



THE BUCKHEAD  
COUNCIL OF  
NEIGHBORHOODS  
P.O. Box 11934, Atlanta, GA 30355

# The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

## Board Meeting

June 14, 2012

Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Neighborhood/Organization</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
1	Yolanda Adrean	City Council District 8	yadrean@atlantaga.gov
2	Michael Ayo	Atlanta Public Works	mayo@atlantaga.gov
3	Rachael Brown	GDOT	rabrown@dot.ga.gov
4	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
5	Lindsey Churchill	Fernleaf	lindseychurchill@gmail.com
6	Diane Cox	Brookwood	dianecox@acpatl.com
7	Neal Creech	Wildwood	nealecreech@hcb.com
8	Cameron Derrick	GDOT	dcameron@dot.ga.gov
9	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
10	Ron Grunwald	Loring Heights	Rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
11	John Guest	Brookwood	Unknown
12	Jerry Hajousiewitz	Pine Hills	GWHaj1@gmail.com
13	Tiffany Harlow	Zone 2 Community Prosecutor	tiffany.harlow@fultoncountyga.gov
14	Mary Hunter	Peachtree Heights East	mhunter2000@aol.com
15	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
16	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
17	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
18	Richard Mendoza	Atlanta Public Works	rmendoza@atlantaga.gov
19	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirg@me.com
20	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran-Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net
21	Michael Packer	Northside Patch	Michael.Packer@Patch.com
22	Rick Parham	GDOT	rparham@dot.ga.gov
23	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & Buckhead Coalition	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
24	Alden Potts	Argonne Forest	aldenpotts@dorseyalston.com
25	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	buffquillianphw@gmail.com
26	David Ross	Peachtree Battle Alliance	dross1102@bellsouth.net
27	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
28	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bobschneider@me.com
29	Albert Shelby	GDOT	ashelby@dot.ga.gov
30	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
31	Robbie Turner	Next Door	Unknown
32	Lee Upkins	GDOT	lupkins@dof.ga.gov
33	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
34	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net
35	Caroline Young	Northside Neighbor	cyoung@neighbornewspapers.com

### Representation by Neighborhood

<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
1 Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2 Argonne Forest	Alden Potts
3 Brookwood	Diane Cox, John Guest
4 Chastain Park	Jim King
5 Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
6 Fernleaf	Lindsey Churchill
7 Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
8 Loring Heights	Ron Grunwald
9 Memorial Park	Garth Peters
10 Mt. Paran-Northside	Ann O'Connell
11 North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
12 Paces	Debra Wathen
13 Peachtree Battle Alliance	David Ross
14 Peachtree Heights West	Buff Quillian
15 Peachtree Heights East	Mary Hunter
16 Pine Hills	George Mirgorod, Jerry Hajousiewitz
17 West Paces Northside	Tom Tidwell
18 Wildwood	Neal Creech

# BCN Board Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2012

## BCN 2011/12 Officers (Executive Committee)

Office	Officer	Neighborhood	E-mail
Chairman	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
Vice-Chairman	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
Secretary	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
Treasurer	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
Communications	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
Member at Large	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net
Member at Large	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net

## BCN Standing Committees

Committee	Chair	E-mail
Executive Committee	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Communications Committee	Bob Schneider	bschneider@gardenhills.net

## BCN 2011/12 Liaisons

Topic	Liaison	E-mail
Education	Leslie Churchill	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
Membership	Elizabeth Pritchard	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
Neighborhood Governance/Topics	Kathy Collura	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
Parks	Gordon Certain	gcertain@comcast.net
Property Taxes	George Mirgorod	gmirg@me.com
Public Safety	Barbara Kennedy	bar2010@aol.com
	Tad Linder	tlinder@lindersecurity.com
	Kim Kahwach	KAJensen@bellsouth.net
Redistricting	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Transportation, Development and Infrastructure	Diane Cox	brookwoodcivic@gmail.com
	Ron Grunwald	rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
	Deborah Wathen	6wathens@bellsouth.net
	Kristy Gillmann	kristygillmann@gmail.com

## I. Welcome & Introductions

**Jim King** called the meeting to order at about 6:35 PM. The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

## II. Approval of May Minutes

Minutes for the May meeting were approved.

## III. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

Twenty-eight neighborhoods paid 2011 dues. As of this June meeting, thirty neighborhoods had paid 2012 dues. Alden Potts requested that her Argonne Forest be admitted and it was admitted by the BCN board, making the total 31. Debra Wathen will determine if her Paces neighborhood will continue to represent the Paces Battle area.

