



March 31, 2013

Dear North American Native Fishes Association Grant Committee:

Attached is our application for the 2013 NANFA Gerald C. Corcoran Education Grant. The mission of our organization is **to educate and activate our community in the beautification and conservation of our environment**. We have served our community since our formation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 1984, and as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, we share the vision of making our communities cleaner and more beautiful places to live, work, and play.

A large part of our community outreach involves public education, as well as environmental education in the elementary, middle, and high schools in our community. We believe our mission is in alignment with the mission of NANFA, and the goal of our proposed project will support the goals of NANFA.

If funded, we agree to the terms outlined in the application guidelines, and will happily provide a financial accounting for all funds expended, provide text and photographs for the NANFA website, and will acknowledge NANFA's financial support in any published materials produced with the funds and in any print or electronic media coverage of the project.

Thank you for your consideration of our project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Reed, NANFA Member
Executive Director, Keep North Fulton Beautiful, Inc.

2013 NANFA Gerald C. Corcoran Education Grant Request

Protecting the Native Fishes of Johns Creek, Georgia

Proposal by Keep North Fulton Beautiful, Inc., an affiliate of
Keep America Beautiful & Keep Georgia Beautiful

Kathy Reed, Executive Director
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March 31, 2013

2013 NANFA

Gerald C. Corcoran Education Grant: Proposal by Keep North Fulton Beautiful, *an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful & Keep Georgia Beautiful*

Summary Statement:

Our proposed project will document the fish, wildlife, vegetation, and water chemistry of Johns Creek, a tributary of the Chattahoochee River, and the creek after which the City of Johns Creek, Georgia was named. The goal of the project, in alignment with NANFA's stated mission, is to increase and disseminate knowledge about Johns Creek's native fishes and their habitat; to promote the conservation of the native fishes of Johns Creek; and to promote the protection and restoration of the natural habitat of the fishes of Johns Creek.

Educational objectives

Background: Our organization, Keep North Fulton Beautiful, operates in the City of Johns Creek as "Keep Johns Creek Beautiful." We have a contract with the City of Johns Creek to provide services related to the mission of Keep America Beautiful, and our scope of services includes providing environmental education in all private and public schools in the City Johns Creek. Our "Evergreen School Program," promotes environmental stewardship by providing resources, education and support for all public & private schools in the City of Johns Creek. The program partners with teachers, PTA members, and administrators to define environmental projects for the school year, and hosts school workshops on environmental topics such as conservation, outdoor classrooms, recycling, and gardening. The program is consistent with the Georgia Performance Standards and offers age-appropriate classroom activities for third grade through high school. An awards program at the end of the school year recognizes school achievements in several areas of environmental sustainability.

Objectives for proposed project:

1. Data collected will serve as an analysis of the general health of the Johns Creek waterway, and will be a baseline for future testing, monitoring and research.

2. Data collected will be used to create a PowerPoint presentation, a flyer, and two large banner displays, all documenting the native fishes of Johns Creek.
3. The PowerPoint presentation and flyer will be made available through our Evergreen School Program to teachers in all private and public elementary, middle, and high schools in the City of Johns Creek, GA for use as an educational tool in their classrooms.
4. One banner display will have a permanent home at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve, located in the City of Johns Creek, GA. The other banner display will travel to various on-site locations such as city-wide or school festivals, teacher workshops, civic meetings, and other opportunities for public education.
5. The information collected will be used to present information to the public through various means, such as Adopt-a-Stream workshops, Project WET workshops, press releases, electronic media, and other means.

Target Audience

Our main target audiences will be residents of the City of Johns Creek, and educators and students in the schools in Johns Creek. The educational material will also be made available to other Evergreen School Program partner cities, such as Alpharetta and Roswell Georgia, as well as Sandy Springs, GA.

Schools (Students & Educators): The city is home to four high schools, four middle schools, and four elementary schools. The Johns Creek public schools are consistently recognized nationally for their students' academic achievements and parent/community involvement.

General Public (residents of Johns Creek): Our organization holds frequent workshops and educational activities of interest to the residents of Johns Creek. We speak at civic organizations; and make presentations to homeowners associations, and other groups. We frequently participate in festivals, conventions, fairs, and expositions, with opportunities for displays, activities for children, and booths. In addition, we hold numerous events throughout the year, including recycling drives and Household Hazardous Waste collection events where we distribute educational material to residents.

