

Piedmont Avenue Near Noguchi Playscape

Also sometimes referred to as the Front Lawn, the area along Piedmont Avenue contains the historic 12th and 14th Street entrances, the culturally-significant Noguchi Playscape, and the Dockside (former Visitor Center) building adjacent to Lake Clara Meer.

Noguchi Playscape will remain as it was originally designed by Isamu Noguchi in 1976, but some of the surrounding areas among the existing large trees will be improved. Currently, these spaces are hard to see and hard to reach; additional activation will bring more users to Noguchi Playscape and allow more people to appreciate the bright sculptural play features.

PIEDMONT AVENUE NEAR NOGUCHI LEGEND

- 1 Enhanced Existing Minor Entrance Near Piedmont Driving Club
- 2 Relocate Monuments Closer to Paths with Educational Signage
- 3 Enhanced Grand Entrances with Improved Planting and Sightlines
- 4 Peace Monument to Remain with Context Marker
- 5 Vietnam War Memorial (Gifted by Sons of Atlanta, Under Construction in 2025)
- 6 Groundplane Vegetation Improvements and Selective Tree Pruning
- 7 New Entrance at 13th Street Next to Existing Drop-Off Zone
New Crosswalks Per Piedmont Avenue Complete Street Project
- 8 Woodland Nature Play Trail
- 9 Picnic Area Next to Noguchi Playscape
- 10 New Path Connection
- 11 Existing Noguchi Playscape
- 12 Refurbished Public Restroom and Shade Structure with Improved Sightlines to Lake Clara Meer, Active Oval, and Dockside
- 13 Path Connection to Noguchi at Existing Historic Stairs
- 14 Existing Atlanta Rotary Club Seating Circles to Remain
- 15 Movable Seating Plaza Around Dockside Visitor Center
- 16 Dockside Visitor Center, Study Potential for Gift Shop and Cafe



NATURE PLAY TRAIL AND NOGUCHI PLAYSCAPE

The plan includes nature play elements such as logs and stumps to highlight the existing old growth canopy along Piedmont Avenue and provide a new type of play experience in this area.

Noguchi Playscape will remain as the primary playground, with added nature play trail elements to enhance the experience of the wider area and bring more users to the playground.

DOCKSIDE VISITOR CENTER

Painting the roads in front of and around Dockside will create pedestrian-friendly space and additional movable seating plaza spaces to further activate the area around Noguchi Playscape, drawing more people to the area.

Dockside will reopen as a mostly-public visitor center with information, staff, maps, and more in line with its original intended uses going back to its construction in 1910. Dual uses as a coffee shop, gift shop, or rental space will be explored as well.

Additionally, converting the sloped area adjacent to Dockside to terraced seating with views over Lake Clara Meer will support weddings and other community gatherings.

NOGUCHI PLAYSCAPE RESTROOM AND PICNIC SHELTER

Rebuilding and replacing the restroom building in its current location will make it a more welcoming space with better sightlines and a cleaner experience without impacting the historic Noguchi Playscape.

Further exploration is needed into lowering the building elevation so that the restrooms at the lower level are at a similar grade as the surrounding road, creating easier ADA accessible pathways and better sightlines to the south and east; the upper level would then be flush with the Noguchi Playscape and be redesigned as an open-air picnic area with views toward the lake and Active Oval.

MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

Some existing monuments may benefit from being relocated to better fit the surroundings of Piedmont Park. In planning for future monuments and memorials, it is important that each proposed addition undergo rigorous evaluations to ensure the Park does not become overrun with plaques, statues, and other monuments. Additionally, all future monuments should have a direct connection to the extensive storied history of the Park.



Nature Play Trail Elements, Lakeshore Park, Knoxville, TN (NBW)



Existing Monuments to Remain



Potential to Repurpose Dockside as Visitor Center, Food/Beverage, and Rental Space

Rebuild Noguchi Playscape Restroom