## IV. Neighborhood Governance Issues

## V. Presentation with Q & A

Next Door (<https://nextdoor.com/>) is a private social network adapted to the needs of geographical areas such as towns and especially neighborhoods. It is an Internet start-up funded by private venture capital investors. **Jim King** said his neighborhood started using Next Door and that there are currently over 700 Chastain Park residents using it.

Jim King and Gordon Certain have worked with Next Door to map Buckhead neighborhoods and define them to Next Door. (The boundaries may need to be adjusted slightly.) Only residents of a

## BCN Board Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2012

neighborhood are able to join a neighborhood unit within Next Door. This ensures that outsiders will not be able to read postings made by neighborhood residents and that advertisers cannot make postings while posing as residents. So, unlike networks like Facebook, site participants are from a carefully defined neighborhood area and can interact with each other accordingly.

**Robbie Turner** of **Next Door** is a former Buckhead resident who flew in from California to make this presentation and to demonstrate the Next Door system. She described the uses of the system as a means for residents to share interests and concerns in an era when many don't know their next door neighbors. It is a means for community building. The system includes rigorous controls to make sure that those who apply to use the system are actually physical residents of the applicable neighborhood.

In response to questions, Robbie said there are means for users of the system to alert system monitors about inappropriate postings so they can be reviewed and, if necessary, removed. There are also means for officials such as police to broadcast messages to users though the police are not able to view postings made within a neighborhood group. Buckhead is being treated by Next Door as a "city". This enables BCN to communicate with all Buckhead neighborhoods. There is a BCN page which BCN reps can join. Robbie said that "sub-groups" would soon be available to let parts of the neighborhood, perhaps an HOA or moms group, communicate with each other.

Significant efforts are apparently made to protect user privacy. Next Door contents are encrypted at the neighborhood level. The contents will not be made available to Google and other search engines. Demographic data are not collected by the system. Home addresses are frequently screened against sex offender databases—if there is a match, membership in the neighborhood group is blocked for that address.

Next Door started up about two years ago and now has a staff of about 30 people. They are fully funded by venture capitalists through 2014. The system is free for users. It is used by over 2,800 neighborhoods in 48 states plus DC. At meeting time, thirteen Buckhead neighborhoods were using Next Door.

### VI. Committee and Liaison Updates

- **Communications Committee** – **Jim King** said the URL for the new BCN web site [www.buckheadcouncil.org](http://www.buckheadcouncil.org) had been activated.
- **Education** – A search is still being made for a North Atlanta High School principal.
- **Executive Committee** – No report.
- **Membership** – No Report.
- **Parks** – **Gordon Certain** reported that the Buckhead Heritage Society and the Blue Heron Nature preserve held a joint "history walk" in North Buckhead. About 30 people participated. Sites visited included the nature preserve, a historic home and historic parts of the neighborhood within walking distance of the preserve.

**Jim King** mentioned that the Chastain Conservancy had brought in goats to eat the kudzu in the park. 600 people showed up to watch them.

- **Property Taxes** – **George Mirgorod** plans to ask the new Chief Assessor David Fitzgibbon to speak to BCN at an upcoming meeting. **Yolanda Adrean** mentioned that if you appeal your property tax valuation you need to re-appeal every three years – the act of appealing [to the Board of Equalization or courts] freezes the valuation for three years [which is good if you win the appeal and protects you from inflation even if you lose the appeal. –GC].

**Gordon Certain** mentioned that the information available on the Fulton County Board of Assessor's web site (<http://www.qpublic.net/ga/fulton/>) had been expanded recently and included information in the "Property Records" section that used to be available only by mail or by a visit to the offices at the court house. Information available on the site includes maps and listings of comparable sales.

## BCN Board Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2012

- **Public Safety** – **Tiffany Harlow**, the **Zone 2 Community Prosecutor**, said the DA's office would have a reception on July 11 to welcome her to her new position. The Reception will be held at 2996 Grandview Ave. at 5:30 PM.
- **Redistricting** – **Yolanda Adrean** said that City redistricting is not approved by the courts. She said her only change was that the Berkeley Park neighborhood is being moved from District 8 to District 9. **Jim King** said that the County Commission redistricting won't be finalized until the Legislature comes back into session.
- **Transportation, Development and Infrastructure** – No Report.

