

**Legacy + Community Building Grant Application :
Entry # 2535**

Park Name

Atlanta Memorial Park

Name of Friends of the Park Group/Applicant Organization

Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy

Name of Person Submitting the Application

Catherine Spillman

Email

execdirector@atlmemorialpark.org

Names of other Friends of the Park group members participating in the grant process:

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

Park Location

City of Atlanta - non-CDIA

Project Budget

\$194,144.60

Grant Request

\$86,164.80

Demographic Information

AMP lies in the NW quadrant of the city. Park goers are a mixture of young families, long-time residents, and young professionals from nearby apartments accessing the Beltline nearby. All races and ages enjoy this park.

Statement of Need

Atlanta Memorial Park benefits from and is hindered by Peachtree Creek that runs through the park. During heavy rains, flash floods and larger storms, the creek wreaks havoc on its banks, the park and neighboring homes. Standing water prevents visitors from accessing sections of the park for days. The streambanks are eroding, eating away at valuable park land and threatening the sidewalk and nature trail systems.

In addition, the lack of educational signage leaves visitors without any information on why certain amenities (the creek, streambank restoration projects, wildlife sanctuaries, etc.) are an important part of the park experience.

Project Summary

RESTING/LANDING/VIEWING SPOTS:

- create a wildflower meadow in a portion of the grassy area by the Howell Mill bridge;

- create new entrance nodes at 2 nature trail entrances off the sidewalk system. One leading to the Howell Mill meadow with the other leading to the playground;
- add 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:

- Improve five sections of existing trail in flood prone sections of the park which are in need of additional stone enhancements to address standing water and provide enhanced erosion control measures after heavy rains. Improvements will be low to no maintenance and will allow nearly 365 day/year access.

EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE:

Work 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.

Detailed Project Description

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.

Planning Documents

- [Corner-2-rendering.pdf](#)
- [AMPC-ILD-Construction-Schedule-10-28-21.pdf](#)
- [2021-AMPC-Legacy-Grant-Park-Map.pdf](#)
- [ILD_AMPC-2021-Masterplan.pdf](#)

Project Value & 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 clean-up days in the park during their work on the project 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.

Community Engagement

AMPC discussed this project with the board of the Memorial Park Civic Association, members of the AMPC greenspace and connectivity committees, as well as impacted neighbors and 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.

Project Timeline

Integrated Land Design Projects: mid January 2022 - May 15 2022 (see attached)

Educational Signage Project with Morris Brandon Elementary:

- Classroom and On Site Park Visits: January - February 2022
- Signage Design: March 2022
- 5th Grade Volunteer Day in AMP: April 2022
- Fabrication: 4-6 weeks/April - mid May 2022
- Installation: 1-2 days/May 2022

Application Budget Form

- [2021-AMPC-Application-Budget.xlsx](#)

Cost Estimates

- [Matching-Fund-Commitment-for-Howell-Mill-Meadow-and-Entrance.xlsx](#)

Fundraising Plan

- * AMPC board of directors – 100% support
- * Individual donations from the community
- * Volunteer hours from Morris Brandon 5th grade students and teachers - in class and on site instruction/brainstorming sessions with additional volunteer day in the park
- * Volunteer hours from Trees Atlanta and Young Men's Service League volunteers - to remove invasive plants from the Howell Mill meadow
- * Brookwood Tree Consulting - pro bono hours to lead educational signage project in the park
- * Integrated Land Design - in kind reduction of administrative and design fees

Community Letters of Support

- [MPCA-signed-Letter-of-Support-for-AMPC-submittal.pdf](#)
- [NPU-C-signed-Letter-of-Support-for-AMPC-submittal.pdf](#)