

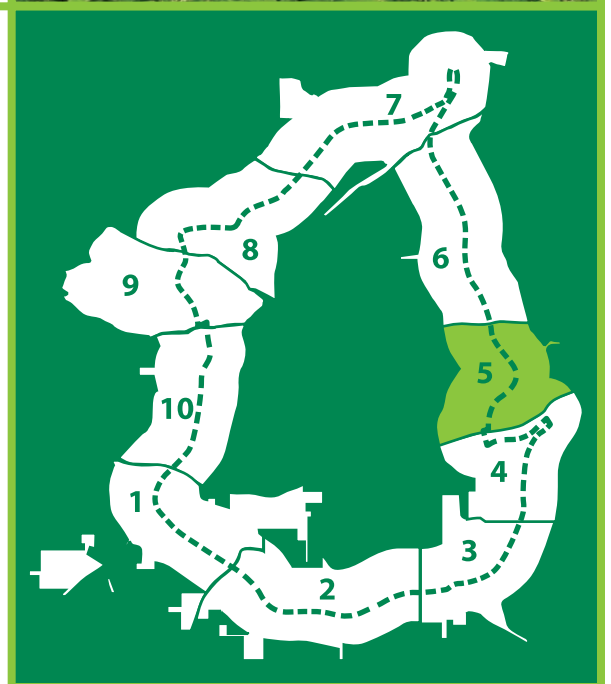
Atlanta BeltLine Master Plan

SUBAREA 5

FREEDOM PARKWAY Historic Fourth Ward Park Master Plan

Prepared for
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
by EDAW, Inc., Arcadis & APD

Adopted by the Atlanta City Council on March 16, 2009



BeltLine
Atlanta Connected



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Introduction

The Master Plan for the Historic Fourth Ward Park establishes a preliminary framework for development of a major open space set within the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood of Atlanta BeltLine's Subarea 5. It will also guide the orderly acquisition of the most critical parcels.

The Master Plan takes into account the priorities and concerns of the many stakeholders involved, including the neighborhood, adjacent developments, both existing and proposed, as well as the relationship of this park with the larger park system for the city of Atlanta. These comments form the basis for a series of design and programming elements within the park plan.

The Master Plan lays out the key features of the park and also sets up a preliminary design for the landscape, illustrating massings of trees and focal areas.

The plan also includes a phasing element to establish the order of property acquisition and build-out. In the case of Historic Fourth Ward Park, phasing will be based primarily on when land can be acquired from the individual property owners, as well as when development funding becomes available for construction.

As the park progresses into schematic design and construction documents, the design team will refer to the original Master Plan as a guide for detailed work. The purpose of the plan is to provide the necessary flexibility during construction activities, while preserving the original design intent.

Existing Conditions

The proposed site for the Historic Fourth Ward Park is a conglomeration of industrial and commercial property along or directly adjacent to the BeltLine. The exact parcels that will be combined to form the final outline of the park have yet to be determined, based on availability of funds and willingness to sell by the current property owners. However, in general they fall in the categories of either former industrial sites that are now vacant or razed, or active commercial or industrial property.

The physical features of the land reflect considerable grade change across the site. This change is most pronounced in the area of the proposed stormwater detention facility, along the centerline of a major watershed. There is limited vegetation throughout the site with the exception of a small cluster of existing canopy trees on Wilmer Street. The lack of tree cover is due to the large industrial structures that either existed or remain on site, as well as the sheer area covered in concrete.

Park facilities within the vicinity of the Proposed Historic Fourth Ward Park

Subarea 5 has a number of parks within the three major neighborhoods of Old Fourth Ward, Poncey-Highland and Inman Park. However, many of these parks, specifically those in Old Fourth Ward, are in a state of disrepair and fail to meet the needs of current residents. The influx of residents expected as City Hall East and Ponce Place develop will increase park needs in the area, straining an already overburdened system. Table 01 details the list of park facilities within one mile of the proposed Historic Fourth Ward Park.

Facilities within Sub Area 5

- 5 playgrounds
- A rental facility
- A lake
- 3.5 miles of PATH Foundation bike/pedestrian trails
- Basketball courts

- A recreation center
- An indoor swimming pool

Facilities within 1 Mile of Historic Fourth Ward Park

- 8 playgrounds
- Passive park space
- A stage
- A rental facility
- A lake
- 3.5 miles of Path Foundation bike/pedestrian trails
- A volleyball court
- Basketball courts
- 2 recreation centers
- An indoor swimming pool
- 2 ballfields
- 4 tennis courts
- Basketball courts

Facilities lacking in the sub area

- Pavilions/gazebos
- Picnic shelters/tables/grills
- Restrooms
- Covered ballfields
- Dog parks
- Tracks
- An open multi-use lawn

