



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) is embarking on an exciting new chapter driven by a strong vision and community backing. With a dedicated Board leading the charge, CNC has successfully onboarded seven new board members and established an endowment through a challenge grant, setting the stage for long-term sustainability.

Partnership growth and expansion were a priority this year. Strategic partnerships, like the collaboration with Kaiser Permanente of Georgia, bolster Center priorities. Our new relationship with Kaiser Permanente is significant in sponsoring several of the Center's key initiatives, including the Unity Garden, volunteer program, senior programming, and the annual Corporate Eco Challenge event. This collaboration highlights their commitment to fostering healthy living and strengthening community connections through nature, volunteerism, and education. Carriage Kia sponsored the development and marketing of a year-long Center-based podcast, "Your Place on the River," and provided the Center with a Kia loaner vehicle. During its first 6 months, this vehicle was used to safely and stylishly deliver our Naturalists to 103 Educational Outreaches and 10 rehabilitated wildlife releases. Carriage Kia will open a new location in Alpharetta this fall, and we are excited to further engage both of our stakeholders.

CNC's ambitious Growing Tomorrow's Nature Enthusiasts (GTNE) Capital Campaign aims to expand facilities and programs, directly benefiting the community. Recent achievements include the successful completion of improvements for Camp Kingfisher and the Center entrance (including updated signage), with more enhancements on the horizon.

As CNC moves forward, its commitment to environmental stewardship and education remains unwavering, ready to inspire and foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world in the community and beyond.

**Natasha Rice**



President & CEO

# EDUCATION

In 2024, CNC Education Programs reached 52,000 individuals, including 28,000 through offsite Outreach programs. Key partnerships expanded CNC's reach across diverse communities, including Fulton County schools, Atlanta Public Schools, among others, through nature-based, inclusive programming.



**18,000** students served from Title I Schools



**\$350K** in partnership programs and grants awarded to CNC Education department



**Notable partnerships** include Fulton County Arts and Culture, Fulton County Beyond Kaleidoscope, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs Cultural Experience Project, Wilderness Inquiry, Georgia Forestry Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Northside Hospital, and Georgia Master Naturalist



**CNC was awarded** Community Services Program funds through the Fulton County Community Development Department, reaching notable community Fulton organizations such as the Junior District Attorney Program, Los Niños Primero, InCommunity, and Children's Development Academy



**300 Community Programs** including canoe trips, workshops, scouting programs, and birthday parties



**1800 paddlers** through CNC Canoe Programs



"[Our Naturalists] had great rapport with the group, immediately making them feel comfortable and that they could answer and ask questions. The whole experience was really positive and interactive and I could see the students really enjoyed it. We loved the boardwalk and learning about the flora and fauna that are bioindicators. We were so lucky to see hawks and a heron! We got a lot out of learning about the Chattahoochee from a whole system perspective."

- DeKalb school teacher



# VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

In 2024, thousands of visitors connected with nature on CNC's campus, with 87% visiting from the greater metro-Atlanta area. Visitors enjoyed notable campus improvements, including new interpretive signage and a revamped Butterfly Encounter welcome area, made possible through the efforts of scouting projects, student contributions, and our skilled staff.

- **54,000** visitors
- **18,000** visitors attended the **Butterfly Encounter**, CNC's summer exhibit, over its 10 weeks of operation
- **4,000** visitors utilized CNC's **Georgia Library Pass Program**, granting free admission to passholders
- **7,300** participants in community **events**, including festivals, races and Family Fun Days
- **3,400** CNC **Member** Households



"CNC does so much to make local people aware of all the natural resources this area has to offer and it's a wonderful place to expose children to the wonders in the natural world around them and learn to care for them. Once anyone- a kid or adult- has experienced something in person, it will always mean something different to them in the future. I hope our children will grow up to be adults who want to take care of the earth we live on, and enjoy the wonders that are around us every day."

- CNC Visitor



# CAMP KINGFISHER

"Hi Camp K Team,

I'd like to chime in on appreciation day!

Ever since a career move back to Atlanta (2017) and as fresh parents (2015) we settled into some familiar places & paths from our past (Pope '99 / Parkview '99). At the same time we also had plenty of new beginnings and a chance to discover some nooks & crannies in our community as a young family. There's no doubt about it that CNC has played a major role for us as a keystone institution to our local experience.

