

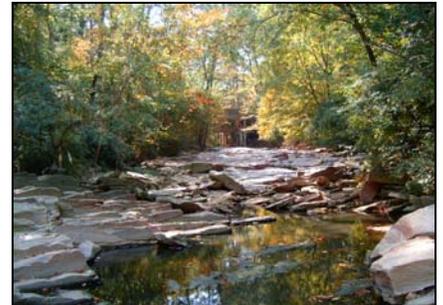
Need Analysis

Opportunities and Constraints

The inventory provides the basis for the analysis of opportunities and issues that drive the conceptual master plan design. This section analyzes those elements to determine park needs.

Opportunities

- There are beautiful native trees on the site, including a specimen ash tree of forty-eight inch diameter, that deserve protection. Native understory trees and shrubs also exist.
- Tanyard Creek shoals and the historical remnants of the Collier Mill dam.
- The park links two existing parks: Tanyard Creek and Atlanta Memorial
- Parking already exists in the adjacent Tanyard Creek.
- PATH trail is already funded. Construction of this trail will connect the site to the other parks and the larger community with out need for cars.
- Demolition is complete and provided new terraced land forms
- Active sports facilities are provided in near-by parks and schools.
- Upper area offers visibility and lighting from two sides from Collier Road and Overbrook Drive for safety.
- Cherokee Garden Club is ready to contribute time, money and volunteers to make improvements in the park



Tanyard Creek looking toward Collier Road Bridge 2008



Tanyard Creek looking toward Collier Road Bridge and former mill dam site during a snow fall in the early 1970' s.. (Photo courtesy of Jim Howard, Jr.)



Collier Road traffic is visible from the park.

- Existing asphalt driveway provides vehicular access for maintenance vehicles to access the flood plain
- The rolling topography and wide creek provide to design several viewpoints and landscape areas.
- The park is within an existing, stable, supportive neighborhood.

Constraints

- Speeding is a problem. Cars frequently miss the curve on Collier Road and end up in the park.
- Tanyard Creek is polluted and floods frequently.
- Overbrook Drive is a neighborhood street used as a short cut between Piedmont Hospital and Northside Drive.
- Invasive plants like English ivy, Kudzu and privet threaten to take over the park if not eliminated or at least contained. Total removal could result in unnecessary erosion especially on the steep slopes. This could be done in phases and coordinated with additional plantings.
- Security is a concern. Vagrancy was a problem in Tanyard Creek Park until the neighborhood hired a private security patrol. There is a concern that vagrancy and crime will increase in the park as it is opened to the public.
- Graffiti
- If not restricted, cars could park in the park.
- Litter and medical waste. especially around the Collier Road bridge, along the creek and along Overbrook Drive
- Tree impacts. The site's many large trees may suffer from impact of critical root zone if too much construction occurs or occurs improperly.
- Steep slopes
- Steep stream bank.



Kudzu Advancing



Streambank overgrown with Privet and Kudzu.

BeltLine

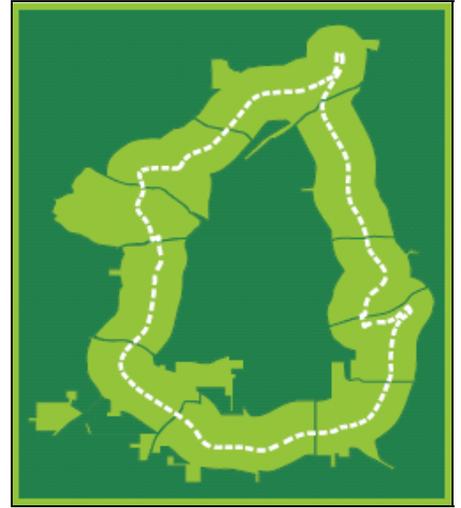
The name "Belt Line" was coined for a loop of railroad tracks that encircled Atlanta in its early years. After the Civil War, the loop was enlarged as industry and commerce grew along its route. As Atlanta grew more dependent on trucking and highways than on trains and railroads, many portions of the BeltLine were abandoned and largely forgotten.

BeltLine Project is a major planning initiative for the City of Atlanta to revitalize these old train corridors and the antiquated commercial areas along them. This unique opportunity revitalizes surrounding neighborhoods with new development, housing, transit, trails, open space, historic resources, and public art. In order to accomplish this vision, the 22-mile loop recognizes several sections for their unique characteristics, breaking them out for more colloquial study. Planning encompasses a band that straddles the relatively narrow train track corridor. The Howard Property is within the study area called Northeast Quadrant where the rail line is still active. The spur to the BeltLine Trail is the only off road connection.

