

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**NOMINATE YOUR PARK OR GREENSPACE FOR AN ATLANTA AUDUBON HABITAT RESTORATION GRANT**

**(Atlanta, Ga.) June 13, 2018** – Atlanta Audubon Society is now accepting proposals for bird-friendly improvements to one eligible project through the recently created Habitat Restoration Fund. Examples of suitable projects include, but are not limited to, removal of invasive, exotic plant species, installation of bird-friendly native plants, garden/habitat design services, bird monitoring, and/or community programs. The goal of the selected project is for it to, upon completion, meet the criteria of Atlanta Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Program ([www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/wildlife-sanctuary-certification).)

Birds and other wildlife that rely on metro-Atlanta's ecosystems are being negatively impacted by ongoing habitat loss caused by urban sprawl and development. However, conservation efforts can help combat these losses. The 2016 State of the Birds Report (<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/>) found that where public awareness grows and habitats are preserved and managed, bird populations rebound. Atlanta Audubon and its partners play an important role in creating bird resiliency in the Southeast.

Through our collaborative conservation and engagement programs, Atlanta Audubon is building places where birds and people thrive, and we are seeking partners to help us make Atlanta a bird-friendly community. Thanks to the generosity of a private donor, Atlanta Audubon is proud to offer bird-friendly improvement services to one eligible project through the Habitat Restoration Fund.

Properties must meet the following criteria:

- The property must be accessible to the public and located in one of the following counties: Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale, or Spalding.
- The property should have a dedicated management group, such as a park manager or management team, friends' group, formal neighborhood group, or other similar groups with access to the property.
- The group must be familiar with the local municipal or other park/land improvement process and be able to navigate this process with Atlanta Audubon.
- The project area must be at least 50 square feet large to meet the minimum criteria for the Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary certification program but no larger than 3 acres.

We are seeking proposals that create resiliency for both wildlife and the local community, as well as those that strengthen the network of Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries. The Habitat Restoration Fund project will include the following components provided by Atlanta Audubon Society:

- Professional invasive, exotic plant removal;
- Bird-friendly, native plant installation;
- Birds species abundance monitoring;
- Seasonal on-site bird banding;
- Volunteer work days and community science monitoring;
- Community outreach programs at project site and nearby facilities as appropriate; and
- Atlanta Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary Certification.

A set of conservation and community involvement criteria will be used to evaluate project applications including amount and type of exotic, invasive plants, proximity to waterways or wetlands, amount of unique or impaired bird habitat, public accessibility, existing bird data, community impact and reach, educational opportunities, and ability and willingness of continued community participation past the initial project timeline. The project application asks the applicant to address each of these areas. Including a map of the project location in your application is helpful. We are looking for projects that are going to make an impact for birds and for people. Projects with strong community and educational opportunities are of great interest.

Applications must be received by August 31, 2018 to be considered. To learn more about requirements or to download an application, please visit our website at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/habitat-restoration-fund](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/habitat-restoration-fund). Please direct questions about this opportunity to Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation, at [adam@atlantaaudubon.org](mailto:adam@atlantaaudubon.org).

*Atlanta Audubon Society is committed to building places where birds and people thrive. We create birds - friendly communities through conservation, education, and advocacy.*

**Media Note:** Photos to accompany this article and a MS Word version of this press release are available for download at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y3l9s32oktcs94e/AADL4n1VHbxzzwGhN455VJ-fa?dl=0>.

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