



# Virginia-Highland Pool

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VHCA Town Hall

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April 29, 2025

# Agenda

- Introductions
- The Vision
- The Process
- Current Status
- Next Steps
- Q&A



# **Introductions**



# About Me

- Virginia-Highland resident since 2016
- Work at local startup (ServeScape)
- Neighborhood volunteer
- Father of 3 daughters
- Lifetime swimmer
- Executive Director of the Virginia-Highland Pool Association





# Our Board Members



**John Closs**  
Executive Director



**Abby Closs**  
Fundraising & Comms



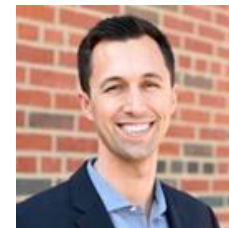
**Sara Parker-Wallace**  
Fundraising



**Kate Mabry**  
Communications



**Brian Soss**  
Development



**Chris DeJong**  
Development

**Virginia-Highland Pool Association is a 501(c)(3) Georgia non-profit**



# **The Vision**

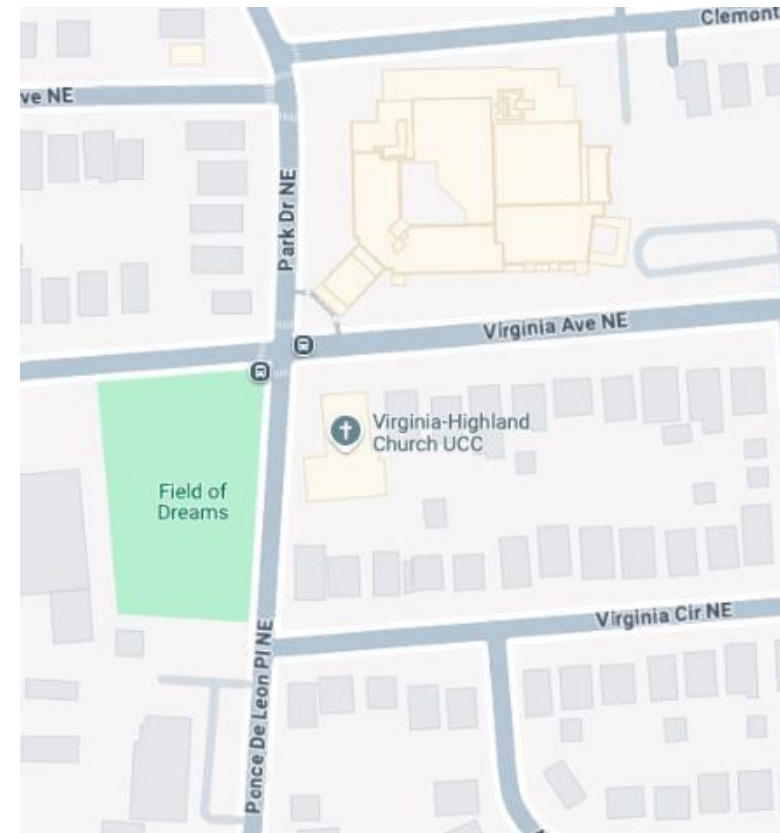


**Why?**

**Passion + Vision + Opportunity**

# The Land

- The Field of Dreams is owned by Atlanta Public Schools
- 1.4 acres (~200' x 315')
  - A lap pool is 75' long
  - Garden Hills Pool sits on about 1 acre of land







