

# #57 - ATHENS WEST PARK PROPOSAL

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## ATHENS WEST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

- **OUR MISSION:** To maintain the success, viability, and growth of the Atlanta Highway corridor in Athens, GA.
- **OUR MEMBERS:** are actively engaged in the Athens West community and have a vested interest in the success of Athens' West side, where we live, work, and play.



Serving as the voice of a significant group of people who have expressed a desire to have a park and greenspace on the West side Athens. Our activities have identified a community that is underserved.

## SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

- This park would provide a bikeable and walkable community resource for an underserved population in Athens including children, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- There are no existing park spaces within Athens-Clarke County that provide a completely accessible experience for people with disabilities.
- This park would provide additional space for displaced athletics programs within Athens-Clarke County.



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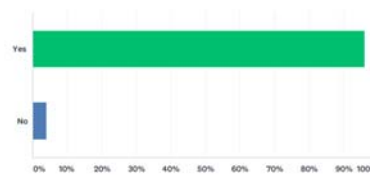
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## PARK SURVEY

- Athens West conducted a survey to gauge the interest of residents in the greater Athens area and received over 350 responses.
- 96% of people surveyed recognize the value of a park in Athens West.
- 84% of people surveyed would vote Yes to an Athens West park initiative on the 2020 SPLOST.

Q1 Would you see value in having a park on the West side of Athens?

Answered: 349 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.99%	335
No	4.01%	14
TOTAL		349

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## GREENSPACE INITIATIVES

- This park would provide a resource for achieving the county's goal for preserved greenspace.
- It would be a wise financial and economic decision to acquire the land while it is still both accessible and affordable.



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## LAND ACQUISITION

- The Athens West Park proposal lends itself to a feasible tiered implementation plan, beginning with land acquisition.
- Land acquisition is the highest priority with facilities and programs added in the future.
- The Athens West group will continue to facilitate community, public, and private involvement to utilize the land as a community resource throughout all stages of the implementation process.



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## LOCATION FOR COMMUNITY ASSETS

- The Athens West Park could provide a space for community resources such as:
  - Youth Athletic Programs
  - Expanded space for the Athens Creative Theater
  - Senior Center
  - Public Safety Training Center



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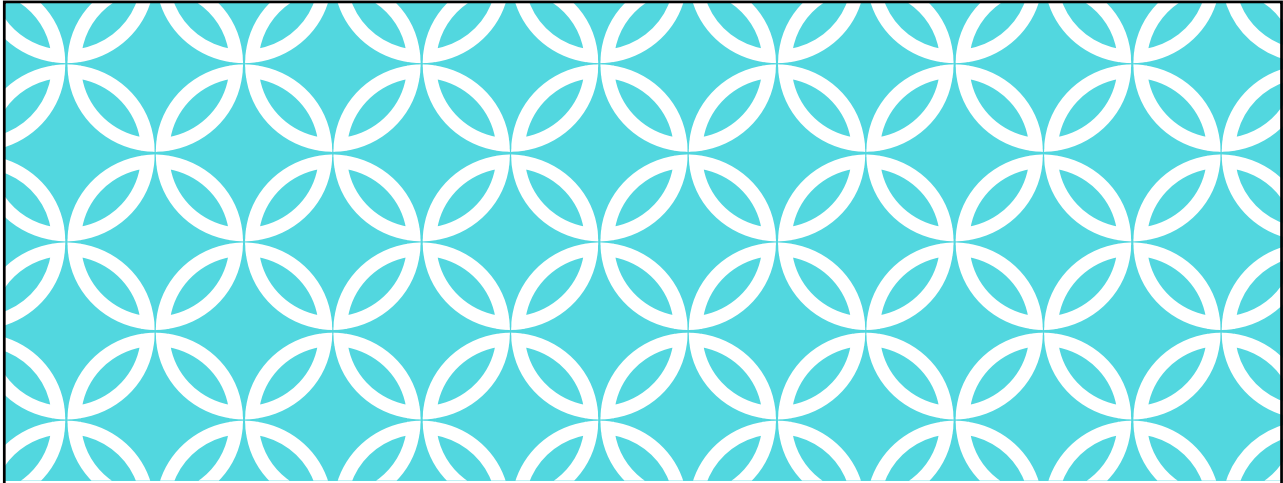
## A VISION 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING

- Athens-Clarke County government has already recognized the need for continued development on the West side.
  - The need for a West side park was first identified in 1994.
  - Connect Athens is currently running a study for the improvement of the Atlanta Highway corridor.



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**THANK YOU**