



Department of
CITY PLANNING

**Summary of UEF Launch Workshop
March 12 & 13, 2018**

The Department of City Planning and Urban Ecology Framework consulting team held public workshops over two days to launch the Urban Ecology Framework. The workshops were intended to introduce the project and gather participants' feedback on how they experience nature in Atlanta. In addition, attendees were invited to consider serving on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee through an application process.

The workshops were held at the Post Office, a co-working office space located at 86 Pryor Street in downtown Atlanta. Sessions were held on March 12th from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM and March 13th, from 10 AM-12 PM and from 1 PM-3 PM. Approximately 150 people attended the three sessions.

Each workshop session consisted of a brief overview presentation on the UEF. The overview presentation had four parts:

- Intro to the City Design & Nature Network - Tim Keane, Commissioner of City Planning, COA
- UEF Project Summary & Public Appeal - Heather Alhadeff, UEF Project Manager, COA
- Project Team Experience and Philosophy— Keith Bowers, Biohabitats Inc.
- Interactive World Café Breakout Stations

Following the presentation, attendees were invited to visit eight interactive "World Café"-style stations and share their ideas of what nature means to them today and what they hope for the UEF in enhancing and preserving nature in Atlanta. The following includes key themes, take-aways, and summaries of the feedback received at each of the stations.

- I. **Station One - Who Are You? Share with us how you use nature.** Attendees were directed to drop a coin in one of three buckets for three different activities that described their interaction with nature.

I do or I would use nature during the:

WEEKEND = 49.6 %

DAY = 35.7 %

EVENING = 14.7 %

I do or I would use natural settings to:

LIGHT EXERCISE = 44.2 %

RELAX & MEDITATE = 42.6 %

TALK & SOCIALIZE = 13.2 %

I do or I would get to nature:

WALKER = 53.5 %

DRIVER = 30.2 %

BIKER = 12.4 %

PASSENGER = 3.9 %

- II. **Station Two - What is NATURE to You?** Attendees were invited to vote on which of a series of 28 photographs best represented nature to them and note other thoughts. A photo of this poster is included in the Appendix of this document.

Highest rated:

- **Row 1, Column 2: Green Forest = 31**
- **Row 1, Column 6: Creek with natural banks = 27**
- Row 3, Column 2: River = 19
- Row 2, Column 1: Autumn foliage = 17
- Row 2, Column 6: Waterfalls = 15
- Row 2, Column 2: Birds = 14

Notes on the question, what is nature to you:

- Nature + The Arts
- Hidden creeks and headwaters
- More natural infrastructure for stormwater management
- Nature is something different to everyone and there is no right answer
- Nature inside building helps people focus, breathe better and heal from urban stress.
- Doing this level of engagement at the neighborhood/NPU level is crucial in Atlanta; communities have lots of vision/ideas for nature in their areas.
- Make sure to leave plenty of space and soil for urban street trees and select healthy trees with good form from the nursery for planting. We need this shade from a large, healthy tree.

- When I think of nature in an urban setting, I think parks with paths through hallways of trees.
- Let's have natural burial ground options in Atlanta.
- While I think of forests and untouched natural areas as nature, nature in urban environments is critical too – and often non-accessible day to day
- Must incentivize plants, soil and water in every interstitial space.
- This image is exciting. There is so much to discover that is hidden among the trees.
- The green of healing; the solace of the forest
- Nature is Balance (or the ability to easily be brought back to balance); Nature is Health; Health Means Whole; Atlanta's Nature is Fragmented and Breaking
- More connectivity: pocket parks, street trees, corridors, rain gardening
- Food forests are an important part of the future

III. **Station Three - Nature Smells, what images or thoughts do they evoke?**

Attendees were invited to smell various nature items and identify the one that most represented nature to them. The items included lettuce, herbs, nuts, sprouts, grains, cedar, pine, plants/trees/leaves/bark, soil, and compost. (Further notes on each materials and the imagery they evoked are included in the back of the document).

Summary thoughts:

1. Overall exercise has triggered memories of childhood and activities done with parents and grandparents in a less urban areas like hiking, mountainsides, along rivers and creeks, gardens and farms
2. Nature is food. Memories of kitchen.
3. Nature is synonymous with COMFORT. Be it comfort food or comforting/ relaxing activities like ball games/ walk with dogs/ parents/ gardening etc.
4. There is an overall sense of *"What is the smell of MY childhood vs the smell of MY CHILD'S Childhood?"* plus a contrast in current urban lifestyles and that of past/ childhood
5. Smaller plants = urban agriculture, smaller scales
6. Bigger plants = more of forested larger stretches of lands
7. Nature and nature's evolution is a trigger to memories of past and changes/ Seasonal: there is a time and place for nature – every season has a smell
8. Nature is not engineering. Things are getting lost – some need to be protected. Some have to be engineered/ urban agriculture etc.

IV. Station Four - What is NATURE to You? Which bird really was spotted in the area? Participants were presented with pictures and data on local bird sightings and asked which of these birds had been spotted in their area within the last 30 days.

Birds Sighted (location) – number of mentions

- American goldfinch (Kirkwood) - 2
- Blackbirds
 - Adair Park
 - Red-winged blackbirds (Kirkwood) - 2
- Blue jay (West End) - multiple
- Buzzards - 2
- Canada geese (Old Prison Farm & Constitution Lakes) - 2
- Carolina wrens (Kirkwood)
- Cedar waxwings
- Chimney swift
 - Piedmont and 14th - next to Piedmont Park
 - “Love watching flocks of chimney swifts swooping through the air gracefully from my room in Castleberry Mill.
- Ducks - multiple
 - Mallard ducks
 - Muscovy (nesting in tree cavity in Piedmont and Quarry parks)
 - Wood
 - Old Prison Farm & Constitution Lakes)
- Eastern bluebirds – have returned - 3
- Eastern phoebe (Spring Lake)
- Falcons
- Flickers (Kirkwood) – 2
- Gray catbird
- Great blue herons - multiple
 - over 400 in Georgia
 - Saw one in flight at Fairburn & I-20
 - “I saw a blue heron flying across I-75/85 at Turner Field yesterday.”
- Great egret (Proctor Creek) - 2
- Hawks - multiple
 - Red-tailed – multiple
 - Kirkwood, Reynoldstown
 - Red-shouldered
 - General (Oakdale on way to Emory, Downtown)
 - Pair of hawks disappear for 1-2 months then return when the bunnies do
 - Candler Park – seem to be growing in numbers
 - Maybe pushed out by redevelopment – TOD / homes taking up whole lot
 - Cooper’s – single sighting
 - Saw two on the same branch

