

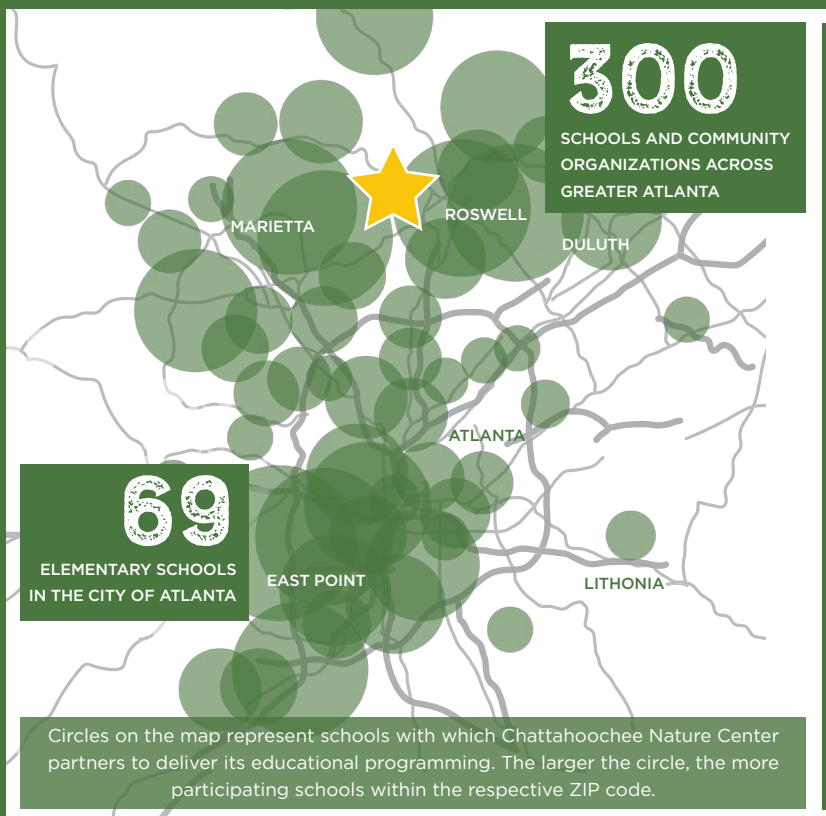
GROWING TOMORROW'S NATURE ENTHUSIASTS

A \$9.7 Million Campaign for the Chattahoochee Nature Center



NATURE'S CLASSROOM

WHERE CHILDREN DISCOVER THEIR NATURAL WORLD



Each year, CNC educates **44,000** students about the wonders of nature, **16,000 (36%)** of whom come from Title I schools.

In 2022, our educational programming reached more children and other visitors than ever before through our partnerships with Georgia Public Library System, Los Niños Primero, City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, the Georgia Forestry Foundation, and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.



The partnership with Chattahoochee Nature Center has empowered all Atlanta Public Schools first graders with remarkable experiences that encourage hands-on learning and cannot be replicated in a classroom. Being surrounded by nature, just minutes outside the city limits, sparks curiosity in our students and inspires them to ask questions about the world they live in.

DR. SARAH ERICKSON

CULTURAL EXPERIENCE PROJECT, ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



As a lush tree canopy filters the morning sun, dotting the ground below with patchy shadows, a semi-circle of second graders gathers in the forest. They sift the soil in their fingers and breathe the earthy scents around them—their oohs, aahs, and laughter lifting through the woodlands. The timeless Chattahoochee River rolls nearby. Guided by a Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) naturalist, they examine a beaver pelt, inspect the unbending contours of a deer antler, and learn how—long before GPS navigation and other tech marvels—Native American tribes marked trails by bending saplings to force a distinctive shape as the trees grew. They have arrived at CNC as part of Fulton County Schools’ Cultural Kaleidoscope Project, which serves every second grader in the district and is administered by the district’s Teaching Museum. Through other school partnerships, CNC reaches thousands more students throughout metro Atlanta, engaging them in quality, hands-on learning experiences they won’t soon forget.

For nearly a half-century, CNC has inspired countless visitors of all ages who encounter captivating experiences that open their eyes to the natural world around them. While exploring the trails, they may hear the tut-tut-tut of the Downy Woodpecker or spot the lemon-yellow Summer Goldfinch; they may hike the soft, sloping earth at the riverbank or glimpse the nighttime scamper of a “bandit”-masked raccoon.

