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# JOHNS CREEK BEAUTIFICATION AND THE SECRET GARDEN TOUR

Established in 2007, JCB spent its early years setting down roots with the newly formed City of Johns Creek by leading the charge to beautify the Medlock and State Bridge corridors. Timeline of accomplishments:



- 2015: Created ArtSpot, a subcommittee dedicated to bringing public art to the city.
- **2018**: Launched the wildly successful community-wide Garden Tour, creating an outdoor event for city residents and those who live in our greater community.
- **2019**: Partnered with Autrey Mill Nature Preserve to expand the tour to include educational elements and showcase the various gardens at AMNP.
- **2019**: Joined with CanCare Atlanta to launch **Daffodils4Hope** to support cancer survivors and their caretakers. So far, nearly 20,000 daffodils have been planted in the city.
- **2021**: Secret Gardens of the Johns Creek Community was the first sold out tour and JCB expects future tours to sell out as well.
- Proceeds from past garden tours allowed JCB to purchase a magnificent, 4000 pound, metal horse sculpture by Eric Strauss. "Entwined Strength." Gifted to the City of Johns Creek last spring, it was installed in the Bell and Boles roundabout in 2022.
- 2023: Our 4th garden tour highlights 6 beautiful private gardens and Autrey MIII Nature Preserve and features live music and artists engaged in their crafts. The intimate

garden settings are a great place to enjoy the performances of very talented musicians and observe art in the making.

The JCB Board of Directors thanks you for participating in this event as a sponsor, a patron, a musician, an artist, a volunteer and/or as a member of the Secret Garden Tour Planning Committee. It takes all of us to create such a wonderful event!





JCB Board of Directors: Liliana Brenner, Lynn Canty, Julie Coco, Marilyn Davis, Donna Heinzelmann, Cassandra Littlejohn, Michèle Morel, Matt Nunez, Christie Peng, Lynn Pennington, Jennifer Schau, Chuck Wilkinson, and Chad Smith

## THE GARDEN STOPS

% 1 Henderson	р 8	
* 2 Jacobs	p 10	
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## 4 Autrey Mill Nature Preserve  ## 1  ##	p 14	
	p 16	
<pre> % 6 Cheeley</pre>	p 18	
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Thank you for inviting us into your gardens!		





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ArtSpot is the public art subcommittee of Johns Creek Beautification. ArtSpot is dedicated to the use of art in public outdoor places as a means to strengthen and enrich the identity and culture of the City of Johns Creek.



#### **ArtSpot Accomplishments**

ArtSpot dedicated "Entwined Strength" by Eric Strauss in the summer of 2022. The sculpture represents the value of merging the diversity of people to create a stronger community. It's located at Bell-Boles Park.

ArtSpot sponsored the Leadership Johns Creek project to bring an interactive mural to Newtown Park. The mural painted by international artist Kelsey Montague has chairs decorated with symbols that represent elements of Johns Creek and Georgia. Stop by and have a "seat" in the chair that feels most comfortable to you!





ArtSpot commissioned Johns Creek artist Joan Zell to paint a portable mural in honor of the inaugural Daffodil Days Festival. This vibrant mural captures the energy of the city. Viewing it will make you want to dance! The mural will soon be hung in City Hall.

#### **Come Help Us Grow**

ArtSpot is looking for volunteers who enjoy art; you do not need to be an artist. You just need the desire to see more public art in Johns Creek and a little time to assist.

ArtSpot is looking forward to brainstorming ideas for its next projects. It could be bringing in another tem-



porary art installation, creating a Sculpture Walk, partnering with local schools, wrapping utility boxes, or purchasing a sculpture to donate to the city...the possibilities are endless.

**ERIC STRAUSS,** THE CREATOR OF THE

AMAZING HORSE SCULPTURE

"ENTWINED STRENGTH"

WILL BE ONSITE AT THE GARDEN AT

430 OLD HOMESTEAD TRAIL 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

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TO MEET THE ARTIST!





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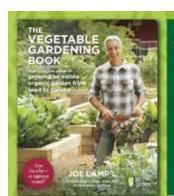
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# Garden 1 HENDERSON



3385 MERGANSER LANE 🏶 JOHNS CREEK

pproaching from the street your attention may be drawn to the two large Deodara Cedars and the miniature garden at the main entrance to the house. The backyard utilizes natural screening plants for privacy since it backs up to the neighborhood pool. A pathway and steps were created to get to the pool for a guick dip. The backyard contains a wide variety of plantings so there is something blooming through all seasons of the year. Integrated thoughtfully in the landscape are Japanese anneese, azalea, Carolina jasmine, hydrangeas, gardenias, blue-black salvia, forsythia, and pineapple sage. A low rock wall winds across the backyard, adding a second tier to this landscaping plan. Perennials like daffodils, peonies, black eyed Susans, lamb's ears, irises, Russian sage, pineapple sage, and day lilies are planted on both sides of the wall.



