



The designers wanted to ensure that the trees in the paved areas thrived to the same degree as the trees growing in the greenspaces elsewhere in the park and needed a modular system capable of adapting to the different shapes of the paved areas. Kevin Burke, landscape architect with the Atlanta BeltLine, proposed using the Silva Cells to bring the desired soil volume to the trees planted in the plaza, which had a traditional rectilinear design, as well as to the trees planted along the path, which has an curvilinear design that required a flexible system to accommodate its shape. The design of the path area also presented an interesting challenge regarding the placement of a number of large boulders, intended to function interactively as places to sit and play, on top of and along the paths' perimeter. Through consultation between the design and engineering team, the placement of the boulders was fine-tuned and limitations imposed that assured that the design goals were reached while preventing excess stress loading on the cells.

The construction teams installed 1,070 decks and 1,070 in a one layer system across the site, altogether bringing each tree over 400 cubic feet of soil. Thus the trees surrounded by pavement on the plaza and dry creek will be given equal opportunity to thrive as the trees in the open greenspaces, contributing substantially to the promising future of the pastoral oasis in the heart of Atlanta that is the Historic Fourth Ward Park.

Installation Summary:

- Average soil volume per tree: 400 ft³ shared
- Number of Silva Cells: 1,070 decks and 1,070 frames
- Designers: HDR Engineering (path) / Wood + Partners (plaza)
- Contractors: Davis Landscape (path) / ValleyCrest (plaza)
- Installation date: 2010 (path) / 2011 (plaza)
- Number of Trees: 20 (path) / 16 (plaza)
- Installation type: Trees

For more information, please contact:

Leda Marritz (leda@deeproot.com or 415-781-9700)