At CNC, kids discover these natural treasures and so much more. They visit as part of experiential learning opportunities at their schools or with their families or scout troops. They attend summer camps or engage in other educational opportunities throughout the year. Whatever the path that leads them here, they embrace their natural world, interact with it, and interpret its wonder as only a child can.

Adults, too, find in CNC a respite from the frenzy of their everyday lives. Regardless of their age, **informed nature enthusiasts today become responsible environmental stewards tomorrow.**



For more than a decade, the Teaching Museum and Fulton County Schools teachers and students have greatly benefited from our partnership with Chattahoochee Nature Center. Besides providing students unique, high-quality learning experiences, CNC staff are always willing to go the extra mile to support our students and teachers.

JENA SIBILLE

TEACHING MUSEUM, FULTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Like no other venue in the greater Atlanta area, CNC offers direct access to the Chattahoochee River and a variety of education and conservation programming, from guided hikes and sunset canoe trips to horticulture and wildlife rehabilitation.

CNC is a well-established attraction whose recent investments are drawing new visitors and visibility. We aim to harness that momentum through our **GROWING TOMORROW'S NATURE ENTHUSIASTS** campaign, a \$9.7 million initiative to elevate Chattahoochee Nature Center's status as *the* nature destination for the region.

This campaign builds upon the foundation laid when we replaced our 2,000-foot dilapidated boardwalk that runs through the wetlands and along the riverbanks. Reopened in March 2022, the new **Bridge and River Boardwalk Trail** connects the river to the rest of our campus. **It has substantially increased our accessible area, driving a 50 percent rise in membership revenue and an additional 1,000 visitors each month.**

Energized by that success, we stand ready to deliver on this bold, new campaign,

which embodies our commitment to growing the next generation of nature enthusiasts. We understand that by learning about nature now, children can value and care for the environment around them as they become adults. In other words, **at Chattahoochee Nature Center, children learn for a lifetime!**

Our **GROWING TOMORROW'S NATURE ENTHUSIASTS** campaign will fund necessary campus improvements that will expand the reach and capacity of our educational programming, **ensuring that best-in-class programs are bolstered by best-in-class facilities**—all while improving the visitor experience through increased safety, greater accessibility, and exceptional new amenities. **As a result of these campaign-funded campus improvements, we will have the ability to educate more than 10,000 additional children each year at Chattahoochee Nature Center.**





KINGFISHER HALL RENOVATION: \$6,650,000

The nearly 60-year-old Kingfisher Hall is a multipurpose space used year-round for educating children about the natural world, including 250 campers each week during the summer months. Its capacity to serve that purpose, however, is limited by age, wear, and a structural layout that was originally designed for something far different from a learning and gathering center: an airplane hangar. The result today is a highly inefficient building layout that confuses visitors and hampers staff collaboration.

With campaign funding, we will demolish partition walls and remove the existing stairs, creating uninterrupted floor space to accommodate additional learning classrooms—expanding educational capacity by as much as 20 percent—and collaboration area for more than two dozen CNC staff. The renovation will include multipurpose rooms and lab space for activities such as water-quality testing and upper-level science programming, as well as meeting space for workshops, student group activities, and CNC staff planning exercises. Aside from renovations to existing space, **a new 2,200-square-foot, two-story addition will increase the building's size to 20,000 square feet.** Construction will connect a new entry porch to the lobby, the new stairs, and an elevator, increasing the building's accessibility for all visitors. The porch will offer outdoor shaded space during favorable weather and safe shelter when conditions become inclement. As Kingfisher Hall hosts many groups and activities throughout the year—not just summer camps—a reimagined facility will deliver comfortable gathering and learning space when days turn cold and temperatures drop below freezing. New, large windows will create sweeping views in any weather while allowing access to the campus green and the Beaver Pond beyond. A sloped wood ceiling will add visual warmth and conceal new building systems. The concrete floor will be stained and sealed. **Fundamentally, our remodel will increase Kingfisher Hall's permissible occupancy and establish dynamic, creative spaces in which 1,000 more young campers each summer will learn about nature—rain or shine.**

Incidentally, the building's namesake camp, Camp Kingfisher, comprises one-quarter of our annual revenue. Therefore, **expanding camp capacity will help reduce lengthy waitlists, generate more income, and promote CNC's financial sustainability**, allowing us to fund intended programmatic growth over time.

