



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# John Howell Park Renovation

August 2024 Update  
VHCA Town Hall

# Timeline

## Kickoff & Fundraising

Anurag Sahu & Jack White write a letter to the community kicking off a fundraising campaign for a major renovation of JHP.

2022

## Design and Development

Frawley and Associates takes the concepts and priorities of the community to craft a detailed design including tree impact, stormwater planning, equipment details.

2023

2024

## Engineering

Design/Construction committee works with City of Atlanta, Frawley & Associates, Flippo towards finalized and approved construction and engineering documents.

2025

## Vendor Solicitation and Bid Process

City of Atlanta secures a contractor for oversight and construction of the project.

*Late 2025 - Early 2026*

2021

## Concept Planning

Extensive discussion in parks committee around key conceptual areas, development of priorities, conduct community surveys both formally and informally to define and refine broad concepts.

## Fundraising

Launch a second and larger round of fundraising to secure funds for the construction of the project.

## Construction

Oversight of construction and manage the scope.

# Survey 1 Results (2022)

**“We love...”**

- Virginia-Highland
- Green space
- Play
- Dog walks
- Festivals
- A walk amongst the trees
- Community
- Kids classes at the oval
- Picnics
- Getting together
- Classroom meet-ups at the playground

# Survey 1 Results (2022)

## DO

- ✓ Revitalize the great lawn
- ✓ Upgrade playground with equipment styles that compliment the park and serve multiple ages
- ✓ Address homelessness
- ✓ Consider ADA accessibility

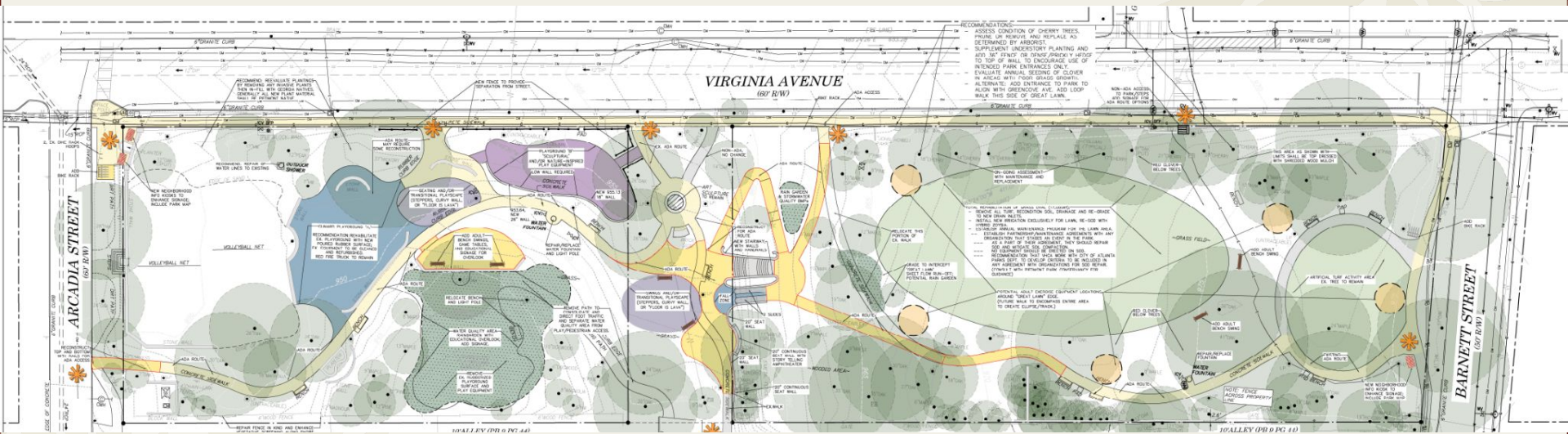
## DON'T

- x Disrupt the balance between passive and active use
- x Forget budget for long-term clean-up and maintenance
- x Add a pickleball court

# Renovation Priorities

Conceptual Area		Priority
1	<b>Rainwater issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stormwater issues are the primary driver of the renovation and must be fixed per City of Atlanta</li><li>• Requires the playground to be removed</li></ul>
2	<b>The Great Lawn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revitalize into a lush lawn</li><li>• Maintain the size</li><li>• Do not grade it to be level; work with APS to maintain flat field access</li></ul>
3	<b>New Playground</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offset lost playground equipment with new playground layout, new pieces and ground cover</li><li>• Choose styles that compliment the park and serve multiple ages</li></ul>
4	<b>Improve and maintain existing assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tree survey and integration of results into project design</li><li>• Fix water lines to the water fountain, benches, fence posts, signs, etc</li><li>• Install new surface in the Oval</li></ul>
5	<b>Activation through fields, courts, etc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No changes to the volleyball courts</li><li>• Pickleball won't fit with the terrain given elevation changes. It also would disrupt the balance of active and passive uses in the park.</li></ul>

