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News Release

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The Goats Pave The Way For Dogs To Play

*The Goat Squad to Clear Unwanted Vegetation to Increase Visibility
at Durham's New PetSafe® Dog Park*

Durham, NC: Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) has teamed up with local goats yet again to clear unwanted vegetation from another park. A few months ago, the goats were brought in to remove vegetation and brush at Indian Trail Park and they will do the same thing at Durham's new PetSafe® Dog Park (1608 Acadia Street) located on the north-west section of Duke Park.

The Goat Squad, a local targeted grazing business, will bring over twenty goats to clear unwanted vegetation, brush, and invasive species to increase sightlines and visibility around the dog park.

The Goat Squad will graze on brush and vegetation for approximately five days. The public is invited to come by and view the goats at work. The goats will be contained in a portable electric fence throughout their stay. They are very friendly and are accustomed to people. Onlookers should avoid touching the fence and refrain from petting the goats unless Goat Squad staff are present to disconnect the fence and supervise public interaction with the goats.

Using goats to remove vegetation is good for both the environment and the bottom line. Traditional methods for removing vegetation can compact soils and expose waterways, wildlife, and people to

potentially harmful chemicals. Goats love eating the plants DPR wants removed including kudzu, poison ivy, privet, wisteria, honeysuckle, bamboo and mixed brush. Their triangular mouths crush what they consume so the seeds that lead to new growth are no longer viable. When the goats depart, their manure serves as a natural high-quality soil fertilizer.

What the goats can't chew, the community will lop. The Durham Bike Co-Op, which is headquartered in Duke Park, will lead a work day to pull vines and cut shrubs. Residents are invited to help on **August 16 from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** Bring loppers, shovels, and gloves.

The new dog park is a unique addition to the park system as DPR salvaged outdated play equipment and installed it in the park for a canine agility course, shade, and fun. The park was made possible through the PetSafe® Bark For Your Park™ Program, a grant program dedicated to creating safe, off-leash areas for pets and their owners for years to come.

The "Leash-Cutting" celebration will take place on Thursday, August 23 at 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 919-560-4355 or visit DPRPlayMore.org.

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.

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