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Introduction



The Quality Growth Resource Team for Grant Park was brought together in March 2003 through a collaboration with the Atlanta neighborhood of Grant Park, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Georgia Quality Growth Partnership, a state-wide coalition of government agencies, universities, non-profits and business groups working to provide technical assistance on “quality growth” issues to Georgia communities. The resource team focused their study on the neighborhood area of Grant Park, generally bounded by the Grant Park Neighborhood Association’s official boundaries (see illustration 24).

The multidisciplinary team was made up of specialists in city planning, real estate development, urban design, historic preservation, architecture, resource conservation, and housing. Team members were chosen with the area’s particular concerns in mind, which were initially defined in a meeting with the local officials held weeks in advance of the actual team visit.

The team spent approximately a week in the project area. The visit began with a facilitated meeting involving a broad cross section of community representatives, designed to give the team members a deeper understanding of development issues and needs of the project area. During the week the team toured the project area by bus, visited area buildings, spoke with local officials, reviewed local ordinances, conducted field surveys, prepared schematic design solutions, and formulated policy recommendations. The visit culminated with a final presentation to the local officials on Thursday, March 20th. The team’s recommendations were then passed to DCA staff for formatting into this final report.

The Resource Team would like to thank the Grant Park Neighborhood Association officials and citizens for making us feel so welcome in the area. The ideas and solutions proposed here are only a beginning – intended to stimulate interest in redeveloping Grant Park so that residents may continue to enjoy living in a vibrant and beautiful area.

Community Resource Team visits and final presentation reports are coordinated and produced by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The electronic version of this publication (PDF) may be found online at: www.dca.state.ga.us/publications/grantpark.html

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Meet the Resource Team



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Georgia Quality Growth Partnership



The Georgia Quality Growth Partnership (GQGP) is a collaboration among diverse public and private organizations formed out of the desire to coordinate their efforts at promoting “quality growth” approaches throughout the State of Georgia. The primary purpose of the GQGP is to facilitate local government implementation of quality growth approaches by:

1. Disseminating objective information on the various approaches.
2. Developing tools for implementing these approaches.
3. Sharing of best practices learned from other places, times, and cultures.
4. Promoting acceptance of quality growth by the general public and community leaders.

Founded in March, 2000, the GQGP has grown to more than forty organizations, each contributing time, in kind services, or financial resources to fostering Partnership efforts.

Guiding Principles

The GQGP members believe that fostering livable communities requires innovative solutions that:

1. Ensure equitable access for all citizens to a range of options for education, transportation, housing, employment, human services, culture, and recreation.
2. Create opportunities for citizens to learn more about community planning and actively encourage their involvement in public decision-making.
3. Respect and protect our natural resources – wildlife, land, water, air and trees.
4. Shape appealing physical environments that enhance walkability and positive social interaction.
5. Recognize that community decisions have an impact on neighboring jurisdictions and, therefore, must be made from a responsible regional and statewide perspective.
6. Incorporate practices learned from our local experience as well as from other communities and cultures.
7. Preserve and enhance our cultural and historic places for future generations.
8. Provide for the efficient and economical use of public infrastructure.
9. Employ the principles of sustainability and balance to ensure the economic viability of all communities and to enhance the state’s economic competitiveness.



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