



## Deepdene Campaign Targets Neighborhood

The Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA) has successfully raised more than \$8 million for the renovation of Frederick Law Olmsted's Linear Park. The five completed parks are now gorgeous green spaces lining Ponce de Leon Avenue. They invite neighbors to commune with nature and participate in healthy recreation. OLPA now has the task of completing the renovation of the sixth park—22-acre Deepdene—and is seeking support from the neighborhood which benefits the most..

As the largest park segment and the most ambitious element of the entire project, Deepdene will be the most important public forest in the entire area.. Unpaved walking trails through the old growth forest will provide a locus for educational and environmental programs for both children and adults. Greater accessibility to Deepdene's natural plant life and inhabitants will offer a virtual teaching and ecological laboratory for Fernbank and for Atlanta and DeKalb school activities. A four-acre demonstration area showcases the potential for the rehabilitation of the remainder of the park. The preservation of this natural area is a critical priority for the region. At the same time, plans also envision a designated space for recreational activities, and



September in Dellwood Park: A monarch butterfly obtains nectar from lush purple blooms on—what else but a Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*) ?

sports, as well as for family and community gatherings.

The estimated cost for completing the Deepdene project is \$3.5 million. Thanks to major contributions from the Georgia Department of Transportation, DeKalb County and a number of foundations, OLPA is within \$800,000 of its goal.

OLPA is now making a request for community pledges and donations. As neighbors ponder where to donate charity dollars, we ask you to consider that Deepdene will be the most important *public* forest in the entire metro area. Its Promenade (asphalt pathway parallel to Ponce de Leon) will enable joggers, walkers, parents with strollers and cyclists to enjoy the entire two miles of green space within the safe environment of all six Olmsted Parks.

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## Park Boosts Property Values

“Within walking distance of the Olmsted Linear Park.” This description now appears in realtors' marketing of houses throughout the neighborhoods near the park. For homeowners, what does the use of this advertising imply?

“Public green space—particularly trees—provides direct, measurable benefits in the form of environmental amenities and enhanced property values,” said Dr. Brian Stone of the City and Regional Planning Program at Georgia Tech's College of Architecture. He cited a study conducted in five U.S. cities on the benefits of urban trees for nearby property owners. The effects included improved air quality, decreased energy consumption, reduced storm water runoff and erosion—and increased property values.

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## Beware of Invasive Plants!

OLPA board members recently voted to allocate funding for professional removal of non-native invasive plants as part of the renovation of Deepdene Park. The process will be environmentally friendly to the earth, watershed, and animal life, and will allow native plants to flourish once the invasives have been removed.

How did these invasive plants get in Deepdene in the first place? And what are considered “invasives”?

Most Southerners know the kudzu story: it was imported to the United States from Japan in the early 1900s for erosion control and livestock feed. Now it’s known as the vine that smothered the south. But did you know that there are many other non-native invasive plants that do great damage to the landscape? And that many of them continue to be sold at local nurseries?

Some of the invaders in Deepdene are escapees from yards around the parks. Others arrive courtesy of our animal friends, as well as plant material and seeds that are washed down the creek. If you walk your property, or stroll through one of the Linear Parks, you’ll probably see some of the more familiar nonnative offenders.

As a neighbor to the linear park, you can help OLPA by learning which plants are considered invasives and by removing invasives in your yard, as well as by not planting them.

*English Ivy* seems benign enough at first glance, with its glossy dark green leaves and ability to cover the ground and choke out weeds. It was brought over from England during colonial times to be used as an ornamental. Unless carefully monitored, English Ivy will get out of control and begin to take over your yard, your shrubs, your trees, and maybe even your house. Start pulling!

Like *Kudzu*, *Mimosas* are imports from Japan and can thrive under the

most difficult conditions. If left to spread, they choke out native plants and trees. *Mimosas* can be especially harmful along stream banks. As anyone who has ever cut a mimosa knows, three or more *mimosas* shoot up from the cut trunk. The best way to get rid of *mimosa* is to dig it up.

*Chinese privet* is located all over Druid Hills, and has crept into Deepdene. Years ago, people who had little money in their landscaping budgets often chose *privet* because it was cheap and grew quickly. Though a shrub, *privet* can grow to heights of 30 feet or more. As with *Mimosa*, cutting it down only encourages more growth, plus it’s spread by birds who eat the dark blue berries. *Privet* is another invader that chokes out native plants. The best way to remove it is to dig it up, or to cut it and then spray a healthy amount of herbicide (such as “Round Up”) on the stump.

Who can resist the sweet smell of *Japanese Honeysuckle* permeating the summer nights of Atlanta? While fragrant and containing delicious nectar, *honeysuckle* can be a real menace. *Honeysuckle* is dense and basically strangles all the plants it winds around. It can invade native shrubs, wildflowers and trees, and even cause them to topple if it gets too concentrated. *Honeysuckle* is also notorious for depleting the soil of moisture and nutrients, thus challenging neighboring plants. The best way to rid your yard of this Japanese vine? Pull it up or keep on cutting it back.

*Chinese Yam* (also known as Potato Vine) can mimic the worst characteristics of *Honeysuckle*. A fast grower, it winds around shrub trunks and climbs to the top, where it branches out and smothers the host plant. It’s easiest to attack *Chinese Yam* when you first spot it. Look for a vine with small heart-shaped leaves. It’s easy to pull up when young, but develops a woody stem later that will require clippers. Worst of all, it sets small fruit in late summer that look exactly like tiny potatoes. These potatoes will drop off if you look at the plant the wrong way so watch out! You’ll get a new *Chinese Yam* plant everywhere these mock potatoes fall.

