



PHOTO COURTESY: KATHRYN KOLB

PRIORITIZING URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

The City of Atlanta was awarded \$5 million for Urban and Community Forestry from the U.S. Forest Service with funding from President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act for the **City in a Forest: Protecting Atlanta's Legacy** project. The project will support creation of the City's first comprehensive Urban Forest Master Plan, which will establish strategy and standards for systematic, equitable, and effective management of the urban forest. The Department of Parks and Recreation will collaborate with the Department of City Planning, other City departments, external partners, and community members to complete the project over the next five years.

The project will focus on disadvantaged areas of Atlanta, which make up 49.6% of the city. Assessments will help identify and address maintenance and restoration needs, expand community access to natural areas and establish priorities for preservation through land acquisition. Atlanta's urban forest is exceptional in both quantity and quality, with approximately 46.5% tree canopy coverage, significant biodiversity, and patches of old growth forests and trees. Support from the grant will be critical for ensuring the protection and enhancement of the City in a Forest for future generations.

Contributing Writer: Taryn Heidel, DPR Senior Arborist

Learn more here: <https://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta-nonprof-its-getting-millions-for-urban-tree-protection/IMNV5EADOVCX-LFZQLLK2YHNMSY/>



A Message from the Commissioner

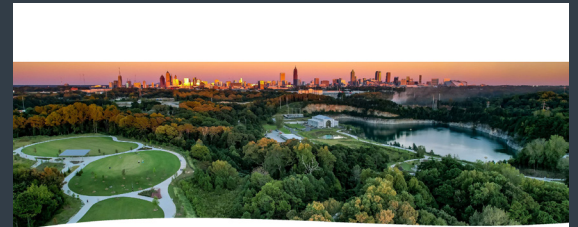
It has been an incredible year so far for the City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation! Atlanta City Council approved the dedicated Park Millage and allocated an additional \$16 million per year. These funds will be used to build park and recreation facilities, expand recreation opportunities, support safety and security initiatives, provide staff development, purchase equipment and more!

DPR also:

- Hosted the Mayor's Annual Golf Cup at Browns Mill Golf Course
- Partnered with Actress Storm Reed and Tennis Pro Coco Gauff to host a community festival
- Welcomed new deputy commissioners and a recreation director
- Ranked among leading agencies providing nutritious meals for underserved families during summer in partnership with *Bright From the Start*

This fall, we look forward to serving the community in greater ways by Moving Atlanta Forward with the launch of new initiatives. In this October issue of *Inform*, we introduce our Urban Forestry Grant goals, and share informative updates. Enjoy the read!

Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Justin Cutler



Millage Funding Increase

City Council increased the dedicated Park Millage and allocated an additional **\$16 million each year for Parks & Recreation** improvements and other needs.

These funds will be used to build and repair parks and rec facilities, expand recreation opportunities, expand safety and security initiatives, provide training, equipment, and new vehicles, and more to improve DPR outcomes.

New Millage Funding

The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation continues to serve you! The newly formed Administrative, Strategy, and Innovation (ASI) team recently hosted three community engagement sessions joined by Commissioner Justin Cutler. ASI outlined objectives of DPRs 10-year Activate ATL masterplan to invest, connect, and grow community equity. The panel also shared program and greenspace goals, statistically valid survey results, and allocation of the \$16 million increased millage funding approved by City Council. These meetings were fun and informative, as we were also able to receive real-time responses and hear what really matters most to our Atlanta community. The first two meetings were held virtually via Facebook Live, concluding with an in-person meeting at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, on October 3. The millage funding will be used to address maintenance concerns, park and center utility repairs, staff development and to promote new program opportunities for our youth and seniors! Thanks to all who participated including those who utilize our parks and greenspaces as well as those who partner with us.

Contributing Writer: Stanton German,

DPR Performance and Operations Specialist

Welcome to the Team!



La'Shawn Brown Dudley joined the team earlier this year as DPR's first Deputy Commissioner to oversee the newly established Office of Administration, Strategy, and Innovation. Previously, she served as Deputy Chief Equity Officer for the Mayor's Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. La'Shawn relocated to Atlanta from New York City where she played an integral role as Executive Director and Acting Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. There she earned numerous awards and cofounded the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, she holds a master's degree in Healthcare Policy & Management from Stony Brook University. As Deputy Commissioner, she oversees Budget & Finance, Data & Performance, Communications, and Legislative Affairs. An impactful strategist and servant leader, Deputy Commissioner Dudley is a tremendous asset to the department.