Over the past 3-4 years of our family's wall-to-wall participation with Camp Kingfisher you routinely produce the most upbeat, positive, and optimistic counselors each year. Our daughter usually hops in the car saying that whatever her counselor of the week may be is her favorite or she likes them very much. In carpool I like to sit and imagine the bright and fulfilling lives your staff will lead with such quality humans in our world. Your group has helped our daughter experience her world environmentally, emotionally, socially, and CNC at large has been a safe and positive place for her life.

The boardwalks are where she climbed out of a stroller to learn how to walk, the animal petting zoo is where she first touched a farm animal, the races have been her first medals, and Camp K is a place where she's made many friends and just a little innocent mischief along the way.

We love you, we appreciate you soooo much, we thank you, and we consider you all as valued extensions of our family."

- The Storck Family

"Our family had just relocated to this area a few days before our kids came to Camp Kingfisher. They felt so cared for and excited. As a mom, I was impressed by the carpool line and amount of attention from the counselors at the end of each day. We can't wait to come back!"

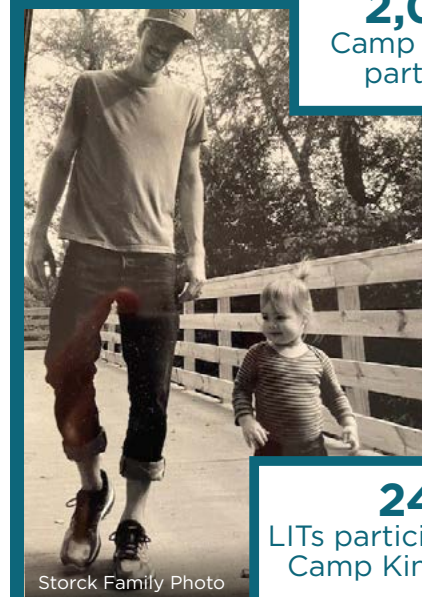
"Haley had a great experience. She was looking forward to this camp for a while and it did not disappoint! As a parent, just judging from the friendliness and organization in the carpool line, I could tell that this was a well-run, educational, and fun camp. Great job and thank you for giving my daughter such a fun week!"

"I was incredibly impressed! This was our best camp experience altogether! I was so grateful for all of the staff and counselors. I can tell they all worked so hard and truly enjoyed their time with the kids. What a great bunch of people!"

"After losing his sister last year (on hospice) during his time at CNC camp, we weren't sure if our son would want to return this year. He gave a resounding YES! After this week, he requested to go for two weeks next year! Thank you so much for giving our son such an amazing summer kid experience year after year, even in the midst of a grief no child should have to experience. We love you guys!!!"

- Camp K Parent

**2,000+**  
Camp Kingfisher  
participants



Storck Family Photo



**34**  
campers received  
scholarships



**24**  
LITs participated at  
Camp Kingfisher



# OPERATIONS

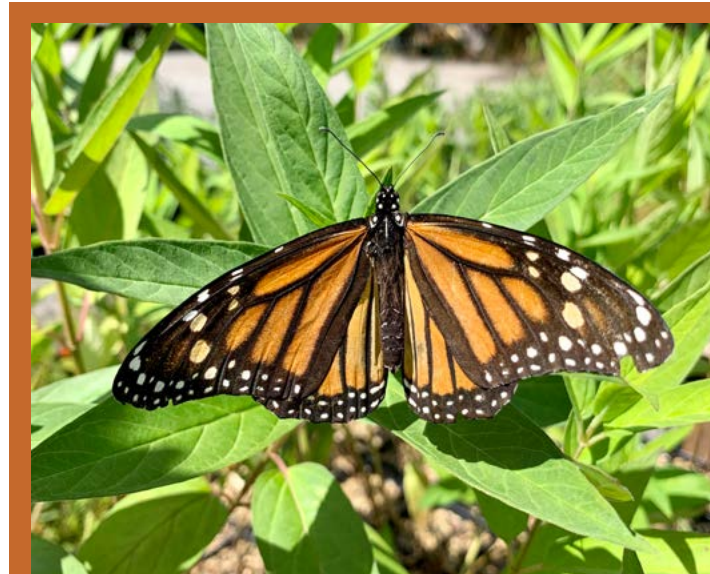
In 2024, CNC's wildlife rehabilitation team made a serious impact protecting Georgia's native species, caring for 788 injured, orphaned, and displaced animals from across the region, including Marietta (101), Atlanta (93), Roswell (71), and Canton (28). These animals represented 63 species and 63% of raptors and 93% of reptiles that survived the critical first 24 hours were successfully released back into the wild. The highlight of 2024 was relocating nearly 150 invasive red-eared sliders to their native range in the Mississippi River basin, protecting Georgia's waterways and native wildlife.

