

July/August 2008

The Elemental O.N.E.

## Help bring a better park system to your neighborhood

By Matthew Hutchinson

Even if you're lucky enough to live close to a city park in Atlanta, there's a good chance that at some point, you've packed up your car and driven a few miles to go to a different park. But what if your local neighborhood park was connected to an entire system of diverse parks and green spaces? What if you could have access to a wide variety of parks and scenery, connected by walking trails and bike lanes? What if you could have a full day of invigorating urban outdoorsmanship without ever having to get in a car?



Residents of Edgewood, East Lake, and Kirk-

wood will have the opportunity to help envision and design just this kind of park system in the coming months. The Eastside Greenway is a proposed linear park system connecting parks and green spaces, schools and neighborhoods with the PATH trail system and natural elements of the Sugar Creek and Ocmulgee River watershed. It will serve the communities of Kirkwood, Edgewood, and East Lake and provide a network of connectivity while preserving parks, green spaces, and watershed.

But before this exciting new system of parks can become a reality, a strong cooperative effort between residents of all three eastside neighborhoods must take place.

"Unless the people can connect, the parks won't," says NPU-O chair Earl Williamson. Earl is helping to lead an ongoing group effort by residents from all three neighborhoods to create a public vision for the Eastside Greenway. This effort is being supported by Park Pride, an influential non-profit group dedicated to creating world class park systems in Atlanta. The goal of this Eastside Greenway visioning process

is to gather as much input from as many different residents as possible.

Public participation in this project is not just a nice idea, it is a necessity for success. "It is imperative to document a community-supported vision for the neighborhood parks," says Park Pride Director of Park Visioning Walt Ray. "City departments, foundations, and other potential funders will prioritize funding projects that can demonstrate broadly-supported plans." In other words, park plans with the most public participation usually have the best chance of getting funded.

If you value parks and green space, the Eastside Greenway is a project worth supporting. And the good news is that helping to shape the future of the Eastside greenway is as easy as showing up for a meeting and letting your voice be heard. There are several upcoming opportunities to learn more about this system of parks, and to participate in its creation:

### Preliminary Design Review

Date: July 12, TBD

Location:

Atlanta DeKalb Human Services

### Final Design Review

& Prioritization

Date: September 6th, TBD

Location

Coan Middle School

... or fill out the park survey on this page, and drop off at one of these convenient locations:

Coan Park Recreation Center  
1530 Woodbine Ave. SE

Brenkelen Mojo Coffee & Lounge  
1610 Hosca Williams Drive

Park Pride and NPU O invite you to participate, share your thoughts, and help develop concepts for East Side Parks throughout the three participating neighborhoods of Edgewood, Kirkwood, and East Lake.

Your opinion is critical to the success of these Parks. Please complete the survey below and either mail it back or bring it to a public meeting.

Mail To,  
Walt Ray



675 Ponce de Leon Avenue  
8th Floor Atlanta,  
GA 30308

Park Pride values your participation. Thank-you!!!  
The survey is also available online at [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)

What neighborhood do you live in?

- Edgewood  
 Kirkwood  
 Eastlake

What do you consider to be YOUR personal park?

What do you use this park the most for?

What would you most like to see added to that park?

What do you like best about that park?

What do you like least about that park?

Would you like to share your contact information to receive updates? (US Mail / email / phone / mailbox flyer? Please provide the appropriate information)

Optional Information: How would you best describe yourself?

- |                              |                              |           |                |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Age                          | Gender                       | Ethnicity | Special Needs? |
| <input type="radio"/> Youth  | <input type="radio"/> Male   |           |                |
| <input type="radio"/> Adult  | <input type="radio"/> Female |           |                |
| <input type="radio"/> Senior |                              |           |                |

Would you be interested in participating in Park Pride's programs? Please check all that apply. Please include your contact information (on the reverse).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take Back Your Park      | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Grant Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park of the Month        | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Park             | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Visioning          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-A-Community Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Partners         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Micro Grants   |  |

Check here if you would like to receive Park Pride's quarterly e-newsletter. Please include your email address on the reverse.

Park Pride is a non-profit organization  
Our mission: To lead and inspire action for parks and greenspace.  
Vision Statement: To create a world-class park system in Atlanta  
[www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org)

We value your thoughts and input. Please use this space for any additional comment