Welcome to Public Meeting #2

Boulevard Crossing Park

Why Are We Here?

This meeting will cover a summary of community values and shared evaluation of design ideas for the upcoming park project at Boulevard Crossing Park!

Come see summaries of our past community meetings, preferred activities and uses, the physical realities of the site, and the future of the park for the many communities it will serve.

During this meeting, everyone will have a chance to share their opinion and weigh in on how the future Boulevard Crossing Park will look and feel!

Here’s what’s going on at the meeting tonight:

Past Community Meetings
If you’re new to this community engagement process, take a look at some of the boards to catch up on what we’ve been working on!

Design Proposals
We’ll go over three design proposals.

Brief Discussion of Activities and Q&A
Key Findings

Here are the key findings of the existing conditions and analysis phase:

CONVERSATION TO...

Action

2009 MASTER PLAN
The 2009 Master Plan established a vision and catalyzed the development of the park we know today. Yet, much has changed since.

MOVING FORWARD
This process will build on that Master Plan but adapt the design, uses and experiences to today’s needs.

UNDERTILIZED TO...

Vital

SITE HISTORY
The site has a history of production - from agricultural lands long ago to industrial uses through the end of last century.

USER NEEDS
Though the park’s fields are often busy, there is a lot more potential for activities and uses that provide for a broader range of people.

FRAGMENTED TO...

Connected

SOUTHSIDE TRAIL
The northern boundary of the park is the future Southside Trail, which ABI hopes to open as an interim hiking trail by summer 2019.

EDGES
Each of the site’s edges is unique - from the bustle of Boulevard to the more neighborhood character of Englewood.

IMPACTED TO...

Restored

WATER
Roughly 2,200 acres, representing over 660 million gallons per year, of Southeast Atlanta drains to Boulevard Crossing Park before forming the headwaters of Intrenchment Creek.

TOPOGRAPHY
Our site has over 100’ of vertical change, making it steeply sloping in some areas!

TREES
More than 99.5% of the vegetation on site is classified as invasive, dead, poor or fair in condition with only a handful of high-quality trees.

BOULEVARD CROSSING PARK

Opportunities

The design team looked deeply at the site during an existing conditions and analysis phase. Four key aspirations emerged to frame the constraints and opportunities that the site presents for use, design and construction.

Existing Site

This map shows the existing conditions at Boulevard Crossing Park.
We've Been Listening!

We are working to make this process comprehensive and inclusive for the entire community.

- Pop-up Events
- Community Meetings
- Advisory Committees

PUBLIC MEETING #1

In late May 2019, the BeltLine hosted its first public meeting to kick off the Phase 2 community process to define park improvements. 33 out of 63 attendees live within a 0.75 mile radius of the Park, and participation was highest among those form North and East of the park (44 out of 63 attendees).

COMMUNITY VALUES

This meeting focused on distilling community values into design principles. Attendees self-identified the “communities” they represented. “Community” was broadly based on geography, age, ethnicity, or any other way the participants personally define their communities.

Attendees answered two questions:
1. What values are important to YOU for Boulevard Crossing Park?
2. What values do you think matter to YOUR COMMUNITY for the park?

USES AND ACTIVITIES

In one activity, attendees were given stamps that represented different programs (like skate parks, nature trails, etc.) and were encouraged to “stamp” them onto different scenes from the existing park.

The following content takes into account each of the community responses to see what types of activities the community would most like to see!
Community Values

Here's what we heard at Public Meeting #1 were the Community’s Values!

**Community Togetherness**
At our first community meeting, the top priority of the attendees was to build community togetherness at the park. This means providing space for large events, a diverse range of programming, and a design that helps build an identity for the community.

**Equity & Inclusion**
Another concern from the attendees at the first meeting was to create an environment that promotes both equity and inclusion. To achieve this, the design must be accessible and approachable by people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

**Connectivity & Access**
The community also expressed interest in prioritizing connection and access at the park. This value pushed the design team to think about transportation both to the site and within the site, and to make sure that the park brings communities together across the city.

**Safety**
Safety also came up as a central community value at our first meeting. This value requires critical thought about how different programs are placed throughout the site, how pathways operate, and how site-lines can keep viewsheds open across the park.

