



# Jennie Drake Park Visioning Plan 2013



park  
pride



# Acknowledgements

Congratulations! The Jennie Drake Visioning has been a great success. Park Pride would like to thank all who participated in the public engagement opportunities and in the Visioning Process at Jennie Drake Park.

It's rare to find a community that is not only driven to making their community better, but also can agree to similar and powerful priorities. The Jennie Drake Park community displayed an immense amount of dedication and commitment to working together.

Wenda Bauschspies stood out as an incredible leader and Steering Committee chairperson. She spent countless hours organizing meetings, reaching out to her community members, picking up trash and eradicating invasives in the park.

Without the efforts and dedication of the Steering Committee members the Visioning Process could not have been completed. Each person on the Steering Committee took on tremendous responsibility to rally the community and help guide the development of their park. Park Pride would like to thank:

**Wenda Bauchspies (Committee Chair)**

**Pauline Drake**

**Anthony DuBose**

**Jim Gantner**

**Wayne Grady**

**Terry Harrington**

**Bryan Jenkins**

**Huellen Jones**

**Leola McKinney**

**Eugene Miller**

**Miriam Miller**

**Millicent Norman**

**Frederick Rucker Jr.**

A very special thank you goes to Reverend Larry Hill for hosting the public meetings at The Word of God Ministries. He graciously provided us with a warm and welcoming space to meet. He came to each meeting to welcome attendees to the church. His warmth and the church set an amazing stage for the Visioning Process.

Thank you to the staff at the Adamsville Recreation Center for setting up rooms and hosting all the Steering Committee meetings.

All participants have made great contributions in guiding the development and planning for their park. The care they have demonstrated in building relationships will serve them well as they carry the implementation of this plan forward.

Photo Credit: Lydia Harris and Jim Ganther



# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Executive Summary	5
Existing Conditions	6
The Design Process	10
Steering Committee and Public Meeting Schedule	10
Jennie Drake Park Wish List	11
Design Workshop	12
Visioning Plan and Prioritization	18
Priorization Exercise	26
Jennie Drake Park Project List	30
Appendix	33

# Table of Figures

Figure 1: Group 1 Design Workshop Map	13
Figure 2: Group 2 Design Workshop Map	14
Figure 3: Group 3 Design Workshop Map	15
Figure 4: Group 4 Design Workshop Map	16
Figure 5: Neighborhood Context Map	17
Figure 6: Proposed Properties for Acquisition	19
Figure 7: Visioning Plan	21
Figure 8: Waterford Road Detail	23
Figure 9: Prespective Sketch Heading West on Waterford Road	24
Figure 10: Prespective Sketch Heading East on Waterford Road	25
Figure 11: Prioritization Exercise Plan	28
Figure 12: Prioritization Exercise Plan	29



# Executive Summary

In May 2012, the Jennie Drake Visioning Process began when members of the Friends of Jennie Drake Park submitted an application for Park Visioning. The Friends of group was already active in the park; clearing invasives, picking up trash and constructing a mulch path along Waterford Road. But the community wanted to explore the best uses of the park's unique and sometimes difficult topography. Mrs. Pauline Drake and Mrs. Wenda Bauchspies in their Visioning application wrote "We want to go through the visioning process to understand and discover what the best uses will be for JDP, such as a walking trail, a bird sanctuary, a flower and/or vegetable garden, a dog path, or something else that has yet to be considered."

The next step was to form a strong Steering Committee that represented the neighborhood. Representatives from each of the key streets including West Peek Road, Waterford Road, Shorter Terrace, Aline Drive, Skipper Drive and Willis Mill, that surrounded the park were identified. The Steering Committee met four times over the eight month Visioning Period to organize the community, enlist participation, build consensus and guide Park Pride staff throughout the process. They scheduled three public meetings and developed a public outreach plan to attract community participants. A key to the public outreach plan was flyering events scheduled before each public meeting. The Steering Committee met at the park, delegated tasks and handed out over 1500 flyers advertising the public meeting schedule. In addition to flyering events, community websites, email reminders and phone calls inviting the community to participate in decision making were used.

All the public meetings were well attended. Attendees were vocal and worked together to build consensus. Steering Committee members made great efforts to represent the views and opinions of both themselves and the community at large. The Visioning Process for Jennie Drake Park enjoyed early consensus. During the design workshop it was evident the attendees had similar ideas for the park. The Visioning Plan for Jennie Drake has wide-spread community support.

At the final public meeting, the Visioning Plan was presented for review and comment. After review, several key additions were made. The community then completed a prioritization exercise. High priority projects, including clearing the park of invasives and creating better access into the park, were identified based on the results of this exercise and are detailed in the Project List (page 30).

The Visioning Plan is neither a strict set of rules for development nor a construction document. It demonstrates concepts and serves as a guide to relationships between amenities' size, shape and location. Detailed design documents will be needed as each project is funded.

The Steering Committee, the Friends of Jennie Drake Park and various other community groups will lead the efforts to implement the Visioning Plan. Park Pride will continue to offer support to the Jennie Drake community with advice, design guidance and potential funding opportunities. The completion of this Visioning Plan, which ensures the future of Jennie Drake Park within the Historic Collier Heights areas as a place for the community, plants and wildlife is just the first success of many more to come.

# Existing Conditions

Jennie Drake Park is located on Waterford Road in the northwest Atlanta neighborhood of Collier Heights. The park is five acres with no amenities beyond the standard park sign. It is a heavily wooded area choked with invasives including privet and English ivy. There is a steep drop between Waterford Road and the ephemeral stream which runs through the middle of the park, making it difficult to access the site.

**Jennie Drake Park's sign is located on Waterford Road. The community has planted shrubs and spread mulch at it's base. Currently no sidewalk exists on either side of the road.**



**On Waterford Road there is a 30' flat shelf that has a mulch path maintained by the community. The park's trees are covered in ivy and currently no amenities besides the park sign alerts drivers and neighbors of the park's existence.**







**On the north side of the park, closer to West Peek Road, dumping has been identified as an issue. Children's toys and a large freezer are among the items dumped illegally in the park.**



**The community has identified two locations of construction dumping in the park. This photo shows concrete on the north end of the park closer to West Peek. Concrete has also been found near the corner of Old Know Drive and Waterford Road.**

**The park is choked with invasive species. The invasives include English ivy and privet.**



**Currently Jennie Drake Park only has street frontage on Waterford Road. To increase accessibility into the park this vacant lot on West Peek was identified as the a priority property for acquisition. It would also be the only piece of the park that has a flat and sunny area.**





**Heading into the park from Waterford Road and potentially from West Peek Road, there are many steep slope which present challenges to access.**



**There are several vacant properties on West Peek, Symphony Lane and Indigo Lane that could increase access into the park, including this property on Symphony Lane.**

# The Design Process

The input of the public at every point of the design process is the core of Park Pride’s community design process. The first step of the process was the formation of a Steering Committee that represented the various stakeholders. The committee met four times to develop and report on community outreach strategies and to review input given at the three public meetings.

