

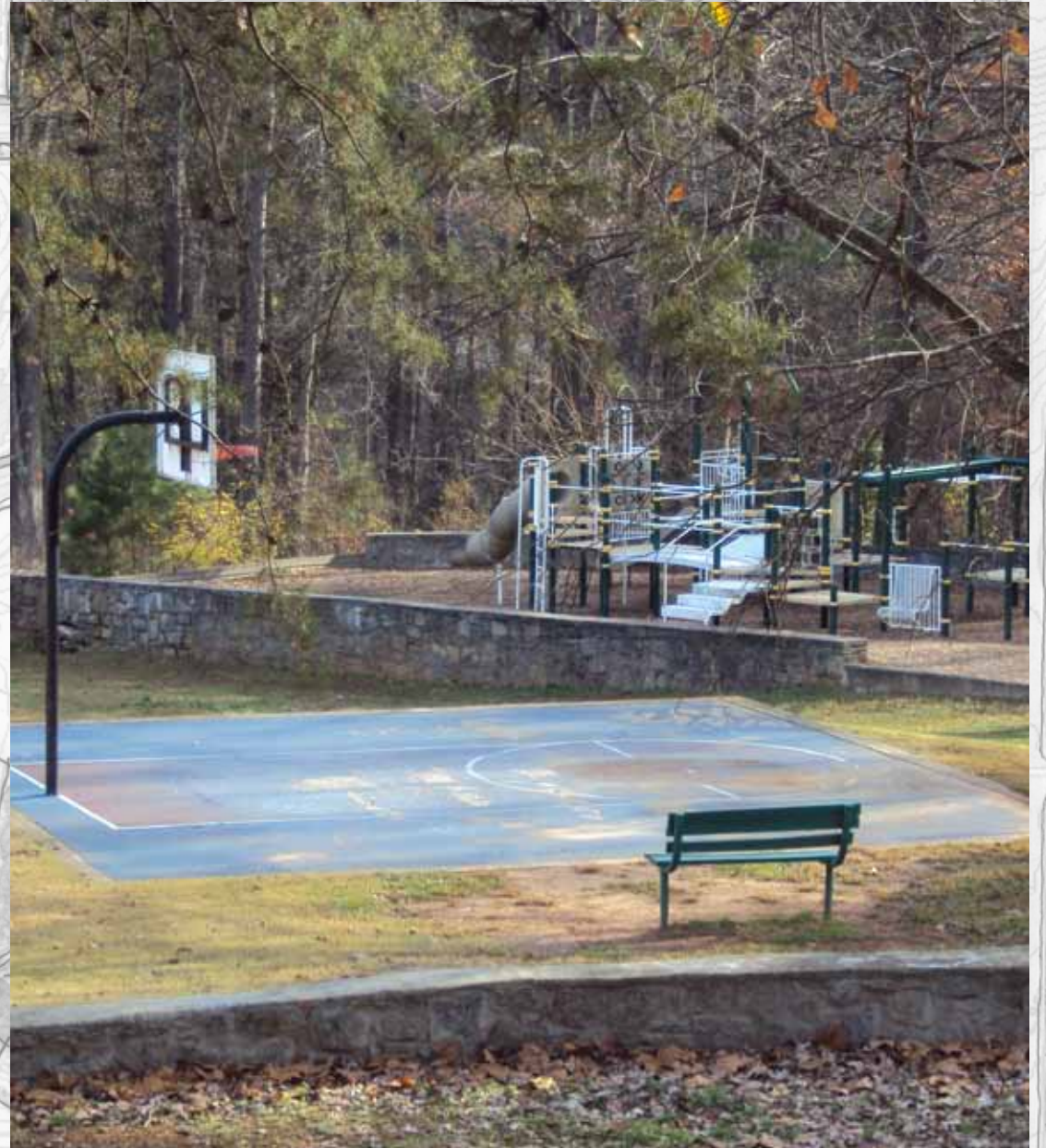
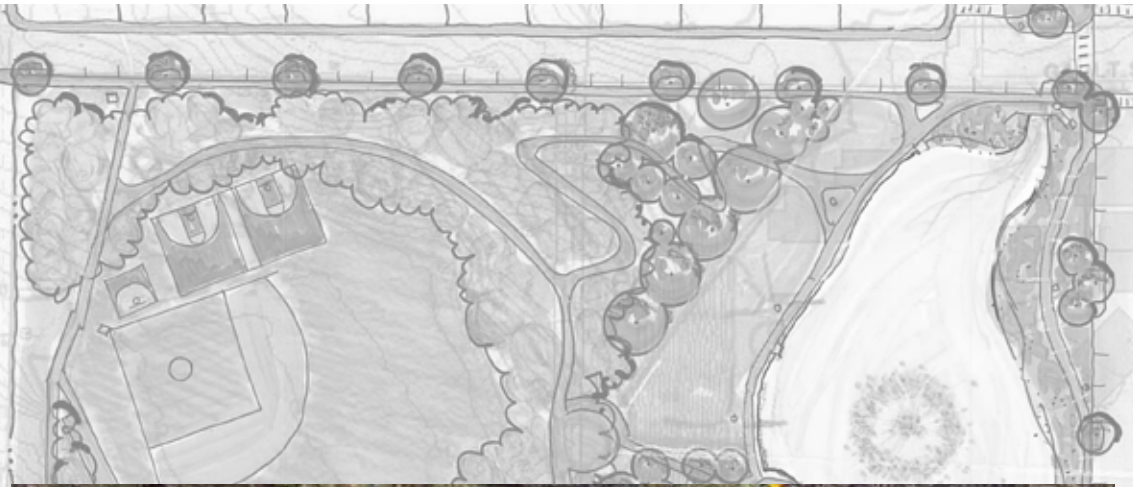
# Chosewood Park

