



BRIDGING

TEACHING

INSPIRING

Chattahoochee
NATURE CENTER'S

\$8.3
MILLION

CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN



Along a bend in the **Chattahoochee River**,
just a few miles north of I-285...

Historic Native American foot trails run
across the **wooded hillsides**

Swallowtail butterflies dance in sunny spots
Scents of phlox and honeysuckle
drift through the air



A sanctuary unlike any other in metro Atlanta, the Chattahoochee Nature Center's 127 acres of winding trails, tranquil ponds, and vibrant wildlife provide direct access to the Chattahoochee River and an unparalleled venue for educating children and adults about the natural world. At the Center we proudly steward one of the most beautiful and biologically diverse environments along the River, which is home to over a thousand species of native plants and animals.

Our mission is to connect people with nature. This mission is more critical now than ever before: the Chattahoochee River represents one of the smallest urban watersheds in America yet supplies 70% of metro Atlanta's drinking water. As metro Atlanta's population grows by more than 40% in the next 25 years, its water supply will remain finite. Our children's future depends on a thriving River, and they will soon be called on to be well-informed and empowered decisionmakers on its behalf. Before we transfer this responsibility, we must first nurture a profound connection with and understanding of the River's role in our community.

Forty years ago, the Center's founders understood the imperative of fostering a greater appreciation of the River and promoting long-term environmental stewardship. What began as a nature center on 6.7 acres in the heart of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area has evolved over time by acquiring more land, expanding educational programming, and serving a growing number of visitors. Today we continue to create life-long learning opportunities and remain steadfastly committed to our role in the community's educational, scientific, and cultural life.



An investment in the Chattahoochee Nature Center is an investment in our children, in our community, and in the health of our waterways for years to come.”

— **Laura Turner Seydel, International Environmental Advocate**

At the Chattahoochee Nature Center, we provide a wide range of educational and conservation programs such as wildlife rehabilitation, summer camps, and a community garden. We also provide adult and family experiences in our environmental learning center and wetland demonstration gardens that are home to over 50 species of injured, non-releasable wildlife. Highlights of our impact in 2017 include:

130K
visitors through
our gates



44K
students engaged
from more than 400
schools

4.6K
teen camp
leadership hours



970
canoe
trips



27K
volunteer
hours

8K
pounds of fresh
produce donated to
the community from
our Unity Garden



617
wildlife
cases



The Center is positioned for the next stage of growth and we are eager to improve and expand our role in our community as Atlanta’s Nature Destination. In that spirit, we invite you to join us as we embark on Bridging. Teaching. Inspiring. – an \$8.3 million campaign that will allow us to more meaningfully **bridge** our community to the River, **teach** an awareness of the natural world, and **inspire** the next generation of environmental stewards.

Each campaign component is grounded in our value of fostering a personal awareness that we are “a part of” and not “a part from” the natural world and designed to immerse our students and visitors in the environment. With these improvements, learning moments will happen more organically throughout campus and inspiration will live around every corner.

BOARDWALK RIVERHOUSE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

\$3.9M

The Center’s 3,000-foot **boardwalk** meanders beautifully along our riverfront and provides an intimate way to experience nature and wildlife. Imagine children ambling over the marsh and swamp, past mud holes and Great Blue Herons, among the cat tails and water lilies, and out to the River. No other venue on the Chattahoochee River provides this special vantage point to observe and learn about the natural world.

Nearly forty years of use and the treading of hundreds of thousands of exploring feet have resulted in well-worn boards and accessibility challenges. This campaign will provide for:

- A new ADA-compliant 9-foot wide boardwalk made of low-maintenance composite decking that includes bumper curbs, railings, and lighting
- A 300-foot boardwalk extension and **River House** that will provide space for enhanced educational programming and unique special events
- An improved launch point for the Center’s increasingly popular river canoe trips
- New interpretive signage that will allow for self-guided touring

In addition, an exciting new **pedestrian bridge** across Willeo Road will provide visitors a safe and uninterrupted route from our main campus to the boardwalk while also offering a view of Kingfisher Lake and the marsh. This pathway to the River will allow visitors, including students and people using wheelchairs, wagons, or strollers, to interact with the River in a more intuitive way. More importantly, it will allow the Center to embed the boardwalk experience into school and camp programming more seamlessly.

Together, these enhancements will offer exciting opportunities to expand educational offerings, develop new curriculum, host special events, and provide safer access to the River while minimizing the environmental impact on our wetlands.



