



MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK
ASSOCIATION



MLPA News September, 2019

Cool evenings have finally returned and as we settle into a new year of programming, please take a moment to consider all this area means to you and [join us or renew](#) and [volunteer](#) to help maintain our wonderful neighborhood.

- [Morningside Lenox Park Master Plan Update](#)
- [MLPA Board Members and Volunteers Needed](#)
- [Sidney Marcus Restaurant Month](#)
- [Sidewalk Repair Survey](#)
- [History of Morningside and I-485](#)
- [Scooter Safety](#)
- [Social News](#)
- [Zoning Committee Update](#)
- [Security Report](#)
- [News from Atlanta City Council District 6](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Morningside Lenox Park Master Plan Update

In October 2018 at the Atlanta City Council meeting, the Morningside Lenox Park Master Plan was approved...so why haven't we seen anything that was in the [Master Plan](#) occur?

As we've noted in past coverage, the Master Plan is just a plan until its parts become action—and that takes time and money. Just getting approval DOES NOT mean that any resources have been set aside for implementation. Fortunately, earlier this year a committee* convened under the auspices of the MLPA to prioritize the first projects we would tackle.

The committee agreed that the best course of action was to identify the highest impact, lowest cost (in terms of money and time) projects. We then went through the plan, reviewing more than 50 projects, recommending first steps, and then presented them to the board for approval in August.

The first priorities are meant to quickly improve walking and biking safety and the character of the neighborhood, but are shown in no particular order:

- Designate the MLPWay bike-pedestrian streets to establish a safe way to travel throughout the neighborhood by foot or bike.
- Reduce the speed limit on Piedmont, Cheshire Bridge, Monroe, N Highland, Johnson, Lenox, Morningside (East & North), and North Rock Springs by at least 5 miles per hour from current limits.
- Place digital speed readers on E Rock Springs adjacent to Morningside Elementary School, on Wellborne Dr, and on Johnson.
- Widen the existing sidewalk on Monroe by the HAWK signal entrance to Piedmont Park to 10 feet.
- Establish a sidewalk maintenance program to repair broken and damaged sidewalks.
- Reduce the allowable height of single family homes from the current 35 feet to 28 feet, while grandfathering in all the existing homes that exceed 28 feet.
- Install pedestrian refuges incorporating landscaping along E Morningside, Johnson, and Sherwood in support of the MLPWay.
- Begin preliminary work to pave the way for a roundabout to slow traffic and thwart problem driving on E Rock Springs at Cumberland Rd.

One thing all of these initiatives have in common is that they will only be done if enough folks in the neighborhood step up and work to see them through. Morningside Lenox Park has been blessed with a very active and involved group of neighbors—after all, we stopped the freeway from coming through and obliterating the neighborhood in the 1960's, so surely we can rally again to make sure that we start to make our vision for our beautiful area a reality.

In October, the Master Plan Committee will have a spot at the neighborhood open house at DBA BBQ. Come by and find out more about the plan and what you can do to make it happen! In addition, the group is gathering neighborhood input on sidewalks—please go to our [survey](#) to provide input.

*Thanks to all the neighbors that gave so generously of their time and talent to bring the Morningside Lenox Park Master Plan to life, including Master Plan Implementation Steering Committee Chair, Sharla Borghorst, and members, Frederic Bien, Marti Breen, Kim Cobb, Aurelia de Malibrán, Grant Gandy, Sonny Jones, Jeff Kidwell, Vern McCarty, Phyllis Wingo, and Pegah Zamani.

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MLPA Needs You!

Our wonderful neighborhood relies on the time and efforts of our volunteers. Come to our open house October 14 at DBA BBQ to enjoy light appetizers, socializing with your neighbors, and learning about all the activities in the area and how you can join the fun.

MLPA has formed a nominating committee to produce a slate for the 2020 board. Please contact communications@mlpa.org if you are interested in serving as a member of the board or a subcommittee. See you all on the 14th.

Morningside Restaurant Month for Sidney Marcus Park

September is Morningside Restaurant Month for Sidney Marcus Park. We are teaming up with our neighborhood restaurants to help raise funds for the park. In September you will have five opportunities to donate to Sidney Marcus Park by eating and drinking at our participating neighborhood restaurants!

