



VISION PLAN

DeKalb Memorial Park



Facilitated and prepared by Park Pride



We would like to recognize the contributions of the small group of community members who came together over the course of several months to create the plan presented in this document. Working for positive change in your community and park can at times be both challenging and rewarding, as these dedicated neighbors can tell you.

Mrs. Mary Reed has deep roots in the Parkview community and has lived across the street from the park for close to 50 years. As a longtime leader in the Parkview Civic Club, Mrs. Reed generously shared her positive spirit and experience with the group. She is the proud caretaker of the small, community-run building in the park, which hosts events, including neighborhood meetings, wedding receptions, classes, and faith services.

Mr. Fitz DeCaro is a true craftsman and creative thinker who has chosen Parkview as the place to start his family. Fitz sees the park as a place where his family can enjoy beautiful days and form lasting memories.

Mr. Julian Ellis is the Program Director of the East Lake Family YMCA as well as the YMCA Teen Center at the northern edge of the park. He sees the park as a place where youth and teens from the center can play sports, build positive relationships, learn leadership skills and have fun!

Mrs. Jerrie Bason and Mr. Rich Alvarez have been longtime park advocates in DeKalb County. As representatives on the Citizen Advisory Board, they are no strangers to hearing community concerns about parks. Ever committed to building community, Mrs. Bason and Mr. Alvarez were stalwart members of our steering committee and effective liaisons to Commissioner Johnson's and Commissioner Gannon's offices.

If you've lived in or around the Kirkwood neighborhood for any length of time, then you know Mr. Earl Williamson. A famous advocate for parks and veteran of many past park improvements and trail efforts, Earl

brought his own particular style of advocacy and engagement to the steering committee. His insight and authentic spirit were much appreciated in all discussions of the park.

As a generous and ardent member of the Atlanta Disc Golf Organization, Mr. Ryan Marosy brought his enthusiasm and love for the sport to our discussions. With a vision for park activation and expanding the usable area of the park, Ryan sees an opportunity to bring new positive use to the park through the disc golf community.

As the only representative from one of the many area schools, Mrs. Aleisha McCray represented the interests of Ivy Preparatory Academy and supplied our group with detailed notes she took during our meetings.

Acknowledgements

Mr. Nick Stephens started on the steering committee as a Visioning Fellow at Park Pride, but quickly joined the steering committee as a full member representing his neighborhood of East Atlanta. A cycling guru and native Atlantan, Nick brought his planning expertise and enthusiasm for parks, transportation and schools to the table.

Last, but certainly not least, Ms. Shannon Ring has been a passionate park leader since she moved to the Parkview community. Her efforts around the community garden and orchard have enriched the community through gardening classes and workshops, and her passion for the natural world was instrumental in forming the ethos of stewardship in this plan.

- Andrew White, Teri Nye, Ruth Pimentel, and Grace Raulet, Park Pride's Visioning Team

Opposite top: The Parkview Community Garden is alive with late summer blooms

Opposite bottom: The playground can be seen beyond the large shelter in the park



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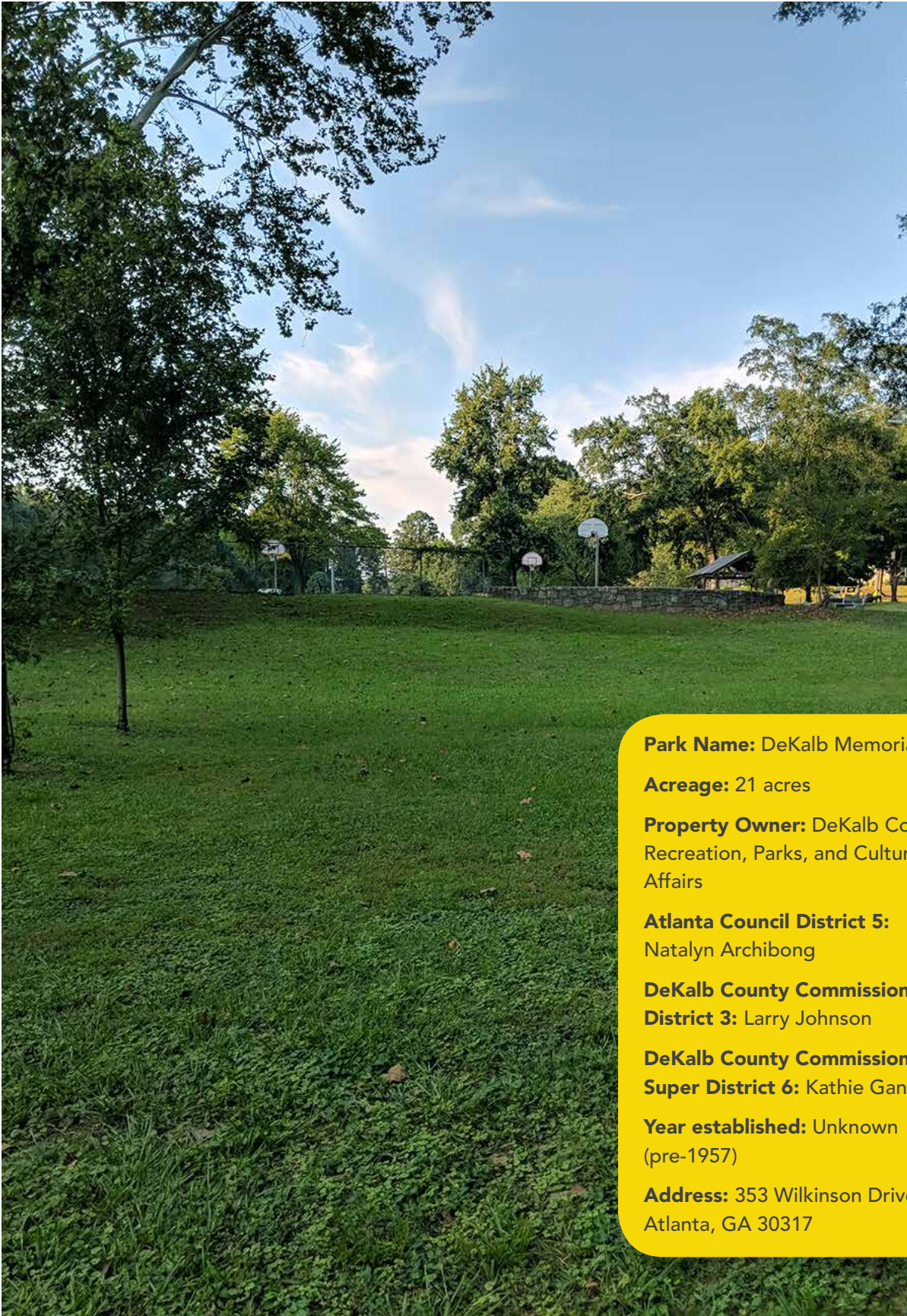
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Above: The Friends of DeKalb Memorial Park logo, created by Park Pride staff, shows the Civic Club building, Hardee and Sugar Creeks, the orchard, and mature trees that exist in the park

Opposite: A large sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) provides some welcome shade to the basketball courts



Park Name: DeKalb Memorial Park

Acreage: 21 acres

Property Owner: DeKalb County
Recreation, Parks, and Cultural
Affairs

Atlanta Council District 5:
Natalyn Archibong

**DeKalb County Commission
District 3:** Larry Johnson

**DeKalb County Commission
Super District 6:** Kathie Gannon

Year established: Unknown
(pre-1957)

Address: 353 Wilkinson Drive,
Atlanta, GA 30317

Executive Summary

In spring of 2018, Shannon Ring, Park Chair of the Parkview Civic Club, applied for a Park Pride Visioning grant on behalf of the Parkview and Kirkwood communities. The visioning for DeKalb Memorial Park was awarded from a pool of applicants as an important opportunity for neighbors to think critically about their park, which is expected to see some key investments and changes in the near term. It was important for the community to proactively produce their own plan, rather than reacting to the plans of others. Over the course of nine months in 2018 and 2019, the Parkview and Kirkwood communities worked with Park Pride to develop the plan contained herein.

This document is a record of the research, engagement, and decisions made throughout the park visioning process. It is intended to guide a phased approach to community-driven development and stewardship of the park in the coming years. Although this plan is a tool for the community, it does not have weight of law and should not be seen as a promise or guarantee. Each individual component of the plan will need to be designed, vetted, and legally permitted through the appropriate authorities.

DeKalb Memorial Park occupies an unusual, if not unique, niche in terms of its governance. Located within the City of Atlanta in the Kirkwood neighborhood, it is administered and maintained by unincorporated DeKalb County as the principal park serving the Parkview community. Although this can create jurisdictional confusion for things like police

protection and watershed management issues, the Parkview community has been willing to navigate these complexities to preserve their influence over the park and its governance.