## Steering Committee and Public Meeting Schedule

All Steering Committee meetings took place at Adamsville Recreational Center. The meeting schedule was as follows:

- Steering Committee 1: Thursday, October 16th, 6pm
- Steering Committee 2: Thursday, November 15th, 6pm
- Steering Committee 3: Thursday, January 17th, 6pm
- Steering Committee 4: Thursday, March 21st, 6pm

All public meetings took place at The Word of God Ministries. The results of each meeting are summarized on the pages that follow. The schedule of public meetings was as follows:

- Public Meeting 1: Thursday, December 13th, 6:30pm
- Public Meeting 2: Tuesday, January 15th, 6:30pm
- Public Meeting 3: Saturday, February 16th, 10am

As part of the public engagement plan devised by the Jennie Drake Steering Committee, three flyering events were held. On Saturday, December 8th, January 5th, and February 9th community members met at the park to distribute flyers that included a survey to advertise for the public meetings. Over 1500 flyers were distributed during these outings. Many Steering Committee members reported talking to 2-5 people in the neighborhood about the Visioning Process. This was the cornerstone piece of the public engagement process and resulted in high attendance at public meetings. Survey can be found in Appendix K.

**Back of Jennie Drake Park survey advertising the public meetings and garnering the communities opinions about parks.**

<b>JENNIE DRAKE PARK</b> <b>MEETING SCHEDULE</b>	SEE THE FRONT OF THIS CARD FOR THE MEETING SCHEDULE	1. What street do you live on?
<b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS (REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED)</b>		2. What activities do you enjoy at parks?
<b>Public Meeting #1- Wish List Creation</b> <i>Thursday, December 13th, 2012, 6:30-8:00PM</i> The Word of God Ministries 3120 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway NW Atlanta, GA 30318		3. What is your favorite park?
<b>Public Meeting #2- Design Workshop</b> <i>Tuesday, January 15th, 2013, 6:30-8:00PM</i> The Word of God Ministries 3120 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway NW Atlanta, GA 30318		4. What amenities would you like to see at a park in your neighborhood?
<b>Public Meeting #3- Final Design Review and Prioritization</b> <i>Saturday, February 16th, 2013, 10:00-11:30AM</i> The Word of God Ministries 3120 Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway NW Atlanta, GA 30318	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking Trails <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Bird/Wildlife Habitats <input type="checkbox"/> Seating/Benches <input type="checkbox"/> Doggy Bag Stations <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting <input type="checkbox"/> Playground <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art	
Park Pride and the Friends of Jennie Drake Park invites you to participate, share your thoughts, and help develop concepts for <b>Jennie Drake Park</b> .  Please complete the survey and either mail back this card or bring it to a public meeting.	Stay in the know! Share your contact information to receive updates about your neighborhood. Name: _____ Address: _____	

## Jennie Drake Park Wish List

The Project Wish List was compiled by the participants at the first public meeting and from survey respondents. 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, while others were added. The initial list included:

(Limited) Designated Parking  
 Neighborhood Scale Park (Not Inviting  
 Visitors from Long Distance)  
 More Beautiful Greenspace  
 Greater Appreciation of Nature  
 Increased Security Measures  
 Walkway on High/Level Side  
 Easy Access to Park (from Waterford and W.  
 Peek)  
 Japanese Style Bridge across the Creek  
 Walking/Nature Trail  
 Stairs/Steps into Park  
 Use Some of Dumped Cement into Access  
 Senior Citizen Friendly Trails  
 Curve on Waterford – Outdoor Classroom  
 Outdoor Education Area  
 Security Cameras

Audubon Bird Sanctuary – Bird houses  
 Native Food Sources  
 Remove Invasive Species  
 Guard Rail (Protection) from Cars  
 Japanese Maple Forest  
 Benches (Seating) along Trail  
 Privacy Fence at Back of Park – Demarcate  
 Property Lines  
 Elevated Walkway (ABG's Canopy Walk)  
 Trash Can and Place to Sit  
 Dog Bag Stations  
 Vegetable (Community) Garden  
 Remove Dangerous/Dead/Dying Trees  
 Fire Pit  
 Dramatic Lighting on Key Features  
 Security Lights  
 Path Lighting



**The community gathered at the park to hand out flyers to advertise for the upcoming public meetings. Photo Credit: Lydia Harris**

## Design Workshop

At the second public meeting, participants were divided into four breakout groups for the design workshop. Each group was equipped with a pack of markers, a Visual Resource Guide (Appendix G), a context map of the neighborhood, and a topographic map of Jennie Drake Park.

Attendees reviewed the Visual Resource Guide which included the wish list, the summary of the SWOC exercise from the first public meeting, and inspirational photos. The guide helped to direct and inform each group's design choices. Many circled photos and wish list items they would like to see incorporated the park.

The public meeting concluded with each group presenting its design concept. Drawings prepared at this meeting are presented on the next five pages. It was clear that strong consensus already existed among the community.

Following the second public meeting, the Steering Committee met to discuss and review the outcomes of the wish list creation and design workshop. The committee noticed that all the concepts included a trail system through the park with stream crossings, lighting at entrances, trash receptacles, fencing and screening around key properties and the acquisition of the vacant parcels on West Peek Road.

Two out of the four groups suggested acquiring the smaller property on West Peek. The Steering Committee advised Park Pride to include this property on the final Visioning Plan. Three of the four groups showed meeting/gathering areas on both the Waterford and West Peek sides of the park. The Steering Committee also advised

that both gathering areas be included in the Visioning Plan, but requested that it should blend with the natural setting of the park. The final concept illustrated by Park Pride staff reflects these decisions by the Steering Committee.



**Reverend Larry Hill welcomed the community to the Word of God Ministries Church, where all the public meetings took place.**



