



## WESTSIDE WATCH!



*Granite-clad walls, ducts banks, and several retaining ponds are shaping up along the length of the Westside Trail.* The undulating outline of the trail is clearly visible as construction crews continue to grade and build. In March 2015, the railroad bridge that once spanned Martin Luther King Jr. Drive was removed. The bridge abutments are nearly complete and the steel beams for the new bridge will swing into place the weekend of June 11-12.

The Westside Trail, a 3-mile corridor that will house transit and a multi-use trail, is expected to be complete by the end of 2017. The trail will connect four more schools, historic southwest Atlanta neighborhoods, acres of greenspace, together with alternative transportation options. See our gallery of construction photos here: [bit.ly/1MTcuGg](http://bit.ly/1MTcuGg).

## URBAN FARM

*The Urban Farm is now in its second year.* The farmers, Andrea and Andy, have prepared the soil to receive the kale, collards, summer squash, peppers, okra, and more that they have raised in the hoop house. They have also produced microgreens that can be sold to local restaurants.

The site contains a well and pump, irrigation system, and wash station. Andrea and Andy continue to nurture a partnership with Compostwheels, who supply compost for the farm.



## ATLANTA BELTLINE AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Johna Jamison purchased her home in the Shoe Factory Lofts using downpayment assistance from the Atlanta BeltLine Housing Initiative Program.

*In April, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., in partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, launched the 2016 affordable housing assistance program.* Back for a second year, this housing initiative offers eligible homebuyers downpayment assistance for 20 percent of the purchase price of a home up to \$45,000.

Funding is available exclusively to FHLBank Atlanta member financial institutions and their eligible customers earning 80 percent or less than the area median income.

Johna Jamison took advantage of the program to purchase her home in the

Shoe Factory Lofts. The moment she set foot in the 1 bed, 1.5 bath loft and soaked in the sunlight streaming in from the two-story windows, Johna knew she had arrived home. From that point, it was simply a matter of following all of the steps to complete her application and loan package to get to the closing table.

Today, she can hardly believe that her beautifully-decorated home is really all hers. Read her story and see her home as captured on WSB-TV: [bit.ly/1TgY53b](http://bit.ly/1TgY53b).

For more information on the program, visit [atlantabeltlinehomes.com](http://atlantabeltlinehomes.com).

## LOCAL BUSINESS ON THE ATLANTA BELTLINE

*Mrs. Devotis Lee is the proud proprietor of D's Cafe and Catering in Westview, a mere 0.2 miles from the Westside Trail.* Since construction began on the Westside Trail, business in and around her café has increased. Miss D's advice for business owners that are thinking about becoming part of the Atlanta BeltLine business community? "Come on! It's going to be a great opportunity, especially for small businesses and businesses that want to stay in the community." See Miss D's full story and watch the video here: [bit.ly/1U3aGqe](http://bit.ly/1U3aGqe).

We love capturing the stories of local business owners along the Atlanta BeltLine to see how it is improving their bottom line. If you have a great story of how the Atlanta BeltLine has helped your business, please email us at [business@atlbeltline.org](mailto:business@atlbeltline.org)!



## President & CEO Corner:



In May, we welcomed our new Vice President and General Counsel, Nina Hickson. Nina joins us from the City of Atlanta where she served Mayor Reed's administration as the Ethics Officer. Prior to that role, she served as the City Attorney and then Interim County Manager for the City of East Point. We look forward to working with Nina as she takes on this significant role with ABI.

In April, we were thrilled to reopen our affordable housing program for the second year. This partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta positively impacted nearly two dozen homeowners last year and we look forward to a larger program in 2016.



Westside Trail construction north of MLK, Jr. Drive. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.

While Westside Trail construction is in full swing, construction on the Eastside Trail Extension commenced in May. Additionally, design work is underway for the Southside Trail.

This fall, City of Atlanta residents could face an historic choice. Potential project lists are in development for two possible sales tax referenda. One is for MARTA transit and the other is for TSPLOST general transportation purposes. Both questions could include the Atlanta BeltLine in a big, bold way. Get involved as City Council moves toward a vote June 20th regarding the opportunity for the largest expansion of mass transit and transportation in recent history.

As always, we appreciate your support and engagement as we advance this program for Atlanta.

