

# Park Pride Press

Volume 1, Issue 3, Spring 2005



Wellington Webb, Cesar Mitchell & friends

## Conference Energizes, Organizes and Mobilizes Parks Community

Park Pride's Fourth Annual Parks and Greenspace Conference was a tremendous success. Over 220 park professionals, advocates and organizations gathered at the Atlanta Botanical Garden to learn more about the importance of parks and what they could do to help build a first-class park system in their community.

they could do to help build a first-class park system in their community.

The conference began with an inspiring speech by Arthur Blank, park advocate and President of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. Mr. Blank spoke of the importance of acting now to preserve Atlanta's greenspace and build more parks, including the Atlanta Beltline.

After presentations on the Beltline by Cathy

Woolard of Friends of the Beltline and Jim Langford of The Trust for Public Land, participants headed to breakout sessions on "getting organized in your park" and "creating an environmental ethic through parks."

At lunch, keynote speaker Wellington Webb, former Mayor of Denver, told of his work to help transform Denver's quality of life through the creation of fifteen new parks along the South Platte River and the transformation of the city's old airport into a mixed-use development that will include over 1,400 acres of greenspace.

After breakout sessions on "Can parks and affordable housing coexist?" and "The health benefits of parks," Mayor Shirley Franklin closed the conference with a rousing call to action in which she urged park advocates to think of billions of dollars for parks and greenspace.

***When it comes to money for parks, think in terms of billions, with a "B"***

*-Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin*

## Park Pride Launches Park Visioning Program

*Landscape Architect Will Work with Communities to Design Conceptual Master Plans for Their Parks*

Throughout Atlanta, volunteers are giving their time, money and resources to improve our city's parks. We find their dedication inspirational – and we want to help them inspire others. Which is why Park Pride is embarking on an ambitious "Park Visioning" initiative.

Over the course of an eight to ten month period, we will work with a limited number of qualified communities to develop a conceptual master plan for their park. Through the process, we will engage residents, businesses and other stakeholders in your neighborhood, identifying the needs and desires of the community, and the capacity of the park to fulfill them. Then, engaging in design charrettes and public meetings, we will develop a conceptual master plan for your park.

Unfortunately, Park Pride does not have the funds needed to implement your plan. But, we can help

identify potential resources and other means of support. It's surprising what a few enterprising people and a little money can accomplish. And it's much easier to garner support when your community can present a concrete, unified vision for your park.

Brownwood, Millican and Vine City are the first three parks to participate in the Visioning process. We look forward to working with other communities in the not too distant future. Parks must meet four criteria to qualify.

- Parks should be between 5 and 15 acres
- Parks should have a "Friends of the Park" support group
- Park groups must participate in our Park Inspection Program
- Parks should not be fully developed

For more information, please contact Walt Ray, RLA at 404.817.7965 or [walt@parkpride.org](mailto:walt@parkpride.org).

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# Park Atlanta Rescue Campaign



## Springvale is Atlanta's First "Park of the Month"

On Friday, May 13, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin was on hand as DPRCA Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen announced that Springvale Park is Atlanta's first *Park of the Month*.

The program spotlights productive efforts of the Bureau of Parks' staff, volunteers and community partners. "Our aim is to send a message that we are truly committed to improving, maintaining and preserving parks and greenspace," said Commissioner Harnell Cohen. "We are excited to introduce this new program which will highlight the accomplishments of our dedicated workers to all those who live, work and play in Atlanta."

Crew members responsible for park maintenance will nominate parks each month. Park Pride's Safety and Maintenance Committee will select the winning park from among those nominated. In the Fall, the Committee will select a *Park of the Year* from among the *Parks of the Month*. Crew members responsible for maintaining the *Park of the Year* will receive a cash bonus.

In addition to the bonus for crewmembers serving at the winning park, Park Pride will provide a Community Micro Grant of \$500 to a neighborhood group working with the Parks Bureau to maintain and improve the park.

## BeltLine Moves Forward

On March 3, 2005, the Beltline Tax Allocation District (TAD) Steering Committee concluded that creating a TAD was a feasible way to fund the Beltline. The committee also recommended that Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin create a TAD for this purpose. Mayor Franklin then appointed businessman Ray Weeks to head a Beltline Committee to move the project forward.

A TAD effectively leverages future property tax revenue to pay for current physical improvements. To come into effect, a TAD must win support of the Atlanta City Council, Fulton County Board of Commissioners and the Atlanta School Board. Weeks will work with the Atlanta Development Authority and others to develop an appropriate TAD to finance the project. Once the proposed TAD is developed, supporters of the Beltline should contact these elected officials asking their support for the Beltline and the TAD.

Park Pride views the Beltline as an integral part

of our effort to at least double the amount of parkland in the City of Atlanta. The Trust for Public Land has produced an excellent vision for creating 1400 acres of new parks along the Beltline, all connected by a multiuse trail.

Visit our BeltLine web page at [www.ParkPride.org/atlan.html](http://www.ParkPride.org/atlan.html) to download the report and learn more about how you can help.

## Archibong Introduces Land Acquisition Paper

Atlanta City Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong has introduced legislation to create a dedicated funding source to acquire land for parks and greenspace. The legislation would set aside 1.5% of the cost of most city contracts for the acquisition of greenspace.

The proposal is modeled after an existing law that sets aside a percentage of city contracts to fund the arts. As the arts funding law has not been enforced consistently and it is unclear which contracts would be subject to the 1.5% set aside, Council

will hold a work session to address these and other issues concerning Archibong's proposal.

We are excited to see a member of the City Council taking steps to address the lack of park land in the City. Among the nation's twenty-five largest cities, Atlanta ranks last in the percentage of its acreage dedicated to parks.

For more information, contact Natalyn Archibong at 404-330-6048 or [narchibong@atlantaga.gov](mailto:narchibong@atlantaga.gov).

## Adams Park Launches Citizen Park Inspections

Park Pride is excited to report that Elizabeth Baldwin of the Adams Park Restoration Committee became the first resident to submit a "park quality inspection" form. Ms. Baldwin offered specific, constructive criticism on issues that need to be addressed in the park, while noting those areas that were properly maintained.

We encourage inspectors to follow Ms. Baldwin's lead by not grading the performance on the first inspection. This lets the Parks Bureau address concerns raised in the form before being formally graded. It also sets a cooperative tone for working with the community to improve the park.

Thanks to Dr. Pearlie Dove and the Friends of Candler Park for also conducting inspections!

To download the inspection form, or for more information, visit Park Pride's "Take Back Your Park" at [www.ParkPride.org/takeb.html](http://www.ParkPride.org/takeb.html).

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[www.ParkPride.Org](http://www.ParkPride.Org)

### BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION!

\* Join the Park Atlanta Rescue Campaign

\* Attend one of our meetings

\* Sign up to receive PARC e-mail updates.

\* Visit the PARC web page at: [www.ParkPride.org/parc.html](http://www.ParkPride.org/parc.html)

# It's Your Park!

## *What's Happening in Your Community*

### **Collier Heights Seeks New Playground**

Exciting things continue to happen in Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) H and the Adamsville community. At the end of 2004, residents around Collier Heights Park banded together to form The Friends of Collier Heights Park (FOCHP). In 2005, they got to work.

Partnering with Park Pride, the Atlanta Bureau of Parks and other groups, the Friends of Collier Park have begun holding scheduled work days in the park. To date, they have focused on planting and beautifying the park. In one weekend, they spread five loads of mulch!

The secret to their success is a strong partnership between FOCHP and children in the community. By working together to beautify their park, they are forming strong bond with each other and within the community—to the benefit of all.

FOCHP's next goal is to renovate the park's playground. Inspired by a Kaboom! workshop, Ms. Barbara Leath is spearheading the group's effort as they work with NPU H and the Adamsville Business and Community Partnership to raise the necessary funds. As part of this effort, the groups will hold a fundraiser in the park on August 13. All are invited. While the effort enjoys strong support in the community, outside support is always welcome.

### **Freedom Park—Art Runs Through It**

See Freedom Park in a whole new light! On May 1, the Freedom Park Conservancy launched Art in Freedom Park, a temporary public art exhibit of thirty sculptures and installations by selected artists, as well as a series of performances. The exhibit is extremely accessible and should appeal to young and old, couples, families and the unattached. This inaugural exhibition will run through the fall of 2005 and begins to establish Freedom Park as an art park.

While most artwork will be on display for the duration of the event, some installations are temporary. Performances of music, dance and other media will occur on Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00, weather permitting. A dynamic and changing array of artworks, performances and events will encourage neighbors, Atlanta residents and tourists to visit frequently, as each trip promises a new experience.

Freedom Park is one of Atlanta's most heavily used parks, due in large part to its 5 mile multiuse path and easy access from many in-town communities. Art in Freedom Park will diversify use of the park and encourage new users. The exhibit is a great example



*Waldorf School students and other participate in May Day Dance at the opening of Art in Freedom Park*

of how programming fulfills the full potential of a park and encourages people to visit.

A ceremony to open the exhibit officially will be held near the corner of Moreland and Freedom Park Drive on June 5 at 2:00. Visit [www.artinfreedompark.org](http://www.artinfreedompark.org) for more information.

### **Adams Park Gets Active**

The Adams Park Resident Association (APRA) is in full swing for spring. The organization has taken an aggressive approach to taking pride in Adams park. Adams park is a well-visited, welcome retreat for the ducks, dog lovers and children at play. Little leaguers play baseball, while adults enjoy a lakeside stroll.

A small group within the Beautification Committee of APRA has adopted the park. They take daily walks throughout Adams Park, taking notes and making reports on sanitation/litter, overgrown foliage, and other improvements needed to enhance the park and return it to its former luster. Group members take turns pruning the roses and weeding the hillside and small planters. They recently planted geraniums.

Several months ago APRA joined Timberland, Park Pride, and Spelman College students to help beautify the park. They worked together in lining DeLowe Drive on both sides with pink and white azaleas; along the Tup Holmes Golf Course parallel to the park and alongside the Adams Park entrances.

Like other Atlanta Parks, Adams suffers from years of neglect and lack of proper maintenance. There are no working water fountains, the pavilion rooftops need to be re-shingled, and benches need to be replaced. However, there are signs of progress. City maintenance has improved, and the Beautification Committee Members soldier on. Through their hard work, they are making a difference in Adams Park.

## Beach Volleyball Comes to Woodruff Park

The hottest beach event of the summer came to Woodruff Park on the weekend of May 13 through May 15. The first Downtown Atlanta Beach Volleyball Tournament featured sand, sun and little bit of competitive spirit. Hundreds of folks came out on a beautiful weekend to play, cheer on their friends or simply enjoy good volleyball and nice weather.

The Tournament was divided into two segments. The 790 The Zone Community Challenge featured teams of coworkers, friends and neighbors to competing for fun prizes. The Starbucks Challenge, a Men's & Women's Open, was a fierce competition for sand volleyball enthusiasts competing for cash prizes.

Congratulations to the teams of Bryan Gibson & Eric Curnow, and Annette Garza & Amber Ramga, winners of the Starbucks Open Men's and Women's Challenges.

The Downtown Atlanta Beach Volleyball Tournament is just the most recent sign of a revitalized Woodruff Park. The event provided an opportunity to see the newly renovated park and educate residents about the coming dog park. *For more information about the exciting happenings at the park, visit [www.atlantadowntown.com](http://www.atlantadowntown.com).*



*Volleyball players enjoy downtown's newest beach.*

## Emory Fellows Work to Build Community in Anderson Park

This summer, the Friends of Anderson Park, Park Pride, NPU J, the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, the Atlanta Bureau of Parks and Emory University are partnering to provide information and education to Anderson Park and the surrounding community. Anderson Park is a 53+ acre park nestled in west Atlanta just north of I-20. The park has several pavilions, an extensive playground, indoor gym facilities, outdoor swimming, track, and football. There is a PATH Foundation trail that winds through its vast nature preserve.

Four Kenneth Cole fellows from Emory University will spend the summer working with the community and collaborating partners to use Anderson Park as the focus for strengthening surrounding neighborhoods. The plans for the collaboration include community

## PARK PRIDE RECEIVES FOUR STAR CHARITY RATING

Charity Navigator has honored Park Pride with its four star charity rating. The rating is for charities that use resources efficiently and effectively. Park Pride—preserving both green and greenspace.



education about the amenities and health benefits of the park, a survey of what the community surrounding the park desires for their park, as well as the education and development required to create a community culture based around the park.

Anticipated results from the summer partnership will include higher park use by persons within a ten minute walk of park, a stronger Friends of Anderson Park group with a larger membership, the development of short and long term goals for the group, and a "how to" guide to help new groups get started. Emory University will provide each Anderson Park partner several training sessions in Community Building.

*For more information, contact Nicholas Williams at 404-853-7471 or [Nicholas@parkpride.org](mailto:Nicholas@parkpride.org).*

## Virginia-Highlands Celebrates a Week in the Parks

Last year, Virginia-Highlands celebrated the renovation of John Howell Park and the creation of the Cunard Memorial Playground. This past April, the community gathered to recognize the anniversary of the playground and hold a week long celebration to honor and raise money for their parks.

The popularity of John Howell Park got Virginia-Highland resident Paula Hyman and others thinking about the neighborhood's other park, Orme Park. A six-acre site with a creek, the park is busy with dog-walkers, joggers and nature lovers. Unfortunately, the park suffers from invasive plants and considerable erosion along the creek banks.

The Virginia-Highland Civic Association provided \$20,000 to get the cleanup of the park off the ground. To bolster this effort, Hyman came up with a plan to raise funds and awareness at the same time. The result was a "Week in the Park" celebration during the week of April 14th, seven days of activities and fundraisers at various locations around the neighborhood.

The week's highlights included:

- Sunday—build a birdhouse and storytelling
- Monday—paint a flower pot from Wired and Fired
- Tuesday—benefit dinner night at local restaurants
- Thursday—free tai chi classes
- Friday—Family movie night at John Howell Park
- Saturday—Educational walks through Orme Park

"It was important for the whole week of education, things to do outside and fund-raising that will let people enjoy and celebrate our parks," said Hyman.



*As part of the first stage of improving City parks, the Atlanta DPRCA has begun replacing old wood name signs with new plastic signs. The signs more clearly identify the park for patrons and visitors. Twenty-one park entrance signs were installed this past April. Parks such as Adamsville, Atlanta Memorial, Brownwood, Candler, Central and Coan will receive the first installation of signs.*

## Get Expert Park Design (Free!)

Park Pride and the Atlanta Botanical Garden invite you to participate in our first Community Park Design Clinic. This Clinic is for people who care about their neighborhood parks and who need design assistance. Park Pride will use case studies to educate participants about the principles of good design. After seeing inspirational ideas of what other parks have done, learn how to improve your own park's gateway, picnic area, or trouble spot. Participants will work one on one with designers to develop a plan that addresses their area of interest in their neighborhood park.

The designers at the workshop will not be familiar with every park. Each participant will come to the Clinic prepared to discuss the site, its issues, and its opportunities for improvement. An important part of this process will need to be done by participants prior to registration for the Design Clinic. Park Pride will send a Site Analysis Checklist to each potential participant. The Checklist will help each participant document the site. Potential participants will need to fill out the simple form and send it to Park Pride before the Clinic. The completed questionnaire is your registration form and must be received by Monday, September 12th. You are not registered until Park Pride receives your completed site analysis.

*The design clinic will be held on Saturday, September 17th, from 1:00-5:00. For more information, contact: Walt Ray at [walt@parkpride.org](mailto:walt@parkpride.org) or 404.817.7965.*

## A new dawn rises in East Lake Park

In Early 2005, the East Lake Neighbors Community Association adopted East Lake Park. The park will never be the same.

So far, ELNCA has worked with residents, the Parks Bureau and police to improve safety around and in the park. They successfully fought unpermitted events in the park, obtained "Children at Play" signs and crosswalks on Memorial Drive (the park's northern boundary), and increased speed limit enforcement.

In May, ELNCA partnered with CORENET to paint the exterior of the Zaban Community Center, repair the interior, and treat the building for bugs. Volunteers also laid down brick dust in the baseball infield and re-cut the baselines. To help the city crews keep the field looking its best, a water line will be installed, along with a donated mobile irrigation system!

The Parks Planning Team is updating the park's master plan. Their goal is to involve the neighbors in the renovation in order to provide the community a sense of ownership and create a park that meets their needs. One thing is clear already; the seniors want a fitness trail!

The master plan will incorporate a new playground, triple the size of the old one, with separate play areas for toddlers and 5-12 year olds. Neighbors are working with local elementary schools to have the kids adopt areas of the park and participate in the planning, planting and appreciation of them.

ELCNA also plans to sell fence panels to raise funds for a "Bark Park" off-leash area for dogs and their owners. Each panel will have an engraved, bone-shaped "dog tag" bearing the name of the donor(s), as well as their pet(s)! Speaking of pets, a fall "Dog Jog" is planned to raise funds for Little League Football at the park.

Future park plans include a complete renovation of the interior of the Zaban Community Center, restoring the concrete culvert to a natural stream, and planting a canopy of native hardwoods throughout the park. The neighborhood hopes to complete the process and find a working partner by the fall planting season.

*For more information, visit [www.eastlake.org](http://www.eastlake.org).*

## The Link Between Walkable Parks and Public Health

Why do so many people use Freedom Park, while so few come to Maddox? How does park access affect park use — and your health? Park Pride, PEDS and the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance invite you to join Dr. Karen Mumford of the Rollins School of Public Health for a discussion of the link between physical access to parks and park use.

Dr. Mumford is part of a team of researchers studying the link between park use and physical activity in DeKalb County. She has agreed to discuss the study, particularly initial findings that people are more likely to use a park that they can walk to. We hope that you will join us for a relaxed and informative evening.

*Visit [www.ParkPride.Org](http://www.ParkPride.Org) for more information*

July 13  
Decatur Public Library  
6:30-8:00 PM



July 14  
Auburn Avenue Research Library  
6:30-8:00 PM

**WAWA**

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

## A Park Grows in Cabbagetown

In the shadows of the old cotton mill, Cabbagetown was the home of many families who came down from the Appalachian mountains to work in the mill. Today it is a community with artists, professionals, students — and still some descendents from the “old times.”

Ten years ago, the Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association formed the Cabbagetown Initiative Community Development Corporation specifically to transform an abandoned school property into a community center and park. Their hard work is about to pay off. In a few short months, Cabbagetown will boast a three and a half acre park to call its own.

Construction officially began on April 25<sup>th</sup> and has been non-stop ever since. The park, located between Kirkwood and Tye Streets, will offer an amphitheater, an overlook, walking paths, over 120 new trees and a variety of flowering plants that bloom throughout the year. Cabbagetown plans to hold one heck of a celebration when the park is complete in late October!

Cabbagetown Park is the result of the dedication and passion of its residents, but they could not have succeeded without help. Thanks are in order to DPRCA Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen, City Councilwoman Natalyn Archibong, and especially The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, which has been completely supportive from the beginning.

For more information, contact Ashley Derrick, Executive Director of the Cabbagetown Initiative, at 404-526-9900 or [Ashley@cabbagetowninitiative.org](mailto:Ashley@cabbagetowninitiative.org) — or visit [www.cabbagetowninitiative.org](http://www.cabbagetowninitiative.org)

## Community Gardens Tour

Did you know that Atlanta has 150 independent community gardens? Unlike other large cities, the City of Atlanta does not have a funded community garden program to support these jewels in our urban landscape. They sprout up on abandoned lots and in affluent neighborhoods; some have 5 dedicated gardeners and others attract 80; some are modest in nature, while some belong on a postcard; but they all have something in common - - they are a focal point where neighbors gather.

This is one of the greatest benefits of community gardening - like other parks, they inspire increased social interactions. Community gardens are gathering spots, refuges, a place to measure success in the taste of a vine-ripened tomato while leaning on a shovel and chatting with a neighbor.

In addition to community building and securing a “sense of place” for a neighborhood, community gardens beautify neighborhoods, connect urban dwellers back to the land, provide nutritious and economical food, reduce crime and blight, and promote the use of parks and greenspace.

The Atlanta Community Gardens Coalition (ACGC) is a new organization formed by community garden

leaders and partner organizations committed to supporting community gardening in greater Atlanta. The ACGC serves the gardening community by sharing information and resources, providing a community garden placement service, and providing a voice for community gardens.

The ACGC hosts two annual events: an organic gardening workshop in spring and a tour in summer. The Community Garden Tour takes place on June 25<sup>th</sup> and features guided tours of three community gardens and one community supported agricultural farm. The tour concludes with an organic picnic lunch at Gaia Gardens. Tickets are only \$10. For more information please visit: [www.atlantacommunitygardens.org](http://www.atlantacommunitygardens.org)



*Oakhurst, one of Atlanta's 150 community gardens.*

## Studying Health in Grove Park

Marta Karlov, a graduate student in the Career Master of Public Health Program of the Rollins School of Public Health, is writing her thesis on the link between park use, public health and quality of life in the Grove Park Community. Working with Park Pride, NPU J and the National Wildlife Federation, Marta has engaged the community and other stakeholders to conduct a public health needs assessment for the community.

Residents of Northwest Atlanta currently face public health problems characterized by significant health disparities. Research has shown that parks can play an integral role in addressing these disparities by increasing physical activity and promoting other positive behaviors. Unfortunately it appears that Grove Park is not used to its full potential.

The health needs assessment will explore Grove Park residents' willingness to engage in activities which would increase use of the park to improve their quality of life. The study will explore community attitudes toward health, park use, accessibility to the park, and the ability of the community to organize around common goals. The process also will help educate residents about how parks can improve their health.

Park Pride hopes that Marta's work will provide lessons for other Atlanta communities. We are exploring opportunities to host a public hearing to discuss her findings, and will post her thesis on our web site.

# Micro Grant Spurs \$25,000 Improvement

It all started with a Micro Grant.

Jamila Houser of the Oakland City Community Organization had looked long enough at the trash-strewn vacant lot in her community. She and others believed that this space could be something more, and they set about making it happen. Working with councilmember Cleta Winslow, they applied for and received a Park Pride Community Micro Grant to clean up the lot, plant it and post a sign.

But that was just a start. Inspired by the Micro Grant and buoyed by their success, they started to dream big. With the assistance of councilperson Winslow, the community was chosen as an urban greenspace revitalization project – a joint program of the America the Beautiful Fund and the Scotts Miracle Gro Company.

Instead of merely planting a few shrubs and flowers and installing a sign, the group was able to completely re-landscape the lot. Community volunteers, including Councilwoman Winslow and Mayor Franklin rolled up their sleeves and transformed the ugly overgrown lot into the “Oakland

Botanical Walk.” They regraded the lot, added a path, built a new fence, and planted over 700 new plants, including 40 trees.

“It was incredible to see that transformation happen,” said Houser. “We are actively working towards improving our community, and this event brought new energy to help us keep things going.”

We congratulate Oakland City on their tremendous success and hope this serves as an inspiration to communities throughout Atlanta.

## Congratulations to Our Spring 2005 Micro Grant Recipients!

Peachtree Hills Civic Association—planters in Peachtree Hills Park

Greystone Garden Club—improve playground equipment

Underwood Hills Park Revitalization Committee—replace damaged fence

Midtown Neighbors Association—xeriscape Charles Allen median

Capitol View Manor—landscaping and brick entry markers to Dill Avenue Park

Adams Park Restoration Committee—re-roof Adams Park Pavilion

Gilliam Park CARE—a picnic table in Gilliam Park

Castleberry Hill Neighborhood Association—lighting and other shrubs at community entrance

Maddox Park Community Committee—support Maddox Park Community Work Day

NPU H—landscaping in Collier Heights Park

Community Micro Grants are possible through the generosity of the Cecil B. Day Family. Visit [www.parkpride.org/micro.html](http://www.parkpride.org/micro.html) for more information, or call Allison Barnett at (404) 817-6760.

**EVERY  
DOLLAR  
COUNTS!**

**\$10**

A spade for our tool bank

**\$25**

A flat of flowers

**\$50**

A tree

**\$100**

A load of mulch

**\$500**

Community Micro Grant

**\$1000**

Friends Raising Seminar

## SUPPORT YOUR PARKS—JOIN PARK PRIDE

Improving Atlanta’s parks is a lot of work—and we need all the help that we can get. Members of Park Pride support our programs and the many community groups with whom we work. Members receive our newsletter and invitations to Park Pride events, and most membership levels include additional benefits (which are noted on our web site). Membership levels are listed below, but **any donation is welcome!!**

**I want to help protect and increase Atlanta’s parks and greenspace by becoming a member of Park Pride!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Supporter \$35**

**Supporter Family \$50**

**Friend of the Park \$100**

**Park Advocate \$250**

**Park Patron \$500**

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle desired membership level and mail to:

Park Pride  
675 Ponce de Leon Ave.  
8th Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30308



[www.ParkPride.Org](http://www.ParkPride.Org)

## Special Thanks To:

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



# Adopting a Corner of Freedom Park

While Atlanta's Adopt A Park program focuses on beauty spots, medians and small pocket parks, all of Atlanta's parks are available for adoption. You even can adopt part of a park, which is just what the Atlanta Audubon Society and the DeKalb Master Gardener Association have done.

Carol Vanderschaaf, an Audubon Master Birder, has been concerned about the great loss of bird and butterfly habitat to development throughout the country. While driving by the rolling hills of Freedom Park, she started to envision a demonstration Bird and Butterfly Garden.

Carol contacted Georgann Schmalz, of the Atlanta Audubon Society, who embraced the idea and brought Phil Edwards, Vice President of the DeKalb Master Gardeners Association, on board. The group contacted the Freedom Park Conservancy to identify the proper location, which turned out to be near the corner of North Ave. and Candler Park Drive.

Master Gardener Program volunteers will prepare the soil and plant the garden. Audubon volunteers will maintain it. The garden will contain native plants approved by the Georgia Native Plant Society, everything from Swamp Ferns to Native Azalea. Soil preparation begins in May and, it is hoped the garden will be in place by early June.

This exciting project will not only serve as an educational model for the community, it will encourage other neighborhoods to consider bird and butterfly habitats for their parks.

It is exciting to see the Audubon Society and DeKalb Master Gardeners joining the effort to improve Atlanta's parks, but you don't have to be an expert to make a difference. Contact Teesha Washington at [Teesha@ParkPride.org](mailto:Teesha@ParkPride.org) to find out how you can adopt and beautify a little corner of your community.

For more information about the garden, contact Ms. Vanderschaaf at [caravan@mindspring.com](mailto:caravan@mindspring.com).



Springvale Park — Atlanta's first "Park of the Month"

## Parks and Greenspace Pot Luck Dinner

Join Park Pride, the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance and a host of others for a casual evening of food and fun. Meet fellow Atlanta residents who are doing a little dirty work to make our parks beautiful. Learn about other parks and get new ideas for the park in your own back yard. There will be no formal program.

**Thursday, June 9, 6:00-8:00**  
**Atlanta Outdoor Activity Center**  
**1442 Richland Road SW**



*Please RSVP to Nicholas Williams at (404) 853-7471 or [Nicholas@parkpride.org](mailto:Nicholas@parkpride.org)*



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