About the City of Johns Creek: The City of Johns Creek is in the Metro Atlanta area, in the northern part of Fulton County, and is bordered by the Chattahoochee River. The City was incorporated in 2006, in an area that saw explosive development and growth in the 80's and 90's, and high employment due to many companies, including numerous Fortune 500 companies, locating in the area. The City of Johns Creek has an estimated

76,000 population, and is Georgia's tenth largest city. The city government places a high priority on protection of its natural and cultural resources, as reflected in its comprehensive plan.

Detailed description of proposed project

Location: The planned site of our proposed project is a two-mile stretch of Johns Creek, within the boundaries of the City of Johns Creek, Georgia, located in the northern suburbs of Atlanta. Johns Creek is a tributary of the Chattahoochee River; the upper Chattahoochee River Basin supplies more than 70 percent of metro Atlanta's water for drinking and other needs -- an annual average of about 450 million gallons per day.

Educational Format: Our proposed project will consist of three main components:

1. Documentation of the fishes present in Johns Creek, whether native or non-native; the vegetation alongside the creek; the chemistry of the water; other animals witnessed in or near the creek; and any evidence of other animals found such as prints, beaver dams, nests, etc. Environmental Clubs from the three high schools, as well as educators, will be invited to participate in the identifying and documenting process; this will serve as part of the educational component of our project. Michael Wolfe, NANFA Regional Representative has agreed to assist with this portion of the project, and in May, 2012, already completed a large part of the documentation and photographing of the species present in this waterway.
2. Creation of a PowerPoint presentation and printed brochure based on data collected, for use in educating residents of Johns Creek, educators who teach in the schools located in the City of Johns Creek, and students in the elementary, middle, and high schools located in the City of Johns Creek and Evergreen School partner cities. The PowerPoint presentation and brochure will be available for educators to use in their classrooms, and will be used to present to community groups. The purpose of the PowerPoint and brochure is to educate the residents of the City Johns Creek about the natural resources present in the waterways literally in their own back yards, in hopes of inspiring a desire to conserve and protect the waterways.
3. Creation and display of a permanent exhibit in the Visitors' Center at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve in Johns Creek, GA. The exhibit will be a mounted, laminated and displayed amongst the existing displays at the center. The mission of Autrey Mill Nature Preserve is to provide the public with an educational resource to gain

knowledge, enjoyment, appreciation, and a sense of stewardship of the natural and historical environment. The preserve is host year round to scout groups, school field trips, nature hikes, and children's programming. Currently, Autrey Mill has a permanent display of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, and invertebrates that are indigenous to the area. However, they do not have a display of fish that are specifically found in Johns Creek.

Project lifespan: All three components of our project will be permanent in nature, but a preliminary report of findings will be provided in late 2013, and a final report of number of people reached since the release of the findings will be presented to NANFA in May 2014.

Expected outcomes: Residents of the City of Johns Creek and surrounding cities will have access to increased knowledge and awareness of the fishes present in Johns Creek, and an increased knowledge of simple, practical ways they can help protect the waterways where these fish live. Educators in the schools in the City of Johns Creek will have a new tool with which to present environmental education, specific to the exact region where the students reside. The City of Johns Creek will have a permanent display of the fishes native to the creek after which the City of Johns Creek was named.

Methods of evaluating project success:

Success of this program will be evaluated through:

- The number of educators, students, and members of the public reached through attendance at live presentations by our staff
- The number of people reached through distribution of educational flyers at events, festivals, and other gatherings
- The number of classroom presentations made by educators, and students in attendance
- The number of visitors to the animal exhibit in the Visitors' Center at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve

Timeline

May 2012: (already completed): Seining the creek and photographing and documenting species present in Johns Creek waterway, organized by Kathy Reed, NANFA member. A group of community volunteers of all ages, including children, adults, teenagers, assisted with seining the creek. NANFA Georgia Regional

Representative Michael Wolfe and “famed minnow maven” Camm C. Swift, PhD were present to identify and photograph the fishes present.