Table 01: Park Facilities within Range of the Proposed Historic Fourth Ward Park

NAME	SIZE	NEIGHBORHOOD	WITHIN SUBAREA 5	WITHIN 1 MILE OF PROPOSED PARK
Bass Recreation Center	1 acre	Inman Park	yes	yes
• 2,300 sf playground				
Boulevard-Angier Park	under 1 acre	Bedford-Pine	no	yes
• passive park space only				
Central Park	17 acres	Bedford-Pine	no	yes
• 12,500 sf playground				
• 2 ballfields				
• 4 tennis courts				
• 2 basketball courts				
• recreation center				
Charles Allen Median	under 1 acre	Midtown	no	yes
• passive park space only				
Delta Park	under 1 acre	Inman Park	yes	yes
• passive park space only				
Findley Plaza	under 1 acre	Inman Park	no	yes
• passive park space				
• stage				
Freedom Park	124 acres	Poncey-Highlands	yes	yes
• playground				
• 3.5 miles of Path Foundation bike/pedestrian trails				
Greenwood-Charles Allen Triangle	under 1 acre	Midtown	no	yes
• passive park space only				
Inman Park	under 1 acre	Inman Park	yes	yes
• passive park space only				
Inman Park Trolley Barn	1 acre	Inman Park	yes	yes
• rental facility				
J.D. Sims Recreation Center	1 acre	Old Fourth Ward	yes	yes
• 4,000 sf playground				
• basketball court				
• recreation center				
John Howell Memorial Park	3 acres	Virginia-Highland	no	yes
• 2,000 sf playground				
• volleyball court				
M.L.K. Natatorium	10 acres	Butler Street - Auburn Ave.	yes	yes
• indoor swimming pool				
Morgan-Boulevard Park	under 1 acre	Bedford-Pine	yes	yes
• 3,600 sf playground				
• basketball court				
Parkway-Angier Park	under 1 acre	Bedford-Pine	no	yes

• basketball court				
Parkway-Merritts Park	1 acre	Bedford-Pine	no	yes
• basketball court				
Parkway-Wabash Park	1 acre	Bedford-Pine	no	yes
• 100 sf playground				
• basketball court				
Ray Kluka Memorial Park	under 1 acre	Midtown	no	yes
• passive park space only				
Renaissance Park	6 acres	Bedford-Pine	no	yes
• passive park space only				
Springvale Park	4 acres	Inman Park	yes	yes
• 3,400 sf playground				
• lake				
Todd Street Triangle	under 1 acre	Virginia-Highland	no	yes
• passive park space only				
Vedado-Greenwood Triangle (under 1 acre)	under 1 acre	Midtown	no	yes
• passive park space only				

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The Process

Initial Community-Driven Design (March 2006)

A previous design team in collaboration with the Friends of Historic Fourth Ward Park developed an initial program for park development in March 2006. Their efforts suggested the following elements and identified concerns to be addressed during the subsequent design of the park.

Proposed Park Program Elements from “Initial Community-Driven Design”

- A soft edge to the lake (without allowing access to the water)
- A dog park (clearly defined, and within the less desirable/under-utilized parcels of the park)
- Trails (multi-use, including pedestrian, bike, in-line skating, etc.)
- Sport fields
- Interesting water features (perhaps a waterfall, or some type of interactive fountain)
- A space for community interaction (spaces for meeting rooms)
- Event space (such as a rental space like the Trolley Barn, but not as grand as Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park)
- An outdoor theater (which would accommodate between 500 and 3,000 guests with both permanent and flexible seating, and would encourage BeltLine use, rather than neighborhood parking)
- Large lawn space
- Picnic areas (both smaller scale picnic tables, and pavilions for larger gatherings)
- Active recreation areas (occurring south of Ralph McGill and including multi-purpose fields)
- Public restroom facilities
- Concession stands (to be located in small kiosks throughout the park)
- A library (with a focus on children’s literature, and a potential space to hold smaller events, such as movie screenings)
- A flexible outdoor event space (able to

accommodate markets, small concerts, parties, etc.)

Park Design Considerations/ Concerns

- Maintenance
- Safety (especially the discouragement of the homeless population from settling, and the constant patrol of the park)
- Provision for a future influx of children to the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood as younger couples begin to start families
- Handicapped accessibility
- Fencing (used to define the edges of the park rather than to discourage use)
- Sport fields (maintenance and control)
- Parking (could be accommodated along Ralph McGill in bulb-outs)
- Bringing early evening and nighttime life to the park (this could be accomplished through restaurants, cafes, retail or festivals)
- Future street connections (both North/South, and East/West across the BeltLine)
- The creation of way-finding devices that speak to the historic and industrial character of the area
- Potential to raise money through a permanent fundraising device (for instance through the selling of bricks with donors names, as was done in Centennial Olympic Park)
- Bringing the feel and texture of the adjacent neighborhoods into the park
- Pocket parks with a consistent theme (one example was a music theme)
- WiFi accessibility throughout the park
- Play areas that have easily monitored access points
- Involving the local community in helping to landscape the park

Concept Park Master Plan – Steering Committee Comments (October 2007)

In a meeting with the Subarea 5 Steering Committee on October 23, 2007, the consultant presented three different concept plans. Each plan featured a different combination of program elements and different configurations of potential park parcels for acquisition.