**Using topographic maps of Jennie Drake Park, community members mapped a vision for their park.**

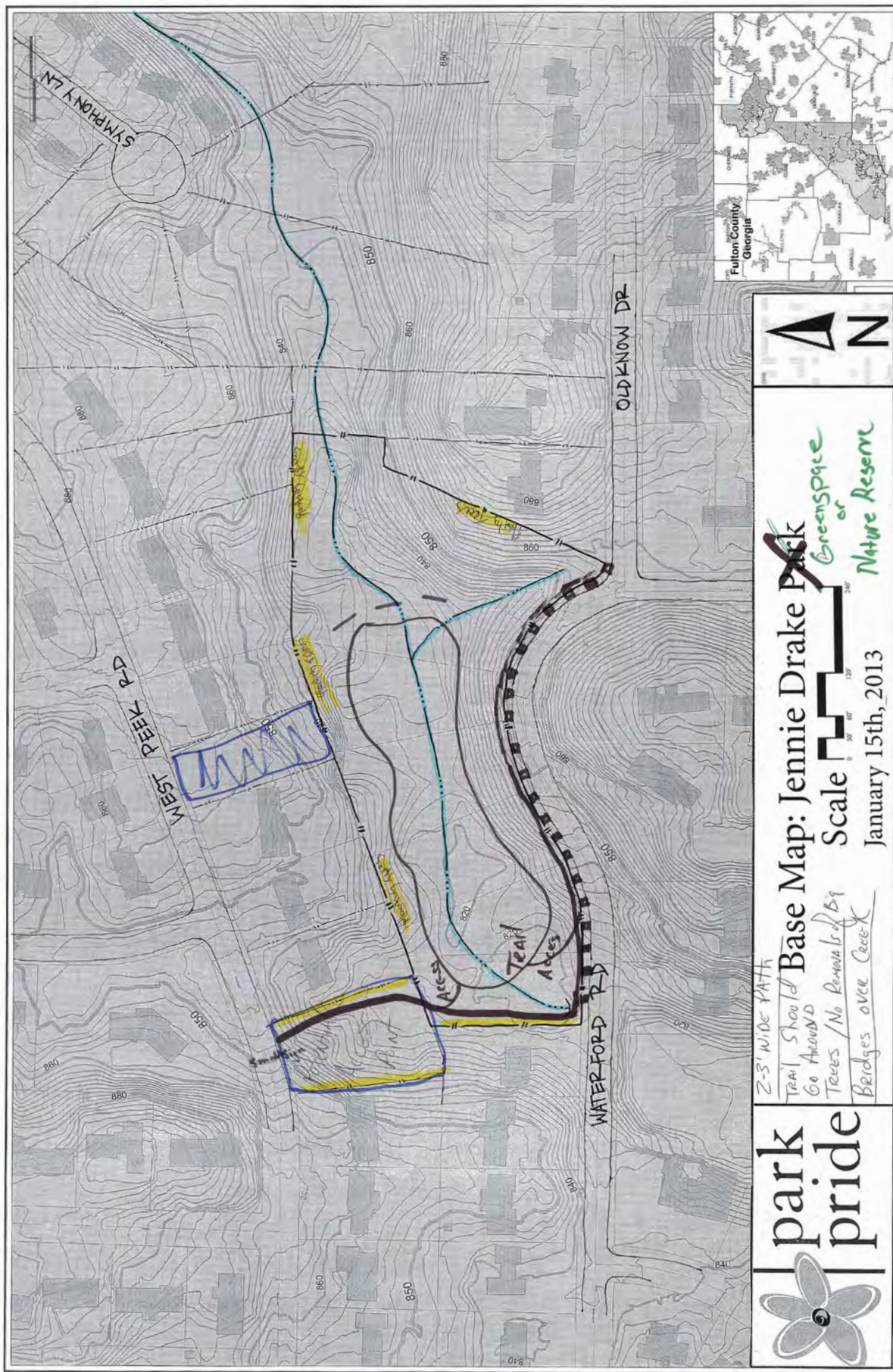


Figure 1: Group 1 Design Workshop Map

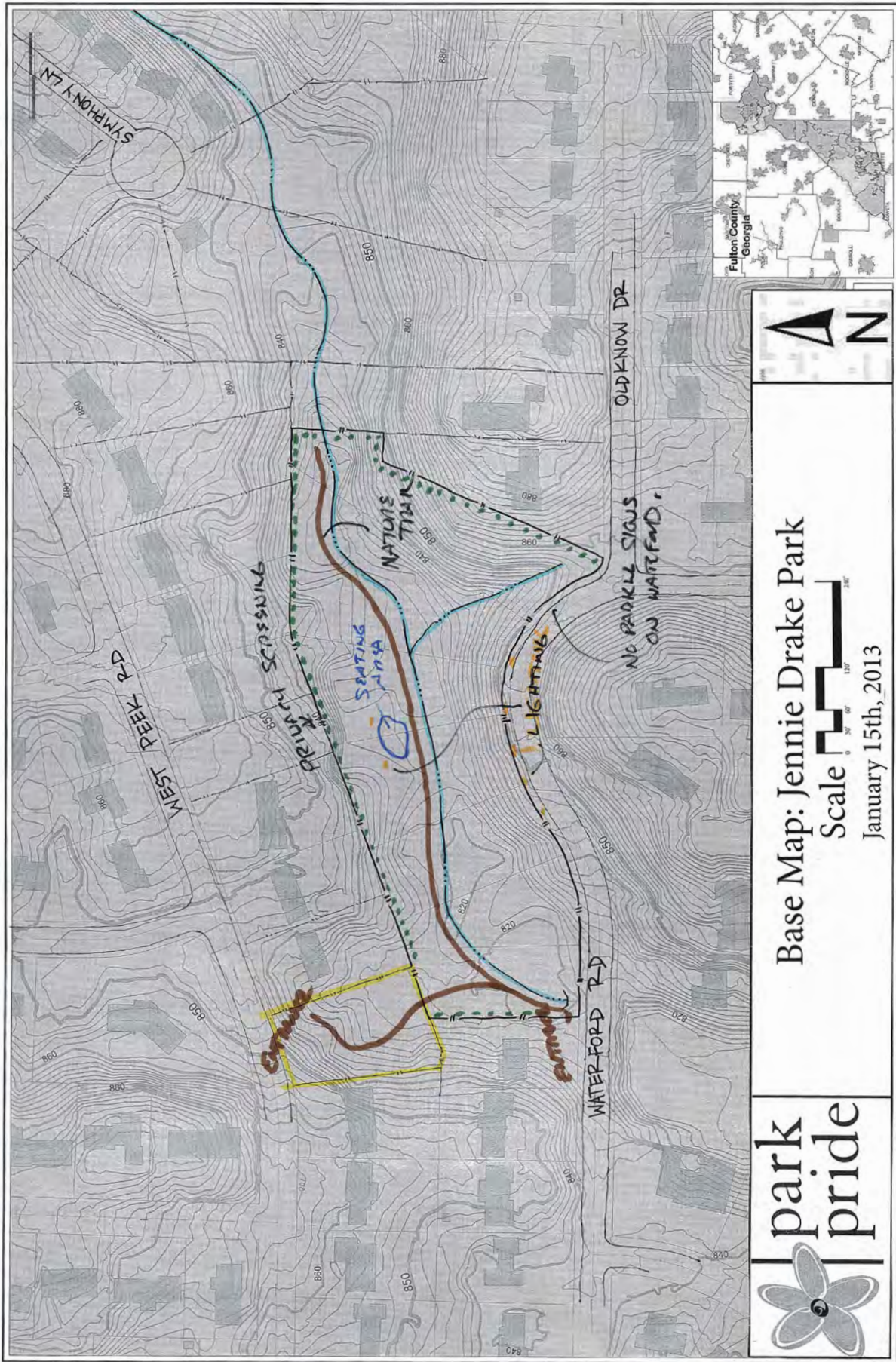


Figure 2: Group 2 Design Workshop Map



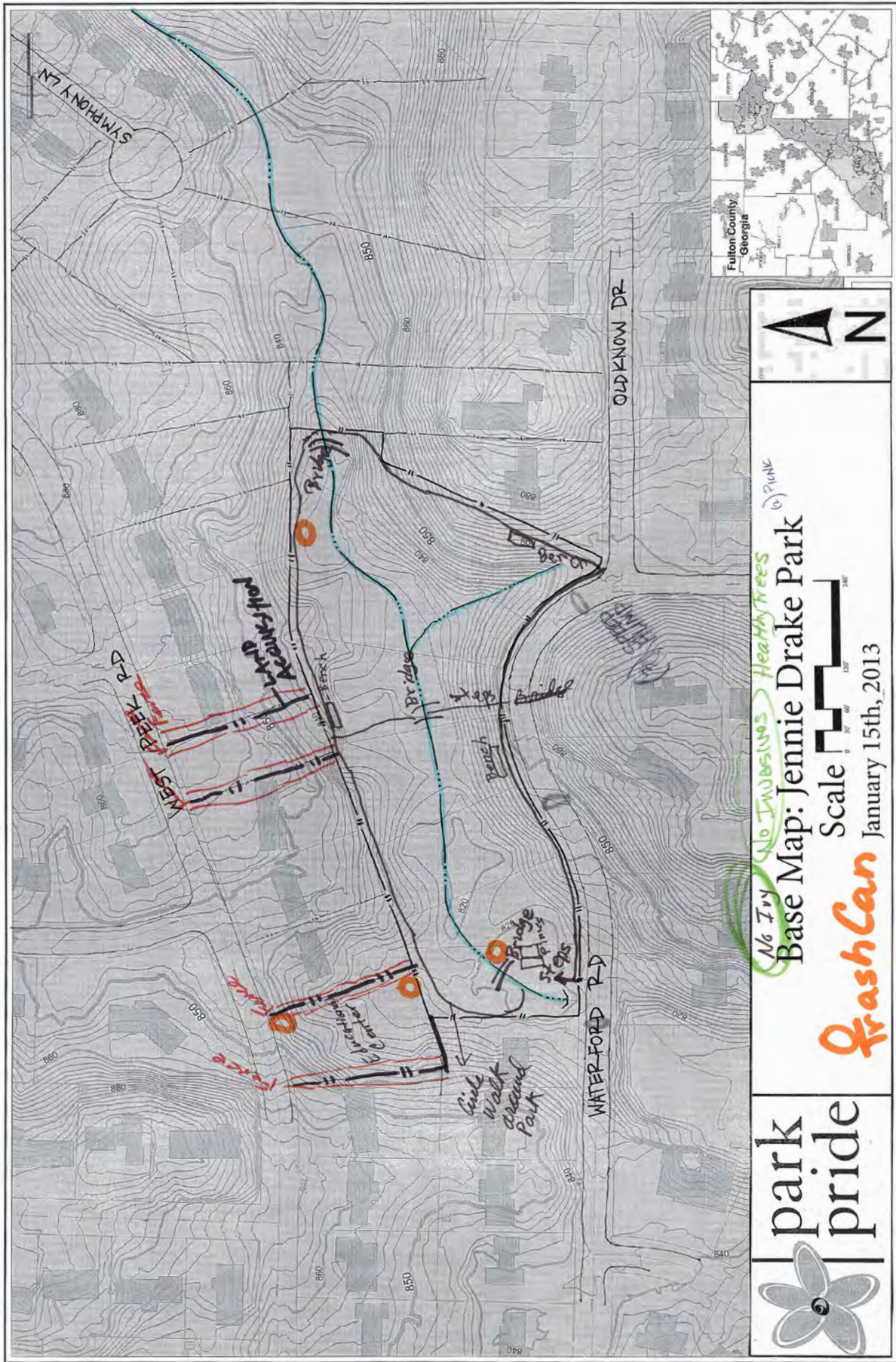


Figure 3: Group 3 Design Workshop Map

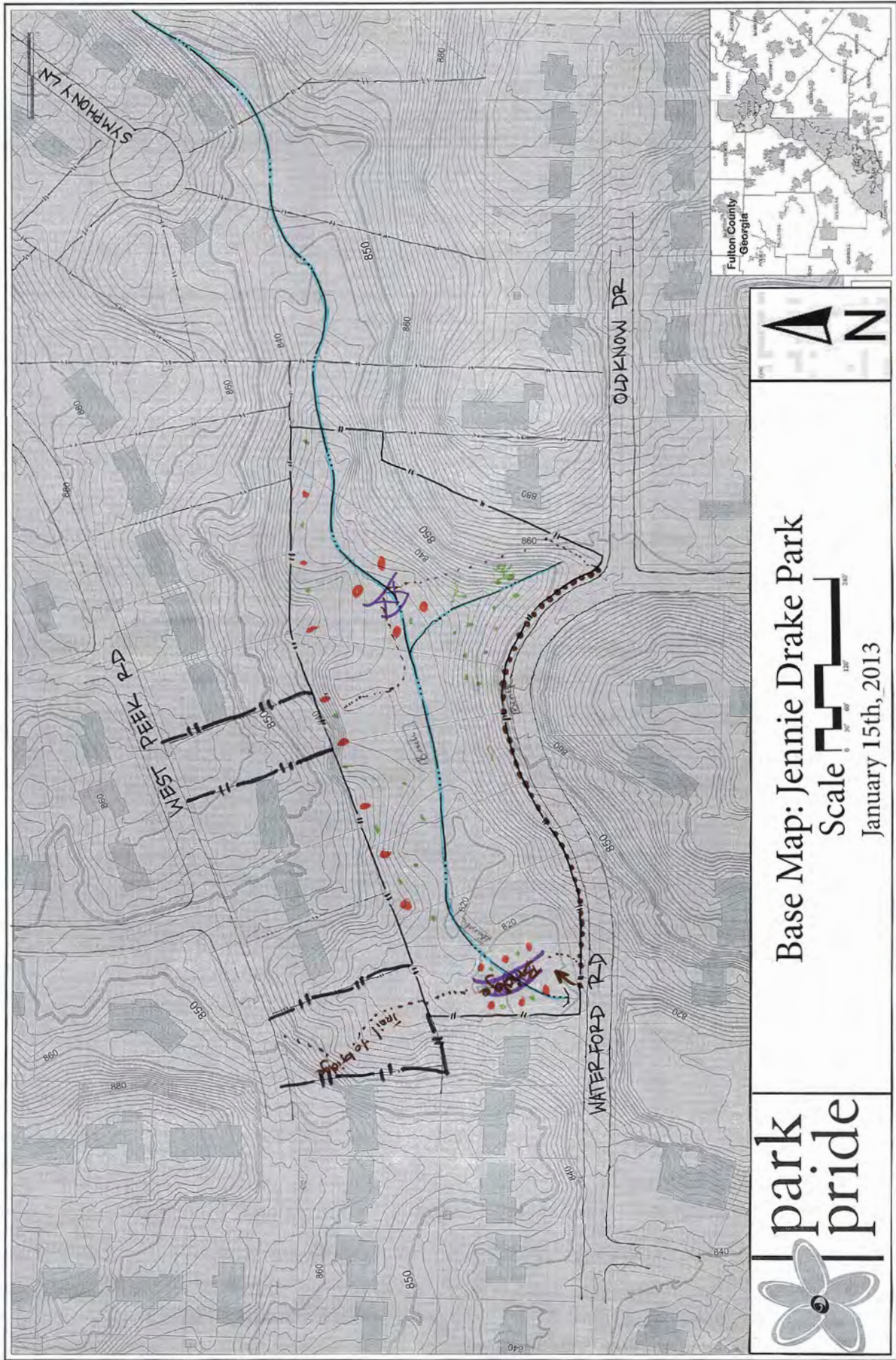


Figure 4: Group 4 Design Workshop Map

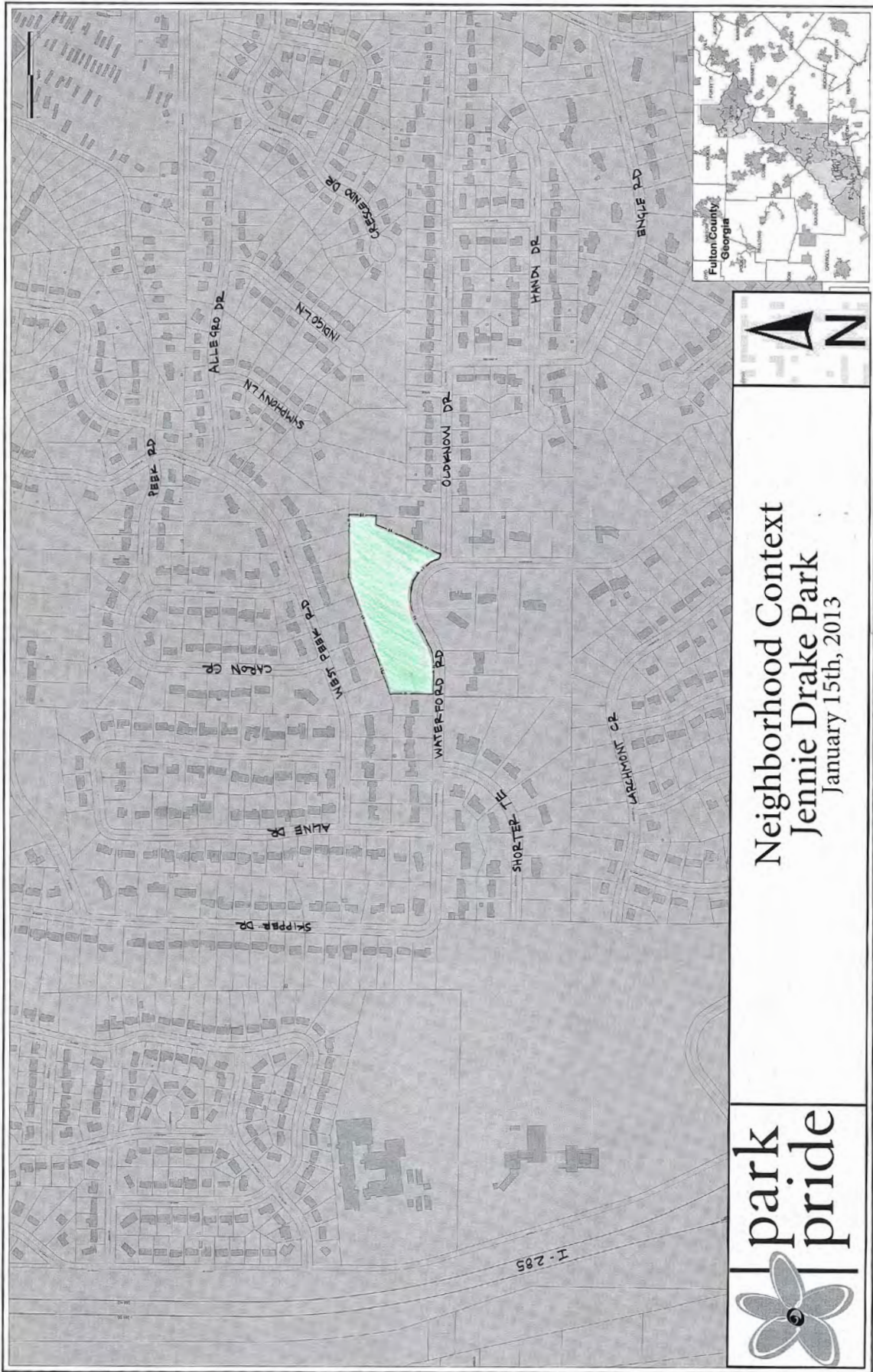


Figure 5: Neighborhood Context Map

# Visioning Plan and Prioritization

The Visioning Plan was presented at the final public meeting. It is a combination and refinement of community input and feedback from the public meetings and Steering Committee meetings. It illustrates the relative size, shape and location of features that the community desires to see implemented in the park. Descriptions of projects are found in the Project List which follows the Visioning Plan (Appendix F).