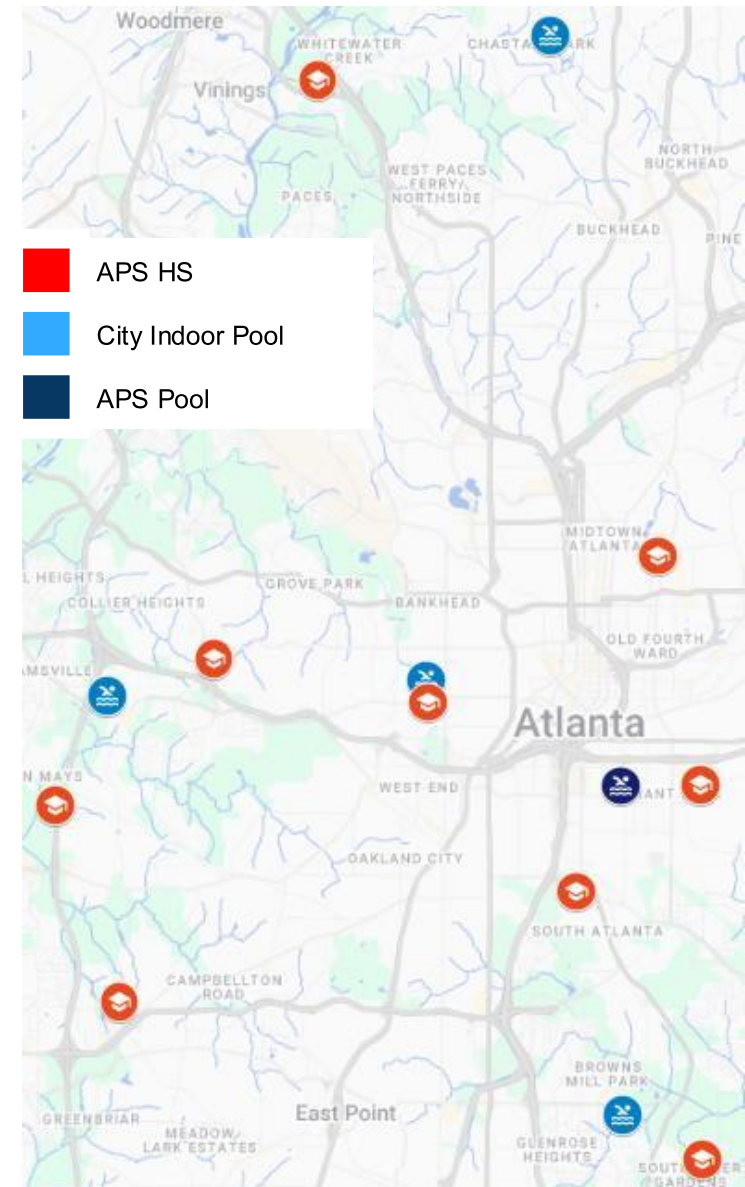
# The Community Need

- Venetian Pool: 9-year waitlist
- Inman Park Pool: 225 people on waitlist
- Lake Claire Pool: 150+ people on waitlist (3 years)
- Piedmont Park Pool: Operates at max capacity much of the summer with 1 hour waits common

**Swimming is an important life skill; drowning is the #2 cause of death for kids age 5 –14**

# APS Pool Access

- APS has one functioning pool (at King MS)
- APS has joint use agreement with the City's Dept of Park and Rec (DPR) to allow the use of DPR pools for APS' swim and dive teams
- Midtown HS swimming team currently trains at King MS, which is shared by several other schools



# Vision

The pool is envisioned as a public/private partnership between Atlanta Public Schools and a non-profit

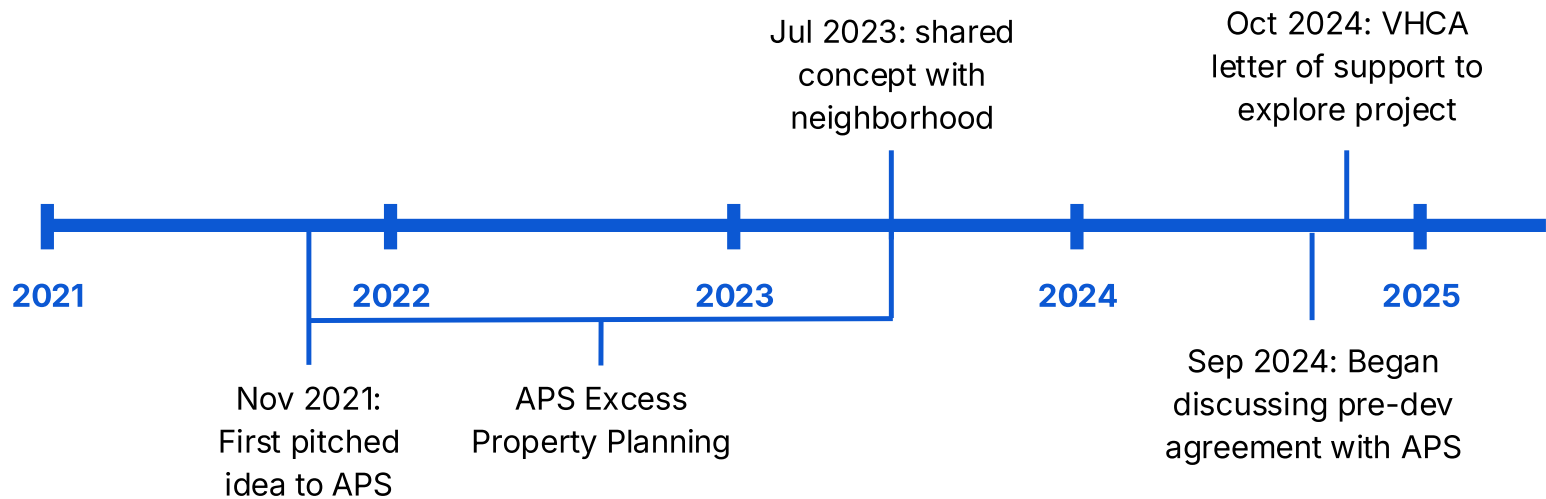
- APS leases the land to VHPA
- VHPA raises funds, builds, and manages a year-round pool
- Pool is a community asset in the summer
- Pool supports APS aquatic sports during the school year





# The Process

# Process to Date








# Engaging with the Community

Over the last 3.5 year the Pool Association has:

- Presented 2x to the VHCA
- Met with APS in person/virtually 10+ times
- Attended 2 community meetings with neighbors on Virginia Circle
- Met with Pastor of VaHi Church and Director of Music school
- Had 100+ conversations with community members and stakeholders
- Attended more APS board meetings than I'd like to admit



# Current Status

A vertical blue abstract graphic with swirling, liquid-like patterns is positioned on the left side of the slide.

## Where We are Now

- APS and VHPA have agreed to a tentative Pre-Development Agreement, pending Board approval and this round of community engagement
- The Agreement outlines the process to a ground lease, if four successive milestones are met
- It has not yet been presented to or signed by the APS board



# **What's a Pre-Development Agreement?**

- Establishes a clear framework for collaboration between VHPA and APS to explore and prepare for the development of a pool, with substantive community engagement guaranteed for VHCA and NPU F
- It outlines the responsibilities, timelines, and financial obligations of the VHPA during the pre-development phase.



## The Pre-Development Agreement...

- Affords the VHPA the **time** and **resources** to develop a comprehensive plan and provides four milestones for APS to check on VHPA's progress
- Mandates substantive community engagement and subsequent neighborhood buy-in:
  - VHPA shall "address all material concerns of the neighborhood association and NPU and submit to [APS] all reasonable evidence of such community engagement and documentation of community support" prior to the ground lease going into effect.





