

# MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK ASSOCIATION

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS  
January 2025

If you're not already an MLPA member, please [join/renew](#) today. If you are a member, we very much appreciate you for supporting our neighborhood!

---

## NEWS & UPDATES



### Happy 2025

Although it's been quite a start to the new year, we are grateful to kick off 2025 in one of Atlanta's greatest intown neighborhoods.

MLPA's mission is to build a vibrant, safe and engaged neighborhood. How?

**Community Engagement** via *Membership, Events, Sponsorships, Communications and Marketing*

**Advocacy, Representation and Resource Coordination** via *Zoning, Alcohol Licensing, Infrastructure and Master Plan Implementation*

### Safety and Security via Security, Membership, Neighborhood Watch and LPR Campaigns



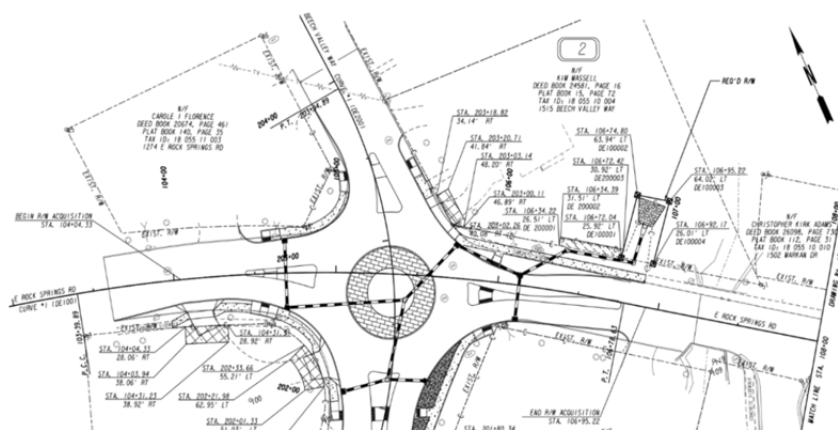
### Volunteer Appreciation and Recruitment

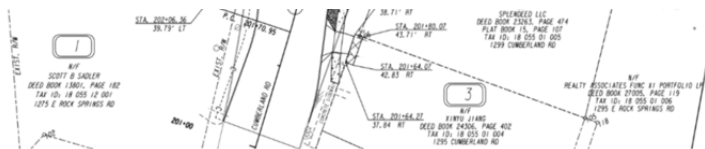
As an all-volunteer based organization, MLPA relies on neighbors to share their time, talent, experience and/or expertise. In appreciation for helping to keep Morningside such a wonderful place to be, we look forward to hosting and recognizing last year's volunteer leaders at Six Feet Under next month. Invitation for those to come!

We ALWAYS need more volunteers! At this time, we are specifically looking for passionate individuals who are interested in joining us for the following:

- Events (Neighborhood Social Events)
- Street Captains
- Marketing
- Membership

Your time, whether it's an hour a month or more involved, can make a real difference in our community. To learn more, contact us at [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).





## Roundabout Coming Soon

Thanks to the generous support from Georgia State Senator Elena Parent and officials in Dekalb County, we anticipate that construction for the long-awaited roundabout for the intersection of E Rock Springs, Cumberland Road, and Beech Valley should begin during the first week of February 2025.

E Rock Springs is a major thoroughfare in Morningside, that carries heavy east-west traffic during morning and evening rush hours. The intersection of Cumberland Road and E Rock Springs is particularly problematic because it is at the bottom of two steep hills, one from N Highland Avenue and the other from Briarcliff Road. There is not even a crosswalk at this busy and unsafe intersection. Pedestrians have no safe way to cross E Rock Springs to and from the Marta bus stop located there. Children who attend Morningside Elementary School and who live in Edmund Park do not have a safe way to walk to school.

There are numerous examples of unsafe incidents that resulted primarily from cars exceeding the posted speed limit. Over the recent past, there have numerous instances of neighbors' mailboxes being taken out by a speeding car (for some, this is a repeat occurrence), wheelies in the intersection, cars hitting trees, etc. Earlier this year, the local US Post Office worker was thrown from her vehicle when a speeding car struck her vehicle. The installation of the roundabout will not happen soon enough.



