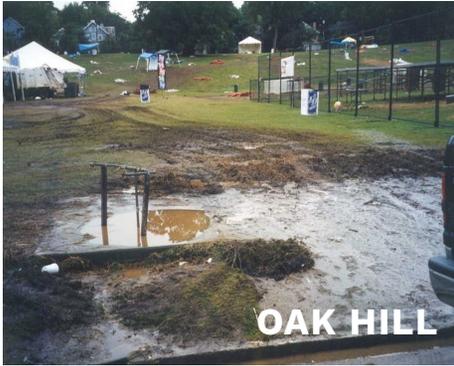


LOVED TO DEATH

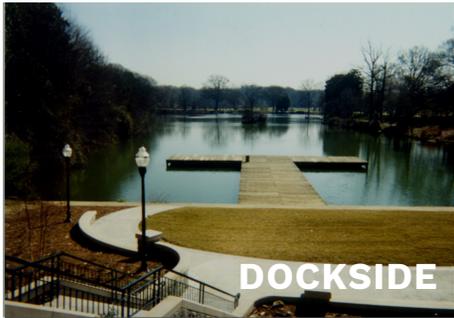
By the 1980s, Piedmont Park was nearly "loved to death" as years of overuse and maintenance neglect took their toll.



OAK HILL



MEADOW



DOCKSIDE



THE NORTHWOODS

PIEDMONT PARK CONSERVANCY

The Piedmont Park Conservancy, a nonprofit organization, is a member and donor-funded organization working in partnership with the city of Atlanta to enhance and preserve Piedmont Park as a vital, urban green space, and as a cultural and recreational resource that enriches the quality of life for all Atlantans. Since 1989, over \$66 million has been invested into Piedmont Park through capital improvements raised by the Conservancy. Today, the Conservancy raises over \$3 million in donations annually to preserve and enhance Piedmont Park.

WALKING TOURS

For more information about our walking tours, please visit our website or email us at tours@piedmontpark.org.

 **PIEDMONT
PARK
CONSERVANCY**
WWW.PIEDMONTPARK.ORG

PRESERVING

PIEDMONT PARK

WALK WITH US & DISCOVER THE GREEN HEART OF ATLANTA

BEFORE

A PARK IN DECLINE



A. The Promenade
B. Dockside

C. The Meadow
D. Visitor's Center

E. Greystone
F. Dog Park

G. Magnolia Hall
H. Clear Creek

I. Active Oval

K. Community Center
L. Aquatic Center

AFTER

A WORLD CLASS PUBLIC PARK



A. The Promenade

C. The Meadow

E. Greystone

G. Magnolia Hall

I. Active Oval

K. Community Center

B. Dockside

D. Visitor's Center

F. Dog Park

H. Clear Creek

J. Bridge at Clara Meer

L. Aquatic Center

WALK WITH US

Have you ever wondered what goes into preserving and maintaining Piedmont Park for all Atlantans to enjoy? In this self-guided tour, you will find highlights of some of the Conservancy's most significant contributions to keeping Atlanta's favorite green space clean, beautiful and active since its inception in 1989. Start your walking tour at the 12th St. and Piedmont Ave. Park entrance while facing the Park. Then, use the Park map to navigate.

Stop 1 Look to the right of the 12th St. and Piedmont Ave. Park entrance at the Conservancy's Community Center. Formerly the American Legion Building, the Conservancy renovated the center in 2002 and it is now the home to EnviroVentures Summer Camp, Conservancy field trips, Green Market, and two restaurant locations.

Stop 2 Walk forward to view the Historic Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is the oldest continually standing structure in the Park. Built in 1910-1911, this building was first used as a public comfort station for early bathers in Lake Clara Meer. Like the Park, its experienced many iterations from public comfort station to ladies waiting room (restroom) to boathouse. The Conservancy restored it in 1996 and it now serves as a popular event venue.

Stop 3 Walk around the Visitor's Center to enjoy beautiful views of Lake Clara Meer. Between 2001-2002, Lake Clara Meer was restored including constructing new docks, replanting the lake banks, and adding pedestrian paths, new swings and benches.

Stop 4 When looking at the lake, exit to the right on the paved path to go toward Oak Hill. In 2001, Oak Hill underwent a \$3 million major restoration project which included the addition of trees, benches and lighting. A natural amphitheater was created on the hillside for better viewing of symphony concerts. Today, Oak Hill is an iconic place to relax with friends, enjoy views of Midtown, and listen to a concert in the park.

Stop 5 Continue along the path toward the Meadow.—a wide open space of grass. During 2002-2003, the entire 15-acre meadow was regraded and new top soil, irrigation, turf, water fountains and benches were added. The space is one of the most popular spaces for events and festivals.

Stop 6 Turn back toward the lake and cross over the bridge while stopping in the Clara Meer Gazebo. During the Conservancy's restoration of Lake Clara Meer, the concrete causeway that divided the lake was removed and replaced by a new, arched bridge unifying the lake as a single body of water to provide better water circulation. The historic gazebo was kept and renovated. Lake banks were replanted. Additionally, the project constructed a lakeside boardwalk with stone piers, new pedestrian contact points, docks, and water foundations. The ceramic tiles embedded in the granite columns around the lake

were designed by local artist Debra Tyson and depict the 22 different species of trees found in Piedmont Park.

