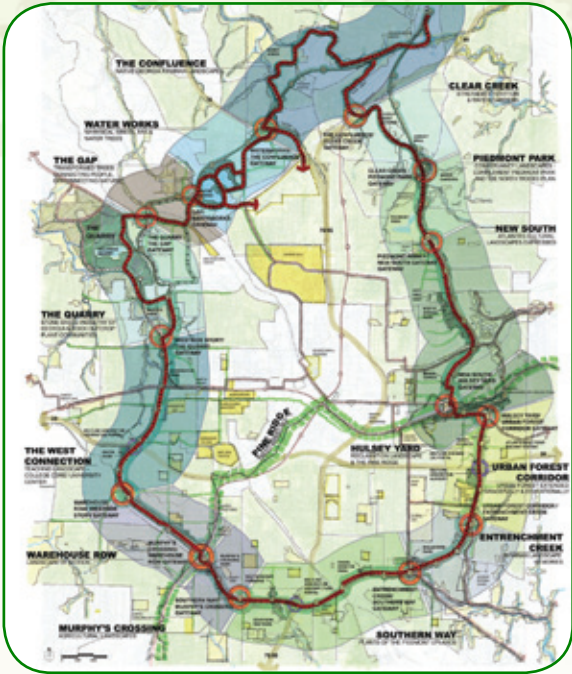


What is the Atlanta BeltLine and Arboretum?



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 Warehouse Row Natural Neighborhood?

The Warehouse Row natural neighborhood is a narrow right-of-way segment between rows of warehouses and the stretch of trail that follows the road. Neighborhoods in the Warehouse Row area include Westview, Cascade Road, Oakland City and West End. Trees in this neighborhood will have high visual impact that can be appreciated while traveling faster than walking speed. This landscape of motion also features ancient and primitive trees that have existed for a long time.

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 Warehouse Row natural neighborhood. Thanks to students at Brown Middle School who participated in a native habitat restoration project near Rose Circle, you will find many common birds here including Yellow-rumped Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, Red-headed Woodpeckers and American Robins. Other wildlife might include deer, foxes, beavers, squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, opossums, along with various types of reptiles and amphibians. A box turtle was seen walking along White Street. Take a walk at different times of the day and find wildlife scurrying along, 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

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)

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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:

Ginkgo and Dawn Redwood 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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Warehouse Row Symbolic Bird



Northern Cardinal

Although it is not Georgia’s official state bird, the Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*, is a brilliantly-colored, year-round favorite that is the official bird for seven other states.

The Northern Cardinal is a sexually dimorphic species, meaning that members of the opposite sex look different from one another. The male is a brilliant red, and the female is primarily gray with red on her wings and head. Both sexes sport a red crest, a long tail, a black mask and an orange/red bill (gray on immature birds). The cardinal song is a series of ascending sharp notes. The omnivorous Northern Cardinal’s diet includes seeds, fruits, and invertebrates.

The female builds a nest of broken and bent twigs that is three to four meters above the ground. The eggs, which are grayish white or speckled, are often removed by Brown-headed Cowbirds. On average, only a quarter of cardinal nests produce fledglings.

Northern Cardinals are common visitors in inhabited areas such as parks and yards. They are often seen attacking reflections of themselves in mirrors and windows. This bird, with its striking colors and territorial behavior, deserves credit for inspiring many people to pick up a field guide and begin to enjoy the wonderful world of birds.



Northern Cardinal by Jim Wilson

Warehouse Row Symbolic Trees



Ginkgo

While the Ginkgo tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, is considered an exotic, there are fossil records in North America indicating it grew here prior to the last ice age. Its fruit, really a bare seed, has a scent that is less than pleasant, but is eaten by the Japanese and Chinese and reported to be well-flavored. The tree has grown on earth for over 150 million years and was native to North America at one time. There are seven varieties of Ginkgos in the Warehouse Row natural neighborhood.



Dawn Redwood

The Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, was rediscovered in China in 1941 and has been growing on earth for 100 million years. It is a deciduous conifer with orange/brown fall colors. It can grow to over 100 feet tall. It is in the same family as the Bald Cypress.

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?

