



Georgia Urban Ecologists 2022-23

Sessions occur one Saturday a month from 10 AM-1 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Calendar:

Sunday, September 11, 3:00-4:30 PM -- Orientation at Legacy Park (Decatur)

(In the event of rain, we will meet on Zoom.)

October 22 (rain date October 23) -- Mason Mill Park (Decatur)

Natural and Human History in our urban environment

During this session, students will explore the ways that humans have affected our local environment over the last 12,000 years, as well as the way the environment affects human history. During our hike with DeKalb County's Ranger Jonah, we'll visit ancient rock outcrops, modern train tracks, ruins of a former park and defunct water treatment plant, and the confluence of two important county waterways, viewing the physical results of human history on the landscape.

November 19 (rain date November 20) – City of Atlanta (location TBD)

Tree Identification and Service Learning

During this session with Trees Atlanta, we'll gain a better understanding of the dynamic role that trees play in urban ecosystems and learn how to identify a few trees commonly found in Atlanta. Students will also participate in a habitat restoration project by planting trees or removing invasive plants.

December 17 (rain date December 18) – Legacy Park (Decatur)

Bird Identification and Community Science

Birds are all around, but they often go unnoticed. In this session with Georgia Audubon, we'll explore the important ecological services birds provide and learn how to identify common birds by sight and sound, as well as how to use observation skills, field guides, and technology to identify unfamiliar birds. We'll also hone our skills using binoculars and contribute to community science by submitting an eBird checklist.

January 21 (rain date January 22) – Zoo Atlanta (SE Atlanta)

Wildlife Conservation

Zoo Atlanta is directly involved in field conservation programs for wildlife and wild places around the globe right here in Georgia. During this class, students will meet with Zoo Atlanta team members to learn more about our conservation efforts, career paths at the zoo, and how they can help save species in their own community.

February 11 (rain date February 12) – Blue Heron Nature Preserve (Atlanta/North Buckhead)

The Importance of Top Predators

In spite of the fear and concern that some people have about coyotes, they are remarkable animals who serve an important role as top predators in their ecosystems. In this session with Atlanta Coyote Project, students will learn about the biology and natural history of coyotes, look for scat as a way to understand coyote diets and analyze images of wildlife collected from trail cameras.

March 18 (rain date March 19) – **Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve (Decatur)**

Amphibians of Metro Atlanta

During a field survey at Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve with the Amphibian Foundation, students will learn how to identify common frogs and salamanders of Atlanta, as well as best practices for locating and safely handling amphibians. After the session, students can continue to participate in the Metro Atlanta Amphibian Monitoring Program (www.maamp.us), collecting data on our urban amphibian communities.

April 22 (rain date April 23) – **Camp Creek Water Treatment Plant (SW Atlanta)**

Urban Water Systems

During our tour of the Camp Creek Water Treatment Plant with Fulton County Public Works, we'll see first-hand how drinking water gets to our sinks and what happens to it when it leaves our homes while learning about the importance of protecting our water resources and the many careers involved in keeping water treatment systems running 24/7.

May 20 (rain date May 21) – **AWARE Wildlife Center (Stonecrest)**

Urban Wildlife and Rehabilitation and Final Picnic

AWARE Wildlife Center rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife from across Atlanta. Students will get to meet several of AWARE's rescued ambassadors up close, including owls, hawks, opossums, and more, while learning what goes on inside a rehabilitation center. They will also learn what to do when encountering a wild animal that needs help. After our tour with AWARE, we'll have a picnic on adjacent Arabia Mountain to celebrate our year together.

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible:

Dekalb County Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs; Trees Atlanta; Zoo Atlanta; Atlanta Coyote Project; The Amphibian Foundation; Fulton County Public Works; and AWARE Wildlife Center.