The famous Battle of Atlanta was fought in the area, and is the event from which DeKalb Memorial Park derives its name. DeKalb Memorial Park and Parkview have grown up together, developing alongside each other throughout the mid-20th century, and witnessing important events in the civil rights movement, such as the integration of Murphy High School (now the recently-closed Crim Open Campus High School) and lunch counter sit-ins. The park provides an interesting window into the past for groups like BATL, which tells the “Civil War to Civil Rights” story with guided tours of the park.

The improvements proposed in this plan are in large part designed to enhance or repurpose elements of the park that already exist. Full implementation will require a mix of modest and more significant investments over a period of several years, some of which are already underway. With the coming construction of the PATH Battle of Atlanta multiuse trail and the disc golf course, it is important that the park develop in a way that is responsive to and respectful of community concerns and priorities.

This plan will be archived, along with all of Park Pride’s vision plans, at the Atlanta History Center’s Kenan Research Center.



Context

DeKalb Memorial Park, approximately 21 acres, is located on the eastern edge of Atlanta city limits along Wilkinson Drive, where it enjoys 2,300 feet of street frontage. It occupies the southeastern expanse of an irregularly-shaped block formed by Memorial Drive to the north, Wilkinson Drive to the east, Clifton Street to the west, Glenwood Drive to the south, and Interstate 20 to the southwest. It shares this block with the recently-closed Crim Open Campus High School (owned by Atlanta Public Schools) and the East Lake YMCA Teen Center. The park lies at the junction point of three in-town neighborhoods, Parkview to the east, Kirkwood to the north and west, and East Atlanta to the southwest on the other side of Interstate 20.

Although officially within the bounds of the Atlanta neighborhood Kirkwood, and located within City of Atlanta Council District 5 (Archibong), DeKalb Memorial Park is not a City of Atlanta park. It is managed instead by the DeKalb County Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs (DRPCA) because it primarily serves the unincorporated neighborhood of Parkview - so named for its proximity to and association with the park. Parkview, a small community of about 275 homes, developed largely during the post-World War II housing boom. Both DeKalb Memorial Park and the Parkview community are contained within DeKalb County Commission District 3 (Johnson) and Super District 6 (Gannon).



DeKalb Memorial Park rests at the intersection of three intown Atlanta neighborhoods

Three Atlanta public schools are also near the park. The aforementioned campus of Crim Open Campus High School directly abuts the northwest corner of the park. At the time of this writing, the future of Crim High School was unclear, as it had been shuttered in 2019 without plans for future use. Ivy Preparatory Academy is located to the northeast of the park and offers an all-girls college preparatory curriculum for students from kindergarten through eighth grade and operates as an Atlanta public charter school. Lastly, Burgess-Peterson Academy is an International Baccalaureate elementary school located to the southwest of the park on the opposite side of Interstate

Alonzo A. Crim Open Campus High School is directly adjacent the park. Originally named Murphy High School (as shown in this 1961 photograph), it was one of the first four Atlanta schools to integrate



20. The proximity of these schools, along with the YMCA Teen Center, suggests the possibility of future partnerships or programming that would support the schools and increase park use.

The park rests in the South River watershed, which is a tributary of the Altamaha River that eventually discharges into the Atlantic Ocean. Two Atlanta creeks flow within the park. Hardee Creek flows from north to south, roughly bisecting the park until it converges with Sugar Creek, which flows along the park's southwest edge, separating it from Interstate 20. Both waterways suffer from the same impacts that many urban streams endure, including acutely incised banks and erosion caused by fast-moving stormwater discharges during storm events. An approximately 800-foot segment of

Hardee Creek is piped underground in the park, which creates a large open field in the park's northern half.

DeKalb Memorial Park also has a long and varied history that in many ways mirrors the history of Atlanta, from the site of Civil War battles (to which the park owes its name), to later battles for racial justice and civil rights. Prior to Atlanta's settlement as a railroad city, the land belonged to the Muskogee (Creek) Confederacy, a loosely organized group of Muskogee-speaking tribes. The 1821 Treaty of Indian Springs removed Muskogee claims to the land that eventually became Atlanta and allowed for the expansion of settlement by white farmers and enslaved people of African descent.

By the time the Civil War came to Atlanta in the summer of 1864, the city was still

young. Owing to the presence of its railroads, Atlanta was a major supplier of the Confederate war effort, and thus became a key strategic target for the United States. Lemuel P. Grant, an Atlanta railroad engineer, had designed and constructed (with enslaved labor) a network of earthen fortifications that encircled the more densely populated area of Atlanta. The Battle of Atlanta (July 22, 1864) occurred outside these fortifications in the area where the park now stands.

United States General James Birdseye McPherson and Confederate General

William H. T. Walker were both killed in the early minutes of this battle. Two monuments, similar in design to each other, were built to mark the sites where these two deaths occurred. The marker for General Walker, which was erected in July of 1902, is near the southern end of DeKalb Memorial Park at the corner of Glenwood Ave SE and Wilkinson Dr SE. The marker for General McPherson, erected 30 years earlier, is located less than a mile away at the corner of McPherson Ave SE and Monument Ave SE. The Atlanta non-profit organization BATL (The Battle of Atlanta Commemoration Organization), is working on a restoration plan for both monuments.

Confederate General William H. T. Walker was killed in the early minutes of the Battle of Atlanta. A monument marking the location of his death can be seen directly south of the park at the intersection of Wilkinson and Glenwood





Area roads are in place, but the future parkland appears to still be farmland and forest.



A major post-war development boom yields both the Parkview and East Atlanta neighborhoods.



Hardee Creek has been piped through the middle section of the park, and Interstate 20 is under construction. The park has also added a pool and baseball diamonds.



Interstate 20 is clearly visible to the southwest of the park and vegetation has reclaimed many of the previously-cleared areas.

103	DeKalb Memorial (owned before 1957 Bond Issue)	44.0	Swimming pool and bathhouse, community building, four baseball fields, play area, three picnic shelters, tables, grills, and rest rooms.
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N-21	DeKalb Memorial Park* - 17.0 Acres	CT 209
	Recreation Center	Swimming Pool (25 Yard)
	Picnic Facilities	Restrooms
	Softball Field	Basketball Court
	Pickup Softball Field (Lighted)	Playground Equipment
	*Park is in census tract 209 (Atlanta-DeKalb). The 17.0 acres are included in the City of Atlanta acreage total.	

Descriptions of DeKalb Memorial Park from 1967 (top) and 1979 (bottom) show the evolution of the park.

After the Civil War, the area remained rural in character. Aerial photography from the 1930s and 1940s shows agricultural fields and forest occupying the land, which is traversed by Sugar and Hardee Creeks. From 1947-1949, J. C. Murphy High School was constructed to the northwest of the park, a hybrid of Modern Classic and Deco forms. After the 1954 Supreme Court decision against segregation in public schools, white segregationists in Georgia engaged in massive resistance to the change, sometimes engaging in violent tactics and threats to maintain the racial status quo. These efforts, sometimes referred to as the "Second Battle of Atlanta," failed to stop integration, and Murphy High School became one of the first four Atlanta schools to integrate on August 30, 1961.

Although Park Pride's research did not uncover the year when the park was established, the 1967 Park Plan for DeKalb County includes DeKalb Memorial Park in its inventory of existing parks and states that it had been "owned before 1957 Bond Issue." Park amenities listed in the report include a

building, four baseball fields, play area, three picnic shelters, tables, grills, and rest rooms."

Aerial photography from 1955 and 1960 bears out this description. In 1955, the outline of the community building is clearly visible, the pool is under construction, and Hardee Creek is still babbling on the surface of the park. By 1960, the pool was clearly visible near where the community garden currently resides. Furthermore, Hardee Creek had been piped underground to create the large field that still exists today.

The 1960s brought other changes as well. DeKalb Memorial Park, like many other Atlanta-area parks with public swimming pools, elected to close its swimming facilities rather than allow for racial integration. After the pool closed, the facility deteriorated until it was finally removed in the late 1980s.

The park has continued to develop and change over the years, with the tennis and basketball courts being added in the 1980s. The year 2010 saw the establishment of the community garden, with the orchard following in 2012.



Existing Conditions

DeKalb Memorial Park is a 21-acre park operated by the DeKalb County Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs. The park has amenities to encourage both passive and active recreation for all ages, including tennis courts, basketball courts, pavilions, large open fields, a community garden, an orchard, a playground, and the Parkview Civic Club (a community-run building in the park). The park is situated within a shallow valley created by Hardee Creek, which bisects the park into east and west sections.

Opposite: Vegetation overtakes the remnants of steps that lead from the community orchard to where the swimming pool used to be.

Topographically, the park slopes inward toward the creek from three sides (west, north, and east). The east section of the park is home to most of the park amenities and enjoys superior road-frontage along Wilkinson Drive. The west section of the park is less developed, has no road frontage, and has a naturalistic woodland character, including many mature native trees. Like many forests in the Atlanta area, DeKalb Memorial has its share of invasive plants as well, which grow thick in the understory of the furthest reaches of the woods, making it attractive for urban camping.

Below: The Parkview Civic Club rests just west of Wilkinson Drive and provides a venue for many community events.





