

Sturgeon City

Environmental Education Center

Annual Report: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



In partnership with the
City of Jacksonville



Sturgeon City, Building Community

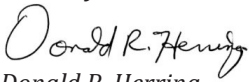
Friends of Sturgeon City,

It is with great pride that I present the 2018-2019 Sturgeon City Annual Report. Sturgeon City's staff, along with our Board of Directors, worked diligently this year to ensure that Sturgeon City's legacy of promoting civic leadership and environmental stewardship carries on and the organization's long-term goals are met.

I am happy to report that Sturgeon City reached over 10,000 students and citizens in the past year. All who interact with Sturgeon City experience quality educational programs to include school field trips, Saturday Street Science, Camp Sturgeon summer camp, Homeschool Street Science, Little Learners, and our flagship program the Sturgeon City Institutes. Our Sturgeon City Institute program celebrated 21 years in June of this year, which is a testament to the commitment of Sturgeon City along with our partners at the City of Jacksonville and the Onslow County Schools. These programs continue to excite students about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics while also instilling the importance of being an environmental steward and civic leader in their community.

We are excited to share with you that the Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center had its opening ceremony on June 26th, 2019, during the week of Sturgeon City Institutes. We are very excited for the new opportunities the Center will provide for our quality, hands-on STEM educational programs and to be able to offer the Center as a rental space for community and regional events such as civic meetings, conferences, teacher trainings, and more.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Herring

Chairman, Sturgeon City Board of Director

Board of Directors

Don Herring, Chairman

Charles Efird, Vice Chairman

Mary Anne Williams, Treasurer

Alfred Keyes, Secretary

John Rouse, Member

Ken Hagan, Member

Jay Levine, Member

Gary Danford, Member

Tiffany Choice, Member



Sturgeon City's new Environmental Education Center is open for learning and rental opportunities. Opening Ceremonies were held in June of 2019 during the Sturgeon City Institutes for High School students and Summer Programs for younger children were underway.

In the first few months following the opening of the facility there has been a steady stream of rentals including the Shriner's Annual event, Jacksonville Fashion Week and Oktoberfest activities. A healthy influx of rentals at the facility will help pay for upkeep and provide continued opportunity for learning with our youth.

Features of the Environmental Education Center:

- 11,400 square foot facility
- Large space is 45' X 120' or three 45' X 40' rooms which can be reconfigured
- Used as one large room, it can accommodate an estimated 453 people
- Wet lab area for environmental education programs
- Catering kitchen



Sturgeon City Origins



Our Story

Sturgeon City has its origins in the successful Wilson Bay Initiative. The Wilson Bay Initiative by the City of Jacksonville was developed following the closure of the Wilson Bay Wastewater Treatment plant which had contributed to the degradation of the New River. The initiative used grant funds to seed restoration efforts focused on improving the water quality in Wilson Bay and helping bring life back to the New River. These efforts included the use of oysters for filtration, aeration units to increase water flow, restored wetlands for runoff filtration and stormwater mitigation to decrease runoff into Wilson Bay.

The initiative which was started by the City of Jacksonville grew to involve area military installations, county and City interests, and regulators and advocates throughout Jacksonville and Onslow County. While the Wilson Bay Initiative started in Wilson Bay, the effect was felt throughout the New River.

The restoration activities taking place in Wilson Bay drew the interest of the entire community including area military installations, county and City interests, regulators, and environmental advocates throughout Jacksonville and Onslow County. The idea for Sturgeon City was suggested by Dr. Jay Levine of NC State University, who had been helping coordinate the habitat restoration effort and Dr. Walt Timm, who was leading the County's economic development efforts. They urged the use of the large tanks at the site to raise Sturgeon. Sturgeon are bottom feeders and had abandoned the New River when the thick blanket of sludge prevented their return upriver. If Sturgeon came back to the river, it was a solid demonstration that the restoration effort had worked.

Many community members and area youth got involved in the various volunteer activities that were part of the Wilson Bay Initiative. Such was the interest of the community, that those working with the project saw an opportunity to attract young people who could use the hands-on activities as a backdrop for science, leadership and community education. It was a success and the Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center opened during the 21st edition of the Sturgeon City Institutes in the summer of 2019.

Over the years, Sturgeon City expanded to be able to serve all ages through year-round environmental education programs covering a wide range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics topics. The Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center will allow the Sturgeon City non-profit to continue and expand our mission to become the model for inspiring youth leadership, civic involvement, habitat restoration, environmental education and stewardship of the New River and coastal wetlands.

