

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on site investigations, a thorough assessment of the topographic and tree surveys and a comprehensive review of costs, durability, maintenance, and best management practices for trail improvements within environmentally sensitive areas, the recommended improvements for the project are as follows and as identified on the Trail Concept Map on the next few pages:

- Remove trees that are identified by a certified arborist and noted on the tree survey as dead, dying and hazardous (DDH). Prune dead limbs of trees that have branches overhanging the proposed trail. Raise the tree canopy where needed to improve safety within the park. As part of the sidewalk improvements proposed along the roadway, remove approximately six non-specimen trees, all of which are in poor condition. Replace trees that are identified to be removed with new 3" caliper hardwood trees for the purpose of preserving the existing tree canopy in the park.
- Remove invasive vegetation identified by a forest restoration specialist and noted on the invasive species map in areas along the banks of Peachtree Creek and within the surrounding passive park for the purpose of restoring native flora and fauna habitats that benefit our ecosystem. Replace with native vegetation as prescribed by the forest restoration specialist. To ensure a successful native species restoration effort, a 3 to 5 year mitigation program will be established.
- Improve the existing perimeter trail with a 5' wide ADA accessible concrete sidewalk. Provide a landscape buffer between the curb and the sidewalk, where feasible. Factors including but not limited to tree protection, stream buffer protection, universal accessibility, on-street parking and utilities will all be considered when laying out the sidewalk.

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cont.

- Replace existing eroded rubble stone curbs where sidewalk improvements are proposed along the perimeter of the park with a City of Atlanta standard granite curb. A continuous curb system like the one proposed will help mitigate stormwater to catch basins and prevent further washout and erosion in low spots. Rubble stone curb material will be salvaged and re-used within the park as a veneer to proposed foot bridges or other identified park features.
- Improve the existing interior trail with a 5' wide porous material section constructed of aggregate and slate scape stabilizer. This material is considered an approved trail surface for floodplain and universal accessibility applications and is used throughout the region in similar environmental conditions along creeks, low lying areas and wooded forests.
- Make minor repairs to the existing rubberized trail surface as part of a periodic maintenance effort.
- Install interpretive signage at champion trees to highlight the significance of the trees in the park and in the City of Atlanta.
- Install two small footbridges and a short boardwalk as noted on the Trail Concept Map to improve park connections while protecting low lying areas and preserve existing drainage ways.
- Refer to the next page for the Trail Concept Map for reference to the general locations of proposed improvements.