Parkview Civic Club

At the heart of DeKalb Memorial Park is its community center. This small single-story building consists of a central meeting room with stage, an adjoining warming kitchen, bathrooms, accessory storage and office space. The Parkview community manages the space and leases it for events in partnership with local churches and residents. DeKalb County helps to maintain the building's mechanical and electrical systems, but day-to-day maintenance and cleaning is handled by the Parkview Civic Club and dedicated residents. A large ADA-accessible deck adjoins the building and overlooks the playground and one of the basketball courts, but it is in need of repairs.



Athletic facilities

There are numerous recreational facilities distributed throughout the park, all of which are on the east side within view of Wilkinson Drive. Starting from the north, two unlit tennis courts occupy a plateau of flat land directly south of the YMCA Teen Center. These tennis courts are served by a small parking lot designed to hold up to six cars.



Directly south from the tennis courts, a large multipurpose field rests on top of an encapsulated Hardee Creek. Originally designed as two baseball diamonds (one backstop is still present at the southwest corner), the field has since evolved into use primarily for field sports like football and soccer. The Kookaburras, the local Australian rules football club, use the field for practice, as it is one of the few fields in the area that meets their requirements of a large unobstructed oval-shaped playing space. The field is also used for large events that occur in the park, and is sometimes misused for parking cars. A combination of roadside

Top left: The basketball court behind the Parkview Civic Club opens onto the south field

Middle left: Tennis courts are in good condition

Bottom left: The expansive north field offers flexible open space for sports and events



parking and a medium-sized parking lot serves this part of the park with space for up to 47 cars.

On the southern edge of the north field, two full-sized basketball courts enjoy consistent use from community members looking for a pick-up game or just to practice shooting hoops. A third basketball court lies to the rear of the Parkview Civic Club and also enjoys steady use. However, visibility issues created by the building sometimes lead to negative activity, and it was widely agreed that this space could be better activated.

Lastly, a smaller field on the south end of the park provides space for casual play or simple enjoyment of the open green space. Another backstop at its northeast corner speaks to this field's history as another former baseball diamond.

Play equipment

The play equipment at DeKalb Memorial Park is separated into three discrete areas with engineered wood fiber (mulch) surfacing. Two areas are located directly north of the Parkview Civic Club and include outdated equipment of post-and-



Top: Existing play equipment is scheduled for replacement by DeKalb County

Above: The swings are located on the other side of the Parkview Civic Club, splitting the play area into two visually separate areas.

platform style. On the south side of the building, traditional swings are present next to a recently-installed "Little Free Library" book exchange. The physical and visual separation of the playground was cited as challenging to many parents who have children that want to concurrently play in separate areas, making it difficult to adequately supervise play.

Seating and site furnishings

DeKalb Memorial Park has two pavilion shelters along its eastern edge. The first, a small rectangular pavilion, is associated with the two northernmost basketball courts, and the second is a larger hexagonal pavilion located north of and apart from the play equipment. There are numerous granite masonry seat walls winding through the park, likely dating from when the park was first developed in the 1940s/50s. In addition, there are benches located periodically on the eastern edge between the swings and the basketball courts. However, there is no formal seating west of Hardee Creek, south of the swings, or north of the two northernmost basketball courts.



Community garden and orchard

Beyond the southwest corner of the northern playing field lies the Parkview Community Garden. Established in 2010, the garden consists of 16 raised planter beds enclosed within a 4-foot rail fence. The garden is situated on the asphalt remains of a parking lot that used to serve the swimming pool before it was demolished. Due south is a community orchard that resides on an open expanse of land that was reclaimed from invasive overgrowth by the community in 2012. The orchard consists of at least 35 fruit-bearing trees, including figs and various stone fruits.



Top: Benches provide places to rest along some paths

Middle: The Parkview Community Garden is used for education and community workshops in addition to growing food and flowers

Bottom: The community orchard complements the community garden and its trees produce a wide variety of fruits



Natural systems

Two creeks run through the park. The most visible of these is Hardee Creek, which enters the property on its north end where it runs, largely unnoticed, through a heavily wooded area to a point on the northern edge of the playing field where it is piped underground. The creek remains piped beneath the surface of the field, closed off from surface runoff except for a grated low-point in the center of the field that drains the land. Hardee Creek emerges to daylight south of the two northernmost basketball courts where it winds its way south until it merges with Sugar Creek, which forms the park's southern boundary. A single pedestrian footbridge crosses the creek approximately midway between the point where the creek reemerges and the point of confluence with Sugar Creek.

Both Sugar Creek and Hardee Creek are within the South River watershed and share the same impairments present in many urban creeks, including incised banks and significant erosion. This is especially true

of Sugar Creek which suffers from extreme impacts due to its location directly adjacent to Interstate 20.

In addition to the creeks, the park enjoys the benefits of a mature tree canopy. On the east side of the park, large oak and sycamore trees provide shade over a clear understory, creating a rich and beautiful pastoral effect with open sightlines. On the west half of the park, apart from the orchard, the tree canopy becomes much denser to provide more woodland habitat. Invasive exotic species, however, obscure the understory and cloud visibility in this part of the park. This has led to the establishment of an encampment deep in the westernmost corner of the park.

Above left: Under normal conditions, Hardee Creek gently flows through the park, providing habitat and the calming sounds of running water

Above right: This photo, taken at the same location during a rain event, shows Hardee Creek during bankfull conditions, becoming a powerful erosive force in the park



Community Engagement

Park Pride's mission is to engage communities to activate the power of parks. In service of this mission, Park Pride offers visioning grants to parks in the City of Atlanta and in unincorporated DeKalb County every year through a competitive application process. The vision plan includes a conceptual master plan and comprehensive report for the park, produced to professional landscape design standards. The Park Pride visioning staff facilitates the public engagement process for the group awarded the visioning, and the community feedback collected along the way informs and guides the creation of the vision plan. This plan can then be used by community groups to fundraise and advocate for their desired improvements in the park.

In Summer of 2018, DeKalb Memorial was awarded a park visioning grant.

Steering Committee

The Visioning Process was led by a volunteer Steering Committee of dedicated neighborhood leaders and nearby residents, along with DeKalb County Parks Citizen Advisory Board members, assembled by general invitation extended to the community. The Steering Committee achieved broad representation of skills and interests in the park. Between September

of 2018 and May of 2019 the steering committee met monthly, guiding the process, reviewing community input, preparing materials and vetting results. They were charged with representing their constituencies and the voices of the broader communities surrounding the park.

Park visioning kicked off on September 12th, 2018, with the first steering committee meeting, which was attended by eight community members and leaders. Attendees met at the Parkview Civic Club, the community building inside the park, to gain an initial understanding of the conditions. The park visioning scope was discussed and a project schedule was developed, centered on four public meetings.

During the second Steering Committee meeting, a survey was created to collect data from the community on potential park improvements. The survey was posted online, distributed door-to-door throughout the Parkview neighborhood, and provided by the steering committee to anyone interested. Steering Committee member Earl Williamson provided updates about the visioning process to the Kirkwood community.

Opposite: Community members discuss the future of DeKalb Memorial Park

Survey

The survey, in both paper and digital formats, was used to capture public input. In all, there were 124 responses to the DeKalb Memorial Park survey, providing valuable (though not statistically significant) results that represented neighborhood interests and priorities.

Results (see opposite page) suggested that a majority of the respondents use the park for passive individual activities, such as walking their dog, relaxing, gardening, exercising


and playing pick-up/casual sports. There were also many who expressed that they attend meetings and go to other gatherings in the park. There was strong consensus that negative and illegal activities are the biggest challenge facing the park. Other major concerns expressed include the improper disposal of trash, lack of lighting and perception of safety as well as outdated play equipment. Priorities for changes included more places to sit, more walking trails, safer access, and permanent restrooms.

Park Visioning Schedule

Preliminary Plan Review
Wednesday, April 3, 7-8pm
Parkview Civic Club at
DeKalb Memorial Park
353 Wilkinson Dr SE

Final Plan Presentation
Wednesday, May 22, 7-8pm
Parkview Civic Club at
DeKalb Memorial Park
353 Wilkinson Dr SE

*Tear off and
save this schedule!*



Scan this code with your smart
phone to go to an online version
of this survey

Would you be willing to donate money to improve DeKalb Memorial Park?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure/Depends

Would you be willing to volunteer time to help DeKalb Memorial Park?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure/Depends

Is there anything else you'd like to add that hasn't been addressed?


Contact Information (this will be kept confidential)

First & Last Name

Email

Is it ok to contact you via e-mail about the Park Visioning process?