Our horticultural conservation team made notable strides in advancing native plant conservation and education. They are excited to announce that CNC will receive Recovery Challenge financial support for both 2024 and 2025, enabling us to expand our efforts in preserving native plant species. In addition, the team offered 11 educational programs, covering a range of topics from plant propagation techniques to carnivorous plants, fostering a deeper connection to native species and their importance in local ecosystems.

And our horticulture team made great progress in improving the Center's grounds, adding 1,001 new plants to our beds, collections, and the revitalized powerline right-of-way. The annual "Go Wild with Your Gardening!" Horticulture Symposium sold out in just 18 days, drawing 97 new visitors to CNC and reflecting growing enthusiasm for native plants. Additionally, 10,000 native plants and wildflowers now thrive in metro Atlanta gardens, thanks to our popular Spring and Fall Native Plant Sales, deepening the connection between our community and the natural world.

The diverse species thriving on CNC's campus highlight the health of the grounds and the watershed we protect. Notable sightings in 2024 include:

- 1,892 pollinators counted by dedicated volunteers during the Great Southeast Pollinator Census.
- Great Blue Herons return to the rookery by Kingfisher Pond for the 3rd year in a row.



# FINANCIALS

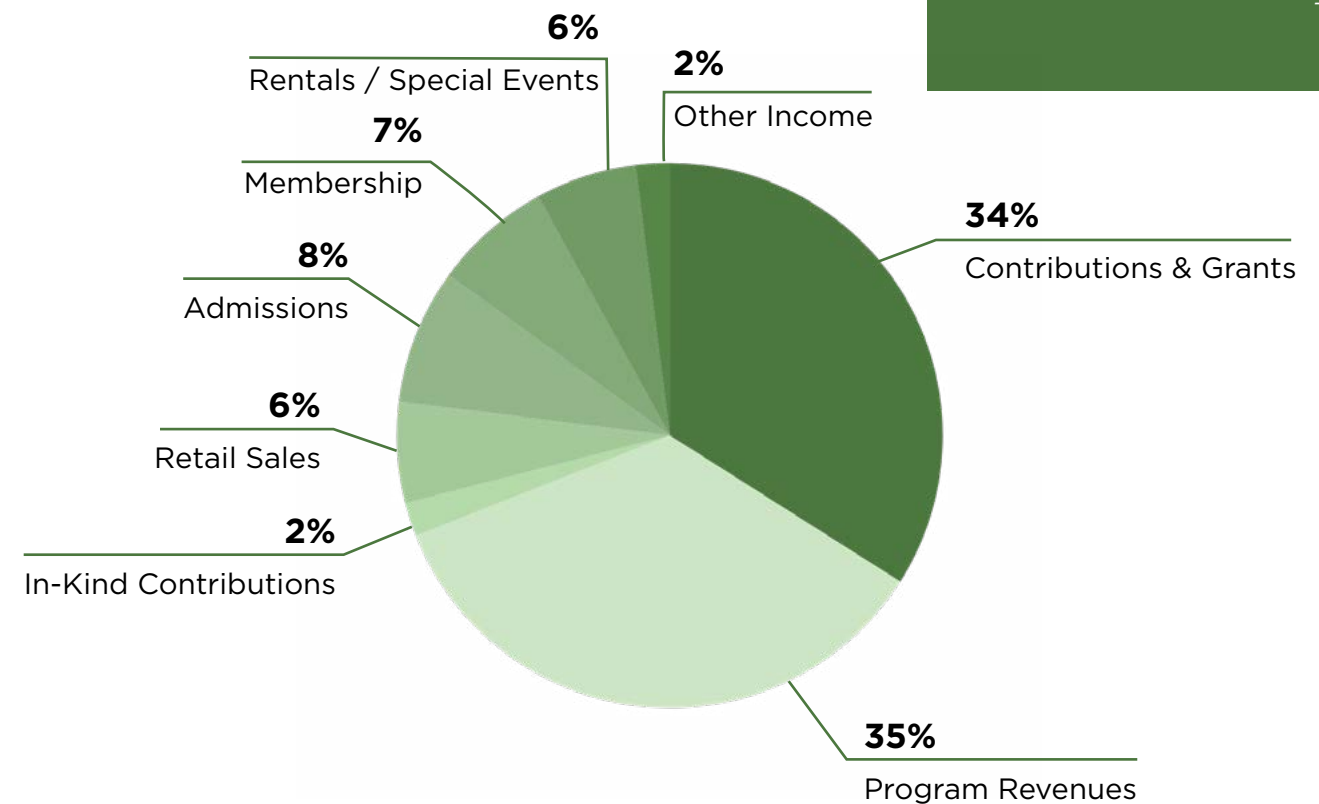
## REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions and Grants	\$1,672,264
Program Revenues	\$1,736,178
Museum / Admissions	\$388,702
Special Events / Rentals	\$285,211
Membership	\$334,733
In-Kind Contributions	\$120,530
Retail Sales	\$316,713
Other Income	\$96,981
<b>Total Revenues, Gains and other Support</b>	<b>\$4,951,312</b>

