



For Immediate Release

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## **Piedmont Park Conservancy to Install Storm X Trash Grabber in Lake Clara Meer**

*\$50,000 Coca Cola Foundation Grant*

ATLANTA – November 15, 2019. The Coca Cola Foundation has awarded the Piedmont Park Conservancy a \$50,000 grant to fund the installation of several Storm X Trash Grabber systems which will assist in capturing trash before it enters Lake Clara Meer.

"We strive to operate a healthy, sustainable Park which contributes to a healthy, sustainable Atlanta," says David Esslinger, Piedmont Park Conservancy Director of Operations. "We aim to be a model for creating new standards of park care and innovative practices. Likewise, we hope to educate the public about the importance of water and sustainable living."

All of Piedmont Park's storm drains lead to Lake Clara Meer, and that ultimately means trash lands in the lake. Storm X Trash Grabber has nets which are mounted to inlet pipes and will help collect waste and debris but also allows sediment to fall out of the netting without causing back up and possible flooding. The system has a built-in overflow feature to allow for heavy runoff to flow freely.

"The Coca-Cola Foundation is committed to enabling more sustainable communities through support of innovative efforts that address waste. This project will bring the community together to ensure Lake Clara Meer remains a beautiful feature of Piedmont Park," said Helen Smith Price, President, The Coca-Cola Foundation.

The Piedmont Park Conservancy will monitor and document the effectiveness of the Storm X technology, while testing the nets durability. Community residents and the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper will assist with water testing and sampling throughout the year. The Conservancy is grateful for this opportunity provided by the Coca Cola Foundation to find innovative solutions to environmental issues.

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The Piedmont Park Conservancy is a member and donor funded nonprofit working in partnership with the City of Atlanta to maintain and enhance historic Piedmont Park. Founded in 1989, the Conservancy raises over \$3.5 million each year to enhance and maintain the park. Today, the Conservancy manages over 90% of the overall maintenance and security of Piedmont Park.