Last year, we were forced to turn away 800 would-be campers, because Kingfisher Hall is at maximum occupancy and—with a leaky roof, few windows, and other drawbacks—ill-suited to be CNC's central gathering space.

With our renovation, Kingfisher Hall will be able to accommodate all of those 800 would-be campers.

>> IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Significantly increased camp and education capacity, which will eliminate the summer camp waitlist.
- Repairing, replacing, and modernizing vital infrastructure, such as the roof and HVAC system.
- A seamless transition into the surrounding nature through large natural-light-producing windows and garage doors.
- A new porch overlooking the surrounding landscape.
- Stained and sealed concrete flooring.
- A new catering kitchen for special events.
- Updated furnishings and technology for camp and other educational programs.



Chattahoochee Nature Center is noteworthy among nonprofit organizations in that two-thirds of its annual income comes from earned revenue. I've always been proud of that. With that in mind, and given the success of our last campaign, the Center is in a strong position to embark upon this new campaign, which will ultimately mean more kids learning about nature. That's really what it's all about.

JIM STOKES

CO-CHAIR, GROWING TOMORROW'S NATURE ENTHUSIASTS CAMPAIGN



INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL SPACES: \$2,100,000



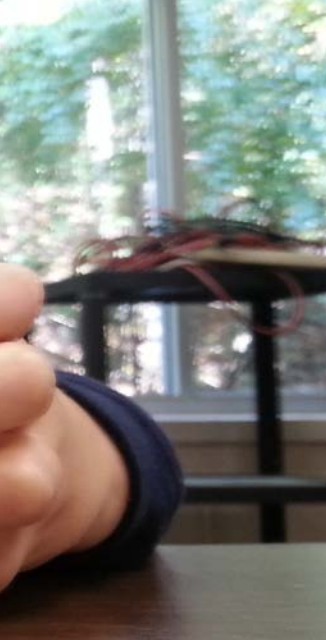
HERON POND ECO EDUCATION PAVILION & AMPHITHEATER \$1,255,000

The rapidly deteriorating Heron Pond cabins restrict our educational and outreach capacity, curbing our ability to offer campers and year-round visitors a truly dazzling nature experience by the pond. These half-century-old, screened-porch structures with no air conditioning sorely need to be replaced. This campaign will allow us to erect in their place a single, larger structure with glass walls and an adjacent amphitheater. **New construction will activate this portion of our campus throughout the year** as opposed to confining its purpose to summer camps. It will accommodate new workshops, for example, and wellness activities for visitors of any age—promoting a deeper understanding of and appreciation for nature across generations.



>> IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- A new 1,600 square-foot pavilion to host school groups, summer camps, and other year-round educational activities. It will also serve as an eye-popping new rental space. The air-conditioned facility will nearly double this footprint's current capacity—from 60 to 100 people.
- A new 2,400 square-foot amphitheater with seating overlooking Heron Pond.



DESIGNING FOR CONSERVATION

Campaign comprises environmentally friendly features

- Smart lighting design will increase natural light while reducing energy consumption up to 20 percent below code.
- Daylight harvesting technology and sensors will be employed in frequently used spaces to meet occupants' lighting needs while also saving energy.
- EPA-certified WaterSense fixtures will reduce potable water usage by 40 percent.
- Designated recycling locations throughout CNC's campus will accommodate glass, plastic, metals, paper, and cardboard.



