

Atlanta Audubon Society Receives Grant to Restore Bird-Friendly Habitat in Peachtree Creek Watershed

(Atlanta) August 4, 2016— Atlanta Audubon Society has received a grant to restore bird-friendly habitat in the Peachtree Creek Watershed, at the Deepdene Park in Atlanta, part of the larger Olmsted Linear Park system, and Friendship Forest, a municipal green space in Clarkston. Both properties are located in Dekalb County, Ga. The project is funded by Southern Company, the parent company of Georgia Power, and the U.S. Forest Service through a 2016 Five Star and Urban Waters grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). (<http://www.southerncompany.com/what-doing/corporate-responsibility/economic-stewardship/restoration.cshtml> or <http://www.nfwf.org>.)

Atlanta Audubon Society and partners will restore 15 acres of bird habitat on the two sites and create baseline bird data to aid conservation planning. The project will provide numerous citizen science and educational opportunities to the local community and double the partnership's local impact on bird habitat. The project will engage 125 community volunteers and educate 500 people about birds in the two areas. As part of this grant, Atlanta Audubon will partner with the Olmsted Linear Parks Alliance, the City of Clarkston, Friends of Friendship Forest, the Greening Youth Foundation, Rock Springs Restoration, the National Audubon Society and the Georgia Native Plant Society.

“Atlanta Audubon Society is very excited to receive another grant through the Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program to restore bird habitat at Deepdene and Friendship Forest,” says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Society Executive Director. “Last year, we received a similar grant to restore habitat at Emma Wetlands at Blue Heron Nature Preserve and the Confluence of the north and south forks of Peachtree Creek, and we’ve had great success with both of these projects. By working with our various partners, we are able to increase the impact that we have on each site and improve the habitat for birds and other wildlife.”

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 4,500 organizations and committed more than \$3.5 billion to conservation projects. Learn more at www.nfwf.org. Programmatic support for 2016 Five Star and Urban Waters program is provided by the Wildlife Habitat Council, and major funding by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx, Southern Company, Bank of America and Alcoa.

The Five Star and Urban Waters 2016 winners were selected from a highly competitive pool of more than 220 applications. The partnership bases consideration for funding upon educational and training opportunities for youth and the community at large as well as ecological, cultural and economic benefits. These projects also involve a high degree of partnership between local government agencies, elected officials, community groups, businesses, schools and environmental organizations for improving local water quality and restoring important fish and wildlife habitats.

A full list of 2016 projects is available at: http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Documents/fivestar_2016grants_16-0726.pdf.