☐ Yes, you can e-mail me
☐ No, please leave me off distribution lists



Take part in
the Vision Process for

**DEKALB
MEMORIAL
PARK**

facilitated by Park Pride

Return surveys by mail to:
Park Pride, 233 Peachtree St NE, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30303
or take the survey online at <https://tinyurl.com/y9ee65rg>

Why do you visit DeKalb Memorial Park now?
(select all that apply)

- ☐ I go to walk my dog
- ☐ I go to relax/be in nature
- ☐ I go to the community garden/orchard
- ☐ I go to play/bring my kids to play
- ☐ I go to gatherings in the park
- ☐ I go to run, walk, or exercise in an outdoor space
- ☐ I participate in organized sports (tell us which sport you play)
- ☐ I participate in pick-up/casual sports (tell us which sport you play)
- ☐ I go to meetings/events at the building in the park
- ☐ Other (describe below)

Read the list below and select the TOP 3 challenges facing DeKalb Memorial Park.
(select ONLY THREE)

- ☐ Access into the park
- ☐ Negative/illegal activities
- ☐ Lack of amenities
- ☐ Soil erosion
- ☐ Outdated playground equipment
- ☐ Trash/glass not disposed of properly
- ☐ Lack of lights/Perception of safety
- ☐ Irregular maintenance
- ☐ Overgrowth/Invasive plants
- ☐ People overuse the park

What is your favorite thing about DeKalb Memorial Park and the way it is today?

What are your priorities for changes in DeKalb Memorial Park? (select all that apply)

- ☐ I would like to update/replace playground equipment
- ☐ I would like more community events, like family reunions, weddings, concerts, festivals and/or field days
- ☐ I think we need more places for active recreation (additional courts/sports fields/frisbee golf)
- ☐ I would like to have a dog park
- ☐ I would like more or better walking paths in the park
- ☐ I would like a permanent public restroom
- ☐ I would like to see more accommodation for passive uses like walking, reading and sitting
- ☐ I would like to prioritize restoring nature/natural systems
- ☐ I would like to see more art or cultural expression
- ☐ I would like better/safer access into the park
- ☐ I would like to update the garden/plant more fruit trees
- ☐ Other (describe below)

DeKalb Memorial Park

The Parkview and Kirkwood communities are beginning a park vision plan for DeKalb Memorial Park!

Through a grant from Park Pride, our community has the opportunity to create a plan for what this park can become. The Visioning Process will result in a conceptual master plan reflecting what the community would like to see in this beautiful park. Your opinion is critical to the success of this unique space.

The DeKalb Memorial Park steering committee and Park Pride will be hosting a series of public meetings over the next several months to collect ideas and get input from neighbors. Mark your calendars for the public meeting dates on the other side of this sheet.

Please plan to attend one or all of the public meetings to help us envision the future of DeKalb Memorial Park, and follow us on Facebook to learn more and get reminders about meetings!

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofdekalbmemorialpark/>

102

people responded

"Let's find a way to make the park continue to provide different resources for people with different interests, and to make it more welcoming!"

"Large, uncontrolled events make community members feel unsafe and result in a lot of trash/debris."

"I love that little orchard area, but honestly...only because it's off the beaten path a bit and I can let my dog run for ten seconds."



Since September 2018, **Park Pride** has been working with the **Parkview** and **Kirkwood** communities to collect community input about the DeKalb Memorial Park on Wilkenson Drive in Atlanta. A survey was created and distributed electronically, through social media and online community news outlets. Paper copies were also distributed at Parkview's annual Trunk 'r Treat festival.

"I think the creek is a beautiful feature and we should invest in cleaning it and implementing systems that prolong and maintain its cleanliness and health - I would love to see it become a real refuge for wildlife"

"There are many unused places or under utilized, such as the basketball court behind the building and baseball field on the south of the park. These can be revitalized to more useful spaces. Bringing more people to the park to use it will increase safety."

"There are so many different things you can do in the park. It's great!"

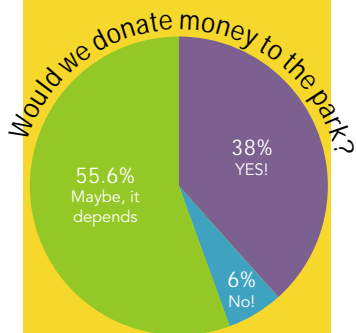
What we said SURVEY RESULTS

Why do we visit the park now?

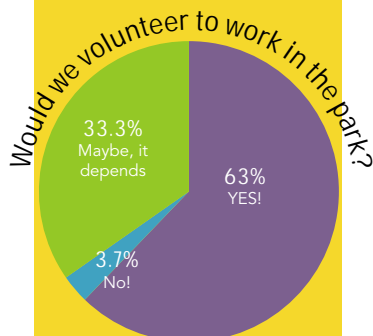
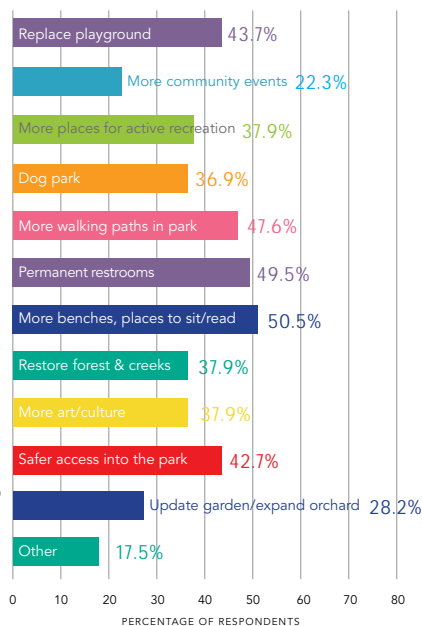


The top three challenges for DeKalb Memorial Park

	Challenge 1	Challenge 2	Challenge 3
Access into the park	1.9%	1.0%	3.0%
Negative/illegal activities	51.5%	6.9%	7.0%
Lack of amenities	10.7%	7.9%	9.0%
Soil erosion	1.9%	2.0%	4.0%
Outdated playground equipment	10.7%	17.8%	10.0%
Trash not disposed of properly	9.7%	26.7%	17.0%
Lack of lighting/safety	6.8%	21.8%	21.0%
Irregular maintenance	4.9%	13.9%	15.0%
Overgrowth/invasive plants	1.9%	0.0%	9.0%
People overuse the park	0.0%	2.0%	5.0%



Some of the things we'd like to change in this park...



The survey was open from October 11, 2018 until April 3, 2019.

Ongoing results were displayed as an infographic during the public meetings.



Let your voice be heard!

Take part in the
Park Visioning Process!

PUBLIC MEETING

Date _____

Time _____

Location _____

Yard signs and flyers were placed at key intersections and other high-visibility locations to advertise the public meetings.

Public Meetings

A series of four public meetings traditionally form the basis of the Visioning Process, giving the community opportunity to provide input—from the initial ideas through to conceptual plans. Each public meeting is structured differently: the first public meeting is a brainstorming session where every idea is encouraged, from the smallest upgrade to the grandest dream. The second public meeting is organized as a design workshop. This is when ideas begin to take physical form. Participants are encouraged to draw and experiment with scale-shapes on base maps, while the visioning team offers realistic expectations about what is possible based on time and fiscal budgets. The second meeting concludes with a consensus on the general ideas. Then the Visioning team hits the drawing boards to come up with two draft concepts. These concepts are first reviewed



**Design
WORKSHOP**
Wed Jan 23, 7 – 8pm

Ivy Preparatory Academy

1807 Memorial Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30317

Scan with
your phone



to take the survey

by the steering committee, then presented for community review at the third public meeting. Finally, armed with input from the community and Steering Committee, Park Pride's Visioning Team develops a final conceptual Vision Plan. This plan is presented for review at the fourth public meeting. A final list of proposed projects is also ranked as a step-wise way of prioritizing the Vision Plan's goals.



Public Meeting 1

The first public meeting was held on December 5, 2018 at the YMCA Teen Center adjacent to the park. The meeting opened with a presentation on the visioning process, existing site conditions, and the park’s history. Historical exhibits and maps were presented to provide context for how the area had evolved over the years, and exhibits on proposed projects like the disc golf course and PATH trail were also shown. There were approximately 15 residents in attendance and Steering Committee members led small group discussions during which initial ideas and dreams for the park were collected.

Some key points emerged from the group sessions. Many attendees expressed a desire to balance the actively-used recreational aspects of the park with the its natural forested, calm, and relaxing environment. Another primary concern was safety and increasing positive perceptions and use of the park by updating facilities. Finally, there was widespread agreement that

ensuring safe and sensible pedestrian and bike movement to and through the park was an essential part of any plan.

These themes were organized into a series of Guiding Principles, which served as the overarching goals for the vision plan and guided design decisions.

Public Meeting 2

Around 25 residents gathered at Ivy Preparatory Academy for the second public meeting on January 23, 2019. Many aerial maps were laid out on tables and participants were asked to write down, sketch, or otherwise represent their designs, ideas and dreams for the park. To guide participants in a workshop format, attendees were divided into smaller breakout groups. Some of those present were in favor of keeping the large open field, while others were supportive of reducing the size of the field in order to daylight Hardee Creek. Other ideas included better signage and park entrances, more places to sit, walking trails, and updated equipment.



