



## From the Chairman of the Board:

As the spring of 2013 arrives, the Atlanta BeltLine is busier than ever. Atlantans of all ages are using the new parks and trails in record numbers and the Eastside Trail has already established itself as one of the city's premier public spaces. Many people are using it to commute on foot or bicycle, and many more are using it as a place to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends on a regular basis.

The sight of thousands of people walking, skating or biking on the Eastside Trail on any given day is a fulfillment of the promise of the Atlanta BeltLine vision – a city with connected neighborhoods, safe walkable spaces and high levels of social interaction that are changing the feel of the city on the ground level. It also speaks to the health benefits of the Atlanta BeltLine, with many choosing to leave their cars at home in favor of other commute options and more avenues for fitness opportunities.

The team here at Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. remains as committed as ever to delivering this transformative project as quickly and efficiently as possible, and is now hard at work designing and planning its next phases. The development of the Implementation Plan is underway and the corridor design process is advancing for the southwest corridor.

The Atlanta BeltLine continues to thrive on the grassroots support of the community – thank you for staying involved and engaged.

—John Somerhalder

## EASTSIDE TRAIL NATIVE GRASS PLANTING



**Pictured Above:** Trees Atlanta staff and volunteers will be hard at work on the Eastside Trail from March until May planting 109,000 native grass plugs by hand.

*With warmer weather on the horizon, we are excited to announce the next big leap forward for the Eastside Trail!* Working with our partner Trees Atlanta, more than 11 acres of native grasses will be hand-planted along the length of the trail, further elevating this world-class public space. Native landscaping, including trees, grasses, and flowers, are an integral component to the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum that will span the full 22-miles.

109,000 grass plugs will need your love and attention! Hundreds of volunteers will be needed for planting from March through May 2013 (or until all plugs are in the ground). By the end of March, volunteers will be needed in full force. Trees Atlanta will be leading plantings every weekday. Please see the full schedule and locations on [www.TreesAtlanta.org](http://www.TreesAtlanta.org).

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## SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR TRAIL OPENS IN MAY



**Pictured Above:** The Beecher Elementary School Chorus kicked off the groundbreaking ceremony. **Photo Credit:** Christopher T. Martin.

On January 12, 2013, nearly 100 people gathered behind Beecher Hills Elementary School for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Southwest Connector Trail. This multi-use spur trail is a tangible sign of connectivity between the Westwood Terrace and Beecher Hills

neighborhoods. By linking to the existing Lionel Hampton Trail with an eye towards the future Atlanta BeltLine, this trail has an impact on connectivity throughout the city.

With shovels at the ready, a group comprised of elected officials, city commissioners, Atlanta BeltLine leaders and members of the community tossed dirt to officially break ground on the project.

The trail will officially open in May 2013. Stay tuned to [events.beltline.org](http://events.beltline.org) for the date.

Phase 1 of this project will bring the total of permanent trails to nearly seven miles along and near the Atlanta BeltLine.



## EDGEWOOD AVE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

On March 18, 2013, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. will begin work on replacing the bridge on Edgewood Avenue that passes over the old railroad corridor. The construction project, a partnership with City of Atlanta, will detour traffic to Irwin St. and DeKalb Ave. based on the direction of travel. Once the bridge is complete in early 2014, we anticipate beginning construction of the Eastside Trail extension south of Irwin St. Thank you for your patience! Detour maps and info: [construction.beltline.org](http://construction.beltline.org).



## EASTSIDE TRAIL NATIVE GRASS PLANTING, con't.



Before planting the grass plugs, the soil must be tilled and organic soil amendment added.

Meadows are important because native grasses and flowers create a prairie which provides food, protection, and homes for birds, butterflies, and bees. This natural wildlife habitat requires minimal maintenance (such as mowing), which cuts down on damage to creatures and carbon emissions along the trail. The 11-acre meadow is a significant segment of the larger Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum

that will ring the entire 22-mile loop around the city. Fifteen Georgia grasses and 28 flower species will add texture and bursts of color along the length of the trail. Meadows also contribute to enhanced water and soil quality while fighting erosion. The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum itself will serve as a classroom for educators and students at all levels.

This spring, the west side of the Eastside Trail will be fully planted. Select hillsides on the eastern side of the path will also be planted for a total of 8.5 acres. Prior to planting, the top ten inches of soil will be tilled and organic soil amendment will be added. Plantings must be complete by May in order to utilize the most optimal weather conditions. During the approximately six months that it takes for the native grasses to establish, protective netting will be placed within two feet of the trail in order to keep feet, paws, and wheels from damaging the delicately growing ecosystem. The remaining 2.5 acres on the eastern side of the path will be planted in 2014.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to make the Atlanta BeltLine one of our city's star amenities!

## ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT



Grinnell Lofts residents have been cleaning up the Eastside Trail since before it was paved!

