Great Local Parks are Important!

Great cities have great parks. Unfortunately, not all Atlanta residents have a great park within walking distance of their homes. You can help change that!

For 30 years, Park Pride has celebrated the benefits of greenspaces and engaged communities to activate the power of parks. This year, we invite you to join our efforts to ensure that all residents have a great park nearby.

**Great local parks are important because they provide:**

- **Places for children to play**
  Children need active play to thrive. Great parks provide an outlet for young minds to explore and learn, and for active bodies to strengthen and grow. An accessible park where kids can play safely is a vital component of healthy neighborhoods!

- **Places for neighbors to gather**
  A local park is a place for neighbors to get to know each other and for kids to meet new friends living nearby. Great parks unify neighborhoods, creating stronger, more resilient cities.

- **Places to grow**
  Community gardens in parks provide increased access to locally grown, nutritious food and opportunities for people to exercise together and build relationships through gardening.

- **Connections to nature**
  There is a growing body of research that suggests humans have a need for nature and that our health suffers when we don’t get enough of it. Researcher Dr. Ming Kuo (http://bit.ly/mingkuo) compares the shortened lifespan of animals confined in zoos to people who lack basic access to nature. Through parks, our innate need for a connection to nature in an urban setting is met.

There are so many reasons for these kids to love Chapel Hill Park, their local greenspace.

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Quality local parks aren’t just a “nice to have.” Amid an explosion of population growth and land development, we need park champions to advocate for the creation and enhancement of local parks.

**What can you do to become a champion for parks?**

We hope you’ll join us during our 30th anniversary year to ensure that all communities can enjoy the benefits of great parks. Here’s how you can help:

1. **Join or Create a Friends of the Park Group**
   Friends of the Park groups are the “boots on the ground” community volunteers who are focused on improving and activating a park or group of parks. Learn more at parkpride.org/friends.

2. **Attend the Parks & Greenspace Conference**
   This conference will provide you with the motivation, inspiration, resources, and connections to make your park dreams a reality! See more information on page 4 or visit parkpride.org/conference.

3. **Attend a Park Meeting**
   Each month, community leaders and park advocates from throughout Atlanta come together for education, networking, and to support each other to achieve their park goals. Visit parkpride.org/parkmeeting for more information.

4. **Volunteer**
   Park Pride’s Volunteer Program offers corporate and community groups of all sizes the opportunity to dig in for the greener good! Individuals can also lend a helping hand during Greener Good Volunteer Days. Visit parkpride.org/volunteer to get started!

5. **Give**
   With a gift to Park Pride, you are enhancing community engagement in parks, helping to keep parks on the public agenda, and improving the quality of life in Atlanta: parkpride.org/donate. Thank you for your support!

This fall, Park Pride will celebrate 30 years of engaging communities for the greener good! Keep your eyes peeled for an announcement with details. We hope you’ll join us!
Grants for the Greener Good

Congratulations to the 21 Friends of the Park groups that received $864,000 in funding through Park Pride’s 2018 grantmaking cycle! To date, Park Pride has awarded over $6.6 million to community park projects, including new playgrounds, bridges, informational kiosks and signage, trails, exercise equipment, community gardens, game fields, pavilions, green infrastructure amenities to help manage stormwater runoff, and more (read the story at bit.ly/pp2018grants).

Community Building Grants (funded by The Home Depot Foundation)

The Friends of Lillian Cooper Shepherd Park will install green infrastructure amenities to manage stormwater. They will also renovate the basketball court, exercise area, and sandbox.

The Friends of Hampton-Beecher Hills Park will restore sections of the trail and install new trail signage.

The Friends of Lithonia Park will install a one-of-a-kind playscape and a “Fitness Forest” (equipment) to encourage health and fitness, as well as a “Music Meadow” of outdoor instruments.

The Friends of Melvin Drive Park will install a new pavilion and improve the park’s ADA accessibility.

The Friends of Sidney Marcus Park will enhance the picnic area with an ADA accessible walkway and picnic tables.