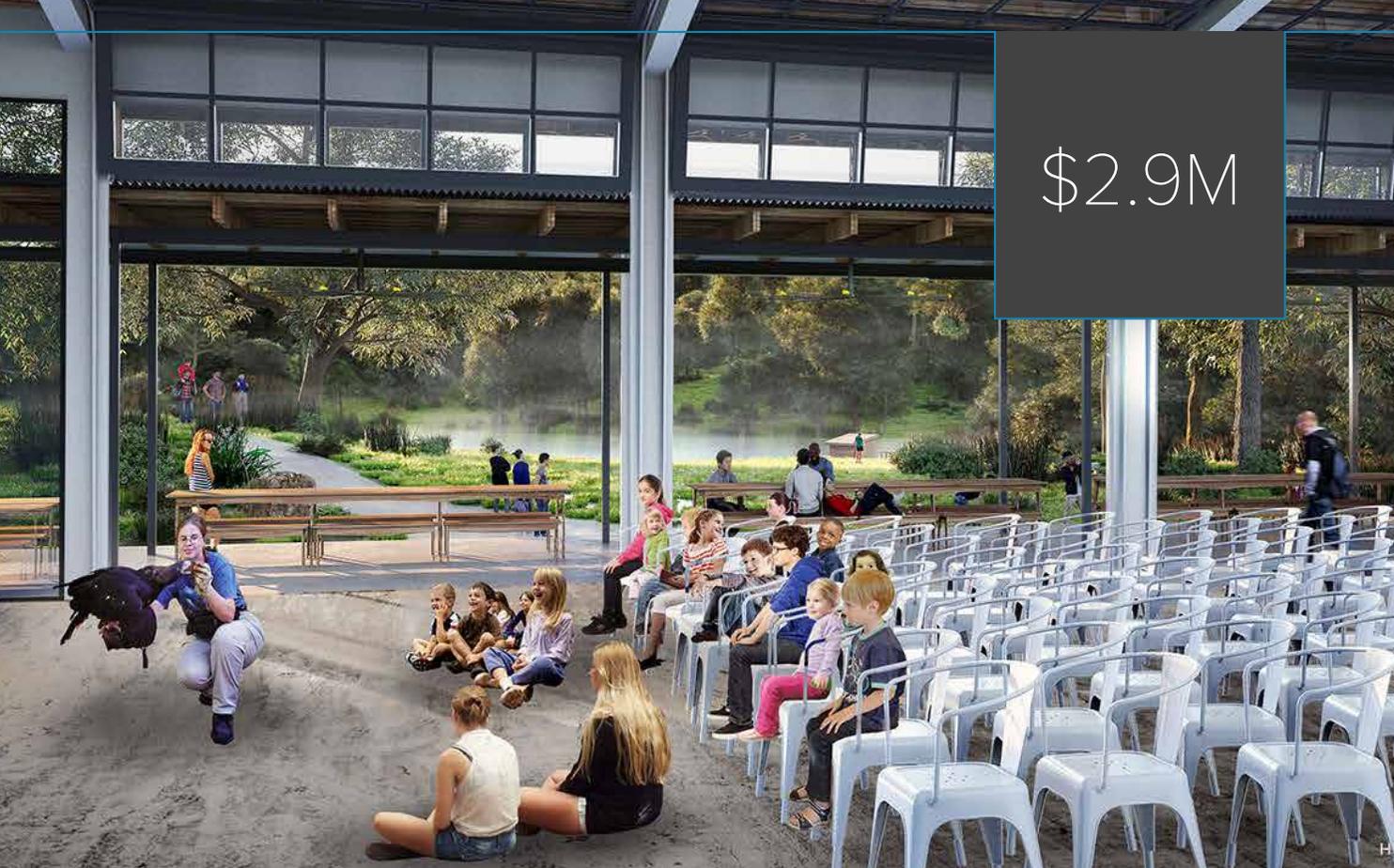
BOARDWALK AND RIVER HOUSE

The Center's campus improvements are designed to...

- **Connect people with nature** by creating outdoor spaces that are comfortable and functional even in inclement weather.
- **Reflect simplicity and economy** by using simple forms and minimal materials to recall the farm buildings once on the site.
- **Minimize impact by constructing architecture that is environmentally sustainable** and lightly touches the natural environment to allow nature to be visible.



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



\$2.9M

KINGFISHER HALL

One of our oldest buildings, **Kingfisher Hall** is a 4,000-square foot facility that was originally designed as an aircraft hangar and now serves as a multipurpose space used primarily for Camp Kingfisher, school programming, and periodic special events.

