

# Parks of Summerhill Vision Plan





# PARKS OF SUMMERHILL VISION PLAN

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more & better parks

[www.ParkPride.org](http://www.ParkPride.org)

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# Acknowledgements

Park Pride's Visioning Team relies on the hard work, conscientious coordination, and support of the community and key stakeholders. Visioning for the Parks of Summerhill could not have happened, nor been as successful, without the help of the following community members and stakeholders.

The Steering Committee drove the process and everyday work to envision beautiful, safe, and vibrant community public spaces. The following members met monthly, directed the process, and advised the Park Pride Team: Byran Adams, Zach Elliott, Kimberly Jones, Britney McCoy, Joshua McCoy, Jon Mickel, Suzanne Mitchell, Arnie Moskowitz, Quinton Price, Paul Salo, Sandrilla Thomas, Wanda Rasheed, Patrick Washington, Christina Wessels, and Steve Wessels.

A special thank you goes to Byran Adams, who served as the Steering Committee Chairperson. It's rare to find a person who can handle community work with such grace, integrity, and commitment. Thank you Byran, for all you did and continue to do for your community.

Thank you to the staff of the Georgia Hill Center who opened your doors to the community and Park Pride to gather public feedback and explore design options.

During the summer, Park Pride hosted three interns – Corey Ferguson, Brandon Green and Jessica Overton – to work on the Visioning for the Parks of Summerhill. These dedicated university students were a tremendous help in collecting community feedback, rendering plans, and drawing much of what you will see within. This Visioning process was greatly enhanced by and would not have been as successful or as beautiful without their contributions.





# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .....	1
Table of contents .....	3
Executive Summary .....	5
Existing Conditions .....	7
Public Engagement .....	9
Public Meeting #1 .....	10
Community Intent .....	11
Public Meeting #2 .....	12
Summerhill Neighborhood Design Charrette .....	13
Public Meeting #3 .....	14
Preliminary Phoenix II Concept.....	15
Public Meeting #4 .....	16
Phoenix II & Cheney Stadium Vision Plan .....	17
Stakeholder Coordination .....	18
Opinion Survey .....	19
Design Process .....	21
Atlanta Ave. Pipe Infrastructure .....	22
Vision Plan .....	25
Phoenix II Park & Cheney Stadium .....	29
Phoenix III Park & Georgia Hill Center.....	33
Heritage Park.....	37
Project List .....	41
Phoenix III .....	44
Phoenix II Park & Cheney Stadium .....	47
Heritage Park.....	51
Appendix & Disc Contents .....	53
I. Opinion Survey.....	55
II. Public Meeting Flyer .....	56
III. Yard Sign .....	57
IV. Steering Committee Agendas.....	58



# Executive Summary

Since 2005, Park Pride's Park Visioning program has completed 34 Park Visioning Plans which have been used to leverage over \$14 million in implementation funding for capital improvements. This service is provided at no cost to the community. Through a flexible and responsive public engagement process, Park Pride seeks to facilitate dialog, build consensus, and document the community's intent regarding its hopes for world class parks and greenspaces in their neighborhoods. Each year, Park Pride solicits applications from Atlanta communities interested in discussing and building consensus around their neighborhood greenspace. The Parks of Summerhill undertook this effort in 2015.

In September, 2014 the Friends of Summerhill Parks applied for Park Visioning. Bryan Adams, an active Summerhill resident wrote, in the application, "As a neighborhood, we have great ideas and visions of what we would like to see happen. The guidance that Park Pride has to offer would be warmly welcomed and beneficial for all. Furthermore, the "buzz" we could cumulatively create would help thrust Summerhill, Park Pride & Downtown Atlanta into a highly positive spotlight (quite possibly national) in conjunction with the Braves impending exit from Summerhill." While



**Park Pride's Visioning process demands robust public engagement.**

there were other strong Visioning applications, the application from the Summerhill community stood out.

Most importantly, the application communicated a sense of concern from the community regarding several key initiatives taking place in the

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**- Bryan Adams, Parks of Summerhill Steering Committee Chair**

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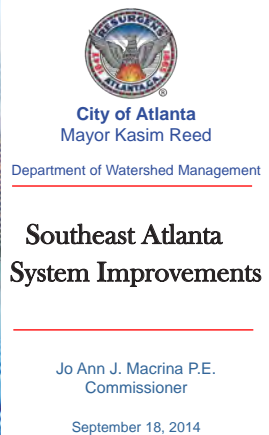
neighborhood including:

- + A variety of disconnected existing parks that do not serve current needs.
- + A sense of Summerhill being disconnected from neighboring communities, especially from Downtown Atlanta.
- + Opportunities to connect to the proposed Capital Gateway Park on Memorial Drive.
- + Widespread and persistent flooding in the neighborhood
- + Department of Watershed Management's (DWM) pending work in the neighborhood:
  - Pervious pavers on several streets
  - Underground tanks with combined sewer (Connally Trunk CSS Storage Vault)
  - Proposed Peoplestown Capacity Relief Ponds
- + Atlanta Public Schools proposals:
  - King Middle School renovation
  - Reconnecting Glenn Street
  - Proposed removal of trees
  - Reorienting the front of the school's building toward Phoenix III Park
  - Installation of play fields on Hill Street
  - Potential renovation of Cheney Stadium in collaboration with DWM's installation of an underground tank
  - Potential development of the old McGill School property just south of Phoenix II
- + The Atlanta Braves departure to Cobb County
- + Pressure for the City of Atlanta to redevelop land around the Braves stadium
- + Proposed Livable Centers Initiative study (application submitted)

With so many projects happening in, around and to the community, could a Park Visioning process help neighbors build consensus about what they wanted their parks and greenspace plan to be? And, could the results of a greenspace-oriented discussion inform or influence outcomes of pending projects? The Park Visioning process attempted to explore answers to these questions.



**The Summerhill community currently encompasses several City of Atlanta parks: Phoenix II Park, Phoenix III Park, Georgia Hill Center, Heritage Park, and Fulton-Glenwood Triangle. The community observed that the parks feel disconnected and do not fully serve residents' needs.**



**Two imminent projects that the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management is planning are a combined sewer vault under Cheney Field and a capacity relief pond in nearby Peoplestown. Both projects are controversial.**

# Existing Conditions

The Summerhill neighborhood contains several City of Atlanta parks: Phoenix II Park, Phoenix III Park, Georgia Hill Center, Heritage Park, and Fulton-Glenwood Triangle. The Atlanta Public Schools (APS) system owns King Middle School, adjacent to Phoenix III Park. APS also owns the Cheney Stadium site, which is adjacent to Phoenix II Park. The Cheney Stadium site is used like a public park with a public track and an open field. It attracts significant use. Just south of Phoenix II is a fenced lawn, the former site of the McGill Elementary school. This property is also owned by APS and presents obvious greenspace opportunities.

The Summerhill neighborhood is characterized by a strong urban street grid, a historic but abandoned commercial corridor on Georgia Avenue, a mixture of new and historic homes, beautiful skyline views, and steep topography. While the neighborhood is very well served by the Interstate system, these highways disconnect the neighborhood from nearby Downtown and Mechanicsville neighborhoods. Turner Field, home of the Atlanta Braves, and associated surface parking lots dominate much of the surrounding area. Its sporadic use brings large crowds at certain times, but is otherwise desolate.

Flooding issues, especially in the southern sections of the Summerhill neighborhood and in Peoplestown, have persisted for decades. Massive amounts of stormwater travel through and under the neighborhood. Many blame the nonporous, paved parking lots of Turner Field and the acres of paved interstates - 75/85 to the west and I-20 to the north of the neighborhood. In fact, a large section of Downtown Atlanta also sheds stormwater into the combined sewerage system under Summerhill.

The recent success of Historic Fourth Ward Park and other recent City of Atlanta initiatives to use parks and greenspace as sponges for stormwater illustrate the opportunity to identify similar projects in the Summerhill and Peoplestown neighborhoods. The conceptual plans that were eventually developed reflect this opportunity and are in keeping with the community's efforts to augment the City's efforts to address flooding in the community in ways that provide multiple benefits.



**The Summerhill neighborhood is characterized by a strong urban street grid, a historic but mostly abandoned commercial corridor on Georgia Avenue, a mixture of new and historic homes, beautiful skyline views, and steep topography.**



**Many blame the massive amounts of stormwater traveling under and through Summerhill on the paved parking lots that support Turner Field and the acres of paved interstate both to the north of and the west of the neighborhood.**

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# Public Engagement

Park Pride's Park Visioning process relies on robust community engagement. A Steering Committee of neighbors and residents directs each process and is largely responsible for driving attendance at public meetings and participation in additional outreach strategies. The Steering Committee also distills the community's feedback and guides the decision-making process. Committee members are reminded to listen openly and to represent the opinions of all participants in the process. The Parks of Summerhill Steering Committee included: Bryan Adams, Zack Elliott, Kimberly Jones, Britney McCoy, Joshua McCoy, Jon Mickle, Suzanne Mitchell, Arnie Moskowitz, Quinton Prince, Paul Salo, Sandrilla Thomas, Wanda Rasheed, Patrick Washington, Christina Wessels and Steve Wessels. The Committee met monthly, from January to September.

The Steering Committee met on:

1/5/15	5/25/15
1/27/15	7/28/15
2/24/15	8/25/15
3/24/15	9/22/15
4/28/15	

A key part of the public engagement process hinges on in-person, public meetings. A variety of strategies are implemented to encourage neighbors to attend, participate and engage. This process leveraged door-to-door and on-line surveying, yard signs placed in strategic locations, social media, and direct e-mails through neighborhood mailing list servers. These efforts to drive attendance were highly successful and resulted in robust discussions at all four public meetings.



**The Parks of Summerhill Steering Committee hosted four public meetings:**

3/14/15 – 10:00 am at Dunbar Recreation Center  
4/18/15 – 10:00 am at Georgia Hill Center  
6/23/15 – 7:00 pm at Georgia Hill Center  
8/3/15 – 7:00 pm at Georgia Hill Center

## Public Meeting #1 Visioning Meeting

3/14/15 – Dunbar Recreation Center

Park Pride shared some background about the organization and then focused on examples of visionary, world-class parks from across the globe.

Attendees learned that parks can support social, economic and environmental (SEE) goals. Inspirational photos of parks and park amenities were shown and it was explained how these different parks serve different purposes and solve different challenges.

Existing conditions were reviewed and participants were asked to think about their community in terms of what a world-class park system might be like. This background discussion launched a SWOC analysis and a first attempt to draft overarching guidelines and a comprehensive wish list.

The entire process was outlined for attendees. Those present were encouraged to complete opinion surveys and to invite neighbors to do the same. The public meeting schedule was distributed and consistent attendance encouraged.



**At the first public meeting, attendees helped develop the overarching guidelines and wish list. These set the groundwork and outlined community intentions for the Parks of Summerhill Visioning Plan.**

PARKS OF SUMMERHILL VISION PLAN

## Opportunities

- Turner Field (Braves moving to Cobb Co.)
- Department of Watershed Management projects (including vaults)
- Atlanta BeltLine nearby
- Proposed streetcar (Capital Ave. to Georgia Ave.)
- Grant Park - continuity
- Georgia Ave. - historic retail buildings
- King Middle School faces park - street realignment
- Pivotal moment in time

## Strengths

- Big existing parks
- Good locations/spread throughout neighborhood
- Perfect timing - Peoplestown redevelopment
- 1996 Olympic remnants
- Great sidewalk systems/infrastructure
- Neighborhood use in parks currently active
- Easy to get to, centrally located
- Skyline views
- Beautiful Georgia Ave. corridor
- Georgia Ave. corridor well lit
- Strong leadership/advocate - Carla Smith

## Challenges

- Misuse - mountain bikes, noise, loud music
- Department of Watershed Management proposals
- Atlanta Public School - ownership of key greenspaces
- Lack of inter-agency cooperation
- Trash/misuse
- The 'whole Grant Park thing'
- Crime - public safety - gangs
- Lack of commercial/retail (jobs and amenities)
- Panhandling

## Community Intent

The Parks of Summerhill Steering Committee hosted four public meetings facilitated by Park Pride's Visioning team. One of the first and most important tasks was building consensus about the community's Overarching Guidelines and Wish List. Both were drafted at the first public meeting and refined through a review of the survey findings and discussions at subsequent Steering Committee meetings.

