



McFarlane Nature Park News

Sharing with those who work and care for the Park
January 2025

End of Year Challenge Grant Met With 70% Match!

We continue to strive for our \$100,000 goal, which is an investment in the survival of McFarlane into the future. The **Future Fund is currently at \$63,700.**

Donations can be made through:

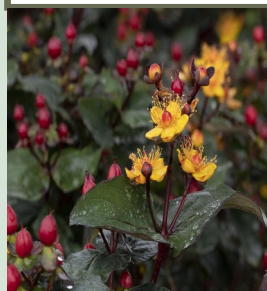
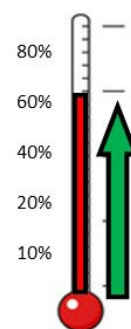
<https://www.facebook.com/McFarlanePark/>

<https://www.cobblandtrust.org>

Donation Tower at the Park (Checks should note Future Fund)

A check to CLT, PO Box 672652, Marietta 30006 will insure that the entire donation is dedicated to the Park instead of fees.

FUTURE
FUND
\$100,000
GOAL



GEORGIA ARBOR DAY—FEBRUARY 21 PLANT A TREE

As recently noted by Trees Atlanta, “the single best thing that you can do to save the bees is to plant a nectar-providing tree that blooms in summer.” If your first thought is that you don’t have room for a new tree, then find room for a late blooming shrub like *Hypericum* St John’s Wort, blooming in summer followed by colorful fall berries. Deer and rabbit resistant. We will pursue our goal of being an accredited arboretum this year.

TRANQUILITY

As frequently stated, Florence McFarlane willed her property to the community to be used as a park. She wished for us “to preserve the sanctity and tranquility of its natural state”. To be fair, her husband William seldom gets credit because he died first, but both had their ashes scattered on the property, so they remain with us.

Questions are sometimes raised about the possibility of playground equipment or sports activities. These are not thought to be in keeping with Florence’s wishes and so we do not pursue them.

Planned events are vetted to insure that they too are in line with our mission. In 2024, over 100 specific events were listed on our calendar. They included birthday parties, church events, fraternal organizations, scouting activities, garden club meetings, women’s club events, a painting day, and even a wedding. These were in addition to the daily casual use by neighbors and visitors.

Events can be scheduled by calling Laura Hoffman 770-403-4837 or Karin Guzy 678-860-4445

"The Little Things Who Run the World"

E. O. Wilson

Insects provide the ecosystem services that we rely on. Without them plant debris would not be broken down, plants would not be pollinated, waste would not be processed, life would cease to exist. All over the world studies are showing a precipitous decline in the insect population.

Sometimes we think that these creatures exist in the wild spaces so we don't need to be mindful in our own yards, but wild spaces account for only 5% of the land mass of the country ⁽¹⁾.

What can we each do to prevent the "Insect Apocalypse" headlined in the New York Times? ⁽¹⁾ <https://www.ncesc.com>

Stop pesticide use

- Only 1-2% of bugs are actually pests.
- Thousands of birds are poisoned by eating bugs killed by pesticides.
- Confirm the identity of the bug you are concerned about.
It may be a firefly beetle, or a ladybug nymph.



- Set a higher threshold for how much damage you can tolerate on your plants. Is it really that critical to be perfect?
- Reduce the turf and plant more areas with native plants.
- Be less tidy so that insects can live in leaves and debris.

I turned to the teeming small creatures that can be held between the thumb and forefinger: the little things that compose the foundation of our ecosystems, the little things, as I like to say, who run the world.

E. O. Wilson

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Most backyard pesticide treatments do not differentiate between harm to specific pests and harm to beneficial insects like ladybugs, bees, or other pollinators. One crucial example is the impact of pesticides in home gardens on caterpillars, which are a nutrient-rich food source for many bird species, leading to a decline in food for birds. A Chickadee needs 400 caterpillars daily to raise a brood.

Pesticides can also disrupt the beneficial insects that help keep other garden pests in check. Spraying for mosquitoes, for instance, can harm insects like ladybugs, which naturally control aphids and scale insects. Loss of predatory insects can disrupt the delicate balance of the ecosystem and lead to outbreaks of garden pests.

The "organic" ingredients in mosquito sprays are derived from chrysanthemums but are still lethal to other insects. Cyanide is also organic but that does not mean it is harmless.

Alternately, fill a bucket with water and some straw or grass. Add a Mosquito Dunk. Mosquitos will lay eggs in the bucket and the natural bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) will kill the larvae. Remove sources of standing water elsewhere.

Support Received From the Business Community

Over the years, McFarlane has been the recipient of support from local businesses through in kind donations or significantly advantageous pricing when we needed their services. We want to bring those vendors to your attention so that you know who they are, can thank them if you do business with them, and so that you know that we are frugal in spending the donations that are received for the Park.



Farmhouse kitchen remodeling



FREE restroom hand dryers



Sewer and water lines



Partners for tree care and
sponsors of tree brochure



HEAT-AIR-PLUMBING-ELECTRICAL
HVAC service and equipment



FREE water lines and underground spigots

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