

NEWS RELEASE

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BOULEVARD CROSSING, CITY'S FIRST NEW BELTLINE PARK, ACQUIRED ALONG SOUTHEAST ROUTE

*The Trust for Public Land sells 21-acre light industrial tracts
fronting on Boulevard and Englewood Avenues to the City for
greenspace*

ATLANTA – (June 13, 2007) The City of Atlanta and its BeltLine Team is pleased to announce the completion of land assembly for the first new BeltLine park. Boulevard Crossing park, located south of Grant Park at the intersection of Boulevard and Englewood Avenues in Southeast Atlanta, consists of 21.27 acres of mostly commercial and light industrial property.

The land, which is immediately south of the proposed BeltLine route, was assembled by The Trust for Public Land (TPL) at various times over the past two years and purchased by the City for about \$9 million. The purchases were made possible through the City's Opportunity Bonds, administered by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

"The Boulevard Crossing park site is one of the nine park "jewels" originally identified by the nationally-renowned urban designer Alex Garvin in his "Emerald Necklace" study," said Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. Garvin's report provided a framework for future planning and design of the BeltLine. "This brand new park will help underscore the City's commitment to expanding our greenspace," Mayor Franklin continued.

District 1 City Councilwoman Carla Smith, who was instrumental in garnering support for the park in her district said, "This new park symbolizes a new beginning for a community that is eager for increased development and a better quality of life for all our residents." Councilwoman Smith continued, "People pulling together can accomplish great things."

"Working with the nearby neighborhoods, we were able to secure their support for the park," said Dianne Harnell Cohen, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. "The Department's Park Design team is now working with BeltLine's planners in the planning process for Boulevard Crossing park, which will be critical in providing significant greenspace in a part of the City that is beginning to see a reawakening of interest in commercial and residential development." She added, "As we begin Master Planning for the park this month, we will continue to work with the community and solicit their input and involvement."

Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., President and CEO Terri Y. Montague echoed the Mayor's remarks, saying "And we've only just begun. The BeltLine's Five-Year-Plan calls for eight to 10 parks to be constructed in the first five years. Another 20 will be added as the BeltLine project progresses."

TPL National Director Will Rogers hailed the announcement, saying the BeltLine continues to be one of his group's top priorities around the country. "TPL is pleased to deliver a fully assembled park to the BeltLine and to Atlanta," said Rogers. "This is a big step in the process for providing a great new park for the people of Atlanta to enjoy."

TPL is a national nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to conserve land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

Atlantans have a strong desire to improve the City's environment and develop new parks. According to a recent poll of 600 city residents, 95 percent said it was important that any BeltLine plans protect the environment, while 90 percent said it was important that the Beltline create new parks and greenspace.

The BeltLine Poll was conducted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia as part of the City's Citizen Satisfaction Survey (CSS), which has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. For more on the CSS results, please visit: http://www.atlantaga.gov/client_resources/mayorsoffice/citizen%20satisfaction%20survey0307final.pdf

The Atlanta BeltLine is a \$2.8 billion redevelopment project that will shape the way Atlanta grows over the next 25 years and beyond. The project proposes a network of public parks, multi-use trails and transit along a historic railroad corridor circling downtown and connecting many neighborhoods directly to each other by streetcar or light rail.

For more information about the BeltLine, please visit www.beltlinecommunity.org.

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