Dennis and his wife Faye felt that they were destined to live on the Atlanta BeltLine from the time it was merely a kernel of an idea. In 2010, while Dennis was president of the Grinnell Lofts Homeowners' Association, he says he heard about the Adopt the Atlanta BeltLine program and, "I got into the pulpit and said, 'Absolutely, Grinnell will adopt a section!' It seemed the natural thing to do."

Grinnell Lofts residents spend three hours a month picking up trash on the Eastside Trail between Freedom Parkway and their complex just south of N. Highland Avenue. Another adopter group does quarterly clean-ups to complement their monthly excursions.

As an adopter, Dennis said he has become territorial. "Hey, this is my section of the Atlanta BeltLine and I want it to look good! I always pick up trash and take it back to the Grinnell dumpster. It's worth the time and effort to keep the Eastside Trail looking good."

A special thank you goes out to the Grinnellians and Dennis and Faye for their support of the Atlanta BeltLine!

Learn more about our Adopt the Atlanta BeltLine program at [adopt.beltline.org](http://adopt.beltline.org)!

## BICYCLE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Thanks to a \$2.5 million boost, the City of Atlanta will start to see bike improvements this year. We're particularly excited about the projects that will enhance riders' experience getting to and from the Atlanta BeltLine:

- A cycle track from the northern end of the Eastside Trail, along 10th Street, to Piedmont Avenue.
- The addition of sharrows and lighting to Krog Street & tunnel; improved pavement in tunnel.

In similar projects, the City and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will be installing buffered bike lanes on Ponce de Leon Avenue along with connections to the Eastside Trail.





## RUNNING SERIES

### Atlanta BeltLine Running Series: Northside 5k

The Atlanta BeltLine Running Series is expanding in 2013 with the addition of a fourth race in a new Active Lifestyle Challenge! Earn points towards prizes for your health accomplishments!



The first race of the year, the Northside 5K, is a run/walk along the Atlanta BeltLine Northside Trail and through the beautiful Collier Hills, Collier Hills North, and Ardmore Park neighborhoods. It will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2013 this year.

Visit [run.beltline.org](http://run.beltline.org) for more information and to register!

*The proceeds from the Atlanta BeltLine Running Series Northside 5k benefit the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Meeting/Event	Location
3/14/13	6:30-8 PM	Implementation Plan Meeting	29 Boulevard Ave., 30312
3/25/13	6:30-8 PM	Implementation Plan Meeting	732 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. NW, 30318
3/26/13	4-6 PM	TAD Advisory Committee Meeting	86 Pryor Street, 30303
3/28/13	6:30-8 PM	Implementation Plan Meeting	1040 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd, 30310
4/1/13	6:30-8 PM	Implementation Plan Meeting	Piedmont Hospital, Bldg 1984, 30309
4/8/13	6:30-8 PM	Implementation Plan Meeting	Trees Atlanta, 225 Chester Ave., 30316
4/9/13	3-5 PM	BeltLine Aff. Housing Board Meeting	86 Pryor Street, 30303
4/10/13	8:30-9:30 AM	ABI Executive Committee Meeting	86 Pryor Street, 30303
4/10/13	5 PM	Art on the Atlanta BeltLine Proposals Due	
4/10/13	5:30-6:30 PM	Volunteer Training	50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 910, 30303
4/20/13	9 AM-12 PM	Atlanta BeltLine Earth Day	Eastside Trail at Angier Springs
4/27/13	7 AM-10 AM	Atlanta BeltLine Northside 5k	Tanyard Creek Park, 30309
5/8/13	8:30-10 AM	Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Board Meeting	86 Pryor Street, 30303

For more details on upcoming events, please visit: [events.beltline.org](http://events.beltline.org).

Bus tours take place every Friday and Saturday morning—please visit [tours.beltline.org](http://tours.beltline.org) to register.

Get to know the project with an Atlanta BeltLine 101! These monthly educational presentations throughout the city will help answer your questions. Check out [events.beltline.org](http://events.beltline.org) for a full list of upcoming sessions.

## STAFF NEWS



**Tameka Silas, Accountant**  
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. welcomes Tameka to the team. She brings over 10 years of accounting experience to the Atlanta Beltline, including senior account positions for multiple

Fortune 500 Corporations in Metro Atlanta. Tameka received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Mississippi Valley State University and a Master's in Accounting and Finance from Keller Graduate School of Management.



**Rhonda Forge, Front Desk Coordinator**  
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. welcomes Rhonda to the team. A native Missourian, Rhonda transferred to the Atlanta area over 13 years ago with shipping

giant Federal Express. She has worked in the transportation and logistics field for over 20 years. Rhonda received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Missouri and is currently studying for her certification as a Data Base Administrator.