With intentional design around bringing the outdoors inside along with the inspiration of aesthetic appeal and modern amenities, this space will be transformed into the epicenter of our campus. A renovated Kingfisher Hall will allow us to facilitate a wider range of educational programming for thousands of local children rain or shine, from large group experiences to intimate animal encounters. We are also excited to host traveling exhibits in this facility, which will offer our guests learning opportunities throughout the course of the year and encourage repeat visitation.

Moreover, this reimagined venue will provide a year-round rental opportunity unlike any other in North Fulton County. **The Center generates an impressive 2/3 of our annual revenue from earned income**, and with such a strong demand for quality event spaces in natural settings we anticipate a significant return on investment from the renovations.

Capital improvements include:

- An attractive redesigned exterior with improved accessibility
- Large natural-light-producing windows
- A sloped wood ceiling to conceal the new building systems
- Stained and sealed concrete flooring
- A catering kitchen
- Updated restrooms and expanded storage areas



Coming to the Chattahoochee Nature Center was the best day of my life!”

— Erik, Grade 3, Atlanta Public Schools



The quality of the program was awesome! Our naturalist was amazing with the students. The discussion about the habitats were appropriate for 3rd grade standards.”

— Brianna Searcy,
Hutchinson Elementary

The heart of the Center’s work is to create transformative learning experiences for children and families. We serve more than **40,000 students** each school year from more than **400 metro Atlanta schools**, one third of whom come from **Title I schools** and do not have many opportunities to interact with the River. Our interdisciplinary curriculum nurtures students’ curiosities and gives students the opportunity to make personal connections to the environment, with the hope that the ‘aha’ moment they have with us will translate into a lifelong pursuit of environmental stewardship in their personal and professional lives.

We also proudly host Boy Scout and Girl Scout badge programs, overnight campouts, homeschool days, planetarium shows, night hikes, and a variety of family activity days throughout the year.

\$1.1M



CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS

As most of our facilities are tucked away from the public eye in the heart of our campus, it is important that both our programming and infrastructure promote connectivity to the surrounding community. We recognize that the visitor experience begins from the moment of approach, and it is critical that every corner of our 127-acre property invites people closer to the natural world and inspires conservation.

To that end, campaign funding will provide for new **landscaping, signage, fencing, and storm water management infrastructure** along Willeo Road to increase visibility and attractiveness. We will also install a new **educational kiosk** in front of our entrance to publicize our programming and inspire visitors to come explore.

In addition, we will renovate our **entrance drive and parking lot** to improve traffic flow and increase visitor capacity while modeling environmental best practices by featuring more pervious surface area, rain gardens, and energy efficient outdoor lighting. These enhancements will dramatically change the arrival experience and allow for more intuitive wayfinding.

To strengthen the connective tissue of our campus and extend the visitor experience beyond daylight hours, we will build **new paths** that provide natural and accessible routes to sites like our Unity Garden. These pathways will be lit in the evenings for safety purposes without impeding the experience of the natural landscape.



“I’m convinced that if people are connected to a resource, they’re going to think more about being a steward of that resource. The Chattahoochee Nature Center excels in their role of providing that meaningful connection.”

— **Bill Cox, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Superintendent**

Camp Kingfisher served almost 1,200 children in 2017 and is the Center's top revenue generator, providing approximately 25% of our operating revenue each year. Swimming in our junior-Olympic size pool is a highlight for campers during the hot summer months. However, the amenities have not been updated in 40 years and are too small for the volume of campers we serve.

The new Bathhouse will provide 24 private dressing stalls, 10 toilets, 4 sinks, and a new bank of showers. With the new Bathhouse constructed, the lower level of the building will be used for storage, freeing up staff and program space in the Poolhouse. The Poolhouse will receive new finishes and lighting.

I LOVE Camp Kingfisher! I have been coming every summer for five years. Today I went canoeing, hiked on nature trails, met a turtle, and swam with my friends. I can't wait to come back tomorrow!"