### Overarching Guidelines

**+Sustainable-** The Parks of Summerhill should be designed and built to be durable, purposeful, aesthetically pleasing, safe and secure for years to come.

**+Ecologically Sensitive-** The Parks of Summerhill should incorporate green infrastructure whenever possible and support wildlife and biodiversity.

**+Inclusive-** The Parks of Summerhill should encourage use from people of all ages and backgrounds with a focus on providing amenities that promote healthy, active lifestyles.

**+Intentional Coordination-** The process of reinvigorating the Parks of Summerhill should leverage collaboration with other organizations, neighborhoods, park conservancies, studies, etc. taking place in the Summerhill neighborhood and surrounding area.

**+Neighborhood Context-** The Parks of Summerhill should respect and enhance the cultural and historic context of the neighborhood.

**+Improve Connectivity-** The Parks of Summerhill should enhance opportunities to bridge gaps and barriers within and between neighborhoods.

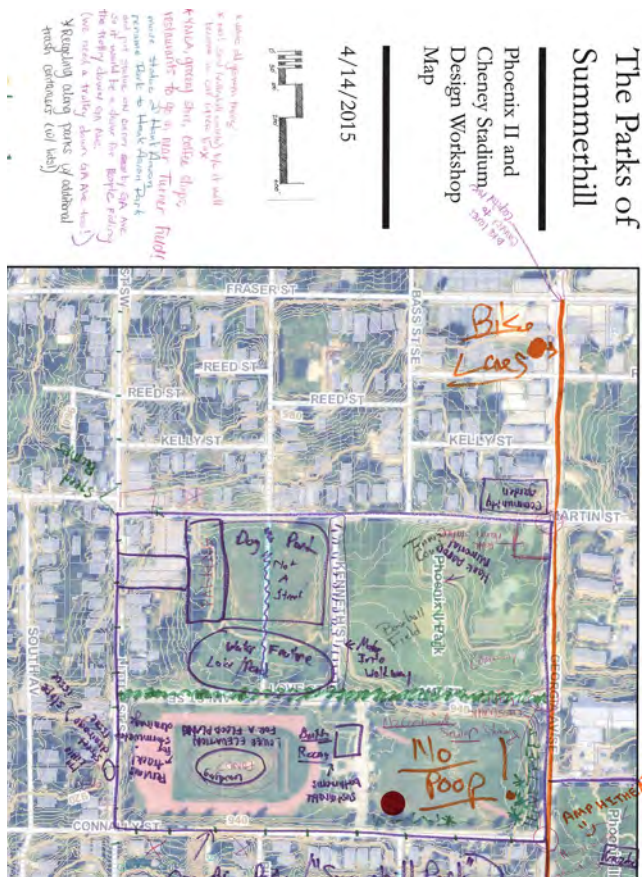
### Wish List

Burying power lines  
Community garden- inclusive  
Public restroom  
Self-cleaning restrooms  
Public art  
Gaming seating (chess/checkers)  
Historical markers  
Georgia Hill center as the bridge between neighborhoods  
Baseball field improvements  
Renaming  
Signage  
Shade- large trees  
Bike lanes  
Trash bins  
Doggie bins  
Introducing wildlife  
Organized sports  
Bbq/picnic  
Rain day activities  
Bike racks/fix it stations  
Bike share program  
Multiple uses for everything  
Focal point feature  
Interactive historical markers  
Neighborhood kiosk to share information  
Classes in park- tai chi, kids programming, King  
Middle programming with teens  
Wildlife designation  
Solar panels  
Exercise equipment that generates power  
Trash cans/do not litter  
Food truck events/places  
Neighborhood congregation area  
Kids/teen workshop  
More lighting  
Community garden  
Dog park- small/big dog separation  
Fitness equipment  
Security amenities  
Outdoor classroom  
Water feature- fountain, pond  
Trail/path  
Open greenspace  
Landscaping  
Concentric circles of activities- playground in the middle, exercise equipment around  
Span the interstate

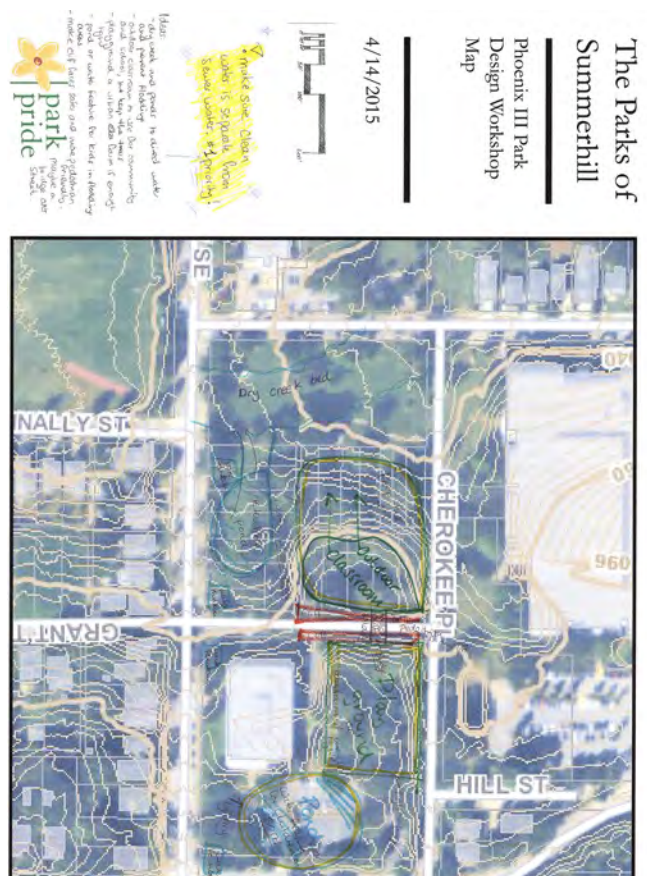
4/18/15 – Georgia Hill Center

This open house meeting included design stations for separate areas of the neighborhood, including: a Neighborhood Context Map; Heritage Park, Phoenix II + Cheney Stadium; and Phoenix III + Georgia Hill + King Middle School. Each station had aerial maps with topography, a visual resource guide which included survey results, markers, pens + pencils, and a ruler.

Posters of the agreed-upon “Overarching Guidelines” were hung around the room to guide discussions. Attendees worked together to explore opportunities and conceive visionary proposals which reflected the community’s intent and leveraged opportunities in and around the neighborhood and within specific parks.



**Attendees at the second public meeting were encouraged to draw their dreams directly on aerial photos each park. All the drawings can be found on the digital appendix (disk)**



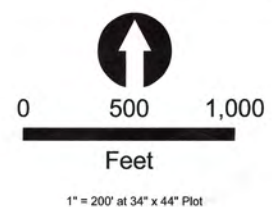
# Summerhill Neighborhood Design Charrette

**Attendees at the second public meeting were encouraged to draw their dreams directly on maps of the neighborhood.**



## Study Area Base Map

- Study Area Boundary  
 Parcels  
 Building Footprints
- Contour Lines  
 Park Property  
 Impervious Surface



## Public Meeting #3

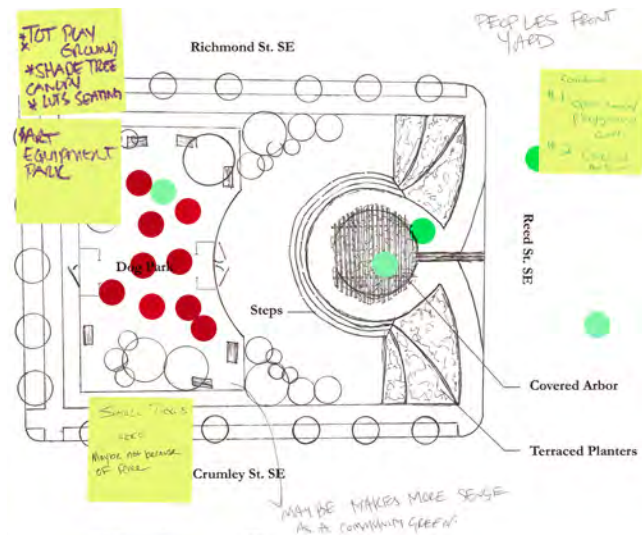
### Preliminary Design Review

6/23/15 – Georgia Hill Center

This open house meeting allowed attendees to review and comment on proposed design options and informational boards on green infrastructure, stadium adaptive reuse projects, interstate land bridge examples, and visionary redevelopment ideas proposed for Turner Field. The informational boards were created in response to different discussions and interest of community members, meeting participants and steering committee members.

Attendees were encouraged to circulate the room with markers, dots, post-it pads and index cards and comment directly on design proposals and on comment sheets hung around the room. Discussions around each potential plan revealed which proposals enjoyed consensus and which ideas were to be re-thought.

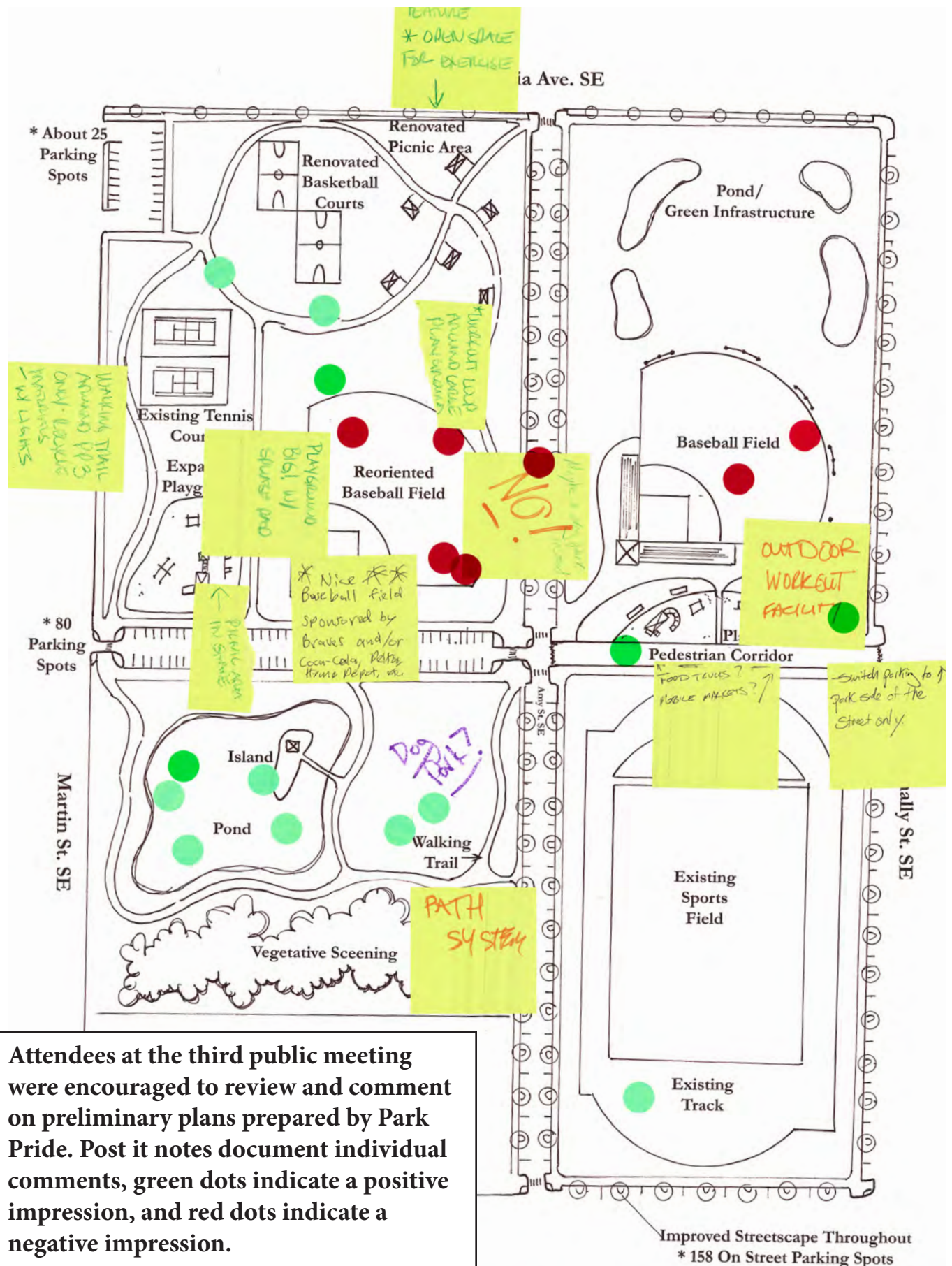
Dialog was robust and thoughtful. Small groups discussed specific parts, debated pros and cons, and built consensus about their collective opinions. The information gathered at this meeting informed the final plans.