**Sustainability**
The community attendees also expressed interest in creating a site centered around sustainability. A sustainable park means shaping the ground to strategically divert stormwater and using vegetation to encourage a healthy ecology at the site.
**Uses and Activities**

**THE PARK’S PROGRAM**

Here’s a look at the list of uses and activities that we are planning for:

**CONNECTIVITY • ACCESS**
- Connectivity to an improved streetscape
- Signage and wayfinding
- Sidewalks and walking trails
- Gateway(s) to southside trail

**FLEXIBLE SPACES**
- Artificial turf multi-purpose fields
- Event lawn
- Entry plazas and overlooks

**PARK BASICS**
- Site lighting
- Benches and seating
- Planting in coordination with an ISA certified arborist
- Invasive plant removal

**PARK DESTINATIONS**
- Play structures
- Splash pad (4,000-5,000sf)
- Public art
- Water feature

**ARCHITECTURE**
- Pavilion (+/- 800 SF)
- Accessible restroom building and mechanical room (1,375sf)
- Accessible restroom building (575sf)

**MAINTENANCE**
- Park maintenance facility (1,700sf)
- Park maintenance garage with roll up doors (1,300sf)
- Solar photovoltaics
- Park maintenance plan

**USES ACTIVITY RESULTS**

In addition, the community’s preferences gave us inspiration for the design concepts...

**MUST HAVES**
The community tended to choose uses and activities that would make the site comfortable, productive and iconic.

**MIDDLE OF THE ROAD**
Folks placed ecological restoration - wetlands, forest and meadow - in the middle of the pack with more youth-focused programs.

**THANK YOU, NEXT!**
The community tended to dislike single use or overly specific elements - and definitely was not excited by parking!
The Hillside divides the site into a series of sculptural bands that each hold different activities and uses. The upper hillside is home to flowering trees and shrubs; the second tier holds a water play area, a small lawn, and a skate park; the lowest and largest layer hosts two sports fields, one of which also provides an area to support community performances and events. This design is a tiered system of places, vegetation, and ecological management that combines the community’s values into an accessible and memorable park.

Bands of trees trace the topography of the site; the vegetation acts as a visual representation of the physical experience of moving up, down, and through the site. Meadow areas punctuate these lines of trees to offer additional space for excess stormwater to flow through.
INSPIRATIONS

Nature & Ecology

Diverse Plantings, Drifts of Trees, Enhanced Habitat

Architecture

Architecture as Billboard and Icon

Topography & Views

Sculptural Landform, A Celebration of Topography

Connectivity & Access

Major Gateways and Flowing Trails

Activities & Use

Complimentary Uses, Highly-Activated Zones
Cascade Park is structured around the two defining features. First, a series of cascading terraces create a continuous public park along Englewood. Each terrace is enlivened by active programs and uses—from play areas to soccer fields. Water features surprise and delight in different ways through this stepping landscape, providing a visual and symbolic link between the various terraces.

Second, a monumentally-scaled hill creates great views - of the park, the neighborhoods and the city skyline - while also being home to an iconic playscape with all forms of sliding, climbing and discovering.

Water and water play re-appears throughout the site as a unifying theme. Winding nature trails connect various parts of the park and the Southside trail.
INSPIRATIONS

Nature & Ecology
- Winding Nature Trails and Ecological Engagement

Architecture
- Integrated Shade and Architecture

Topography & Views
- Long Views, Steep Climbs and Adventure

Connectivity & Access
- Climbing, Ramping and Stepping

Activities & Use
- Rooms for Urban Living with Lots of Animation
A grand plateau, graced with active fields, connects the Southside Trail to Englewood and overlooks a diverse neighborhood park at the site’s most visible corner.

Plateau Park accentuates and emphasizes the park’s different topographic zones. The steeply sloping high western edge of the site is sculpted into a grand plateau. This high promontory allows for a graceful connection between the southern edge and the Southside Trail, creates soccer fields nestled into built-in seating slopes, and provides great views to the city skyline and lower park.

The Lower Park occupies the lower and flatter space of the site at the very visible corner of Englewood and Boulevard. This park contains a pump-track and multi-use trail that links a series of active park and play gardens. Water play, public art and gathering, skating and active play surround a wet meadow at the center.
INSPIRATIONS

Nature & Ecology
- A Wet Meadow Gathers Stormwater

Architecture
- Architecture for Views and Procession

Topography & Views
- Hillsides Shaped for Utility and View

Connectivity & Access
- Multi-Use Trails with Built-in Pump Track Features

Activities & Use
- Various Gardens of Active Uses