

The design for **Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City** is underway!

Upon completion, Rodney Cook, Sr. Park in Historic Vine City (Cook Park) will be a dynamic 16-acre neighborhood park situated along Joseph E. Boone Boulevard in the historic Vine City neighborhood. The park is being designed through a collaborative effort between the City of Atlanta, The Trust for Public Land, the National Monuments Foundation, and the Community.

When completed, Cook -Park will:

- Provide sustainable venues for a multitude of recreational activities and spaces for community gathering
- Relieve local flooding & reduce the burden on the City's existing water management facilities
- Offer opportunities for job training and environmental education
- Honor the legacy of the neighborhoods' unique history

HISTORY OF RODNEY COOK, SR. PARK & MIMS PARK

The site for the new Cook Park is bordered by Joseph E. Boone Boulevard, Elm Street, Walnut Street, Thurmond Street, and Spencer Street. The Cook Park site sits two blocks west of a 6-acre park, named Mims Park, constructed in the early 1900s. Mims Park was designed by the famed Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm and was located where the Bethune Elementary School building now sits. Up until October 2016, the working name for the new park honored the historic Mims Park name but was changed to Rodney Cook, Sr. Park.

- The 16 acre site for Cook Park was once a residential neighborhood that was developed in one of the lowest topographic areas on the west side of Atlanta and flooded repeatedly with the most recent major event occurring in 2002.
- Following the last flood event, residential home owners were relocated and the site became considered for a park with stormwater management facility that could improve the health of the greater Proctor Creek Watershed and a centerpiece for sustainable community revitalization.
- In December 2015, with the unanimous backing of the Atlanta City Council, the City signed a Memorandum of Agreement with The Trust for Public Land to make Rodney Cook, Sr. Park a reality.

PROJECT PARTNERS



The **Trust for Public Land (TPL)** was chosen to design, construct, and raise funds for Rodney Cook, Sr. Park based on the non-profit organization's national experience in conserving land and creating parks for people to enjoy. TPL has protected more than 25,000 acres of open space and historic sites across Georgia. TPL has applied its expertise to

protecting 17,000 acres along the Chattahoochee River, assembling parcels as part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site, and playing a key role in the implementation of Historic Fourth Ward Park and the Atlanta BeltLine.



The **City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management (DWM)** will be responsible for the management of and costs associated with the design, construction, and maintenance of the stormwater facility within Cook Park. A pond will be created that collects and stores water as part of Cook Park, similar to Historic Fourth Ward Park. Additionally, the Department of Watershed Management will be responsible for the remediation of contaminated soil that exists on portions of the site. DWM is also coordinating with the Department of Public Works to implement a complete street project that will include green infrastructure and dedicated bike lanes along Boone Boulevard.



The **City of Atlanta's Department of Parks and Recreation** will make final decisions related to the design and construction of the park. Following completion of the construction of Cook Park, the Department of Parks and Recreation will manage and partner with the Department of Watershed Management in maintaining the site.



NATIONAL MONUMENTS
FOUNDATION

The Atlanta-based **National Monuments Foundation** is responsible for the fundraising, design, implementation, and maintenance of 16 statues of Georgia peacemakers and Civil Rights leaders including an 80 foot viewing tower that recognizes influential leaders and individuals who distinguished themselves within the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia, the nation, and the world, and who have also lived or worked in Vine City.

The design for Rodney Cook, Sr. Park will respond to the:

- Site's existing conditions (including topography and trees)
- Necessary capacity needed for management of the neighborhood's stormwater
- Legacy of peace in the historic neighborhood and the original Mims Park
- Needs of the community

Design for Rodney Cook, Sr. Park is to be finalized near the end of 2016 with construction occurring most of 2017