After the Visioning Plan was reviewed, attendees participated in a prioritization exercise. Each attendee was given one blue dot and asked to imagine the dot as a blank check. They were then asked to place the dots on projects they would fund first. This exercise helped to identify projects the community considered high priorities without the limitations of cost.

The Prioritization Exercise Plan (Figures 11 & 12) shows that the highest priority is clearing the park of its invasives species. Other high priorities included constructing the loop path, the Waterford entrance nodes, speed tables and benches.

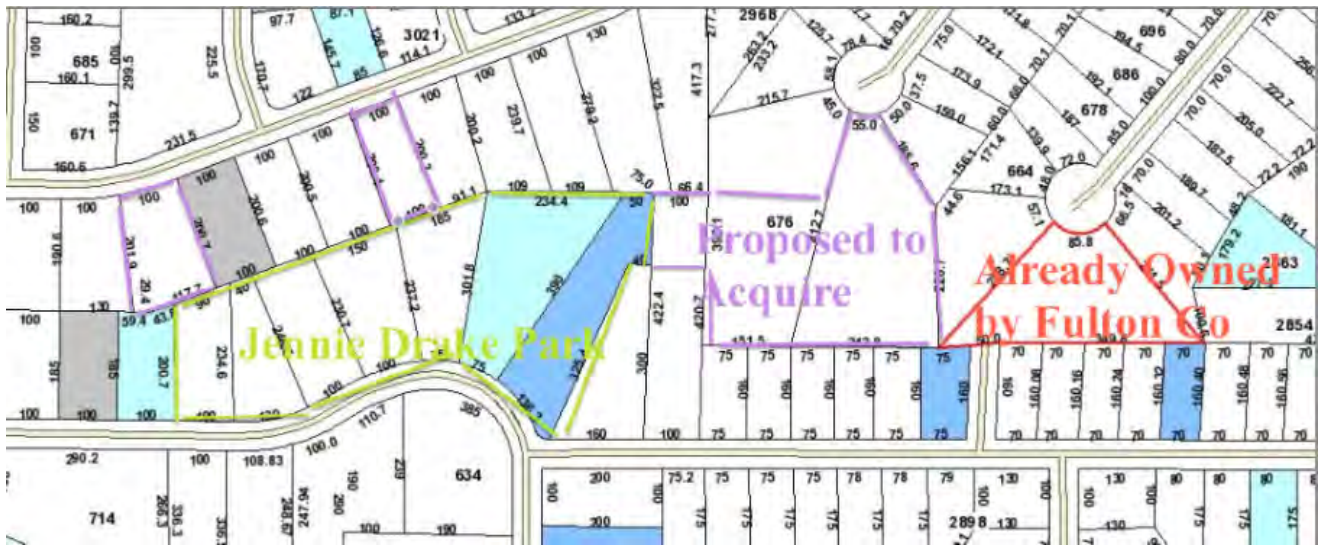
During the final public meeting, the community identified several key additions. The Visioning Plan reflects these additions. The gathering space on West Peek (Legend item L) was identified as a place for a community garden. An entrance staircase from the Waterford Road sign gathering space (Legend item K) to the loop path was added, to increase access into the park. A detail of the Visioning Plans gathering area on Waterford Road is included as Figure 8.

Furthermore, Figure 6 shows other potential properties to acquire throughout the neighborhood beyond the two properties discussed on West Peek. Other properties consider are on Symphony Lane. This public meetings focused mainly on improvements within the existing boundaries. While the Steering Committee explored more fully opportunities to improve park access and connectivity. It is recommended to continue the community dialog about these potential properties.