## MARTA NextGen Bus Network

It was brought to our attention by a neighbor that MARTA is in the process of redesigning their bus network: [NextGen Bus Network](#). There are residents in Morningside who ride the bus regularly, and equally important, there are those who do not live in our neighborhood but rely on a current route to get here for employment.

In 2018, MLPA worked with Virginia-Highland Civic Association to ensure that access to MARTA remained accessible to and through our neighborhood. One of our goals is to

continue that advocacy and representation. Accordingly, the Board sent [this letter](#) to MARTA officials asking for sustained station to station access (Midtown to Decatur) with no transfer. We also included [supporting documentation](#) from 2018.

---



### Reminder: See Something, Say Something

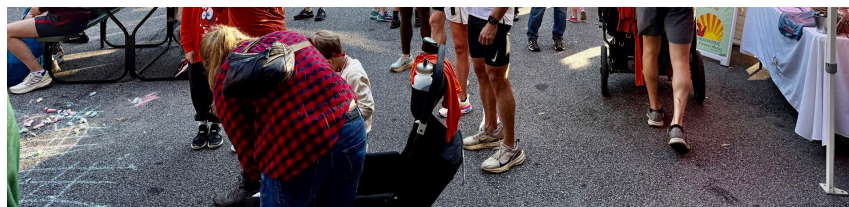
No, the picture above is not a scene from Wicked. We are not sure what caused the water to turn green in Rock Creek; it could be chemicals or perhaps crews from Watershed Management dye-testing pipes for a leak just upstream. Please call 311 when you see anything out of the ordinary like this. You can also report a multitude of cases to 311: potholes, graffiti, fallen trees in parks, damaged garbage cart replacement, and so much more.

---

## EVENTS







## 2025 Events

Stay tuned for another year of fun events! We are bringing back neighborhood favorites including our New Parent Brunch, Concerts in the Park, New Neighbor Welcome and Monster Dash 5K - plus adding members-only social gatherings and members-only perks! Go ahead and secure your [MLPA membership](#) now to benefit; it starts as low as \$50.



## Morningside Supper Club

Meet new neighbors and dine at our local restaurants - it's a win-win! Our first outing of 2025 is scheduled for **Saturday, January 25 at Nino's** on Cheshire Bridge. Meet us in the lobby of Nino's between 6-6:30 for cocktails and then we'll head into their heated outdoor patio for dinner. They are very excited to host us and I am excited to continue to support our neighborhood restaurants!

Seating is limited so please RSVP as soon as possible. I'm asking for a \$20 deposit, to be refunded that night. If you are unable to attend at the last minute your \$20 will go to compensate the wait staff that anticipated a larger head count. Reserve your spot by

texting/calling organizer Sarah Chatel at 404-784-4871.

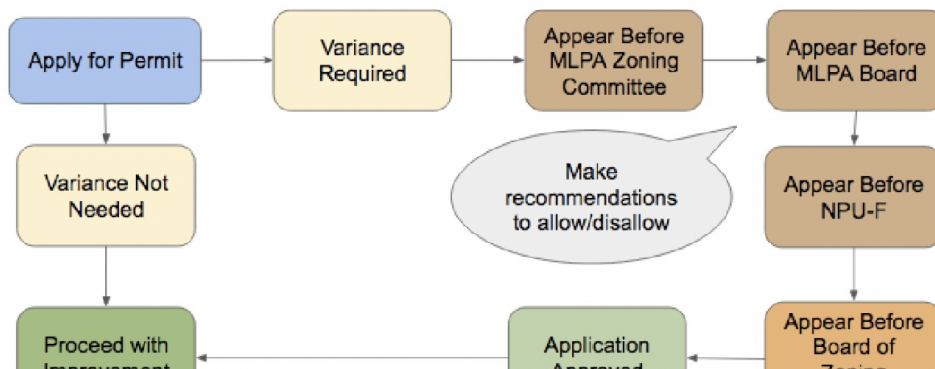
# PARKS



## Champion Tree Tour at Herbert Taylor Park

In honor of 2025 Georgia Arbor Week, Trees Atlanta, Park Pride and the Friends of Herbert Taylor Park are co-hosting a Tour of Champion Trees **at Herbert Taylor Park on February 22 from 2:00-3:30pm**. Some of the trees in this park are 150-180 years old! This public park is a member of the [Old-Growth Forest Network](#), and home to several of Atlanta's [Champion Trees](#)! This tour will be led by Park Pride's Director of Education **Eli Dickerson**, Park Ambassador and Friends of Herbert Taylor Park **Greta Hutto**, and Trees Atlanta Docent **Priya Sarathy**. [Event page linked here](#) for more information and to register.

