



McFarlane Nature Park News

Cobb County Master Gardener Tour

May 9 9a-4p

Hundreds of visitors are expected to view the gardens at McFarlane and the Master Gardener crew at the Park have been working hard to get everything ready!

Dog walkers should plan to be elsewhere on tour day and local neighbors may want to walk in instead of driving.

The Park is normally free to visitors every day but we hope there will be support shown by purchasing the \$15 tour ticket, available on site or purchased ahead at

[Garden Tour - Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County](#)

Tickets will include three residential gardens that are near the Cobb/Fulton county line, open the same day.



Hunger Walk sponsored by Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Members gathered at the Park in March for their annual charity event, following the Walking Trail and marked by 18 trail markers. They hope to schedule the event again next year and invite the community to join in.



Purple Martins have returned

There is quite a show going on in the back pasture. Purple Martins have returned to occupy the gourds raised by Eagle Scout Robert Fleishel who was with Troop 713 back in 2012. Our tree partners, Top Tier, have helped us maintain the colony by replacing fallen gourds.

The best viewing is near the Meadow or sitting under the big Shumard Oak in the center of the pasture. Once established, the migratory birds are likely to return to the same spot every year. Their acrobatics are impressive as they swoop and dive to eat insects - many of which are provided by the McFarlane meadow!

We Also Have Eagles!



Our 41st Eagle Scout project has been completed and two additional projects are in the works. Scout Garrett Michels, Troop 955, rehabbed our picnic tables and several benches, including those around the fire pit which had been in place since 2001!

We need help from dog walkers

McFarlane gets a lot of good press and excellent reviews from Park visitors, but there are also lots of comments like these which impact the reputation of the Park.

“It looked beautiful (from the field parking lot). Unfortunately, there was an off-leash rottweiler that made my Chisenji and me uneasy enough to leave.”

“Be cautious of off-leash dogs despite leash rules being mandatory”

“Beautiful park but the surrounding locals view it as their own. You will not be welcome. On top of that, it’s where they all walk their dogs and they use it to have them poop in instead of their yards. They do not clean up.”

“...unfortunately the off leash dogs have become a huge problem. There are signs throughout the area reminding visitors of the leash laws but most do not care. I no longer feel confident bringing my dog here and it’s frustrating that we don’t get to utilize what is otherwise a really nice space.”

With help from our dog walkers, we can reverse these bad impressions.