# Proposed Design



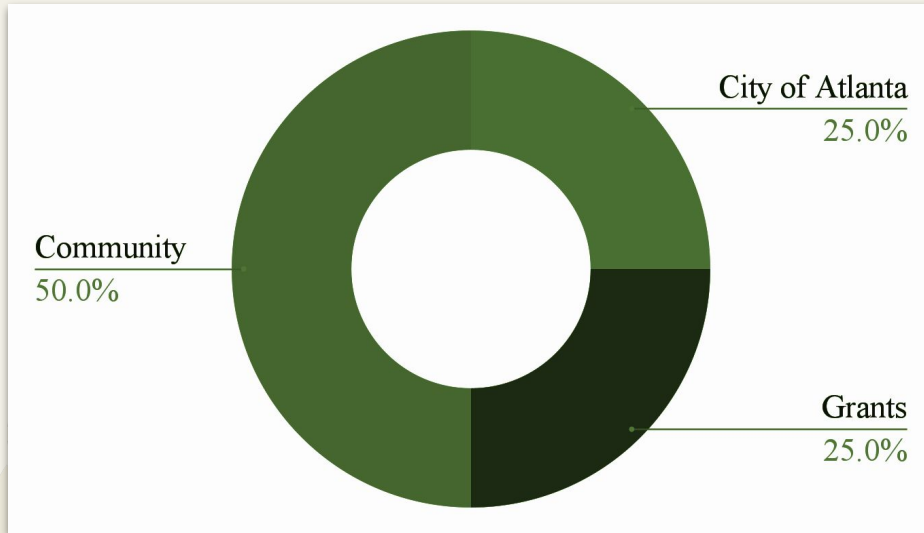
# Preliminary Budget

- New Playground equipment and surfaces (~\$700k)
- Rain gardens, grading, and stormwater management (~\$300k)\*
- Great Lawn restoration and Barnett Oval revitalization (~\$250k)
- Hardscapes - steps, brick sidewalks, ADA ramps, fencing and more (~\$250k)
- New plantings and existing tree management (~\$100k)
- Professional services (~\$50k)

**Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$1.5-\$1.75M**

*\*Civil engineering design from Flippo Civil Design will provide confidence on this estimate.*

# Sources of Funding



- **\$800k - Community Fundraising**
  - Include donations from corporations, small businesses, families, individuals, and more.
- **\$400k - City of Atlanta**
  - Moving Atlanta Forward/ TSPLOST3 funding
  - Parks and Recreation
- **Up to \$400k - Grants**
  - Park Pride, Waterfall Foundation, etc.



# Exciting News and a Challenge

- Community has raised **\$100k**
  - Individual donors
  - VHCA fundraisers
- City of Atlanta has committed **\$300k**
- Time is **now** for the community to raise funds

# Our Current Team

- **Planning:** Jim Coe (VHCA Parks Committee) & Jess Liddick (VHCA Board Treasurer)
- **Design:** Frawley & Associates
- **Engineering:** City of Atlanta, Flippo Civil Design
- **Fundraising:** Karri Hobson-Pape (VHCA Board Member), Holly Fisher, Mary Frances Jones, Jill Gossett, Jacki Brown, Suzannah Gill
- **Support:** VHCA Board of Directors

# Next Steps

## Design and Construction

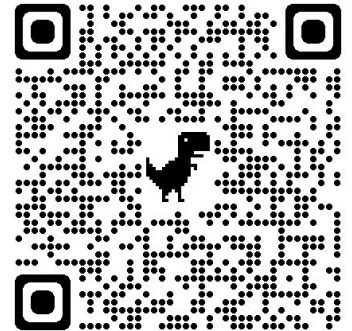
- ***Finalize Engineering Design***  
Ensures current landscape design meets the stormwater needs of the park
- ***Cost Estimate***  
Final engineering design will allow for greater confidence in our cost estimate
- ***Secure City of Atlanta Approval***  
Seek approval for final design from Office of Park Design and Urban Design Commission

## Fundraising

- ***Launch Friends of John Howell Park***  
A capital campaign to renovate and maintain John Howell Park. Coming soon!
- ***Grant Writing***  
Explore all avenues for funding.
- ***Complete Our Survey***  
Let us know how you can help.

## JHP Needs You!

1. **Donate**
2. **Join** our fundraising team
3. **Spread** the word
4. **Learn** more on [Vahi.org](http://Vahi.org)
5. **Share** your thoughts in our round 2 survey





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