- Hummingbirds (rare?)
- Kinglet
- Mockingbirds - 4
 - attacked because street trees taken down
 - Kirkwood
- Mourning doves - 2
- Nuthatch - 2
- Owls - multiple
 - Barred (Southwest Atlanta - OAC) – multiple
 - Kirkwood
 - Barn (West End, others) – multiple
 - Capitol View, East Atlanta, others
 - Watched a family of owlets grow up in Edgewood!
- Pigeons
- Raptors
 - more in neighborhoods due to clear cutting and development
 - Had squirrel less than 5 feet away (Perkerson Park)
 - Turkey vultures (Kirkwood)
- Ravens (have moved into Roswell)
- Red cardinals (West End, Kirkwood) – multiple
- Robins (backyards, Southwest Atl) - 4
- Rooster
 - Chickens only are allowed in the city, but a kid heard rooster call back and was excited
- Sandhill crane (hear migrating over – like dinosaur sound) – multiple
 - “Sandhill cranes flying north are the sign that spring has come. Give them more wetlands.”
- Scarlet tanager
- Songbirds (various)
 - Migration a few weeks per year
 - Saw at Inman Park Festival (neighborhood)
- Sparrows - 2
- Towhee
- Vultures – showing up at homes because losing habitat
 - Turkey (Oakhurst)
 - Black (Oakhurst)
- Warbler
- Wild turkeys (Westview) - 3
- Woodpecker - multiple
 - Hairy
 - Downy (Kirkwood) - 2
 - Red-bellied – 2
 - Red-headed
 - Pileated

- Red-cockaded (possibly Edgewood) - 2
- Common “backyard” birds at one resident’s feeders:
 - House finches
 - Pine warblers
 - Bluebirds
 - E. Towhee
 - Mockingbirds
 - Pine siskins
 - Yellow-bellied sapsuckers
 - Downy woodpeckers
 - Nuthatches
 - Red-tailed hawk
 - Cardinals
 - Blue jays
- “Love those little brown birds that hop around the dumpster out my window”
- “There is a great diversity of bird species already. See eBird.”

Policy Ideas / Landscape Priorities

- Landscape Scale
 - Protect big bodies of land
 - Create bigger intact green spaces that are well connected rather than lots of smaller fragments
 - Increase wildlife corridors
 - Restore and protect watersheds and wildlife that depend on them
 - Protect remnants of old growth forests
- Habitat
 - Wildlife showing up at homes because losing habitat
 - Have nature included in city inventories. Make sure all wetlands are registered and accounted for with the city so they can be maintained and protected
 - Build habitat for animals but give things for people to use, too
 - Fallen log that can be seating
 - Create edge habitat but protect central forested space for isolated species
 - Urban “habitats” should aim to include diversity of shelters – dead trees, scrub, etc., access to water, diversity of food sources, and connectivity
 - Create more edge habitat to foster wildlife
 - Canopy that is too old loses its edge habitat and diversity
 - Use wetlands as habitat refuges
 - Support both edge and central forested
 - Need more meadows for birds as well as forests
 - Do long-term planting on edges of open parks
 - Big resources because can’t build:
 - Floodplains
 - Sewer ROWs

- “There are lots of good habitats for urban birds already here but they can be improved in quality and connectivity.”

Other key policy areas for consideration:

- City tree ordinance
- Certifications
- Sustainable Yards
- Native species
- Invasive species
- Snags
- Meadows
- Building-Bird Collisions
- Biological Control
- Urban Farms
- Rat Poison
- Birds are the “canary in the coalmine”
- Rare species

Additional feedback, including reference to other species seen is included in the Appendix of this document.

V. Station Five - What is NATURE to you? Telling your Nature Story. Participants were invited to tell their favorite nature-related story, considering the following guiding questions: What is Nature to you? What do you identify with Nature in Atlanta? How do you experience Nature in Atlanta?

Two options were made available for recording their stories.

- Individuals wrote their stories on white boards and took photos of them with their stories (photos of a selection of those written stories are included in the appendix of this document).
- Audio recordings were made of participants sharing their thoughts about experiences with Nature in Atlanta.

AUDIO stories summary themes:

- Evokes memories of childhood experiences, and there were many comments to the effect that those memories should be enjoyed by all children who grow up in nature.
- Birth and motherhood, being a parent and connecting children with nature as their first and most beloved experience of childhood.
- A common thread that weaves us all together
- Connection to something larger than one’s self
- Accessible to all community members in the city

Visual stories summary themes: A Word Cloud is provided here to display the most common themes of the written stories, in larger, more prominent text.

VI. Station Six – Where do you find nature? Participants were asked to indicate on a map how and where they experience nature, particularly where they find it (green dot); where it is at risk with new development (red dot); and where there needs to be more access to nature (orange dot). A photo of the map is included in the Appendix of this document.

In summarizing the map, the GREEN dots (Where is Nature) were fairly evenly distributed across the city, but notably absent in north part of city (except for small clusters); the RED dots (Nature at Risk from Development) were somewhat clustered toward the city's center (north and south of downtown), but in areas throughout the city; the ORANGE dots (More Access Needed) were concentrated north and west of the city.

Main themes/take-aways from the conversation:

- Sense of urgency (threats) because of so many green spaces under assault from development.
- Many cherished places within neighborhoods.
- Some folks head north and west out of town to experience nature.
- Chattahoochee is a favorite, but access is a challenge
- Trees being removed for development

A selection of parks that were identified as either at risk or requiring more access (many also include notes that these were well-used already) included the following:

- Candler Park
- Lake Charlotte Nature Preserve
- North Camp Creek Parkway Nature Preserve
- Adams Park
- The Chattahoochee River corridor parks and open space
- Westside Park
- Peachtree Creek corridor
- Atlanta Memorial Park
- Grant Park
- Zonolite Park
- Daniel Johnson Nature Preserve
- Herbert Taylor Park
- Rose Burney Park

- Morningside North Park

VII. **Station Seven - Connecting Nature with their Life.** Participants were asked to use dots to indicate how they prioritized nature concerns. Following are the ranked priorities by number of votes. A photo of this marked up poster is included in the Appendix of this document.

