

ATLANTA'S FREEDOM PARK MASTER PLAN MAINTENANCE



MAINTENANCE

Planning Components

Maintenance is a critical yet historically overlooked and underfunded consideration within Freedom Park. The park’s long-term success hinges on the ability of the City, the Conservancy, and its partners to provide ongoing maintenance to the park’s landscapes, circulation systems, safety networks, and related infrastructure. As funding sources and implementation plans are pursued for future park projects and programs, appropriate maintenance costs shall be integrated into the funding and management plan for each effort. The Conservancy’s goal will be to work towards establishing an ongoing maintenance fund dedicated to the long-term stewardship of the park.

Prioritization of maintenance protocols for the park should focus on the following key standards and practices:

1. **Landscape Maintenance:**

- a. Develop design strategies for net reduction in maintenance requirements
- b. Prioritizing preservation and protection of existing natural assets
- c. Develop strategies with adjacent property owners for maintenance of landscape buffers.
- d. Prioritize removal of invasive species
- e. Utilize centralized, smart irrigation control systems
- f. Develop maintenance programs for typological landscape zones:

Forest Zones:

- Non-natives and invasive plants removed by hand or killed with highly controlled weed wick (no spraying allowed), native volunteer species are acceptable and should generally be retained.
- Climbing vine removal and suppression
- Fertilized and composted only for grow-in period for up to two years,
- Systematic tree pruning and dead-wooding on bi-annual basis,
- Temporary irrigation for grow-in period for up to two years.

Woodland Zones:

- Non-natives and invasive plants removed by hand or killed with highly controlled weed wick (no spraying allowed), native volunteer species are acceptable and should generally be retained.
- Fertilized annually with organic fertilizers, and compost,
- Bare ground covered with shredded hardwood mulch on an as-needed basis,
- Systematic tree pruning and dead-wooding on bi-annual basis,
- Climbing vine removal and suppression
- Temporary irrigation for grow-in period for up to two years.

Grassland Zones:

- Native grasses/wildflower seed mix, managed for maximum foliage and seed production,
- Non-natives and invasive plants removed by hand or killed with highly controlled weed wick (no spraying allowed)
- Fertilized annually with organic fertilizers, and compost,
- Mowed once every year to control woody volunteer plants,
- Mowing of street curb edges and trail edges with a 36” wide strip
- Irrigation for tree establishment and grow-in period for up to two years.

MAINTENANCE-RELATED STRATEGIES:

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Garden Zones:

- Managed for highest level of display quality;
- Non-natives and invasive plants removed by hand or killed with highly controlled weed wick (no spraying allowed)
- Fertilized twice a year with organic fertilizers and micronutrients
- Full automatic irrigation utilizing spray heads and drip irrigation where feasible.

Landscape Ponds:

- Hand removal and weed wicking of unwanted volunteers.
- Recirculation and aeration pumps and equipment will need monthly inspection and annual full maintenance,
- Ponds may require occasional de-watering and de-silting; monitor overall water quality and aquatic health.

Buffer Landscape Zones:

Buffer landscapes adjacent to private property throughout the park are comprised of unique conditions that require site-specific maintenance protocols to meet performative requirements addressing privacy, security and ecological enhancement. Buffer landscapes should feel natural and cohesive in character, forming the backdrop for activity zones within the park.

• **Ecology:**

Remove all non-native, invasive plant species within buffer zones to promote habitat landscapes and identified ‘edible landscape’ plants. Coordinate maintenance with park ecology stewards and related groups. Minimize watering as required to promote native plant material. Where appropriate, allow for fallen trees, leaf litter and related natural bio-regenerative site conditions to remain to supplement habitat potential. Preserve overstory through removal of vines and selective pruning for light infiltration to understory.

• **Security:**

Within deeper buffer zones (15’+), maintain middle-story plants to preserve visibility up to the property line to limit locations for encampments or other uses. Maintain middle story vegetation at pedestrian gateway points into the park to provide visibility to pathways, adequate lighting and avoidance of blind corners.

• **Privacy:**

Where adjacent private property abuts the park, maintain vegetative screen through preservation of existing plant material. Native evergreen middle and understory vegetation that provide visual screening should be prioritized within 15’ of the property line. Work with neighboring property owners to clarify issues, concerns and maintenance practices to facilitate positive relationship with park and adjacent activity zones.

2. **Hardscape Maintenance**

The design and selection of hardscape materials should be determined based on levels of expected use, durability, availability and potential accommodation of vehicular access as required. Site furnishings and lighting standards should likewise be selected with consideration for future development and availability for replacement as required. Playgrounds should incorporate monthly maintenance inspections with consideration of safe fall surfaces and integrity of equipment.