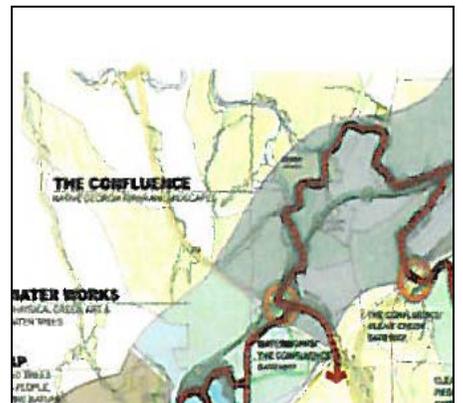
Two design concepts influencing overarching design decisions are the "Park and Trail Design Standards" and the "Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum".

Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum

For more than twenty years Trees Atlanta, a non-profit citizen's group, has worked to protect and expand Atlanta's urban forest. They have engaged neighborhoods and neighbors in plantings trees in public spaces and increased support for environmental education programs with the City. With its many partners, Trees Atlanta has developed a vision for an urban arboretum in the BeltLine Corridor.



The Loop of Railroad Tracks encircle early Atlanta



The trail is the link through the Howard Property for the BeltLine in the "Confluence" area.



*Young Bark of the Sycamore
(Plantanus occidentalis)*

The proposed Atlanta BeltLine arboretum concept has qualities that make it visionary and unique among the nations' suburban green spaces - :

- Its diversity and extent of planting and greening opportunities,
- Its variety of trails, transit links and crossings,
- Its looped linkage of multiple inner city neighborhoods, and
- Its potential for generating initiatives – ecological, environmental, scientific, educational and economic – within and beyond the twenty-two mile long BeltLine Corridor.



Spectacular winter white limbs of the Sycamore.

Trees Atlanta has developed a vision for one of the most accessible and connected urban arboretum corridors in the nation along the 22 mile BeltLine loop, The collection of trees will enhance the BeltLine green space and provide educational opportunities. Six areas have been recognized for their unique horticultural history and ability to tell a story to future generations. We are in the Northeast section coined “Confluence”.

We plant trees not for ourselves, but for future generations. – Caecilius Statius

This area of the Belt line is the largest and most intact natural neighborhood along the “BeltLine. In this area, the trail is sited along the forested creek margins of Tanyard Creek. The focus is planting trees native to the Piedmont Riparian/Bottomland communities. Trees like Maples, Ash, Willow, Tupelo, Magnolias and Cypress will augment the natural function of bottomlands for water quality enhancement, flood prevention, wildlife habitat, etc.



The Pointed, Serrated Leaves of the Musclewood (Carpinus Caroliniana), also known as “Blue Beech”

Collections:

- Wetlands – swamps and marsh – Alder, Willow, Elderberry, Swamp Tupelo, Green Ash, Red Maple
- Floodplains (seasonally inundated) – Sycamore, River Birch, Boxelder, Cottonwood, Overcup Oak



Swamp Tupelo (Nyssa sylvatica) has strong red fall color.

Stream edge – Musclewood, Florida Maple, Willow Oak

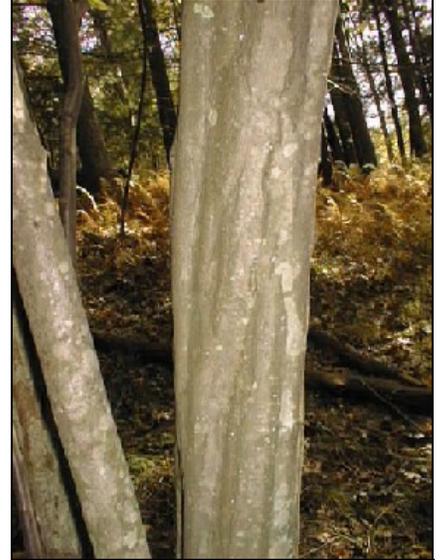
Symbolic Trees:

Musclewood

Sycamore

For a more detailed description and more planting recommendations, see pages 4-43 to 4-46. And the entire document is

www.beltline.org/BeltLineBasics/AtlantaBeltLineArboretum



Sinewy Trunk is the reason for the Musclewood's Common Name.

Summary of Community Input

Four meetings were held with community members on May 29, June 19, July 17, and August 28, 2008. This Steering Committee established the desired site characteristics and elements to support the neighborhood stakeholder desires and needs. Extensive comments were documented in the meeting minutes found in Appendix A.



Walking the park, the Steering Committee exchanges ideas and opinions.

The following elements were proposed by the neighborhood stakeholders for consideration in the Howard Park Master Plan:

- Tree protection
- No parking
- Safety
- Passive recreation. (No programmed activities.)
- Soft surface walking trails
- Pedestrian access at the corner of Overbrook Drive and Collier Road
- Open lawn areas
- Picnic areas
- Increased woodland habitat.



Soft surface walking trail mulched with shredded wood chips.