Stream restoration	75
Tree preservation	67
Large natural areas	52
Trails	37
Parks and open space	34
Flood management	33
Urban farms	22
Wildlife viewing	21
Healthy Food	21
Tree planting	11
Gardening	10
Green gentrification*	2
Hunting and fishing	1
Turf lawn reduction*	1

*Categories added by attendees

VIII. **Station Eight - What's Our Tagline?** Participants were asked to create a phrase or tagline that explains this planning effort. The most popular tagline themes are presented in Word Cloud below. A photo of a selection of the bumper stickers posted on the wall of the station room is included in the Appendix of this document.

Some of the most clever and encompassing taglines include:

- **Plantlanta**
- **ATLGreenPrint**
- **RewildingATL**
- **Atlanta – A Home Worth Greening**
- **HealthyTreesHealthyLives**
- **Grow Atlanta Green**
- **ECO ATL**
- **The Atlanta Greenprint**
- **Plantlanta – Atlanta The Treasures is in the Trees**
- **Justice for Nature = Justice for People**

3. Dinner/ cooking/ Smells like tacos/ Hungry/ pesto
4. Vitality
5. Good times/ party/ euphoria
6. Gardening/ backlots
7. Relaxation/ rewind

NUTS

1. Reminds of home
2. Having fun
3. Parents/ grandparents kitchen
4. Ball game/ summer/ games/ stands
5. Five Guys

SPROUTS

1. Asian food
2. Urban agriculture
3. Freshman year dorms
4. Near streams
5. Farms
6. Bird food
7. sandwiches

GRAINS

1. Cold mornings
2. Urban agriculture
3. Sustenance
4. Horse farms
5. Comfort/ safety/ cozy
6. Health food/ breakfast
7. Honey

CEDAR

1. Hurricane Hugo
2. Connectivity
3. Holidays/ memories/ past
4. Sappy, sticky
5. Yard work
6. Good trees/ neighbors
7. Residential screening
8. Bug spray
9. Fengshui
10. Mountains
11. Hiking

PINE

1. Building Forts/ Building huts in forest
2. The South
3. Tree climbing
4. Winter/ cold temperatures
5. Must like nature (??)
6. Walking in the woods/ Hiking in north Georgia mountains/ trails
7. Memories of playing in pine straws
8. Holidays
9. Sleeping outdoors/ camping
10. Tree elves/ King of Pops
11. Stress relief
12. Childhood/ Connecting with parents/ grandparents/ pets

PLANTS/TREES/LEAVES/BARKS

1. White noise machine
2. Screening noise
3. Sight smell
4. Freeway islands: plants indicate what sort of habitat
5. Reminds of parks and street trees
6. Barks: Autumn
7. Growing things
8. Different times in life
9. Puts in better mood

SOIL

1. Elements interact with nature
 - a. Rain on soil
 - b. Rain on rocks
 - c. Riverside is smelly-hood
2. Grandparents Gardening with parents
3. Nature ordinance good if about soils
4. Humus: shade/ soft underfoot
5. Garden/ gardening/ planting day/ growth
6. Earth smells make me grounded
7. Sandy soil: Streams and creeks
8. Childhood/ playing in dirt
9. immunity

COMPOST

1. Hikes in deep woods
2. Evocative: You have found a cool spot
3. Shade/ moisture

4. Smells bad
5. Spring
6. Possibility/ Time: Aging of us/ Process/ watching things grow
7. Renewal /Recycling earth materials, natural process/ regeneration/
8. Decomposition/ return to nature
9. Morticulture: compost/ dead trees, mushrooms
10. Nature smells like water-compost-creeks/ playing in creeks
11. Grandparents
12. Plants in gardens/ my farm/ backyard/ landscaping/ potting soil
13. Being kids/ childhood
14. Year-round work, engaging
15. The South
16. Worms/ birds/ Friends/
17. Pregnant (?): Eat compost for life/ nutrition (???)

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

1. Fresh mown lawns /Grass
2. What is the smell of MY childhood vs the smell of MY CHILD'S Childhood?
3. Kudzu
4. Flowers/ Dandelions /Honeysuckle/ Rhododendron: Piedmont, Acid, sharp
5. Integration of food into the cities
6. Need to create areas with smells and sounds
7. Wildlife protection
8. Nature smells like love freshness
9. Species = format that explains different forest types/ what type of species
10. Neighborhoods need wood chips
11. Places that could scale/ sale mulch:
 - a. Urban gardens
 - b. Universities
 - c. Neighborhoods
12. Native plant control vs loving it to death
13. Providing public access with different needs like birders vs pet owners
14. Access and more stewardship vs crime perception/ reality (?)
15. Bringing natural spaces back vs gardening, what scale
16. UEF:
 - a. How to identify nature
 - b. How to protect
 - c. How to enforce
 - d. Long term management
 - e. Finding the metrics
 - f. How do you value yourself?
17. City resources
 - a. Importance of forest
 - b. To purchase forest

- c. Prioritize to set aside funding, particularly along edges before being developed
 - d. Need to prioritize opportunities before it's too late
18. Zoning
- a. Is zoning appropriate
 - b. Does it preserve land
 - c. Lot coverage: particularly in reference to rezoning – especially commercial
 - d. Establish boundaries where no rezoning
 - e. Beltline becomes unchecked development
 - f. Enforcement of zoning/ density on edges
19. Cannot replant forests cannot engineer it
20. ... does not plant trees equal to what is being removed
21. Try not cutting trees during nesting season
22. Audubon certify larger lands
23. Bringing nature home
24. Lessons from the forest
25. Reading the forested landscape
26. Scientific data
27. Habitat loss, created in backyard