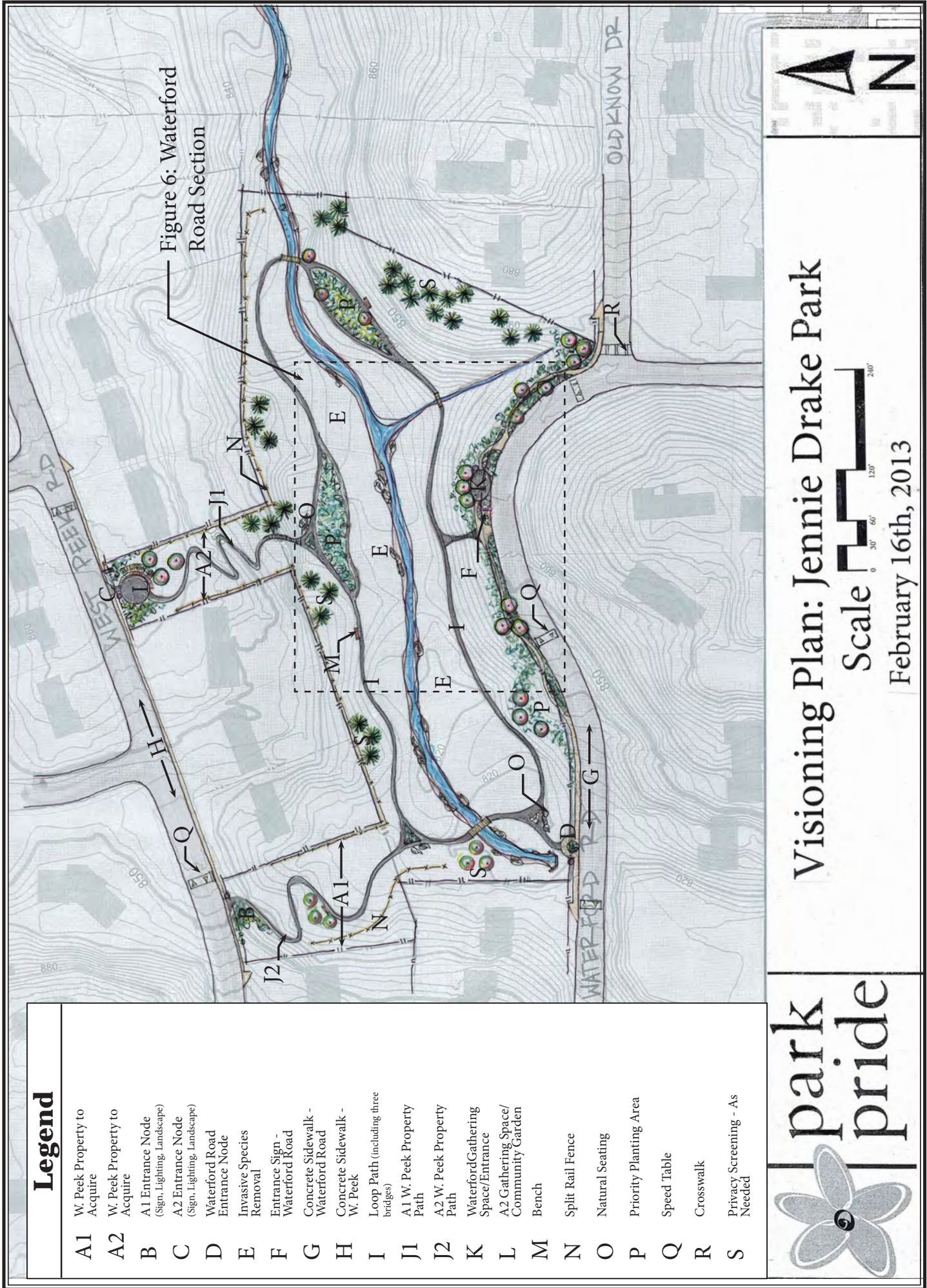
**Attendees completed the prioritization exercise by placing a blue dot on the Visioning Plan. These prioritization plans are shown in the following pages.**

The Jennie Drake Park Visioning Plan enjoyed consensus throughout the process. The community has identified a list of necessary and accomplishable projects. This plan, while not a construction document, should be used to guide the development of the park. The Visioning Plan is a strong tool to aid in the fundraising efforts. This visioning process is a demonstration of the community's continued dedication and support for the park.



**Figure 6: Proposed Properties for Acquisition-** There are several key properties for acquisition including two properties on West Peek and three properties connected to Symphony Lane.