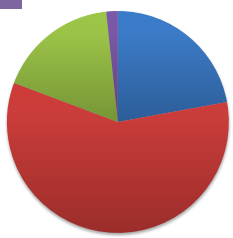
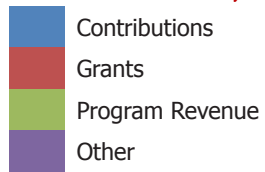


“Special thank you to the staff who always go above and beyond to make the programs fun, engaging, and educational!” – Parent, multiple programs

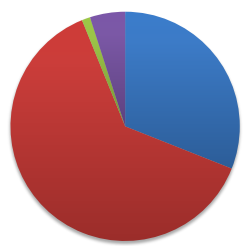
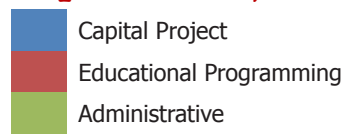
“I would highly recommend Sturgeon City for some creative and inventive fun!” – Parent, Intersession program

FY19 Financials

Income \$368,928



Expense \$368,928



Sturgeon City Programs

Since **July 2018 -
June 2019: 10,262**
Students & Adults
were served

Since **1999: 78,000**
Students & Adults were
served through **1,200**
Different programs

Field trips	42 trips serving 2,622 students
Camp Sturgeon	22 sessions serving 504 students
Summer Field Trips	14 sessions serving 235 students
Earth Day for Students	Serving over 700 people
1 st Earth Day for Public	Serving over 500 people
Street Science	47 programs serving 622 students
Little Learners	11 programs serving 43 pre-K children
Parents Night Out	8 programs serving 37 students
In schools & local events	32 programs serving 3,891 people



A Special Thank You, 2018-2019 *

Sturgeon City Society

\$50,000-99,999
Duke Energy Foundation
Golden LEAF
Jacksonville Tourism Development Authority
Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation
Marine Federal Credit Union
Modern Exterminating
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Efrid
NC Science Museum Grant Program
Onslow County Tourism
Wells Fargo Foundation

Benefactors

\$25,000-49,999
Anonymous
BB&T
PNC Foundation
Sanders Ford
Union Bank

Patrons

\$10,000-24,999
Brumbaugh, Mu and King, PA
Coldwell Banker Seacoast Advantage
First Citizens Bank
Golden Corral
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Sewell
Mr. and Mrs. George Jones
Parker and Associates
Dr. Robert Sheegog

Stewards

\$5,000-9,999
Mr. and Mrs. John Carter
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Marty Goldman
Mr. Glenn Hargett and Mr. Everett Vaughn
Dr. and Mrs. Don Herring
Mr. and Mrs. John Rouse
Dr. Alex Willis
Onslow Caring Communities Foundation
Piney Green Electric

Champions

\$2,500-4,999
AT&T
Kohl's Cares
Malcolm Pirnie
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hagan
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Keyes
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mu
Mr. Dan Oliver

Wilson Bay Circle

\$500-2,499
Bob's Auto Center
Mr. and Mrs. James Boyce
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Choice
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dupuis
Efrid Family
J.Z. Mann Pediatric Therapy, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Horace Mann
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin McConnell
New River Sail and Power Squadron
Dr. Randy Schilsky
Ms. Susie Wakild
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wangerin
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Warden
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Williams

Friends Circle

\$Up to 499
ABA Rental Properties
Mr. and Mrs. David Altman
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Baker
Mr. Kristoff Bauer
Ms. Erin Bitoni
Mr. Jerry Bittner
Mr. Henry Browning
Ms. Tina Davis
Mrs. Lesley Eason
Mr. Woody Fox
Furniture Fair
Gardenerettes
Ms. Marceda Guild
HARMONY program of the City of Jacksonville
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Harris (in memory of Wick Bode)
Ms. Rebecca Honeycutt

Mr. George Lanvermeier
Jon Lesan
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Levine
Montessori Children's School
Dr. and Mrs. Stratton Murrell
Ms. Donna Prince
Ms. Cassie Redmyer
Elizabeth Schiefelbein
Dr. Sara Sinal
Ms. Terrie Trim
Ms. Valerie Tuton
Mr. Charles VanHorne

Program Contributors

Representative George G. Cleveland
Jacksonville Tourism Development Authority
Representative Bob Muller
NC Science Museum Grant Program
New River Rotary
New River Sail & Power Squadron
Onslow County Tourism
Senator Harry Brown
Representative Phil Shepard

In-Kind Donations

Bob's Auto Center
Senator Harry Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Skip Clarkson
Home Depot
Lowe's Home Improvement
New River Rotary
Representative Phil Shepard
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Spradling
Trail Life Troop 4316
White Oak HS Interact Club

New Giving 2018-2019 *

Representative George G. Cleveland
Coastal Enterprises
Moore Buick GMC
Mr. Edwin "Eddie" Rose
Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Sparks
St. Anne's Parish Day School
Mr. Walter Timm



*Donations & Pledges made after June 30, 2019 will be reflected in the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

Since 1999, 78,000 students and adults have been served through 1,200 different programs provided by Sturgeon City.

On the Horizon for 2020

- Program expansion to include partnerships with area agencies and regional science centers
- Expanded Earth Day Festival including indoor and outdoor activities
- Event opportunities at the Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center

Ways You Can Help

Advocate  Donate  Participate

We invite you to come by and visit us any time.
For more information contact:

Paula Farnell, Director of Development & Operations
910-938-6456 • pfarnell@sturgeonccity.org



SturgeonCity.org

PO Box 1056, Jacksonville, NC 28541 • 910-938-6456