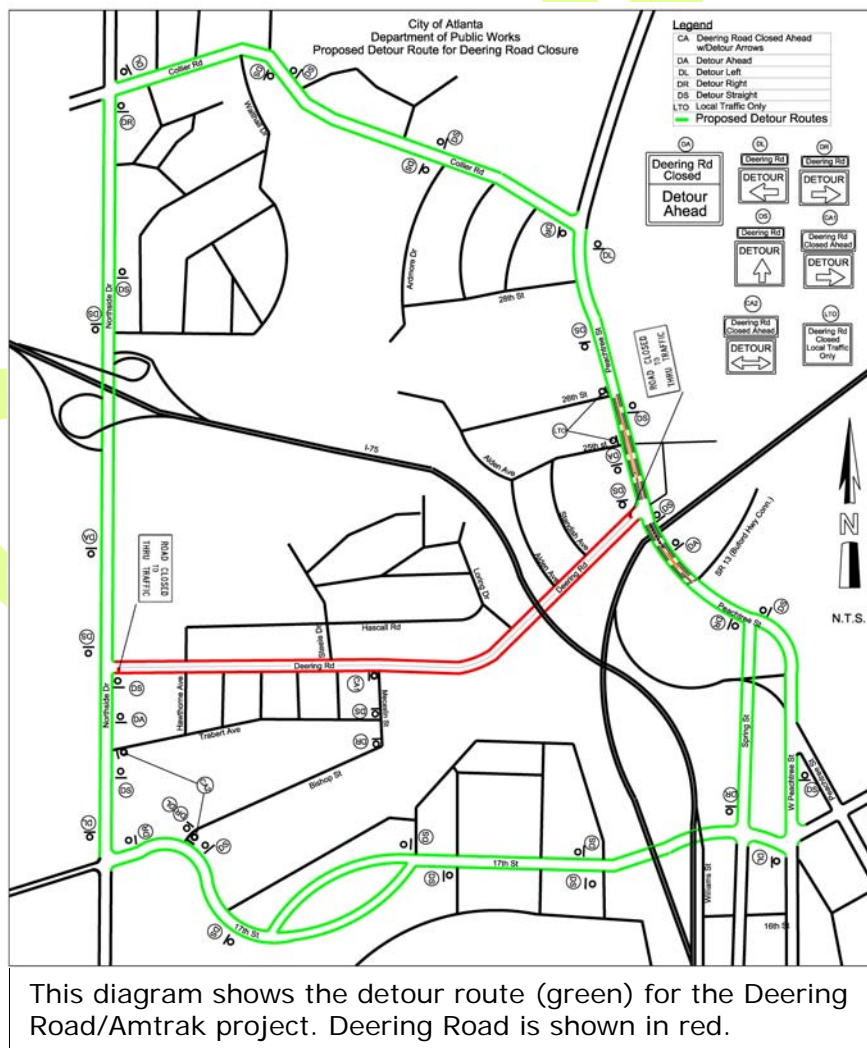
### VII. Community Concerns / New Business

No report.

### VIII. Discussion - Buckhead Traffic Projects

**Ron Grunwald** outlined the situation. Two transportation improvement projects had been scheduled to happen at the same time in the same general area.

- First is the repair of the **Amtrak station** – the front parking lot is to be removed. GDOT briefed Loring Heights about six months ago about the need to close Deering Road for four to six months. They worked out a detour plan with Public Works.
- Recently, they have learned that the **Northside Drive** project (several projects rolled into one – sidewalks, reversible lanes, intersection rework and replacement of a water main) was going into work at the same time as the Amtrak project.



The problem as Ron saw it was that the detour route for the Amtrak project was to route traffic onto Collier Road and Northside Drive, the area impacted by the second project. Ron has tried unsuccessfully



## BCN Board Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2012

to find out why the projects were scheduled to happen at the same time. He had been told that both projects would happen at the same time – that rescheduling was not an option.

Ron expressed concern about the impact on Piedmont Hospital emergency traffic and area neighborhoods. He asked for a fuller explanation of how the conflict arose and that it be resolved by rescheduling some of the work. He also said that traffic signals were not timed properly, reducing its usefulness as a detour. **Diane Cox** added concern that her Brookwood neighborhood would be greatly impacted. **Tom Gordon** also expressed concern about the impacts on his Ardmore Park neighborhood.

**Commissioner Richard Mendoza** said that both projects are highly anticipated and are related to public safety. He said that inconvenience could be expected from construction projects like these but that the City and GDOT were working closely to minimize the impact.

