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Pam Burnett

RE: Value of Murphey Candler Park as a Bird Watching Destination

Dear Pam,

Thank you for reaching out to Georgia Audubon about proposed changes at Murphey Candler Park, in DeKalb County. This park is a popular destination for metro area birders. In fact, Georgia Audubon hosts several bird walks there each year, and we would hate to see changes made at this park that would make it less desirable for birds and birders.

To date, there have been 182 species of birds reported at Murphey Candler Park, ranging from common species, like Northern Cardinal and Carolina Wren, to waterfowl and wading birds, like Northern Shoveler and Solitary Sandpiper. This small park provides important habitat for many bird species, both resident and migratory, and is a well-known birding destination for birders hoping to see both land and water birds. Small pockets of habitat, like Murphey Candler Park, provide critical habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Georgia Audubon's mission is to build places where birds and people thrive. We fulfill our mission through education, conservation, and community engagement. With nearly 2,000 chapter members across the state, Georgia Audubon represents a broad constituency united by a desire to protect birds and other wildlife.

In recent years, Georgia Audubon has been pleased with many of the improvements at Murphey Candler Park, including removing invasive plant species, cleaning up the lake, encouraging the proper disposal of fishing line, and adding board walks that enhance both accessibility and access to the lake for birdwatchers.

Over the past several months, concerned citizens have shared various documents regarding proposed changes at the park, and we encourage the City of Brookhaven to carefully consider the bird habitat and many visitors who specifically visit this park to watch birds when making decisions on this park.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with officials about ways to update this park while still maintaining its natural appeal for birds, and those who enjoy watching them.

Sincerely,

Jared Teutsch
Executive Director