



gwinnettcounty  
GEORGIA

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**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*

### 2015 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 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.

## 2015 At A Glance

Annual visitors	118,033
Educational programs offered	1,087
Number of educational contact hours	197,846
Number of rental events	360
Number of volunteers	3,366
Volunteer contact hours	13,449

## 2015 Highlights

- Thanks to funding from the EHC Foundation, the EHC hosted seven special exhibitions
- Recognized by the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation for Excellence in Preservation for its work on the historic preservation of the Chesser-Williams House
- Named a finalist for the Technology Association of Georgia's STEM Corporate Outreach Award
- Recognized by the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta for its support of Girl Scouting
- The EHC and the EHC Foundation unveiled its Historic Marker Program with a sign at the Chesser-Williams House





**Please consider the environment before printing this report.**

**gwinnett**county  
**Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center**

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[www.gwinnettEHC.org](http://www.gwinnettEHC.org)