The Friends of South Atlanta Park will expand the playground, adding climbing features and a slide.

The Friends of Zonolite Park will add a new boardwalk and bridge, a decorative fence along the main trail, and a drip irrigation system in the park’s garden.

Legacy Grants (funded by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation)

The Friends of Armand Park will add a pavilion, a raingarden, and a slate trail pathway connecting to existing trails.

Chastain Park Conservancy will expand their playground to include a playhouse, fire station, sensory tunnel, and musical equipment.

The Friends of Collier Heights Park will update their play area with a retaining wall, rubber safety surfacing, and new play equipment. The park will also benefit from new fitness equipment and benches.

The Grant Park Conservancy will restore several historic elements within the park, including Lion’s Bridge and the Erskine and Milledge Fountains.

The Friends of Kennedy Park will add a playing field and resurface the basketball court. A paved walking path and fitness equipment will also be installed.

The Friends of Mozley Park will add fitness and playground equipment to encourage outdoor recreation.

The Friends of Sara J. González Park will add a “learning nook” for programming and a playing field.

Small Change Grants (funded by The Home Depot Foundation)

Small Change Grants were awarded to Friends of the Park groups at: Cabbagetown Park, Collier Heights Park, Ira B. Melton Park, La Vista Park, Lithonia Park, Longdale Park, Memorial Drive Greenway, Springbrook Park, and Underwood Hills Park.

Learn more about Park Pride’s Grant Programs and application deadlines in 2019: parkpride.org/grants.
According to Jane Jacobs, the great urban activist and influencer, for a park to be successful, it must “be where life swirls” – it must be the conduit for cultural and artistic expression for individuals and communities, a catalyst for healthy living, and accessible to and designed for all.

Join us on Monday, March 25th for the 18th Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference, themed Parks are the Heart of Community, as we explore the power of parks to unite and become the foundation upon which all members of a community can grow and thrive!

Keynote Speakers

Mitchell J. Silver
Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation

Gil Penalosa
Founder and Chair of 8 80 Cities; Chair of World Urban Parks

Dr. Nooshin Razani
Director of the Center for Nature & Health, UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland

Register Today!

- Regular: $170
- Late: $190 (March 18 - March 20)
- Walk-Up: $200 (day of March 25)

Get your seat next to over 450 park advocates, enthusiasts, and professionals from across the country at the largest parks and greenspace conference in the Southeast!

To join this list, contact chad@parkpride.org.
I hadn’t lived in Lakewood Heights for long before I got involved in a volunteer clean-up day in South Bend Park. During this project, I noticed a burned community building where families and neighbors used to gather.

A year later, I realized that nothing had been done to repair the building and that it had suffered even more fire damage. But what could I do about it? Who could I even call? I was at a loss and felt powerless to make a change.

**Finding my voice**
That Spring, I attended Park Pride’s Parks & Greenspace Conference for the first time. I met the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and asked her directly why the building had not been rebuilt. Not long after, the community building in South Bend Park was restored.

Through this experience, I learned about the power of networking and my own voice to make a difference.

**Uniting around a vision**
As Park Pride’s Director of Community Building, I look forward to helping individuals and communities connect and find their voices through the Friends of the Park Program. **Friends** groups empower and unite communities around shared visions for their parks.

**Get started!**
If you’re interested in making a difference in your community and local park, reach out to learn about the Park Pride resources available to make your voice heard!

- To learn more about Atlanta **Friends of the Park** groups, contact Tina Arnold: tina@parkpride.org or 404-723-3116.
- To learn more about Friends of the Park groups in **DeKalb, Tucker, or Brookhaven**, contact Kayla Altland: kayla@parkpride.org or 470-371-7330.

Meet the people at the Parks & Greenspace Conference that can help make a difference in your park! Pictured: Members of Atlanta Mayor Bottoms’ 2018 cabinet with Otis Rolley, former North American Director of 100 Resilient Cities.

When you join or form a **Friends of the Park** group, you’ll take the first step toward improving your park and positively impacting your community—all while getting to know your neighbors!