## Visioning Plan 2011



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# Acknowledgements

**John Moores:** Many thanks go to John, the Chosewood Park Steering Committee chairman. He stands out as one of the most organized and involved community leaders Park Pride has had the pleasure of working with. His countless hours coordinating and preparing for meetings and reaching out to community members were invaluable.

**Chosewood Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee met monthly to organize for community involvement in the project, filter through community needs and desires, and ultimately help lead the community in realizing the goals of park and community improvements. Their leadership and input helped to keep this process on the right course. Their continued leadership will help lead to the implementation of this plan. Thank you to: Harold Belyeu, Vyvyan Hughes, Susana Moreira, Charles Nelson, Simon Reynolds, Jessica Torral, Dwayne Turner, and Jim Williamson.

**Masjid Al Quran:** Special thanks are due for allowing community visioning meetings to take place in their facility. Prince Aminu was gracious and accommodating as he opened the doors to the mosque for the community to gather and participate in the visioning process.

**Atlanta Housing Authority:** This agency provides and manages affordable housing for low-income families in Georgia. As Senior Project Manager at AHA, Chuck Young's involvement in community meetings has opened the door for the potential to coordinate efforts between AHA and the community as both the park and the former Englewood Housing Development begin a new period of growth and development.

**Community Grounds Cafe:** Part of FCS Urban Ministries, Community Economic Development Program, this coffee house is a place of retreat, relaxation, and refreshment for South Atlanta residents. They also provided the perfect Saturday morning meeting spot for the Chosewood Steering Committee. Without their air conditioning, coffee, and pastries, those hot summer morning meetings would not have been nearly as comfortable.

# Executive Summary

The Visioning process began in April of 2010 when John Moores submitted an application for Park Visioning on behalf of Chosewood Park. After being chosen as one of two parks to be included in the 2011 Visioning program, residents of the Chosewood area were invited to participate in the process. Visioning began Saturday, February 12, 2011 with a Steering Committee Kick-Off meeting.

The Steering Committee met monthly between March and November to organize the community, enlist participation, implement outreach opportunities, and guide Park Pride Staff throughout the process. They scheduled a series of four public meetings and developed a strategy to entice the community to participate. The four public meetings included:

Visioning Meeting	June 13, 2011
Design Workshop	July 11, 2011
Preliminary Design Review	August 6 2011
Final Design Review	September 24, 2011

That series of meetings was interspersed with surveys, fliers, neighborhood signs, phone calls, and e-mail reminders, all meant to inform residents of the process and invite the community to participate in decision making. The meetings were generally well-attended, and Steering Committee members made great efforts to represent the views and opinions of those who did not formally participate. The resulting plan for Chosewood Park is one that has wide-spread community support.

