbolic Trees



Sycamore

The Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, is right up there with Tulip Tree in size, being the tallest of the deciduous trees in North America. Creeks, bottom-lands, and river banks make the best home for these giants to reach their tallest heights and biggest girths. They are best known for their fantastic flaking bark exposing a puzzle of organic hues of brown and grey.



Musclewood

Musclewood, *Carpinus caroliniana*, is a short-lived tree that appears similar to beech, but in dwarf form of only 20 to 30 feet. It is found around creek areas and appreciates some shade and moist soil, but is known for its tolerance of difficult situations. The rippled, smooth gray bark reminds some of a muscular human arm.

What are the Benefits of the Trees in My Neighborhood?

Trees perform environmental, social, and economic services that directly benefit people and wildlife living in urban areas. They include:

- Improving air quality
- Removing chemical pollutants in the ground, water and air
- Reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- Cooling urban areas by providing shade and retaining moisture
- Assisting in energy conservation as trees intercept radiant heat and block the wind
- Securing or increasing water supplies by recharging our watersheds
- Increasing biodiversity by providing habitats for a diverse population of birds, mammals and insects
- Helping with noise reduction by acting as an effective buffer to screen-out urban noises
- Reducing erosion and soil loss
- Providing a valuable source of both human food and animal feed for urban households
- Calming and slowing traffic
- Reducing the extremes of flooding and drought
- Increasing property values and promoting community pride

The Importance of Green Space: What Can YOU Do to Make a Difference?

Birds and wildlife need suitable green space to thrive and flourish. In the last 20 years, much of metro-Atlanta's natural tree cover (important habitat for bird and wildlife species) has been replaced with concrete and asphalt. Habitat loss and sprawl have devastated what was once Atlanta's rich heritage of urban green spaces and is the biggest culprit for the decline of bird and wildlife species. Birds like the Brown Thrasher, Common Grackle and Northern Flicker are impacted by the loss of green space. They lose important nesting sites and areas to feed. This also greatly affects migrating birds that no longer have important sites to rest and eat.



You can make a difference for birds and wildlife in your own backyard. Finding ways to provide **food, water, shelter, and nesting sites** for breeding and raising young are critical. You may think that your yard will not make a difference in the larger scheme of things, but you can help provide important individual corridors of vital green space for birds and wildlife. Consider, for instance, planting trees with Trees Atlanta (www.treesatlanta.org) or certifying your own backyard, as a wildlife sanctuary (visit www.atlantaaudubon.org for more details). When requirements are met, homeowners receive a sign stating that their property is registered as a "wildlife sanctuary" with Atlanta Audubon Society. Creating a wildlife sanctuary in your backyard is an important way to conserve and protect our environment.

What Do the Birds and Wildlife in Your Neighborhood Need to Thrive?



Food

Feeders and plantings that offer seeds, flowers, and berries for wildlife

- Feeders placed near your home will give you many hours of enjoyment. Feeders also provide relief to birds during winter weather. Food can also come from trees and plants that produce fruit and seeds.



Water

Birdbaths, water gardens, or natural features with flowing water

- Water is essential. Water sources can be natural (like a stream) or man-made (birdbaths).
- Always provide clean water, replacing it in your birdbaths regularly to avoid disease.



Shelter

Active nesting areas or shelters that attract and protect birds and other wildlife

- Shelter is needed to protect birds and wildlife from inclement weather and from predators. Always try to keep your cat indoors, if possible. Four million birds are killed each day by cats (both domestic and feral).



Nesting Sites

Bird boxes, natural cavities, or wood piles and vine tangles

- You can provide many types of nesting sites, from piles of sticks to dense shrubs. Also, if you have a dead tree and it isn't a safety hazard for people or property, consider letting it stand. It can provide important nesting sites for many types of wildlife.

Get Educated! Get Involved!

Making a difference for Georgia's environment, including its birds and wildlife, means becoming educated about what is happening in your special neighborhood, in your state, across the country and around the world.

Making a difference in the world begins with just one person...YOU !

Wildlife in Your Neighborhood

Here are just a few of the many amazing creatures you can find in your neighborhood.

Can you name them? Have you seen them in your natural neighborhood and do you know where they live?