Station 4: What birds have you spotted? – Additional wildlife comments

Other Wildlife Sighted

- Bats – 2
- Beavers (Candler Park) - multiple
 - Keystone species
 - Homewood Park – beautiful dam
 - Candler Park
 - Olmstead landscape cemetery
 - Daylighting a stream conflicting with management of golf course
- Butterflies – habitat needed
- Chipmunks – more when hawks not present
- Coyotes (“are okay!”)
 - Forest Hills backyard
- Deer (East Atlanta, Old Prison Farm & Constitution Lakes)– 3
- Feral cats
- Fish
 - Trout
 - Lots of variety
- Foxes
- Frogs (many in Candler Park) - no mosquitos because of frogs and birds
 - tadpoles
- Insects
 - Lunar moths
 - Hercules beetles
 - Emperor moths
 - Dragonflies
- Lizards
- Macroinvertebrates
- Muskrats
- Opossum (dead or playing dead)
- Otters (South Fork)
- Rabbits
- Raccoons (Old Prison Farm & Constitution Lakes) - 2
- Squirrels – multiple
- Snakes
 - Garter
- Turtles
 - Giant
 - Snapping (on path in Candler Park)

Wildlife Desired More in the Region

- Bats to eat mosquitos
- Brown-headed nuthatch has been declining 1-2% for 50 years
- Bison
- Coyotes - 2
 - haven't seen recently
 - others see too many
- Grassland birds
- Hawks – were there when growing up near cascade preserve
- Honey bees – need to create habitat (multiple expressed this)
- Otters - “More otters!”
- Owls
 - There are fewer barn owls because of nocturnal lighting (barred owls are prevalent)
 - No owls in old 4th Ward – more hawks, too many squirrels
 - Built a screech owl box but none have come yet
- Rodents
- Green infrastructure fosters rodents which feed falcons, hawks, and owls
- Salamanders - 2
- Multiple species
- Fewer the lower one goes in the watershed
- 80 species on the South Fork of Peachtree
- Meadows are needed
- Toad frogs – used to be so many you'd run over them on the road - 3
- Weeping willow trees have disappeared
- Woodpeckers - multiple
- Red-cockaded woodpecker
- Pileated woodpecker – used to hear – 2
- “Losing woodpeckers!”
- Wood thrush – used to hear but no more

Wildlife Not Desired in the Region

- Cats are not native wildlife and not happy
- Cats are a major factor in songbird decline
- No feral cats outside
- Coyotes
 - Too many (others say not enough)
 - Eat small pets and squirrels
- Starlings - invasive
- Eurasian collared dove (Centennial Park) - invasive

- Rats
- “MARTA’s rats have become more prolific and resilient over time and it gives me hope that true system expansion is on the way”

City tree ordinance

- Atlanta has one of highest urban tree canopies – 47%
- Require licensing to work on trees
- Better enforce permitting
- Provide better training / licensing for tree cutting
- Create greater restrictions on Georgia Power / DOT pruning street trees
- Avoid trimming trees during breeding season
- Require arborists to search trees for nests before cutting down - 2
- At 4th and Juniper a tree was cut down. Bird screeched all day looking for its nest and babies, like it was in pain
- Require arborists to get a wildlife training certificate to work in the city
- Anecdote: An injured owl was hopping on ground and the crew kept cutting. Her mate calling for her, the nest destroyed, eggs on ground. 3 baby squirrels were also on the ground. A neighbor boy watched the incident. The tree was on private property and not properly permitted. Crews currently don’t have to be licensed to work on trees. Took owl to Chattahoochee Nature Center but it was too injured so euthanized.
- “Chainsaws can do irreversible damage.”
- Require cats to wear a bell when outdoors

Certifications

- [Bird City Wisconsin](#) – potential model to emulate
- [Urban Bird Treaty City](#) – US FWS
 - Atlanta has not done an official designation to create a treaty
 - The city overall is missing a lens through which to focus on birds (like Tree City USA), and this is one way to create that lens
- “Atlanta is designated as an Urban Bird Treaty City by USFWS. We haven’t created the treaty yet. Let’s do that in this process. Point group: Atlanta Audubon.”
- Sustainable Yards
 - Sustainable yards are good but many are downstream of yards maintained traditionally with chemicals. Feel overwhelmed.
 - Need to address landscape scale because individual efforts to go natural are being eliminated
 - Educate citizens regarding the appropriate habitat & how to turn yards into bird and wildlife friendly

- Provide high capacity bird feeders
- Require pollinator-friendly pesticides on Home Depot (and other retailer) flowers.
- Require labeling of pesticides used on flowers
- Require or encourage lawns to be purposeful
- Nature's lawn

Native species

- Require a higher percent native plants to be planted
 - Eg: Plant oak instead of crepe myrtle
- Improve native vectors
 - Birds play huge role in seed distribution
 - Increase native food sources to improve elsewhere

Invasive species

- Plants: English ivy, kudzu, privet (food for birds)
- There has been a decline in riparian vegetation due to erosion and invasive exotics
- Restrict buying and selling of invasives
- Create code violation if English ivy gets out of hand
- Eradicate invasives sold at Home Depot
- Do not need more fescue grasses

- Snags
 - Leave snags up when possible
 - Create fake snags
 - Leave dead trees, save money

- Meadows
 - Provide meadow habitat for open field birds
 - Don't mow weed fields

- Building-Bird Collisions
 - 365 million – 1 billion birds die / year in the US from building collisions
 - Require green buildings to minimize bird-building collisions
 - (LEED credit 55)
 - Incentivize bird-friendly glass