Through this process, a project list was compiled, discussed, and formed into a design plan. The Steering Committee then prioritized these projects based on the need for them and the ability to fund them. Projects deemed 'high priority' included park amenities, features, or functions that were identified as filling an immediate need within the park. Projects deemed 'low priority' included features or land acquisition that would enhance and better the park but were not necessarily vital to its current operations.

The Vision Plan contained within the pages of this book is not meant to serve as a strict set of rules for development nor as a construction document. It illustrates concepts and serves as a guide to relationships between amenities' size, shape, and location. Further design development will be needed as each project is funded.

The Steering Committee will lead the efforts to implement the Vision Plan in Chosewood Park. They will continue to engage the community, seek sources of funding, and oversee project development. A development plan of this nature will take decades to fully implement, and Park Pride will continue to offer support to the Chosewood community with advice, guidance, and potential funding opportunities.

# Design Process Summary

## Public Meeting Schedule

The input of the public at every point of the design process is the core of Park Pride's community design process. Keeping with that, the formation of a Steering Committee made up of community members was the first step of the process. They met monthly to develop and report on community outreach strategies as well as to review input given at public meetings.

The schedule of Public and Steering Committee meetings was as follows:

Saturday, February 12, 2011, 10:00 AM – Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting  
Friday, March 4, 2011, 9:30 AM – Second Steering Committee Meeting  
Saturday, April 23, 2011, 9:30 AM – Third Steering Committee Meeting  
Saturday, May 21, 2011, 9:30 AM – Fourth Steering Committee Meeting  
Week of June 6 – Phone call reminder to survey respondents about first Public Meeting  
Monday, June 13, 2011, 7:00 PM – First Public Meeting: Introduction to Visioning Process  
Saturday, June 18, 2011, 9:30 AM – Fifth Steering Committee Meeting  
Saturday, July 9, 2011, 9:30 AM – Sixth Steering Committee Meeting  
Week of July 4 – Signs for 2nd Public Meeting placed throughout neighborhood  
Monday, July 11, 2011, 7:00 PM – Second Public Meeting: Design Workshop  
Week of August 1 – Signs for 3rd Public Meeting placed throughout neighborhood  
Tuesday, August 2, 2011 – Preliminary Concepts sent to the Steering Committee for review  
Saturday, August 6, 2011, 9:00 AM – Third Public Meeting: Preliminary Design Review  
Saturday, September 10, 2011, 9:30 AM – Seventh Steering Committee Meeting  
Week of September 11 – Signs for 4th Public Meeting placed throughout neighborhood  
Saturday, September 24, 2011, 11:00 AM – Forth Public Meeting: Final Review/Priorities  
Saturday, November 5, 2011, 9:30 AM – Eighth and Final Steering Committee Meeting

## Overarching Project Guidelines

At the first public meeting, community members in attendance compiled a list of goals and desires they had for their park. Once vetted with the Steering Committee, a clear list of overarching goals was drafted to serve as the guide for decision making throughout the Visioning process.

- Visibility – Lighting – Safety
- Accessibility – connectivity
- Preservation and enhancement of natural features
- Park serving as a community hub – building block – amenity
- More street presence
- Gathering spaces
- Kid/family friendly

## Project Wish List

The wish list was compiled from surveys of the neighborhood and community members in attendance at the first public meeting. This list served as the starting point for Visioning within and around the park. As the design process proceeded and reviews from the community took place, some of the projects were dropped from the list. The initial list includes:

- |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bridges                 | Gathering Spaces                    |
| Parents' Pavilion       | Swings in Playground                |
| Amphitheater            | Land Acquisition                    |
| Observation Deck        | Dog Park/Dog Baggy Stations         |
| Splash Pad              | Keep It Green, Not Concrete         |
| Restrooms               | Garden Spots                        |
| Trails                  | Ornamental Stone Work               |
| Pond                    | Walking Trails                      |
| Connections to BeltLine | Public Art                          |
| Multi-Use Field         | Better/More Signage                 |
| Playground              | Improved Visibility                 |
| Open Lawn               | Access to Entire Park               |
| Parking                 | Connectivity to Entire Neighborhood |
| Canopy Walk             | Roads Connected Around Park         |
| Splash Pad              | Stream Water Feature                |
| Exercise Stations       | Native Plants                       |
| ½ Court Basketball      | Exercise Stations                   |
| Picnic areas            | Safe Streetscapes Leading to Park   |
| Grills                  | Frisbee Golf Course                 |
| Effective Lighting      | Rock Climbing Wall                  |
| Water fountains         | Zip Line                            |



**The existing playground, while in relatively good condition, is lacking swings. Overall consensus during the Visioning was that neighborhood kids wanted swings.**

# Vision Plan

Park Pride used the community's feedback from the third Public Meeting to form the Vision Plan. This plan is a combination and refinement of parts of all three concepts. It illustrates the relative size, shape and location of features that the community desires to see implemented in its park. Descriptions of projects are found in the project list, which follows the illustrations.

At the fourth public meeting, the Chosewood Vision Plan was presented to the community. Those in attendance participated in a Prioritization Exercise. They were asked to imagine they had blank checks with unlimited money. They were then asked to place their green dots on the projects they would write checks for first. This exercise helped to map out which projects the community as a whole felt were a priority without the limitations of cost interfering.

The Prioritization Exercise follows the Vision Plan in the following pages. It clearly shows that two projects are viewed as having high priority. The first is the acquisition and development of the property to the south of the park that currently has a large parking lot and wooded area. The second is the development of an entrance to the park at Burroughs Street that includes a path and a bridge across the ravine, thus connecting both sides of the park.

It should be noted that this Visioning Plan is just that, a Vision. It should not be used for construction, rather it should be used to guide the community in determining which projects to focus on in the near future.

It is anticipated that it will take years or even decades to implement the projects identified in the community's Vision Plan. At this time, there is no dedicated funding to implement these projects. The community will have to facilitate fund raising. Having this completed , community-supported plan will be a strong tool toward this effort.



**Community residents gather to view and discuss the completed Visioning Plan at Chosewood Park.**



**LEGEND**

**Existing Property**

- A. Basketball Court Reconfiguration
- B. Hillside Seating
- C. Nolan Street Entrance
- D. Expanded Playground
- E. Picnic Pavilion
- F. Parents' Pavilion
- G. Splash Pad
- H. Brush Removal
- I. Uncovered Picnic Areas
- J. Miller Reed Street Entrance
- K. Enhanced Trail System
- L. Exercise Stations
- M. Lighting
- N. Woodland Restoration
- O. Pedestrian Foot Bridge
- P. Eric Street Entrance
- Q. Casanova Street Entrance
- R. Stream Restoration
- S. Burroughs Street Entrance
- T. Pedestrian Foot Bridge
- U. Evergreen Screen
- V. Canopy Walk
- W. Zip Line
- X. Woodland Garden

**Properties to Acquire**

- 1. Acquire Church and Adjacent Building Property
- 1A. Future Community Garden
- 1B. Future Community Center
  
- 2. Acquire McDonough Street Parking Lot
- 2A. Sawtell Avenue Entrance
- 2B. Small Playground
- 2C. Perimeter Trail
- 2D. Unprogrammed Lawn
- 2E. Meadow Path
- 2F. Federal Street Entrance
- 2G. Naturalized Meadow
- 2H. Restored Woodland
  
- 3. Work with AHA to Develop Corner
- 3A. Linear Park
- 3B. Fronts of Buildings Facing Park
- 3C. Extended Climax Street
- 3D. Extended Dalton Street
- 3E. On-Street Parking
- 3F. Extended Gault Street
- 3G. Large Pond
- 3H. Outdoor Classroom with Stage
- 3I. Overlook
- 3J. Path System
- 3K. Ughting



