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Piedmont Park Breaks New Ground
Park Drive Parking Lot Scheduled to Close

ATLANTA (May 15, 2009) — Piedmont Park Conservancy announces that as a part of the 53-acre expansion, the parking lot at Park Drive will be closing to most vehicular traffic and eventually transformed to useable green space on May 18. The closing of the surface lot is in conjunction with the opening of Atlanta Botanical Garden’s SAGE parking facility. When the parking lot closes, it will serve as a staging area for Phase I construction projects such as the renovation of the Piedmont Park Dog Park, the restoration Clear Creek and construction of the multi-purpose field. The Conservancy will ultimately transform the small, existing parking lot to an area that has been approved for bocce courts, a playground and a carousel.

“Returning the asphalt lot to green space will create a safe new “greensward” connecting historic Piedmont Park with the expansion area,” said Yvette Bowden, president and CEO of the Conservancy. “This will also satisfy a goal of our Master Plan to separate pedestrians and vehicles,” she added.

The 53-acre expansion addresses the eighth and final project outlined in the 1995 Piedmont Park Master Plan, and adheres to the fundamental principles guiding the overall rehabilitation of the Park. This includes returning the surface lot to useable green space.

When the surface lot closes, Piedmont Park visitors who drive will have access to The Atlanta Botanical Garden’s SAGE parking facility. The 765-space green structure is being built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and has been built partially underground and into an unused hillside.

“The Botanical Garden’s parking facility will triple the available parking for Park users, but in half of the existing footprint,” said Ms. Bowen.

In 2005, Atlanta City Council approved a revised master plan for Piedmont Park and the Atlanta Botanical Garden with a 12 to 3 vote. Included in the plans was the redrawing of Atlanta Botanical Garden’s lease line that incorporates one acre of a hillside in exchange for three acres of the Storza woods, which is returning to Parkland.

Phase one of Piedmont Park Conservancy’s 53-acre expansion project, guided by an advisory committee of neighborhood and community groups from around Atlanta, is focused on reclaiming the blighted area that extends from Park Drive to Piedmont Avenue at Ansley Mall as useable park land. With the lot closed, the Conservancy will begin construction that includes installing paths and trails, lighting, and plantings so the public can begin utilizing the green space by the fall of 2010.

About Piedmont Park Conservancy

Piedmont Park Conservancy is a member and donor funded nonprofit working in partnership with the City of Atlanta to maintain and enhance historic Piedmont Park. Founded in 1989, the Conservancy has raised and invested more than \$23 million in private funds for Park improvements, and today manages over 90% of the overall maintenance and security. By 2010, the Conservancy will have invested an additional \$41.25 million in Phase I expansion projects.

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