—Paul Morris

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Meeting/Event	Location
6/7/16	5:45-8PM	Quarterly Briefing	801 Glenwood Ave, 30312
6/20/16	1PM	City Council Meeting (Tax Referenda)	55 Trinity Ave, 30303
7/2/16	7-8PM	Run.Walk.Go! Club	1540 R.D. Abernathy, 30310
7/16/16	7:30-9:30AM	Run.Walk.Go! Westside 5k	1111 Oak Street, 30310
8/10/16	8:30-10AM	ABI Board of Directors Meeting	100 Peachtree St, Ste 2300
9/10/16	7:15-11:30PM	Atlanta BeltLine Lantern Parade	Eastside Trail at Irwin Street

For more details on upcoming events, please visit: [beltline.org/events](http://beltline.org/events). Free walking, biking, and bus tours are offered weekly; visit [beltline.org/tours](http://beltline.org/tours) to register. We offer an extensive roster of free fitness classes, all of which are listed on our calendar. Please register online at [beltline.org/fitnessup](http://beltline.org/fitnessup).

## ABI STAFF NEWS

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. is pleased to announce the following staff updates:



**Nina Hickson** joined ABI as Vice President and General Counsel.



**Henry Ikwut-Ukwa** joined ABI as Transportation Director.



**Valerie Strickland** joined ABI as Controller.



**Monica Collins** joined ABI as Real Estate Coordinator.

## 2016 Class of Fellows:

**Joe Baumann** is the Legal Fellow studying for his JD from Georgia State University.

**Sarasija Cheruvu** is the Economic Development Fellow and graduated with her Masters in Environmental Engineering from Georgia Tech.

**Julia Garver** is the Transportation Fellow and is studying for her Masters in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech.

**David Greenberg** is the Housing and Policy Development Fellow studying for his Masters in Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University.

**Christopher Langley** is the Art and Design Fellow and graduated with his Masters in Architecture from Georgia State University.

**Tyler McSwain** is the Planning Fellow and is studying for his Masters in Architecture from Kennesaw State University.

**Bithia Ratnasamy** is the Community Engagement Fellow studying for her Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan.

**Robert Vogel** is the Communications Fellow and is studying for his Masters in Sports Administration from the University of Miami.

**Travis Voyles** is the Real Estate Fellow and is studying for his JD from Florida State University.

**Chloe Weigle** is the Landscape Architecture Fellow and is studying for her Bachelors in Landscape Architecture from University of Georgia.

## MOBILE MEDICS

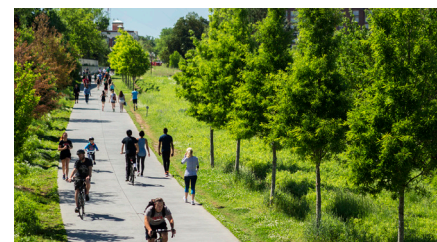


Keep an eye out for Mobile Medics, now patrolling the Eastside Trail! Photo credit: John Becker.

*Firefighters from Atlanta Fire and Rescue Department's Mobile Medics Bike Team recently joined the Atlanta Police Department's Path Force Unit out on the Eastside Trail.* These firefighters are specially trained and equipped EMT's and paramedics who are able to respond to medical emergencies. Mobile Medics and the Path Force will now work together to ensure the safety and security of visitors to the Atlanta BeltLine. For now, the Mobile Medics will be patrolling the Eastside Trail on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Coverage will be extended as trail volume usage increases.

## ARBORETUM

The Atlanta BeltLine team recently had the privilege of working with the Geospatial STEM Academy at Georgia State, which prepares local high school students for careers in geospatial technology. In four weeks, the students measured, labeled and digitally documented the trees along the Eastside Trail. The data was entered into the USDA's iTree program, which determined that 18,141 pounds of Carbon Dioxide are being withdrawn along the Eastside Trail. 18,141 pounds is 9 tons—equivalent to the amount of carbon dioxide produced by driving a car with 40mpg around the earth 1.25 times.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**The Honorable Kasim Reed**  
Mayor, City of Atlanta

**John Sommerhalder**  
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Chair; Chairman, President, and CEO, AGL Resources (Retired)

**Elizabeth B. Chandler**  
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Vice Chair; Vice President & General Counsel, Rollins, Inc.

**The Honorable Cynthia Briscoe Brown**  
Atlanta Board of Education, District 8 At Large

**The Honorable Andre Dickens**  
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. Treasurer; Atlanta City Councilmember, Post 3 At Large

**The Honorable Joan Garner**  
Fulton County Board of Commissioners, District 4

**Mike Donnelly**  
Atlanta BeltLine Partnership Appointee

**Ayana Gabriel**  
Community Representative

**Ernestine Garey**  
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Invest Atlanta

## GET YOUR LANTERNS!

Get prepared for this year's Atlanta BeltLine Lantern Parade on September 10! 14 inch, preprinted paper lanterns with an LED light and batteries are available for sale. Proceeds from every lantern purchase fund *Art on the Atlanta BeltLine*. Shop now at [shop.beltline.org](http://shop.beltline.org)!