April 11, 2013: (already planned) Johns Creek litter cleanup and site visit with teacher and environmental club from local high school

July 2013: Begin planning, securing date, location, individuals to help, environmental club field trip, rain date plans

October (during Rivers Alive) 2013: Additional collection of data using experts to identify fish & vegetation; test water chemistry; initial report to NANFA with raw data collected.

Nov – Dec 2013: Using data collected, create PowerPoint presentation with information about the native fish of Johns Creek, and the surrounding ecosystem; create banner of native fishes of Johns Creek, and create an educational flyer that can be distributed in schools and to the public. Prepare publicity. (Note: Michael Wolfe & Camm C. Swift, PhD have agreed to assist with preparing and reviewing materials for accuracy.)

January 2014: Materials will be available to all schools in the City of Johns Creek & Autrey Mill Nature Center. Press release & publicity released, invitations issued to local educators for introductory presentation of materials

February 2014: Present materials to educators and members of Evergreen Schools at Evergreen school meeting.

March-May 2014: Teachers present material in classrooms. Autrey Mill Nature Center displays “Native Fishes of Johns Creek” banner as a permanent exhibit in the Visitors’ Center, and begins using material in educational outreach programs.

March – May 2014: Materials used in public presentations, and in distribution to the public, to promote participation in 4th annual planned cleanup of Johns Creek during the “Great American Cleanup.”

May 2014: Final results of effort reported to NANFA

Itemized budget

- Materials and supplies for data collection: \$200
- Printing educational brochures: \$200
- Stipends for fish and vegetation experts to help with species identification: \$200
- Printing/mounting color banners: \$200

- Design of brochures, banners, PPT: \$200
- **Total Request: \$1000**

Cooperating individuals and organizations

<p>Mr. Michael Wolfe NANFA Regional Representative 1060 Fox Hollow Court Statham, Georgia 30666-3253 michael.wolfe@nanfa.org 706-296-7731</p>	<p>Has agreed to participate in fish identification and documentation project, in his role as NANFA regional representative. Mr. Wolfe serves as our primary source of information regarding the fishes found in the area, and will participate in creek-side education for those participating.</p>
<p>Camm C. Swift, PhD NANFA Member cammswift@pacbell.net Cumming, GA</p>	<p>Will assist with collection and identification of species in the local waterways, will review all educational material such as banners, PPTs, and printed materials for accuracy and additional information of interest, and will assist with presentations to local educators.</p>
<p>Mr. James Swope, Public Works Department City of Johns Creek 12000 Findley Road, Suite 400 Johns Creek, GA 30097 james.swope@johnscreekga.gov 678-512-3200</p>	<p>Primary contact with the City of Johns Creek. Will allow for official access to creek and buffer area for trash removal. Will personally participate in creek cleanup and fish/vegetation documentation project, and will make presentation to Johns Creek City Council when appropriate.</p>
<p>Ms. Debbie Brennan, Education Coordinator Evergreen School Program 470 Morgan Falls Rd. Sandy Springs, GA 30350 debbiebrennan@knfb.org 770-551-7766</p>	<p>Primary contact with elementary, middle, and high schools in Johns Creek through her role as Education Coordinator for the Evergreen School Program in the City of Johns Creek. Will be responsible for presenting material to educators and making materials available to schools.</p>
<p>Ms. Judy Webb, Board of Directors Autrey Mill Nature Preserve 9770 Autrey Mill Road Johns Creek, GA 30022 judywebb3034@gmail.com (404) 502-8290</p>	<p>Our primary contact at Autrey Mill Nature Preserve. Will be responsible for integrating the “Native Fishes of Johns Creek” banner into the permanent exhibit of native wildlife at the Visitors’ Center. Will also allow for a public presentation at Autrey Mill of our findings.</p>
<p>Rivers Alive Program</p>	<p>Will play an integral role in publicizing our</p>

<p>c/o Ms. Sarah Visser, Executive Director Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation 60 Executive Park South, NE Atlanta, GA 30329-2231 sarah.visser@kgbf.org (404) 679-4910</p>	<p>creek cleanup event, during the Rivers Alive program month of October.</p>

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Reed, Executive Director
Keep North Fulton Beautiful, Inc.



Kathy Reed creek-side with portable tank built by Michael Wolfe

Some of the fishes from Johns Creek photographed May 2012:

