**Thank you for being a champion of Grant Park trees!**

We've reached 3,500 Grant Park tree supporters, but we'd like to double our numbers as we enter this next crucial phase of reaching out to the city. Please share the info below with friends and social media.

Boulevard residents are gearing up to pursue an appeal to cover all their bases. At the second tree hearing, there were no modifications made by the Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation to preserve trees. The requirement to maximize tree preservation from the Atlanta Tree Conservation Commission was ignored with the following reasons stated by Parks director Doug Voss and the contracted engineers:

A. The Beltine overlay requires replacing the 19 large trees on Boulevard with a wide sidewalk.

B. Fill dirt placed over roots would kill the trees, and the nail wall location would damage roots.

C. The trees on the sides of the deck will be replaced with large embankments and dirt storage.

The community presented an alternative plan called Flipping the Deck which would protect the maximum number of trees (38), while retaining 1,060 parking spaces and significantly improving connectivity for bikes and strollers. View online at [Neighborhood.org](http://neighborhood.org/)

**Action items you can help with:**

1.) Contact the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Mayor's office and request that they file a “Beltline Administrative Variation” with Atlanta City Zoning to avoid replacing the trees on Boulevard with a wide sidewalk. They already have a wide sidewalk planned 30 feet away, plus the side of Fort Walker prevents a wide sidewalk from continuing to the Beltline.

2.) Contact Beltline Atlanta to revise the sidewalk ordinance to help other neighborhoods protect large canopy trees. Ask them to contact the city on behalf of Grant Park. The city granted Topgolf Atlanta an exception to preserve their trees. Make it easier for neighborhoods to have a voice.

3.) Contact Atlanta Parks and Recreation and request that only a crosswalk be added at Ormewood Ave. Avoid a new entry street since and use the safer entry point by Fort Walker to connect to the lower deck level under a gateway arch. Doing so will allow the deck to be extended south, freeing up space to move the nail wall away from tree roots on Boulevard.

4.) Request that planners connect Confederate Ave to the upper deck level to add connecting pathways for bikes and strollers, along with wheelchair access to all four levels from the Bowl. Doing so will resolve pedestrian connectivity concerns documented by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

5.) Request that the city avoid a fly-over bridge and tunnel at Confederate Ave that would lead to a large amount of fill dirt added on the side of the Bowl. Request terraces instead, with deck entry points for wheelchairs at all deck levels and bike connectivity to the upper level and lake.

6.) Request that planners give special attention to preserving the large trees at the entry corners. The large oak at the Confederate Ave corner is the symbol of the Summer Shade Festival, and the even larger oak at Ormewood Ave has the biggest diameter in the neighborhood!

7.) Request that fill dirt be 3' or less over the tree roots along Boulevard and that the nail wall be moved further away from the tree roots by extending the deck to the south.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Saturday, Oct 14, 11 am - District 1 Council Member Carla Smith has scheduled a community meeting at the Georgia Hill Community Center to facilitate conversations about the Grant Park Gateway project: <http://grantpark.org/grant-park-gateway>

Sign the Change.org petition or forward to a friend if you've already signed:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-the-trees-of-grant-park>