Rachel Maher is thrilled to join the department as Deputy Commissioner of Partnerships & Enterprise. While she is new to the team, she is not new to our parks and recreation community. For the past 10 years, Rachel worked at Park Pride, most recently as the Director of Communications & Policy. A graduate of the University of Richmond, Deputy Commissioner Maher is currently advancing her studies at Georgia State University where she will earn a master's degree in Planning & Economic Development. Passionate about community engagement and improving the wellbeing of others, she previously served as a Community Development & Environmental Education Volunteer with the United States Peace Corps in Morocco. In 2021, Rachel was recognized by PRSA Georgia Forty Under 40, for excelling in public relations, marketing, advertising, social media and community engagement. Please join us in welcoming Deputy Commissioner Rachel Maher to the team!



Dannette Leininger joins the department as Director of Recreation. Previously, she served Mecklenburg County in Charlotte, North Carolina and New York City Parks and Recreation departments in a variety of roles including Citywide Sports Coordinator, Director of Citywide Youth Programs, and Deputy Chief of Recreation. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Minnesota and has a record of dedicated service in diverse communities providing high-quality recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities! Director Leininger is also a two-time Team Handball Olympian. She is married with a 14 year-old son, enjoys cooking and is a foodie enthusiast! We are fortunate to have her join our team!





Historic Oakland Breaks Ground Again!

On September 5, Historic Oakland Foundation broke ground on its newest endeavor: a new Visitor's Center! The 10,000 sq. ft. building will feature a museum store, event space, and flexible multipurpose classrooms to host year-round youth and adult programs. The \$14 million project is made possible through HOF's Living History Capital Campaign.

MAYOR'S CUP MAKES YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS POSSIBLE

This year, Browns Mill Golf Course hosted the Mayor's 25th Annual Golf Cup for the second year in a row! The event featured 23 sponsors with PingxHideoki serving as the Master's Sponsor and Delta Airlines as the Ace Sponsor. The tournament grossed \$159,400.00 with \$105,609.39 going toward the Mayor's Youth Scholarship Program (MYSP). This year's event exceeds last year's tournament fundraiser by over \$20K. In January, Mayor Andre Dickens declared 2023 as "The Year of the Youth." This event underscores a key goal of the initiative. MYSP provides scholarship assistance to Atlanta high school students who intend to pursue a college education. To learn more about the Mayor's Youth Scholarship Program and qualifications to apply, visit myspatl.org.



ATL
PARKS
& REC

ATL
PARKS
& REC

ATL
PARKS
& REC

PARK DESIGN AWARDED

We are happy to announce two City of Atlanta parks as award recipients for impeccable design. Grant Park Gateway and Westside Park each received the coveted Honor Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

In 2022, Grant Park Gateway was recognized as the world's first triple-certified project receiving LEED, SITES and ParksMart certifications. This award validates the importance of elevating park planning and design standards. A unique design element was to alleviate parking concerns by replacing a 500-space parking lot with a 1,000 space semi-underground parking deck. The structure is capped with a 2.5-acre green roof, terraced seating, a proposed restaurant, ADA-accessible exits and a broad range of native plants. The green infrastructure ensures sustainability and includes a cistern that captures rainwater for green roof irrigation. The design resulted in a 55% increase in greenspace ideal for programming.

Westside Park, Atlanta's largest park (280 acres), provides the City of Atlanta with a major emergency water supply with its 35.5-acre quarry-turned-reservoir increasing the city's reserve from three to 30+ days. Programmatic drivers for the development of the park included accessibility, connectivity and activation. Project planning and design involved a community engagement component and a significant amount of green infrastructure, including a 100% native plant palette to restore the site. Westside Park offers one-of-a-kind elements such as a panoramic view of the city skyline, an iconic ribcage entryway, and the Birth of Atlanta sculpture (designed for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games).



Grant Park Gateway



Grant Park Gateway



Westside Park



Westside Park

Registration Underway



2023
CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS
YOUTH BASKETBALL
GIRLS & BOYS AGES 5-17

The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball League realizes the importance of physical fitness and creates a fun, safe and structured environment where children can participate in organized sports that promote skill development and team-building skills. The league is open to all youth ages 5 - 17.

