



# Sturgeon City

Environmental Education Center  
Annual Report: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



In partnership with the  
City of Jacksonville

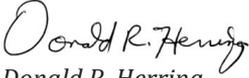


***Friends of Sturgeon City,***

*It is with great pride that I present the 2020-2021 Sturgeon City Annual Report. Sturgeon City's staff, along with our Board of Directors, has continued to look for innovative ideas to ensure that we provide quality programming for our community. Over the past year, Sturgeon City was able to reach nearly 8000 students and adults through 301 individual programs. Staff introduced a new series of public, family programs centered around major holidays including Spooktacular, Let it Snow mobile planetarium show, and Egg-citing Easter. We were also excited to bring back our public Earth Day Celebration in 2021 and host our first Steps for Sturgeon City fundraiser run/walk. In addition to the many new programs introduced, we saw our largest Camp Sturgeon participation, made the decision to expand our weekly homeschool programs and expanded our Teen Science Café program.*

*We are excited to share with you that despite the challenges we have faced over the last year and a half, last year was the most successful programming year in Sturgeon City's history. The additional capacity provided by the Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center allowed us to introduce several new programs which we look forward to growing this coming year. Sturgeon City staff will also continue to create new programs to help meet community needs and grow our reach within Onslow and surrounding counties.*

*Sincerely,*



*Donald R. Herring  
Chairman, Sturgeon City Board of Director*

**Board of Directors**

*Don Herring, Chairman*

*Charles Efir, Vice Chairman*

*Mary Anne Williams, Treasurer*

*Alfred Keyes, Secretary*

*John Rouse, Member*

*Ken Hagan, Member*

*Jay Levine, Member*

*Gary Danford, Member*

*Tiffany Choice, Member*



*Board Members with staff during a visit from  
Congressman Greg Murphy in 2020*



## How Many We Have Served

Since **July 2019 - June 2020: 7,881** Students and adults were served through 301 different programs

Since **1999:** More than **92,000** students and adults were served through **1,800** different programs



Description	Enrolled	Age	Sessions
Camp Sturgeon	2,324	4-13	55
Field Trips (Summer)	89	5-12	4
Homeschool Science	852	5-13	35
Kid's Night Out	157	5-12	10
Planetarium Programs	352	all ages	18
Sturgeon City Academy	1059	5-12	105
Teen Science Cafe	283	11-17	9



*"Thanks so much for the summer camp programs that you all ran for our children. They enjoyed learning and having fun." - Camp Sturgeon Parent -*

*"On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to have our opening session at your beautiful facility. It is wonderful to recognize that we have community members such as you who are making a difference." - Onslow Virtual Secondary School Principal -*

# Unique

The Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center is unique in that it is a partnership between the City of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Tourism Development Authority and the Sturgeon City non-profit.



## Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center

Staff at Sturgeon City worked with clients to provide additional safety measures as requested and successfully hosted 21 events in the second year of operations. Events included a wedding, numerous wedding receptions, a black tie gala, jazz event, comedy show, rotary induction ceremony, and several private parties.

Additional safety measures as requested by clients are being implemented and staff are continuing to book events now and into 2022. Many of those are returning clients.



# Special

The flexibility of the Education Center allowed Sturgeon City to host a variety of special programs over the past year. These programs included Spooktacular Science, Egg-citing Easter, Earth Day Celebration, and more. Sturgeon City also launched the first 'Steps for Sturgeon City Virtual Run' to help raise funds for programs.

# Local



Events and programs like these are made possible through partnerships with local organizations and entities. Each event helps Sturgeon City increase reach in the community and interest in the health of our local environment. The goal is to continue public events and programs as well as introducing new opportunities in the coming year.





## Continued Growth

During the second year of the center's operations, many new opportunities for youth and adults were introduced. Planetarium programs were expanded to include a holiday themed show called Let it Snow. This seasonal show sold out and ran for 4 weeks in December and January. Because of it's popularity, Let It Snow is being added to the 2021-22 holiday season schedule. The first community outreach program with the mobile planetarium was held in 2021. Plans are underway to add additional programs in the next year locally.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Sturgeon City Summer Institutes were held in 2021. This past summer was also the most successful for our Camp Sturgeon program.

Sturgeon City Staff post information about upcoming programs on social media and the Sturgeon City website.

[SturgeonCity.org](https://www.sturgeoncity.org)



The Story of Sturgeon City



# Sturgeon City



Sturgeon City has its origins in the successful Wilson Bay Initiative. The initiative was a response to community forums and conversations with several partner groups which used grant funds to seed restoration efforts in Wilson Bay and the New River.

These restoration efforts used a combination of oysters for filtration, aeration units to increase water flow, restored wetlands for runoff filtration and stormwater mitigation to decrease runoff. These methods were inspired by regional projects and research groups.

Sturgeon City continues to serve the community with hands-on environmental education programs.



## Serving our Community

The Environmental Education Center has become a gathering place for the community. Here, core programs as well as several innovative opportunities have flourished. The Sturgeon City Academy program was introduced for students on virtual learning days. This program began in August 2020 and continued through Spring 2021 when students returned to the classroom full time.

## Upcoming and New Programs

National Shark Awareness Day on July 17<sup>th</sup> was the first in a new series of public programs at Sturgeon City. Several more public programs are being planned, including an annual site cleanup in September for National Cleanup Day and a new holiday themed program called Winter Wonderland in December.

There is a lot in store for 2022. Keep an eye on Sturgeon City social media pages and website for information on upcoming programs and events.

2020-2021 financial report is available upon request.



Advocate  Donate  Participate

**SturgeonCity.org**

PO Box 1056, Jacksonville, NC 28541 • 910-750-5876