Figure 01 - Park Master Plan Concept A



Concept Plan A

Likes

- Feel of a linear park
- Placement of tennis courts
- A single pond concept
- Orientation of the outdoor theater
- Use of a large wall for art or activities
- Multiple uses and connections

Comments

- Playground functions better next to picnic area
- Potential exists for multiple picnic areas
- Does it have the ability to expand west or east?
- Parking lots may need to be larger
- Skate park and fields in a remote corner might attract crime
- The position and size of the pond walls might pose a security risk

Figure 02 - Park Master Plan Concept B



Concept Plan B

Likes

- Minimal grading for a split pond
- Splash pad
- Festival space
- Feels like two separate parks...one active and one passive
- Traffic circulation on eastern side

Dislikes

- Disconnection of Cox property leaves it hard to maintain and keep safe
- Not enough sports fields and associated parking
- Splitting the pond in two
- Number of street crossings
- Amount of park space fronting Ralph McGill, and the isolation of the festival space

Figure 03 - Park Master Plan Concept C



Concept Plan C

Likes

- Separation and location of the dog park
- Trails surrounding the pond
- Grouping of playground, picnic space and associated parking
- Length of the pond
- Compact nature of the park
- Grand promenade from North to Ralph McGill

Dislikes

- Connections to the eastern parcel are not optimal
- Discontinuous flow of circulation throughout the park
- Entrance on Ralph McGill isn't grand enough
- Issues with the pond elevation, and the amount of space it takes up
- Not as much programming
- Isolation of the Cox property

General Steering Committee Comments

Likes

- Use of a splash pad rather than a public pool
- Open programmable festival space
- Multiple parking lots associated with different park programming
- A mixture of passive and active uses
- Flow from Elizabeth to North Avenue works well

Comments

- Pedestrian access to the park crossing Ralph McGill should put the pedestrian as the priority
- Splash park and playgrounds should be adjacent to one another
- Make sure that the festival space is accessible for loading and unloading

Dislikes

- No strong western entrance to the park from Glenn Iris and the neighborhood
- Street going through the park...even a temporary road could become permanent
- Use of a tall fence around the pond creating a visual and physical barrier to the water
- Some of the parcels seem remote and may be more difficult to maintain and keep safe
- Not enough thought about the needs of an aging population
- No designated community meeting space

Draft Park Master Plan Steering Committee Comments (November 2007)

Likes

- Hierarchy of circulation routes
- Flexibility and quantity of programming
- Proximity of playground to splash pad
- Separation of active and passive uses
- Flexible space for festivals, markets, etc. as gateway to Ralph McGill
- Opportunities for public art throughout the park
- Variety of parking options
- Single pond concept as an opportunity for a bold statement

Dislikes

- Lack of playground in the more active southern half
- No public restrooms
- Lots of tennis and no skate park

Translation of the Vision Into Park Elements

After review of the comments and concerns raised from the evaluation of the initial three concept park designs, the planning team assembled a list of desired elements for inclusion in the final park plan. The list of elements included the following items, with other elements to be added as space allowed:

- Multi-use Fields
- Dog Parks (for small and large dogs)
- Picnic Areas
- Lawns
- Playgrounds
- Splash Pad
- Festival Space
- Garden Rooms
- Community Gardens
- Skate Park
- Outdoor theater space
- Fitness Stations

Previous suggestions from the initial community-driven design and from the BeltLine Northeast Study Group were discussed and either added to the above list, or removed from consideration due to factors such as cost, feasibility of use by neighborhood residents or space requirements.

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Master Plan

The Master Plan celebrates two key elements in the park: public art and innovative stormwater management. The Master Plan envisions a park with a balance of passive and active recreation uses. The Master Plan re-envision parking lots, buildings, and groves of trees as a green oasis linked by a network of pedestrian paths.

Program Elements

Vehicular Circulation

To maintain the continuity of the park, the plan proposes the permanent closure of several east-west streets to vehicular traffic. The idea is not to discourage access, but rather to encourage circulation around the perimeter of the park. In activating the area, it also adds safety and security by putting eyes on the park. In addition, the new roadways will provide critical north-south routes for local residents and commuters who currently use Glenn Iris, Freedom Parkway, or Highland to get from North Avenue to their respective destinations.

In addition, the closed streets can then be refitted into the primary pedestrian/bike circulation routes with only some minor changes to the hardscape.



Successful vehicular circulation along the edge of a park in London, England



Eco-sensitive paving option at Ladd Stadium in Mobile, AL includes pervious pavement and bioswales

Parking

The concept proposes primary day to day parking needs serviced with on street parking spaces. In addition, two distinct parking areas service the park. The first is on North Angier Street at the corner of the proposed Dallas connection to the BeltLine, servicing the northern portion of the park. This parking could either be a surface lot or a parking structure that could generate funds. Demand for this type of parking should be determined by the ultimate use for the amphitheater, with an initial estimate of approximately 50 spaces. One additional parking area would service the active recreation for the Southern portion of the park and should accommodate around 30 vehicles.



Pervious paving allows stormwater to percolate into the ground

Pedestrian Circulation

Pedestrian circulation would occur on a hierarchy of paths. Major linear paths would use the existing road footprints, while secondary paths would meander throughout the site. The primary paths would be highlighted through plantings of tree allees, which would act as a shade element and way-finding tool. Users could choose a specific loop based on walking distance around the park. All of the paths would be made from a hard material and would be at a grade compliant with ADA standards.

Multi-use fields

There is a recognized shortage of multi-use fields in Atlanta. The Cox property at the southeastern end of the site will provide dedicated 180' x 260' multi-use space for a variety of sports such as soccer, football, rugby, and ultimate Frisbee. The "open



Multi-use fields can flexibly accommodate a range of activities from soccer to baseball and football



Reuse of a former street as a primary park path in which the curb and side-walks are removed

meadow" north of Ralph McGill can also serve as a 400' x 200' multi-use field space. In both areas, artificial turf may be used to maximize use and minimize drought impacts.

