

In Georgia, a Diversion Program Profits a Community, a Park and Juvenile Offenders

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ATLANTA — When Derrick Anderson* was charged with reckless driving at the age of 17, the court ordered him to complete 160 hours of community service along with a year of probation. He was frustrated. He had already completed 40 hours before his trial. He had been a good student with good grades, who had a lapse in judgment – and got caught.

His lawyer sent him to Ray Mock, the director of operations at the Chastain Park Conservancy, a nonprofit organization serving the largest park in Atlanta, to complete his community service hours.

“I came in there a kid who was mad, who had to do community service -- who had to do a lot of hours,” Anderson said.

But he built a relationship with Mock, and the program ended up being just what he needed, Anderson said.

Full article at <http://jje.org/in-georgia-a-diversion-program-that-profits-a-community-a-park-and-juvenile-offenders/106332/>