**Vision Plan: Chosewood Park**  
 401 Nolan St. SE  
 Atlanta, GA 30315



## Chosewood Park Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Volunteer Opportunity	Possible Funding Source
<b>Existing Park Property</b>						
A	Reconfigure Basketball Court	Low	\$4,000	Divide full court into two half courts to eliminate previous use problems. The city is not in agreement with this proposal. Further discussions would have to take place to implement this plan.		City of Atlanta
B	Hillside Seating	Low	\$50,000	Build seating into the hillside facing the ball fields. Consider using masonry (stone or concrete) risers and turf seating areas.		Community Grant
C	Nolan Street Entrance	Medium	\$15,000	Reinforce the existing entrance with landscaping around existing signage. Consider lighting sign and landscaping. Perhaps add signage at intersection of Grant St. and Nolan St.		Community Fundraisers
D	Expanded Playground	High	\$65,000	Expand the current playground. Introduce swings and kinetic play equipment as well as swings that accommodate disabled users.		Community Grant
E	Picnic Pavilion	Medium	\$30,000	Build pavilion on current half court near tennis courts to accommodate picnickers. Include 2 tables and a grill.		Community Grant if E and F are combined
F	Parents' Pavilion	Medium	\$35,000	Build parents' pavilion adjacent to playground to provide shade and seating within sight of playground. Build in seating and room for strollers. Consider Wi-Fi and electrical receptacles for laptop computers.		Community Grant if E and F are combined
G	Splash Pad	Low	\$400,000	Replace current tennis court with splash pad. Must include a restroom facility. The city is not inclined to install or care for these facilities because they are very expensive to operate.		
H	Remove Brush	High	\$100	Remove brush on the hillside overlooking the picnic area to make area less secluded.	Yes	Volunteers PP Micro-grant



## Chosewood Park Project List

I	Uncovered Picnic Areas	High	\$7,500	Renovate current picnic areas and add amenities such as landscaping, new grills, and site furnishings.	Yes	
J	Miller Reed Street Entrance	Medium	\$30,000	Add parking, signage and landscaping to entrance to make it more appealing and functional for visitors.		Community Grant
K	Enhanced Trail System	High	\$5,000	Build more and better trails throughout the park to promote accessibility.	Yes	Micro-grant
L	Exercise Stations	Low	\$20,000	Install exercise stations along park trails.	Yes	Kaiser
M	Lighting	High	\$200,000	Use low-wattage, bollard light to illuminate walkways after dark. Lights should be on only after dark until park closes. After hours, the lights should be triggered by motion sensors. Lights at entrances should be on at all times.		
N	Woodland Restoration	High	\$1,000	Restore native natural plantings to enhance woodland area. Continue to monitor and remove invasive species. Georgia Native Plant Society hosts plant rescues.	Yes	PP Micro-grant
O	Pedestrian Foot Bridge	High	\$35,000	Install a pedestrian foot bridge across the upper area of the creek to connect new trails through wooded area.		
P	Eric Street Entrance	High	\$7,500	Add new entrance to enable and promote community use of the park. Include sign, lighting, landscaping, hardscape, and granite piers.		Community Fundraiser
Q	Casanova Street Entrance	High	\$30,000	Use right-of-way to add new entrance to enable and promote community use of the park. Include 6' wide path, sign, lighting, landscaping, hardscape, and granite piers.		Community Grant
R	Restore Stream	Medium	\$400,000	Restore stream bank with grading, splash ponds, and native riparian plantings.	Yes	Federal 31g Grant
S	Burroughs Street Entrance	High	\$27,000	Add new entrance to enable and promote community use of the park. Include sign, lighting, landscaping, hardscape, and granite piers.		PP Tree Grants Micro-Grant

