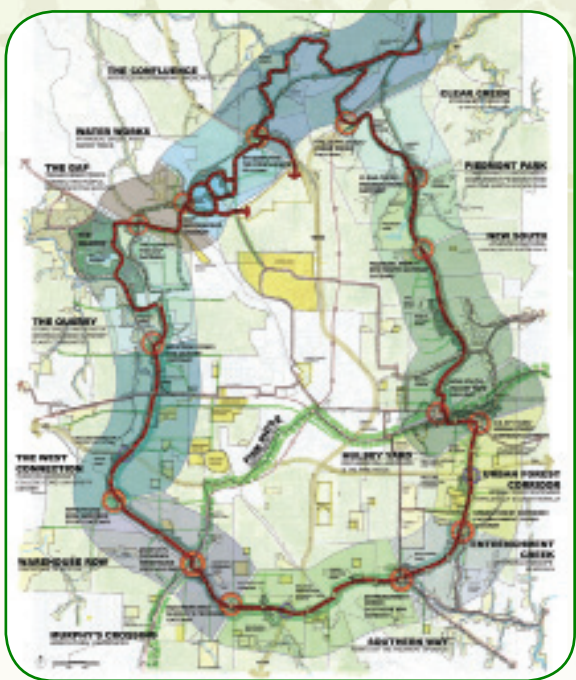


What is the Atlanta BeltLine and Arboretum?



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 Atlanta 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 Atlanta BeltLine around Atlanta's city center. The Atlanta 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. Multiple sections of the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum have opened with more to come as new parks and trails are constructed. The Atlanta 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, 2010. 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:  
*Georgia Oak and Winged Sumac* 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 Quarry Natural Neighborhood?

The Quarry natural neighborhood includes the Bellwood Quarry, a large granite surface mine, which is the largest proposed addition to the City of Atlanta's park system. Plant collections in this natural neighborhood represent the rock outcrop communities of Georgia, particularly species endemic to the southeast piedmont that are found nowhere else in the world. Neighborhoods in this area include Rockdale, Knight Park, Grove Park, Bankhead and English Avenue.

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 the new 50-acre lake also gives birds and wildlife suitable green space to thrive and flourish. Spring and fall migrant species of birds rest and refuel here before traveling on. Birds and other wildlife that make this area their home year-round will also benefit from the Quarry natural neighborhood. You will find many common birds here including the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Carolina Chickadee, Northern Cardinal and Eastern Towhee. Other wildlife include deer, foxes, beavers, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, opossums, along with various types of reptiles and amphibians. Take MARTA to the Bankhead station and walk to the Quarry, Maddox Park or the Proctor Creek Trail to see how wildlife shares your natural neighborhood.

The Quarry Symbolic Bird



Indigo Bunting

The Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*, is one of the many birds that visit Georgia during our spring and summer months. These birds spend the winter months in Cuba and Mexico, and it nocturnally migrates to the United States in the spring, using the stars as a compass.

The male's sweet song, *sweet sweet chew chew*, is an integral summertime characteristic of abandoned fields, roadsides, power line right-of-ways and other edge habitats. You can often find a male perched on the tip of a small tree, singing for the world to hear. The male is a striking cobalt blue during the breeding season, which begins in April in Georgia. The female is a dull brown with the same bi-colored finch-like beak as the male. She is much less conspicuous and stays close to the ground. She builds a nest out of grasses and bark, with a lining of fine grasses or deer hair and a binding of spider web.

Although its preference for edge habitats leaves the Indigo Bunting subject to nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds, it has developed strategies for coping with the nuisance birds, such as rejecting cowbird eggs. Indigo Bunting populations in Georgia are stable, and we benefit from the beauty and sweet song of one of nature's natural jewels.



Indigo Bunting by Dan Vickers



### The Quarry Symbolic Trees



#### Georgia Oak

The Georgia Oak, *Quercus georgiana*, is one of 32 oaks native to Georgia and can grow to be fifteen to thirty feet tall. It is found in rock outcrops and is commonly found around Stone Mountain. Some people find it reminiscent of the Japanese Maple and believe it would be a great native replacement. Its smaller-sized acorns are more easily eaten by birds. Oaks have the highest wildlife value of non-cultivated plants in the Southeastern United States.



#### Winged Sumac

Winged Sumac, *Rhus copallinum*, has beautiful red and purple fall colors. It grows at the woodland edge and in poor soil. Occasionally, this native tree is cut down by well-meaning people who confuse it with the invasive exotic Tree-of-Heaven because it has a similar type of leaf. Winged Sumac serves primarily as emergency winter food for wildlife and Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Bobwhite, Wild Turkey and about 300 species of songbirds depend on its berries.

### Get Educated! Get Involved!

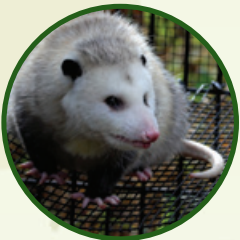
Making a difference for Georgia's environment, including its birds and wildlife, means becoming educated about what is happening in your special neighborhood, in your state, across the country and around the world.

**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?



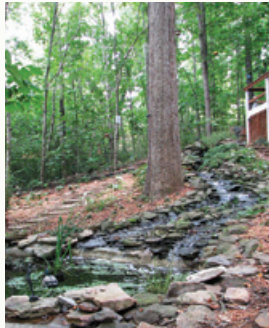
### What are the Benefits of the Trees in My Neighborhood?

**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.

### Did You Know?

Land fragmentation separates our natural grasslands and forests with man-made divides such as roads, dams, large urban developments and even homes. Many animals are very territorial and need large areas of connected land to live happily and healthily. Fragmentation often cuts off an animal's ability to migrate, breed and safely search for food. You can help reduce the effects of land fragmentation by planting native species, removing invasive plants, and leaving logs, sticks and leaves in place.