



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Atlanta Audubon Unveils Best Management Practices for Healthy Environments for People, Birds, and Wildlife in Metro Atlanta**

**(Atlanta, Ga.) March 26, 2018** – Atlanta Audubon Society Executive Director Nikki Belmonte unveiled a document titled *Recommendations for Best Management Practices for Healthy Environments for People, Birds, and Wildlife in Metro Atlanta* at the Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference hosted by Park Pride on Monday, March 26.

*Recommendations for Best Management Practices for Healthy Environments for People, Birds, and Wildlife in Metro Atlanta* includes recommendations for land use, trees and plantings, connectivity, and care of land and wildlife. These best management practices are applicable to regional planning, municipal planning, parks planning, neighborhood planning, and individual homeowners. The purpose is to provide basic tenets to guide people in managing and maintaining lands for both people and wildlife.

“The way we manage our land has important implications for birds and wildlife,” says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Executive Director. “When making decisions about parks and their maintenance, it is critical that we take into consideration the many species of birds and wildlife that rely on these greenspaces. From the land that we identify for parks, to the trees and shrubs we plant, and to the way the land and plants are maintained, it is critical that we are good stewards so that people and wildlife may thrive.”

The largest parks conference in the southeast, this year’s Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference explored the theme of urban resilience, or the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of acute shock they experience. Ms. Belmonte introduced the *Recommendations* in a panel session on “Biodiversity: Nature’s Answer to Resilience.”

“With our population growing rapidly in the Atlanta metro, every jurisdiction can benefit from these best practices,” says Esther Stokes, Chair of the Atlanta Audubon Society Board of Directors. “They can help each county, city, or town become a better place for people and wildlife. We would like to see them used extensively all across the region.”

To view or download a copy of the Best Management Practices, please visit our website at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/best-management-practices](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/best-management-practices).

*Atlanta Audubon Society is committed to building places where birds and people thrive. We create birds - friendly communities through conservation, education, and advocacy.*

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**Media Note:** Photos to accompany this article and a MS Word version of this press release are available for download at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/y3l9s32oktcs94e/AADL4n1VHbxzzwGhN455VJ-fa?dl=0>.