## VISIONARY PROJECTS



Attendees at the third public meeting reviewed and commented on park design concepts and informational boards about green infrastructure, stadium adaptive reuse projects, interstate land bridge examples, and visionary redevelopment ideas suggested for Turner Field.



Attendees at the third public meeting were encouraged to review and comment on preliminary plans prepared by Park Pride. Post it notes document individual comments, green dots indicate a positive impression, and red dots indicate a negative impression.

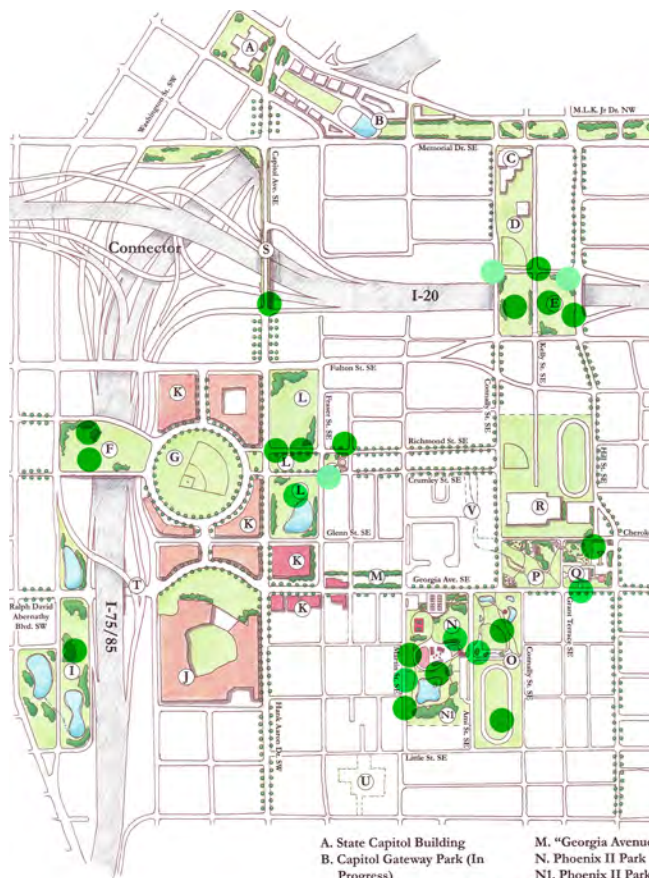
## Preliminary Phoenix II Concept

## Public Meeting #4

### Plan Review & Prioritization

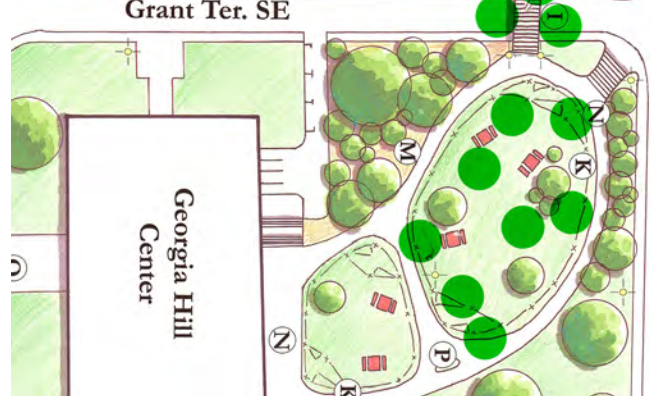
8/3/15 –Georgia Hill Center

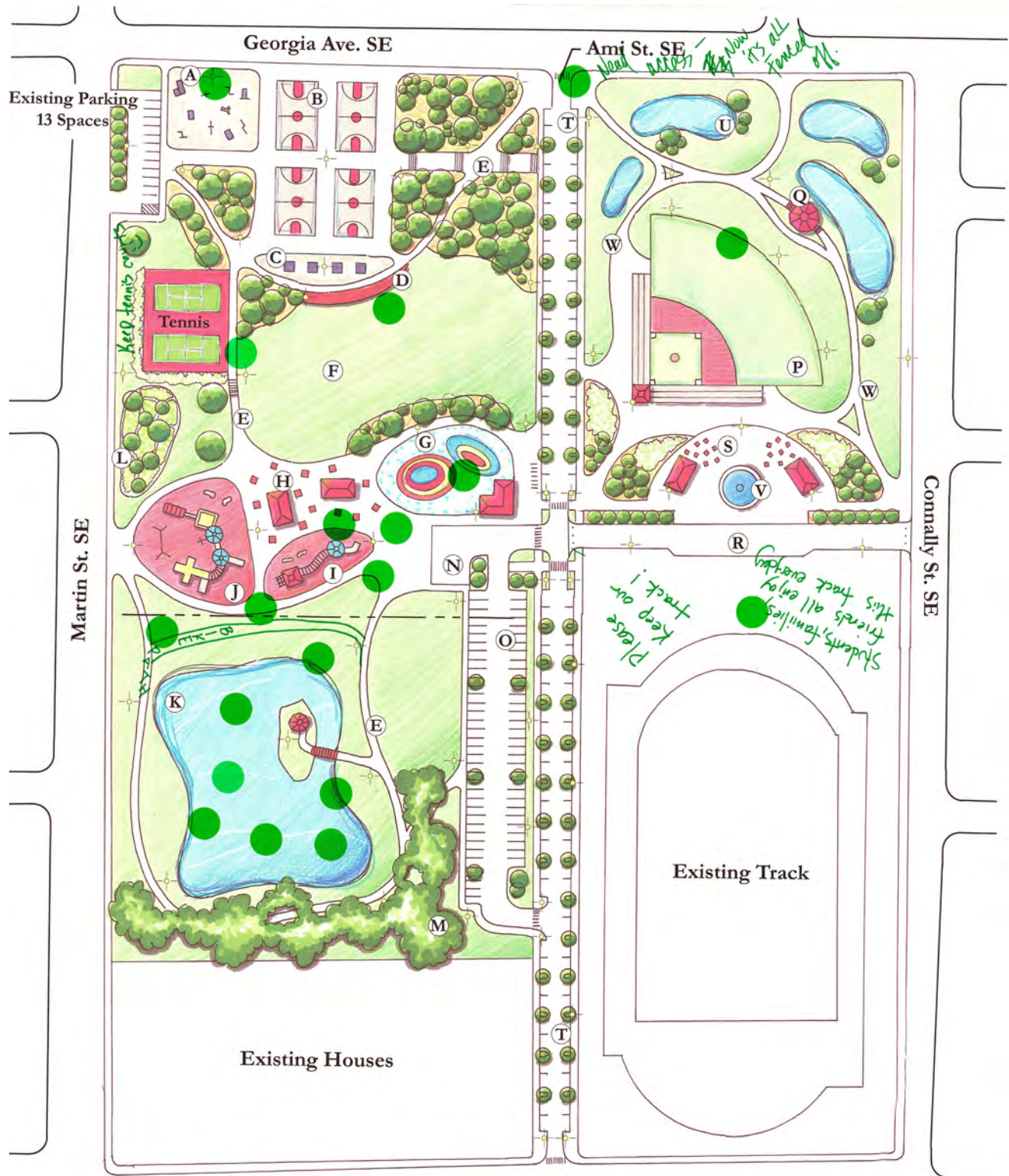
Review of the final design proposals was conducted at the regularly-scheduled Organized Neighbors of Summerhill (ONS) August meeting. Park Pride gave a presentation that reviewed information about Park Pride and the State of Atlanta Parks, recapped the public engagement process, and then explained the exercise. The final design proposals were placed in the back of the room for review and comment. Green dots were given so attendees could show their priorities. Finally, at each station, attendees could suggest new names for the parks.



### Summerhill Master Vision Plan

At the final public meeting, attendees were given green dots to place on their park priorities. The large pond and enlarged playground were the community's priorities on the Phoenix II and Cheney Stadium Vision Plan.





# Phoenix II & Cheney Stadium Vision Plan

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| A. Exercise Station w/ Drinking Fountain | M. Vegetative Buffer            |
| B. Basketball Courts                     | N. Car Drop-Off Area            |
| C. Seating Area                          | O. Parking Lot - 63 Spaces      |
| D. Lookout Deck                          | P. Baseball Field               |
| E. Pedestrian Infrastructure             | Q. Gazebo                       |
| F. Play Field                            | R. Pedestrian Promenade         |
| G. Splash Pad w/ Bath House              | S. Pavilion/Seating/Concessions |
| H. Pavilion/Seating                      | T. Improved Ami St. - 94 Spaces |
| I. Toddler Playground                    | U. Green Infrastructure Ponds   |
| J. Playground                            | V. Fountain                     |
| K. Pond/Green Infrastructure             | W. Pedestrian Infrastructure    |
| L. Rain Garden                           | Lighting <i>DOWN NOT 360°</i>   |

## Stakeholder Coordination

In addition to Steering Committee meetings and four public meetings, the public engagement process included:

- Paper and online survey with over 175 respondents,
- Green infrastructure self-guided tour,
- Stakeholder meetings with:
  - Atlanta Public Schools,
  - Department of Watershed Management,
  - Department of Parks and Recreation,
  - Turner Field Benefits Coalition,
  - Georgia Conservancy,
  - ECO-Action, and
  - Councilperson Carla Smith.
- Participation in an AARP + PEDS safety walk on Georgia Ave.,
- Participation in a Green Infrastructure Informational meeting (by ECO-Action),
- Booth at Summerhill Fall Festival,
- PARC meeting in Phoenix II Park



**Park Pride participated in a community information session about green infrastructure, hosted by ECO-Action's Dr. Yomi Noibi.**

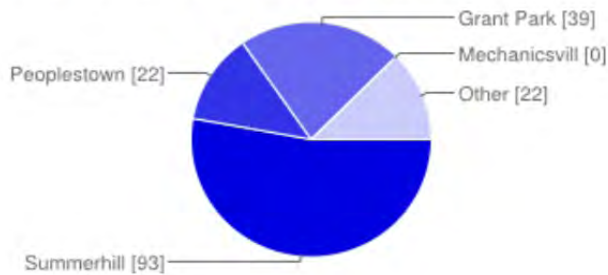
## Opinion Survey

The Parks of Summerhill Steering Committee, with the support of Park Pride, developed a survey to obtain a high level understanding of the community and their views on parks. The Steering Committee was successful at advertising the survey and garnered over 175 survey participants.

Over 52.8% of survey participants live within the Summerhill neighborhood with most users interested in visiting their parks on weekends.

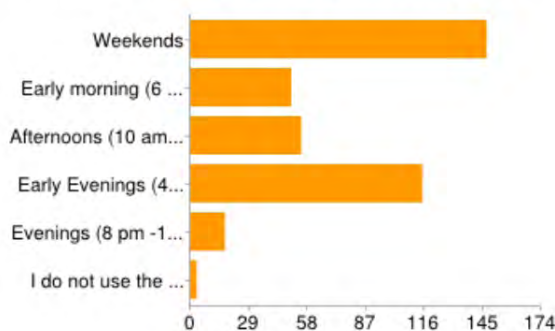
Through the survey, the Park Pride team learned that over 100 survey participants owned dogs. This was reinforced throughout the Visioning process. Dog-friendly amenities and establishing a dog park were highly rated priorities. Opportunities for family fun and play were other strong priorities.