Our partners - Doc Chey's, DBA Barbecue, and Whiskey Bird - will donate 15% of your eating and drinking bill to the park. And that includes take-out orders (not delivery app orders) on the five days as well! Either way, dine-in or take-out, you need to mention Friends of Sidney Marcus Park to automatically donate 15% of your bill to the park.

And what terrific options and opportunities you have!

Tuesday, September 10th Dinner @ [Doc Chey's](#)

Tuesday, September 17th Dinner @ [DBA Barbeque](#)

Wednesday-Friday, September 25th-27th Lunch @ [Whiskey Bird](#)

Can't Make it? Please consider a [donation](#) to the Park.



Half-Priced Wine at Varuni Napoli

Stop by Tuesday and Wednesday for half-priced bottles of Montepulciano and Pinot Grigio with a purchase of any artisan pizza.

The advertisement features a blue background. On the left is a close-up of a wine glass being filled with red wine. The text "Half-Priced Wine at Varuni Napoli" is in a large, bold, black font. Below it, in a smaller black font, is the text "Stop by Tuesday and Wednesday for half-priced bottles of Montepulciano and Pinot Grigio with a purchase of any artisan pizza." On the right is the Varuni Napoli logo, which is a red circular seal with "PIZZA ARTISANS" at the top, "VARUNI NAPOLI" in the center, and "ATLANTA GA" at the bottom.



Join us for Coffee with Matt Westmoreland Post 2 At-Large, Atlanta City Council

Matt is excited to share updates from the City of Atlanta! Stop by for a great opportunity to learn & ask questions! *Light refreshments will be served.*

10am September 24, 2019 | 1196 N Highland Ave NE

RSVP by contacting us at: info@homesteadatlanta or 404-876-4526

Morningside Sidewalk Repair Survey

The MLPA Master Plan Implementation Committee has been working hard to identify first projects that can be completed in the next 36 months (as specified in the plan). Emphasis has been on safety – safe walking, safe biking, and reduced speed limits.

Several approaches to improving sidewalks in the neighborhood are under consideration:

- A program similar to the [sidewalk renewal project](#) undertaken by Candler Park last year
- Access to City of Atlanta sidewalk repairs via 311
- New sidewalks

Because of the high cost, the installation of sidewalks where none have previously existed, although extremely important, will not be addressed in this first wave of projects.

To determine if broken sidewalks are a big concern in Morningside Lenox Park, please fill out our brief [survey](#). We value your feedback to help keep our neighborhood safe and liveable.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLPASidewalk>

History of Morningside and I-485

How I-485 Almost Destroyed Our Intown Neighborhoods

Recently a neighbor reported on NextDoor that Jeff Hullinger, 11 Alive anchor, visited residents on Sherwood Road and was talking about the rise, fall and rise again of a gem of an intown neighborhood - Morningside - and the five women who saved it when they stopped the I-485 project. He said "the defeat of I-485 is one of the great stories of our time." The editorial staff of this newsletter agree wholeheartedly, as this was also the original foundation of the MLPA. See Jeff's [facebook post](#) as well as this [extensive writeup](#) by MLPA from 2003.



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Scooter Safety

A neighbor recently reported yet another incident with a scooter in Piedmont Park that left him scraped, bruised, and with an arm broken in 3 places that required orthopedic surgery! He was on a bike by the 14th St. entrance to Piedmont Park when a scooter traveling at full speed whipped into the park and hit him.

While he will recover, this serves as a cautionary tale for all of us. Whether riding or walking, you need to be very aware of your surroundings and watch out for scooters. If you are riding a scooter, you need to do the same and be very cautious in traffic—of ANY KIND. Cars can kill you, but you can seriously hurt or maim pedestrians or bikers.

The problems with scooters continue to be a hot topic at Atlanta City Council Transportation Committee meetings. As you probably know, the city has passed ordinances to prevent scooter rental between the hours of 9:00 PM and 4:00 AM and is not permitting additional dockless mobility devices. In addition, there is a speed limit that prevents dockless devices from exceeding 8 MPH along the Beltline.