Stop 7 Go back toward the Meadow and go left. You should approach the Park Drive Bridge. Take the long staircase down the hill on your right where you will see the education organic garden at the bottom. Since 2012, the garden has been expanded to include an orchard, bee apiary and outdoor classroom. Now, more than 800 children visit the garden each year to learn about a variety of topics surrounding natural and organic gardening methods.

Stop 8 With the education garden on your right, go down the path until you reach the Park's three-acre dog park. Since 2002, the dog park has been a favorite feature of the park. Renovated in 2010, off-leash dog park now provides separate areas for large and small dogs to legally run free. This space attracts over 700,000 visitors a year.

Stop 9 Across from the large dog park is the Six Springs Wetlands. During the dog park renovation, six underground springs were discovered which the Conservancy developed into The Six Spring Wetlands. Opened in 2009, the area features a gravel nature trail and a winding boardwalk trail bordered by native plants and trees.

Stop 10 Maintaining the same path of the dog park, go straight toward Peregrine Point which overlooks the Clear Creek Reservoir. The Conservancy created the overlook during the 52-acre Northwood Park Expansion (2009-2013).

Stop 11 When the path forks, turn right on the paved path going under the bridge. During this walk, you will see other elements of the Northwoods Park Expansion: the Carriage Hill Trails and then the Northwoods Nature Trail which consists of a paved, lit pathway leading through an old forest area that winds along the edge of Clear Creek with steps leading into the Storza Woods.

Stop 12 As the paved trail ends, turn right toward the Piedmont Commons. Opened in 2013 as part of the expansion, the Piedmont Commons contains a large grassed area consisting of multi-use athletic fields ringed by trees and a paved pathway with bridges over Clear Creek with access to Monroe Drive.

Stop 13 Loop back south to the Northwoods Nature Trail and until you approach a grand staircase (uphill path just past on the left for bikes/wheelchairs). At the top of the stairs, first find the Legacy Interactive Fountain and next the Promenade. The fountain and classically inspired arbor was initially a green-waste dumping site and a place to be avoided. In 2011 as part of the expansion, the former dumping site was transformed into an oasis featuring two grand meadows with fountains, lush green lawn space, and stunning views.

Stop 14 Continue straight toward the Welcome Plaza. Constructed in 2009, the Welcome Plaza features a circular stone located off of the bottom floor of the LEED-certified shared Sage Parking Facility. The six-story parking facility was built by the Atlanta Botanical Gardens for the use of Atlanta Botanical Garden and Piedmont Park visitors.

Ahead is Magnolia Hall. Originally built in 1945, Magnolia Hall was formerly horse stables and a blacksmith forge used to house the Atlanta Police Department's mounted patrol. In 1998, the Conservancy renovated the stables into an elegant event and meeting venue while salvaging the original old blacksmith's forge and convert it into a large fireplace to compliment the mission-style décor.

Concurrently, the Conservancy renovated the City's old maintenance building located across from Magnolia Hall. Today, the former maintenance building is the home of Piedmont Park Conservancy's administrative offices.

Stop 15 Walk forward to the greenspace called Magnolia Greenway. Originally a parking lot for Piedmont Park, Magnolia Greenway was a hard-scape in the heart of Atlanta's largest green space. In 2010, the area was renovated to include a lawn, two regulation bocce courts, patio space and a wooded arbor.

Stop 16 Walk past the bocce courts toward the lake and stop at the Piedmont Park Aquatic Center on the right. Swimming in the Park is a well-known past-time that dates back to before the original bathhouse was completed in 1911. Built in 1973, the Aquatic Center re-opened in 2009 after a major renovation. The pool now features: a children's splash area, accessible beach entry, a current channel, water jets, four lap lanes, large pool deck, shade arbor, grassy area, and new showers and changing rooms. Additionally, a ticket office and concession stand were built. Lastly, the Conservancy transformed the Bathhouse into Greystone, an elegant special events facility. Named for its original granite walls, Greystone boasts 9,000 square feet of event space. Rental fees support the Conservancy's park maintenance fund.

Stop 17 Across from Greystone, walk toward the grand granite stairway which is a permanent remnant from the 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition held in the Park. Go up the steps to the enter the Active Oval. After a \$1.8 million renovation ending in 2006, the Active Oval now includes a crushed granite jogging path, drinking fountains, park benches, seating wall, new trees and landscaping, an irrigation system, a pergola, two regulation sand lot volleyball courts, and soccer and softball fields. The oval attracts over 68,000 reserved players each year.

Stop 18 Walk directly across the Active Oval and up the great stone staircase. At the top of the stairs, turn left on the paved path to find Noguchi Playscape on your right. The artistic playscape was created by Japanese-American Isamu Noguchi in 1976. The playground's design encourages children to think about and explore the natural world in new and exciting ways.

Stop 19 Walk down the stone staircase from Noguchi Playscape to return to the 12th St. and Piedmont Ave. Park entrance. Adjacent to the entrance is the Reading Circle which opened in 2016. The shady space contains 27 bench-like stones surrounding a Red Oak tree.

We hope you enjoyed exploring Piedmont Park with us! To learn more about the Conservancy and the Park, please visit www.piedmontpark.org.

PIEDMONT PARK MAP



The 52 acre Northwoods Expansion project enhanced areas of the park that were overgrown and inaccessible.



LEGACY FOUNTAIN



SIX SPRINGS TRAIL



PIEDMONT COMMONS



WALKER WOODS

PARK EXPANSION