### What neighborhood do you live in?



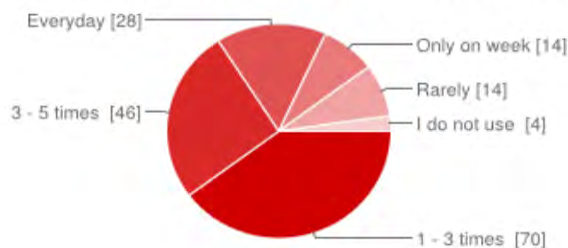
Summerhill	93	52.8%
Peoplestown	22	12.5%
Grant Park	39	22.2%
Mechanicsville	0	0%
Other	22	12.5%

### When do you use your neighborhood park/s?



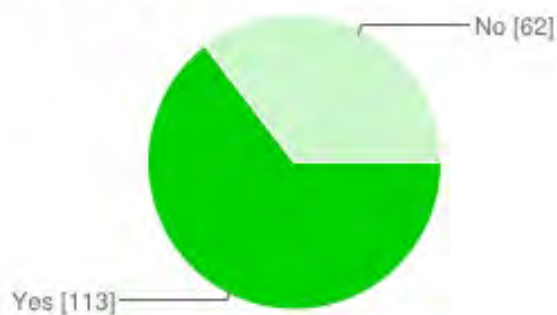
Weekends	147	83.5%
Early morning (6 am - 10 am)	50	28.4%
Afternoons (10 am - 4 pm)	55	31.3%
Early Evenings (4 pm - 8 pm)	115	65.3%
Evenings (8 pm - 11 pm)	17	9.7%
I do not use the parks in my neighborhood.	3	1.7%

### How often do you use your neighborhood park/s?



1 - 3 times a week	70	39.8%
3 - 5 times a week	46	26.1%
Everyday	28	15.9%
Only on weekends	14	8%
Rarely	14	8%
I do not use the parks in our neighborhood.	4	2.3%

## Are you a dog owner?



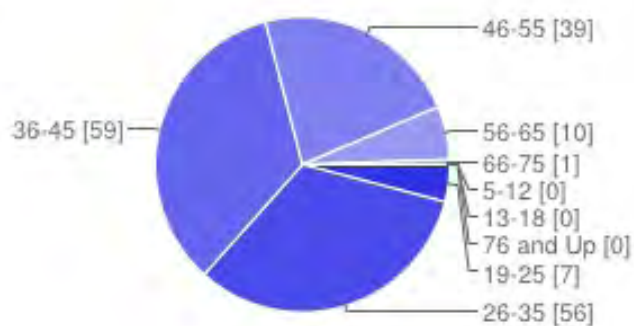
Yes	113	64.2%
No	62	35.2%

## Gender



Female	102	58%
Male	72	40.9%

## Age



5-12	0	0%
13-18	0	0%
19-25	7	4%
26-35	56	31.8%
36-45	59	33.5%
46-55	39	22.2%
56-65	10	5.7%
66-75	1	0.6%
76 and Up	0	0%

# **Design Process**

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# Design Process

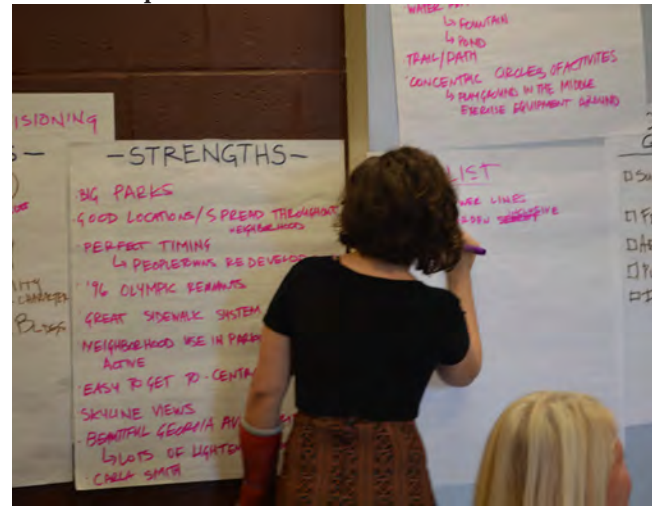
Early discussions at the Steering Committee meetings and at the first public meeting revealed apprehension about the Department of Watershed Management' (DWM) proposed projects and current construction. There seemed to be disagreement about what the plans did and did not include and what, if any, ramifications or opportunities these planned improvements would present to the neighborhood. There was also considerable concern about the plans that Atlanta Public Schools had for M.L. King Middle School, the Cheney Stadium site, and McGill Elementary School's former site, just south of Phoenix II Park. The opportunity to re-imagine the parking lots around Turner Field was also discussed at every point in the process.

The Overarching Guidelines and Wish List encouraged attendees at the Design Workshop to think big. Concepts for protecting cherished community assets, such as the original Hank Aaron baseline were developed. Big ideas like stretching the parks system across the interstate barriers led to visionary proposals, which garnered support. Additional opportunities to connect the larger green spaces were proposed and also enjoyed early consensus.

Because there was robust discussion about whether additional green infrastructure interventions could replace some of the more controversial proposals from the Department of Watershed Management, designers used the City's Pipe Infrastructure Diagram, called 'Atlanta Ave. Pipe Infrastructure – North' to suggest possible locations for ponds, constructed wetlands, infiltration cisterns, constructed floodplains and other green infrastructure proposals. Visioning participants and the Parks of Summerhill Steering Committee embraced the concept of using parks as sponges, filtering, infiltrating and reducing volumes of stormwater runoff from the neighborhood into combined sewers. The idea of using rainwater as a resource rather than as a waste product resonated with many participants. Opportunities to connect existing and new parks and green spaces to provide ecological and social benefits were contemplated.

Park proposals outlined herein suggest opportunities to capture stormwater before it combines with sanitary sewers. These suggestions

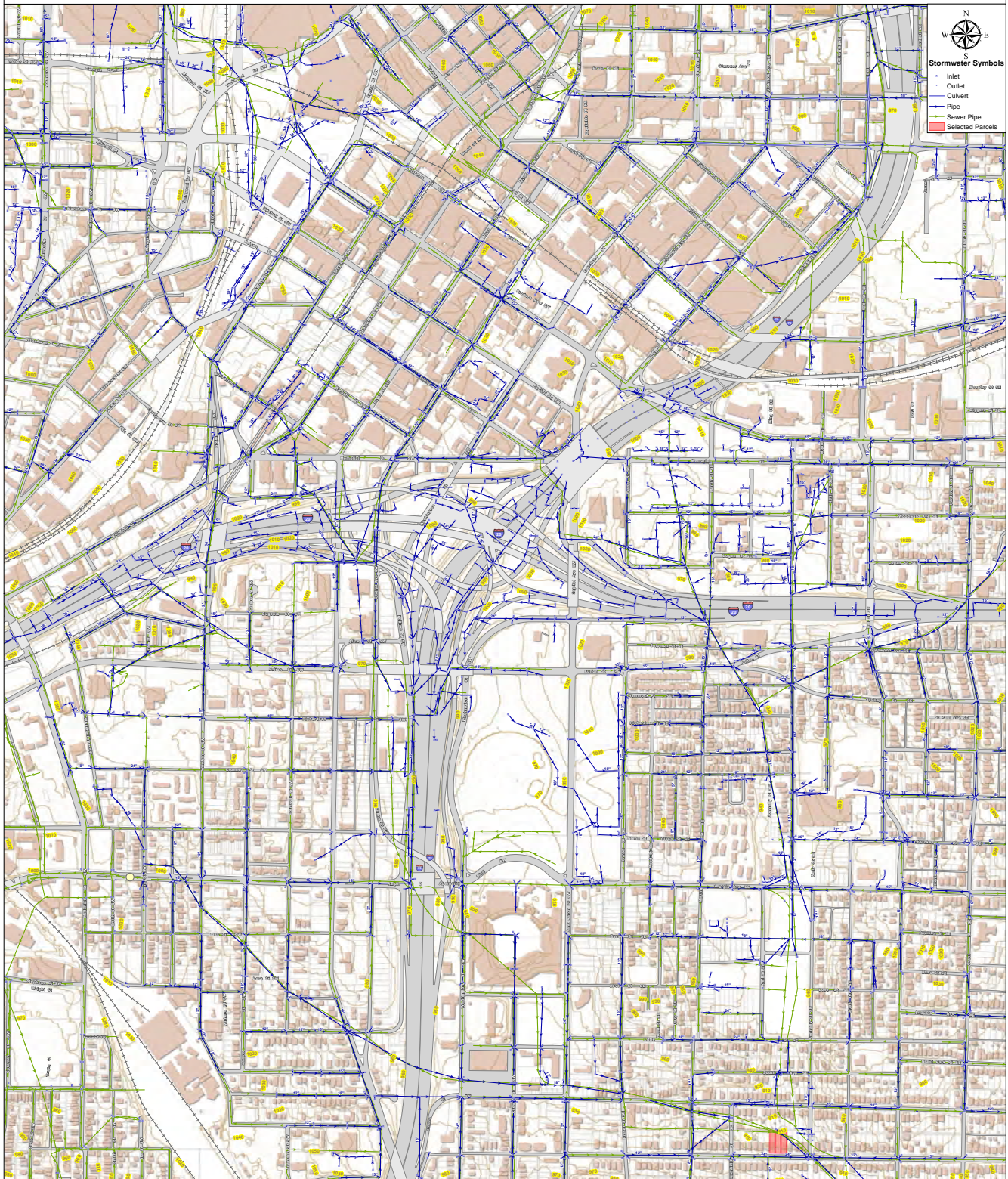
are conceptual in nature. While they were informed by pipe diagrams provided by the City, it is not known if the data is reliable or fully understood. But, the concept of capturing stormwater above ground before rain and sewer pipes combine presents an opportunity that should be explored. Opportunities to repurpose parking lots, vacant lots, and parks as engineered rainwater sponges should be prioritized.



At the first public meeting, Park Pride's Walt Ray and Becky Katz (above) engaged attendees in a SWOC analysis about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of the Parks of Summerhill.

The City's Pipe Infrastructure Diagram (right) informed suggested areas for possible green infrastructure interventions. Ponds, streams, wetlands, and floodplains are proposed to capture stormwater from pipes draining the interstate and other large areas before they combine with sewage pipes. Surface parking lots often coincide with these key intersections, suggesting enticing opportunities. These proposals would need to be explored more thoroughly before proceeding with development of the concepts.

# Atlanta Ave. Pipe Infrastructure - North



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**City of Atlanta**  
**Department of**  
**Watershed Management**

COORDINATE SYSTEM	NAD 1983 STATE PLANE GEORGIA WEST	COMMENTS
MAP UNITS	U.S. SURVEY FEET	
DATE	12/8/2014	
AUTHOR	DWM GIS	
REQUEST #	14133	
MAP SCALE	1:3,200 1 in = 267 ft	

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The proposed concepts in the Parks of Summerhill Vision Plan attempt to leverage opportunities to create a connected series of parks, greenspace and green infrastructure. Plans take advantage of the historic opportunity to re-think the land around Turner Field and opportunities to capture rainwater as a resource that anchors signature parks. Other visionary ideas include bridging the interstates with greenspace, flanked by streets that would begin to repair the urban fabric broken by the construction of the large, limited access highways.

Summerhill is a well-informed and organized community. Many residents are passionate about their neighborhood and their neighbors. Many are optimistic about future opportunities and are looking forward to formalizing their intentions through the pending Livable Centers Initiative



**Public meetings were well attended. Neighbors were able to meet, discuss and develop consensus about the future of their community and greenspaces.**

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**Summerhill is a well-informed and organized community. Many residents are passionate about their neighborhood and their neighbors. Neighbors seem mostly optimistic about the opportunities and are looking forward to formalizing their intentions through the pending Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) study.**

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(LCI) study. While this Park Visioning process was not tasked with suggesting changes to the roadway network or land use, several of the park expansion proposals did necessitate thinking about how these public properties might be framed by redevelopment and streets. Suggested street placement will be challenged by the LCI team, who's suggestions may or may not support those made during this study. It is hoped that the LCI team, elected officials, and City employees engage closely with and listen carefully to this community as decisions that affect the residents are made.



**Meeting attendees reviewed different stadium reuse projects. Attendees favored the Arsenal's Stadium adaptive reuse project in Highbury, London. The stadium was turned into apartments with a large central greenspace.**

The Parks of Summerhill Steering Committee hosted four public meetings facilitated by Park Pride's Visioning team. One of the first and most important tasks was building consensus about the community's Overarching Guidelines and Wish List. Both were drafted at the first public meeting and refined through a review of the survey findings and discussions at subsequent Steering Committee meetings.

The Park Pride Team relied on the Overarching Guidelines when debating how to best tackle the challenges at hand. Proposals and suggestions were constantly checked against these guidelines.