## EARTH DAY 2013

The annual Atlanta BeltLine Earth Day event usually draws hundreds of volunteers into the corridor and this year will involve planting native grass plugs along the Eastside Trail. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and stay tuned to [events.beltline.org](http://events.beltline.org) for details.



## ADVISORY BOARDS

**Atlanta BeltLine Affordable Housing Board (BAHAB)** has appointed new leadership as follows:

Chair: William McFarland  
Vice-Chair: Chenée Joseph  
Secretary: Alvah Hardy

**Atlanta BeltLine Tax Allocation District Advisory Board (TADAC)** has appointed new leadership as follows:

Chair: Micah Rowland  
Vice Chair: Michelle Rushing  
Secretary: Jennette Gayer

## HAWKS NIGHT RECAP



Thanks to everyone who came out for Atlanta BeltLine Night at the Hawks! The evening included the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership Pre-Game Reception with snacks and appetizers (including a few autographed Hawks basketballs) and photos with Atlanta Hawks Cheerleaders. Early ticket purchasers even watched the players court-side during pre-game warm ups!



*Photo Credits: Christopher T. Martin*



## SOUTHERN COURTESY: TRAIL ETIQUETTE

*We're extremely pleased with the large numbers of people using the Eastside Trail on a daily basis and are encouraged to see the high level of positive interaction between trail users.* It is creating a new sense of community that is helping to transform Atlanta. In the spirit of ensuring that everyone helps foster a courteous, safe, and clean experience, we've put together a few guidelines for use of Atlanta BeltLine trails:

### Mind the centerline.

There is either a painted line or a centerline cut into the concrete that runs down the middle of the trails. Please stay to the right of the centerline in the direction you're traveling. Slower traffic should always stay to the right and allow for faster traffic to pass on the left. If you are on a bicycle, skateboard, rollerblades, or other human-powered, wheeled device and approaching a pedestrian, politely call out "on your left" to let them know you're approaching.

### Watch your speed.

Most people are surprised to see just how they can reduce their trip times by taking the Atlanta BeltLine. Because you're already getting from point A to point B so much faster, there's no reason to blow by people and weave around foot traffic. Whether you're a cyclist or fast runner, please be mindful of other trail users and slow it down around others.

### Know your place (and your pets').

Pedestrians always have the right of way, and trail users on bicycles or other non-motorized forms of transport must yield to those on foot. Pets should always



*Pictured Above: A little courtesy goes a long way. Please follow proper etiquette as you use the trail.*

be leashed and kept close by. Taking your dog for a walk should not involve clothes-lining fellow trail users because you are on one side of the path and your dog is at the end of his leash on the other side. While the trails can accommodate big groups, we encourage people to walk two abreast. When large groups spread out across the trail, it makes it difficult for others to pass. When you stop to talk to neighbors and friends, please step off of the path to allow room for others to pass.

### Children at play.

For kids' safety, and everyone else's, parents or caregivers should help their children follow the trail rules and etiquette, and all trail users should be mindful of small children.

### Don't litter.

Please pick up after your pet and be sure to throw your own litter away in the trash cans.

Thank you for making a more enjoyable trail experience for everyone!

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

Art on the Atlanta BeltLine has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for artists to solicit outdoor, temporary works of art for presentation on the Atlanta BeltLine in the fall of 2013. The exhibition space will span almost eight miles of open trail.

The submission deadline is April 10, 2013. The RFP can be found online at [art.beltline.org](http://art.beltline.org) and is available for download now.

## ABOUT US

The Atlanta BeltLine is the most comprehensive economic development effort ever undertaken in the City of Atlanta and among the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment and mobility projects currently underway in the United States. The Atlanta BeltLine is a sustainable redevelopment project that will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails, transit and affordable housing along an historic 22-mile railroad corridor circling downtown and connecting many neighborhoods directly to each other. Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) is the entity tasked with planning and executing the implementation of the Atlanta BeltLine in partnership with other public and private organizations, including City of Atlanta departments and the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership. For more information on the Atlanta BeltLine, please visit: [www.beltline.org](http://www.beltline.org).



*The Southwest Connector Trail (seen here alongside Utoy Creek) will open in May 2013.*

## EASTSIDE TRAIL WALKING TOURS

*Trees Atlanta is launching a brand new walking tour of the Eastside Trail this April!* Walking tours will take place every Saturday morning and will last about 1.5 hours and begin in Inman Park or at Angier Springs (depending on the day of the tour). Each tour guide prepares their own unique talking points to spotlight the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum, native trees, architectural

interests, key historical stories, and much more.

Be sure to take advantage of this free walking tour, which is offered all year so you can experience every season of the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum with an expert docent. Find out more at [tours.beltline.org](http://tours.beltline.org).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mayor, City of Atlanta

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The Honorable Joyce M. Sheperd  
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Board Member;  
Atlanta City Councilmember, District 12

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