Pedestrians should note that this speed limit does not apply to any other street or to Piedmont Park. The city has a [website](#) outlining regulations and suggesting ways to stay safe when operating scooters. Neighbors in attendance at the August 26th Atlanta City Council Transportation Committee related the following summary from the testimony at this public meeting:

1. Scooters go too fast, so additional speed controls need to be enacted.
2. Scooters go everywhere and can be left anywhere so they need some restrictions, for example Piedmont Park.
3. Since City Council passed speed controls on the Beltline, more scooters are going full speed in Piedmont Park, thereby making the park more dangerous. So, the speed limit in Piedmont Park, an iconic place for hundreds of thousands of pedestrians annually, needs to be the same or less than on the Beltline.
4. Uber, Lyft, Lime, Bird, and the other scooter companies should be required to attach liability insurance coverage to every scooter rental. Otherwise, citizens are left with the liability because scooter riders are not required to have any type of liability insurance.

If this issue concerns you, please contact your Atlanta City Council Representative, [Jennifer Ide](#), and our at-large members, [Matt Westmoreland](#), [Andre Dickens](#) (Chair of the Transportation Committee), and [Michael Bond](#). In addition, MLPA Traffic and Security Committees will be at the upcoming neighborhood social at DBA Barbecue at 7 PM on Monday, October 14.



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Social News

Morningside Lenox Park has several active groups that welcome new and old members hoping to make connections with like-minded individuals. See below for some of them:

The **Morningside Book Club** is a co-ed group that reads and discusses books every other month. We meet in the evenings so that working folks can join in--our most recent gathering centered on David Sedaris' *Calypso*. The club uses a Facebook group and Book Movement to organize our meetings. Contact Jill Cobb, jillacobb@gmail.com, to learn more.

MLPA Garden Club has been on hiatus over the hot summer. We plan to get back in the swing in September with a meeting on Tuesday, September 24. If you would like to learn more, contact Marti Breen, mbreen@c3marketing.com.

The **Morningside Supper Club** is going strong, most recently dining at Truva where they had two tables of neighbors eager to connect over great food and drink. If that sounds like you, contact Sarah Chatel, sarah@chatelgroup.com.

There is also a small group of singers & players of acoustic instruments that get together to jam in Morningside. If you'd like to learn more, contact volunteer@mlpa.org. Or if you have an interest not currently shown, consider starting a group of your own. Lastly, you can always meet neighbors by volunteering with the Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA). Write volunteer@mlpa.org with your interest in the subject line and we will be happy to help you spread the word and find like-minded neighbors. Of course, the October 14 MLPA social evening at DBA BBQ or the Sidney Marcus Park restaurant month outings are excellent opportunities to meet the board and your neighbors. See you there!

Security Report

The car break-ins continue unabated. This is incredibly frustrating to all. During August (through 8/29), there were 22 car break-ins, compared to 19 for all of August 2018. Of interest, Ansley Park had only 1 crime, a car break-in, reported for August (through 8/29). The MLPA is trying to arrange a meeting with security folks in Ansley to learn about best practices with their patrol and explore other possible reasons for the differences in crime level.

Please be aware of your surroundings when you are visiting the restaurants and bars in our area, even in the early evening when it is still light outside. **Clear all items from view in your cars, all the time, at home and when out in the neighborhood.** Do not hesitate to call 911 immediately if you see something suspicious. Do not approach possible suspects on your own.

**LOOK OUT &
LOCK UP!**

**PLEASE REMOVE
ALL VALUABLES
FROM YOUR CAR!**



Clean Car Campaign



 MORNINGSIDE LENOX PARK
ASSOCIATION

Zoning Committee Report

At the September meeting, the zoning committee reviewed the following variances.

V-19-182	1274 Avalon Pl NE	Approved 4-1-0 with conditions
V-19-185	1515 North Morningside Dr. NE	Approved 4-0-1
V-19-195	996 Cumberland Rd. NE	Approved 5-0-0
V-19-197	791 Cumberland Rd NE	Approved 5-0-0
V-19-205	1159 Reeder Cr NE	Approved 5-0-0
U-19-023	1700 Piedmont Rd.	Approved 4-0-0

The MLPA board unanimously approved all variances except V-19-185, denied 3-4-3.