## Overarching Guidelines

(First listed on page 17 under Public Meeting #1)

**+Sustainable-** The Parks of Summerhill should be designed and built to be durable, purposeful, aesthetically pleasing, safe and secure for years to come.

**+Ecologically Sensitive-** The Parks of Summerhill should incorporate green infrastructure whenever possible and support wildlife and biodiversity.

**+Inclusive-** The Parks of Summerhill should encourage use from people of all ages and backgrounds with a focus on providing amenities that promote healthy, active lifestyles.

**+Intentional Coordination-** The process of reinvigorating the Parks of Summerhill should leverage collaboration with other organizations, neighborhoods, park conservancies, studies, etc. taking place in the Summerhill neighborhood and surrounding area.

**+Neighborhood Context-** The Parks of Summerhill should respect and enhance the cultural and historic context of the neighborhood.

**+Improve Connectivity-** The Parks of Summerhill should enhance opportunities to bridge gaps and barriers within and between neighborhoods.

# **Vision Plan**

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# Parks of Summerhill Vision Plan

## Neighborhood Vision Plan

The Vision for the Parks of Summerhill is the result of nine months of focused public engagement, explorations, and consensus-building to develop a plan which would be widely supported by the community. The Visioning process is designed to explore big ideas unconstrained by property ownership, costs, or politics. In the case of the Summerhill Master Vision Plan, this approach resulted in an expansive look at the opportunities to add additional greenspace, improve connectivity, provide green infrastructure solutions as well as improve the neighborhood's existing parks.

Connectivity emerged as a key priority for the community. Strategies for connecting parks to each other and to other public greenspaces were explored throughout the process. Several projects emerged as strongly desired by a wide range of neighbors:

- Efforts designed to connect the Summerhill neighborhood to its downtown neighbors (Items A,C,&D) Proposed Capital Gateway Park (B) to the north (Item E) via a short cap over I-20
- A land bridge over I-75/85 (Item F) to improve the link to the Mechanicsville community
- Off-road, park-like connections between Phoenix II Park (Item N) and the new development along Georgia Avenue illustrated as "Georgia Avenue Park" (Item M).

Bolstering the connectivity to downtown along Capital Avenue was also explored in several ways. The proposed trolley that will one day connect downtown to Grant Park and the Zoo was widely seen as a project with a lot of positive benefits. Converting the Capital Avenue bridge (Item S) into a linear park with a complete street was highly desired by many residents (many of whom referenced 5th Street in Midtown, Atlanta as a positive example). Because the infrastructure is

in place, and because it is anticipated that traffic demand will be lower once the Braves leave Turner Field, this option was seen as a relatively low-hanging fruit and a way to build support for other, more ambitious projects crossing the interstates.

With the departure of the Braves, neighbors were particularly interested in addressing some of the key areas of the large surface parking lots to create an interconnected system of walkable blocks as well as new parks such as the proposed "Hank Aaron Park" (Item G). The community felt strongly that the historic baseline should be renovated into a park, and that the public should have access to the historic site. Providing a park corridor through the parking lots from Heritage Park (Item H) to 'Hank Aaron Park' (Item G) was seen as a key priority. The lots flanking the connecting corridor (above) would ideally also be park land (Item L).

Participants expressed strong interest in using proposed parks and park amenities to introduce natural systems that will enhance the City's efforts to keep stormwater out of sewage pipes when possible, or intercept piped stormwater before it combines with sewage. While the ideas presented herein are conceptual, it is hoped that opportunities to store/infiltrate stormwater runoff from surrounding uses onto existing and proposed parks will be explored in greater depth.

While this Park Visioning effort did not intend to explore redevelopment opportunities, the discussions about a connected street grid with key areas set aside for additional parks did result in discussions about the land use that was framed by those desired amenities (Items J & K). Buildings that provide a mix of neighborhood-scale uses and specifically a grocery store are widely anticipated.

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The Visioning process is designed to explore big ideas unconstrained by property ownership, costs, or politics. In the case of the Summerhill Master Vision Plan, this approach resulted in an expansive look at the opportunities to add additional greenspace, improve connectivity, provide green infrastructure solutions as well as improve the neighborhood's existing parks.

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The Visioning Plan includes a wide range of ideas for community improvement efforts. Some plans are readily achievable, others are more ambitious and will require years, if not decades to realize. This Vision should be viewed as a guide, not as a strict mandate. The community will need

to leverage public, private and philanthropic partners to actualize this plan, but it can be done. It bears remembering that success breeds success. Consider the timeless adage: How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time...

The proposed “Mechanicsville Greenspace” (Item I), as rendered by intern Brandon Green, illustrates the opportunity to replace the existing parking lots east of I - 75/85 with a greenspace that could hold large ponds to capture, store, infiltrate and cleanse stormwater shedding off the interstates and the neighborhood.





## Summerhill Master Vision Plan

- A. State Capitol Building
- B. Capitol Gateway Park (In Progress)
- C. Wesley International Academy
- D. Rawson-Washington Park
- E. Park Over I-20
- F. Park Over I-75/I-85
- G. "Hank Aaron Park"
- H. Heritage Park (Renovated)
- I. "Mechanicsville Greenspace"
- J. Turner Field Adaptive Reuse
- K. Redevelopment Opportunity
- L. "Turner Park"

- M. "Georgia Avenue Park"
- N. Phoenix II Park (Renovated)
- N1. Phoenix II Park Expansion
- O. Cheney Field
- P. Phoenix III Park (Renovated)
- Q. Georgia Hill Center
- R. Martin Luther King Jr Middle School
- S. Capitol Avenue Greenway
- T. Pedestrian Improvements On Georgia Avenue
- U. Potential Park Space
- V. Green Alley

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# **Phoenix II Park & Cheney Stadium Vision Plan**

## **Phoenix II Park & Cheney Stadium Vision Plan:**

The Vision Plan for Phoenix II Park includes two key Atlanta Public School (APS) parcels: the northern end of the 'Cheney Stadium' site and the former McGill Elementary School site, south of Phoenix II Park, between Ami and Martin Streets.

Phoenix II Park is envisioned as the active core of the neighborhood. The Vision Plan proposes opportunities to supplement active uses with additional activities. Reconfiguring the existing, crumbling basketball courts (Item B) into four courts, all properly oriented is suggested. Exercise equipment (Item A) would complement the active basketball/sports uses. An overlook (Item C) with picnic tables or seating would capitalize on the dramatic views offered from this high point. Because APS is considering adding a baseball field on the north end of the Cheney Stadium site (across Ami Street), neighbors would like to see the existing field replaced with an open play area. The key anchor to Phoenix II Park is a kids zone, proposed for the southern end of the existing footprint. Expanding the playground (Item J), adding a tots area (Item I), pavilions for parents (Item H), and a splash pad (Item G) would round out the kids zone. Off street parking (Item O) was suggested as a response to APS's preliminary proposal to pave all of the former McGill Elementary School lot to support high school secondary sports. This smaller lot, in conjunction with formalizing on-street parking on Ami Street, should provide adequate parking for events without overwhelming the community with even more large surface lots.

A large green infrastructure intervention (Item K) is proposed on the former McGill Elementary School site for several reasons. The most notable is the low-lying location and the potential to provide an excellent amenity for park users. Schematic pipe diagrams indicate that rainwater is still in separate pipes and combines just down pipe. If correct, the opportunity to capture, infiltrate, and cleanse this water is too tempting to ignore. The opportunity to leverage green infrastructure investment in such a positive and visible way is certainly worth considering.

**The proposed overlook (Item D) in Phoenix II Park, as rendered by intern Corey Ferguson, provides an opportunity to socialize while enjoying the view of all the activities proposed for the park, including the 'Kids Zone', Items G, H, I, & J.**





# Phoenix II & Cheney Stadium Vision Plan

- A. Exercise Station w/ Drinking Fountain
- B. Basketball Courts
- C. Seating Area
- D. Lookout Deck
- E. Pedestrian Infrastructure
- F. Play Field
- G. Splash Pad w/ Bath House
- H. Pavilion/Seating
- I. Toddler Playground
- J. Playground
- K. Pond/Green Infrastructure
- L. Rain Garden
- M. Vegetative Buffer
- N. Car Drop-Off Area
- O. Parking Lot - 63 Spaces
- P. Baseball Field
- Q. Gazebo
- R. Pedestrian Promenade
- S. Pavilion/Seating/Concessions
- T. Improved Ami St. - 94 Spaces
- U. Green Infrastructure Ponds
- V. Fountain
- W. Pedestrian Infrastructure
- Lighting

THE PARKS OF  
SUMMERHILL  
VISIONING

SUMMER 2015



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# **Phoenix III Park & Georgia Hill Center Vision Plan**

### **Phoenix III Park & Georgia Hill Center Vision Plan:**

The vision for Phoenix III Park includes a focus on education and a strategy to welcome the seniors across Connally Street into the park. Connecting at park-grade to the Georgia Hill Center (Item I) is seen as a great way to expand the park, provide better public safety, and create a landmark across from Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School. Large steps for seating (Item H) provide an obvious place for students from King Middle to congregate after school in a safe, visible place. An outdoor classroom (Item F) would be available for instructors to use for programs that lend themselves to an outdoor environment. A dry creek bed (Item C) and a rain garden (Item D) would provide capacity for stormwater run-off and educational opportunities. Chess Tables (Item A) and a seating area (Item B) are suggested to entice seniors into the park, a potential user group during the day, when park activity is currently low.

There is strong support for a dog park in the Summerhill neighborhood. Many sites were debated, but the proposed location (Item K) is the high, flat, mostly un-used lawn on the Georgia Hill Center's site. Concerns about public safety in this area, the lack of use, the central location, and easy access to parking were reasons this location was the preferred option. It is believed that a dog park in this location will provide many eyes on the back of the Georgia Hill Center and that the co-location will offer increased public safety.

**The proposed outdoor classroom (Item F), as rendered by intern Jessica Overton, could serve as an anchor to the educational theme of Phoenix III Park.**