## ABOUT US

The Atlanta BeltLine is the most comprehensive transportation and economic development effort ever undertaken in the City of Atlanta and among the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment programs currently underway in the United States. The Atlanta BeltLine will provide a network of public parks, multi-use trails, transit, jobs, 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).

## CONTACT US

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## SOCIAL MEDIA



@AtlantaBeltLine



## // CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Thanks to the support of thousands of Atlantans over the first ten years of the Atlanta BeltLine, we have achieved many milestones. The initial stages of the Atlanta BeltLine involved a lot of grassroots efforts and organizing from our earliest champions. The program has involved extensive planning, engagement, legislation, construction, and more. This snapshot shows just how far we've come in a decade.

### // 2005

#### APRIL

**The journey begins.** The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership (ABP) is created.

#### NOVEMBER

**Sharing the vision.** The Atlanta BeltLine Redevelopment Plan and the BeltLine TAD are approved by the Atlanta City Council, Fulton County Board of Commissioners, and the Atlanta Public School Board of Education following a 6-month process of community input.

Top: The Atlanta BeltLine began as a grassroots movement, garnering support from activists and civic leaders.

Bottom: As a former railroad corridor, the Atlanta BeltLine reunites neighborhoods once separated by the tracks as seen in this photo of the Eastside Trail.

Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.



### // 2007

#### JANUARY

**Progress on project funding.** The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) approves the 22-mile loop of the Atlanta BeltLine as its Locally Preferred Alternative, a critical early step in securing federal funding.

**Making housing a priority.** The Atlanta BeltLine Affordable Housing Advisory Board (BAHAB) is established.

#### MARCH

**Forming a master plan.** Master planning and community engagement commences, consistent with the Citizen Participation Framework adopted by City Council.

**Ensuring proper use of funds.** The Atlanta BeltLine Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee (TADAC) is established.

#### JUNE

**Turning blight into bright.** Twenty-one acres of land is acquired in southeast Atlanta for the future Boulevard Crossing Park.

#### NOVEMBER

**Clearing the way for new trails.** ABI purchases the 4.5-mile Northeast Corridor, the first piece of Right of Way (ROW) to be secured for the Atlanta BeltLine.



Top: Construction progressed on Historic Fourth Ward Park. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.

Bottom: The interim hiking trail through Reynoldstown has played host to many Art on the Atlanta BeltLine events.

### // 2009

#### JULY

**Bringing more segments into focus.** ABI enters an option agreement and a lease with GDOT for 3.5 miles of the Atlanta BeltLine corridor in the southwest and Reynoldstown.

**Ensuring growth in all areas.** With the Atlanta BeltLine TAD Advisory Committee, ABI develops and adopts an Equitable Development Plan.

Once officially leased by ABI, the Westside Trail became home to the Run.Walk.Go! Race Series and Art on the Atlanta BeltLine. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.



Top: D.H. Stanton Park is one of several Atlanta BeltLine parks that offers a splashpad to cool off in the summer. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.

Bottom: Historic Fourth Ward Skatepark is the City of Atlanta's first official skatepark. Photo credit: Marc Mauldin.



### // 2011

#### MAY

**Another emerald gem on the necklace.** D.H. Stanton Park re-opens to the public as an eight-acre park on the Atlanta BeltLine corridor in southeast Atlanta.

#### JUNE & JULY

**A transformative new oasis.** Historic Fourth Ward Park and Skatepark (17 acres total) open to the public.

#### SEPTEMBER

**Greenspace with an emphasis on 'green.'** Developed as sustainably as possible, Boulevard Crossing Park Phase I (5 acres) opens to the public.

#### DECEMBER

**A milestone for affordable housing efforts.** ABI holds the first-ever drawing for 28 new affordable homes at the Lofts at Reynoldstown Crossing, a development in southeast Atlanta purchased out of receivership and converted to affordable housing.



Top: Art on the Atlanta BeltLine has brought installations to more than eight miles of the trails, including the Westside Trail.

Bottom: Cyclists break in the brand new pavement at the Southwest Connector Spur Trail grand opening.

Photo credits: Christopher T. Martin.

Atlanta Police Department's Path Force Unit began patrolling Atlanta BeltLine trails and parks.



### // 2013

#### AUGUST

**Spurring more recreation.** The Southwest Connector Spur Trail (1.15 miles) officially opens for public use.

#### SEPTEMBER

**A major boost for the Westside.** The City of Atlanta is awarded an \$18 million TIGER V grant for the development of the Atlanta BeltLine Westside Trail in the southwest corridor.

