

# WHO WE ARE

Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc., a private, non-profit organization, partners with Athens-Clarke County to support, promote and protect the environmental education and preservation efforts of Sandy Creek Nature Center. We work to ensure that natural science and environmental education opportunities are available to everyone in our local and regional community.

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## Staff

Katie Eckardt  
Assistant to the Board of Directors

## ACC Liaisons

Randy Smith  
Facility Supervisor  
Kent Kilpatrick  
Director, Leisure Services

## Ex-Officio Members

Mike Hamby  
ACC District 10 Commissioner  
Bynum Boley  
Assistant Professor  
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural  
Resources, University of Georgia



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# SPECIAL THANKS TO

## Corporate Sponsors



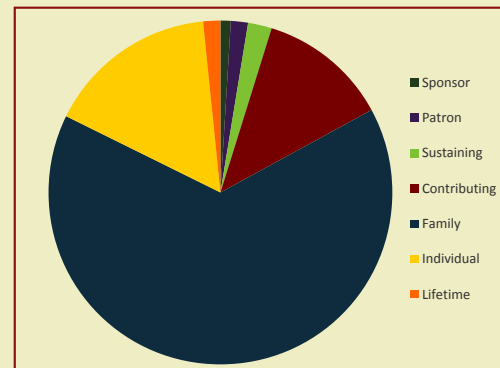
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FIVE POINTS  
EYECARE



## Members



## About our Members

**311 memberships**

## Member residence

- 201 ACC residents
- 4 out of state
- 106 out of county

# 2019 Annual Report

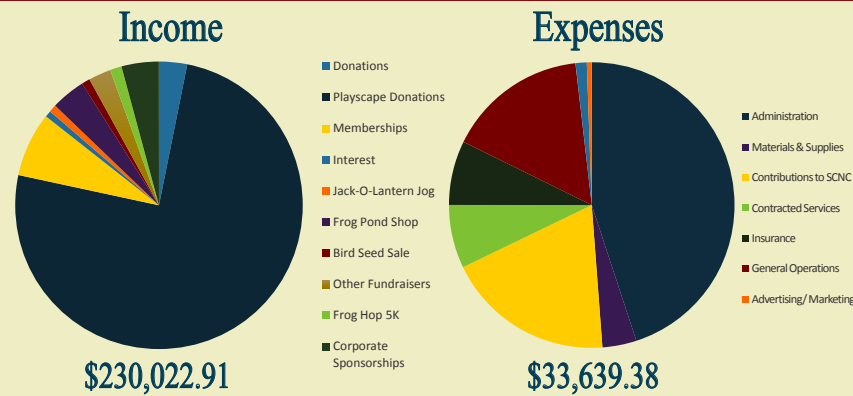


# Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc.



# OPERATIONS

## FINANCIALS &



The staff and operations of Sandy Creek Nature Center are funded by Athens-Clarke County Department of Leisure Services.

As the founding non-profit support organization, Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc. raises funds to support the mission of the Nature Center. The charts above show where our funds come from and how we spend them.

Additional income above expenses is transferred to an endowment account or set aside for large projects, such as the Nature Playscape.

Your support makes it possible for the Board to continue to augment funding for the Nature Center and to provide Sandy Creek Nature Center with expertise and volunteer support that enhance its mission and ability to serve our community.

# UPDATE

## PLAYSCAPE

Just last year the Board reported that we were preparing to raise funds to build a Nature Playscape in our current garden area, behind the Education and Visitor Center. The Playscape will provide an active space close to our building to foster a safe outdoor experience focused on nature.

One short year later, we are very pleased to announce that we are close to realizing our goal. We have already raised enough money to begin detailed planning and construction, possibly as soon as Spring 2020!

This would not have been possible without generous donations from the Owen Nelson Saveland Trust, Chuck and Suzanne Murphy and our loyal members, friends and corporate supporters.

We are partnering with Koons Environmental Design, an Athens company, to develop plans for the space.

Features of the Nature Playscape include low impact play surfaces, forest trails, seating for adults and space for strollers, shade, natural boundaries, and a variety of natural structures for open-ended play. The area will allow children to engage in creative play, inventing their own games, developing physical strength and learning to interact with other youngsters.

The Board will continue to raise funds to make the project even more exciting, as well as provide for future maintenance, but we are poised to get construction started! Follow along with us as we begin this exciting next project.

# IN REVIEW 2018-19

## THE YEAR

### Accomplishments

- Raised over \$185,000 for the Nature Playscape project.
- Continued to support the 25-acre Managed Forest Project.
- Funded the Science Education Grant through the Foundation for Excellence Award to recognize excellence in elementary, middle and high school science education.
- Designed and assisted in the production of Sandy Creek Nature Center's quarterly newsletter, "The Hyla."
- Hosted the Frog Hop 5K and Tadpole Fun Run and the Jack-O-Lantern Jog 5K and Goblin Fun Run to benefit SCNC.
- Submitted a SPLOST proposal for \$305,000 to upgrade aging exhibits while pledging \$30,000 towards the project.

### Quick Facts

- The Nature Center was founded in 1973 by 11 concerned citizens who feared the property would be commercially developed.
- The Nature Center, 225 acres of ecologically diverse uplands and wetlands at the confluence of Sandy Creek and the North Oconee River, includes four miles of hiking trails including an ADA accessible boardwalk, brick factory ruins and an 1815 log house.
- The Center includes a 15,000-square-foot Education & Visitor Center with five interactive learning centers, a planetarium, classrooms, meeting rooms, live animal displays and a gift shop managed by Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc.
- Every year, SCNC serves over 4,000 Clarke County School District students in grades K-5, providing programming for all students on standards-based science subjects.