Community members work on design ideas for the park, while one of our younger residents takes a crack at redesigning the park logo.

Guiding Principles

Preserve and enhance a healthy tree canopy and stream system to conserve natural qualities of the landscape and protect wildlife habitat

Maintain and enhance recreational uses and gardening in the park

Enhance public safety as well as pedestrian and bicycle connectivity both within the park and to surrounding neighborhoods

Update park facilities and infrastructure to meet community needs


Engage with schools and other government and non-profit partners to increase activation and positive use of the park

Public Meeting 3

At the third public meeting, held Wednesday, April 3rd at the Parkview Civic Club, the two draft concept plans were displayed along with other contextual materials and the results of the initial survey. Approximately 27 community members were in attendance. Steering committee members answered questions and explained the visioning process to new participants. Feedback forms were provided for both concepts, allowing attendees to review and make comments on each design. Public input was compiled and reviewed by the Steering Committee at the following steering committee meeting and the comments were used to shape the final conceptual plan.

Overall, attendees strongly preferred Concept 2 over Concept 1, driven in large part by a preference for the restoration of Hardee Creek and the longer PATH trail alignment.






DeKalb Memorial Park
DEKALB COUNTY, GA

Feedback

April 3, 2019
See Concept 2 on
opposite side



OVERALL PREFERENCE
All elements are interesting/like. If you prefer this concept overall, please check below.

Concept 1 ☐

Attributes


Check the attributes you prefer

Concept 1

- ☐ Hardie Creek remains piped underground
- ☐ Multuse field maintained as is
- ☐ 18-hole disc golf course (uses part of Crim HS campus)
- ☐ Creative basketball court resurface/stripes
- ☐ Short PATH trail connection (550 ft)
- ☐ No permanent restrooms
- ☐ Sculptural play element behind Civic Club
- ☐ Southern park entrance plaza
- ☐ Lawn games near community garden

Included in both

- ☐ No changes to tennis courts
- ☐ Soft surface walking trails
- ☐ Improved community garden with rainwater cistern, bins for composting, and large pavilion
- ☐ Swing benches
- ☐ More benches/seating in orchard, along creek and fields
- ☐ Deck Improvements at Civic Club
- ☐ More lighting in parking areas and Civic Club
- ☐ PATH connection across I-20 on Clifton Street
- ☐ Grills near existing shelter
- ☐ Playground equipment replaced by DeKalb County
- ☐ Community nook reading area
- ☐ Mural painted on Civic Club
- ☐ Crosswalks over Wilkinson

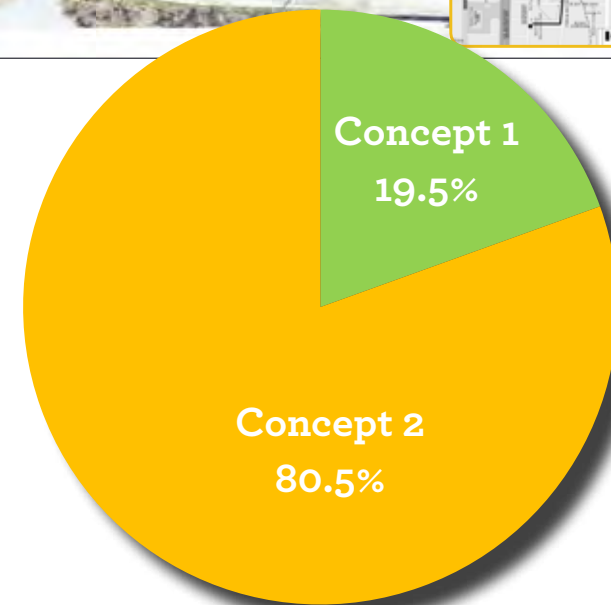


Name _____

Email _____

Additional Comments _____

Email any additional comments to andrew@parkpride.org



Features of Concept 1:

- Hardee Creek remains piped underground
- Large multiuse field (north) maintained as-is
- 18-hole disc golf course
- Creative basketball court resurface/restripe
- Short PATH trail connection through park (± 550 ft)
- No permanent restrooms
- Sculptural play element behind Civic Club
- South park entrance plaza
- Lawn games near community garden



Residents weighed important questions such as whether Hardee Creek should remain below ground, and how long the PATH trail should be.

Both concepts include:

- Preserve and maintain existing tennis courts
- More soft-surface walking trails
- Improved community garden with rainwater cistern, bins for composting, and large pavilion
- Swing benches
- More benches/seating in orchard, along creek and fields
- Deck improvements at Civic Club
- More/better lighting in parking areas and Civic Club
- PATH connection across Interstate 20 on Clifton Street SE
- Grills near existing shelter
- Playground equipment replaced by DeKalb County
- Community nook reading area
- Mural painted on Civic Club
- Crosswalks over Wilkinson



CONCEPT 2 Feedback

April 3, 2019

See Concept 1 on opposite side



Amenities

Check the attributes you prefer

Concept 2

☐ Hardee Creek daylighted

☐ Multiuse field reduced in size

☐ 9-hole disc golf course (stays within park boundaries)

☐ Regulation basketball court resurface/restripe

☐ Long PATH trail connection (2,900 ft)

☐ Permanent restrooms near main shelter

☐ Expanded playground behind Civic Club

☐ Southern park PATH entrance

☐ Shelters in orchard

Included in both

☐ No changes to tennis courts

☐ Soft surface walking trails

☐ Improved community garden with rainwater cistern, bins for composting, and large pavilion

☐ Swing benches

☐ More benches/seating in orchard, along creek and fields

☐ Deck improvements at Civic Club

☐ More lighting in parking areas and Civic Club

☐ PATH connection across I-20 on Clifton Street

☐ Grills near existing shelter

☐ Playground equipment replaced by DeKalb County

☐ Community nook reading area

☐ Mural painted on Civic Club

☐ Crosswalks over Wilkinson



OVERALL PREFERENCE

All elements are interchangeable but if you prefer the concept overall, please check below

Concept 2 ☒

Name _____

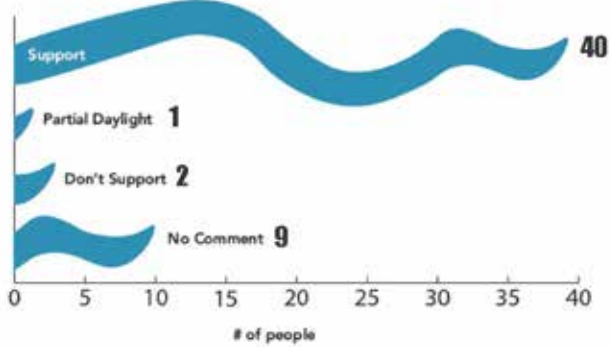
Email _____

Additional Comments _____

Email any additional comments to andrew@parkpride.org



Did we want to daylight the creek?



Features of Concept 2:

- Hardee Creek is daylighted
- Large multiuse field (north) reduced
- 9-hole disc golf course (stays within park boundaries)
- Regulation basketball court resurface/ restripe
- Long PATH trail connection through park (±2,900ft)
- Permanent restrooms near main shelter
- Expanded playground behind Civic Club
- South park PATH entrance
- Shelters in orchard













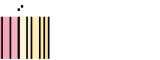




Public Meeting 4

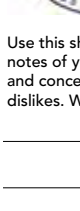
The final conceptual plan was presented on Wednesday, June 5th, at the fourth public meeting, again held at the Parkview Civic Club. Around 40 people attended to review and give feedback on the plan.

Feedback forms were again provided along with a prioritization exercise through which projects could be ranked in order of importance to each individual. The park neighbors who attended the meeting, including a mix of disc golf enthusiasts and non-players, indicated support for the end result, and no changes were made subsequent to this final public meeting.

Final vision includes:

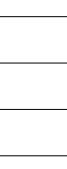
- PATH trail through the park
- Disc golf course
- Soft surface trails
- Daylight Hardee Creek
- Improve the community garden with rainwater cistern, compost bins, and large pavilion
- Expanding playground
- Reading corner
- Seating in orchard and along creek
- Creatively resurface basketball court and add seating
- Sidewalk along Wilkinson Dr.
- Swing benches
- Add lighting to tennis courts
- Add grills and permanent restrooms
- Expand deck around building and paint mural
- Enhance southern park entrance
- Interstate 20 sound barrier
- Lawn games

Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution
Disc golf course	1	
PATH trail through park	2	
Add permanent restrooms	3	
Soft surface trails	4	
Community garden	5	
Daylight Hardee Creek	6	
Sidewalk along Wilkinson Dr.	7	
Expand playground	8	
Expand deck & paint mural	9	
Swing benches	10	
Add seating in orchard	11	
Southern park entrance	12	
Add lighting to tennis courts	13	
Lawn games	14	
i-20 sound barrier	15	
Repaint basketball court	16	
Reading corner	17	



Vision Plan Feedback

June 5, 2019
Parkview Civic Club




Use this sheet to make notes of your comments and concerns, likes and dislikes. What did we miss?