Martin Luther King Jr.  
Middle School



## Phoenix III Vision Plan

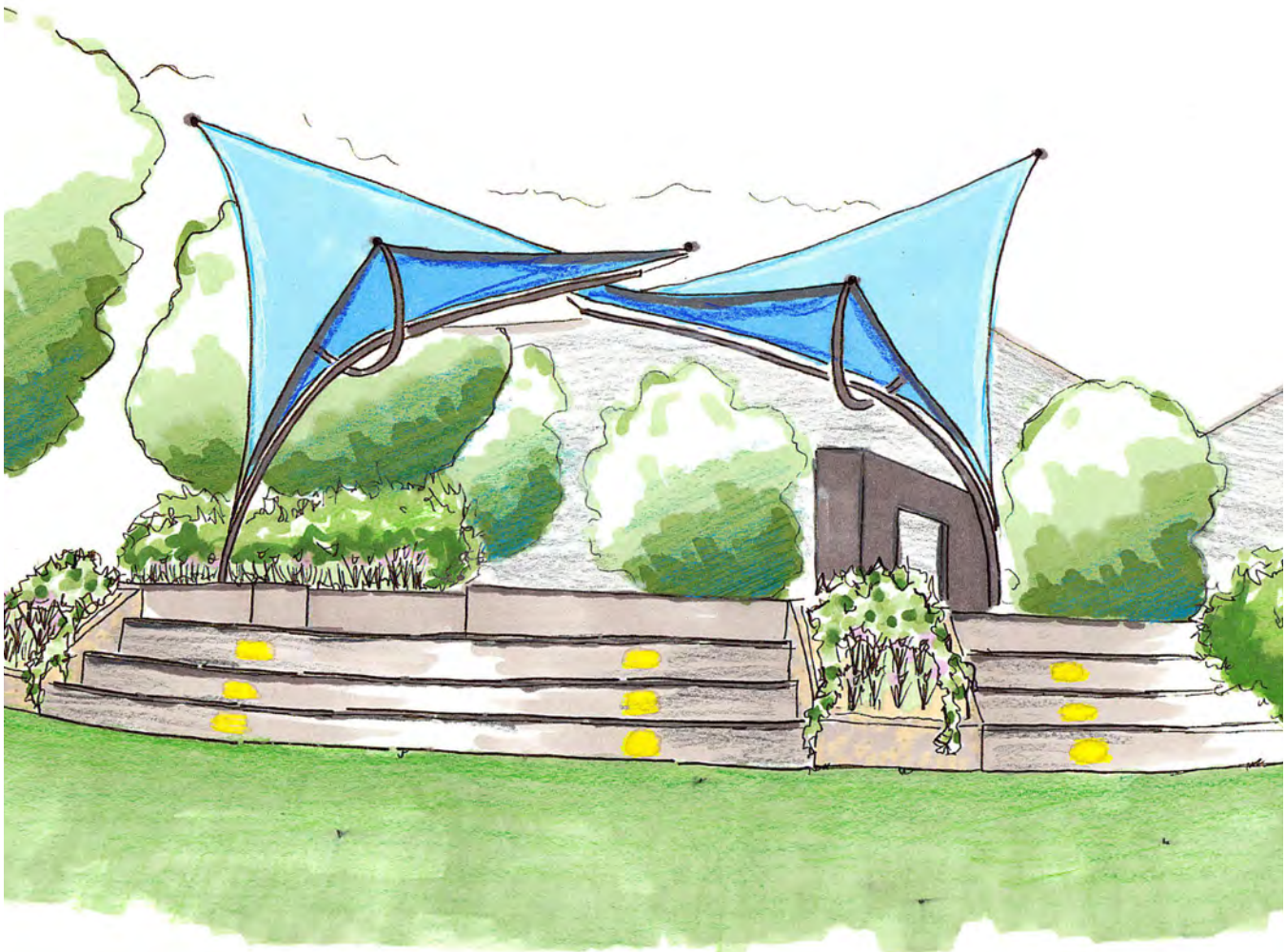
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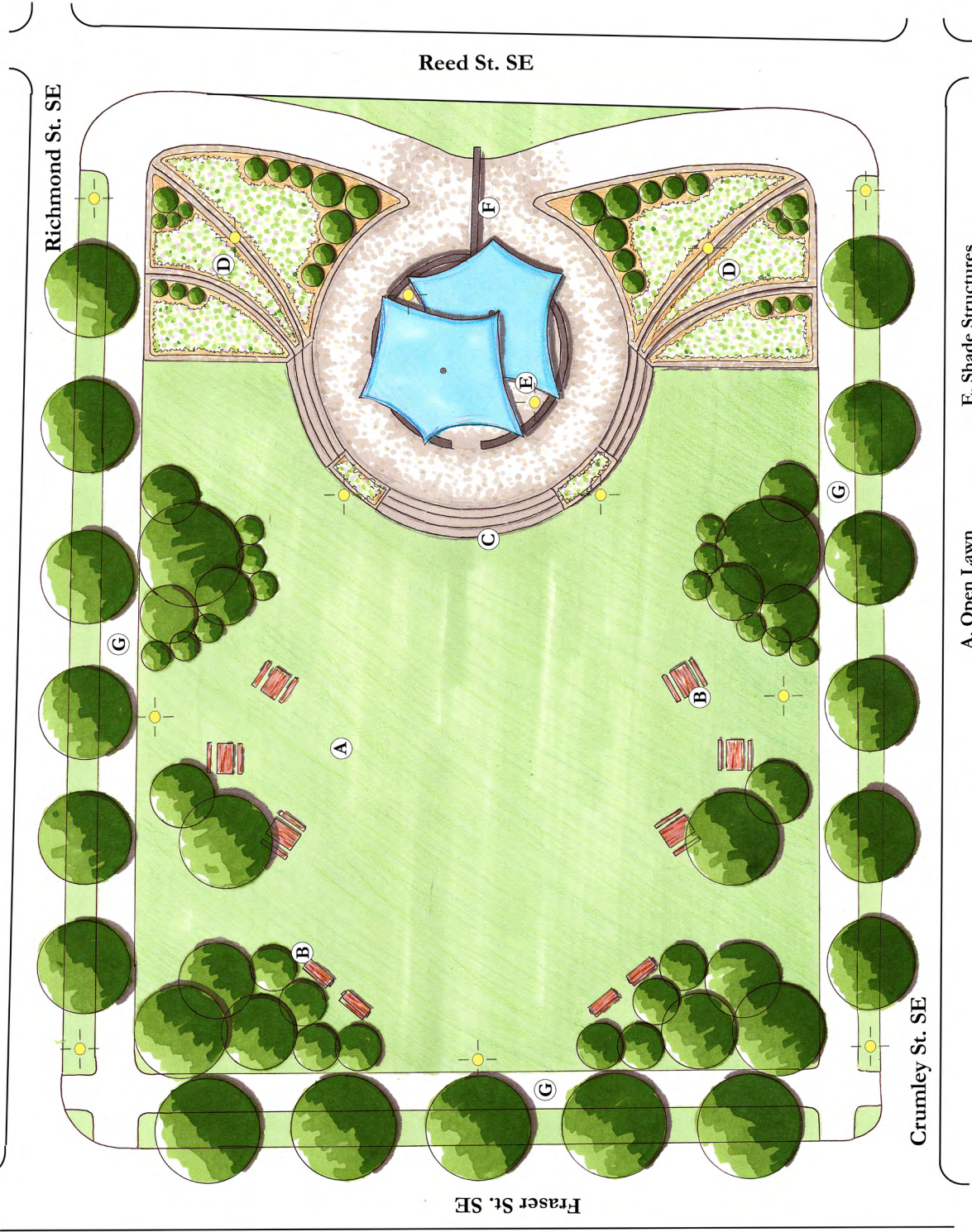
# **Heritage Park Vision Plan**

### **Heritage Park Vision Plan:**

Heritage Park is already a beautiful, well-used space. The main concern is that neighbors too often let their dogs run off-leash in the park, leaving debris behind and frightening away other potential users. The site does not lend itself to a fenced dog park, so neighbors would prefer that, once a dog park is constructed at the Georgia Hill Center, police begin enforcing the leash laws and clean-up policies with greater rigor. Instead of dogs and their droppings, neighbors would like to invite people to use the park for picnics, small gatherings, hanging out, and other spontaneous social activities. Picnic tables (Item B), tensile shade structures over the existing plaza (Item E), and improved lighting should welcome more visitors to the space.

**The proposed shade structure (Item E), as rendered by intern Jessica Overton, would not only provide much needed shade in the existing plaza, but would also serve as an architectural exclamation point, enticing visitors to the revamped Heritage Park.**





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# Project List

<b>Summerhill Master Vision Plan</b>			
<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	State Capitol Building		No proposed amendments – included as geographic point of reference (landmark).
B	Capital Gateway Park (In Progress)		Project led by City of Atlanta – included as geographic point of reference (connection opportunity). Participants of Visioning process enthusiastically support completion of the park.
C	Wesley International Academy		No proposed amendments – included as geographic point of reference (landmark).
D	Rawson-Washington Park		(N/A) No proposed amendments – included as geographic point of reference (connection opportunity).
E	Park Over I-20	\$150,000,000	A more visionary recommendation, this park would be constructed on concrete and steel supports, much like a large roadway over the interstate. Connally and Kelly Streets would also cross the interstate, reconnecting the grid while providing alternative routes. Trees, lawn, signage and landscaping would accompany seating, unstructured play areas, and viewing areas.
F	Park Over I-75/85	\$150,000,000	A more visionary recommendation, this park would be constructed on concrete and steel supports, much like a large roadway over the interstate. Richmond and Crumley Streets would also cross the interstate, reconnecting the Summerhill and Mechanicsville neighborhoods providing local route options. Trees, lawn, signage, and landscaping would accompany seating, unstructured play areas, and viewing areas.
G	Hank Aaron Park	\$3,000,000	A frequent topic of discussion during the Visioning process was preserving the original/ famous Hank Aaron baseline that exists in the middle of the Turner Field parking lot. This plan proposes the landmark remain publicly accessible as a park. Parking/paving infrastructure would be replaced with grass lawn and a clay baseline, as in professional sports arenas. Trees should be used only on the northern and eastern perimeter to prevent shading of the turf.
H	Heritage Park (Renovated)		See 'Heritage Park Visioning Plan' below for specific projects.


<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
I	“Mechanicsville Greenspace”	\$3,000,000	Replace existing parking lots with constructed parks. It is believed that these spaces would be excellent at capturing rainwater from Mechanicsville and the interstate system before clean water enters combined sewer system. Capture water and construct a series of ponds, wetlands, and floodplains. Add sidewalks around amenities and provide interpretive signage at key locations. Seating and park-like plantings would finish the effect.
J	Turner Field Adaptive Reuse		Recommend that Turner Field be repurposed for mixed use development, to include residential and retail options. The original field should be preserved as a public park. The baseline may or may not remain in the new park. Work with nearby residents/tenants of the development to determine configuration of park.
K	Redevelopment Opportunity		The need for parks to connect the Summerhill and Mechanicsville communities presents opportunities for redevelopment on/of the existing Turner Field parking lots. This Visioning Plan does not attempt to specify uses or density, but suggests a general layout to frame the greenspace and transportation corridors.
L	“Turner Park”	\$4,000,000	The opportunity to buffer existing residential/single family uses from presumably higher-density, more active redevelopment on the Turner Field parking lot was seen as a community priority. There are also opportunities to collect rainwater off streets (possibly including the interstate) and nearby buildings in this series of parks. It is hoped that a significant amount of water can be intercepted by the parks to help alleviate down-pipe flooding.
M	“Georgia Avenue Park”	\$800,000	The block on the north side of Georgia Avenue between Reed and Martin Streets is prime for redevelopment. It is also a critical gap in the existing (and proposed) park network. It is hoped that any redevelopment on this block provide a generous, park-like greenspace along Georgia Avenue that continues the continuity of off-road, urban park corridors.
N	Phoenix II Park (Renovated)		See ‘Phoenix II Park & Cheney Stadium Visioning Plan’ below for specific projects/costs associated with this project.

<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
N1	Phoenix II Park Expansion		See 'Phoenix II Park & Cheney Stadium Visioning Plan' below for specific projects/costs associated with this project.
O	Cheney Field		See 'Phoenix II Park & Cheney Stadium Visioning Plan' below for specific projects/costs associated with this project.
P	Phoenix III Park Renovated		See 'Phoenix III Vision Plan' below for specific projects/costs associated with this project.
Q	Georgia Hill Center		See 'Phoenix III Vision Plan' below for specific projects/costs associated with this project.
R	Martin Luther King Jr Middle School		No proposed amendments – included as geographic point of reference (landmark). The community wants the school to preserve as many of its existing trees as possible, and required replacement trees to be planted on the school's site, not in the community's public parks.
S	Capitol Avenue Greenway	\$1,500,000	(\$1,500,000) Reconfigure existing travel lanes to calm traffic, provide on-road bicycle facilities, accommodate the proposed/future streetcar (between 5-Points MARTA and Grant Park/ Zoo), and provide off-road, buffered pedestrian amenities in a park-like setting that better connects the Summerhill neighborhood to downtown Atlanta.
T	Pedestrian Improvements on Georgia Avenue	\$45,000	Provide a complete/green street on Georgia Avenue. Reconfigure existing travel lanes to calm traffic, provide on-road bicycle facilities, accommodate the proposed/future streetcar (between 5-Points MARTA and Grant Park/ Zoo), and provide off-road, buffered pedestrian amenities in a park-like setting that better connects the Grant Park neighborhood to the Mechanicsville neighborhood and Downtown Atlanta.
U	Potential Park Space		The undeveloped interior of this block bordered by Little, Martin, Ormond, and Fraser Streets was identified as a potential park. Neighbors expressed mixed feelings about this concept. The opportunity exists, but some questioned the need for a park in this location that might only serve adjacent neighbors and the wisdom of constructing a park that is difficult to see/ police from the streets (behind houses).
V	Green Alley		It was noted that tremendous amounts of stormwater collect behind the houses in the alley, behind Connally Street. The concept for a linear park that conveys runoff to Phoenix III Park is outlined in this Visioning Plan.

