



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

RUSTY GARRISON
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2019

DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs
Robby Astrove
Nature Center 3787 Klondike Road
Lithonia, GA 30038

Dear Robby Astrove:

This letter is to confirm that your proposal The Mountain View Trail Wildlife Viewing Platform at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve was selected for \$3,000 in funding through the Georgia Wildlife Viewing Grants Program.

Funding for this project is made available under a Letter of Agreement, and payment upon completion of the project and provision of required documentation. A package including the Letter of Agreement and a state of Georgia vendor application (if you are not already registered as a vendor) will be mailed to you.

However, we need the following information to prepare the Letter of Agreement. As soon as possible, please contact Margie Dent at (706) 557-3303 or margie.dent@dnr.ga.gov with:

- The name and title of the person with signatory authority for agreements for your organization.
- Federal Employer Identification Number.

Thank you again for your cooperation and interest. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Lavender at (706) 557-3327 or rick.lavender@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Jon Ambrose, Ph.D.
Chief, Wildlife Conservation Section
Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

RUSTY GARRISON
DIRECTOR

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

This letter serves to detail the agreement between the Wildlife Conservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (2067 U.S. Hwy. 278 S.E., Social Circle, GA 30025) and DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (Nature Center, 3787 Klondike Road, Lithonia, GA 30038) for the project Mountain View Trail Wildlife Viewing Platform at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve, as part of the agency's Wildlife Viewing Grants Program. Please review, sign and return this letter, along with any other required materials included, to Margie Dent (*address below*).

Project objectives, procedures and budget information are as outlined in the DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs' grant proposal. A copy is attached and incorporated as part of this agreement. The project also must:

- Have text and images involving flora, fauna and the Wildlife Action Plan on signage produced as part of the grant approved through the Wildlife Conservation Section. (Please plan for and provide sufficient time for reviewing drafts and making changes.)
- Credit the grant provider – the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division – and reference Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan in signage, materials, announcements or other education or outreach describing the project. (Contact Rick Lavender, 706.557.3327/rick.lavender@dnr.ga.gov, for sign text/imagery review, logos and usage, and naming conventions for DNR and the Wildlife Action Plan.)
- Be made available for site visits from DNR staff.

It is understood between the two parties that:

- Payment shall be made on submission of an invoice, other documentation of work and a brief project update to: Margie Dent, Georgia DNR, Wildlife Resources Division, Wildlife Conservation Section, 2067 U.S. Hwy. 278 S.E., Social Circle, GA 30025.
- The amount of this agreement will not exceed \$3,000, which will be paid on completion of the grant-funded portion of the project and the provision of required documentation.
- Recipients must spend the award as specified in the project proposal by Dec. 1, 2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Letter of Agreement.



Jon Ambrose, Chief
Wildlife Conservation Section

4-10-19

Date

Chuck O. Ellis
Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (58-6000814)

Date

Georgia Wildlife Viewing Grant Proposal

The Mountain View Trail Wildlife Viewing Platform
Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve

Submitted by:

Robby Astrove | Park Ranger
DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs
Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve
Nature Center 3787 Klondike Road | Lithonia, GA 30038
770-484-3060 office | 404-583-0505 cell
rlastrove@dekalbcountyga.gov | www.arabiaalliance.org

