



GRANT PARK GATEWAY MAKES FIRST IN THE WORLD

"Atlanta Parks and Recreation is on display across the world!"

~Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens

"This is the EGOT - the Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony all rolled into one!"

~ DPR Deputy Commissioner Alvin Dodson

"By achieving this kind of accomplishment...you are redefining what market transformation and market leadership looks like!"

~ Rhiannon Jacobsen, United States Green Building Council

The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation has earned another victory lap around the green building track. This time for a paramount designation by the United States Green Building Council. At an awards ceremony held June 16, Mayor Andre Dickens, Deputy Commissioner Alvin Dodson and Office of Park Design Director Keith Hicks were acknowledged as the community celebrated Grant Park Gateway as the first project in the world to achieve Parksmart Bronze, LEED Silver and SITES Gold certifications.

In 2018, Dodson and Hicks received their first LEED Gold certification for the architectural design of the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation and Aquatic Center. The \$48 million Grant Park Gateway, completed in 2020, features a three-level semi-underground parking garage constructed to house 1,000 vehicles and doubles as a 2.5-acre rooftop greenspace. "It's the first and only City of Atlanta parking garage with a park on its roof!" shares Keith Hicks. The Gateway is also outfitted with an intelligent parking system, electric vehicle charging stations, high-tech surveillance equipment and a planned restaurant with breathtaking views of the Atlanta skyline. "Grant Park Gateway shows what is possible when a city is committed to maximizing environmental and human health benefits for its citizens," said Peter Templeton, interim President and CEO, U.S. Green Building Council and GBCI. "From a parking lot to a multi-functional, community-oriented space, this project ... serves as a model of sustainable resilient development that will benefit Atlanta for decades to come."



Oakland Cemetery Celebrates Historic African American Burial Grounds

In celebration of Juneteenth, the Historic Oakland Foundation (HOF) announced the completion of a six-year restoration project of the Historic African American Burial Grounds inside Oakland Cemetery.

The \$600,000 project includes extensive hardscape and landscape restorations to the home of more than 12,000 “residents” as Sexton Sam Reed refers to them out of respect. Reed has served at Oakland for 24 years.

“There’s so much of our city history right here and a lot of it is African American History. Some of it we know, some we are learning, and some we may never know,” said Mayor Andre Dickens.

The burial ground, filled with rich history, is the eternal home of African American entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and ministers including Bishop Wesley John Gaines, co-founder of Morris Brown College. Bishop Gaines also shares history with Big Bethel A.M.E. Church whose choir performed during the program.

Special guest speakers included:

- Mayor Andre Dickens, City of Atlanta
- Valerie Jackson, Former First Lady of Atlanta (Mayor Maynard Jackson)
- Dr. Kevin James, President, Morris Brown College
- Alvin Dodson, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Parks & Recreation
- Liliana Bakhtiari, Atlanta City Councilmember, District 5
- Dr. Richard Harker, Executive Director, Historic Oakland Foundation
- Sam Reed, Sexton, Historic Oakland Foundation



HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL ATLANTANS



The first major goal of the *Activate ATL: Recreation and Parks for All* comprehensive master plan is “Invest.” The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is committed to investing in all areas of Atlanta in many creative ways. Some actions for implementation include replacing playgrounds, renovating swimming pools and installing new lighting for safety. While DPR intensifies maintenance in parks, it is also looking at incorporating programming relevant to the surrounding community. Food deserts are one area of interest.

Among the top five findings of *Activate ATL*'s statistically valid survey, Atlantans expressed concern about the need for local food programs to integrate sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management to enhance environmental, economic and social health. Currently, there are 25 community gardens citywide, all examples of DPR and neighborhood residents working together to address the need for fresh local food.

DPR continues to explore partnerships with other organizations offering similar programs. Ultimately, these efforts will improve the health and wellbeing of residents and discourage illnesses like heart disease, stroke, obesity and diabetes. Through the expansion of food deserts, *Activate ATL* will support better life expectancy rates in Atlanta neighborhoods.

Our thanks to DPR Urban Planner, Tara Buckner, for contributing this article.



