

Letter of Intent : Entry # 1990**Name of your Friends of the Park Group**

Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy

Name of your park

Atlanta Memorial Park

Jurisdiction of Park

City of Atlanta

Non-matching Grants Eligible Parks

No

Name of Person Submitting this Form

Catherine Spillman

Email of Person Submitting this Form

execdirector@atlmemorialpark.org

Names of Friends of the Park group members who will participate in the grant process

Bill Halter, Ric Felker, Chris Hughes, Abbie McBurnette, and Catherine Spillman

Brief description of your proposed project

Connecting People to Places and Spaces:

Parks continue to be a haven for people and wildlife as we all look for green spaces to recreate, relax, work, and learn. With parks in today's environment needing to be all of these things, the Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy (AMPC) is continuing its focus on three important components in the park for this years' Park Pride grant cycle – educational signage, creating new spaces, and improved connectivity - to enhance each visitor's experience so that they can tailor their visit to their needs.

With a grant from Park Pride, AMPC will enhance the park user's sense of discovery by creating educational signage throughout the park, improving access to these points along the way while also creating resting places to take in the park from different angles. Whether it's finding a new spot to read a book or learning something new as visitors read new educational signage, AMPC wants every visitor to walk away from their visit feeling refreshed and connected to the park and one another.

How will we do this?

CREATE A SENSE OF PLACE, CONNECTING SPACES TOGETHER:

New resting/landing/viewing spots include:

- creating a gathering spot in the meadow by the Howell Mill bridge to view the proposed chimney swift tower,
- creating new "entrances" at specific nature trail entrances off the sidewalk system. One leading to the chimney swift tower with the other leading to the playground, and
- adding streambank landing sites. One at the Howell Mill bridge to include a stone patio and sitting area for visitors to rest and volunteers to use when cleaning out the creek with another further upstream for visitors to pause and take in the creek.

Nature trail improvements include:

- Five sections of existing trail in flood prone sections of the park which are in need of additional stone enhancements to address standing water, providing enhanced erosion control measures after heavy rains.
- All nature improvements will be low to no maintenance and will allow nearly 365 day/year access to once un-traversable areas after heavy downpours.

ADDING EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE:

Working with students from Morris Brandon Elementary School, AMPC will partner with the 5th grade team to brainstorm educational signage ideas to add to the park. Seeing the park from their eyes and answering the questions that they find are the most important will help AMPC capture the curiosity of all children who visit the park.

Project Impact

The positive impact of this project is multi-generational. Visitors of all ages will be able to explore parts of the park that were not often accessible after heavy rain storms, learning new facts about the park and their surroundings along the way.

Current and future students from Morris Brandon Elementary will feel more connected to the park after learning how the Morris Brandon class of 2022 helped bring attention to the many amenities and special features in the park through educational signage. Involving Morris Brandon students on future clean-up days in the park is another way that students can see how their efforts continue to improve the park for others.

The new educational signage in the park will also provide for new programming opportunities for all park visitors.

Just as important, the park's wildlife will benefit from the proposed projects. Educational signage will bring attention to the importance of why wildlife sanctuaries and the creek are an important part of the park. In particular, the endangered chimney swifts will benefit as well by having a new nesting place to increase their numbers and will bring joy to all who will get to view migrating chimney swifts as they swarm and drop into their new home.

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AMPC discussed this project with the board of the Memorial Park Civic Association, members of the AMPC greenspace and connectivity committees, as well as park users to create the framework for this project. From those discussions, we learned of an opportunity to partner with the 5th grade team at Morris Brandon Elementary and reached out to the school's principal to have their students be a part of this project.

Matching Funds

AMPC board of directors – 100% support

Individual donations from the surrounding Atlanta Memorial Park neighborhoods

Volunteer hours

City of Atlanta - Department of Watershed Management

Georgia Audubon

Cooper Carry

IDL