


There are no results for **ALPHARETTA, Ga. — After looking out his window, one Rotary Club member decided to improve his community. The living room at the home of Richard Matherly, a previous president of the North Fulton Rotary Club, looks out over the Big Creek Greenway. But the view also includes a concrete manhole riser, one of many along the trail. “I said, ‘Golly, it would be fun to see murals painted on these ugly bunkers,’” Matherly said. Over the next three years, the club hopes to complete painting more than 40 risers. After that, they are considering doing the same to underpasses along the Greenway. On Oct. 5, nine students from local high schools spent the day painting drab concrete structures between Mansell and Kimball Bridge roads, including the one near Matherly’s home. As the students worked in the shade of the forest’s canopy, cyclists, skaters, joggers and walkers passed by, tossing the occasional question and compliment. The murals are inspired by the theme “clean water for all,” which also is a part of the club’s international mission. Imaan Ali, a junior at Fulton Science Academy, was painting a freshwater crab. “I really focused on the ‘for all’ aspect by incorporating cultural patterns into my design,” she said. Abigail Huff, a sophomore at Innovation Academy, was painting a towering blue wave influenced by the work of Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. She said she was inspired by the movement of water. “But mostly I just wanted to make the Greenway prettier and help everyone enjoy it a little more,” she said. She said she often cycles along the trail, enjoying the natural beauty with her family. Behind Matherly’s home, Eden Kiewiet, a Kingsridge Christian School senior, was painting an angel pouring an endless flow of water. “When my wife gets home, she’s going to love it,” Matherly said.**

PHOTOS: Rotary club, students bring splash of color to Greenway 1 of 8 Others have stepped up to support Matherly’s idea. Fulton County Public Works donated about \$2,500 to fund paints and other supplies and the club contributed another \$5,000. JOBS Post a Job  Now Hiring: Administrative Assistant Now Hiring: Accountant Coordinating the painting was no small task for AnnaLysa Kimball, who served as artistic advisor. Kimball spent the day at a long table near the trailhead’s parking lot. Surrounded by dozens of paint cans and clipboards brimming with lists, she coordinated the logistics required to bring the murals to life. In a twist of fate, Kimball, a professional muralist who painted Woodstock’s downtown mural, had grown up with Matherly. She attended preschool in Roswell with his daughters and describes him as “joyful, inclusive and creative.” She decided to connect with him on Facebook after hearing about the project. “They said maybe I was the right person to do it and to give me a call ... we just all ran together with it,” she said. Kimball said the project was much more than a fun art project. It also was about teaching the students all the secrets of her trade, public art. She showed the students how to write collaborative artistic agreements to help them work together better. They also compiled maintenance guides to tell sponsors and Alpharetta city officials how to protect them against weathering. Kimball even showed the students how to speak with members of the media and public. “We are teaching the kids how to be professional mural artists, right down to talking to people like you,” Kimball said. The painting done over the weekend has improved Matherly’s view and benefitted the entire community, he said. “Everyone stops and says, ‘This is wonderful. This is beautiful,’” Matherly said. As artwork, murals are special because they embody the spirit of community, Kimball said. They bring artistic expression to the places where people already are, rather than hiding

in galleries or ticketed exhibits. These murals' equitable theme, water for all, also perfectly fits the medium. "These designs are for everyone," Kimball said. "You don't see many specific skin tones. You don't see many specific cultural themes. They're very open."