## Phoenix III Vision Plan

Key	Item	Cost	Description
A	Chess Table	\$80,000	Design and construct a small plaza (hard surface) with shade trees, chess tables, and seating areas at the corner of Connally Street and Georgia Avenue. This area provides an opportunity to invite seniors living in nearby Martin Street Plaza to utilize the park at times of day when others are at work or in school. Project specifics should be coordinated with residents of Martin Street Plaza and other potential users.
B	Seating Area w/ Fountain	\$80,000	Design and construct a small plaza (hard surface) with shade trees, chess tables, and seating areas at the corner of Connally Street and Georgia Avenue. This area provides an opportunity to invite seniors living in nearby Martin Street Plaza to utilize the park at times of day when others are at work or in school. Project specifics should be coordinated with residents of Martin Street Plaza and other potential users. This portion of the park might have a water fountain with seating to help absorb street noise and provide a focal point where people will naturally gather.
B1	Seating Area w/ Drinking Fountain	\$3,500	Provide a universally accessible drinking fountain with a bowl for dogs near the Chess Table Area or the Seating Area.
C	Dry Creek Bed	\$85,000	Construct dry creek bed with boulders, river rock, plantings, and visual interest to capture stormwater from the street, school, and Georgia Hill Center.
D	Rain Garden	\$30,000	Excavate native soil and replace with healthy soil with excellent drainage. Install water-absorbing/filtering plants. Install drains as needed. Project will need engineer to explore water collection opportunities and infiltration/hydrological challenges.
E	Existing Sculpture		Protect existing sculpture in place.
F	Outdoor Classroom	\$200,000	Construct risers and flat seating areas on hillside sloping from Grant Terrace toward Connally Street. Provide hardscape 'stage' with lights, electricity, and landscaped backdrop. Protect all possible existing trees. Replacement trees can be located densely behind the 'stage'.

<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
G	Pedestrian Infrastructure	\$300,000	Remove and replace existing sidewalks with new sidewalks, 6' wide concrete (or more), that guide users to new/improved amenities in the park. Provide universal access at all corners and to all key amenities.
H	Terraced Entry	\$180,000	Provide graded/terraced steps from high side of park down to corner of Glenn Street and Grant Terrace. Flat steps/risers should be designed to accommodate middle-school aged groups of visitors. Provide discrete electrical outlets for phone/device charging. Provide low-level lighting and a trash receptacle.
I	Pedestrian Bridge	\$110,000	Engineer and construct stone bridge between the Georgia Hill Center and Phoenix III Park (over Grant Terrace). Bridge should be a handsome structure worthy of a landmark and should incorporate lighting both over and under the structure.
J	Display Boards	\$4,500	Provide vertical kiosk at key intersection for posting of community/park/school events and notices.
K	Dog Park	\$55,000	Enclose both large dog and small dog areas with black, vinyl-coated chain link fence, 4' high. Provide double-gated vestibules to each and a dog-friendly drinking fountain in each or near both. Include doggy bag stations and trash receptacles in each section. Also install large boulders for obstacles/seating. Remove old 'guard station' in the proposed small dog park section.
L	Rain Garden	\$30,000	Divert water from corner of parking lot into bioswale and small pond. Provide overflow drain. Plant heavily with water-absorbing plants typical of a rain garden. Install interpretive signage to explain processes at work and benefits of capturing rain.
M	Site Furnishings	\$2,000 per	Select family of benches and trash receptacles. Consider durability and simple aesthetics. Avoid wooden products. Victor Stanley makes a bench and coordinating trash receptacle in black metal. Trash receptacle should have side access (not the top). Benches should generally be backless and can include a mid-bench armrest.

Key	Item	Cost	Description
N	Pedestrian Infrastructure	\$45,000	Remove and replace existing sidewalks with new sidewalks, 6' wide concrete (or more), that guide visitors to new/improved amenities in the park. Provide universal access at all corners and to all key amenities.
O	Trolley Stop	N/A	Consider front of Georgia Hill Center for future stop on the proposed streetcar.
P	Drinking Fountain	\$3,500	Provide a universally accessible drinking fountain with a bowl for dogs near the dog park.
	Lighting	\$45,000	Provide City of Atlanta standard pedestrian light fixtures at key amenities in the park and at the Georgia Hill Center. Pay special attention to lighting the center of the park, so that park users can be seen from the streets after dark. Light should be directed toward the ground (not the sky) and should have deflectors on fixtures that face residential properties.

<b>Phoenix II Park &amp; Cheney Stadium Visioning Plan</b>			
<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	Exercise Station w/ Drinking Fountain	\$95,000	Provide large grouping of outdoor exercise equipment on rubber surfacing between small parking area and basketball courts. Add a drinking fountain on the basketball side (east side) of the exercise area. Include a seat wall between parking and exercise equipment.
B	Basketball Courts	\$200,000	(Remove existing basketball courts and replace with four full-sized courts and pedestrian/gathering area in the center. Provide vegetative buffers between courts and Georgia Avenue and between new courts and existing tennis courts. Open sight lines to exercise station and existing parking area.
C	Seating Area	\$300,000	Provide level, paved seating area at top of hill, overlooking park. Small granite rubble retaining walls may be needed to maximize views over park. Provide movable tables and chair and very small (8'x8') covered areas for shade. Flooring should be custom paver pattern and might be useful in collecting water from basketball courts to be conveyed into rain garden (item L below).
D	Lookout Deck	\$750,000	Cantilevered deck overlooking park. Concrete surface on steel structure.
E	Pedestrian Infrastructure	\$400,000	Edit existing sidewalk pathways to meet new amenities. Specifically, straighten sloped area toward Ami Street from basketball courts and add grand concrete stairway with granite rubble wall (great for exercise). Amend other pedestrian paths as necessary. Provide universal access to all major amenities/destinations within the park. There was strong interest in surrounding the proposed pond with a bicycle loop.
F	Play Field	\$20,000	Remove existing baseball field once Atlanta Public Schools has constructed the new one at the Cheney Stadium site, across Ami Street. Repair field with new turf. Keep trees and other obstacles off this part of lawn to encourage strong turf.
G	Splash Pad w/ Bath House	\$1,200,000	

<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
H	Pavilion/Seating	\$450,000	Near expanded, existing playground, design and build a seating plaza with a custom paver pattern (porous pavers), a drinking fountain, two small picnic pavilions, trees for shade, and landscaping to define area from other uses. Include movable tables and chairs, bike racks, seat walls, and other amenities as needed. Area should be universally accessible and should have room for parents to gather/sit in groups with strollers.
I	Toddler Playground	\$120,000	Construct new toddler area next to existing playground. Provide amenities for parents to gather and for children to run safely.
J	Playground	\$200,000	Replace and expand existing playground. Be certain to protect existing specimen trees for shade. Seat walls and low fences between playground and Martin Street will be helpful in directing users toward Pavilion/Seating area (Item H above) and away from Martin Street. This playground was envisioned as the only one for the neighborhood and as a way to anchor the park with lots of children and parents from all over the community. Therefore, it should be one of the largest play areas in the City of Atlanta.
K	Pond/Green Infrastructure	\$800,000	Parks could acquire Atlanta Public Schools property just south of Phoenix II Park for a significant green infrastructure intervention. Collect stormwater from surrounding areas to this location and use a large constructed wetland and pond as a sponge to infiltrate, cleanse, filter, and slow rainwater during rain events. Consider surrounding pond/wetland with a bike track type path.
L	Rain Garden	\$5,000	Retrofit existing rain garden with new plantings, boulders, and river rock that will absorb rainwater and enhance the appearance of the amenity.
M	Vegetative Buffer		When replacing trees lost to renovations, consider planting a collection of evergreen trees between the park (southeast corner of proposed pond) and adjacent land uses, including the proposed parking lot. Species might include: live oak, pines, magnolias, cedars, hollies, cryptomeria, etc. Include flowering understory trees in front of evergreen backdrop for maximum visual effect.

<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
N	Car Drop-Off Area	\$60,000	Provide area for drivers to safely drop-off and pick-up park users. Area could also be used for handicap parking or could include a spot for maintenance vehicle parking.
O	Parking Lot	\$200,000	Provide small parking areas to accommodate large groups visiting Cheney Stadium (across Ami Street), nearby churches, and/or the park. Consider using permeable pavers. Provide ample shade of deciduous tree canopy.
P	Baseball Field		Atlanta Public Schools has proposed the construction of a ballfield on the north end of the Cheney Field site. The community has expressed interest in having access to this amenity when not needed for APS events.
Q	Gazebo	\$30,000	At the north end of the Cheney Stadium block, construct small shade structure for sitting in small groups. A small gazebo could be located at the edge of one of the rain gardens proposed by Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management. If located at the edge of a pond, a stone foundation would offer an interesting design effect.
R	Pedestrian Promenade	\$200,000	The community has expressed a strong desire for ongoing/continued use of the Atlanta Public School's Cheney Field site. A strong pedestrian connection across the middle of the block (north of the existing track) would provide access to public amenities and gathering areas.
S	Pavilion/Seating/Concessions	\$300,000	A space to gather is proposed to augment the amenity offerings on the Cheney Field site and support larger crowds. The space will be used for games, a small plaza with open seating, covered areas, and concessions. Consider a custom, porous paver floor, built in seat walls, and movable tables and chairs.
T	Improved Ami St. -94 Spaces	\$300,000	Reconfigure lanes along Ami Street to include marked parking. Provide wide sidewalks on each side and supplement the pedestrian environment with lighting, street trees, and pedestrian bump-outs and crosswalks to facilitate safety.
U	Green Infrastructure Ponds		Atlanta Department of Watershed Management will provide – consider organic shapes, lush vegetation, and interpretive signage.

<b>Key</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Description</b>
V	Fountain	\$120,000	This portion of the park might have a water fountain with seating to help absorb street noise and provide a focal point where people will naturally gather.
W	Pedestrian Infrastructure	\$250,000)	Edit existing sidewalk pathways to meet new amenities. Specifically, provide sidewalk around perimeter of greenspace and near proposed (by DWM) rain gardens. Consider adding interpretive signage along pathway explaining history of the site and the ecological benefits of the green infrastructure ponds. Provide universal access to all major amenities/destinations within the park.
☀️	Lighting	\$45,000	Provide City of Atlanta standard pedestrian light fixtures at key amenities in the park and at the Georgia Hill Center. Pay special attention to lighting the center of the park, so that park users can be seen from the streets after dark. Light should be directed toward the ground (not the sky) and should have deflectors on fixtures that face residential properties.

## Heritage Park Visioning Plan

Key	Item	Cost	Description
A	Open Lawn	\$12,000	Remove obstacles in lawn and improve condition/strength of turf. Raise/thin canopy of existing trees to provide more light.
B	Seating	\$10,000	Provide seating options such as picnic tables and benches at perimeter of open lawn, near the sidewalk, and in areas that provide the best shade. Consider durability of furnishings when selecting. Victor Stanley is a reliable provider of good-looking, public-grade metal site furnishings.
C	Stairs	\$50,000	Design and construct granite stairs connecting upper seating area to lower open lawn. Trees will likely have to be removed. Replace at northern and eastern edge of the park, so as not to shade the open lawn.
D	Terraced Planting Beds	\$30,000	Consider adding thickly planted ground covers and low, evergreen shrubs between Reed Street and open lawn,. Terracing beds may help prevent erosion.
E	Shade Structure	\$45,000	Engineer and install tensile structures over the existing plaza to provide shade while enhancing the sleek, modern aesthetic of the space. Ideally, the structure would be tall enough to be seen from quite a distance and would serve as a community landmark.
F	Existing Plaza	N/A	Protect in place. Repair/restore as needed
G	Realigned Sidewalks + Street Trees	\$60,000	Relocate 6' wide concrete sidewalks approximately 4' to 6' from back of curb.
☀️	Lighting	\$45,000	Provide City of Atlanta standard pedestrian light fixtures around the perimeter of Heritage Park. Pay special attention to lighting the center of the park, so that park users can be seen from the streets after dark. Light should be directed toward the ground (not the sky) and should have deflectors on fixtures that face residential properties.

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# Appendix

I. Opinion Survey.....	54
II. Publix Meeting Flyer.....	56
III. Yard Sign.....	57
IV. Steering Committee Agendas .....	58

## On Disc

Public Meeting # 1 Presentation	
Public Meeting # 2	
Sketches	
Visual Resource Guide	
Public Meeting # 3	
Preliminary Designs	
Scanned Boards with Comments & Dots	
Public Meeting # 4	
Boards with Dots	
Scanned Comment Sheets	
Steering Committee Summaries	
Green Infrastructure Brochure	



# THE PARKS OF SUMMERHILL

KEEP  
MAIL BACK

## PARK PRIDE

### Our mission

Provide programs, funding and leadership to engage communities in developing and improving parks and greenspaces

### Vision Statement

Great parks that reflect the unique character and meet the needs of every community

Park Pride is the only nonprofit organization that works with all communities in Atlanta to improve their parks. Park Pride's Park Visioning program is unique—like no other in the country. Led by professional landscape architects on Park Pride's staff, a community is taken through a process of engaging the community to determine where its needs are and to design (or re-design) its neighborhood parks and greenspaces. In essence, the process converts a community's dream into a conceptual, but tangible master plan. The Park Visioning process and resulting conceptual master plans not only energize the community to improve their quality of life, but become powerful tools to solicit private funding and lobby for public funding for communities to help reach their goals. Since the program was initiated in 2005 more than \$14 million has gone toward implementing these community-created "Park Visions."

