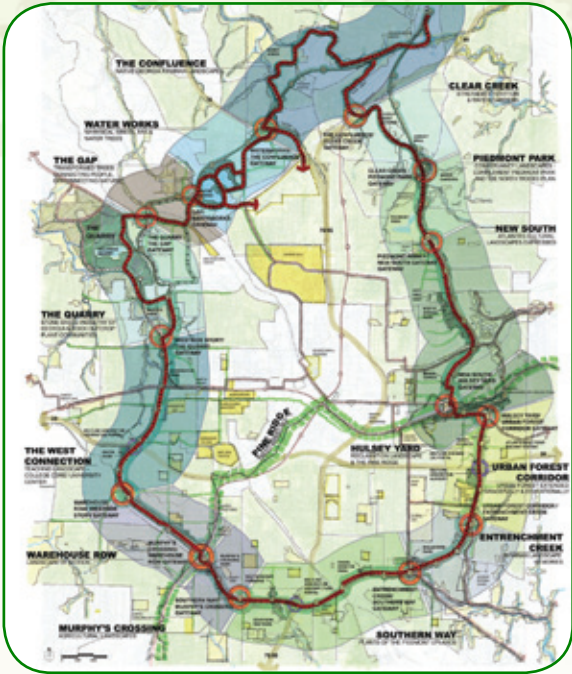


What is the Atlanta BeltLine and Arboretum?



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](http://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](http://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](http://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:**  
*American Holly and Southern Red Oak* by Steve Sanchez; *Squirrel, Eastern Chipmunk, and Raccoon* by Dan Vickers; *Green Tree Frog* by Darlene Moore

Design by Laura Woods



Exploring YOUR Natural Neighborhood



What is Unique About the Piedmont Park Natural Neighborhood?

The Piedmont Park natural neighborhood is not only rich with history, but a haven for birds and wildlife. Neighborhoods in this area include Ansley Park, Midtown, Virginia Highland and Morningside/Lenox Park. Trees in this area will complement and be a tribute to the Olmsted brothers' tradition and design style. You will find beautiful specimens, evergreens, and large stately trees with a powerful presence that create a sense of place.

This special natural neighborhood provides trails and an important tree canopy (see "What are the Benefits of the Trees in My Neighborhood?" inside), and 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 Piedmont Park natural neighborhood. Rich with many bird species, you will find many birds here including American Goldfinches, Song Sparrows, Mallards and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Other wildlife might include deer, foxes, beavers, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, opossums, along with various types of reptiles and amphibians. There are many ducks in nearby Lake Clara Meer. How many species (types of ducks) can you count? What other birds enjoy the lake and share your natural neighborhood?

Piedmont Park Symbolic Bird



Yellow-rumped Warbler

The Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*, is an abundant winter resident that can be found in flocks in Georgia from November through May. This species is geographically divided into two subspecies that interbreed where the ranges overlap. The western species is known as the "Audubon's warbler," and the eastern species is known as the "Myrtle warbler."



Yellow-rumped Warbler by Dan Vickers

This stout, long-tailed warbler is characterized by a sturdy bill and yellow patches on the rump and near the base of the wings. In the winter, the bird has a wash of grey or brown (male or female, respectively), but retains the yellow rump. During the breeding season, the male exhibits its bright yellow patches, as well as a black eye patch and a yellow crown. Yellow-rumped Warblers are closely associated with conifer forests, where they prefer to make their nests. Their sharp chips and variable trills can be heard here throughout the winter.

Yellow-rumped Warblers can winter in the United States due to a radical change in diet—from primarily invertebrates in spring and summer, to berries and seeds in the winter. They are also able to digest the waxy berries from bayberries and wax myrtles. This digestive adaptation is unique among the warblers and extends the winter range of this bird to more northern and coastal regions. By eating berries and seeds, Yellow-rumped Warblers play an important role in seed dispersal for many different plant species.



## Piedmont Park Symbolic Trees



### American Holly

The American Holly, *Llex opaca*, usually grows about 30 feet tall, but can reach over 60 feet. It features a variety of color over the seasons. During the winter months, bright red berries sprout against deep green foliage, and in the springtime, creamy white flowers bloom.



### Southern Red Oak

The Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcata*, usually grows in sandy, upland soils and is found in mixed forests. A moderate sized to tall tree with a great spread, its bark is strong and coarse-grained. Leaves are variable but it typically has an elongated single lobe at the tip.

## 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](http://www.treesatlanta.org)) or certifying your own backyard, as a wildlife sanctuary (visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org](http://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?*

