

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Decatur Greenway Solicits Design Ideas for Community Greenspace and Trailhead

Decatur, Georgia - East Decatur Greenway is launching a competition to solicit designs ideas for the future community greenspace and trailhead being developed at 890 Columbia Drive, Decatur, Georgia. The competition is limited to landscape architecture students and emerging professionals who live in Georgia and are members of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Applications are due September 1, 2015. East Decatur Greenway will award \$1,500 to the winner of the competition.

The 890 Columbia Drive property is located near the Midway Woods and Forrest Hills neighborhoods, approximately halfway between the City of Decatur and the Avondale Estates. Originally developed as a gasoline station in the 1940s, the property operated as such until it was abandoned in 1999 and left to deteriorate.

Residents formed East Decatur Greenway in 2011, and have been working with city, county, state, and federal agencies, as well as the PATH Foundation and community members to acquire the property and obtain funding for its eventual redevelopment as a greenspace. The Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Assistance Program has provided significant support to this project, including a \$200,000 Brownfields Cleanup Grant to remediate the property.

Working with the neighborhood associations and others interested in promoting alternate forms of transportation, East Decatur Greenway has developed a collective vision for this underutilized parcel. The primary vision is a community greenspace that can be shared by schools as an outdoor classroom. Another priority is the construction of a trailhead for a multi-use bicycling and pedestrian path that will connect the property to the Avondale Estates MARTA Station parking lot on East College Avenue.

Through this design competition, East Decatur Greenway is soliciting drawings and supporting plan documentation that will be used to finalize the transformation of the property into a community greenspace once the property has been remediated. Applications are due Tuesday, September 1, 2015. Competition details are available at tinyurl.com/nkdzo5.

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East Decatur Greenway is a nonprofit whose mission is to create community greenspace, remediate environmental contamination, protect the watershed, and build safe trails for bicycling and walking in this densely populated part of DeKalb County. East Decatur Greenway was formed in 2011 to acquire a run-down, deteriorating former gas station at 890 Columbia Drive. Since then, it has been working with city, county, state, and federal agencies, as well as the PATH Foundation and community members to obtain funding for its eventual redevelopment as a greenspace.