



MEMORIAL PARK VISIONING CONCEPT PLAN

293 Gran Ellen Drive
January 2018

LEGEND LOCATION MAP

- Parking / Park Drive

Lakes

Streams

Buildings

Sidewalk

Birchmore Trail

Vehicular Maintenance Drive

ATV Maintenance Drive

1

Memorial Hall

2

150 - 200 car Parking Deck

3

Drop-off Loop

4

Swimming Pool

5

Improved Bear Hollow Zoo

6

One-way Loop Drive

7

Adventure Trail

8

Playground

9

Replanted Shoreline

10

Outdoor Amphitheater

11

Dog Park

12

Trailhead Parking Lot

13

Greenway Alignment

14

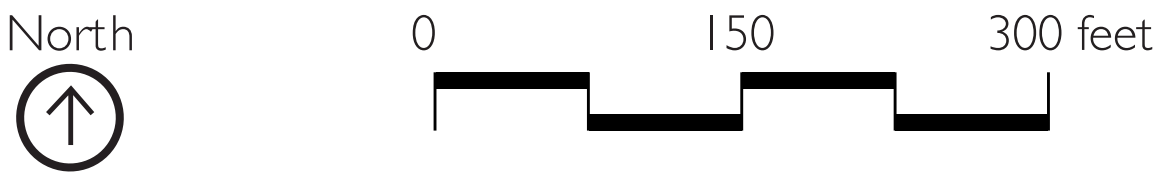
Improved Parking Along Gran Ellen Dr.

15

Interpretive Wetland Garden

16

Stormwater Improvements Along Birchmore



Prepared by
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Office of Park Planning



for Athens
Clarke County
Leisure Services



1. Quinn Hall would become rentable space for public / private events and also function as addition programming space for summer camp or zoo events and Athens Creative Theater would be moved to their own facility within the county.

2. A 150-200-car parking garage would be built with the entrance on the side of the structure.The entrance drive would be realigned for safety.A parking study will need to be conducted to guide development of the parking deck.

3. A drop-off area is within close proximity to the swimming pool, zoo entrance, event lawn, and recreation hall and be accessed through the parking deck.

4. The pool will be expanded and improved in its current location.The deck will be expanded and the pool will accomodate 8 lanes that are 25 meters long.

5. Bear Hollow will be slightly expanded and completely renovated.This includes an entrance plaza with a greeting area, a gift shop, restrooms, educational space, and a new reptile house.The new layout provides an interpretive trail for visitors that is separate from zookeeper-access trails for all animal enclosures. Exhibits in Bear Hollow would be completely renovated. All utilities within the zoo would be upgraded.
6. The one-way drive down to the lake retains the current circulation pattern, while increasing the number of parking spaces.This area would see additional sidewalks, formalized parking areas, and pavement resurfacing.

7. A kids adventure trail will have several different “play nodes” with interpretive and interactive play elements.

8. The improved playground would remain in the same place and would double in size. Additional play elements will surround the playground.

9. The shoreline of Memorial Lake would be redesigned and regraded to encourage a wide variety of native lakeside vegetation. A natural shoreline creates more habitat for wildlife, which increases biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem.The vegetation will improve water quality and protect the entire lake from erosion. An event dock on the lake provides a scenic overlook and accommodates small groups.Meandering paths through the lakeside plantings give alternative ways for visitors to experience the lake.

10. An outdoor amphitheater provides a space for outdoor performances but could also be used for summer camp programs or rented out for events.
11. The dog park would stay in its current location, but would be terraced to reduce erosion.Additionally, the new dog park adjacent to it would allow for seasonal rotation to reduce the long term impact.

12. This parking lot will have 8 spaces that could be used for zoo staff and double as a trailhead for the Birchmore Trail.

13. The greenway is planned to run through Memorial Park as part of the 2016 Greenway Network Plan. This version follows along the existing sewer easement which is currently occupied by the Birchmore Trail.Sections of the trail would be realigned to allow for the greenway to pass through while minimizing the disturbance to the trail system as a whole.

14. The existing area for parallel parking along Gran Ellen Drive will be formalized to allow for 3 spaces.

15. An interpretive wetland would be created in the old Birchmore swimming hole.This would be viewable from a boardwalk with interpretive signage.

16. Various points along Birchmore Trail will have stormwater mitigation improvements.