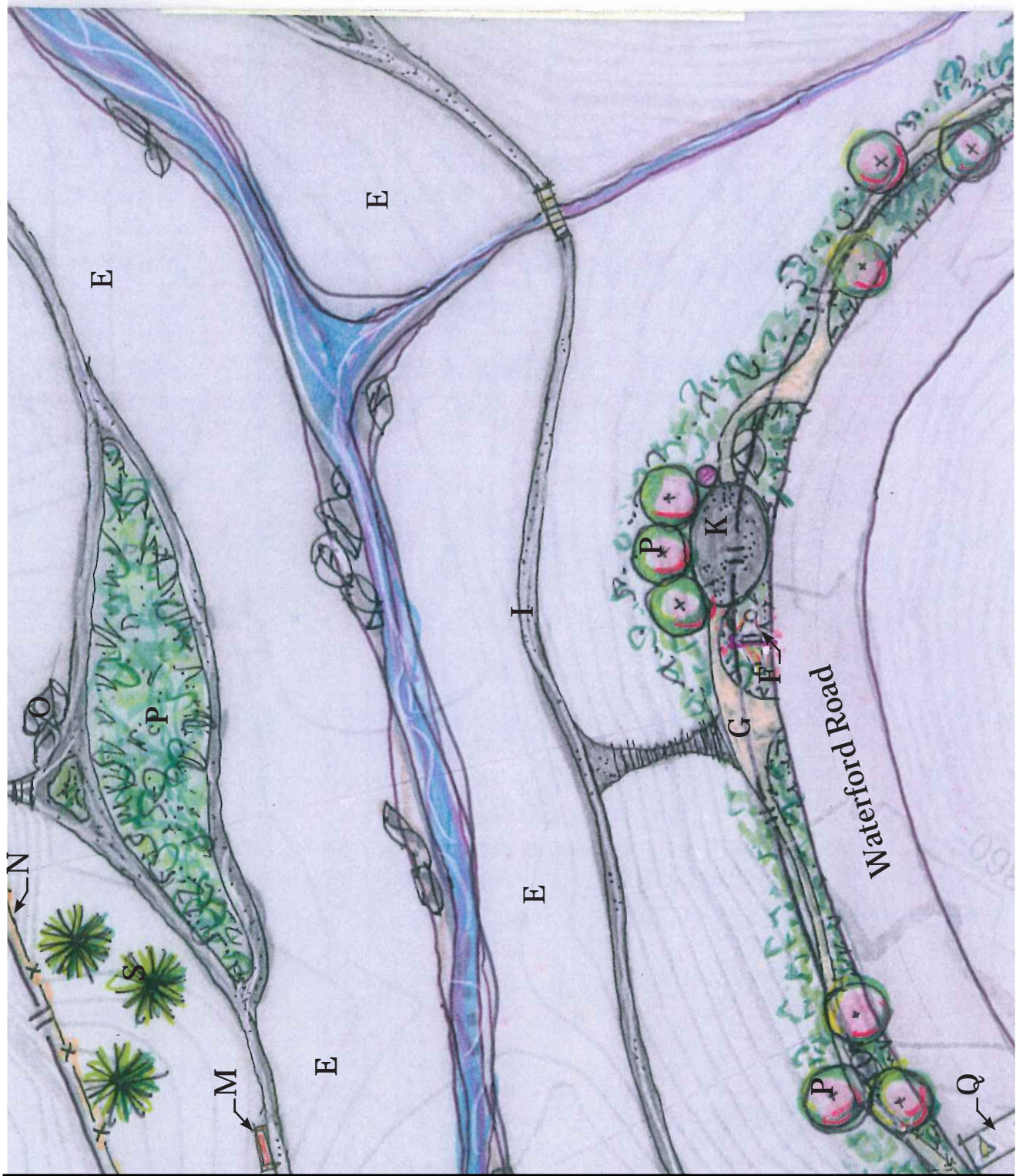





**Figure 7: Visioning Plan**







<b>Legend</b>	
E	Invasive Species Removal
F	Entrance Sign
G	Concrete Sidewalk
I	Loop Path
K	Gathering Space
M	Bench
N	Split Rail Fence
O	Natural Seating
P	Priority Planting Area
Q	Speed Table
S	Privacy Screening- As Needed
	
<b>Waterford Road</b> <b>Section</b> March 5th, 2013	

**Figure 8: Waterford Road Detail**



**Figure 9: Perspective Sketch Looking West on Waterford Road**



**Figure 10: Perspective Sketch Looking East on Waterford Road**

## Priorization Exercise



**Park Pride staff, Walt Ray (tan coat) and Becky Katz (grey sweater) explain the Visioning Plan prioritization exercise at the final public meeting.**

**Photo Credit: Jim Ganther**



**Attendees review Visioning Plan distributed before the meeting.**

**Photo Credit: Jim Ganther**



**The Visioning Plan was reviewed as a group. Attendees after the review discussed with each other their priorities for the park.**