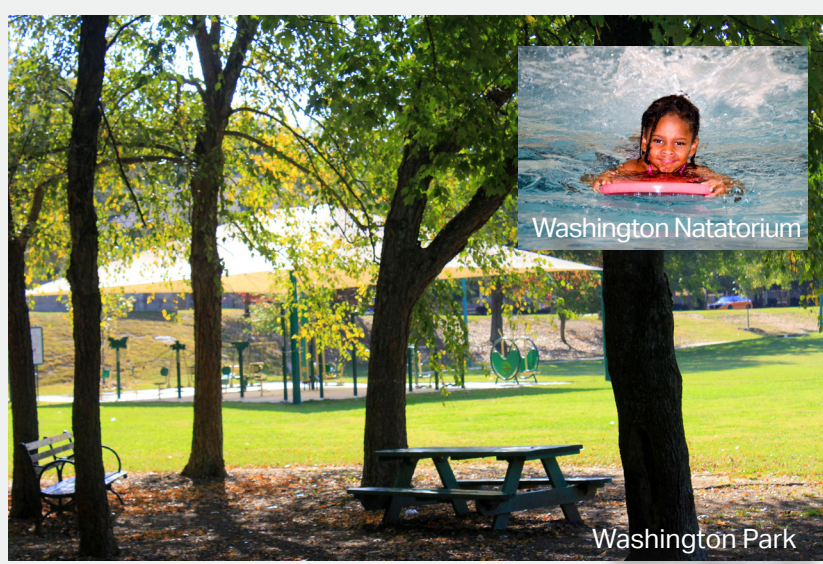
a message from the **COMMISSIONER**

July is National Park and Recreation Month. Atlantans have a lot to be proud of as this summer marks the first-year anniversary of two award-winning parks: Cook and Westside Park.

Summer is the most popular season for parks and recreation! Our parks, greenspaces and nature preserves provide endless opportunities for enjoyment, offering families and friends a place to refresh and connect. Consider visiting Lake Charlotte, Cascade Springs and Blue Heron nature preserves as well as the Outdoor Activity Center which are great options for respite and relaxation.

Through Activate ATL, DPR aims to provide meaningful ways for Atlantans to increase connectivity to nature and each other. Visit a City of Atlanta park today!

John Dargle, Jr.



Empowered by Our Atlanta Roots at Washington Park

Lace up your sneakers and let's take a walk down to the Historic Washington Park. The year is 1919 and there are no City of Atlanta parks opened for Black families.

During the early 1900s, Atlanta residents in the Northwest area near Ashby Street - now, Joseph E. Lowery Blvd - were segmented based on a "color line" system. A form of segregation in the United States, Black residents resided east of the city and White residents resided west.

That is until local businessman and entrepreneur Heman E. Perry broke the racial barriers and developed the first African American recreational greenspace known as Washington Park. He also founded one of the largest Black-owned companies in the U.S., Standard Life Insurance Company of Atlanta.

One hundred three years later, the prominent and flourishing neighborhood gem is the home of the Washington Park natatorium, tennis center, playground, and baseball field. DPR continues to engage the community through Camp Best Friends and other activities.





Midnight Basketball: *IT'S WORKING*

The inaugural season of Midnight Basketball ended with a highly competitive championship performance between C.T. Martin and M.L. King. At the final buzzer, CT Martin took the lead winning 51-50. A collaboration between Mayor Andre Dickens, the Atlanta Police Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Midnight Basketball initiative aims to increase public safety. The impact has been undeniable. In an 11 ALIVE broadcast that aired June 9, comparisons show there were 17 crimes that occurred in the area January – March. However, since April (*when games began*) only 6 crimes were “reported Wednesdays, though none were reported when games were being played.”

<https://www.11alive.com/article/news/local/midnight-basketball-crime-atlanta/85-761261bb-a526-40d0-a187-20393c03ebe1>

Recreation Director Ramondo Davidson spoke with a player about the program. The gentleman stated: “I could be anywhere doing anything and I could be at the wrong place at the wrong time, but because of Midnight Basketball, I’m at the right place at the right time.” A new location has been added for the summer games. Teams will play at Rosel Fann Mondays and C.T. Martin Wednesdays beginning July 11. For more information, visit

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation>

Summer Fun is Back

The Office of Recreation is thrilled by the public’s positive response to the return of its popular summer programs! Outdoor pools are free, and this is the first year that Camp Best Friends is being offered in-person only since the pandemic began. Thanks to the program’s popularity and affordability, attendance has exceeded planned capacity! This year’s theme, “Around the World,” allows campers to explore the cultural aspects of the seven continents. Plus, participants will enjoy an all-time favorite: fieldtrips to Lake Allatoona! Prime Time Seniors have also returned (ages 55+). If you’re an Atlanta resident, senior registration is free, and kid’s fees are just \$35/week. Register today!

<http://www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs>

Non-residents accepted at additional cost. Financial assistance available.



