



gwinnettcounty
GEORGIA

20
14

**ENVIRONMENTAL
& HERITAGE CENTER
ANNUAL REPORT**

Mission, Vision, Values



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

Values

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).



About the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center



Managing Staff

Executive Director
Director of Programming
Director of Operations

Steve Cannon
Jason West
Silviu Gavriliuc



Steve Cannon
Executive Director

2014 At A Glance

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center (EHC) is a unique public/private partnership among the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, the Gwinnett County Public Schools, the University of Georgia, and the nonprofit EHC Foundation. Executive Director Steve Cannon manages the 66,000 square-foot Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building along with Jason West, Director of Programming, and Silviu Gavriliuc, Director of Operations.

Since opening in October of 2006, the EHC has experienced tremendous growth in its academic programming (public, private, homeschool, summer camps, Boy/Girl Scouts, and daycare/preschool), growth in its diverse exhibit programming (traveling, art, community, permanent, and juried exhibits), and growth in its rental/special event programming (business meetings, weddings, 5K races, and festivals).

The EHC has also enjoyed growth in its outdoor recreational opportunities. Located on a 700 acre oasis of nature with more than 10 miles of trails, it is easy to explore the peaceful surroundings by walking, running, or biking. Trails are paved, mulched, or slate-covered and vary in degree from easy to moderate to difficult. The EHC grounds' house three pavilions with picnic tables, numerous council rings, and an open-air amphitheater. There is also an exciting and unique environmentally-sustainable canopy adventure exhibit, which allows visitors to jump, balance, swing, and zip through the pristine canopy cover of the forest.

The EHC is also charged with preserving Gwinnett's rich history and provides numerous heritage programming opportunities at its main campus in Buford as well as various heritage sites located across the County. Those sites include the Lawrenceville Female Seminary, McDaniel Farm, the Isaac Adair House, the Yellow River Post Office, Freeman's Mill, and the Chesser-Williams House.

2014 At A Glance

Annual visitors	111,050
Educational programs offered	1,128
Number of educational contact hours	180,937
Number of rental events	358
Number of volunteers	3,008
Volunteer contact hours	12,557

2014 Highlights

- Thanks to funding from the EHC Foundation, the EHC hosted seven special exhibitions
- Brian Stern was posthumously awarded a prestigious William T. Hornaday Award from Boy Scouts of America for service in conservation and ecology
- The EHC was selected as the 2014 Best School Field Trip by the readers of Gwinnett Magazine
- The EHC was selected as the 2014 Best Family Activity by the readers of Gwinnett Magazine
- Steve Cannon was recognized as a Life Member of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals





Please consider the environment before printing this report.

gwinnettcounty
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center
2020 Clean Water Drive
Buford, GA 30519
770.904.3500
www.gwinnettEHC.org