# ZONING



Improvement

Approved

Zoning Appeals (BZA)

The MLPA Zoning Committee, Board and NPU-F all make recommendations on Variances, but the ultimate decision is made by the BZA.

Application Denied

### Variance Requests

The MLPA Zoning Committee and Board approved three zoning variances this month:

- [1739 N Pine Ridge Drive NE](#)
- [848 Courtenay Drive, NE](#)
- [1346 Avalon Place NE](#)



### Shape Atlanta's Future

[Plan A](#) is the update to the City's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) required every five years under state law. It sets forth the vision, goals, policies, and actions for future physical growth and development in Atlanta. Public input is critical to updating the plan. [Click here for upcoming community meetings.](#)





# ATLZONING

## Zoning 2.0

On January 13, community members participated in a Module II Q&A Session. Development Standards reviewed zoning standard with citywide application, including methods of measurement, parking and loading standards, sign standards, streetscapes standards, and more. You can view the presentation [here](#) (and recording when made available).

---

## MEET THE BOARD



### **Marla Johnson, President**

Marla has been on the MLPA board since 2020, having joined as Parks Co-Chair and also serving as Communications Chair.



Marla and her husband, Ryan, moved to Morningside in 2013. A native Atlantan, Marla has also lived in Sandy Springs, Buckhead, Old Fourth Ward and Candler Park. Appreciating that each neighborhood has its own unique characteristics and charm, she loves Morningside for its parks, greenspaces, restaurants, shops, great schools, wonderful neighbors and its proximity to so many of our city's greatest assets.

After graduating from the University of Georgia with an undergraduate degree in Journalism, she joined Teach For America and began a teaching career in Atlanta Public Schools. Earning a post-baccalaureate degree in Early Childhood Education from Agnes Scott College and a masters degree in Urban Teacher Leadership from Georgia State University, she enjoyed working in our local school district for 11 years. Marla now spends her time volunteering with several community organizations and at the schools where her two children attend.

---

## AROUND TOWN



### Morningside Farmers Market

Thank you for being part of our market community during 2024! We invite you to join us for a new year of produce, locally made products, and community in 2025. **We are open year round, every Saturday from 8:00-11:30am.** First time sign ups for our loyalty program in the first two weeks of January will receive a [Six-Foot-Under-Pub-&-Fish-House](#) gift card! Stop by the orange info. booth to sign up and earn tokens to spend with our farmers!

#### What's in Season?

apples, arugula, bell peppers, bok choy, butternut squash, carrots, cherry tomatoes, delicata squash, flowers, garlic, hakurei turnips, heirloom tomatoes, herbs, melons, microgreens, okra, radish, seminole squash, shishito peppers, spicy peppers, sweet potatoes, watermelon and more!

*Morningside Farmers Market* has been offering organically grown produce, local meats, breads, and goods since 1995. The market is open every Saturday morning year-round at Morningside Presbyterian Church's parking lot (1411 N. Morningside Drive NE). SNAP/EBT (food stamp) dollars are doubled for an equal amount of tokens for fruits and vegetables at the information tent. The market's location offers a spacious, tree-lined setting for market goers.



## Hillside's Fatherhood 2025: What You Bring to the Table Matters

On Friday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30am Hillside will host a FREE panel discussion in the Dining Hall. Our experts will share what it means to be a father in today's world and how you can leverage your unique strengths to keep your child mentally healthy and thriving.

Register here and please share this event with other fathers in your life! <https://HsideFatherhood2025.eventbrite.com>

Join us for coffee, pastries, and an engaging panel discussion featuring dads who are clinical therapists, public educators, and fathers of children struggling with mental health challenges.