## Chosewood Park Project List

T	Pedestrian Foot Bridge	High	\$25,000	Install a pedestrian foot bridge across the lower area of the creek to connect new trails through wooded area that will connect the east and west sides of the park.		
U	Evergreen Screen	Low	\$1,500	Add evergreen screen to block undesirable views of adjacent properties.	Yes	PP Micro-grant
V	Canopy Walk	Low	\$350,000	Build canopy walk over stream area that can be used as both an educational and access amenity.	Yes	GNPS Micro-Grant
W	Zip Line	Low	\$24,000	Build zip line that takes advantage of the change in grades in the park. Must be staffed and follow national guidelines for safety. Parks Department does not support this project due to safety concerns.		
X	Woodland Garden	High	\$3,000	Plant a natural garden of native woodland plants. Consult with Georgia Natural Plant Society.		
			<b>TOTAL</b>			
<b>Properties to Acquire</b>						
1. Church and Adjacent Building on McDonough						
1A	Future Community Garden	Low	\$25,000	Replace existing parking pavement with good soils and a community garden. Build garden with fence, spigot, and compost area.		
1B	Future Community Center	Low	?	Rehabilitate and renovate existing church as a community center that can house multiple community functions including neighborhood groups. Parks is not supportive of this proposal due to the cost of operation.		City is unlikely to provide funding.
			<b>TOTAL</b>			
2. McDonough Street Parking Lot						
2A	Sawtell Avenue Entrance	Medium	\$20,000	Acquire parking lot property that fronts McDonough		
				Install park signage as well as plantings to establish park presence on McDonough Blvd.		Community Grant

## Chosewood Park Project List

2B	Small Playground	Medium	\$60,000	Place a small playground near McDonough Street.		Community Grant	
2C	Perimeter Trail	High	\$50,000	Establish connected sidewalks and paths that border the perimeter of the park.		Community Grant	
2D	Unprogrammed Lawn	High	\$300,000	Convert existing parking lot into open lawn space. Remove existing asphalt and concrete. Replace soil as needed.		Brownfield funding from EPA	
2E	Meadow Path	High	\$50,000	Install 10' wide asphalt with granite curb sidewalk around unprogrammed lawn.			
2F	Federal Street Entrance	High	\$3,500	Install soft surface path into park at Federal Street and Gault intersection. Include minimal landscaping.	Yes		
2G	Naturalized Meadow	Medium	\$25,000	Establish natural meadow area between existing wooded area and new Meadow path. Use native plants such as redbud, black-eyed susans, joe pye weed, elderberry, etc. for a natural habitat.	Yes		
2H	Restored Woodland	Medium	\$10,000	Eliminate invasive plants and restore woodland plantings in wooded area along Gault Street.	Yes		
		TOTAL	1,518,500+				
<b>Work with AHA to Develop Corner</b>							
3A	Linear Park Connecting to Boulevard Crossing Park	High		This linear park located in the middle of Gault will connect Chosewood Park to Blvd. Crossing.		AHA	
3B	Fronts of buildings facing park	High		Lobby to have AHA houses face rather than back onto the park. This strategy will enhance public safety for the park and the neighborhood.		AHA	
3C	Extended Climax Street	High		Extend Climax to Gault extension.		AHA	
3D	Extended Dalton Street	High		Extend Dalton to Gault extension to provide better access around park.		AHA	
3E	On-Street Parking	High		Install on-street parking along the north and east sides of AHA corner to allow easy access and visibility to park.		AHA	
3F	Extended Gault Street	High		Extend Gault to Englewood Avenue to provide better access around park. Include traffic calming measures such as speed bumps.		AHA	

## Chosewood Park Project List

3G	Large Pond	High		Build pond that collects water from the existing streams in the park as well as drainage from AHA property. Instead of a standard runoff collection pond, construct and plant the pond to look natural and be a feature.		AHA
3H	Outdoor Classroom with Stage	Medium		Include an amphitheater with stage area that can function as a stage or a classroom. Provide lighting, electricity, and sound infrastructure.		AHA
3I	Overlook	Medium		Build an overlook on upper western edge of the site to take advantage of views of the pond from the existing park. Will require masonry retaining walls and steps.		AHA
3J	Path System	High		Include a path system that links to paths within the park as well as into the sidewalks and neighborhood.		AHA
3K	Lighting	High		Install lighting that is consistent with lighting in the park to promote safety and use of the park. Consider bollard-level lighting.		AHA
		<b>TOTAL</b>				