

Environmental & Heritage Center

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Mission

To serve as a recreational catalyst for inspiring and engaging community involvement in educating Gwinnett's students to solve tomorrow's environmental challenges, promoting sustainable development practices and utilizing new technologies to preserve the future health of our water resources, enhancing the appreciation of Gwinnett's natural resources, and presenting the interaction and interrelationships of lifestyles and cultures, past, present, and future, as they relate to the living world around us.

Vision

- To develop an exemplary, high-tech cultural center known for hands-on science exhibits and quality educational programming that inspires visitors to become better stewards of our environment
- To transform the concepts of science and history into interactive, learn-by-doing experiences that will encourage a visitor's natural curiosity and sense of wonder about themselves and the world around them

Partnership

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center is a collaboration of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, Gwinnett County Public School System, the University of Georgia, and the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Foundation. The center's exhibits were designed with input from Gwinnett County Public Schools to ensure that each exhibit's content supports the requirements of the AKS (Academic Knowledge and Skills Curriculum) of the Gwinnett County K-12 School System and GPS (Georgia Performance Standards).



GWINNETT
*Environmental
& Heritage Center*



About the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center

Managing Staff

Executive Director
Director of Education
Director of Operations
Director of Development

Steve **Cannon**
Dr. John **Cascone**
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Jason **West**

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (Center) is a unique partnership among the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center Foundation (GEHC Foundation), the University of Georgia, and the Gwinnett County Board of Education.

The Center opened in 2006 as a multi-use history, culture, heritage, and environment facility. It is located on a 700 acre campus with greenspace and walking trails, as well as a 66,000 square foot educational building. The Center was Gwinnett County's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified green building and possesses one of the nation's largest, sloped, vegetated roofs.

In addition to its environmental emphasis, the Center oversees heritage education programming throughout Gwinnett County, including such sites as the Lawrenceville Female Seminary, McDaniel Farm, the Yellow River Post Office, Freeman's Mill, the Isaac Adair House, and the Chesser-Williams House.

Under the leadership of Steve Cannon, Executive Director, the Center provides an opportunity for over 52,000 students (public, private, and home school) and community members annually to participate in interpretative, hands-on field studies and community based, educational programming.

The Center offers a unique mix of recreational, educational, and rental opportunities. Visitors enjoy an exciting experience in the misty, multi-sensory Blue Planet Theater, "Rivers to Reefs," and wet fun in Discover H2O. Various traveling exhibitions connected to the Center's mission also provide informative and fun ways to explore both science and heritage programming. In addition, passive recreation opportunities such as bike riding and hiking on the scenic nature trails and greenway corridors abound.



Steve Cannon
Executive Director

2010 at a Glance

- The Center, through the support of its Foundation and private partners, secured more than a million dollars in grants, sponsorships, and exhibits in 2010
- The Center was named a finalist for the 2010 Atlanta Business Chronicle Environmental Awards
- The Center served more than 95 schools in its Field Study Programs
- The Center supported 198 different groups with facility rentals and special events
- The Center provided 24 summer specialty camps in 2010
- The Center added five heritage assets to its History and Culture Program
- The Center opened its Education Wing, adding additional classrooms, a conference room, and teacher workspace for programming and special events. The project was opened on-time and was under budget. The unique public/private partnership with the GEHC Foundation funded the project design of \$70,000

Volunteers

Through the efforts of various groups and individuals, the Center maintained 2,494 volunteer hours in 2010.

Community Partnerships

In 2010, the Center and its Foundation partnered with numerous organizations, companies, and individuals. Some of the major partners included: Walton EMC, The Museum of Design Atlanta, Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia, Cisco, Georgia Power, JR's Log House, United Community Bank, Quantum National Bank, Georgia Sea Grant, Watson-Brown Foundation, Captain Planet Foundation, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Costco, Right To Hike, and Whole Foods Market.





Please consider the environment before printing this report.

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