Registration Begins: October 3
Season and Practice Begin: November 13
Fees: \$75/Resident | \$150/Non-Resident

Participating Centers:
Adams, Anderson (PAL), Anthony Flanagan, Bessie Branham, Coan, C.T. Martin, Dunbar, Grant, Grove, M.L. King, Jr., Pittman, Peachtree Hills, Rosel Fann, Southbend, Thomasville, William Walker

For more information or to register, contact any participating rec center or visit us online at www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs



2023
CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS
DOLPHINS SWIM TEAM
YOUTH AGES 6 - 18

Registration is now open for swimmers ages 6 to 18 to join the Dolphins Swim Team. Recreational programs available for all levels, beginner to competitive swimmer. A skill-level assessment is required for placement. Developmental programs are also offered. This instructional method helps build self confidence and teaches the basic fundamentals of swimming.

LOCATION:
C.T. Martin Recreation Center | 3201 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW

Registration is open now!
Season Starts: September 15
Register for the Dolphins team or Developmental Program at your local recreation center or online at www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs
Fees: \$225 Atlanta Resident | \$425 Non-Resident

Please email our staff prior to registration to schedule a tryout assessment for the CAD swim team. Tryouts are held Monday - Friday, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

For more information contact:
Marcus Byams: mbyams@atlantaga.gov
Askia Bashir: adbashir@atlantaga.gov
Tommy Jackson: tommy@atlantaga.gov




2023
CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS
MAJORETTE DANCE

Does your child enjoy dance, movement or performing? Are they current on the latest music and choreography? Whether your child is active and outgoing or somewhat shy, research has shown that physical activity combined with music helps build confidence, improves focus and supports a team-player mentality. The City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation offers a fun, creative and safe environment for dancers ages 5 to 17. Sign up today for our Majorette Dance program and watch your child shine! Hurry, spots are filling up fast!

Registration Now Open!
Season and Practice Begin: November 13
Fees: \$75 per person | \$150/Non-Resident

Participating Centers:
Adams, Bessie Branham, C.T. Martin, Dunbar, Grant, M.L. King, Jr., Rosel Fann, William Walker

For more information or to register, contact any participating rec center or visit us online at www.atlantaga.gov/iparcs



Interested in learning the art of boxing? The Department of Parks and Recreation is offering FREE lessons to all students enrolled in our Atlanta Teen Leaders Academy. Participants will learn fundamentals such as stance, footwork, basic punches and combinations. Take your fitness level up a notch through routine drills and exercise. The 10-week program is open to male and female students, ages 13-18. Transportation provided. **Sign up Today!**

A.D. Williams PAL Center
Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm
Begins September 26

Transportation will be provided from Teen Academy Sites to and from A.D. Williams

For more information, contact: Donnie Johnson 404.371.5012, your local rec center teen coordinator or email NRClark@atlantaga.gov

Program Highlights



Fall Campers Try Their Hand at Golf



Youth Football Practice



ATL Teen Leaders Girls Empowerment Summit



Prime Time Seniors Rosel Fann



Stephen Dennis/ Atlanta City Council

Brownswood Groundbreaking



Tot Football Championship



**ATL
PARKS
& REC**

*in*FORM

Contact

If you have a story or topic that you'd like us to consider, email us at informdpr@atlantaga.gov.

Follow Us



FACEBOOK@
AtlantaDPRCA



INSTAGRAM@
ATLParksandRec



X.com/
ATLParksandRec

Credits

Commissioner: Justin Cutler

Deputy Commissioner: Alvin Dodson

Deputy Commissioner: La'Shawn Brown Dudley

Deputy Commissioner: Rachel Maher

Deputy Commissioner: Doug Voss

Parks Director: Quentin Moore

Recreation Director: Dannette Leininger

Parks Design Director: Keith Hicks

Project Manager: Aaron Wiener

Senior Graphic Designer / Photographer: Greg Parmer

Communications Manager / Writer / Editor: Yolanda Harris

City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation

160 Trinity Avenue SW, Suites 2200 & 3100

Atlanta, GA 30303

A City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation Publication.

All Rights Reserved. ©2023