

## PICKERING CREEK AUDUBON CENTER MASTER PLAN

**Location:** Easton, Maryland  
**Client:** Pickering Creek Audubon Center  
**Size:** 400 acres  
**Cost:** \$8 million  
**Status:** Master Plan Completed 2013, projects in

For thirty years, Pickering Creek Audubon Center has connected citizens, especially children, to birds, the outdoors and the Chesapeake Bay. During those thirty years of successful programming the Center had never undertaken a formal master site planning process. In 2012 the hired Viridian to create a functional infrastructure that complements the natural beauty of the site's 400 acres and is in sync with the high-quality environmental education programming for which the Center is known.

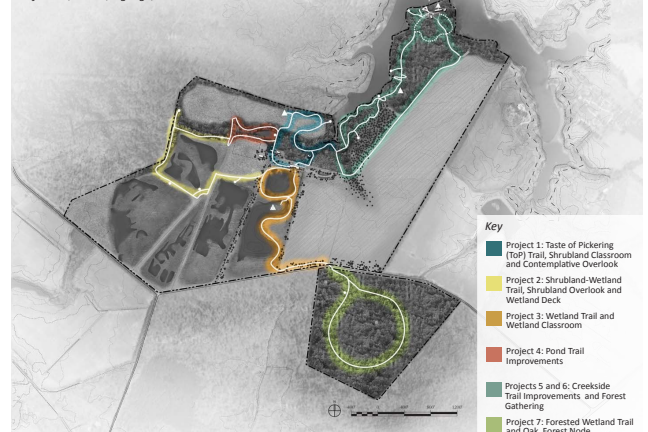
The foundation of a successful master site plan is based on a participatory process that involved key stakeholders from the outset. Together, Pickering Creek Audubon Center representatives, its stakeholders and the Planning Team arrived at a common understanding of the site's "story" – its history, current identity, operations and desired future.

The result is a plan that reorients the site around a new Welcome Center centrally located near the Gilbert Byron Meadow. This central location sets visitors at the core of the site's unique habitats and the locus of the trail systems. Expanding upon the idea that Pickering Creek's classroom is the outdoors, improved trails link to outdoor classrooms are located in each of Pickering Creek's major habitats: wetland, forest, shrubland and creek. Here students will have facilities that accommodate twenty people, with storage for class supplies, seating and the ability to serve for activities ranging from nature journaling to recording field data.

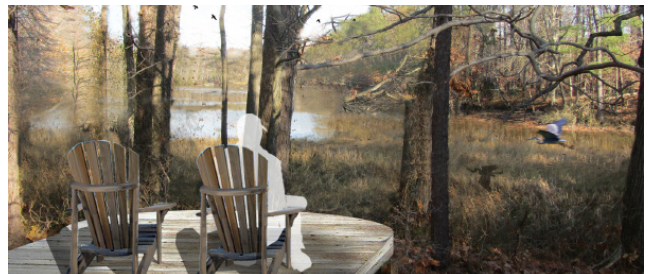
For ease of fund-raising, each major intervention from habitat restoration to core buildings, to trails, outdoor classrooms and overlooks was broken into a project and estimated accordingly.

### Project Phasing Plan

Projects 1-7: Trails, Signage, Classrooms and Overlooks



### Proposed Core Plan



Project: Taste of Pickering Trail with contemplative overlook



Project: Shrubland Wetland Trail



Project: Wetland habitat creation