Park Pride's Park Visioning Program Expands Impact!

Park Pride is thrilled to announce that in 2017, due to the enthusiasm of supporters and the proven impact of our services, the Park Visioning Program will expand to serve the citizens and parks of unincorporated DeKalb County!

Since the program’s creation in 2008, Park Pride’s professional landscape architect, the Director of Park Visioning, has worked with Friends of the Park groups in the City of Atlanta to imagine and design, or in some cases, redesign their neighborhood parks.

"The Park Visioning process has helped to engage communities as they develop a collective vision for their neighborhood," stated Alvin Dodson, Deputy Commissioner of the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation. "We look forward to our continued partnership with Park Pride."

Park Visioning is a keystone program of Park Pride. Its process embodies the organization’s value of a bottom-up approach, recognizing the residents of the neighborhoods we work with as experts of their own community and giving their needs and wishes a voice.

The program is inclusive of all individuals in a community—from the retired teacher, to the pick-up soccer player, to the stay-at-home parent and the avid dog walker. All have different ideas and hopes for what their park could become, and the Park Visioning process calls for several public meetings organized specifically to encourage and collect feedback from the community at large.

The Park Visioning Program provides access to a professional landscape architect who, with vigorous community engagement, will create a park master plan that can be used to guide park development, raise funds, and serve as a foundation for a park that meets the needs of the community.

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Kimberly Kleiber, Friends of Ormond-Grant Park, explains why she loves parks at the playground ribbon cutting, 2016.
A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHAEL HALICKI

Park Pride serves as the “voice for parks” in the City of Atlanta, and 2017 will be a big year with many park advocacy issues at the forefront of decisions that will potentially impact many city residents. It is important that all park enthusiasts stay vigilant, be aware of the issues outlined below and prepare to raise your voice when needed:

- **FY2018 Budget for the City of Atlanta** – Park Pride sees an increase in the park maintenance budget as a vital issue during the annual budgeting process, and it doesn’t always get the attention it deserves. Maintenance matters!

- **Mayor’s Race** – In 2017, Atlanta will elect our next mayor. Park Pride will work to educate mayoral candidates and other elected officials to ensure they understand the importance of parks to the city as a whole and the need for greater funding for parks and park improvements.

- **Atlanta City Design** – The City’s plan to accommodate double or triple our current population isn’t just about population density; it is also about the need for open space and connections to nature to ensure quality of life as we grow and develop as a city.

- **Westside** – Parks are a big part of community revitalization efforts on Atlanta’s Westside and lay the foundation for the future of this part of the city. These parks respond to the area’s need for more greenspace and address stormwater issues with green infrastructure.

- **TSPLOST** – The successful passage in 2016 of the Atlanta ballot measure that provides funding for the Atlanta BeltLine and non-BeltLine trails is only the first step. The next step is to make sure funding for trails gets a fair share as TSPLOST moves to implementation.

- **Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act** – The State of Georgia can and should play a role in supporting land conservation. Park Pride is part of a coalition that supports the need for matching dollars from the state to leverage local government funding for parks and greenspace.

Join us in making your voice heard for the greener good!

Attend Park Pride’s monthly Park Meeting to stay up-to-date on all the latest advocacy issues and to learn more about what you can do in your community to take a stand for greenspace. Reach out to the Marketing & Communications Manager, Rachel Whyte (rachel@parkpride.org) to receive monthly park advocacy email updates.

Park Pride’s Park Meetings take place in a different park around the city on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 A.M. We’ll bring the coffee and donuts; you bring your passion for parks!
Parks are places of common ground, of connection, and have the potential to become the hearts of our communities. Parks are the threads that tie the diverse tapestry of our cities together. These connections are the focus of the 16th Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference, themed Connecting with Parks.

Through conversations led by locally and nationally recognized speakers, Connecting with Parks will explore the physical and abstract connections that parks create through the lenses of:

- Health & Wellness
- History
- Design
- Transportation
- Water
- Ecology
- Equitable Development

Over the last few decades, leading cities throughout the U.S., such as Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and San Francisco, have realized the benefits that planning, designing and managing greenspaces as systems generate.

Central to these benefits is a park system’s flexibility to tackle complex social, environmental and economic challenges—such as traffic congestion, affordable housing, crime, food deserts, flooding, water quality and shortage—that metropolitan areas face.

Additionally, a "systems approach" to park planning, design and management allows municipalities to stretch implementation dollars. That means a community receives multiple services for every dollar spent on a park project, a huge benefit considering Atlanta’s infrastructure back log and projected population growth.

There is much to be discussed on this topic! I invite you to join me at the 16th Annual Parks and Greenspace Conference, Connecting with Parks, to learn more about the impact that parks and greenspace systems can have on your daily life and the future of the Metro Atlanta area.

Hope to see you there,

~ Carlos Perez

keynote speakers

Audrey Peterman
Author, Legacy on the Land: A Black Couple Discovers Our National Inheritance & Tells Why Every American Should Care

Kaid Benfield
Author, People Habitat: 25 Ways to Think about Greener, Healthier Cities

Featured Speakers:
Paul Morris, FASLA
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

Ed McBrayer
PATH Foundation

Nancy Rigby
Cox Foundations

Becky Katz
City of Atlanta

Additional Speakers:
Elena Madison
Project for Public Spaces

Robert Rogers
Rogers Partners

Thomas Wolz
Nelson Byrd Woltz

Join the list of conference sponsors.
Contact Jane Zoellick, Development Manager, at Jane@parkpride.org.
Grants for the Greener Good

Park Pride congratulates the 17 Friends of the Park groups who were awarded funding in December 2016 through our Small Change, Community Building and Legacy Grant programs. The grants, which total over $820,000, include funding for bridges and trail systems which will increase access to greenspace; playgrounds and exercise stations which will provide opportunities for physical activity; and amenities such as benches, pavilions and shade structures, which will provide community gathering spaces.