Dog Parks (Small and Large Dogs)

The community identified a need for dog parks within this park. Although not shown as part of the current master plan, several potential areas for this amenity have been identified. The northwest corner of North Angier and Ralph McGill is one strong possibility, as are taking corners from the "flexibility play lawn", "event lawn" or "open meadow". It is imperative that the community remain involved in identifying a location for dog parks, as well in their development and ongoing maintenance.

Any dog park(s) will have double gated entries with fenced areas. The entry areas will be carefully located to minimize conflicts with visitors that do not want to interact with dogs. The entry area should have concrete surfaces to withstand heavy use. Water fountains in the dog park are another amenity that should be considered. Maintenance practices used



Figure 04 - Historic Fourth Ward Park Master Plan





Dog parks have become a common part of today's urban environment where city-dwellers lack yards

in the large dog park should be similar to turf sports fields, including fertilization, aeration, mowing, and over-seeding. Irrigation will help the turf withstand the intensive use of a dog park. A successful

method of turf management in other dog parks is the rotation of use areas to allow turf to recover from heavy activity. The dog park would need to be divided in half to accommodate rotation. The small size of these parks may preclude this management system.

The provision for an amenity such as a dog park, and its associated maintenance will have to be assumed by a community organization space, as the Parks Department will not maintain a recreational space that is under two acres.

Picnic Areas

An area located in the center of the park to the south of the stormwater pond will offer an ideal spot for picnics. The highlight of this area will be several shelters with an architectural design inspired by the Ponce De Leon Amusement Park shelters that were once located nearby. The design should reference these shelters rather than attempt a direct replication. These structures will create a link to the rich history of the site.

Lawns

Four lawns will serve as flexible open space for use in informal recreation and passive enjoyment. An approximate 4.6 acre meadow in a level area on the east side of the park will create a large space framed by 0.4 mile walking path. Additional meadows in the center of the park will offer rolling slopes ideal for picnics and sunbathing. The soil should be carefully prepared in these meadows to promote



The original structures found in Ponce Park should inspire the design of contemporary picnic pavillions



The lawn at Piedmont Park is popular year round

deep root growth for the turf. Deep root growth lessens the amount of water that will be required for the turf. These meadows should be designed and managed in a less intensive manner than the formal athletic fields.

Playgrounds

The two playground areas for the park will afford play opportunities for children of all ages and maintain safety through adult supervision during daylight areas. The playground area located in the southeast corner of the park will consist of play areas that appeal to both toddlers and older children, with a range of play equipment, including swing sets and play structures. A second playground will be located near the splash pad at the center of the park. This play area will be designed as a children's play space. The play space will be laid out as a natural sequence of "events" – small-scale, intimate places, ripe for exploration and full of things for

kids to do. It will be an experiential space that will intrigue and delight visitors of all ages. Canopy trees will be planted to create shade near the play areas. Shade structures will help supplement the shade, while newly planted trees mature.



Modern day playgrounds can be thought of as an interactive art installation piece, rather than as traditional ready-made equipment

Splash Pad

With a central location and a dynamic attraction for park visitors, the splash pad will be a focal point of the park in warm weather. As the Olympic fountains of Centennial Olympic Park demonstrate, the splash pad will be a magnet for children and will entertain visitors of all ages. The water feature may also provide an opportunity for the incorporation of public art. Careful design of the plaza surface and features in the splash pad will ensure that the splash pad is an amenity at all times of the year.



Splash pads are quickly becoming a sustainable alternative approach to public pools

The Splash Pad will need to be designed to Fulton County Pool Standards, including a restroom facility located within 300' feet of the splash pad.

Space also needs to be provided around the perimeter of the splash pad to accommodate parents, caregivers, and spectators.

Festival Space

An open lawn at the northern end of the park will serve as a gathering place for events. A perimeter path and two interior paths will provide circulation through this approximate 2.9 acre space.



Park areas, such as Centennial Olympic Park, can be readily transformed into an active festival space

Garden Rooms

A series of garden rooms at the southern end of the park space will create attractive alcoves where visitors can relax on benches with a view of the adjacent path. A low hedge will define each garden room to create a sense of enclosure, while maintaining views into the spaces. A formal allee of trees will define the ceiling of the "rooms" and create shade.

Community Garden

Another essential piece of the park program is the community garden. Like dog park(s), there are several areas within the park that could be home to



Garden rooms should feel like they are close, secluded spaces, but still be transparent enough for safety purposes

the community garden. Community involvement as the park grows to its final size will be critical in identifying a location for and implementing this piece of the program.



Community gardens are a great way for people who live in the city to learn about the environment, and feel like they have their own piece of land

Skate Park

An approximate 12,000 SF skate park will be located in the Cox property on the southeastern end of the

park. This location will provide good access to the East-West MARTA line, the future BeltLine transit, and a network of pedestrian paths in Freedom Park and the BeltLine. This park will feature elements commonly found in urban plazas as well as concrete ramps or bowls. A fence will encircle this skate park with a gated entrance. A skate park designer should be consulted in the design of the elements for the skate park.