**Photo Credit: Jim Ganther**



**Jennie Drake Park community members placed blue dots on their priority project for the park.**

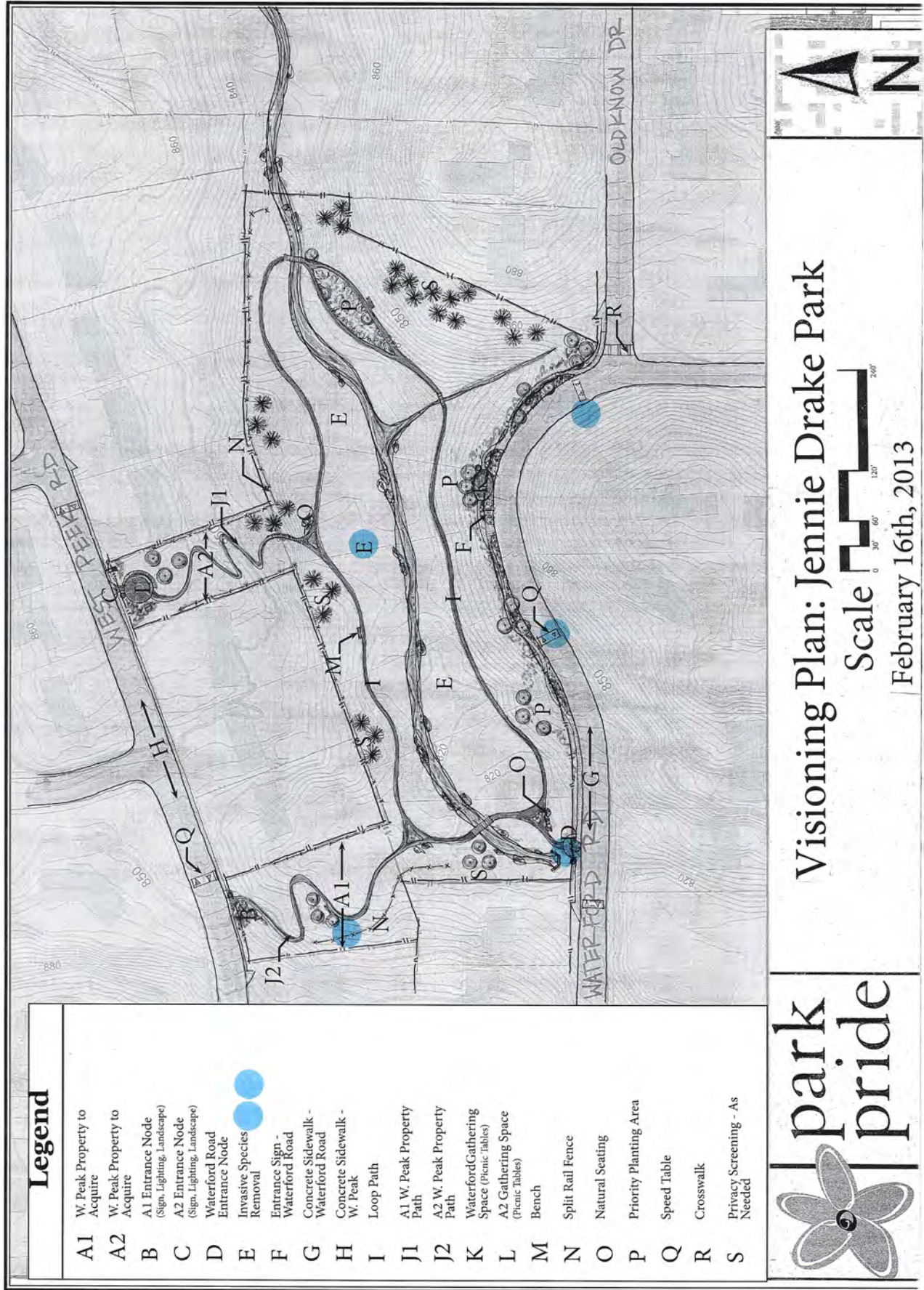


Figure 11: Prioritization Exercise Plan

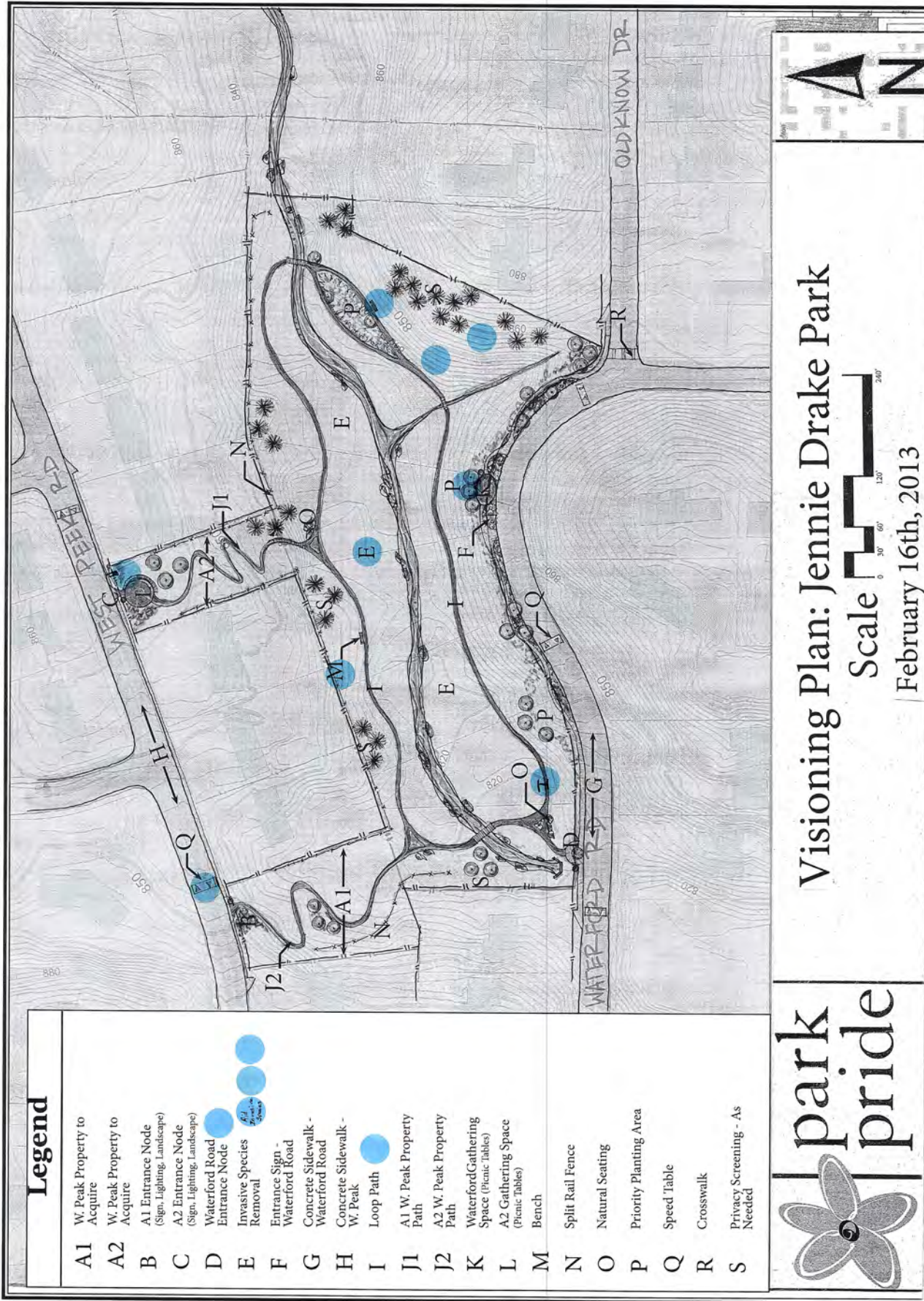


Figure 12: Prioritization Exercise Plan

## Jennie Drake Park Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Possible Funding Source
A1	West Peek Property to Acquire (Western Lot)	High	Fair Market Value	Increase access into the park from West Peek Road by acquiring this property.	Invest Atlanta, City of Atlanta Department of Parks
A2	West Peek Property to Acquire (Eastern Lot)	High	Fair Market Value	Increase access into the park from West Peek Road by acquiring this property.	Invest Atlanta, City of Atlanta Department of Parks
B	A1 Entrance Node		\$3,000	Create a welcoming entrance including landscaped native plantings and a trash receptacle.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
C	A2 Entrance Node		\$8,000	Create a welcoming entrance including a lighted park sign, a landscaped planting area for seasonal color and native plants, and a trash receptacle.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
D	Waterford Road Entrance Node		\$12,000	Design and construct the main entrance into the park. The southwest corner of the park on Waterford Road provides the best topography for an ADA accessible entrance. Entrance node should include: a small plaza or wide sidewalk, native plantings, trash receptacle, and gently sloping path into the park.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
E	Invasive Species Removal	High	\$15,000	Manage invasive species throughout the park. Eradication may be combination of hired, skilled experts and volunteer labor. Replace with native plantings that will support more diverse wildlife.	Corporate Volunteer Days, Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
F	Entrance Sign-Waterford Road		\$5,000	Increase the visibility of the park and its existing park sign with dramatic lighting, annual color, and informal native plantings.	
G	Concrete Sidewalk-Waterford Road	High	\$48,000	Install sidewalks along the length of the park on Waterford Road. Sidewalks should be kept as far from the street as possible to increase the feeling of security and should avoid as many existing trees as possible.	City of Atlanta Department of Parks



## Jennie Drake Park Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Possible Funding Source
H	Concrete Sidewalk- West Peek Road		\$30,000	Install sidewalks in front of and connecting at least the properties that are acquired on Peek Road. Consider a wider-spread initiative to construct sidewalks along entire length of Peek Road.	City of Atlanta Department of Parks
I	Loop Path	High	\$12,000	Design and install a soft surface loop path through the park. Suggested material is crushed granite or fine slate chips. Consider including steel band edge restraints.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
J1	A1 West Peek Property Path		\$1,500	Design and install a soft surface path through the acquired property to connect to the loop path. Suggested material is crushed granite or fine slate chips. Consider including steel band edge restraints.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
J2	A2 West Peek Property Path		\$1,500	Design and install a soft surface path through the acquired property to connect to the loop path. Suggested material is crushed granite or fine slate chips. Consider including steel band edge restraints.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
K	Waterford Road Gathering Space		\$9,000	Picnic area for community members to gather. Sized to accommodate 2-3 picnic tables.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
L	A2 Gathering Space/Community Garden		\$18,000	Picnic area for community members to gather and welcome people into the park. Could potentially be used as a place for a community garden with raised beds and seating areas.	Park Pride Community and Legacy Grants
M	Bench		\$5,000	Locate places for three to five benches in strategic locations along the loop path. Consider locations with either very good views, or at intersections with connector paths.	Community Volunteer Work Day
N	Split Rail Fence		\$30,000	Construct wood split rail fence along or near property lines to delineate private and public property.	Community Volunteer Work Day
O	Natural Seating		\$8,000	Install natural boulders for seating in strategic locations along the loop path.	Community Volunteer Work Day

### Jennie Drake Park Project List

Key	Item	Priority Level	Cost	Description	Possible Funding Source
P	Priority Planting Areas		\$27,000	Create informal planting areas to increase beauty and seasonal color of the park. Key areas are suggested on Visioning Plan and are envisioned as being priority areas to re-introduce native plant species and to invest more on management/grooming.	Volunteer Work Day and Private Donations
Q	Speed Table		\$45,000	Traffic calming speed tables are proposed on Waterford Road and West Peek Road. This can/should be a part of the bigger neighborhood initiative for increased pedestrian safety.	City of Atlanta Department of Public Works
R	Crosswalk		\$2,100	Painted crosswalk on Waterford Road to increase pedestrian safety.	City of Atlanta Department of Public Works
S	Privacy Screening		\$12,000	Plant native, evergreen shrubs and trees in strategic locations to protect privacy of neighbors abutting the park.	Community Volunteer Day and Private Donations

# Appendix

- A. Jennie Drake Park Visioning Application
- B. Steering Committee M.O.U.
- C. Sign-In Sheets
- D. Design Workshop Drawings
- E. Meeting Summaries
- F. Project List Spreadsheet
- G. Visual Resource Guide
- H. Steering Committee Visual Resource Guide
- I. Visioning Plan
- J. Priority Maps
- K. Survey Results