3. **Maintenance Planning**

An overall park maintenance plan and budget should be developed for the park. Inclusive with this plan, a comprehensive maintenance access plan should be developed for each phase of development to guide design considerations and monitor impacts to park maintenance budget. Potential storage and maintenance facilities within or outside the park should likewise be considered to facility maintenance programs. Maintenance partnerships with allied institutions, agencies and related organizations should likewise be formalized to ensure adequate coverage, offset costs and reduce potential overlap.

MAINTENANCE MAP

LEGEND

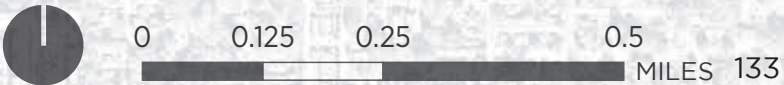
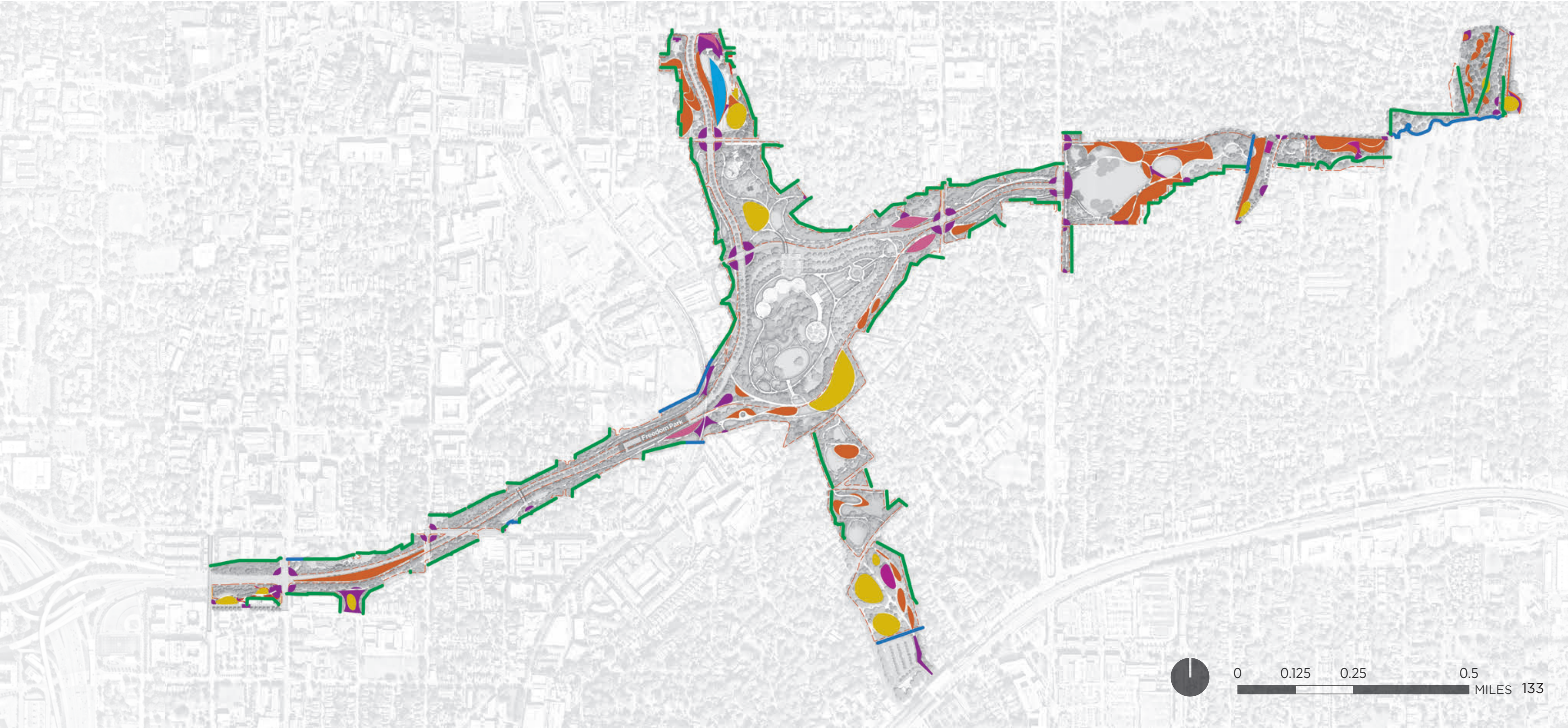
- Private Land Adjacency

Public Land Adjacency
- Highest Planting Maintenance

Moderate Planting Maintenance
- Typical Parks Planting Maintenance

Water Amenity Maintenance
- Paving Maintenance

Playground / Amenity Maintenance
- Park Boundary



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