

Restoring Darien's history: Oglethorpe Square

Coastal Electric Cooperative got to help with a very special project in Darien this spring—restoring a historic square that dates back to the time of Gen. James Oglethorpe, founder of the colony of Georgia.

Under the direction of Certified Arborist Jerry Holcomb, Coastal Electric employees teamed up with McIntosh County Academy students on April 18 to plant nine 100-gallon, container-grown live oak trees on the



Coastal Electric Line Supervisor Clint Durrence helps space live oak trees on Oglethorpe Square—a task for which he's well-qualified after precisely setting countless spans of power poles.



The trees are unloaded and ready to set in place! From left, Merwan Messa, assistant superintendent of McIntosh County Schools; Dr. Jim Pulos, past superintendent; Jerry Holcomb, certified arborist; Clint Durrence, Coastal Electric line supervisor; Chad Fultz, contractor; and Scott Brooker, McIntosh Middle School principal.

former site of Oglethorpe Square.

Founded in 1736, Darien is the second-oldest city in Georgia, and according to City Manager Richard Braun, this particular square was part of Oglethorpe's original design for Darien.

The original square was erased decades ago when the former McIntosh County Academy (now McIntosh

County Middle School) and its associated parking lot were constructed. Former McIntosh County Schools Superintendent Dr. James Pulos kicked off the project by having asphalt and concrete removed, and the ground leveled to reestablish the square as a public park and green space.

Coastal Electric lineworkers

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brought in bucket trucks and other equipment typically used to set power poles to unload trees, rescue another vehicle stuck in the sand—and even raise a flag pole for Old Glory.

“Community development often looks like building something new to enrich the lives of the people who live there,” says Chris Fettes, Coastal Electric CEO, “but it also looks like preserving something enduring, investing in the rich history that makes this place we call home so special.”

After the trees were planted, McIntosh County officials held a ceremony on April 21 dedicating them to honored community members. The ceremony was part of Georgia PSC Commissioner Tim Echols’ Coastal Earth Day Summit.

“Rural cooperatives have always given back to their communities,” Echols says. “Coastal Electric has done this up and down Georgia’s 100 miles of coast, and here they are in Darien, making an investment in Oglethorpe Square and going above and beyond.”

To see the first stages of the Oglethorpe Square project and hear more from the local people involved, scan the QR Code on this page.



McIntosh County Academy high school students helped plant nine 100-gallon, container-grown live oak trees on the former site of Oglethorpe Square, investing in their city’s past and future.



Coastal Electric staff and student volunteers stand proudly near the flagpole raised on historic Oglethorpe Square.



Could the new time-of-use rate save you money?

Coastal Electric Cooperative recently rolled out a special time-of-use rate, designed primarily to save electric vehicle (EV) owners on their electric bills and encourage beneficial off-peak charging—a win-win.

Members who choose to opt into this time-of-use rate enjoy lower rates during off-peak hours and super-off-peak hours, which allows them to save money when they charge their EVs overnight.

Charging EVs at home is an easy option, according to Alan Shedd, director of emerging technologies for Oglethorpe Power Corp., the primary power supplier for Georgia's electric membership cooperatives. Instead of remembering to stop by a gas station to refill, a consumer can take 5 seconds to plug in at home; and the next morning, their vehicle is fully charged and ready to go.

"We want to encourage people to charge at home," Shedd says. "We also want to encourage people to charge in the middle of the night, when the demand for electricity is low. It



costs less for the consumer, it's better for the grid and it's better for the environment."

Beyond EV owners, the time-of-use rate is available to any Coastal Electric member who wants to lower their electricity bills by shifting use to off-peak times. For example, a member with a swimming pool could adjust

their pool pump to run only at night to take advantage of off-peak rates.

Coastal Electric is now installing customized meters for members signed up for the new time-of-use rate. For more information or to sign up, contact energy adviser Jason Smith at (912) 880-2232 or jason.smith@coastalelectric.coop.

ON-PEAK HOURS



4-8 p.m.,
including all weekends
and holidays

OFF-PEAK HOURS



6 a.m.-4 p.m. and 8 p.m.-10 p.m.,
including all weekends
and holidays

SUPER OFF-PEAK HOURS



10 p.m.-6 a.m.,
including all weekends
and holidays

Members on the time-of-use rate pay 20 cents per kWh during on-peak times, 9.5 cents per kWh for off-peak and 5 cents per kWh for super-off-peak.



Teachers: You can earn up to \$2,000 for your classroom!

Apply for a Bright Ideas grant to help bring your innovative classroom project ideas to life. For more information and to apply, visit CoastalElectric.Coop/bright-ideas or scan the QR Code.

The deadline for applications is Thursday, Aug. 31.

Bright Ideas grants are made possible by the generosity of Coastal Electric members who participate in Operation Round Up, as well as the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation.

