Atlanta Nature Center

RECOGNIZE • MEASURE • PROTECT

Atlanta's Ecological Core for a Resilient City

The Atlanta Nature Center

A people-centered initiative to recognize, measure, and protect Atlanta's ecological core — the city's most forested areas that deliver critical environmental, social, and community benefits.

Anchored in the ***Utoy Creek Urban Forest***, designated by Atlanta City Council in June 2026, the initiative unites research, education, and community action to advance a cooler, healthier, more resilient Atlanta.



RECOGNIZE

Establish the ecological core.

Research and collaboration with Georgia Tech identified Atlanta's most forested areas and informed the City Council resolution designating the *Utoy Creek Urban Forest* (26-R-3664, June 2026).

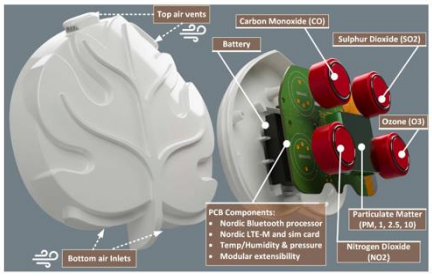


Georgia Tech collaboration: Thomas Fuentes (M.S. in Sustainable Energy, 2025) and VIP students advanced the legislation and community engagement.

MEASURE

Study and document the benefits.

A microclimate study is using a network of environmental sensors to measure how the urban forest cools the city, improves air quality, and strengthens community landscapes.



Monitoring temperature, humidity, particulate matter (PM2.5), and air pollutants across key sites in the Utoy Creek watershed.

PROTECT

Build stewardship and lasting care.

Engage youth, students, and community partners through education, leadership, outreach, and grants to protect the forest, ***honor community heritage, and keep communities in place*** for future generations.



Youth Summit (June 25, 2026) and Restoration Day (October 17, 2026) — training the next generation of urban stewards.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

A PARTNERSHIP OF THE CASCADE SPRINGS NATURE CONSERVANCY AND GEORGIA TECH