- Biological Control
 - Birds play vital role

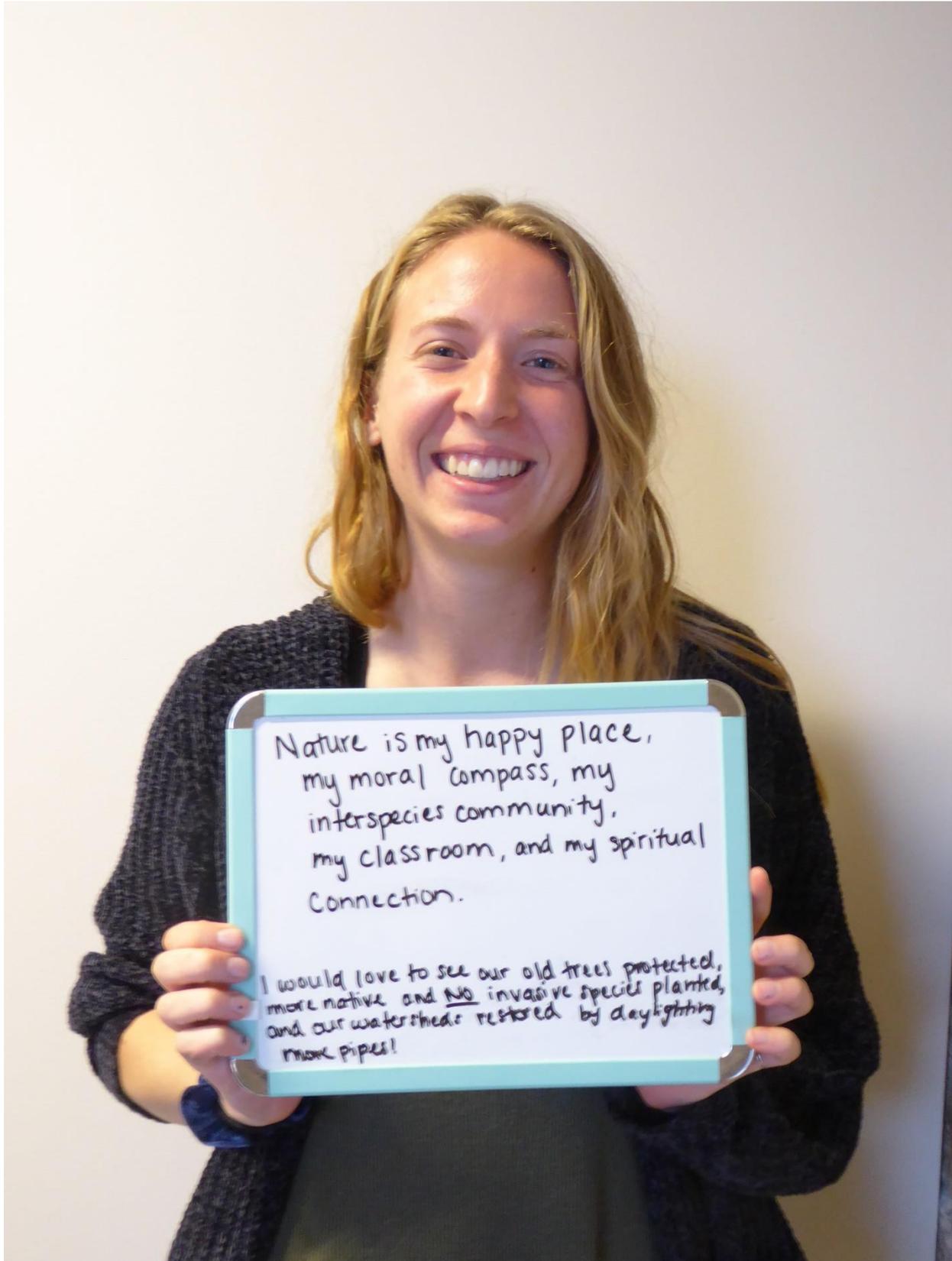
- Use birds for biological control rather than fogging for mosquitos
- Build chimney swift towers
- Use natives
- “Biological control of insect ‘pests’ by birds is highly undervalued. Add native plants, chimney swift towers, bluebird boxes, bat boxes.”
- Urban Farms
 - “How does urban farming (chickens, goats, etc.) affect native wildlife?”
- Jack White’s view (Candler Park focused) –
 - Parks need better maintenance
 - Planning is doing a good job
- Rat Poison
 - Make city poison rats properly so that hawks are not poisoned
 - Rats should run away after being poisoned
- The City needs a wildlife coordinator
- Birds are the “canary in the coalmine”
 - Fewer species, less healthy system
 - Can’t separate diversity of plants and birds
- Mapping
 - Similar to 10 Minute Walk park map, create a Habitat Desert map
 - Map all floodplains, not just 100 year
- Rare species
 - “Rare species do show up in the city. Why? How do they survive?”
 - Many are surviving but fail at individual level.
 -
- Valuable Locations
 - Candler Park
 - Good place to develop an ecology plan
 - Olmstead park
 - Outdoor Activity Center
 - SW Atlanta – below I-20
 - 26 acres
 - Cascade Springs Nature Preserve
 - 400 acres

- Fernbank Science Center
 - Behind Emory University
 - Free
 - Has a section on native animals, songbirds to predatory species, native to Georgia
- “The Southside is green!”
 - Preserve continuous canopy along South River & Flint River
- Revitalize the Prison Farm Park
- South Fork of Peachtree Creek (by 85 and 400)
 - Increase access
 - Part of Olmstead linear parks
 - 33 miles – 80% publicly owned but no access
 - 91 species according to Atlanta Audubon Society
 - 10 years of restoration efforts – used to be kudzu
 - GDOT island has been entirely restored with meadow habitat
 - Strong place for an urban wildlife corridor
 - Includes 12 acre DeKalb park and 1.6 acre near Armand Road

