

South Fork Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership

Atlanta, Georgia



*Connecting
urban
communities
to nature
through one
of Atlanta's
most historic
waterways*



Our Challenge:

With 80% of Americans living in cities, how do we connect urban America with our wild places, such as our national wildlife refuges? America will have much of their direct contact with nature while in an urban setting, thereby shaping the nation's conservation values, ethics and priorities, and requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to reach beyond our boundaries.

Our Answer:

The FWS proposes to increase relevancy to urban citizens. This initiative will establish measures to help define and

Volunteers from the Boys & Girls Club Atlanta join Sally Sears of the South Fork Conservancy, far right, during trail clearing on MLK Day.

achieve standards of excellence for urban refuges, create a framework for creating new urban partnerships, and establish a refuge presence in ten demographically and geographically varied cities in the U.S.

Long before Atlanta became a city, the South Fork of Peachtree Creek was an integral part of the lives of people along its banks. It gave its waters for drinking water, for grinding of corn, for

baptismal waters. From its trickling headwaters to its confluence with the North Fork to form Peachtree Creek, the South Fork reveals a unique story of human settlement in Atlanta, from the Native American artifacts found in the corridor to the remains of Houston Mill near Emory to the torrential surges of stormwater that result from more recent urbanization.

Today, the South Fork of Peachtree Creek connects vast parts of central DeKalb

County with the vibrant communities of northeast Atlanta.

It connects greenspaces including Medlock Park, Zonolite Park, the Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve and the historic Olmsted Linear Park along Ponce de Leon Avenue. It connects South Fork communities to a much larger greenspace network that includes the Atlanta BeltLine, Piedmont Park, Candler Park and Freedom Parkway.

Most importantly, the South Fork connects people and their communities – a diverse connectivity that could be a model for many similar communities across the state.

Our Partners:

Atlanta Audubon Society, Atlanta Botanical Garden, CH2M, Georgia Aquarium, Park Pride, South Fork Conservancy, Trees Atlanta, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are collecting and analyzing data on plant and animal populations as well as water quality at the degraded confluence of the south and northforks of Peachtree Creek.

The partnership will build creek access and engage underserved communities in monitoring and sustaining current restoration and green infrastructure efforts, in order to return this historic waterway to its rightful place as a respected asset of the

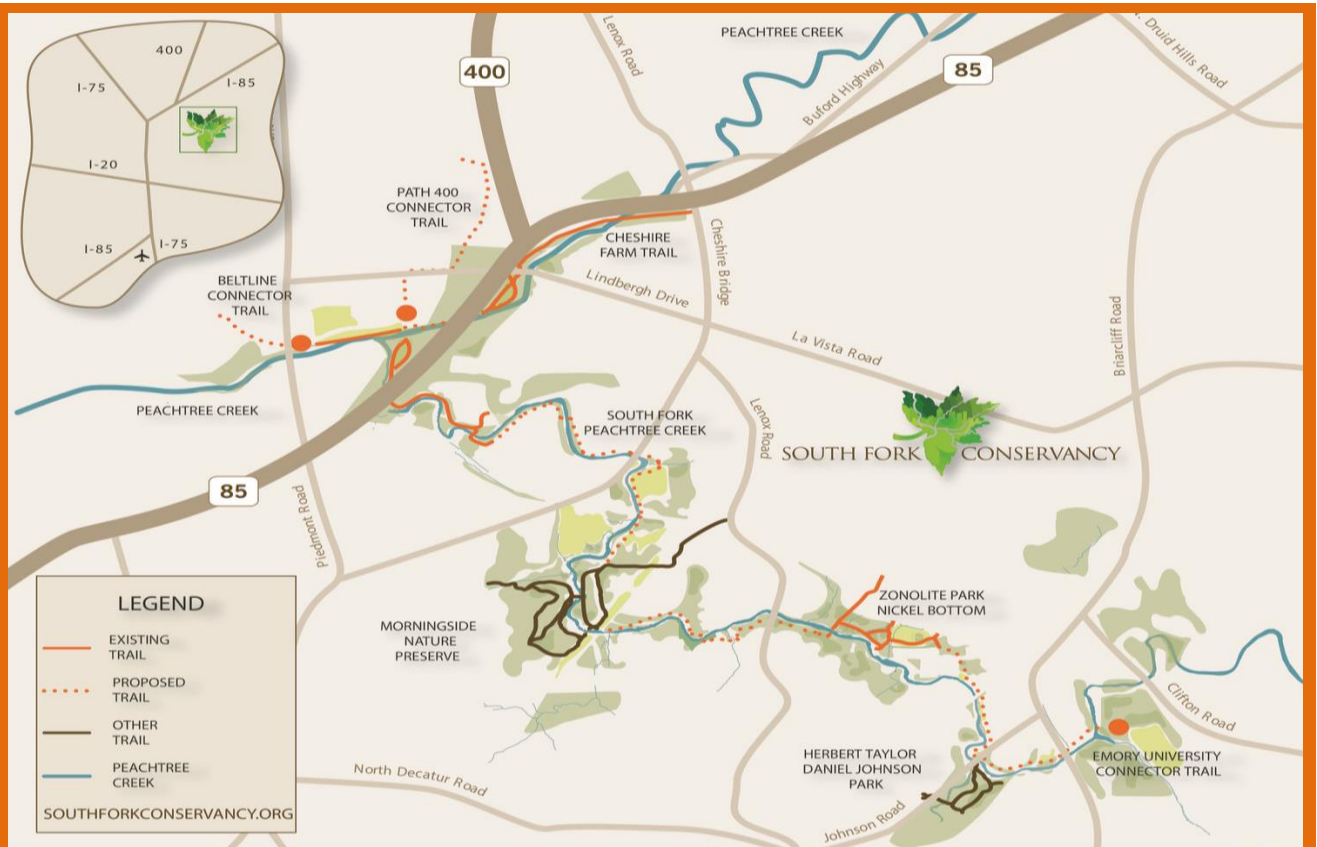
region's natural resources for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Learn more at:

- www.fws.gov/urban



Where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our communities, and partners come together to promote conservation!



BELTLINE TO EMORY



Learn more about the South Fork Conservancy trail system at southforkconservancy.org