## EXPENSES

Program	\$3,667,920
General and Administrative	\$791,525
Fundraising	\$473,176
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,932,621</b>

Change in Net Assets \$18,691



"As active members of Chattahoochee Nature Center for over the past 40 years, Eileen and I are so happy to support the "Growing Tomorrow's Nature Enthusiasts" campaign by helping them construct their new Operations Center Facility project. This new center, once completed, will provide CNC staff with much-needed additional office and storage space as well as a break room and restrooms for all volunteers to enjoy for many years to come."

- Tony & Eileen Parker

# DEVELOPMENT

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, we rely on the support of members, donors, corporate sponsors and partners, and volunteers to sustain our mission to connect people with nature.



**A Night Out With Nature**  
**raised \$225,000**  
 to support our mission to  
 connect people with nature.

# VOLUNTEERS

CNC has a long-standing tradition of environmental education, conservation, and community outreach, and we believe that community involvement enhances our ability to make a positive impact. Whether our volunteers are assisting with educational programs, participating in trail maintenance, helping in the Unity Garden, our Wildlife Department or contributing to special events, their time and efforts contribute significantly to our ongoing success.

**38** corporate groups hosted. Our Corporate volunteers assisted with **72 projects** across CNC grounds. This number represents **803 volunteer shifts** and a total of **2,550 volunteer hours**

**35** community groups hosted. This number represents **763 volunteer shifts** with a total of **3,159 volunteer hours**



# SPONSORS & BOARD

Our Presenting Sponsors exemplify the highest level of support for Chattahoochee Nature Center. These companies play a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission to connect people with nature.



**NORTHSIDE  
HOSPITAL**



## 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our Board of Trustees consists of dedicated individuals who bring a wealth of experience to the table. Together, they are committed to guiding Chattahoochee Nature Center into a bright future.

Joel Blanchard

Ben Haislip

John Mulcahy

Brandy Brock

Glen Hasling

Thomas Prevatt, CPA

Sandi Buttram, CPA

Richard Hirsekorn

Charlotte Martin Pugh

Kelly Comstock

Harriette Hoyt

Michael Rieman

Nick DiLuzio, Chair

Lisa Hyde

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Jeffery Dingle

Clarence Jackson

James Stokes

Todd Dolson

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Helen Tapp

Dutch Earle

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Bob Williams

Michelle Griffin

Jon McKee

C. Max Zygmunt

Robert Hagan

Aaron Mitchell





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