Name _____

Email _____

Email any further comments to
andrew@parkpride.org



Vision Plan Feedback

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June 5, 2019
Parkview Civic Club



Number your priority projects 1 (highest) through 17 (lowest)

ate your
s on side 2



Email any further comments to
andrew@parkpride.org

Feedback forms were used to gather information on the plan as well as prioritizing projects.

“I support the daylighting of the creek as a long -term ecological sustainability issue.”

“I would use the park so much with my daughter with this huge playground.”

“Would love as much PATH connection as possible. Love the idea of the soft surface walking path/trail”

Vision Plan

This vision plan proposes improvements to the park that considers recreational uses while protecting and restoring key natural features within the park. It also enhances pedestrian and bicycle connectivity within the park and strengthens connections to the neighborhood. The plan was divided into projects, each of which is described in this section.

Disc golf course

Disc golf is played much like golf, but instead of a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc. At the time of this writing, the proposed disc golf course at DeKalb Memorial Park was fully-funded and was waiting for final approvals before being installed.

This proposed disc golf course emerged as a point of friction during the visioning



Disc golf is played like regular golf but has baskets, as shown here, instead of holes

process. Seen by advocates as a way to activate underused and remote areas of the park, it was seen by others as disruptive of the natural forest and too large in extent. The data generated by community feedback showed that most people felt favorably toward a disc golf course, and so the decision was made to include the course in the plan while remaining agnostic on the exact number and arrangement of the fairways and holes. An arborist report on the impact of the course on the forest was commissioned by DeKalb County to address neighbors' concerns about negative forest impacts.

PATH Battle of Atlanta Trail

The PATH Foundation has been successfully building a network of off-road trails in and around Atlanta for over 25 years. One of their proposed projects, the Battle of Atlanta Greenway Trail, was conceived as a way to connect the Walker and McPherson Civil War monuments (see Context section of this report) with neighborhoods, schools, the park, and the YMCA. The trail traverses DeKalb Memorial Park, providing greater access to and through the park, especially on its western edge.

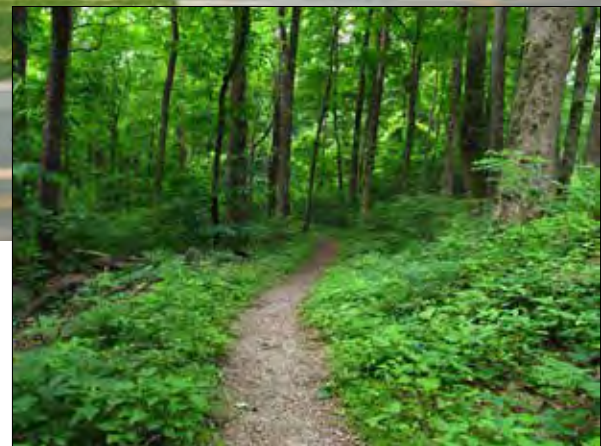
A conceptual report for the trail was approved by the Georgia Department of Transportation in 2013, though it has not yet been implemented. Recently, the project has received new life and is anticipated to be constructed sometime in 2020. The project received strong support from the



community, though some minor adjustments to the alignment were requested to avoid impacts to the community orchard and the north playing field. A paved connection to the existing parking lot was also requested, as this was seen as a likely place for future trail users to park and ride on the trail.

Add permanent restrooms and grills

Currently, the county maintains one portable toilet in the park. Although this works as a temporary stop-gap, a more permanent and attractive solution is desirable to support the many user groups that enjoy the park and its attractions. This plan proposes a new, permanent facility near the same location as the portable toilet. It is positioned near the large pavilion along Wilkinson Drive to be close to utility hook-ups and an existing curb cut, which can be used for maintenance access. The location is also between the basketball courts and the playground so that it can service both. The community also expressed an interest in more grills to support community cookouts.



This plan calls for two different kinds of trails - a paved multiuse trail that connects to surrounding areas, and an internal network of soft trails for hiking.

Soft surface trails

There was strong interest in creating more soft-surface walking trails throughout the park for simple enjoyment of nature. Once built, the PATH trail will act as a spine of pedestrian and bicycle circulation through the park, off of which smaller foot trails can lead. Furthermore, the disc golf course will include a network of soft-surface trails for accessing the fairways. Once these two major projects are constructed, the community should evaluate whether these trails meet their needs, or whether additional soft-surface trails are desirable. Trails should work with the topography of the land whenever possible and should include steps when going cross-slope to avoid creating erosion issues.

Community garden improvements

The Parkview Community Garden sits at the center of the park. It is enclosed by a split-rail wooden fence and includes 16 garden plots. In addition to providing residents an organized place to socialize and share in an interest in gardening, it also hosts educational programs and community workshops. This plan recommends several improvements to the garden, which may be phased in over time. Each update should be predicated on a strong community commitment to caring for the space.

A large pavilion is recommended to be constructed on the north edge of the garden, where it can be used for both educational programs and as a place to overlook the northern field. Associated with this pavilion, a rainwater harvesting system may be installed to capture rainwater from the pavilion roof for use in watering the garden beds, which will also increase the educational value of the garden.

Additionally, the plan recommends the use of compactable (not pea) gravel to formalize paths through the garden space and to create a small seating area. More planting areas may also be desirable, assuming there is a dedicated individual responsible for their maintenance, including a trellis for berries (raspberries and blackberries), a native pollinator garden, and perhaps even an arbor for wild grape varieties like muscadine and scuppernong. Compost bins may also be added along one of the garden edges, but these also require active management to be successful.



Daylight and restore Hardee Creek

The question of whether to restore Hardee Creek to its original alignment or maintain the size of the northern playing field was another question the steering committee wrestled with. The Atlanta Australian-rules football (or “footy”) club, the Kookaburras, lobbied to expand and improve the northern playing field. There are few local playing fields large enough to accommodate footy, which requires a large, oval-shaped space. Often, formal playing fields are designed in a rectangular shape to accommodate American-rules football or soccer, unsuitable for footy.

Others submitted that the health of the stream’s ecosystem was a more pressing concern and that the field would not have been built over an existing creek were it constructed today. The field could never be fully playable, they argued since all the surrounding land drains to it and the field could not be practically graded to shed water appropriately. Furthermore, the northern playing field is large enough to accommodate the stream and still maintain a playable field space (albeit smaller in size). Ultimately, the community decided that daylighting and restoring the creek was preferred, so this vision plan calls for a stream daylighting and restoration project. However, until such a project comes to be, it is the recommendation of this plan that no permanent installation of seating or other obstructions be installed that may curtail the ability of the field to be used by any of the sports teams that currently use it.

Daylighting and restoring Hardee Creek is the most complex and costly project in this vision plan. Stream daylighting is the process of removing obstructions which are covering a creek and restoring it to its previous condition in an above-ground channel. Stream restoration works to stabilize the soil in and around a stream, limit erosion, maintain good water quality, and provide healthy habitat for plants,

animals, and insects. To begin this process, it will be important to gather all stakeholders at the same table. Because of the cross-jurisdictional status of this park, community groups and other stakeholders will all need to come together to commit to a solution. These stakeholders should include representatives from the following bodies: DeKalb County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs; DeKalb County Department of Roads and Drainage; City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management; the United States Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District.

This plan recommends that a detailed plan be created, by specialists in stream restoration and methods of managing stormwater with green infrastructure, to determine the least invasive, best long-term solution for stream restoration. Costs for environmental restoration projects, including stream restoration, are notoriously difficult to estimate early in the planning process. Costs should include assessment, design, implementation, and maintenance. It is recommended to reach out to engineers and



contractors who specialize in this work early in the process to understand what level of investment may be required. Funding is a critical issue for any stream restoration, and local governments often need to bring in the help of federal and state partners to creatively fund these projects.

There are some programs available to help fund restoration projects. For example, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) offers a Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant for stream restoration. Another program, which doesn't come with monetary funding but does offer technical assistance, is the Atlanta Audubon Habitat Restoration Fund. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), US Forest Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may also be potential partners in a restoration project.



Above: This image of a restoration project at Gilkey Creek in Flint, MI shows how banks may be stabilized.

Below: The north field at DeKalb Memorial Park is topographically lower than the surrounding land, causing it to flood on wet days.



Sidewalk along Wilkinson Drive

Although DeKalb Memorial Park enjoys expansive street frontage along Wilkinson Drive, there is no sidewalk on the west side of the road which serves the park. Wilkinson is primarily a residential street, connecting two major thoroughfares, but only has a short section of sidewalk alongside the YMCA Teen Center on its northwest end. There are also several schools nearby. The community showed great interest in a sidewalk along the west side of Wilkinson from Glenwood Avenue to the YMCA Teen Center and marked crosswalks to facilitate walking from the neighborhood to the park. Because half of the right-of-way adjacent to the park is under City of Atlanta jurisdiction, it is the recommendation of this plan that the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works be petitioned to construct a sidewalk along the western edge of the street. It is worth noting here that the PATH Foundation is going to run their trail alongside the road on much of the north part of the park, which would replace any need for sidewalk in those areas. Crosswalks may need to be coordinated between City of Atlanta Department of Public Works and the DeKalb County Department of Roads and Drainage.