UNITY GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS \$670,000

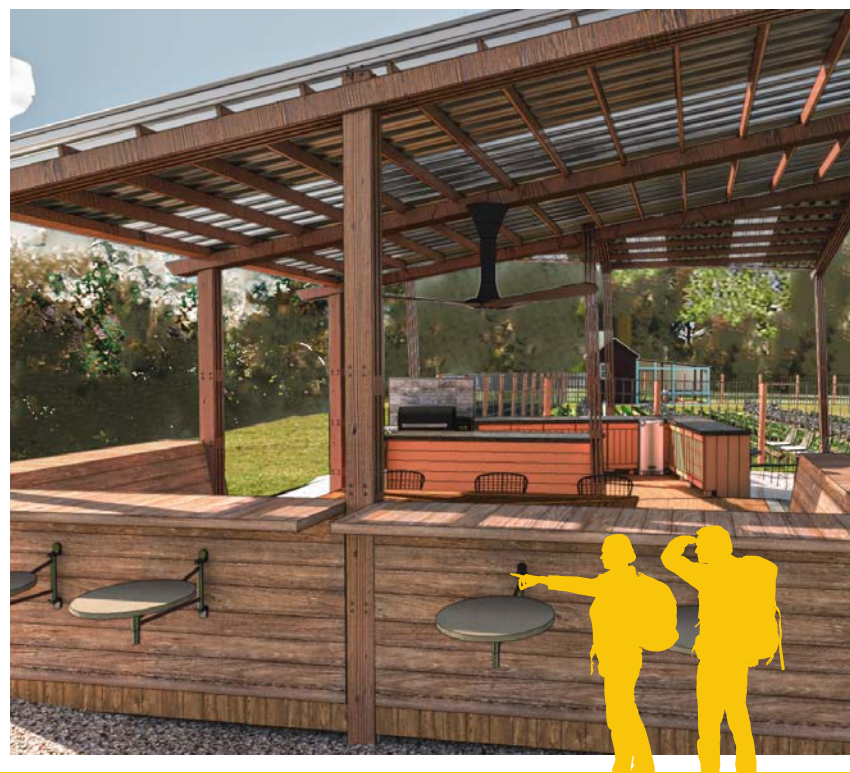
Each year, volunteers and CNC staff spend thousands of hours tending to the Unity Garden, planting, cultivating, harvesting, and donating 10,000 pounds of produce each year to the North Fulton Community Charities food pantry. The garden serves up everything from okra and tomatoes in the summer to carrots, kale, and collard greens in the winter. Yet while the Garden's produce is most certainly abundant, its program capacity is not: The area lacks sun and rain cover, lighting, restrooms, and potable water. Nevertheless, as children and other visitors test their green thumbs, **the Garden has become an important teaching tool for our education department**, providing hands-on opportunities to learn about food production and healthy eating. A new outdoor demonstration kitchen will allow us to exhibit the full cycle of nature's bounty, from seed to harvest to plate.

>> IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Sun and rain covering.
- Electrical infrastructure.
- An outdoor kitchen for education, cooking demonstrations, and event catering.
- Composting toilets (exploring)

ENHANCED VISITOR EXPERIENCE PROJECTS \$175,000

Connecting children with nature is a great way to foster in them a love for the outdoors and to inspire them as tomorrow's nature enthusiasts. To that end, our campaign will fund a potential garden space and nature-inspired playscapes in themed exhibits along existing trails. Measuring roughly 15'x15', with accompanying educational and interpretive signage, playscape possibilities include a beaver's dam near Beaver Pond, climbing stones with geological markers, and a model eagle's nest near the aviary.





SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY ENHANCEMENTS: \$950,000

One key driver of our planned expansion is the need to improve the safety, accessibility, and visibility of our 127-acre campus.

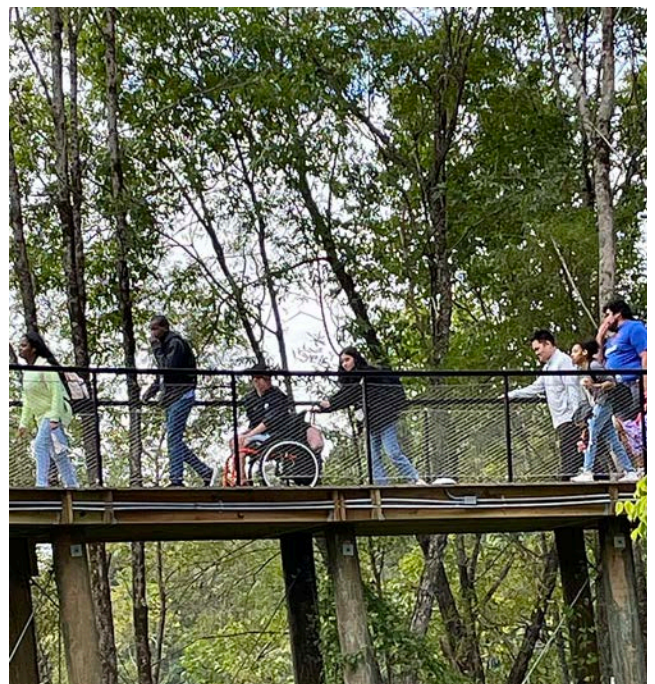
New sidewalks will offer safe passage throughout our campus, while other measures such as ADA-compliant restrooms and an elevator in Kingfisher Hall, will offer a welcoming, accessible, user-friendly experience for all our visitors.