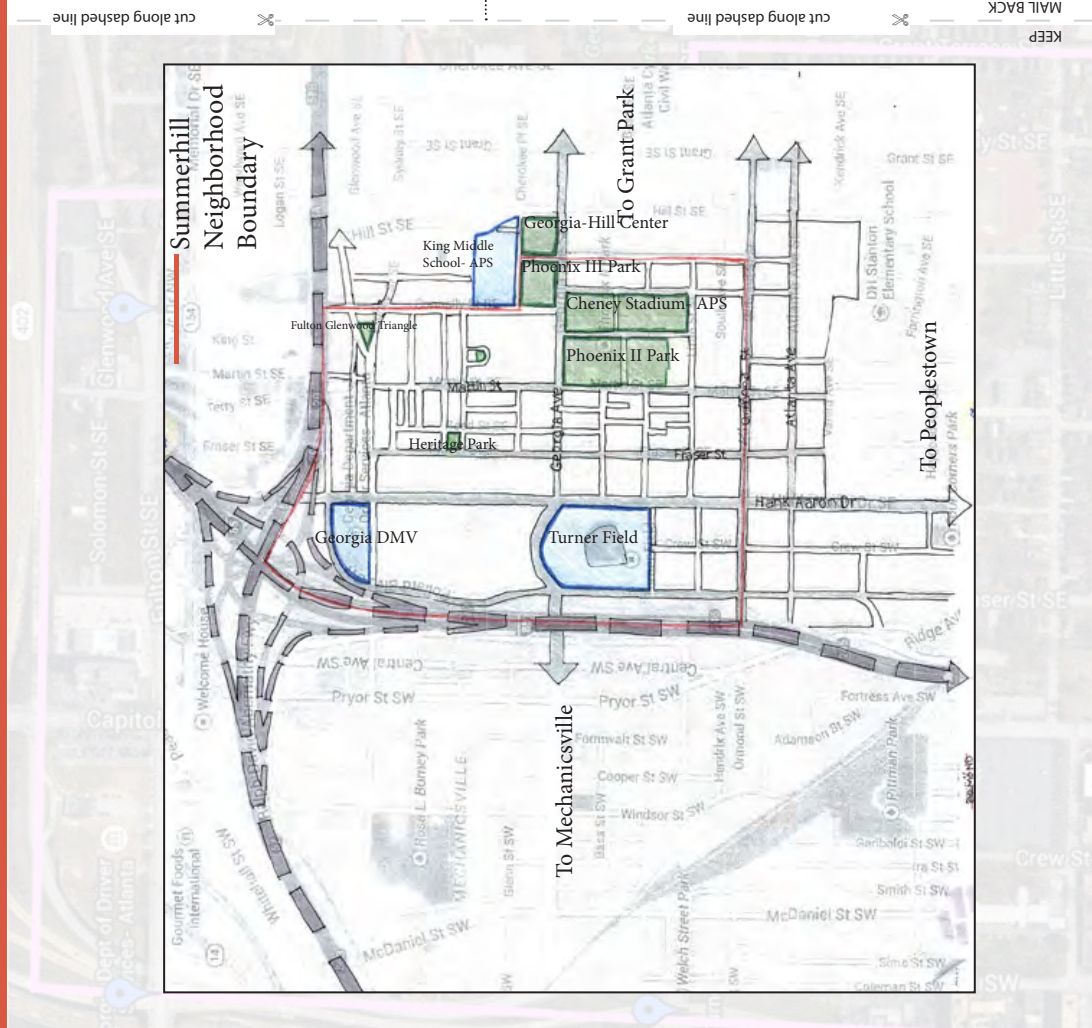
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place  
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here

To:  
Becky Katz



233 Peachtree St. NE  
Suite 1600  
Atlanta, GA 30303-1508



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more & better parks

[www.ParkPride.org](http://www.ParkPride.org)

## Parks of Summerhill

Phoenix II Park, Phoenix III Park, Heritage Park,  
Fulton Glenwood Park and Beyond

### OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

- **Visioning Meeting**  
Saturday March 14, 10 AM -12 PM  
Georgia-Hill Center  
250 Georgia Avenue SE 30312
- **Design Workshop**  
Saturday April 18, 10 AM - 12 PM  
Georgia-Hill Center  
250 Georgia Avenue SE 30312
- **Preliminary Design Reivew**  
Tuesday June 23, 7 PM - 9 PM  
Georgia-Hill Center  
250 Georgia Avenue SE 30312
- **Final Design Review**  
Date to be Announced
- **Summerhill Fall Fest**  
Saturday October 10th  
All Day Events and Activities

To learn more about Park Pride and it's  
Park Visioning program, visit  
**[www. parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)** and click on the  
'Park Visioning' link.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL: [becky@parkpride.org](mailto:becky@parkpride.org)  
CALL: 404.546.7987

Park Pride and the Steering  
Committee for the Parks of  
Summerhill invite you to participate,  
share your thoughts and help develop  
concepts for both existing and  
potential parks in the neighborhood.

This year, due to flooding, the City of  
Atlanta will be installing two massive  
underground stormwater vaults near  
Phoenix II Park. These vaults will  
reduce flooding, but their construction  
means that the park potentially will  
need to be rebuilt. Coupled with the  
Braves move, this presents a once in  
a lifetime opportunity to re-imagine  
your parks and greenspaces.

Please consider attending the listed  
public meetings to share your views.

**This survey will close on Sunday,  
April 12, 2015.**

**\* You can also take the survey online at: [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)**

KEEP  
MAIL BACK



**Park Pride** invites you to participate, share your thoughts, and help develop  
concepts for all the parks of Summerhill.

Your opinion is critical to the success of these greenspaces. Please complete the survey below and either  
mail back this card or bring it to a public meeting. **Park Pride** values your participation. Thank you.  
The survey is also available online at [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)

#### What neighborhood do you live in?

☐ Summerhill ☐ Peopletown ☐ Grant Park ☐ Mechanicsville ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### When do you typically use your neighborhood park/s?

☐ Weekends ☐ Early morning (6am -10am) ☐ Afternoons (10am - 4pm) ☐ Early Evenings(4pm-8pm)  
☐ Evenings (8pm-11pm) ☐ I do not use the parks in my neighborhood

#### How often do you use your neighborhood park/s?

☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 3-5 times a week ☐ Everyday ☐ Only on weekends ☐ Rarely  
☐ I do not use the parks in my neighborhood

#### What do you consider to be YOUR park? You are welcome to list multiple parks, but focus on the parks you use the most

#### What amenity do you enjoy most at YOUR park?

#### If you could have ANYTHING you want in a park close to you, what would that be?

Think big and outside the box. Be creative!

#### What is one feature you would change in your neighborhood park/s and why?

#### TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

##### Do you have children between the ages of 3 - 13?

☐ Yes ☐ No

##### Are you a dog owner?

☐ Yes ☐ No

##### Gender

☐ Female ☐ Male

##### Age?

##### Special Needs?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Stay in touch! Please provide your name, email address and phone number.

**\* You can also take the survey online at: [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)**

KEEP  
MAIL BACK



more & better parks

[www.ParkPride.org](http://www.ParkPride.org)

## WHY ARE WE VISIONING?

Park Pride and the Steering Committee for the Parks of Summerhill invite you to participate, share your thoughts and help develop concepts for both existing and potential parks in the neighborhood.

This year, due to flooding, the City of Atlanta will be installing two massive underground stormwater vaults near Phoenix II Park. These vaults will reduce flooding, but their construction means that the park potentially will need to be rebuilt. Coupled with the Braves move, this presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to re-imagine your parks and greenspaces.

Please consider attending the listed public meetings to share your views.

PARKS OF SUMMERHILL VISION PLAN

# THE PARKS OF SUMMERHILL VISIONING

Phoenix II Park, Phoenix III Park, Heritage Park, Fulton Glenwood Park and Beyond

## JOIN US TO VISION FOR YOUR PARKS:

○ **Preliminary Design Review**  
**Tuesday June 23,**  
**7 PM - 9 PM**  
**Georgia-Hill Center**  
**250 Georgia Avenue SE**

○ **Final Design Review**  
*Monday, August 3,*  
*7 PM - 9 pm*  
*Georgia- Hill Center*  
*250 Georgia Avenue SE*

○ **Summerhill Fall Fest**  
*Saturday October 10th*  
*All Day Events and Activities*

To learn more about Park Pride and it's Park Visioning program, visit **[www. parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)** and click on the 'Park Visioning' link.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: [becky@parkpride.org](mailto:becky@parkpride.org)

CALL: 404.546.7987



Parks of Summerhill  
Visioning Meeting  
**This SATURDAY**  
Georgia Hill Center  
10:00 AM - Noon



For More Information:  
[becky@parkpride.org](mailto:becky@parkpride.org), 404-546-7987



**Parks of Summerhill  
Steering Committee – Kick-off Meeting  
January 5, 2015 7:00PM, Georgia-Hill Center**

- Introductions and Sign In
- Overview of Park Pride
- Overview of Park Visioning
- Park Visioning Scope of Work
- Steering Committee Member- Responsibilities
- Dates/Locations for Ongoing Steering Committee Meetings

**Parks of Summerhill  
Steering Committee – Kick-off Meeting  
January 27, 2015 7:00PM, Georgia-Hill Center**

- Introductions and Sign In
- Recap of Steering Committee Meeting 1
- Survey Development
- Public Meeting Date Selection
  - Public Meeting 1: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Public Meeting 2: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Public Meeting 3: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Public Meeting 4: \_\_\_\_\_



**Parks of Summerhill  
Steering Committee  
February 24, 2015 7:00PM, Georgia-Hill Center**

- Introductions and Sign In
- Survey
  - Review of survey creation
  - Updates of survey results to date
  - Continued public engagement strategy
- Public Meeting 1: Saturday, March 14, 2015 – 10am -12 pm
  - Public engagement strategy development
  - Planning for Public Meeting 1

**Parks of Summerhill  
Steering Committee  
March 24, 2015 7:00PM, Georgia-Hill Center**

- Introductions and Sign In
- Review Public Meeting 1 and Preliminary Survey Input
  - Develop Overarching Guidelines
- Plan Public Meeting 2: Saturday April 18, 2015
  - Proposed Agenda/Meeting Goals
  - Location Reservation
  - Yard Signs
    - Identify locations
    - Identify a person/people to put out and pick up yard signs
  - Public Engagement Strategy Development
  - Public Meeting 2 Responsibilities



**Parks of Summerhill  
Steering Committee  
April 28, 2015 7:00PM, Georgia-Hill Center**

- Introductions and Sign In
- Review Public Meeting 2 Maps and Feedback
- Recap Department of Watershed Management Meeting on Connally/Cheney Stadium Vaults
- Discuss Targeted Outreach Opportunities
  - Green Infrastructure Tour
  - Martin Street Plaza Outreach
  - King Middle School Design Workshop
  - Senior Citizen Engagement



**The Parks of Summerhill  
Steering Committee  
May 26, 2015 7:00PM, Georgia-Hill Center**

- Introductions and Sign In
- Green Infrastructure Tour Logistics
- Discuss Targeted Outreach Opportunities
  - Martin Street Plaza Outreach
  - King Middle School Design Workshop
  - Senior Citizen Engagement
- Public Meeting 3 Outreach Plan
  - Social Media
  - Email
  - Yard Signs
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Public Meeting 3 Content Review



**The Parks of Summerhill  
Steering Committee  
July 28, 2015 7:00PM, Georgia-Hill Center**

- Introductions and Sign In
- Review of Process To Date
- Final Vision Plan Review
- Discussion of Public Meeting 4
- Public Meeting 4 Outreach Plan
  - Social Media
  - Email
  - Yard Signs
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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