



**Mountain Way Common
Public Meeting #1
February 12th, 2013 7:00 PM, St. James United Methodist Church**

Attendees: 22 noted present and are listed on the sign-in sheet
Park Pride: Walt Ray, Becky Katz

Location: St. James United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall

Walt Ray, Director of Park Visioning, welcomed attendees and started the meeting with a round of introductions. All attendees and those steering committee members present introduced themselves.

Walt then led the attendees through an outline of Park Pride's visioning process and the roles of the community. He stressed the importance of the community's voice. A visioning is not a Park Pride plan, but rather the will and dream of the community. Examples of past Visioning Plans, Outdoor Activity Central and Little Nancy Creek were shown and explained.

An overview of existing conditions of Mountain Way Common including potential properties to acquire was given. Pictures from the site were reviewed. The creek, existing trails, property ownership and the properties connection to the GA 400 trailhead were highlighted. When the question "How many people have actually walked the site" was posed, approximately 95% of attendees raised their hands.

Becky Katz presented inspiring case studies of greenspaces under interstates from around the world. Photos of general park amenities such as playgrounds, gathering areas, lights, parking, wild life habitats, trash receptacles, water features and different paths were displayed. Becky then discussed Seattle's I-5 Colonnade Park, Louisville's I-64 Waterfront Park, Quebec's Autoroute 440 Murals, Shanghai's Illuminated Highways, London's Westway A40, Miami's Jose Marti Park, and Portland's Burnside Skate Park. All of these parks are under elevated interstates.

The community was asked to participate in Strength, Weakness/ Challenges, and Opportunities (S.W.O.C.) exercise and a Wish List Creation exercise. During the S.W.O.C. the community discussed the challenges posed by GDOT's ownership, the opportunities for making this a gathering space for the community, and its natural beauty. During the Wish List exercise attendees discussed ideas of how to keep the park natural, safe and inviting. All the results can be found below.

The next Public Meeting on **Tuesday March 12th at 7:00pm** at St. James United Methodist Church was announced and all those attendance were asked to enlist other community members to attend the meeting. Park Pride will facilitate a design charrette where the community members will explore design options for Mountain Way Common.



Strengths

Creek, free- the price is right, the park is in the middle of neighborhood, centrally located, shaded, soothing, GA 400 truck connection, weather protection, weather proof, quiet area, secluded, buffer highway from neighboring houses, accessible from many neighborhoods, improved wildlife habitat, scenic, shape/linear/expandable/large, varying terrain, capable community

Weaknesses/Challenges

Steep topography, 100 year flood plain, noise level, seclusion- perceived danger/ security, visibility is limited, illegal dumping, GDOT ownership, lots of concrete that can't be moved, rip rap in creek, mountain way driving, parking, mountain way is a hazard, creek is a separator, steep paved embankment, raising funds, land acquisition, water hazards, flooding hazard, legal restrictions of the creek- setbacks,

Opportunities

Land acquisition, meeting space/gathering community space, add greenspace in an under parked neighborhood, increase property values, transforming a negative to a positive, improve neighborhood safety, visual benefit by improving the property, safe place for kids to play and explore,

Wish List

Walking trail, year round plantings/flowering , seasonal color, mini putt putt, basketball court, bridge over the creek, ponds, meeting area, gathering areas, benches, art installation, outdoor classroom, murals, soccer field, stadium sitting, connection to the trail, kids play area, traffic calming, dog park, community garden area, vertical garden, exercise stations, exercise trail, place of reflection, boardwalk in flood plains, nature trail, signage for history/nature, lighting along trails, improved visibility, connect Statewood road, sidewalks, picnic area, stop light/ crosswalk by park, parking, connection to Little Nancy Creek park, along the creek, fenced play area, drinking fountain, garbage cans, bike rack, trail head amenities, call boxes, donation box, solar lighting, catching water off the highway, rain harvesting, improved water quality, waterfalls, access to the creek, access to Sarah Smith, water monitoring