Legacy Grants (generously funded by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation)
Available only to Friends groups in the City of Atlanta

Atlanta Memorial Park replaced the playground (which had been plagued by flooding and sewage spills) with a new, community-designed playground located on higher ground and in a more accessible location.

Blue Heron Nature Preserve will expand its permeable trail system, the “Blueway,” that will highlight the rich habitats along Mill and Nancy Creeks and eventually connect to Chastain Park and PATH400.

Lake Claire Park will oversee a playground renovation (to the joy of neighborhood children!) and build an ADA accessible overlook with shade structures.

Little Nancy Creek Park will implement phase IV of their master plan, which includes a pavilion and seating for family and community gatherings, trash/recycling receptacles, beautification plantings and signage.

South Fork Conservancy will construct a pedestrian bridge across the North Fork of Peachtree Creek, providing access to the South Fork Trail from PATH400, to the Atlanta BeltLine and to the sidewalks of Buckhead as well.

Southside Park will expand their natural surface multi-use trails with a bridge and boardwalk, enhancing visitor access to the forested areas of the park and encouraging healthy recreation.

Community Building Grants (generously funded by The Home Depot Foundation)
Available to Friends groups in both the City of Atlanta (COA) and DeKalb County (DC)

Bitsy Grant Tennis Center (COA) will construct a courtside deck for viewers to comfortably enjoy watching matches.

Briarlake Forest Park (COA) will add amenities, including picnic tables, benches, and trail signs, and will plant more native species throughout the greenspace.

Henderson Park (DC) will receive a redesign of the park’s trail system, implement erosion control measures, add new signage and provide stepping stones at creek crossings.

Historic 4th Ward Park (COA) will conduct a comprehensive planting and rejuvenation of several landscape beds in alignment with the park’s original master plan.

Jennie Drake Park (COA) will continue to work towards the fulfillment of their master plan, installing a soft-surface path, distance markers and dog-waste stations, and creating designated bird-watching areas.

Johns Homestead (DC) will construct a boardwalk over a creek that had previously rendered a large portion of the park inaccessible. This connection will almost double the number of usable trails!

Peachtree Park (COA) will benefit from a new access point to the nature trail, and the addition of benches and exercise stations that will encourage greater use of the park from the surrounding communities.

Small Change Grants (generously funded by the Cecil B. Day Foundation) were awarded to Mattie Freeland Park (COA), Standing Peachtree Park (COA), Underwood Hills Park (COA) and DeKalb Memorial Park (DC) for small-scale beautification projects.

Learn more about Park Pride’s Grant Programs: parkpride.org/we-can-help/grant-programs/
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Thank you to the following organizations for their extraordinary generosity in support of Park Pride’s annual operating needs, programs and events!

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park pride board updates

The achievements of Park Pride would not be possible without the tremendous dedication of our Board of Directors. This January, we enthusiastically welcomed three new board members (right) who heartily believe in the power of parks!

We also extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to three board members who have recently completed their board terms: Verna Jennings Cleveland, Lisa Gordon and Ted Nelson. Thank you for your service to Atlanta’s parks!
mission
to engage communities to activate the power of parks

$3,429,707
Invested in parks through grants and funds raised by Friends groups

105
Friends of the Park groups - the most ever!

2
Park visionings completed with input from over 1000 community members

22
Active community gardens in parks

19,970
Volunteer service hours in parks

Over 400
attendees at the 15th Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference

For the full report, visit www.parkpride.org

Friends of Ormond-Grant Park at the ribbon cutting for the new playground, June 2016.

English Avenue community member provides input on a park visioning plan for Boone Park West, December 2016.

Adams Park boardwalk, completed with funding from a Park Pride Legacy Grant, September 2016.

Participant on the Community Garden Tour inspects produce, May 2016.

Participant on the Community Garden Tour inspects produce, May 2016.

Executive Director, Michael Halicki, welcomes attendees to the Parks & Greenspace Conference, March 2016.

Volunteers create a pollinator garden in Vine City Park, March 2016.

Friends of Ormond-Grant Park at the ribbon cutting for the new playground, June 2016.

Executive Director, Michael Halicki, welcomes attendees to the Parks & Greenspace Conference, March 2016.
Thank You 2016 Annual Campaign Donors

Success! Thanks to many generous donors, we fully matched the $25,000 challenge grant* we received from the Dorothy & Charlie Yates Family Fund with new and increased donations. Park Pride makes every effort to ensure we accurately list our donors. If you feel there are errors or omissions, please contact our Development Manager, Jane Zoellick: Jane@parkpride.org, 404.546.6855.

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*Blue = Challenge Grant Donor
park pride events & deadlines

March

4 Volunteer Day on the Atlanta BeltLine
9 Park Pride’s Monthly Park Meeting
11 Workshop: Activating Your Park
25 Park Ride (Parks & Greenspace Conference)
26 Roswell Riverwalk Tour (Parks & Greenspace Conference)
27 Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference, Connecting with Parks

April

13 Park Pride’s Monthly Park Meeting
22 Earth Day Volunteer Event
29 Workshop: Raising Funds for Your Park

May

1 Small Change Grant Application Deadline
2 Pints for Parks (benefitting Park Pride’s advocacy initiatives)
11 Park Pride’s Monthly Park Meeting

Mission | To engage communities to activate the power of parks.

Park Views Online | bit.ly/parkpridenews

@parkpride #forthegreenergood