



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO GREENSPACE ACROSS THE CITY**

### **PARK PRIDE'S MATCHING GRANTS FUND UPGRADES IN 14 ATLANTA & DEKALB PARKS**

Atlanta –January 16, 2018– [Park Pride](#) has announced that \$1,027,000 has been granted to 14 community groups in Atlanta and DeKalb to fund capital park improvements. This is the largest amount Park Pride has granted to communities in a single grant cycle. To date, Park Pride has awarded over \$5.8 million to projects that include new playgrounds, bridges and piers, informational kiosks and signage, trails, exercise equipment, community gardens, land acquisition for new parks or park expansions, and more.

Established in 2004, Park Pride's [matching grant programs](#) award varying amounts of funding to community groups seeking to revitalize their neighborhood greenspaces. Three distinct grants provide awards of different sizes, designed to support Friends of the Park groups taking on larger projects as they grow and develop capacity. Legacy Grants (grants of \$50,000 and up) are funded by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation; Community Building Grants (\$2,500-\$50,000) are funded by The Home Depot Foundation; and Small Change Grants (up to \$2,500) are funded by the Cecil B. Day Foundation.

Park Pride's Associate Director, Allison Barnett, expressed appreciation for the program's funders, stating, "Our funders believe in the power of parks and are committed to making a positive difference in greenspaces for the families and communities that use them. We're so thankful for their ongoing support and look forward to seeing the funded grant projects come to fruition."

"Park Pride's matching grants illustrate how parks can serve as catalysts bringing communities together to initiate positive and transformative change from within," explained Ayanna Williams, Park Pride's Director of Community Building responsible for the Friends of the Park Program. "Across the city, you'll find Friends of the Park volunteers dedicated to creating great parks and increasing the quality of life in their neighborhoods."

Keep an eye out for the park improvements below coming to a greenspace near you!

### **Legacy Grants**

Park Pride awarded Legacy Grants to seven community groups. These grants are only available to groups within the City of Atlanta. Legacy Grants have been awarded to the following:

- **The Friends of Armand Park** are implementing the first phase of a new park which will serve both as a much-needed community gathering space and as the trailhead to the South Fork Trail. The plan includes a playground, pathways, and landscape improvements.
- **The Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy** will create a nature trail through Atlanta Memorial Park with footbridges and a boardwalk. The project also includes rain gardens, landscaping, and drainage improvements, as well as the transformation of a gravel area into an open lawn.
- **The Friends of Channing Valley Park** will replace aging play equipment and add seating to create a safe and engaging play space for the neighborhood.
- **Little 5 Alive** will implement a redesign of Findley Plaza to transform it into a vibrant, welcoming community space.

- **The Friends of Knight Park** will transform a dilapidated brick building into a welcoming walled garden, creating a gathering space for this active community.
- **The Friends of Noble Park** will enhance the park with landscape and hardscape improvements and a new playground.
- **The Friends of Sara Gonzales Park** will implement a comprehensive redesign to optimize usage of the park. Improvements include an expanded playground, a playing field, and improved connectivity and access from the surrounding community.

### Community Building Grants

Park Pride's Community Building Grants are available to community groups located in both the City of Atlanta (COA) and DeKalb County (DC). Seven grants were awarded to:

- **The Friends of Briarlake Forest Park** (DC) will implement Phase I of their master plan that includes a circulation trail and park amenities.
- **The Friends of Frazier-Rowe Park** (DC) will build a pavilion with an accessible trail that connects to other areas of the park.
- **The Friends of Hairston Park** (DC) will add three fitness stations and a nature trail to provide activities for a broad range of users.
- **The Friends of N.H. Scott Park** (DC) will implement Phase I of park improvements, which includes wayfinding signage and a community garden.
- **The Friends of Phoenix II Park** (COA) will clean and refresh an existing playground and engage more neighborhood children with the addition of toddler equipment.
- **Habesha** will upgrade the community garden at **Rosa Burney Park** (COA) with new, raised garden beds and the installation of a solar-powered irrigation system connecting to an existing 3,000-gallon cistern.
- **The Friends of South Atlanta Park** (COA) will add benches to provide seating in their newly installed playground.

To learn more about Park Pride grants, visit <http://parkpride.org/we-can-help/grant-programs/>.

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### About Park Pride:

Founded in 1989, Park Pride is the Atlanta-based nonprofit that engages communities to activate the power of parks. Working with over 110 local Friends of the Park groups, Park Pride provides leadership and services to help communities realize their dreams for neighborhood parks that support healthy people, strong neighborhoods, vibrant business districts, a robust economy and a healthy environment. Park Pride is active in greenspace advocacy and educating both civic leaders and the public about the benefits of parks, and annually hosts the Parks and Greenspace Conference. Learn more about Park Pride at [parkpride.org](http://parkpride.org).