

GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Learn

Serve

Grow



Spotlight: Environmental Stewardship

The Redbud Project is a concerned citizens' movement that serves as a "green umbrella" for environmental conservation of the Hall County region with "boots on the ground" to promote awareness of our rich native plants ecosystems and to model sustainable, ecological development. Through the Redbud Project, Linwood Nature Preserve is a 32-acre urban forest centrally located in Hall County. It is a two-mile nature trail system ecologically designed for low maintenance and ease of walking. Educational exhibits feature overview of the ecosystems, directional maps, and environmental concepts. Rain gardens demonstrate ecological means for storm water runoff control in residential, municipal, or commercial landscapes. Included on the area bus system and adjacent to a main thoroughfare, Linwood Nature Preserve serves the residents of Hall County community, population 180,000, with ready access to nature for health and wellness.

The project began in 2007 when citizens and community organizations recognized that Hall County harbored extensive communities of native plants on the Gainesville Ridges and that tree canopy was being clearcut at that rate of 2,600 acres a year and had been since 1985. With MGEVs in Hall County leading the charge, many community conservation partners have come together to develop the nature preserve. MGEVs have also contributed to the project as an educational partner, offering exhibits, presentations, and special programs about native plants and ecology to community leaders, civic organizations, environmental groups, academic institutions, churches, and other community groups.

Linwood Nature Preserve of the Redbud Project demonstrates that collaboration of citizens from all sectors of the community can help to preserve quality of life by modeling environmental conservation that can be replicated by other counties, cities, states...and nations! With volunteer labor, in-kind services, private donations, grants, and public service, Linwood Nature Preserve has been developed at minimal cost with dedication

Linwood Nature Preserve Gainesville, GA Hall County



2015 Project Contributions:

Volunteer Hours: 3,469

and perseverance. Participants in the Redbud Project enjoy the success of developing Linwood Nature Preserve for the public to enjoy time in nature for their mental and physical health as well as experiencing the joy of living in a community that cares for the quality of life of its residents.



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.