#### DECEMBER

**Long-term plans take shape.** ABI's Board of Directors adopted the 2030 Strategic Implementation Plan.

### // 2015

#### JUNE

**Sustainability in action.** In an effort to be as sustainable as possible, ABI moved into a new office space designed to LEED standards. It is centrally located downtown next to a MARTA line and an Atlanta Streetcar station.

#### DECEMBER

**More skatepark options.** Arthur Langford, Jr. Skatepark opened as the second official skatepark in the City of Atlanta.



Affordable housing in Peoplestown reopened as Stanton Oaks. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.

## 2005



Westside Reservoir Park, the former Bellwood Quarry, is Atlanta's largest planned greenspace. Photo credit: Miguel Lugo.

### // 2006

#### APRIL

**New greenspace.** The City of Atlanta purchases the Bellwood Quarry – home to the future 300-acre Westside Reservoir Park.

#### JULY

**Expanding the team.** Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) is formed and the Five-Year Work Plan is adopted.



The Atlanta BeltLine's first groundbreaking on the West End Trail represents the beginning of many construction milestones. Photo credit: Alan Gravel.

### // 2008

#### OCTOBER

**More trails, more trees, better parks.** West End Trail Phase I (1.5 miles), built by the PATH Foundation, opens in southwest Atlanta – enhanced by Trees Atlanta's Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum. ABI renovates Gordon White Park.

**Setting the stage for transit plans.** MARTA and the Federal Transit Administration, in partnership with ABI, commence the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement, to make the project eligible for future federal funding.

**Additional funding avenues open.** First Atlanta BeltLine TAD Bonds are issued, totaling \$64.5 million. The Atlanta BeltLine Affordable Housing Trust Fund is capitalized with \$8.8 million in TAD Bond proceeds.

Top: The Art on the Atlanta BeltLine Lantern Parade has become one of Atlanta's most treasured traditions. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.

Bottom: The Northside Trail through Tanyard Creek Park is one of the Atlanta BeltLine's most scenic stretches. Photo credit: Jeff Milsteen.



## 2010

### // 2010

#### APRIL

**Pushing ahead on the Northside.** The Northside Trail (1 mile), built by the PATH Foundation, opens to the public.

#### MAY

**Adding an artistic touch.** Art on the Atlanta BeltLine, the first-ever temporary public art exhibit on the Atlanta BeltLine, opens to the public.

#### JULY

**Expanding the West End Trail.** The West End Trail Phase II (1 mile), an extension of Phase I (1.5 miles) and built by the PATH Foundation in southwest Atlanta, opens to the public.

#### OCTOBER

**Establishing best community practices.** Atlanta BeltLine Community Benefit Guiding Principles are adopted.



Top: Perkerson Park has dozens of amenities including a splashpad, playground, basketball and tennis courts, a disc golf course, and much more.

Bottom: By its second year of opening, the Eastside Trail attracted an average of 20,000 visitors per week. Photo credit: Ryan Gravel.

### // 2012

#### APRIL

**A masterful plan.** The final of 10 Master Plans for the Atlanta BeltLine planning area is adopted by Atlanta City Council, completing a five-year citywide effort.

#### MAY

**Splashing down in the Southwest.** ABI and City of Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs open the new splashpad in southwest Atlanta's Perkerson Park.

#### AUGUST

**Maintaining a green vision.** ABI Board of Directors adopts the Atlanta BeltLine Environmental Justice Policy.

#### SEPTEMBER

**Transit planning moves ahead.** The Federal Transit Administration issues a Record of Decision for the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement – a critical step towards securing federal transit funding.

#### OCTOBER

**A new day on the Eastside.** The Eastside Trail opens to the public – the first section of trail to be built within the old railroad corridor.



Top: A tiny trail, the Gateway makes a huge connection between the Eastside Trail and Historic Fourth Ward Park. Photo credit: Van Hall.

Bottom: The Westside Trail breaks ground as the second major in-corridor trail on the Atlanta BeltLine. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.

## 2015

### // 2014

#### APRIL

**A bridge to the future.** Edgewood Avenue bridge replacement is completed, reopening with bike lanes and ramp and stair connections to the Eastside Trail.

#### AUGUST

**Connecting parks to trail.** The Eastside Trail Gateway opens to the public.



Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, pictured here at the Westside Trail groundbreaking, continues to champion the Atlanta BeltLine. Photo credit: Christopher T. Martin.

### // Early Champions

**The formative years.** Pictured above from left to right are four key players: visionary Ryan Gravel, former City Council President Cathy Woolard, former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, and Ray Weeks, creator of the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership.