

Atlanta BeltLine Master Plan

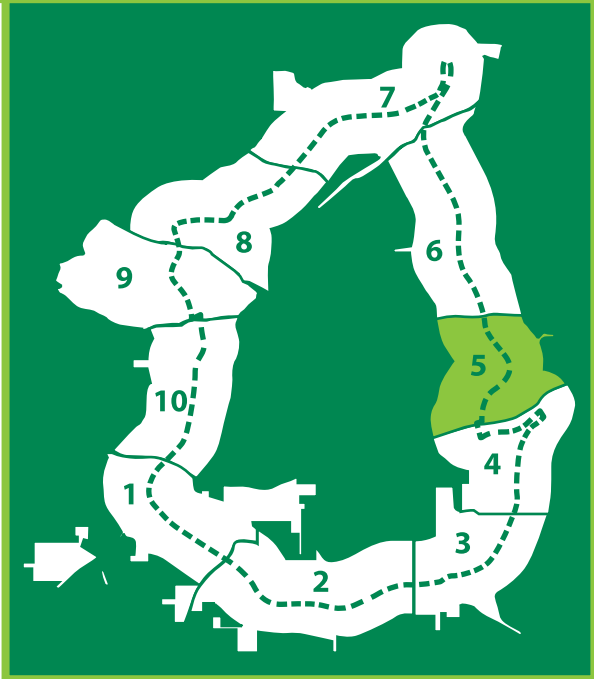
SUBAREA 5

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



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