What to Expect:

1. Hear from experts and dads about how fathers are an untapped resource and a critical pillar of strength, stability, and support for children.
2. Learn best practices for proactive parenting in 2025, from mental health to navigating family dynamics.
3. Discuss the therapeutic importance of having a male role model and the unique advantages dads bring to the family table.
4. Connect with other fathers and discover how to move from a silent minority to an empowered presence in your child's life.

This isn't just about learning; it's about celebrating what you already bring to the table as a

dad and leaving with fresh ideas and inspiration to enhance your parenting journey.

---

## Atlanta City Council District 6

### Atlanta City Council

[Click here](#) and sign up to receive alerts, updates and newsletters - plus view past communications - from our District 6 City Councilperson Alex Wan.

---



### Atlanta Public Schools Updates

Congratulations to our neighborhood schools for exceeding state targets and scoring over 90 in Content Mastery:

- Morningside Elementary (100)
- Virginia-Highland Elementary (100)
- Howard Middle (92.9)
- Midtown High (93.6)

You can subscribe to District 3 Board of Education Member, Ken Zeff's newsletter [here](#).

---





## Georgia General Assembly

As the legislature goes back in session, sign up to receive updates from your representatives:

- [Saira Draper](#)
  - [Stacey Evans](#)
  - [Becky Evans](#)
  - [Elena Parent](#)
  - [Nan Orrock](#)
- 

## Neighborhood Meeting Schedule

*All neighborhood meetings are open to the public and your involvement is always welcome. There will be a public comment period at the beginning of each MLPA Board meeting if you would like to share an idea or concern. Or just join us to learn more. We hope to see you there!*

- **MLPA Board Meetings** - 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 pm [Contact](#)
    - [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
    - Meeting ID: 893 6667 0233
    - Passcode: 553503
  - **MLPA Zoning Meetings** - Typically 1st Tuesday of every month (see Zoning above), 7:00pm [Contact](#)
  - **NPU-F Meetings** - 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7:00pm, [Online via Zoom](#)
- 

## 2024 MLPA SPONSORS

**PRESENTING**





**PREMIER**

**ENGEL & VÖLKERS<sup>®</sup>**  
KEN COVERS

— Celebrates Morningside —

**ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBERS**



Alex Wan, Council District 6  
Matt Westmoreland, Post 2 At-Large



**BENEFACTOR**

[Alscan](#)

[Ansley Home Cleaning](#)

Catherine Wilson Interiors

Copper Sky Design & Remodel

Joy Myrick | Atlanta Fine Homes/Sotheby's Realty

Pulse Performance Studio

Savi Provisions

Six Feet Under

Stretch Lab Morningside

Varuni Napoli



***FRIEND***

***Boutte Tree, Inc.***

***Selig Enterprises***



**Quick Links:**

- [MLPA](#) - Morningside Lenox Park Association website
- [NPU-F](#) - Neighborhood Planning Unit F website
- [APD](#) - Atlanta Police website
- [PEDS](#) - A quick link to report pedestrian hazards to city
- [City of Atlanta](#) - City's website
- [NextDoor](#) - Neighborhood List Serve (not affiliated with MLPA)

**Contact Our Elected Officials:**

- [Ken Zeff](#), APS Board of Education, District 3
- [Council Member Alex Wan](#), Atlanta City Council, District 6
- [State Rep. Becky Evans \(D\)](#), District 83, Serving MLP residents in DeKalb County
- [State Sen. Elena Parent \(D\)](#), District 42, Serving MLP residents in DeKalb County
- [State Rep. Stacey Evans \(D\)](#), District 57, Serving MLP residents in Fulton County
- [State Sen. Nan Orrock \(D\)](#), District 36, Serving MLP residents in Fulton County

**Neighborhood Schools:**

- [Morningside Elementary School](#)
- [Virginia-Highland Elementary School](#)
- [David T Howard Middle School](#)
- [Midtown High School](#)
- [Atlanta Public Schools](#)



Join MLPA or Renew Membership

Please send questions, ideas and photos to [communications@mlpa.org](mailto:communications@mlpa.org).

Copyright © 2025 Morningside-Lenox Park Association, All rights reserved.