## **The Pre-Development Agreement...**

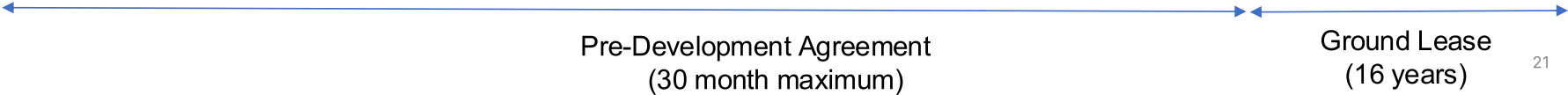
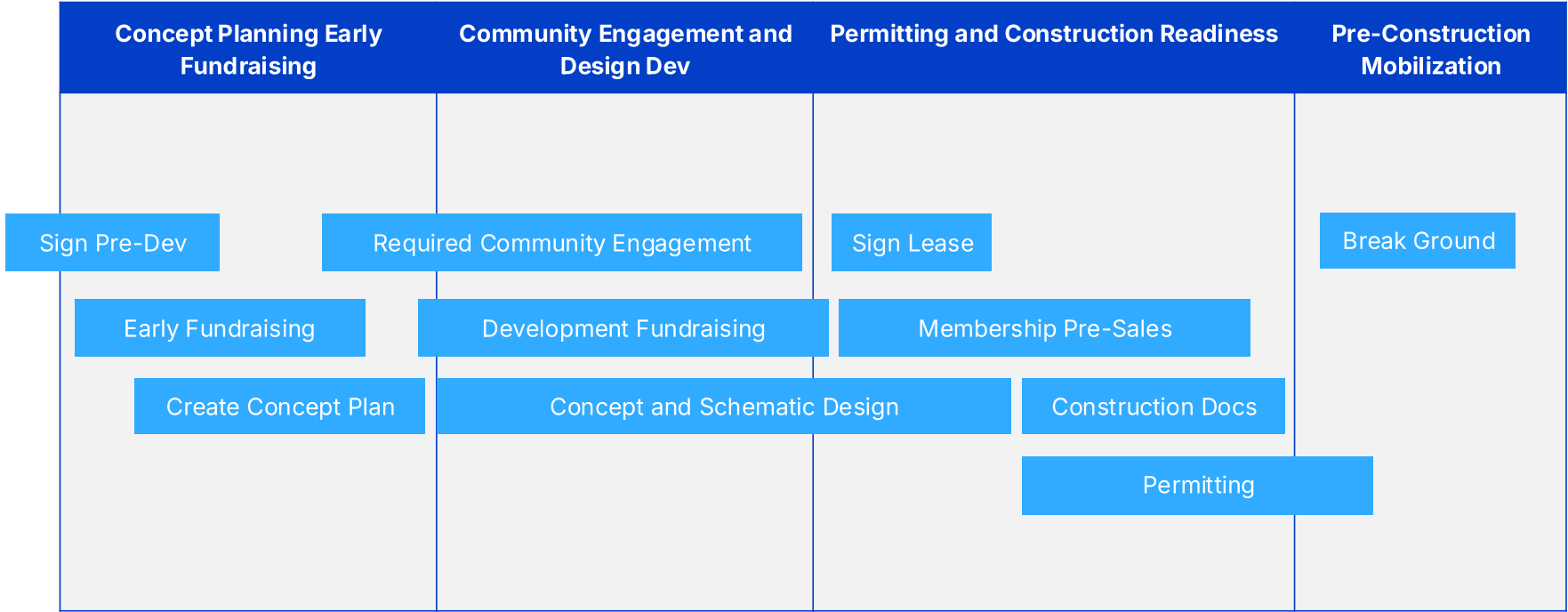
- Outlines a few key terms that will be included in a lease:
  - 16-year lease term (assumes one year for construction), starting at issuance of the land disturbance permit (LDP) by City
  - Access for APS students and APS swim programs in summer and during school year



# Next Steps

# Next Steps

Issuance of Land Disturbance  
Permit by City of Atlanta





# **The Ask from VHPA Right Now**

- Support that the APS board sign the Pre-Development Agreement:
  - April 29: VHCA Town Hall on VH Pool (tonight)
  - May 7: VHCA Planning Committee, 7 PM (Zoom)
  - May 12: VHCA General Body Meeting, 7 PM (Grace Lutheran Church)
- Understand that more community engagement is forthcoming including requirement for the ground lease going into effect that VHPA "address all material concerns of the neighborhood association and NPU"
- Reach out if you want to get involved