Joe Lamp'l is the Creator, Host and Executive Producer of the Emmy-award-winning national PBS series



Come meet and hear Joe speak and sign his latest book, THE VEGETABLE GARDENING BOOK May 6th at 9:30 am Autrey Mill Nature Preserve, 9770 Autrey Mill Rd.

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> Design & Installation Garden 1: Henderson **Property**



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# Garden 2 JACOBS

his garden appeals to a sophisticated gardener, as well as those just beginning their gardening journey. Emerging from the canopy of a soaring Japanese maple one is greeted by the sound of the waterfall nestled along the back side of the property. The garden is filled with an abundance of perennial flowers like Lenten roses, peonies, black-eyed Susan's, verbena, lantana, petunias and azaleas. As one meanders down through the vine covered arbor until reaching the bottom of the waterfall, the sweet bay magnolia almost seems to offer its gnarled arm out to greet you as you descend onto the outdoor lower patio area. It's a perfect spot to enjoy a steaming cup of coffee in the morning or a chilled evening cocktail in the secluded outdoor living room underneath the twinkling lights. 🕸

745 PINE LEAF COURT \* JOHNS CREEK





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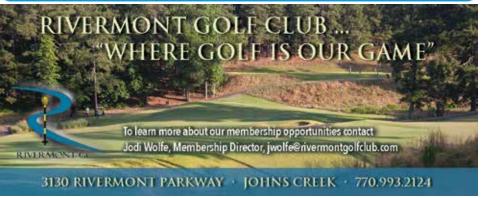
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# Garden 3 TIRATH



9710 AUTRY FALLS DRIVE 😃 JOHNS CREEK

his garden is an outdoor entertainer's dream. Enter through a magnificent iron gate to a modern entertaining oasis with a woodland border at the rear of the property. Once inside, stop and admire the beautiful, trellised pear espalier on the right. With four fireplaces to choose from it is easy to find a cozy spot to gather with friends and family. There are many culinary options to consider whether planning a barbecue using the outdoor kitchen and grill or making a freshly baked pizza in the outdoor oven. Garden herbs and vegetables plants are readily available just an arms length away. A putting green provides fun and entertainment with friends helping you perfect your putting and chipping skills. Afterward one can take a dip in the pool or relax in the large jacuzzi. 😃



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Design & Installation Garden 3: **Tirath Property** 



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The Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Heritage Center of today was built under the leadership and vision of the board, talented staff, and local government officials. Identified as a potential nature preserve by Fulton County in 1972 but not purchased, advocates stepped up when zoning threatened the property in 1987. This grassroots effort saved the woodland's unique environment and the site of the old "Autrey" grist mill. It also prevented the demolition of the historic buildings on the property. The vital help of generous public and private supporters and the indispensable work of volunteers were key to the organization's success and still are to this day.

The founders of Autrey Mill established a tax-deductible 501 (c)3 nonprofit association and signed their first lease with Fulton County, to operate in September 1988.

Upon the incorporation of the City of Johns Creek in 2006, Autrey Mill officially became a city park and preserve. This created a unique partnership with the City of Johns Creek and Autrey Mill Nature Preserve Association.

Autrey Mill's mission is to create a destination and educational resource to inspire exploration, appreciation, and preservation of the natural environment and local history. The Association is a proud steward of the preserve, and historic buildings, and provides all the environmental, heritage, and event programming offered to the community.

Make Autrey Mill Nature Preserve your first stop on your Johns Creek Beautification Secret Garden Tour and meet PBS TV's "Growing a Greener World" host Joe Lamp'l at 9:30 AM. Joe Lamp'l, the "Joe" behind joegardener® " will do a presentation on Vegetable Gardening followed by a book signing event with a portion of the proceeds donated to Autrey Mill Nature Preserve!

Follow this with a stroll through our beautiful gardens with artists painting, take a tour of one or all of our historic buildings, and make sure to try the guided hike to see our wild Pink Lady Slipper Orchids.

Autrey Mill Nature Preserve Board of Directors invites you to enjoy Coffee, Muffins, and snacks to-go on the back porch of the Summerour House. Funds raised will help us maintain each of our unique gardens, historic village, and animal ambassadors throughout the year. We can't wait to see you on the garden tour!





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9770 Autrey Mill Road, Johns Creek GA 30022 | autreymill.org

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# Garden 5 MACHEMEHL



430 OLD HOMESTEAD TRAIL 🌺 JOHNS CREEK

his 3.5 acre property is largely maintained by the homeowners. As visitors approach the front yard you can't help but be amazed by the stunning bermuda turf. Hardy perennials and low maintenance plants are a priority in this enchanting garden irrigated from a well. You descend stone steps into the backyard where the shady, moist, wooded area is surrendered to moss. The natural and informal landscaping around the pool allows for plenty of open spaces for outdoor entertaining. While peonies and hydrangeas are favored, the deer and their voracious appetites have impacted the number of plant varieties that can be successfully maintained. The homeowner's passion for flower arranging is such that no new plant enters the garden unless they are bloomers with the promise to be cut and brought inside or shared with others.