Contact Tina Arnold and Kayla Altland, **Friends of the Park** Associate, about engaging your community and activating your park!

Park Pride hosts regular Park Meetings for **Friends** groups to learn, network, and share strategies for overcoming challenges. Visit parkpride.org/events for details.
news you should know:
organizational updates

board of directors news
Park Pride is pleased to welcome Jeff Ellman of Jones Day back to the Board of Directors.

The City of Atlanta’s new Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, John Dargle, Jr., will serve on the Board as an Honorary Director.

Park Pride also extends our deepest appreciation to the board members who’ve completed their terms: Joe Cronk, Joe Finley, Bob Mullen, Sadler Poe, and Lindsey Sones.

staff news
Since last fall, two new staff members have joined the Park Pride team to support our mission of engaging the community to activate the power of parks:

Tina Arnold
Dir. of Community Building
Contact for: Atlanta’s Friends of the Park Program + community gardens.
tina@parkpride.org

Erica Glasener
Interim Program Assoc.
Contact for: Grant Programs + Fiscal Partner Program.
erica@parkpride.org

Michael Halicki was recently recognized in Georgia Trend’s 2019 list of “Notable Georgians” and in Atlanta Magazine’s list of most influential leaders.

2019 Corporate Champions

Thank you to the following organizations for their extraordinary generosity in support of Park Pride’s annual operating needs, programs and events!

visionary

sustainer

activator

hero

advocate

Become a Champion for Parks!
Please reach out to Chad Nash, Corporate and Individual Giving Associate, to learn more.
chad@parkpride.org or 404-546-7984.
mission
to engage communities to activate the power of parks

1 groundbreaking for a new park, Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park, on Atlanta’s westside.

$864,397 awarded to 21 Friends of the Park groups through our grantmaking programs.

22,573 volunteer service hours in parks and trails with support from 6,732 volunteers.

167 parks supported by Friends of the Park groups - a new record!

20 community-driven park designs created through the Park Visioning Program.

49 national and local presenters at the 17th Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms welcomes attendees to the Parks & Greenspace Conference, March 2018.

Community members give input to determine the conceptual plan for Grant Park, June 2018.

Volunteers spread 900 bags of mulch at Kittredge Park, December 2018.

Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park will provide needed community space to English Avenue residents and offer relief from flooding related to stormwater runoff, August 2018.

Friends and community members gather in Hairston Park for Earth Day, April 2018.

The complete 2018 Impact Report will be available online soon!
Mission
To engage communities to activate the power of parks.

Park Views Online | bit.ly/parkpridenews

Pitch in for Parks!

In 2018, over 6,500 volunteers dedicated time, strength, and sweat to making a difference in our parks! Volunteers created trails, built benches, footbridges and kiosks, revitalized playgrounds, cleared invasives plants, rebuilt habitats and planted native plants, mulched, hauled trash, and so much more.

On the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in January, over 80 volunteers joined Park Pride, Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, and the Conservancy at Historic Washington Park, gathering for a workday in sub-freezing temperatures to honor Dr. King’s legacy and the 100th anniversary of Washington Park.

We hope you’ll join us this year for a Greener Good Volunteer Day. Visit parkpride.org for future project dates.

Volunteers gave back on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service for a volunteer project in Washington Park, January 2019.

Plan a volunteer project for your community or corporate group. Reach out to Volunteer Manager, John Ahern: john@parkpride.org.

park pride events & deadlines

March
14 Park Pride’s Monthly Park Meeting
16 "Off the Wall" Atlanta Mural Walking Tour
23 Freedom Park Pedal (bike tour of Freedom Park)
23 Arts, Athletics, + Mountains, OH MY (play day at Southside Park)
25 18th Annual Parks & Greenspace Conference, Parks are the Heart of Community

April
11 Park Pride’s Monthly Park Meeting
27 Greener Good Volunteer Day celebrating Earth Day

May
1 Application Deadline: Small Change Grant
2 Dekalb Park Meeting
9 Park Pride’s Monthly Park Meeting
13 Application Deadline: DeKalb County Park Visioning