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Chattahoochee Bend Park spruced up with new trees, trail restoration

BY [JOHN WINTERS](#)

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About 60 volunteers were on hand Saturday to plant trees and repair trails on a weather-perfect day out at Chattahoochee Bend State Park.

Thanks to a donation from the Newnan Rotary Club, volunteers were busy planting 50 white oaks and 50 wax myrtles throughout the state's newest park in western Coweta County.

"We've had a major turnout and really delighted with everyone showing up," said Dave Smith, chairman of the Botanical Committee for the Friends of Chattahoochee Bend.

"We're doing this for Arbor Day," added Glenn Flake, chairman of the committee. "We appreciate the Rotary Club stepping up and purchasing the trees and to help augment our existing volunteer group."

Tree planting is a major initiative of Rotary International. The founder of the organization would always plant a tree in honor of visitors to his home.

The volunteers were coached in proper planting by Scott Berta, a registered forester who runs Tree Protection Supply.

Berta showed the planters the proper depth for the holes, and also how to install piping to help them grow properly and protect them from deer.

Those coming out to help were armed with shovels, plenty of gloves and post diggers.

"The ones with the post diggers are the most important participants," Smith joked.

The white oaks will be planted at the Visitor's Center, the Adirondack area and campsites No. 1 and 2. Volunteers earlier marked out locations for all the trees.

The wax myrtles were being planted at the brick road sign near the front entrance to the park.

The tree planters started about noon, and were preceded by trail crews who started about two hours earlier.

The trail crews were repairing some damage to bridges and working on blazing new trails.

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.bendfriend.org.

To get to the park, take Hwy 34 West/Franklin Highway to Thomas Powers Road (at Powers' Crossroads store). Go right on Thomas Powers' Road and follow the signs to the park.

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