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—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

CHAMBLEE'S KESWICK FOREST INDUCTED INTO THE OLD-GROWTH FOREST NETWORK

July 27, 2020—Chamblee's Keswick Forest was formally inducted into the Old-Growth Forest Network on Saturday, July 25. Dr. Sarah Horsley, network manager of the Old-Growth Forest Network, presented a plaque to park officials and Keep Chamblee Beautiful volunteers to celebrate the dedication of the forest.

Between 1959 and 1962, the City of Chamblee acquired the land that would become Keswick Park. Keswick Park grew throughout the years with a playground, tennis courts and recreation fields, but the 15-acre gem of old-growth forest remained. In 2016, Keep Chamblee Beautiful volunteers thoughtfully added extensions to existing historical footpath trails, so residents could enjoy a quiet walk in the forest amid busy city life and more recently have been removing invasive species to allow the native forest to flourish. The forest contains three separate perennial streams, upland and bottomland forests and a wide array of native Piedmont trees estimated up to 230 years old. Several particularly massive, coppiced old-growth tulip poplar, sycamore and red oak trees can be found along small foot trails carved through the woods, as well as many understory and ground-level plants such as Piedmont azalea, wild hydrangea, devil's walking stick, wood aster, wild ginger, and trillium.

Keswick Park was inducted into the "Original Forest of Atlanta," a group of DeKalb and Fulton County forests that are historically linked to Atlanta's original forest cover. www.oldgrowthforest.net/ga-original-forest-of-atlanta-dekalb-county.

"Each of these Atlanta area sites are native Piedmont gems among our City in the Forest. As an Atlanta resident, I appreciate the work of our Chamblee volunteers and park employees recognizing and protecting these old-growth areas. The Old-Growth Forest Network grows from our network of dedicated forest preservationists," Dr. Horsley states.

The mission of the Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN) is to connect people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, publicly accessible, native forests. The goal is to preserve at least one forest in every county in the United States that can sustain one. OGFN's program works to identify forests for the Network, ensure their protection from logging and inform people of the forest locations. OGFN also educates about the extraordinary ecological and human wellness benefits of old-growth forests and speaks out regarding immediate threats to specific ancient forests. Interested volunteers are welcome: www.oldgrowthforest.net.

For more information on the City of Chamblee please visit www.chambleega.gov or call 770-986-5010.

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Located just 14 miles from downtown Atlanta, Chamblee is a vibrant urban city with a diverse community and international flair. The City of Chamblee began as a small rail town and was incorporated in 1908. It has grown to more than seven square miles and nearly 30,000 residents. Chamblee is home to a heavy rail MARTA station, a historic downtown and Antique Row, the vibrant Buford Highway Corridor, DeKalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK), the Centers for Disease Control and a thriving business community with a unique sense of entrepreneurship and optimism. Visit www.chambleega.gov for more information.