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**Restoration Work at The Confluence and Emma Wetlands Nears Completion: Volunteers Needed for Conservation Workdays**

**(Atlanta, Ga.) August 31, 2016** — Bird and wildlife habitat restoration at Emma Wetlands at Blue Heron Nature Preserve and the Confluence of the north and south forks of Peachtree Creek is nearing completion. Volunteers are needed for two conservation work days in September and October to help complete the work. In addition, two bird/native plant walks are planned for both sites in September.

The first conservation workday will be held on Sat., Sept. 10 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Confluence Park where the north and south forks of Peachtree Creek meet near Lindbergh. A second Conservation Work Day will take place on Sat., Oct. 1 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Emma Wetlands at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve off Roswell Road. Individuals and groups are welcomed and encouraged to volunteer. For more information or to register, visit [www.atlantaaudubon.org/upcoming-events](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/upcoming-events).

In addition, Atlanta Audubon and the Georgia Native Plant Society will be partnering to offer bird and native plant walks at the Confluence Park on Sept. 3 and at Emma Wetlands on Sept. 10. Both walks begin at 8:00 AM. More information and directions can be found at [www.atlantaaudubon.org/field-trips](http://www.atlantaaudubon.org/field-trips).

In the past year, Atlanta Audubon Society has been working with Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Southfork Conservancy, Rock Springs Restoration, Greening Youth Foundation, Georgia Native Plant Society, Trees Atlanta, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Audubon Society to create healthy, native, bird-friendly habitat at the two Fulton County sites as part of a Five Star and Urban Waters Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

“Over the past year, Atlanta Audubon, partners, and volunteers have been removing exotic and invasive plants, adding a variety of native Georgia plants species, building a wildlife blind at Emma Wetlands, and generally enhancing these sites for birds and wildlife,” says Adam Betuel, Director of Conservation for Atlanta Audubon Society. “In addition, we are monitoring bird populations, leading bird, tree and plant walks, and conducting citizen science activities aimed at monitoring birds in the area. So far we have

documented more than 92 species at the two sites, and we want to share the great things happening in these pocket greenspaces with nearby residents.”

The restoration work was funded by The Southern Company, the parent Company of Georgia Power, and the U.S. Forest Service through a 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>.) The grant officially closes in late September but monitoring and maintenance work will continue on both areas in the years to come.

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](http://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.

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*Photo Caption: Students from the Greening Youth Foundation helped build a wildlife blind at Emma Wetlands as part of the 5 Star and Urban Waters Grant.*

