

Timeline of George Washington Carver Park on Allatoona Lake

1950 – As Allatoona Lake was completed, Governor Talmadge agreed to lease shoreline to create Red Top Mountain State Park and also to establish a “Negro State Park” – George Washington Carver Park. John Atkinson became Georgia’s 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.



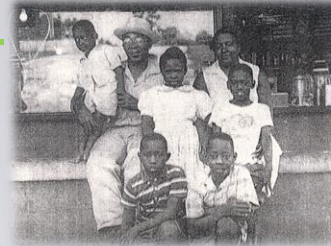
1943 – Tuskegee Airman John Atkinson was one of a million black Americans who returned from WWII to reconnect with friends and family; having upheld freedom, they were now faced with segregation.



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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