Organizations & Individuals Interested in Formal Engagement

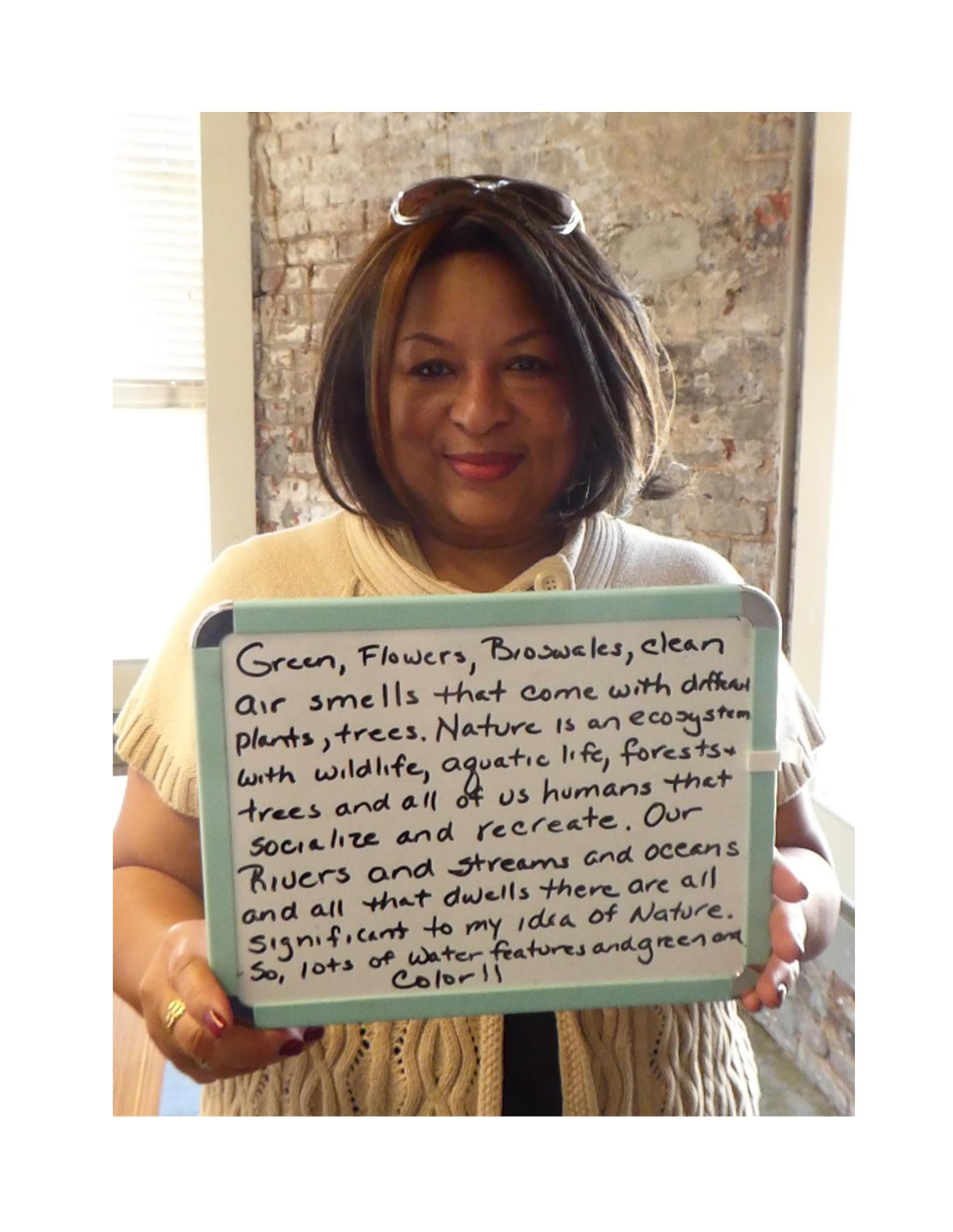
- Atlanta Audubon Society
 - Currently developing a set of goals for bird species (due this month)
 - Very interested in providing technical expertise
 - Adam Betuel – expert
 - Most birding reports come from white, affluent areas. Lack of reports in SW Atlanta.
 - Atlanta Audubon does field trips, school groups to Cascade nature preserve, others
- South Fork Conservancy (Peachtree Creek)
 - Very successful land restoration efforts removing invasives and implementing better species
 - Just finished a capital campaign
 - Recommended contact: Katherine Dhal (404-URA-DAHL)
 - Connie Head – Technical Forestry Services consultant, ordinances
 - [The Coalition for Community Benefits](#)
 - Trees Atlanta
 - [West Atlanta Watershed Alliance \(WAWA\)](#)
 - Lionel Hampton
 - Jack White (Candler Park)
 - Jonah McDonald
 - Greg Jones

Station 5: Select Photos from WRITTEN Nature Story Activity



Nature is my happy place,
my moral compass, my
interspecies community,
my classroom, and my spiritual
connection.

I would love to see our old trees protected,
more native and No invasive species planted,
and our watersheds restored by daylighting
manx pipes!

A woman with dark hair and sunglasses on her head is smiling and holding a green sign. The sign has handwritten text in black ink. She is wearing a light-colored, textured top. The background is a stone wall.

Green, Flowers, Broswales, clean
air smells that come with different
plants, trees. Nature is an ecosystem
with wildlife, aquatic life, forests +
trees and all of us humans that
socialize and recreate. Our
Rivers and streams and oceans
and all that dwells there are all
significant to my idea of Nature.
So, lots of water features and green and
color!!

