

Timeline of George Washington Carver Park on Allatoona Lake

1950 – As Allatoona Lake was completed, Atkinson convinced Governor Talmadge to create a park for blacks. The state leased shoreline to create Red Top Mountain State Park and also established a “Negro State Park” – George Washington Carver Park. Atkinson became the first black state park superintendent



1962 – The Atlanta Girl Scout Council assumes operation of the Girl Scout Camp for Negroes started by the Atkinsons at George Washington Carver Park



1964 – Civil Rights Act; GWCP integrates with Red Top Mountain SP

1975 – Park land lease transferred to Bartow County Government; operates as Bartow Carver Park



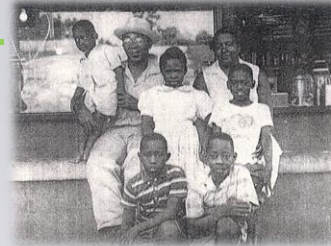
1945 – Tuskegee Airman John Atkinson was one of a million black Americans who returned from WWII needing a place to reconnect with friends and family; however, segregation laws barred blacks from public parks



1958 – Atkinson resigns and Clarence Benham is named Superintendent at GWCP

Benham’s youngest son, Robert would become the first black Chief Justice of Georgia’s Supreme Court

The Atkinsons 1958



2017 – Bartow County restores name to George Washington Carver Park; transfers management to Cartersville-Bartow County CVB

Info & Reservations:
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