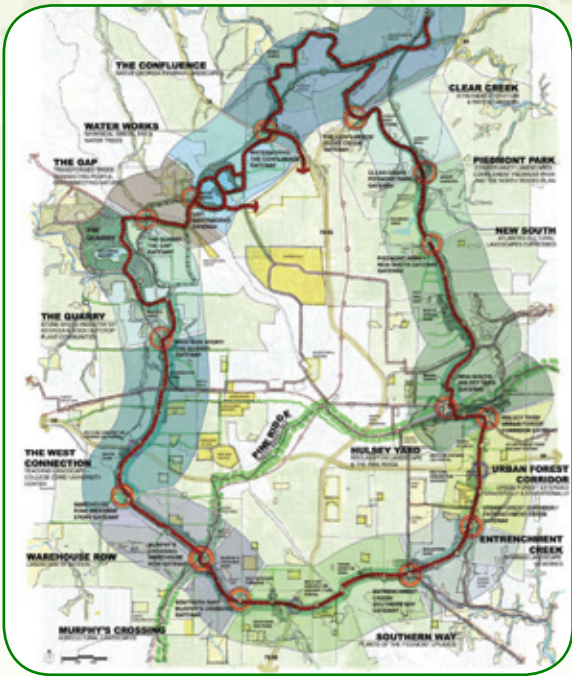


What is the Atlanta BeltLine and Arboretum?



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



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

Answers: Wildlife in Your Neighborhood

1. Eastern Gray Squirrel (often raids the nests of many types of birds)
2. Virginia Opossum (nocturnal and North America’s only marsupial—mammals of which the females have a pouch)
3. Green Tree Frog (females can lay up to 400 eggs in shallow water)
4. Eastern Chipmunk (its diet consists of grains, nuts, birds’ eggs, small frogs, fungi, worms and insects)
5. Raccoon (walking on all four feet with an arch in its back and non-retractable claws, it uses the whole sole of the foot “heel to toe” as it walks, like humans)

The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum Natural Neighborhood Series was written and produced by Atlanta Audubon Society, 2009. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

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:
Bald Cypress and Sweetbay Magnolia by Steve Sanchez; *Squirrel, Eastern Chipmunk, and Raccoon* by Dan Vickers; *Green Tree Frog* by Darlene Moore
Design by Laura Woods

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Exploring YOUR Natural Neighborhood



What is Unique About the Entrenchment Creek Natural Neighborhood ?

The Entrenchment Creek natural neighborhood is defined by the two upstream headwaters of Entrenchment Creek, which eventually flows southeast to the Atlantic coastal plain. Neighborhoods in this area include Grant Park, Ormewood Park and Boulevard Heights. Trees in this neighborhood are typical of coastal plain plant communities found in South Georgia, including evergreens, coastal swamp trees and coastal oaks.

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 Entrenchment Creek natural neighborhood. You will find many common birds here including Mourning Doves, Red-tailed Hawks, Carolina Chickadees, and Blue Jays. Other wildlife might include deer, foxes, beavers, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, opossums, along with various types of reptiles and amphibians. Hummingbirds leave Georgia in the winter to travel to Central America for warmer weather. Take a walk at different times of the year finding wildlife that migrates to warm areas or returns to their summer retreat, sharing your natural neighborhood.

Entrenchment Creek Symbolic Bird



American Robin

The American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*, has been lovingly dubbed “America’s favorite songbird,” and is thought of as the harbinger of springtime in some areas. In our area, we have the joy of these spirited birds year-round.



American Robin by Dan Vickers

The American Robin is a good reference bird for learning the sizes of other bird species. It is the largest of the thrush species, with long legs and a long tail. The male is gray-brown with an orange breast, a white throat, and blackish head and tail. Its song is repetitive and musical.

During the winter months, robins roost in large groups. These flocks can have from tens to thousands of individuals. In the spring, they make nests of roots and twigs, bound by mud. A female will lay three to five sky blue eggs several times during the breeding season. The young resemble the adults, but like other thrushes, they have a spotted gray breast instead of the characteristic uniform orange.

Robins eat both berries and insects—including the worms they are often seen pulling out of the ground. While they are common park, garden, and lawn birds; robins can also be found in forests and on the Alaska tundra during warmer months. Due to the amount of time the American Robin spends on the ground, it has a higher risk of exposure to pesticides and other lawn products. This makes them not only messengers of springtime, but also indicators of environmental pollution.

Entrenchment Creek Symbolic Trees



Bald Cypress

Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, grows up to 70 feet tall. Its bark is reddish-brown and fibrous, its branches are distinctly horizontal, and its foliage is spirally arranged along the stems. This tree does well in marshy wetlands and in urban settings.



Sweetbay Magnolia

The Sweetbay Magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*, is native to the U.S. southeast. This dense shade tree has fragrant, creamy white flowers. It can grow to 60 feet. Its leaves are a glossy pale green and have a silvery underside.

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!

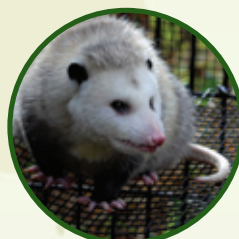
Making a difference for Georgia's environment, including its birds and wildlife, means becoming educated about what is happening in your special neighborhood, in your state, across the country and around the world.

**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?



The Bald Eagle was adopted by Congress as the national emblem of the United States in 1782. Native only to North America, the Bald Eagle numbered between 25,000 and 75,000 at that time. Illegal shooting and loss of the ability to reproduce because of the pesticide DDT took a great toll on this bird. By the 1960s, fewer than 417 nesting pairs could be found in North America. Their numbers are now rebounding, and the Bald Eagle is no longer considered endangered—a true success story of the Endangered Species Act.