

Help Us Create One Huge Bird-Friendly Community! Nominate Your Park or Greenspace for a Habitat Restoration Fund Project

Within the lush habitat of metro-Atlanta reside wildlife that are dependent on a healthy, native Piedmont ecosystem, and of those most prominently recognized are birds. Once plentiful, resident and migratory birds have succumbed to population declines due to habitat loss and degradation as a result of rapid, sprawling development. However, we are learning more and more that conservation works. The 2016 State of the Birds Report 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, we are building places where birds and people thrive and would like to invite you to be a partner in creating one huge 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. This can include removal of invasive, exotic plant species, installation of bird-friendly native plants, garden/habitat design services, bird monitoring, and/or community programs. The ultimate goal is for the project to meet the criteria of [Atlanta Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Program](#).

Eligibility

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.

Guidelines

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:

- 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.

To understand more about Atlanta Audubon's habitat programs, we suggest you review the following information as you craft your proposal.

- [Atlanta Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary Certification Program](#)
- [Recommendations for Best Management Practices for a Healthy Environment for People, Birds, and Wildlife](#)
- [Atlanta Audubon's Habitat Restoration Projects](#)

Schedule

- Applications should be submitted by email to habfund@atlantaaudubon.org by 11:59 PM on Friday, August 31, 2018.
- Applicants will be notified of their status by Sunday, October 26, 2018.
- Project planning and work will begin immediately after the award is announced and end by December 2019.

How to Apply

To access an editable application, [please click here for a Google Doc](#) version of the application. Please download the application, and once complete, please email a completed application in PDF format to habfund@atlantaaudubon.org by 11:59 PM on Friday, August 31, 2018.

Questions

To learn more about this new opportunity, please go to www.atlantaaudubon.org/habitat-restoration-fund.html. Please direct questions about this opportunity to Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation, at adam@atlantaaudubon.org.