The next zoning meeting will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 1. The cases to be covered will be posted at www.mlpa.org/zoning/. Any neighbors interested in the outcome should come to these meetings.

New committee members are always welcome, simply come to three meetings to qualify to vote.

News from Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide

[Click](#) to view and sign up for the latest newsletter from our Atlanta City Council District 6 Representative, Jennifer Ide.

MLPA Events Listing

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, [CHARM Recycling](#), 1110 Hill Street, SE. Check the website before visiting for accepted items and schedule changes.

Saturdays, 8:00 - 11:30 AM, Morningside Farmers' Market, Morningside Village lot next to Nowak's. Now in its 23rd year, the market features totally organic produce grown by local farm families. Email manager@morningsidemarket.com to get on the email list and see which vendors are coming.

Every Fourth Saturday, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, [Morningside Nature Preserve Volunteer Day](#)

Saturday-Sunday, September 14-15, [Music Midtown](#), Piedmont Park

Monday, September 16, 7:00 PM, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Center, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE. All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

Tuesday, September 17th, Dinner @ [DBA Barbeque](#) in support of Sidney Marcus Park

Friday, September 20, 8:00 AM, Morningside Elementary School Principal Coffee

Friday, September 20, 9:15 AM, Inman Middle School Principal Coffee

Friday, September 20, 6:00 PM, Concerts in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

Saturday, September 21, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM, [Atlanta Beltline Lantern Parade](#)

Sunday, September 22, Noon - 5:00 PM, [Virginia Highland Wine Walk](#)

Tuesday, September 24, 17:00 PM, Morningside Garden Club

Wednesday-Friday, September 25th-27th, Lunch @ [Whiskey Bird](#) in support of Sidney Marcus Park

Sunday, September 29, 6:00 PM, Supper Club, neighbor's home TBD

Tuesday, October 1, 7:00 PM, Zoning Committee Meeting, Morningside Presbyterian Church.
See mlpa.org/zoning/ for the variances to be reviewed.

Monday, October 14, 7:00 PM, MLPA Open House, DBA BBQ

Friday, October 18, 6:00 PM, Final 2019 Concert in the Park, Sidney Marcus Park

Sunday, October 20, 6:00 PM, Supper Club, restaurant TBD

Monday, October 21, 7:00 PM, [NPU-F Meeting](#), Hillside Center, 1301 Monroe Dr. NE. All neighbors are invited and those 18+ have a vote.

Saturday, October 26, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, [Morningside PTA Monster Bash](#), Halloween Carnival Fundraiser, Morningside Elementary School

Tuesday, October 29, 6:00 PM, N Highland Candy Crawl, participating businesses in Morningside and Virginia Highland. Scarecrow competition as well!

This is your newsletter. Please send us your ideas for articles, interviews, and photos for inclusion. Send them to communications@mlpa.org.

Neighborhood Meeting Schedule:

MLPA Zoning Meetings - 1st Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm, Morningside Presbyterian Church

MLPA Board Meetings - 2nd Monday of every month, 7:00 pm, Morningside Presbyterian Church

NPU-F Meetings - 3rd Monday of every month, 7:00 pm, Hillside Facility, 1301 Monroe Drive

All neighborhood meetings are open to the public and your involvement is always welcome.

Quick Links:

[MLPA](#) - Morningside Lenox Park Association website

[NPU-F](#) - Neighborhood Planning Unit F website

[APD](#) - Atlanta Police website – we are in Zone 2

[PEDS](#) - A quick link to report pedestrian hazards to city

[City of Atlanta](#) - City's website

[Atlanta District 6](#) - Our City Council District website

[Senate District 36](#) - Nan Orrock, Georgia State Senator

[House District 57](#) - Pat Gardner, Georgia State Representative

[Atlanta Public Schools](#), [Morningside Elementary School](#), [Inman Middle School](#), [Grady High School](#)

[VHMPA](#) -Virginia Highland Morningside Parent Association

NextDoor - Neighborhood list serve – not affiliated with
MLPA