Youth football and cheer registration is ongoing! Register at any City of Atlanta recreation center or online at www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs. Conditioning begins July 5 and Season begins August 22.



Congratulations to our 2022 Youth Baseball Champions!



Catch DPR Teen Summer League in Action!

The Department of Parks and Recreation Summer Teen Basketball League has begun!

Teens ages 13-18 will show off their hooping skills Tuesdays and Thursdays, until July 28. Jump start begins at 6 p.m.

Games will be played at Central Park located at 400 Merritts Avenue in Atlanta. Come out and show your support for our teens!



M.L. King, Jr. 6u



Dunbar, 8u



Atlanta PAL, 10u



Dunbar, 12u



SUMMER ART CAMP

JULY 11 - AUGUST 12

ART À LA CARTE

REGISTRATION OPEN

CAMP WEEKS

- Week 1 | Picture Perfect Portraits | July 11 - 15
- Week 2 | Mud Extravaganza | July 18 - 22
- Week 3 | Splish-Splash, Splatter | July 25 - 29
- Week 4 | Flash, Zap, Shazam| Aug. 1 - 5
- Week 5 | Mud Extravaganza| Aug. 8 - 12

AGE GROUPS

- SMALL FRIES 5-6
- CURLY FRIES 7-8
- FRENCH FRIES 9-10
- HOME FRIES 11-12

CAMP SESSIONS

MONDAY - FRIDAY:
9:30AM TO 2:30PM

REGULAR REGISTRATION \$300 PER WEEK

\$30 admin fee will be added to all refunds requested within two weeks from the start of the registered camp week.

135 CHASTAIN PARK AVENUE, NW
ATLANTA, GA 30342
404. 252.2927
WWW.OCAATLANTA.COM/CHASTAIN

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Prime-Time Senior Programs
In Progress | Ages 55+
Activities include arts & crafts, aromatherapy, healthy cooking, swimming, and more!
Register: www.atlantaga.gov or at recreation centers
Email: campbestfriends@atlantaga.gov

Youth Football & Cheer
Starts August 26 | Ages 5-12
Register: www.atlantaga.gov or at recreation centers
Conditioning begins Tuesday, July 5
Resident fees: \$75 | Non-residents: \$150
Football: CDJordan@atlantaga.gov
Cheer: Lclay@atlantaga.gov



SALUTING OUR FRONTLINE HEROES!

Join us in celebrating the men and women who were acknowledged by their peers for the exceptional work they do! We appreciate you. Keep up the great work!



Charles Hutchinson
Electrical Supervisor



Sabina Kasumova
Management Analyst, Sr.



Nicholas Clark
Program Director - Teens



Donnafaye Furby-Douglas
Recreation
Operation Assistant



Crystal Avery
Camp Director &
Recreation
Operation Assistant



Stanton German
Recreation Program
Supervisor



Office of Recreation
Custodial Team

Juneteenth CBF Celebration



You're Invited



Join Mayor Andre Dickens,
Department of Parks and Recreation
and Park Pride for a community
celebration and ribbon cutting at

Pittman Park July 13 @ 11 a.m.

950 Garibaldi Avenue SE

Atlanta, GA 30315

This is a rain or shine event.

Improving Greenspaces through Partnership

Earlier this month, Senior Arborist Jasen Johns worked with Inman Park Neighborhood volunteers to remove invasive plants at Springvale Park. The park was one of eleven Trees Atlanta 4-0-Forest event sites across the city. District 2 Councilmember Amir Farokhi dropped by to discuss invasive plant control with constituents.

Other Trees Atlanta 4-0-Forest invasive plant control projects included: the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum Westside Trail, Springvale Park, Collier Park, Stone Hogan Park, Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum Eastside, Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum Westside, Grove Park, Benteen Park, Atlanta Memorial Park, Kirkwood Urban Forest, and Lake Charlotte.



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Credits

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Deputy Commissioner: Alvin Dodson

Deputy Commissioner: Steven Aycok

Deputy Commissioner: Doug Voss

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Recreation Director: Ramondo Davidson

Parks Design Director: Keith Hicks

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EDITOR'S NOTE

July is National Parks and Recreation month, and we encourage you to enjoy the great options City of Atlanta has for all ages! Stay cool by visiting one of our pools or splashpads. Or take a walk or bike ride with a friend on one of our many trails. Various youth sports and camps are available, and our Prime Time Seniors are having a blast! If you haven't checked out Midnight Basketball yet, summer season begins July 11. Games are now played at two locations: Rosel Fann and C.T. Martin recreation centers. Food and admission are FREE!

Yolanda Harris

City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation

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