



CITY OF DURHAM
Durham Parks and Recreation
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701

NEWS ALERT

Parks and Recreation Department

For Immediate Release: March 27, 2017

Vote To Support Your Favorite Durham Park This Earth Month

One of three Durham parks has the chance to receive \$20,000 through the Meet Me At The Park Campaign

DURHAM, NC - This Earth Month, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is collaborating with The Walt Disney Company, including Disney Citizenship, Disney|ABC Television Group and ESPN, to revitalize parks across the U.S. for the third year, including a park right here in Durham.

Through Meet Me At The Park, an initiative that gives back to these places that shape so much of our lives, one of three local parks will receive a \$20,000 grant and Durham residents get to choose which one.

Our local parks make Durham a better place to live. Parks are essential to our community's health and well-being as they provide a safe place to get active, enjoy nature, preserve the environment and bring people together. That's why from April 1 to April 30 Durham residents will have the opportunity to help one of three park projects receive \$20,000 in grant funding to make improvements. The projects are as follows:

- **C.R. Wood Park Improvement Project:** This project will connect youth to nature by providing a new bike/walk trail in C.R. Wood Park. It will provide access to sports by making the multi-purpose field more inviting and user friendly. The old backstop and fences will be removed to make the space more open and benches that will be installed around the perimeter of the field to create spectator and participant seating. The space will be used for games, programs, events, and passive play. Along the walk/bike trail, we will install several fitness stops for pull ups, push-ups, sit ups, etc. allowing participants to increase physical activity.

You can vote for this project starting April 1 by texting CR Wood to 35350.*

- **Morreene Road Park Bouldering Area and Ga-Ga Pit:** This project will add a bouldering area near the existing accessible playground. Bouldering structures challenge a child's critical thinking skills and creativity as they identify the best route to the top or around. They also help to build balance and coordination because of the whole-body engagement, and spur peer negotiation and support as children work together to conquer the element. In addition to the new climbing element, funds will be used to construct a Ga-Ga pit that will introduce a new form of active play to the park. The game combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping. The object of the game is to be the last person



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standing. The Ga-Ga pit will be constructed by volunteers, who will also have the opportunity to construct additional benches for the existing areas of the park, such as the basketball courts.

You can vote for this project starting April 1 by texting Morreene to 35350.*

- Walltown Park Enhancement Project: This project is designed to increase recreation opportunities to the surrounding neighborhood and all residents of Durham. The basketball courts will be resurfaced and the goals will be replaced. New adult fitness equipment will be installed near the playground to give caregivers the opportunity to exercise while supervising children on the playground. Additional horseshoe pits will also be installed to provide another option for passive recreation. Recreation staff will program tournaments for mature adults (including Durham Senior Games), adults, and families that visit the park.

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You can vote for this project starting April 1 by texting Walltown to 35350.*

By visiting NRPA.org/Belnspired, park supporters can vote daily for their favorite park project. At the end of April, the park project with the most votes will receive grant funding. New this year, everyone who votes will be entered into a drawing for a tablet outfitted for the outdoors.

“We are excited to introduce yet another area of play to the residents in Durham,” said Durham Parks and Recreation Director Rhonda B. Parker. “All of these projects are really good and I can’t wait to learn which one gets the most votes.”

“Supporting local parks is essential to the health and vitality of communities everywhere,” said Lori Robertson, NRPA Director of Conservation. “That’s why we are proud to collaborate with The Walt Disney Company to help fund critical park improvement projects in communities in need. We encourage everyone to join us in giving back to the places that shape so much of our lives by voting in this year’s Meet Me at the Park Campaign.”

During April, a public service announcement (PSA) supporting the Meet Me at the Park campaign will be shared with audiences across Disney, including ABC Television Network, ABC-owned and affiliate stations, Freeform, Disney Channel, Disney XD, Disney Junior, the ABC app and other digital platforms. The PSA will also be available to view on the voting site at www.nrpa.org/beinspired. Additionally, Radio Disney will support the campaign with an on-air radio spot.

Last year, Durham voted for Hillside Park to win \$20,000. With that funding, the community is now able to enjoy the new futsal court, seating, and site beautification to include landscape improvements. This year, resident votes will help improve another one of Durham’s great parks. Nationally, more than \$600,000 has been awarded to help fund local park improvement projects as part of the Meet Me At The Park Campaign.

This Earth Month, show how parks revitalize your community and vote to improve local parks right here in Durham. Encourage your friends to vote too by taking a selfie in your favorite park and using the hashtags #MeetMeAtThePark, #Parkies and #Belnspired.

For more information call 919-560-4355. To vote or for more detailed information about the project visit NRPA.org/Belnspired.

*Message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to 35350 to opt out and to discontinue further participation in the Promotion. Text HELP for information. If you enter via text messaging, you will receive four (4) text messages in response to your entry from an automated system. Consent is not required to buy goods and services. To view the Sponsor's Mobile Privacy Policy, <http://www.nrpa.org/About-National-Recreation-and-Park-Association/the-fine-print>. To view Mobile Terms and Conditions, visit <http://www.helloworld.com/terms>.

About Durham Parks and Recreation

Durham Parks and Recreation provides opportunities for the Durham community to Play More by connecting our whole community to wellness, the outdoors, and lifelong learning. To learn more about Durham Parks and Recreation, visit us online, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, or call (919) 560-4355.

About The National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have access to parks and recreation for health, conservation and social equity. Through its network of nearly 60,000 recreation and park professionals and advocates, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, conservation initiatives and equitable access to parks and public space. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org. For digital access to NRPA's flagship publication, Parks & Recreation, visit www.parksandrecreation.org.