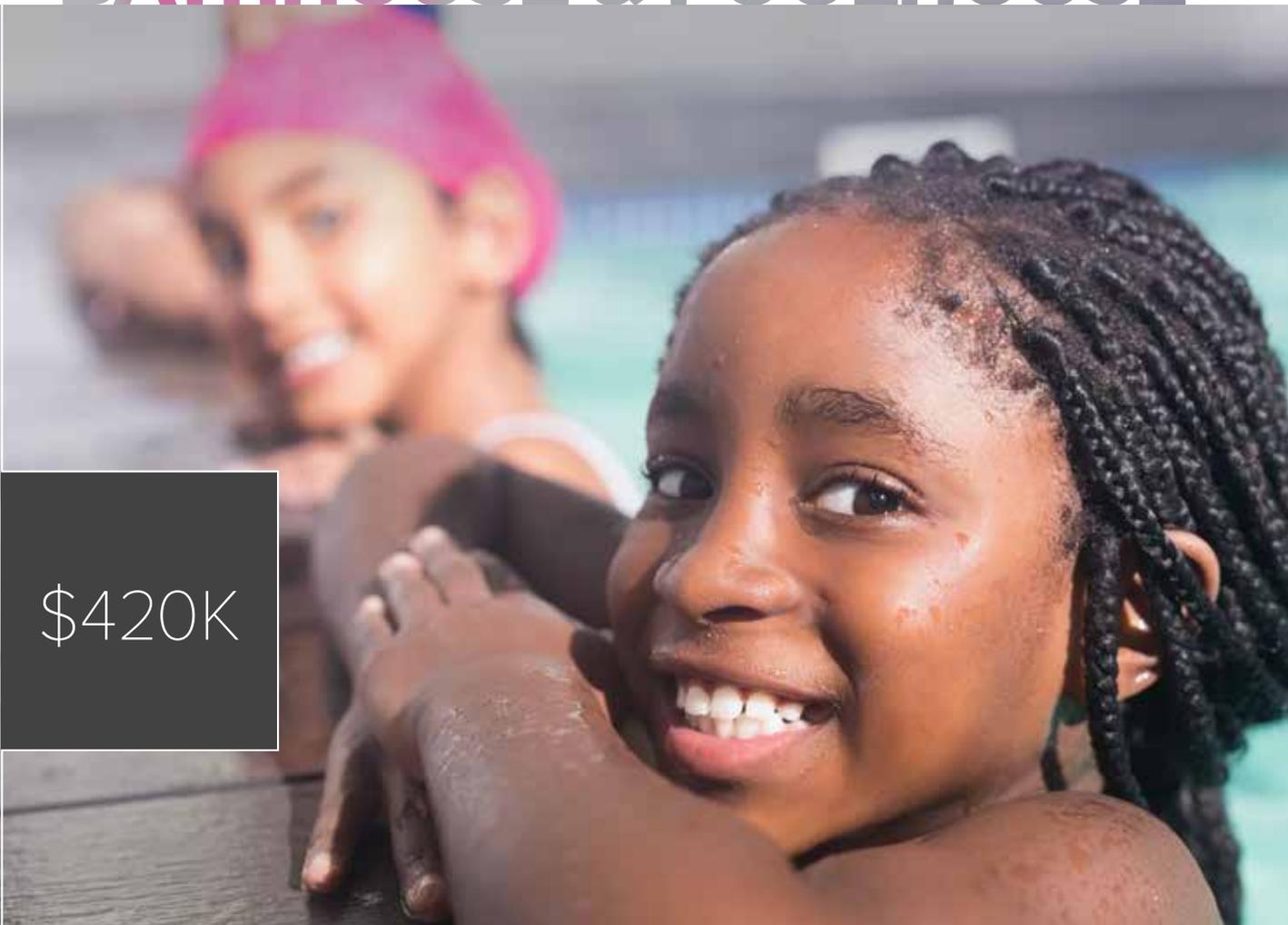
— Sarah, fifth grade camper



Camp Kingfisher is the cornerstone of our children's life experiences. It has given our children a safe, loving, and personable environment to learn about wildlife, biology, botany, and stewardship."

— Jarrett Davis, parent of three enthusiastic campers

BATHHOUSE & POOLHOUSE



\$420K

BRIDGING TEACHING INSPIRING

Boardwalk, River House, and Pedestrian Bridge	\$3,900,000
Kingfisher Hall Renovations	\$2,900,000
Campus Enhancements	\$1,100,000
Bathhouse and Poolhouse Upgrades	\$420,000
Total Campaign Goal	\$8,300,000





The Chattahoochee Nature Center is an extraordinary resource for the greater Atlanta area and the entire state of Georgia.

It is a place where the lines between people, nature, and community are blurred so that we may learn to coexist in a more sustainable way. More than 130,000 guests visit the Center every year to connect with the natural world, and yet there is boundless opportunity to both broaden and deepen our impact.

Through our campaign, we will draw our community closer to the River. We will offer new experiences to longtime patrons and brand-new visitors. And we will spark curiosity and concern about the environment in our own backyards – and thereby the health and well-being of our planet.

The Center has a powerful vision to enhance our facilities and expand our mission, and we look forward to partnering with supporters to bring this vision to life. Please join us on our endeavor to more meaningfully bridge our community to the Chattahoochee River, teach young minds about the natural world, and inspire hearts to conserve this life-giving and awe-inspiring resource for generations to come.

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