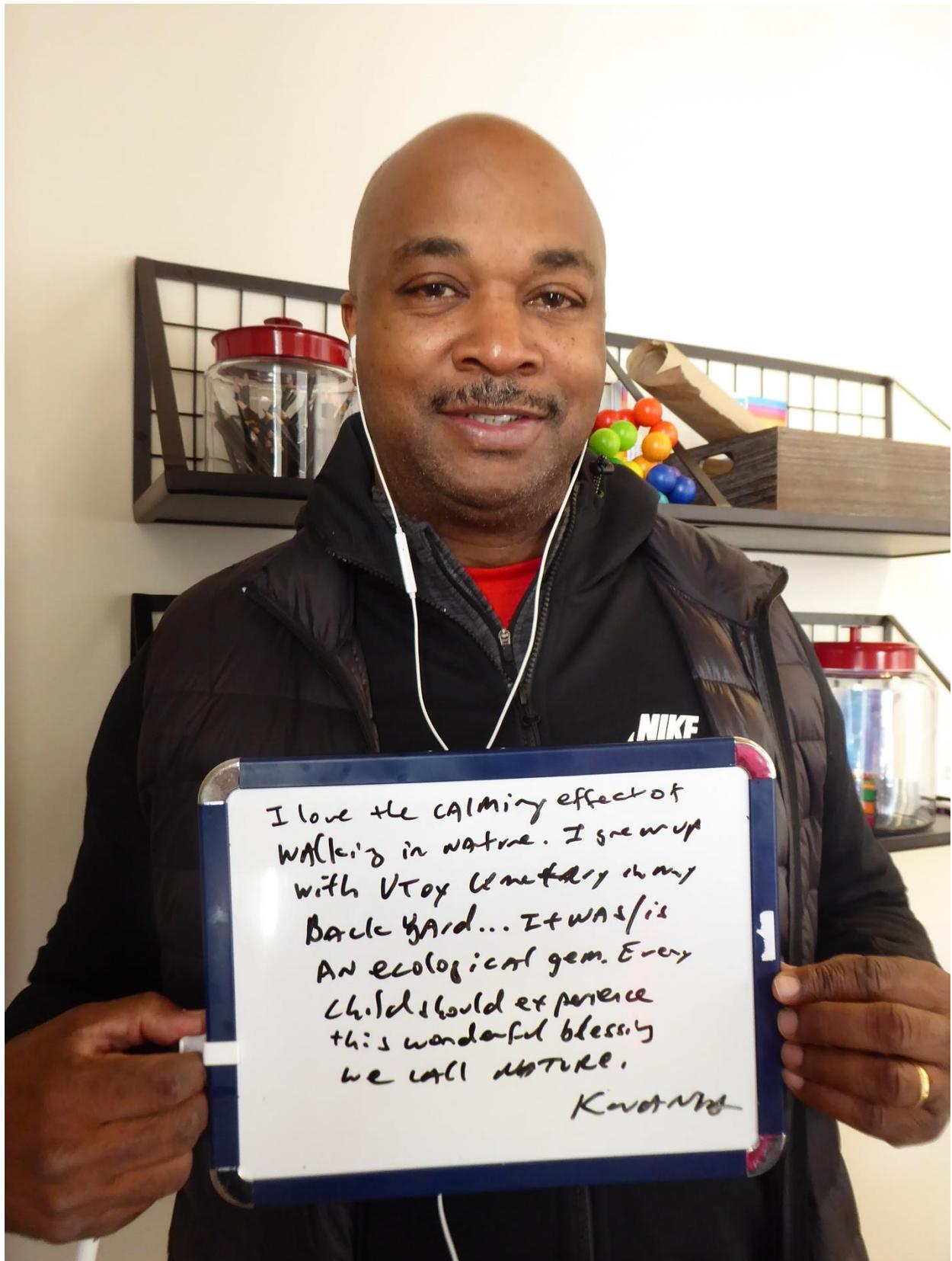
WE ARE NATURE.
THERE IS NO SEPERATION
BETWEEN FLORA & FAUNA
WATER, EARTH AND US.
WE MUST SAVE AND
RESPECT ALL EQUALLY
OR WE ARE LEFT WITH
NOTHING



BILL GOULD
SILENCE



Taking a deep breath.
birds chirping.
diving into a clear
pool of water.



I love the CALMING effect of
walking in nature. I grew up
with VTOX cemetery in my
back yard... It was/is
AN ecological gem. Every
child should experience
this wonderful blessing
we call NATURE.

Kevon M



CANDLER PK WETLANDS

DRAGONFLIES
(EVERYWHERE)

BEAVER
LODGE

DAM

WILLOWS
& CATTAILS
& FRIENDS

DUCKS -
MORE

MOSQUITOS?
(NOWHERE!)

FROGS HERE



R15

TN CUMBERLAND PLATEAU
CAVING
CLIMBING

WESTERN NC MTNS

OLD SOILS!
HIKING!
CAMPING!
WATERFALLS!

WALKS
W/ GRANDMOTHER
KAYAKING
HERONS,
FOXES,
SNAKES



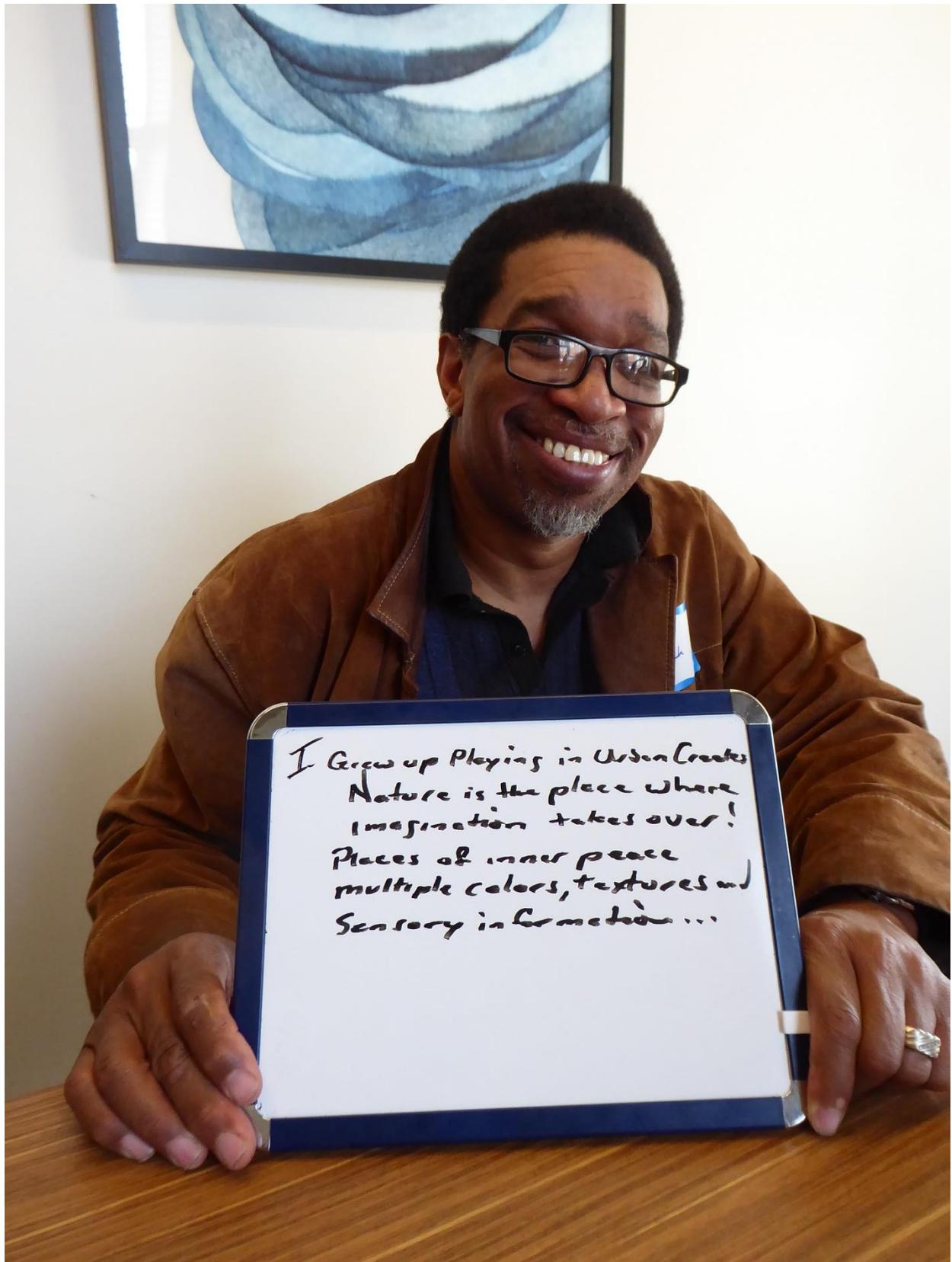
HOCH

CLIMBING
TREES
EATING PLANT
WILD MEDICINAL NEEDS
+ NATIVE PLANTS!