Amenities such as drinking fountains, lighting and shade structures should be included, as well as adequate space for spectators.



Rather than occurring underground, skateboarding is becoming increasingly mainstream, with many cities investing in the creation of parks

Outdoor Theater

A 250 seat outdoor theater will be terraced into a hillside near the stormwater pond. Seat walls will define the edge of the terraces with flat lawn areas in between. The sunken garden and pond will create a dramatic backdrop for the outdoor theater.

Sunken Garden

The descent into the recessed cove surrounding the pond will take visitors into an experience apart from the rest of the park, a sunken garden. A sinuous network of paths will wind through this lushly



An outdoor theater that uses the surrounding topography and natural elements

planted landscape of flowers, shrubs, and trees. Plantings will emphasize broad sweeps and drifts of color of drought tolerant plants. The advantage of a sunken garden is that the user has the feeling of seclusion and privacy, while at the same time being highly visible to those above them.

Storm Water Pond

The City's Department of Watershed Management has provided funding for a storm water pond which is providing capacity relief for the nearby combined sewer while integrating aesthetically into the park. The storm water pond will be owned and primarily maintained by the Department of Watershed Management, and as a critical piece of the City's sewer infrastructure, may be subject to constraints and requirements different from that of the surrounding park. For instance, during heavy storms, the pond is designed to fill up and inundate walking pathways and plazas. During this time and immediately afterwards, public access will be restricted. However, the storm water pond is designed to minimize downtime as well as maintenance, and it is anticipated that it will become a highly-utilized park amenity.



The sunken feeling of Butchart Gardens in Canada



An artist's rendering of the proposed Storm water pond

Gateways

Major gateways should be incorporated where the highest volume of visitors will be entering the park. Gateways should include the major pedestrian entrances for the neighborhoods located on Ralph McGill Boulevard and North Avenue. Also of critical importance are the gateway elements to be located along North Angier and the BeltLine to help draw people into the park from the trail and transit.

Public Art

The incorporation of public art throughout the park and the participation of artists in the development of feature areas such as the splash pad zone encourages local artists and generates creative and cutting edge design alternatives to what would otherwise remain standard park elements, such as playground equipment. In addition, art done locally will help to incorporate the feeling and attitude of the local community and evoke the nature and history of the neighborhoods.



A piece of public art made from repurposed tires



Hidden valtakunta -The Sacred Realm of the Forest Elf

Sustainability

Sustainability policies are recommended to minimize the environmental impact of park development. Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A sustainable approach to park design will result in long-term economic and health benefits.

Measures can be undertaken in new construction, site design, and park management. If enclosed facilities are considered for future developments in the park, they should adhere to sustainable design and construction principles. The LEED™ building rating system can be used as a minimum benchmark for enclosed climate-controlled facilities. This system, developed by the United States Green Building Council, offers third party verification of a project's sustainable features. Likewise, the Sustainable Sites Initiative can guide the development of

the non-enclosed park infrastructure. Innovative strategies for site design and management include tree preservation and tree canopy maximization, drought-tolerant landscape design, improved storm water management, and storm water capture for irrigation systems, minimization of impervious land cover, and reduced automobile usage.

One key area where the park can lessen its impact on the environment is by minimizing the urban heat island effect. Many of the design solutions proposed in this Master Plan will address this issue, such as the conversion of surface parking lots and buildings into lawn areas, the preservation of existing tree canopy, and tree planting along existing road beds in advance of park development. Other techniques that would mitigate the urban heat island effect include parking lot tree islands, maintaining tree cover, light colored roofing, and



Constructed wetland at National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC



Bioretention system, South Australia Museum

green roofs.

Many of these measures will have the additional benefit of improving the storm water management on the site by reducing the amount of impervious surface in the park. Other techniques that would improve the water quality of the storm water on the site include the use of porous pavements, as proposed for the two parking lots. When porous pavements such as porous concrete, gravel, and porous unit pavers are considered for new developments, the life cycle costs and the accompanying infrastructure should be taken into consideration. Porous pavements may cost more than conventional asphalt or concrete in comparison of material cost, but they may require less infrastructure (storm pipes and catch basins) or less land for detention areas.

Another opportunity for sustainable park development is the use of rain gardens and constructed wetlands to promote infiltration of



Bioretention system, Victoria Park, Zetland Australia



Drought tolerant plants

storm water. The storm water pond will be the most visible water treatment measure in the park, but other measures can be woven into the design of the park, such as rain gardens. Rain gardens are landscaped bio-retention areas that catch and then filter storm water by allowing the water to infiltrate into the soil. Developments in the park are bound by law (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System NPDES regulations) to control the quantity and quality of the storm water leaving the site. Developments in the park should look beyond fulfilling the basic requirements of this law to explore ways to make storm water management visible to the public. This approach could include taking water that is currently in storm pipes and redirecting it to a natural overland flow to improve water quality and infiltration of storm water. Rain gardens and constructed wetlands can be designed so that the infiltration of storm water is visible to park visitors, rather than screened from view in fenced off detention ponds. Rain gardens can thus become amenities and opportunities for educational signage.

