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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeKalb Preserves Historic County Farm
*Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance to lead
Lyon Farm historic structures restoration efforts*

DECATUR, Ga. — On Tuesday, March 13, DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond and the Board of Commissioners authorized funding to stabilize the historic Lyon Farm. The property contains a historic farmhouse and smokehouse that are believed to contain the oldest homestead in DeKalb County.



Arabia Alliance Executive Director Mera Cardenas and Georgia Trust Director of Preservation Neale Nickels during a site visit at the historic Lyon Farm in January 2017.

The 100-acre Lyon Farm was purchased by the DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management in 2006 as part of the Pole Bridge Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sprayfields. In 2016, the historic structures were placed on the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation's "Places in Peril" list due to excessive damage to the roof and other structural elements. This project, budgeted at \$225,000, will restore the structural integrity of the farmhouse and smokehouse, repair the roof, and provide much needed weather proofing.

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“The Arabia Alliance looks forward to actively working with DeKalb County to stabilize the historic house and find an adaptive reuse that will engage the community with its vibrant past,” said Executive Director Mera Cardenas.



Members of the Arabia Alliance along with DeKalb County officials from Watershed Management and Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites, Flat Rock Archives, The Georgia Trust, and Greening Youth Foundation during a site visit at the historic Lyon Farm.

The Lyon Farm is part of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area and has been identified as a future site for tourism and youth education. It will eventually tie directly into Atlanta’s Beltline through the Arabia Mountain PATH, a multi-use trail that is more than 33 miles long. The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance will coordinate the restoration of the structures and look for opportunities to add some sweat equity to bring them to a reusable level. This unique public-private partnership will help control project costs and ensure that the restoration meets the requirements for historic preservation.

About Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance is a local nonprofit dedicated to protecting, connecting and sharing the unique history, rich culture and engaging landscapes of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area for the benefit and enjoyment of all generations. The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area is an affiliate of the National Park Service. For more information, visit www.arabiaalliance.org, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArabiaMountainNationalHeritageArea.

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