**Rachael Brown** of GDOT updated us on the projects. She said the Amtrak project has been awarded to CW Matthews but a notice to proceed has not yet been issued. A start of work is anticipated after the Fourth of July. She said the Northside Drive project was scheduled to be let in July with a notice to proceed likely in August. She said the Northside Drive project will keep one lane of traffic moving in each direction at all times except for two weekends (weekends likely near the end of the project). Since neighbors didn't want work done at night, the work on the Northside project is scheduled from 9AM to 5PM Monday through Friday and 9AM to 8PM on Saturday and Sunday. Work will take about 24 months.

The scheduling of the Amtrak project was said to have been driven by its need as a safety project, and by federal fiscal year 2012 funding constraints. There was discussion about reworking the Amtrak project schedule but it appears that federal funding constraints make that impossible. The duration of the project is about six months.

Commissioner Mendoza listened to the discussion and then offered the following comments:

- He said his department would attend to the signals on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Because there is no direct communication between the signals and "Downtown", even if manually retimed, the signals would soon "drift" out of proper timing. So his personnel will periodically manually adjust the signal timing during the duration of the detour to keep them working well. (He said the TSPLOST plan includes funding to install fiber-optic communications to connect signals in the city.)
- Regarding concerns about Brookwood neighborhood traffic, signage will be installed to reduce cut-through traffic and to make the detour route clear.
- The City and GDOT could look at providing traffic officers, especially during the two weekends noted earlier.
- While Collier Road could be omitted from the official detour route and traffic could be instructed to use 17<sup>th</sup> Street, he thought in the long run drivers would figure out the shortest route. So he plans to monitor traffic behavior and may adjust the detour plan to restrict turns onto east-west streets from Northside during the project. **Barbara Kennedy** pleaded to have Collier Road omitted from the detour route – Mendoza said they had considered all options and felt Collier needed to be listed but that they would install signage and would definitely be monitoring the situation.

In response to a question, Mendoza said the repaving of West Paces Ferry Road would start in August and that while it could last 90 days, it would probably be a much briefer project.

### IX. Announcements

X. Next Meeting – July 12, 2012

XI. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:40 PM.

## BCN Board Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2012

*Note: The opinions expressed by the speakers and individual neighborhood representatives in these minutes do not necessarily represent those of BCN or its member neighborhoods.*

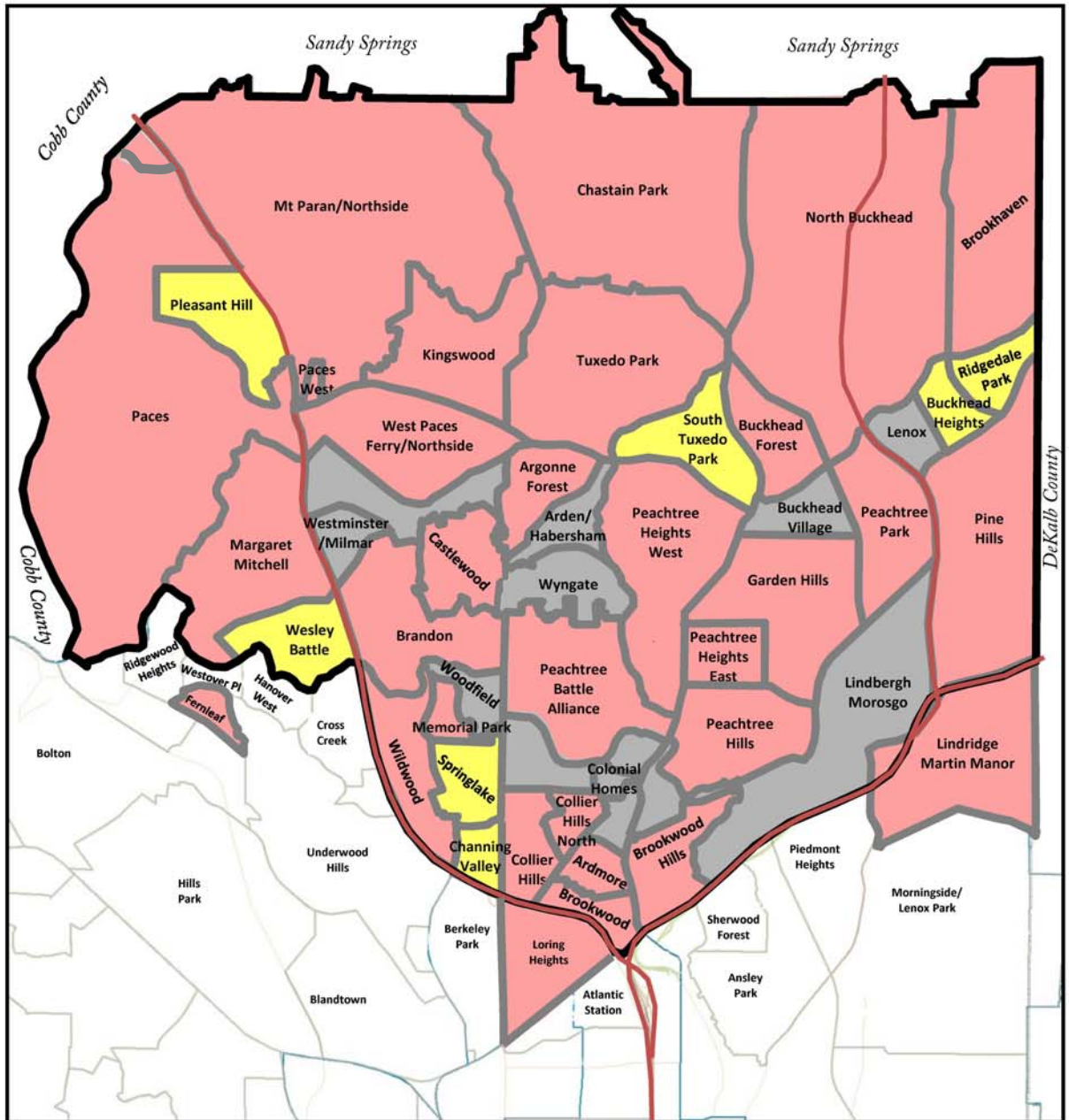
Prepared by Gordon Certain  
BCN Secretary  
July 10, 2012