The conversion of the existing road beds into

pedestrian pathways are an excellent opportunity for rain gardens. A linear rain garden can be created on each side of these pathways by converting the asphalt into bio-retention areas. Weirs can be integrated into the rain gardens to promote infiltration. This system would help clean the storm water before the water flows into the existing storm water system. These linear rain gardens would create a dispersed infiltration system that simulates the natural hydrology of the site.

The reuse of these existing road beds highlights another sustainable component of this master plan. In addition to saving money, the reuse of these road beds will limit the amount of demolition waste and new resources that are required for park development.

Naturalistic landscape management can be employed in select areas of the park. With the large area of turf grass in the park there will be limited opportunities for this management technique. Some of the landscape management methods that can be employed include the following:

- Use of native plants to provide habitat and food source for wildlife
- Retaining dead trees or stumps for wildlife habitat (only in areas away from pedestrian paths, after consultation with a licensed arborist)
- Include bird and bat nesting boxes

These landscape management measures must be balanced with the needs of park users, as well as safety and aesthetic considerations.

Water use is a vital concern today in Metro Atlanta, and will continue to be an important consideration in the future. Rainwater harvested from roofs and paved areas can also be used as a source of irrigation water. The storm water pond could be used as a potential source of irrigation water for the site. The best way to minimize water use in the landscape is through design that uses drought tolerant plants, groups plants with similar needs, and considers micro-climates. If irrigation is required for areas, water efficient irrigation technologies such as rain sensors and drip irrigation should be utilized. Drip

irrigation can be used in place of traditional spray rotary heads to limit the amount of water used.

Additionally, energy-consuming devices such as lights and pumps should be selected for low power consumption in addition to meeting performance requirements. LED streetlights, for instance, use up to 50% less energy than standard streetlights, reducing both energy use and operating costs. These efforts can be further enhanced by seeking opportunities for small-scale distributed power generation such as wind and PV solar.

The park's location along the BeltLine will facilitate transit, bicycle, and walking access. Use of these alternatives modes of transit will lessen the amount of traffic and the amount of land area dedicated to parking. The extensive network of pathways in the park will promote walking and bicycling. Automobiles will be a primary means of transport to the park, especially for those transporting supplies for the landscape; picnics or other events; the disabled, etc.; but given the limited land available and the desire to minimize the ecological footprint of the park, efforts should be made through user groups to encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation.

Operation and Maintenance

The Historic 4th Ward park has been planned in such a way to minimize maintenance requirements. The plant palette in Appendix A is developed to encourage the use of native and adaptive species to minimize inputs for water and overall maintenance.



Drip irrigation installation



Figure 05 - Phase I development program

Design Guidelines

The park's visual quality, user-friendliness and sense of place will benefit from a consistent approach to materials, site furniture, landscaping, lighting, and signage.

Material Palette

A simple palette of low-maintenance, durable materials should be utilized in the park, including the following: asphalt, concrete, and granite.

Rough granite ashlar stone walls should be a primary building material for wall construction in the park. Granite is a local material that is relatively economical and links the park with the regional landscape.



Granite random ashlar wall

Site Furnishings

In order to create a unique park experience, a design competition should be sponsored for the benches to be installed in specific areas of the park such as the sunken garden. Custom designed site furnishings would reinforce the sense of place. The standard guidelines of durable, functional, low maintenance materials should be employed in the evaluation of custom designed features.

Standard BeltLine furnishings should be used throughout the remainder of the park.

Lighting

The same lighting fixtures that are used throughout the BeltLine should be used in the park.

Signage

A consistency of design and materials for all public realm signage should be maintained. The signage should allow the opportunity for an expression of the specific character of the park while providing useful guidance in park visitor wayfinding. These signs should be limited in both size and quantity to prevent visual clutter in all areas of the park. The locations of these signs should primarily be at the major park entrances - Ralph McGill, Angier Connection, and North Avenue.

Additional signs should include interpretive and wayfinding signs that highlight the unique character of the park, identify the primary circulation routes and provide orientation, and interpret the natural systems employed for the treatment of storm water and the site's heritage as the former location of Clear Creek.

Planting Design

Plant palettes

A range of plants suitable to wetland areas, arboretum plantings, and general landscape areas are outlined in Appendix A. There are two themes common to these plant palettes: plants that require minimal maintenance and irrigation are to be used, and no invasive plants are recommended. Invasive plants, such as English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*), and Elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus pungens*), have a deleterious impact on native ecosystems within the park and should be avoided. Plants that require ongoing care and excessive maintenance throughout their life span should not be used. It is not sustainable for the park's maintenance budget or the region's water resources for plants that require long term water and care to be used.

The Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum, formed through Trees Atlanta will be a primary source for much of the larger landscape materials, such as trees and shrubs. Various areas along the BeltLine have been selected as locations for nursery stock as well as arboretum specimen plantings.