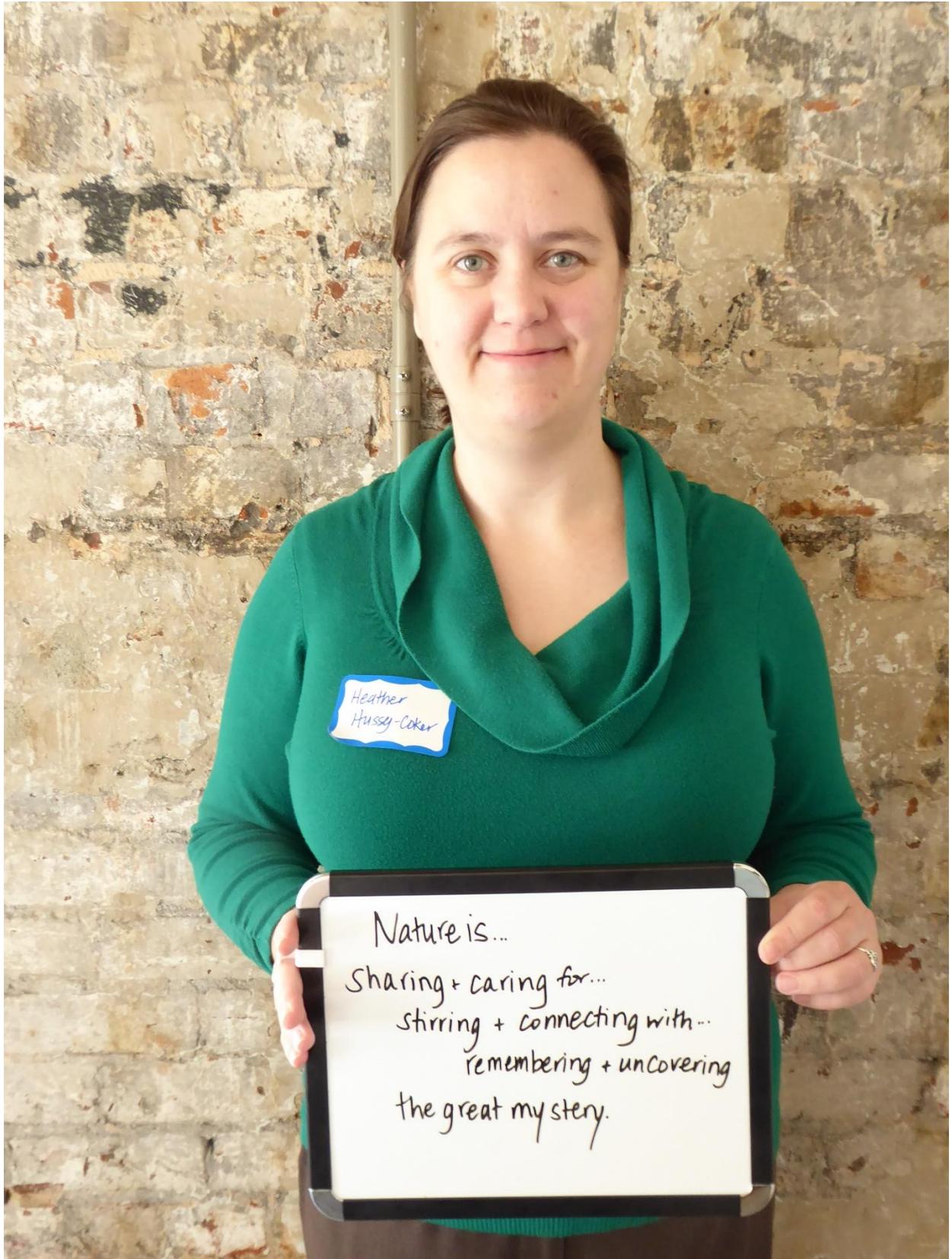
SECRET FORESTS!
BURIED, NEGLECTED,
+ HIDDEN CREEKS
I WANT TO UNCOVER
+ HONOR!

HAWKS + FALCONS + OWLS!

SC COAST
NATIVE GRASSES



I Grew up Playing in Urban Creeks
Nature is the place where
Imagination takes over!
Places of inner peace
multiple colors, textures and
Sensory information...



Heather
Hussy-Coker

Nature is...
Sharing + caring for...
stirring + connecting with...
remembering + uncovering
the great mystery.

Station 6 – Poster Results of Where is My Nature



Station 7: Poster Results: What are my Nature Priorities

WHAT ISSUE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

PLEASE RANK THESE ISSUES FACING ATLANTA

MARK YOUR TOP 1-3

*Green
Gentrification*

*TURF
LAWN
REDUCTION!*

*Please not
in the blue and
yellow*

Issue	Rank 1 (Red)	Rank 2 (Yellow)	Rank 3 (Green)	Rank 4 (Blue)
URBAN FARMS	1	2	3	4
GARDENING	1	2	3	4
HEALTHY FOOD	1	2	3	4
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE	1	2	3	4
HUNTING AND FISHING	1	2	3	4
TRAILS	1	2	3	4
LARGE NATURAL AREAS	1	2	3	4
STREAM RESTORATION	1	2	3	4
TREE PLANTING	1	2	3	4
WILDLIFE VIEWING	1	2	3	4
FLOOD MANAGEMENT	1	2	3	4
TREE PRESERVATION	1	2	3	4

Department of CITY PLANNING

Habitat Map Markup