Replacement equipment purchased by DeKalb County

Expanded playground

At the time of this writing, DeKalb County had purchased replacement playground equipment for the existing playground and was waiting for funding to pay for installation. In addition to this investment by the county, this plan recommends expanding the play area into the space behind the Parkview Civic Club with more play equipment and relocating the swings to this area as well. This will allow parents to view the entire play space at once, which is currently not possible due to the distant location of the swings. Expanding the playground into this area will necessitate some site preparation activities, including removal of the concrete pad and installing a drainage system that will allow the playground to dry out between rain events. It is recommended that all the existing stonework be retained in this area and that the playground be built around it.

Exterior improvements to Parkview Civic Club building

The Parkview Civic Club serves an ongoing important role in this vibrant community, yet its outward appearance is rather drab. This plan recommends painting a mural on one or multiple sides of the building, and replacing and expanding the deck that wraps around its northwest sides. The new deck should be designed as a place for parents to supervise their children at play in the playground below, as well as serve the building to which it is attached. ADA accessibility from the outside of the building to the deck should be maintained, and the deck may be expanded around existing tree trunks to take advantage of the shade and increase seating opportunities. The



A colorful and playful mural and rebuilt deck on the Parkview Civic Club would make it more expressive of and useful to the community

community should work to select an artist to create a unique mural that reflects the character of the neighborhood.

Additional seating and swing benches

Nearly 52% of the people who responded to the survey identified the addition of more seating as a priority for the park. This plan calls for more benches along the walkways and trails and in areas used for basketball and spectating sports. Additionally, several suspended sway benches (swing benches)

are recommended to be installed in areas with beautiful views of the park. The benches should be securely anchored to the ground on a base of concrete, gravel or other material that will prevent soil erosion. Seating can be implemented over time as part of larger projects or installed as funding allows. Installation of seating near the stream should happen after stream restoration is complete.



Swing benches like the ones shown above may be placed selectively at places that have beautiful views.

Formalize southern park entrance

When the PATH Foundation completes their Battle of Atlanta trail through the park, they will have created two new park entrances: one at the southern tip of the park on Wilkinson, the other at the western edge on the boundary with Crim High School (currently closed). It is the recommendation of this plan that both new entrances be marked with clear and welcoming signage identifying the park and stating any rules. At the southern entrance, there is an opportunity to create a more substantial park entrance that would increase awareness of the park from Wilkinson. This plan

recommends constructing a small entry plaza with seating, shade and waste receptacles that could act as a meeting place or an area to take a break and rest. The area should be paved with concrete or a unit paver to create a stable level surface. This small gesture could make a strong statement and create a gateway into the park and the PATH trail network.

Light tennis courts

The only recommendation this plan makes related to the tennis courts is that lighting be provided so that hours of use may be extended. Lighting should be done in coordination with DeKalb County, as the county's current practice is to only light tennis facilities.

Lawn games

Several community members expressed a desire to include a lawn game area. Although many lawn games are portable and can be set up wherever space is available, there are some lawn games that benefit from the permanence of a constructed feature. This plan identifies the space directly south



of the basketball courts as a place where some permanent lawn game features may be placed, including a permanent horseshoe pit or bocce court.

Creative basketball courts

In recent years, basketball courts have doubled as places where art has found a toehold. The creative restriping of courts maintains the forms and measurements required to play the game while incorporating these shapes into larger compositions that form expressive designs. Feedback from the community indicated that more art would be desirable in the park, and the basketball courts were seen as one of the best opportunities.



This basketball court by Sicilian artist Gue demonstrates the idea of creatively composing a mural using the framework of standard court dimensions

Any painted art on the courts would need to be approved by the county and would need to use the correct kind of paint to withstand the heavy foot traffic all courts receive. The design should also be vetted with the residents who most often use the courts, and an engagement strategy should be deployed to make sure the people who play on the courts are supportive. A recent example of this idea can be found at Phoenix II Park in the Summerhill neighborhood of Atlanta, where muralist

Greg Mike painted one of the courts there with versions of his colorful characters. More abstract designs have also been implemented in other cities.

Interstate 20 sound barrier

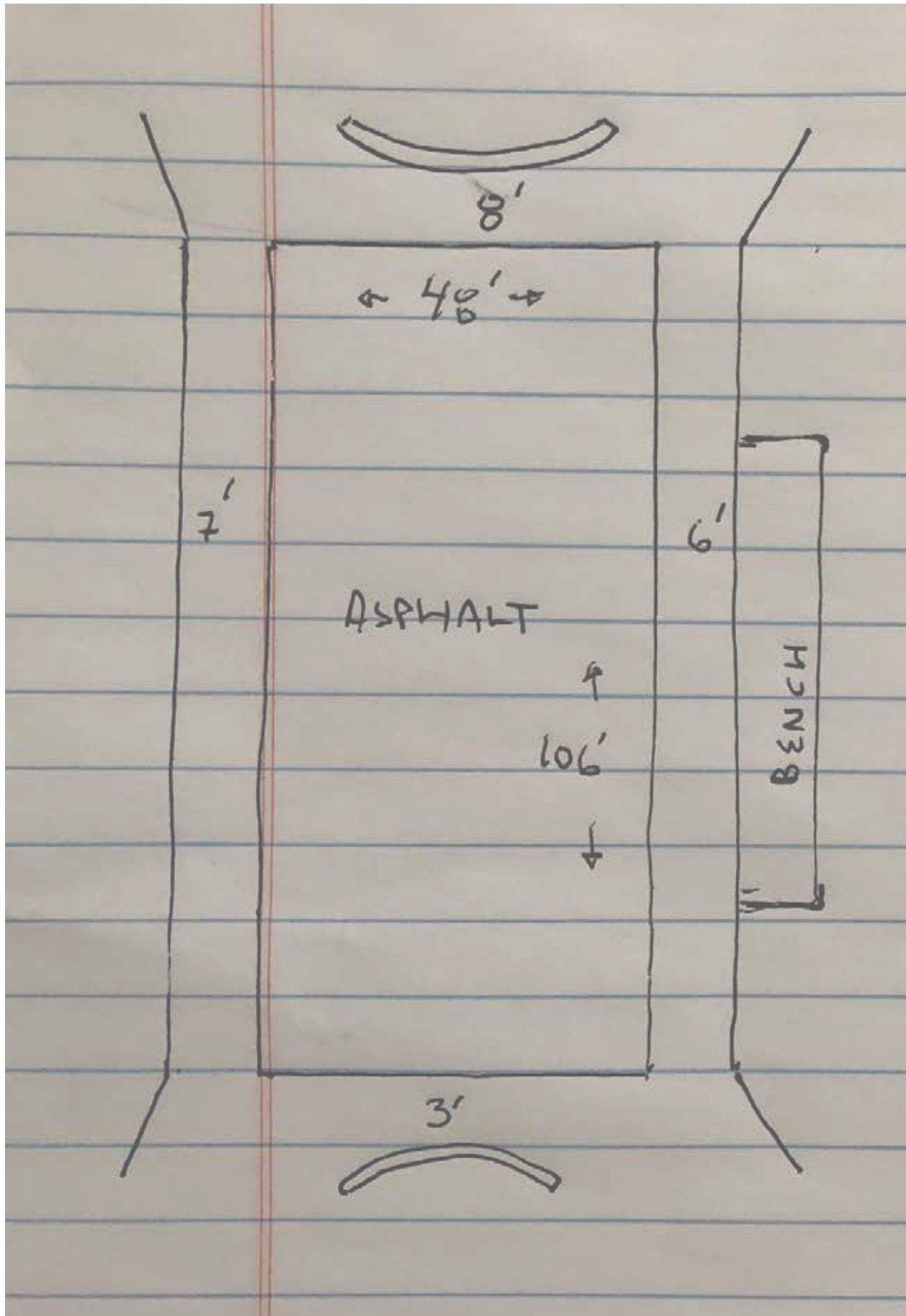
When Interstate 20 was constructed through this part of town in the 1960s, no sound wall was placed between the highway and the park. This may have been because there were no houses in the park to screen, or perhaps the presence of Sugar Creek complicated installation of the sound barriers. Regardless of the reasons, highway noise is a constant presence in the park and some residents expressed a desire to lessen this sound through the use of a permanent structural sound barrier. This plan recommends reaching out to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to examine the feasibility, likely benefits, and cost of such an installation.

Reading corner

Just south of the Parkview Civic Club building, a low stone retaining wall creates a semi-circular enclosure where the swings currently rest. Once the swings are relocated, this plan encourages this space to be repurposed as a reading corner or community nook, as inspired by the nearby “Little Free Library” and Adirondack chairs. The circular space may be paved with stone or gravel to create a small gathering area with views of the south field. Seating may be added to create opportunities for meeting friends or neighbors and enjoying nature.