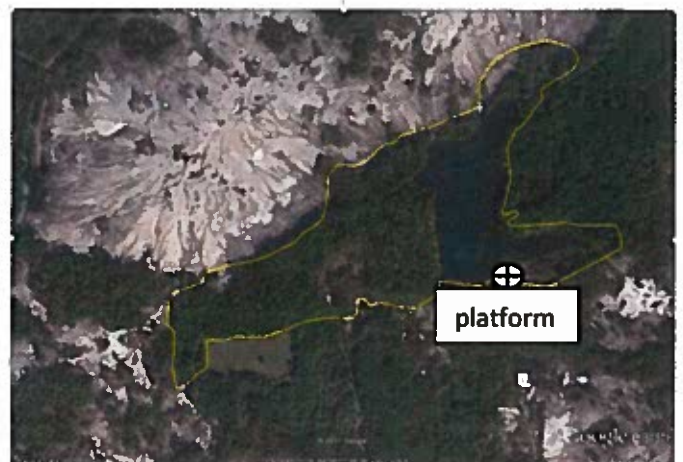
Overview

The Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve (Preserve) is a 2,500 acres nature Preserve in DeKalb County. The Preserve is located within a larger 40,000 acre area designated by Congress as the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area to recognize the unique environment/ecology, history, and culture in the surrounding community and landscape. Only 17 miles east of downtown Atlanta, the Preserve is high use and receives over 100,000 visitors a year and is owned and managed by DeKalb County, Recreation Parks and Cultural Affairs. The public has access to over 15 miles of hiking trails, 3 fishing lakes, and 30 miles of multi-use PATH (biking/hiking/ADA access) connecting visitors to nearby Panola Mountain State Park, Monastery of the Holy Spirit, and Downtown Lithonia. Preserve staff deliver over 70 interpretive hikes a year and organize 40 + educational and stewardship programming for youth and adults. An active volunteer and community base assists staff with trail maintenance, invasive control, native restoration, trash clean ups, and citizen science projects regularly throughout the year.

The Preserve contains an impressive diversity of flora and fauna found in a variety of forest types, wetlands, and granite outcrop communities. With many transitional environments in between, biodiversity is high, endemic/endangered species are present, and wildlife abound. As a way to highlight the ecological significance of the Preserve and give the public enhanced wildlife viewing opportunities and education, The Mountain View Wildlife Viewing Platform (platform) is proposed to be located on the Mountain View Trail (trail) overlooking Mountain View Lake and Arabia and Bradley peaks, see below. The platform will include an interpretive panel for education about the project and area wildlife.

MOUNTAIN VIEW TRAIL

Length 2.0 miles



Demonstrating significant matching resources, we have partnered with Keep DeKalb Beautiful to perform demolition services and haul out an old shed that was previously located on the platform site. The platform design and drawings have been secured in-kind, see below. We will use bamboo roof trellis to reduce cost and demonstrate sustainable resource use. Lastly through partnership with Arabia Alliance we will leverage communication, outreach, and innovative exposure and storytelling of the project via social media, press, and experiential education programs. They are also providing interpretive signage to support experiential education objectives.



Educational sign example, Arabia Alliance

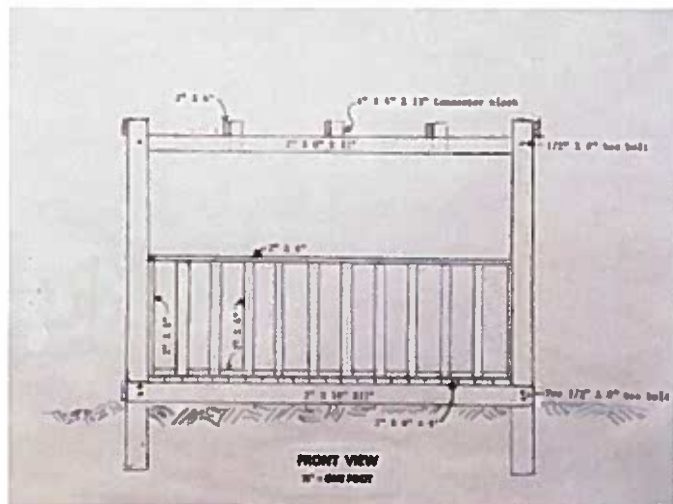
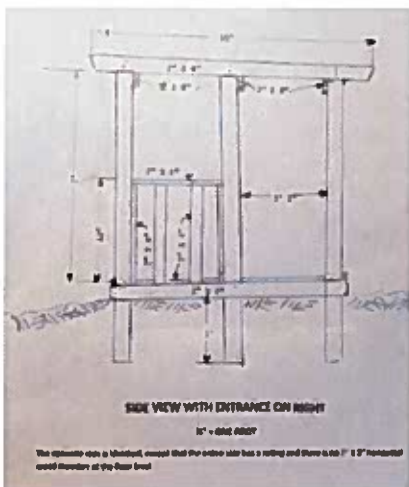


Old Shed demolished 2017, Keep Dekalb Beautiful

Objectives:

- Enhance wildlife viewing along the scenic hiking trail.
- Educate the public via interpretive signage and platform visits via Ranger led programs.
- Provide a comfortable seating and cover for hikers to rest and enjoy the view.
- Inform the public via viewing opportunities of high priority species and habitats in the State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Be built using methods to reduce the amount of impact to the landscape.
- Provide additional cover and habitat for wildlife at the platform site. Mitigate and restore demolished site with native plants.

