



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



BLUE HERON
NATURE PRESERVE

2021: FRESH BEGINNINGS AND NEW GROWTH

As we think about 2021 and the Blue Heron Nature Preserve (BHNP), we are inspired by what is happening right now in the Preserve: *Spring*. After a long dormant winter, nature is coming back to life with fresh beginnings and new growth; and metaphorically so is BHNP. In 2021, we began reestablishing much of the momentum in our conservation, education and arts programming that was forced to go quiet during the worst of the pandemic in 2020.

PRESERVATION OF OUR 30-ACRE NATURE PRESERVE has continued to be our top priority. Much of our focus over the past 18 months has been on the 7-acre subdivision being developed at One Emma Lane, adjacent to the Preserve. This work has resulted in constructive discussion to help minimize impacts to the Preserve and to help secure a land parcel that is critical to the Blueway Trail network. During the year, we also worked closely with the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management on a project to implement an innovative stream restoration strategy using creek barriers known as beaver analog dams to reduce sediment pollution, restore habitat conditions, and reconnect wetland and flood storage areas for urban flood reduction.

In addition to our natural assets, the Preserve also includes a 10,000-square-foot building that houses administrative space for our organization and other nonprofits as well as classrooms for our educational programs. We are grateful to JE Dunn Construction, who donated in-kind services to refurbish the building's public spaces in 2021.

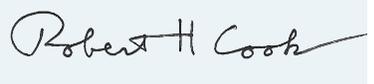
A highlight of 2021 was welcoming back summer camps—a mainstay of our education program—to Blue Heron. While maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols, we successfully **REVITALIZED OUR FLAGSHIP SUMMER PROGRAM AS WELL AS OUR ENTIRE YOUTH EDUCATION OUTREACH**, including programs for scouts, homeschoolers, school field trips and afterschool programs. In total, we helped educate nearly 1,200 participants about the native and natural world at the Preserve.

Our arts programming enjoyed a great deal of momentum in 2021 with a thriving artist-in-residence program and quarterly exhibitions in our lobby gallery. An annual highlight is the *Art of Nature* exhibition, which in 2021 saw a **RECORD NUMBER OF ARTISTS** displaying their work amid the backdrop of our natural habitats.

As BHNP programming rebuilt momentum, we also focused on rebuilding much of our organizational capacity. We closed out 2021 with **ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGNS EVER** and are so grateful for the continuing support that our donors make possible. Although we manage the Preserve as a park on behalf of the City of Atlanta, 100% of our work is funded through program fees and donations.

Much of our organization success lies with an extremely committed and engaged Board of Directors, who have welcomed five new members recently: Richard Bartolanzo with Bennett Thrasher; Kate Frost with Protiviti; Elton Hart with Comcast; Daniel James with Perkins&Will; and Akeime Leachman with BlackRock. We'd also like to recognize contributions of Norris Broyles III, Betsy Lane and Jennifer Patrick, all of whom retired from our Board during 2021 after many years of service and impact.

For those of us who are fortunate to enjoy all four annual seasons immersed within the Preserve, we know that Spring leads into an abundant season of Summer, when all things thrive. Thanks to the you — our most ardent supporters — BHNP also looks forward to a 2022 full of potential to thrive as we bring our mission to life. We look forward to updating you on our progress and seeing you in the Preserve.

Melody Harclerode, FAIA
Executive Director

Robert Cook
Chairman

2021 SIGNATURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



419
Volunteer hours



1,161
Total registrants
from education
programs



10
After-school
programs across
the City of Atlanta
and in neighboring
schools



4
Quarterly artists
engaging **135** guests



9
Outdoor artworks
from nature-inspired
artists in the *Art of
Nature* exhibit





SPREAD YOUR WINGS

THANK YOU TO OUR CIVIC PARTNERS:

City of Atlanta

Georgia Audubon

Amphibian Foundation

Acton Buckhead

Park Pride

Atlanta Public Schools

ZuCot Gallery

Fulton County

Southeast Beescapes

Georgia Native Plant Society

Pine Tree Garden Club

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS:

Northside Hospital

JE Dunn Construction

Perkins&Will

YKK AP

Bennett Thrasher

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner

Morris, Manning, & Martin

North Atlanta Eye Care

Morgan Stanley

Georgia Power Foundation

Spectra Contract Flooring

LDV Accounting Services

1st Mechanical Services



BLUE HERON
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