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# Garden 6 CHEELEY



#### 435 OLD HOMESTEAD TRAIL \* JOHNS CREEK

his professionally designed and landscaped property sits on the site of Sam Medlock's home, one of Johns Creek's founding pioneer families. The homeowner's grandfather, Robert David Medlock, ran the ferry at the Medlock Bridge location. As visitors approach this home they are greeted by stately oak trees in the front yard; most of which are over 200 years old. At the top of the driveway next to the house there is a kitchen and herb garden. A stone pathway leads visitors to the back patio, a fine space for entertaining. The view from the patio is a serene one looking out over a stocked pond or further off in the distance a horse pasture and riding ring. Stepping down from the patio, there is a pool and cabana where the family can enjoy cooling off and relaxing from the hot Georgia summers. 💥

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## Garden 7 MILLER



#### 590 MEADOWS CREEK DRIVE \* JOHNS CREEK

fter climbing to the peak of the driveway and turning the corner, visitors will see the large open lawn at the back of the property that is framed by red, yellow and white knockout roses. The most notable feature in the garden is the stone waterfall which cascades towards the house and a charming ivy covered pergola. The pergola and adjoining patio serve as an outdoor entertainment area. On the day of the tour, it will serve as the stage for the musical homeowners who will be performing sometime during the day. Several small palm trees border the waterfall, as well as an arched wooden bridge and quaint gazebo sitting above the waterfall. An eclectic assortment of flower-filled pots, garden art and bird houses can be found scattered throughout the garden creating a cheery, whimsical feel. \*\*

#### **DAFFODILS4HOPE** is a community-

wide fall planting program that beautifies Johns Creek's public spaces while driving awareness for CanCare Atlanta's cancer survivorship programs available in our area. The daffodil flower is the symbol of cancer survivorship as it returns to life triumphantly every spring and inspires hope for people on their cancer journey. Funds raised from Johns Creek Beautification's Secret Gardens Tour and daffodil planting partners provide financial support for the program.









In the spring months of February to April you can experience the beautiful blooms in our community at public parks, the hospital, churches, road medians, subdivision entrances, businesses and municipal buildings. This urban green space sustainable program has nourished our community's existing character, improved our environmental conditions and promoted outdoor recreation which has inspired the creation of the city-wide Daffodil Days Festival now held annually in the spring in Johns Creek.



We are thankful for the enthusiastic planting energy from any person and group. Your small friend group, preschool group, school group, Bible study group, homeowners group, boy/girl scout troop, club, or business community service group is the perfect action group for the next D4H "done-in-a-day" service project that plants 1000 daffodil bulbs at a time. We can also accommodate individuals who like to plant bulbs by pairing them with other groups. Find out how you can become a planting partner and join in the fun at **johnscreekbeautification.org/daffodils4hope** 



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## The History of Horses in Johns Creek

The importance of horses to the history of the Shakerag area of Johns Creek is symbolized by Eric Strauss' striking horse sculpture on the 2023 Secret Garden Tour route.

Johns Creek
Historical Society

Workey

From the time of the Cherokee until the age of automobiles, horses provided local farmers

of automobiles, horses provided local farmers a practical mode of travel and trans-



porting goods. However, by the late 1940s the relationship with horses changed from functional to recreational when the Shakerag Hounds Hunt Club moved to a 40 acre parcel near McGinnis Ferry Road with clubhouse, 40 stall horse barn, and kennel for 60 hounds. With permission from local farmers, up to 100 riders participated in twice weekly fox hunts November to March across 5000 acres of Shakerag woods and fields. Riders jumped fences and streams and even rode their horses through the hall of the historic, but deserted, 1804 Cherokee home of Johns Rogers to chase foxes out of hiding.

As recently as the 1980s, the area of Johns Creek was dotted with horse farms and riding stables, with a half dozen in Shakerag. In a February 1983 AJC article a

resident is quoted, "We're loaded up with horses around here... I wonder if there aren't more horses than people in Shakerag".

As farms sold to developers for subdivisions and Tech Park, the Hunt Club was forced to relocate and most of the horse farms and stables moved out. There are a few still left in the city, but for most of us, the Bell-Boles roundabout horse sculpture is our reminder of a different time when this was rural horse country.

Interested to learn more? **Visit www.johnscreekhistory.org** 



# **Special Thanks** to the hardworking members of the Garden Tour Committee who make this event a great success!



The members from left to right include: Chuck Wilkinson,
Jennifer Schau, Lynn Pennington,
Donna Heinzelmann, Angela Harvey,
Michèle Morel, Cindy Eade,
Kathy Ortwerth, Mic Bishop,
Linda Henderson and Mina Dyson.
(Not pictured are Liliana Brenner,
Marilyn Davis, Matt Nunez,
Joanna Odom, Christie Peng,
Chad Smith and Beth Strickland.)





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# Thank you to our amazing

# Artists and Musicians!

Riley Dennis-Dr. Dreadhead

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Catalina Gomez-Beuth	catalinagomezbeuthart.com
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Don Yaun	donyaunart.com
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Eric Strauss	ericstrauss-sculptor.com
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"Growing a Greener World"	growingagreenerworld.com
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