This “community nook” in Winn Park demonstrates how the area that currently houses the swings could be redesigned as a sitting/reading place.







Above: The playground is visible beyond the bridge crossing over Hardee Creek in the center of the park.

Opposite: This sketch by Earl Williamson shows the dimensions of the basketball court behind the Parkview Civic Club.

Projects & Budget

This vision plan for DeKalb Memorial Park is intended to guide community-led advocacy and development of the park in a phased approach. At the final community meeting, attendees ranked projects in order of priority (see prioritization form and results table on page 24) to guide fundraising efforts and order of implementation.

The budgets presented on the following pages are intended to provide a starting point for fundraising and advocacy efforts and were compiled without the benefit of

detailed design, survey, geotechnical, and other site conditions, which may change significantly the cost of any project. Park Pride makes no guarantee or warranty as to their accuracy.

It is worth noting here that Park Pride provides matching grants for community-led park improvement projects, and should be considered as a potential source of funds for community initiatives in DeKalb Memorial Park.

2019 Table of Probable Costs by Project (in order jnof priority)

DISC GOLF COURSE					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Disc golf course	ALLOW	1	\$50,000.00	\$50,000	Project built to projected budget of \$50,000
TOTAL				\$50,000	
PATH TRAIL THROUGH PARK					
PATH construction (funded by others)					
Engage PATH Foundation to obtain total value of project to leverage toward potential grant applications					
TOTAL				FUNDED BY OTHERS	
ADD GRILLS AND PERMANENT RESTROOMS					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Grills	EA	2	\$1,000.00	\$2,000	
Restroom building construction	ALLOW	1	\$75,000.00	\$75,000	Assume prefab restroom
Restroom plumbing	ALLOW	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000	
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%		\$19,400	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%		\$17,460	
TOTAL				\$133,860	
SOFT-SURFACE TRAILS					
Natural surface trails on grade through wooded section of park					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Trail construction	LF	3500	\$6.75	\$23,625	May be included in disc golf course construction
Selective clearing for trail alignment (as needed)	ACRE	0.5	\$3,500.00	\$1,750	
Crib steps as needed	ALLOW	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	Assume RR ties and/or stone set into grade
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%		\$6,075	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%		\$5,468	
TOTAL				\$41,918	

IMPROVE COMMUNITY GARDEN WITH RAINWATER CISTERN, COMPOST BINS, AND LARGE PAVILION					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Custom pavilion	ALLOW	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	Includes design, delivery, and installation
3200-gallon rainwater tank	EA	1	\$6,413.00	\$6,413	Includes estimated freight cost
Concrete pad for tank	SF	67	\$6.00	\$402	Assume regular concrete 4" slab cast in place
Gravel pathways and seating area	ALLOW	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500	
Arbor entry	ALLOW	1	\$6,500.00	\$6,500	Timber arbor over gateway into garden (commercial grade)
Cedar compost bins	EA	6	\$113.45	\$681	
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%		\$27,499	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%		\$24,749	
TOTAL				\$134,544	

DAYLIGHT HARDEE CREEK					
Cost of stream restoration can vary widely based on soils, site conditions, and other factors. An engineered study is required to fully understand costs, and close coordination between Federal, State and Local authorities will be required to complete this project					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Restoration Assessment	ALLOW	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000	Initial assessment by engineering firm specializing in stream restoration to determine scope of restoration activities
Daylight Hardee Creek	LF	740	\$700.00	\$518,000	
Restore/Stabilize Hardee Creek	LF	960	\$341.00	\$327,360	Restore portion of Hardee Creek already above-ground
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%		\$171,072	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%		\$153,965	
TOTAL				\$1,180,397	

PROJECTS & BUDGET

SIDEWALK ALONG WILKINSON DRIVE

May be coordinated with City of Atlanta Dept of Public Works - petition to get project on list of city

Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Grading/site prep	ALLOW	1	\$30,000.00	\$30,000	
5' width sidewalk	LF	1690	\$30.75	\$51,968	Assume 4" reinf conc on 4" graded agg base
Street trees	EA	20	\$1,000.00	\$20,000	Assume 3" caliper oaks
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%		\$20,394	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%		\$18,354	
TOTAL				\$140,715	

EXPAND PLAYGROUND BEHIND PARKVIEW CIVIC CLUB

Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Replace existing playground equipment				\$-	DeKalb County-funded project
Grading/leveling/site prep of concrete plaza	ALLOW	1	\$35,000.00	\$35,000	Demolish cement court/plaza. Grade for positive drainage and prep for playground installation
New playground equipment	ALLOW	1	\$200,000.00	\$200,000	May be phased-in over time
Benches	EA	3	\$3,600.00	\$10,800	Victor Stanley, black
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%		\$49,160	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%		\$44,244	
TOTAL				\$339,204	

EXPAND DECK AROUND BUILDING AND PAINT MURAL

Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Pressure wash/paint building	ALLOW	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	
Rebuild deck around building	SF	1500	\$16.00	\$24,000	
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$450.00	\$4,500	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$450.00	\$3,000	
TOTAL				\$34,500	

SWING BENCHES					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Swing bench	EA	13	\$1,422.00	\$18,486	
Concrete pad	SF	624	\$3.67	\$2,290	Assume a 12' x 4' pad underneath each swing bench, regular concrete 4" slab cast in place
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$3,116.41	\$3,116	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$3,116.41	\$3,116	
TOTAL				\$27,009	
ADD SEATING IN ORCHARD AND ALONG CREEK					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Benches	EA	9	\$3,600.00	\$32,400	Victor Stanley, black
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$4,860.00	\$4,860	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$4,860.00	\$4,860	
TOTAL				\$42,120	
ENHANCE SOUTHERN PARK ENTRANCE					
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Pavestone plaza	SF		\$18.00	\$-	Assume 4 x 8 brick pavers with grouted joints
Grading/site prep	ALLOW	1	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	
Shade arbor	LS	1	\$35,000.00	\$35,000	Assume steel curved arbor
Park sign	LS	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500	Must comply w/ CoA DPR signage guidelines
Bench	EA	1	\$3,600.00	\$3,600	Victor Stanley, black
Drinking fountain	EA	1	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	
Copper tubing for drinking fountain water supply	LF	100	\$10.80	\$1,080	Fountain is 100 feet away from water line
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$7,977.00	\$7,977	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$7,977.00	\$7,977	
TOTAL				\$61,134	

PROJECTS & BUDGET

ADD LIGHTING TO TENNIS COURTS

Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Lighting	ALLOW	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000	
Bike rack	EA	5	\$1,075.00	\$5,375	Embedded mount
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$3,806.25	\$3,806	Expect to pay between 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$3,806.25	\$3,806	
TOTAL				\$32,988	

LAWN GAMES

Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Horseshoe pit	ALLOW	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$3,375.00	\$150	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$3,375.00	\$150	
TOTAL				\$1,300	

CREATIVELY RESURFACE BASKETBALL COURT AND ADD SEATING

Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes
Resurface basketball court	EA	2	\$10,243.00	\$20,486	
Benches	EA	8	\$3,600.00	\$28,800	Victor Stanley, black
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$5,856.45	\$7,393	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$5,856.45	\$7,393	
TOTAL				\$64,072	

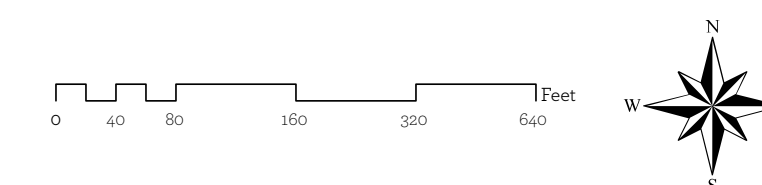
INTERSTATE 20 SOUND BARRIER						
Funded by others	-	-	-	-	-	Recommend engaging GDOT to examine feasibility of proposed sound wall
READING CORNER						
Item	Unit	Qty	Cost/Unit	Extended Cost	Notes	
Stone seat/retaining wall	LF	80	\$134.50	\$10,760		
Design & Engineering	Percent	20%	\$1,614.00	\$1,614	Expect 15-20% of projected project costs	
Contingency (15%)	Percent	15%	\$1,614.00	\$1,614		
TOTAL				\$13,988		
GRAND TOTAL						
				\$2,290,748		



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Ivy Preparatory Academy



This vision includes the following features:

- PATH trail through the park
- Disc golf course
- Soft surface trails
- Daylight Hardee Creek
- Improve the community garden with rainwater cistern, compost bins, and large pavilion
- Expanding playground
- Reading corner
- Seating in orchard and along creek
- Creatively resurface basketball court and add seating
- Sidewalk along Wilkinson Dr.
- Swing benches
- Add lighting to tennis courts
- Add grills and permanent restrooms
- Expand deck around building and paint mural
- Enhance southern park entrance
- I-20 sound barrier
- Lawn games

2019 Vision Plan DeKalb Memorial Park