Tom Smith, a volunteer with extensive engineering, trail building, and natural resource management experience (retired US Forest Service Engineer and District Ranger) has prepared drawings, see photo. He has included a materials list and will oversee the floor support system instillation and overall construction.



Timeline

Demolition of existing shed—Completed by Keep DeKalb Beautiful, December 2017

Design and pricing of material—Tom Smith, volunteer, January/February 2019

Site prep/purchasing of materials—Arabia Mtn staff, Arabia Alliance, and volunteers, February-March

Precut wood, deliver to site, begin construction—Arabia staff and volunteers, March-May

Complete platform construction and native plantings—Arabia staff and volunteers, May/June or Sept/Oct (cold season grasses)

Alignment with State Wildlife Action Plan

Arabia's landscape is well studied, well protected, and contains significant species and habitats prioritized in the state plan. Confirmation of the following species and habitats has occurred along the trail and Mountain Top trail spur which connect to the platform site:

- Habitats: Beaver pond, freshwater marsh, streams, cane breaks, granite outcrop, oak/hickory/pine forest, and small assemblages of mesic hardwood forests.
- Species: Black-spore quillwort, pool sprite, sedum pusillum

It is believed that additional species could be present along the trail and within the Preserve. For more information, please consult with biologists Jim Allison and Tom Patrick.

We can also demonstrate alignment with state conservation actions via our programmatic mission of stewardship, education, and citizen science. Arabia's location at the top of the watershed (high priority watershed) and our partnerships with area conservation organizations have created alignment with:

- Action #6, builds public support for wildlife conservation—Arabia staff, AWARE Wildlife Center
- Action #18, frog survey routes for NAMP—Arabia staff, Amphibian Foundation (Mark Mandica)
- Action #46, control invasive—Arabia staff, volunteers, DeKalb County
- Action #100, conservation data gathering and outreach—Arabia staff, USFWS (ES recovery)
- Action #105, improve environmental education—Arabia staff, Arabia Alliance, various partners

Platform Maintenance

The Preserve has staff, funding, and maintains regular volunteers who will be able to care and maintain the structure after completion. There is truck access up to the platform which allows for easy service to water plants and maintain restored vegetation areas as well as entry for any repairs or service. The structure will be seen by many hiking on the trail creating a high vigilance/visibility situation. We will perform regular patrols of the lake area and will incorporate platform inspections and assessments for the structure and benches.

Value Proposition and Potential

The Preserve has noted significance among the scientific and recreation communities. The platform will enable more wildlife viewing, engage and educate visitors, and improve esthetics and habitat in the Preserve. Our proximity to a large population area (Atlanta), various awards, and PR/communications/program partners like Arabia Alliance, EEinGeorgia, Atlanta Audubon, and Georgia Native Plant Society ensure positive program optics and expanded exposure for DNR outreach/support.

Budget	In-Kind	Request
Building Demolition, Keep DeKalb Beautiful Staff, equipment, hauling	1,500.00	
Building Materials, DNR Pressure treated SYP, steel connectors Nails, screws, bolts, tools, gloves		1,750.00
Interpretive Signage, Arabia Alliance Content development and concept design, sign fabrication Installation,	6,500.00	
Native plant restoration, DNR Consultation with Rock Springs Restoration, JW Bland Grasses, wildflowers, shrubs		1,250.00
Planting and Maintenance, 3 Arabia staff, 5 volunteers Mulching, watering, invasive removal @ 4 annual workdays	1,400.00	
Total Budget		\$12,400.00
TOTAL REQUESTED		\$3,000.00