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## PARK PRIDE HONORS SIX COMMUNITY LEADERS WITH THE 2018 INSPIRATION AWARDS

Atlanta – March 27, 2018 – On Monday, March 26, 2018, Park Pride announced six recipients of the 2018 Inspiration Awards during the Parks and Greenspace Conference, *Parks & the Resilient City*, a theme that explored how a robust park system contributes to the overall resilience of a city.

The Inspiration Awards annually honor leaders who inspire others to expand and improve public parks and greenspaces and work to raise awareness about critical, relevant park issues.

"Turning a 'good' park into a 'great' park doesn't happen overnight," explained Michael Halicki, Park Pride's Executive Director, "and this year's Inspiration Award winners have been committed for many years and into decades to encouraging and nurturing progress within their respective greenspaces. Unwavering commitment overtime is a true testament to their passion for parks, and we're thrilled to honor their achievements in front of hundreds of park enthusiasts at the Parks and Greenspace Conference."

The winners, selected by a panel of past winners from a pool of leaders nominated by their communities across metro Atlanta, were chosen because of their substantial contribution to greenspaces. This year's Inspiration Award Winners include: **Isabel González Whitaker**, for her dedication to transforming Sara J. González Park that bears her mother's name; **Decton Hylton**, for building relationships and activating a diverse community through gardening at Forty Oaks Nature Preserve; **Bob Kerr**, for five decades of advocacy work to save and expand access to public land on behalf of Georgians, most recently as a founding member of the South Fork Conservancy; **Cara Schroeder**, for her dedication and perseverance on behalf of Henderson Park, Henderson Park Community Garden, and the Friends of Tucker Parks, as well as her involvement with several other greenspace nonprofits; **Joel Slaton**, for his ingenious activation of Constitution Lakes Park by transforming reclaimed materials into unique works of art; and **Tony Torrence**, for his work as the leader of the Community Improvement Association, a co-founder of the Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, and for being a vocal proponent of Lindsay Street Park and Boone Park West on Atlanta's Westside. For more details about each award recipient's contribution to greenspace, visit [parkpride.org](http://parkpride.org).

### **About Park Pride:**

Park Pride is the Atlanta-based nonprofit that engages communities to activate the power of parks. Working with over 100 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 [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org).

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