(More on invasives in the next issue.)



Heart shaped leaves and small Irish potato-like tubers identify this plant as the non-native Chinese Yam.

## Volunteer Work Day Set for October 28 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Join Olmsted Linear Park volunteers and your friends and neighbors on Saturday, October 28 for a morning of sprucing up the park. OLPA volunteers will teach you mulching, trimming and pruning techniques and then send you out to practice in every park except Deepdene.

Two OLPA volunteers will supervise the work in each segment of the linear park, and refreshments will be served. It’s a great way to learn gardening skills that you can use in your own yard while at the same time helping to beautify your community.

Meet in Shadyside Park (at the corner of Ponce de Leon and Clifton) at 9:00 a.m. and bring along your work gloves, clippers, trimmers, pitchforks, rakes and saws to help OLPA with autumn maintenance tasks.

Work will include pulling weeds from beds, pruning shrubs and trees, removing dead limbs, spreading mulch, and picking up trash. These are all simple tasks that require no heavy lifting.

For more information on OLPA’s Volunteer Work day, contact George Ickes at (404) 853-7159.

## Gloria Seymour to Chair of Third 'Party for The Parks on Ponce'

North Ponce de Leon resident Gloria Seymour will chair of the third annual 'Party for the parks on Ponce'. The event will be held on Sunday evening, January 28, 2007, in the atrium of Fernbank Natural History Museum.

"The first two OLPA galas were successful in raising more than \$70,000," said Seymour. "They were attended by more than 500 people who enjoyed delicious food, and entertainment, and had the opportunity to bid on hundreds of wonderful goods and services donated by individuals and businesses."

Seymour and her committee members are already hard at work organizing the 2007 gala, which will have a "roaring Twenties" theme.

All proceeds from the OLPA galas go to continuing the restoration and preservation of the linear park along Ponce de Leon Avenue, including Deepdene Park, the last of the park segments to be renovated.

Ms. Seymour is asking all local businesses and neighbors who enjoy and support the 50 acres of parkland to consider donating goods or services to the auction.

"We really need everyone's support to help us preserve a neighborhood treasure," stated Seymour.

"Businesses can consider donating a service—such as a hair cut or massage. Restaurants were especially popular last year, as we had so many gift certificates for meals. It's a good way to get people to try a restaurant, and they most likely will come back and bring friends.

"OLPA had a lot of beautiful one-of-a-kind items last year as well," added Seymour. "We expect to have an even larger variety for the next auction."

To donate a service or item for the 2007 auction, or volunteer on any committee, contact the OLPA office at (404) 853-7159 or Gloria Seymour at (404) 377-8711.

All businesses and individuals who make a donation will be recognized in the gala auction catalogue. OLPA is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization and donations are fully tax deductible.

Thanks in advance for your support in making the 2007 gala and auction a magnificent success.

### Property Values, continued from page 1.

"For every dollar invested in tree planting and maintenance, 2.23 dollars was generated in community benefits, largely in the form of increased property values," Professor Stone reported. "Due to their typically larger size, trees on public land have been found to generate 1.4 times the annual benefits of those on private land."

Residents of Druid Hills, Candler Park, Lake Claire, and West Decatur would surely agree that the green vistas along Ponce de Leon Avenue please the eye. However, unlike commuters from outside the area, local homeowners realize an economic as well as an aesthetic advantage from the park. More than six hundred area residents have acknowledged that benefit by supporting OLPA financially in restoring and maintaining the green space. But what about the hundreds of other households that have not contributed?

"People who live in gated communities pay fees for the upkeep of common areas," observed Sam A. Williams, president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and, like Brian Stone, a member of the OLPA board of directors. "In our case, our taxes provide for mowing the

'common area' that is the Olmsted Park, but that's about all. Those of us whose property values get a large boost from the renovated park need to acknowledge that by giving something back. It's another good reason to contribute to OLPA."



Gala Chair Gloria Seymour

### Deepdene Campaign, Continued from page

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Completion of Deepdene will not only enhance quality of life, but will also increase property values, as realtors often advertise the advantages of living near the Olmsted Park, with its paths, shady benches and lush landscaping. When finished, Deepdene will truly be the jewel of the entire Linear Park and a drawing card for the greater Atlanta community.

You can help OLPA in a number of ways. Donations and pledges in any amount toward the completion of Deepdene may be mailed to OLPA at Post Office box 5500, Atlanta, GA 31107. You may call the OLPA office at (404) 853-7159 to discuss various "naming opportunities" should you wish to honor the life or memory of a friend or loved one.

OLPA has been tremendously successful in raising money to benefit five of the six parks. Residents have already seen the splendid renovation of these parks, and they will continue to be public areas to visit and enjoy. Please help OLPA complete this ambitious project by being generous with your donations toward the realization of our final goal.

# OLPA

Post office box 5500  
Atlanta, GA 31107  
(404) 853-7159  
WWW.atlantaolmstedpark.org

*Preserving an Atlanta treasure for  
future generations*

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## Cash Donations and Pledges Prior to October 2006

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### Your Money at Work

Workmen have been busy this fall. Thanks to donors' support, maintenance has included aerating, fertilizing and reseeding the grass; application of weed retardant; trimming of lower tree branches, and ongoing weeding, watering and trimming of beds and trees.



The Last Rose of Summer in Dellwood (*Rosa Rugosa*).