Planting Design

Three guidelines apply to all landscape plantings

- Plants should be massed to create a bold appearance.
- Avoid using trees and shrubs with low branches where visibility is important, such as path and sidewalk areas. Large shrubs should not be planted next to walkway areas, so that pedestrian views are obscured. Good visibility is important for safety
- Use well defined layers of plants

Appendix A



American Holly, *Ilex opaca*



Bottlebrush Buckeye, *Aesculus parviflora*



Piedmont Azalea, *Rhododendron canescens*

Arboretum Plant Palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Canopy Trees

Liriodendron tulipifera
Acer rubrum
Quercus phellos
Quercus coccinea
Ulmus parviflora

Tulip Poplar
Red Maple
Willow Oak
Scarlet Oak
Chinese Elm

Evergreen Trees

Ilex opaca
Magnolia grandiflora
'Claudia Wannemaker'

American Holly
Claudia Wannemaker
Magnolia

Understory Trees

Amelanchier arborea
Asimina triloba
Chionanthus virginicus
Cercis canadensis
Cornus florida
Cornus kousa
Cotinus obovata
Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'
Lagerstroemia indica
Oxydendrum arboreum

Serviceberry
Pawpaw
Fringe tree
Redbud
Flowering dogwood
Kousa Dogwood
American Smoketree
Winter King Hawthorn
Crape Myrtle
Sourwood

Large Evergreen Shrubs

Abelia x grandiflora
Camellia japonica
Camellia sasanqua
Gardenia jasminoides 'August Beauty'
Osmanthus americanus
Osmanthus x fortunei
Osmanthus fragrans
Rhododendron 'Indica Hybrids'

Abelia
Camellia
Sasanqua
August Beauty Gardenia
Devilwood
Fortune's Osmanthus
Tea Olive
Indica Azalea

Large Deciduous Shrubs

Aesculus parviflora
Buddleia davidii
Croton alabemensis
Deutzia scabra
Hydrangea quercifolia
Philadelphus coronarius
Punica granatum

Bottlebrush Buckeye
Butterfly Bush
Alabama Croton
Deutzia
Oakleaf hydrangea
Sweet Mock-Orange
Pomegranate



Crossvine, *Bignonia capreolata*



Carolina Yellow Jessamine,
Gelsemium sempervirens

Rhododendron austrinum
Rhododendron canescens
Vaccinium ashei
Viburnum bracteatum
 ‘Emerald Luster’
Viburnum microcephalum
Viburnum nudum
Viburnum plicatum tomentosum
Viburnum x juddii

Low Evergreen Shrubs

Ilex vomitoria ‘Nana’
Ilex glabra ‘Shamrock’
Jasminum floridum
Kerria japonica ‘Shannon’
Ruscus aculeatus
Viburnum obovatum
Yucca filamentosa

Low Deciduous Shrubs

Callicarpa americana
Calycanthus floridus
Euonymus americanus
Hypericum frondosum ‘Sunburst’
Itea virginica
Rosa ‘Knockout’

Vines

Bignonia capreolata
Gelsemium sempervirens
Rosa banksia ‘Lutea’

Groundcover

Hemerocallis species
Echinacea purpurea ‘Kim’s Knee High’
Liriope muscari
Muhlenbergia capillaris
Polystichum acrostichoides
Rudbeckia fulgida ‘Goldstrum’

Florida Azalea
Piedmont Azalea
Highbush Blueberry
Bracted Viburnum
 ‘Emerald Luster’
Chinese Snowball Viburnum
Smooth Witherod
Summer Snowflake Viburnum
Judd Viburnum

Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Inkberry
Florida Jasmine
Japanese Kerria
Butcher’s Broom
Small Viburnum
Yucca

Beautyberry
Sweetshrub
Strawberry bush
Sunburst St. John’s Wort
Virginia Sweetspire
Knockout Rose

Crossvine
Carolina Yellow Jessamine
Lady Bank’s Rose

Daylily
Coneflower
Liriope
Pink Muhly Grass
Christmas Fern
Black eyed Susan



Cryptomeria, *Cryptomeria japonica*



Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*



Wax Myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*

Evergreen Screening Plant Palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Evergreen Trees

- Cryptomeria japonica
- Ilex opaca
- Ilex latifolia
- Ilex attenuata ‘Savannah’
- Juniperus virginiana
- Magnolia virginiana
- Magnolia grandiflora
- Myrica cerifera
- Osmanthus x fortunei
- Pinus taeda
- Prunus caroliniana

- Cryptomeria
- American Holly
- Lusterleaf Holly
- Savannah Holly
- Eastern Red Cedar
- Sweetbay
- Magnolia
- Wax Myrtle
- Fortune’s Osmanthus
- Loblolly Pine
- Cherry Laurel

Large Evergreen Shrubs

- Agarista populifolia
- Ilex vomitoria
- Illicium parviflorum

- Leucothoe
- Yaupon Holly
- Small Anise

Low Evergreen Shrubs

- Ilex cornuta ‘Carissa’
- Ilex glabra
- Ilex vomitoria ‘Nana’
- Viburnum obovatum ‘Reifler’s Dense’

- Carissa Holly
- Inkberry
- Dwarf yaupon holly
- Reiflers Dense Small Viburnum

Vines

- Gelsemium sempervirens

- Carolina Yellow Jessamine



Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*



Black Gum/Tupelo, *Nyssa sylvatica*

Rain Garden Plant Palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Canopy Trees

- Acer rubrum ‘October Glory’
- Betula nigra
- Nyssa sylvatica
- Quercus lyrata
- Taxodium distichum

- October Glory Red Maple
- River Birch
- Blackgum
- Overcup Oak
- Common Bald Cypress