DRAFT

# Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Paces

## Paid Membership as of 07/09/12



### LEGEND

Paid Membership as of 07/09/12

YES  NO  N/A

7/9/2012

# BCN Organizational Status as of 6/11/2012

		BCN Dues				Representation at BCN Board Meetings																				
	Neighborhood	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012																
						3 meetings	12 meetings	11 meetings	11 meetings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
1	Arden/Habersham																									
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	67%	91%	92%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
3	Argonne Forest				✓										✓											
4	Brandon				✓																					
5	Brookwood		✓	✓	✓		17%	45%	82%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓											
6	Brookwood Hills			✓	✓		8%		45%				✓													
7	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	100%	18%	✓	✓			✓												
8	Buckhead Heights						8%																			
9	Castlewood	✓	✓		✓		17%		27%																	
10	Channing Valley								18%					✓												
11	Chastain Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
12	Collier Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓		67%	82%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
13	Collier Hills North			✓	✓		8%	9%	27%				✓	✓												
14	Fernleaf				✓					✓	✓	✓			✓											
15	Garden Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓		75%	91%	63%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓											
16	Grant Estates	✓	✓	✓		100%	83%	82%																		
17	Historic Brookhaven	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	58%	91%	63%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
18	Kingswood	✓			✓	33%	8%	9%	9%																	
19	Lindbergh								9%																	
20	Lindridge Martin Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	55%	9%																	
21	Loring Heights			✓	✓				82%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓											
22	Margaret Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓		33%	64%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
23	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	91%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
24	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	55%	82%	✓	✓				✓											
25	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
26	Paces	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	55%	72%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
27	Paces Battle								18%			✓	✓													
28	Paces West	✓	✓		✓		7%		9%																	
29	PeachtreeBattle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	83%	64%	72%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
30	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	50%		63%			✓	✓	✓	✓											
31	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	73%	63%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
32	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	45%	36%	✓	✓	✓		✓												
33	Peachtree Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	83%	55%	36%	✓	✓	✓	✓													
34	Pine Hills		✓	✓	✓	33%	8%	91%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
35	Pleasant Hill																									
36	Ridgedale Park	✓	✓	✓		100%	58%	73%	18%																	
37	Springlake		✓	✓				55%	18%																	
38	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	75%	73%	63%	✓	✓		✓													
39	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓				17%	9%	9%																	
40	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	67%	64%	82%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓											
41	Wildwood			✓	✓	33%		27%	72%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
42	Wyngate																									
Neighborhood Totals		26	28	28	31	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	Avg: 19	22	23	21	20	19	18											