



CITY OF DURHAM
Durham Parks and Recreation
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PRESS RELEASE



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Parks and Recreation Department

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Walltown Park Enhancement Project Wins \$20,000 ‘Meet Me at the Park’ Grant for Local Park Improvement Project

*Grants awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association
and The Walt Disney Company*

DURHAM, NC - Walltown Park Enhancement Project has been selected as a winner of the national Meet Me at the Park campaign and will receive a \$20,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and The Walt Disney Company, including Disney Citizenship, Disney’s locally owned station ABC11 WTVD and ESPN. Community members voted for the winning project throughout Earth Month in April.

Meet Me at the Park helps to revitalize and restore local parks and park programs across the country. These park projects will connect kids to nature, inspire healthy living and provide access to sports. The campaign was promoted on social media, ABC Television Network, ABC11 WTVD, Freeform, Disney Channel, Disney XD, Disney Junior, the ABC app and other digital platforms.

The Walltown Park Enhancement Project was one of 16 park improvement projects selected to receive grant funding. This project is designed to increase recreation opportunities to the surrounding neighborhood and all residents of Durham.

This project will benefit all residents of Durham, but the largest benefit will come to those residents in close vicinity of Walltown Park. There is a strong community connection at this park, and these improvements will help to continue to foster those relationships. Providing new and improved park

amenities will increase the opportunities for physical activity, wellness, and social involvement within the community.

The basketball courts in Walltown Park are one of its most popular and utilized features. Yet they are in need of resurfacing and replacement of the existing goals. The basketball courts will be resurfaced and the goals will be replaced.

This project will promote healthy living by providing new options for physical activity. 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.

“We would like to thank the community for voting,” said Rhonda B. Parker, director of Durham Parks and Recreation. “Walltown Park is a highly used park and serves as a destination for physical fitness activities and recreation. This project will allow us to continue to improve other park amenities and expand recreation opportunities to the surrounding neighborhoods and the residents of Durham.”

“Nearly 70,000 people participated in this year’s Meet Me at the Park campaign, a record number, demonstrating a tremendous amount of support and enthusiasm for local parks nationwide,” said Lori Robertson, NRPA director of conservation. “Many children and families in need will benefit from this campaign, which was made possible by the generosity of The Walt Disney Company. We want to thank them for helping us give back to the communities our members so proudly support.”

Construction on the project will begin this summer. For more information about this project and parks and recreation, visit DPRPlayMore.org. To learn more about Meet Me at the Park, visit www.nrpa.org/disney.

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.

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.