Low Evergreen Shrubs

- Ilex glabra

- Inkberry

Groundcover

- Chasmanthium latifolium
- Crinum americanum
- Dichromena colorata
- Eleocharis sp.
- Equisetum sp.
- Iris fulva
- Juncus effusus
- Osmunda cinnamomea
- Zephyranthes atamasco

- River Oats
- Crinum
- Whitetop sedge
- Spike rush
- Horsetail
- Copper Iris
- Soft Rush
- Cinnamon Fern
- Atamasco Lily



Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*



Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*

Stormwater Pond Plant Palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Canopy Trees

Acer saccharum
Acer rubrum
Betula nigra
Nyssa sylvatica
Quercus lyrata 'Highbeam'
Salix babylonica
Salix nigra
Taxodium distichum

Sugar Maple
Red Maple
River Birch
Blackgum
Highbeam Overcup Oak
Weeping Willow
Black Willow
Common Bald Cypress

Deep Water

Nuphar luteum
Nymphaea odorata

Spattedock
Fragrant Waterlily

Shallow Water Bench

Carex sp.
Hibiscus sp.
Hymenocallis sp.
Iris sp.
Juncus effusus
Panicum virgatum
Peltandra virginica
Pontederia cordata
Saurus cernus
Thalia dealbata

Sedges
Hibiscus
Spider-Lily
Louisiana Iris
Soft Rush
Switchgrass
Tuckahoe
Pickeral Plant
Lizard's tail
Thalia

Shoreline Fringe

Asclepias incarnata
Cephalanthus occidentalis 'Sputnik'
Chasmanthium latifolium
Clethra alnifolia 'Sixteen Candles'
Eleocharis sp.
Itea virginica
Lobelia cardinalis
Onoclea sensibilis
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis

Swamp Milkweed
Buttonbush
River oats
Sweet Pepperbush
Spike rush
Virginia Sweetspire
Cardinal Flower
Sensitive Fern
Cinnamon Fern
Royal Fern



Ronweed, *Vernonia gigantea*

Riparian Fringe

- Andropogon virginicus
- Eupatorium coelestinum
- Eupatorium fistulosum
- Helianthus angustifolius
- Sorghastrum nutans
- Vernonia gigantea

- Broomsedge
- Wild Ageratum
- Joe Pye Weed
- Swamp Sunflower
- Indiangrass
- Ironweed

Floodplain terrace

- Agarista populifolia
- Callicarpa americana
- Illicium parviflorum
- Sambucus canadensis
- Vaccinium ashei
- Viburnum dentatum
- Viburnum nudum

- Leucothoe
- Beautyberry
- Anise
- Elderberry
- Blueberry
- Arrowwood Viburnum
- Possumhaw Viburnum



Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*



Arrowwood Viburnum, *Viburnum dentatum*



Prairie Dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis*



Russian Sage, *Perovskia*

Meadow Plant Palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Grasses

- Muhlenbergia capillaris
- Panicum virgatum ‘Northwind’
- Panicum virgatum ‘Cloud Nine’
- Schizachryium scoparium ‘The Blues’
- Sporobolus heterolepis

- Pink Muhly Grass
- Northwind’ Switchgrass
- Cloud Nine Panic Grass
- The Blues Little bluestem
- Prarie Dropseed

Perennials

- Amsonia hubrichtii
- Asclepias tuberosa
- Baptisia alba
- Echinacea cultivars
- Eryngium yuccifolium
- Gaura lindheimeri
- Liatris microcephala
- Perovskia
- Rudbeckia fulgida ‘Goldstrum’
- Solidago ‘Fireworks’

- Arkansas Amsonia
- Milkweed
- White False Indigo
- Coneflower
- Rattlesnake Master
- Whirling Butterflies
- Liatris
- Russian Sage
- Black eyed Susan
- Fireworks Goldenrod

Bulbs

- Narcissus pseudonarcissus

- Daffodills (Ice Follies, Carlton, Camperrelli cultivars)



Inkberry, *Ilex glabra*



Liriope, *Liriope spicata*

Streetscape/ Parking Area Plant Palette

Botanical Name

Common Name

Canopy Trees

Quercus nuttallii 'QNSTC'	Esplanade Nuttall Oak
Quercus x 'QS20'	Promenade Red Oak
Metasequoia glyptostrobodies '1042'	Dawn Redwood

Understory Trees

Acer buergerianum	Trident Maple
Cercis canadensis	Redbud
Chionanthus virginicus	Fringe tree
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape Myrtle
Quercus georgiana	Georgia Oak
Parrotia persica	Parrotia

Low Evergreen Shrubs

Ilex cornuta 'Carissa'	Carissa Holly
Ilex glabra	Inkberry
Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'	Dwarf yaupon holly
Viburnum obovatum 'Reifler's Dense'	Reiflers Dense Small Viburnum

Low Deciduous Shrubs

Hypericum frondosum	St. John's Wort
Itea virginica	Virginia Sweetspire

Groundcover

Chasmanthium latifolium	River oats
Echinacea purpurea 'Kim's Knee High'	Coneflower
Hemerocallis species	Daylily
Liriope muscari	Liriope
Liriope spicata	Liriope
Ophiopogon japonicus	Mondo Grass
Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'	Dwarf Maiden Grass
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Pink Muhly Grass
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldstrum'	Black eyed Susan
Sporobolous hetreolopus	Prarie Dropseed