



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PARK PRIDE AWARDS \$800,000 TO 15 COMMUNITY GROUPS IN ATLANTA & DEKALB** FUNDING WILL SUPPORT CAPITAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Atlanta – January 26, 2015 – [Park Pride](#) has announced that 15 community groups in Atlanta and DeKalb will receive a combined \$800,000 in matching grants to fund capital park improvements, making this the largest grant cycle in the organization’s history. To date, Park Pride has awarded over \$3.6 million to projects that include new playgrounds, land acquisitions, improved signage, new trails and exercise equipment, and more.

“Great parks aren’t created in a vacuum. *Strong communities* build great parks, and we see clear examples of this in our 2014 grant recipients,” explains Michael Halicki, Park Pride’s Executive Director. “We applaud the passion and dedication of community groups all across Atlanta and DeKalb that come together as a voice for parks, creating change in their neighborhoods at the grassroots level. United communities and well-used, well-loved parks go hand-in-hand.” Halicki continued, “The interdependence of healthy parks and strong communities is also the focus of the 2015 Parks and Greenspace Conference that will take place in March.”

Park Pride began [re-granting funds](#) to community groups in 2004, offering awards of varying amounts to groups seeking to revitalize their community greenspaces. Award recipients receive matching funds through three distinct grants: Legacy Grants (\$50,000 and more), funded by the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation; Community Building Grants (\$2,500-\$50,000), funded by The Home Depot Foundation; and Small Change Grants (up to \$2,500), funded by the Cecil B. Day Foundation. Park Pride’s Associate Director, Allison Barnett, expressed appreciation of the program’s funders, stating, “It’s because of their support that Friends of the Park and other community groups are able to make lasting changes in their neighborhoods through needed park improvements.”

### **2014 Legacy Grants**

Park Pride awarded Legacy Grants to six community groups. These grants are only available to groups within the City of Atlanta. Projects that will be funded include land acquisition, mitigating the damaging effects of stormwater runoff, building a boardwalk around a lake, and large scale renovations of park amenities.

Legacy Grants have been awarded to:

- **Atlanta Memorial Park Conservancy** - Atlanta Memorial Park
- **Friends of Adams Park** - Adams Park
- **Friends of Reverend James Orange Park** - Reverend James Orange Park
- **Peachtree Heights East Neighborhood Association** - Duck Pond Park
- **Liveable Buckhead, Inc.** - PATH400
- **Riverwalk Atlanta, Inc.** - Riverwalk Atlanta

### **2014 Community Building Grants**

The Home Depot Foundation provides \$150,000 in support to Park Pride’s Community Building Grants, which are available to community groups located in both the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. Nine grants were awarded this cycle, ranging in size from \$7,000 to \$25,000, and include:

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- **Friends of Blue Heron Nature Preserve** - Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Atlanta
- **Friends of Central and Renaissance Parks** - Central Park, Atlanta
- **Friends of Frazier-Rowe Park** - Frazier-Rowe Park, DeKalb County
- **Global Growers Network** - Forty Oaks Nature Preserve, DeKalb County
- **Friends of Lang-Carson Park** - Manigault Street Playlot, Atlanta
- **Friends of Lillian Cooper Shepherd Park** - Lillian Cooper Shepherd Park, Atlanta
- **Historic Oakland Foundation** - Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta
- **HABESHA** - Rosa Burney Park, Atlanta
- **Ansley Park Beautification Foundation** - Winn Park, Atlanta

To learn more about Park Pride grants, visit <http://www.parkpride.org/get-involved/funding-your-park>.

**About Park Pride:**

Founded in 1989, Park Pride is the only organization that works with communities all over Atlanta and DeKalb to improve their parks. The nonprofit engages communities through volunteer projects, community gardens, community-led park redesigns and by receiving grants for their parks. The organization also hosts the Annual [Parks and Greenspace Conference](#), which will be held on Monday, March 23, 2015. Learn more about Park Pride at [www.parkpride.org](http://www.parkpride.org).

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