At our entrance on Willeo Road, we have no controlled access, opening the possibility that someone arrives unannounced and accesses our grounds unchecked. A gate exists, but it is mechanically at the end of its usable life. A new, secure, gated entry will enhance the safety of staff and guests by ensuring that all visitors are accounted for and that the entrance is controlled.

Beyond the improved campus security, our campaign will fund new signage and hardscaping that will raise CNC's visibility to passersby and reflect an entry point worthy of a storied, evolving nature destination like Chattahoochee Nature Center.

>> IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- A new secure entrance that allows us to control visitor access.
- Campus renovations to provide ADA-accessible restrooms, building entrances, and elevator access to the second floor of Kingfisher Hall.
- New sidewalks.
- New landscaping, signage, fencing, and stormwater management infrastructure to elevate Chattahoochee Nature Center's profile and presence along Willeo Road.





GROWING TOMORROW'S NATURE ENTHUSIASTS



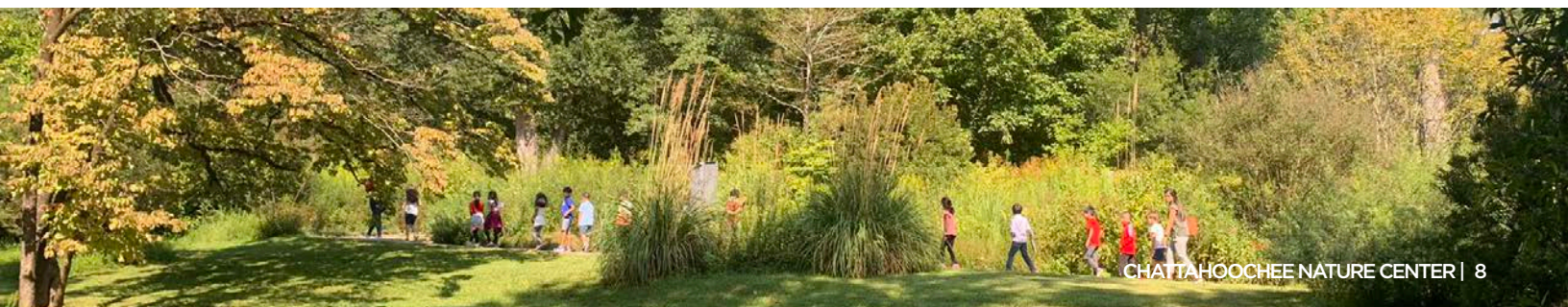
This investment today will put in place necessary improvements that will carry CNC into the next half-century of service, fully equipped to increase our educational and environmental impact in the lives of children and adults. It will allow us to serve more people in better facilities with greater long-term impact.

We will measure the return on our investment in the dramatically increased number of kids we can connect with nature, in our rising membership rolls, and in our heightened visibility throughout metro Atlanta and beyond. We will appraise it in the wide eyes and breathless anticipation of children at any age who take from CNC an unforgettable, even life-changing, nature experience.

Join us on this journey. Visit us.

And help us highlight all the riches nature has to offer.

CAMPAIGN BUDGET	
Kingfisher Hall Renovation	\$6,650,000
Interactive Educational Spaces	\$2,100,000
Heron Pond Eco Learning Pavilion & Amphitheater	\$1,255,000
Unity Garden Improvements	\$670,000
Enhanced Visitor Experience Projects	\$175,000
Safety and Accessibility Enhancements	\$950,000
TOTAL COSTS	\$9,700,000





Our board sees and enjoys the results of our last campaign, and that gives us faith that we will succeed in this one. The new bridge and boardwalk are amazing and were necessary, but this campaign turns its focus to the kids—to giving them a world-class learning experience. As a board, we realize success means stepping up with our largest contributions ever.

CLARENCE JACKSON

BOARD CHAIR, CHATTAHOOCHEE NATURE CENTER

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