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Brookhaven GEORGIA fall 2021 city news

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Parks &
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Guide



A Celebration of Resilience

PHOTO BY RICH VON BIBERSTEIN



The Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Summer Block Party drew thousands to the MARTA lot over the last weekend of July. From top, clockwise: Better Than Ezra greets a crowd of thousands during the concert that also included headliners The Revivalists and Collective Soul. A heroes parade featured frontliners like EMS personnel, other first responders and more. The parade included the Budweiser Clydesdales, whose crews delivered beverages to Kaleidoscope and Haven. The block party transformed Dresden into a pedestrian-only area that featured a Kidz Zone with the Bubble Lady.

From the Desk of the Mayor

Good to see you, Brookhaven!

Hello everyone! It's been so good to see you out and about again. As I'm writing this letter, we're getting closer to a sense of normalcy as the initial wave of COVID-19 subsides.

Thanks to Brookhaven residents rolling up their sleeves and taking the vaccine, we've restored your access to City Hall, and we just hosted our Cherry Blossom Summer Block Party to celebrate Brookhaven's reopening and the heroes of the pandemic. I hope you were able to join us to enjoy national acts like The Revivalists, Collective Soul, Better Than Ezra, Rick Springfield and more, as well as celebrate the resiliency of local businesses and those who continue to serve on the frontlines of the pandemic at the parade.

However, we are not out of the woods yet. We are keeping a careful eye on developments of COVID variants, and, as always, we will remain nimble and adjust our practices and operations to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Because of these variants, it's more important than ever that you encourage your neighbors and loved ones to get the vaccine- it's safe, effective and our best 'shot' to a return to normalcy and all of us continuing to be able to come together.

Don't hesitate to contact me at John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov or at 404-637-0710 with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for all you do to make Brookhaven better!

Yours truly,



John Ernst, Mayor
John.Ernst@BrookhavenGA.gov

City News

Brookhaven overhauls tree ordinance to preserve tree canopy

The Brookhaven City Council refined its existing tree ordinance, already one of the most stringent in the Atlanta region, by making it more user friendly and updating regulations to ensure the preservation and growth of the City's tree canopy.

"We place a premium on tree canopy preservation in Brookhaven. As a suburban area flanked on all sides by urban sprawl, preservation of our tree canopy is preservation of our quality of life," said District 2 Councilmember John Park, who spearheaded the public engagement and championed the issue with the City Council.

Following initial discussions with the public beginning in 2018, the Department of Community Development began to prepare a rewrite of the City's Tree Ordinance. In late 2020, after the creation of a Tree Canopy Preservation Division and hiring a Tree Canopy Preservation Program Manager, Brookhaven began the formal rewrite process.

The goals of the tree ordinance rewrite included:

- Striking a balance with tree canopy management and new development.

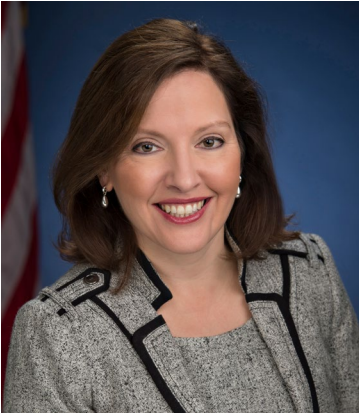


- Improve upon existing efforts such as Tree City USA through the Arbor Foundation, the One Million Trees Initiative, and the Trees Atlanta Front Yard Program.
- Foster management of the City's tree nursery, tree rescue program, tree plantings, memorial tree program, and tree fund.

Public engagement meetings began in early 2021, and an initial draft of the rewrite was released on the project website in April. The City Council adopted the final tree ordinance rewrite on June 29, 2021. Additional highlights of the ordinance now include:

- Updated/new definitions, including 'specimen tree' and 'tree care prescription'.
- Revised regulations related to minimum tree density and tree protection during construction.

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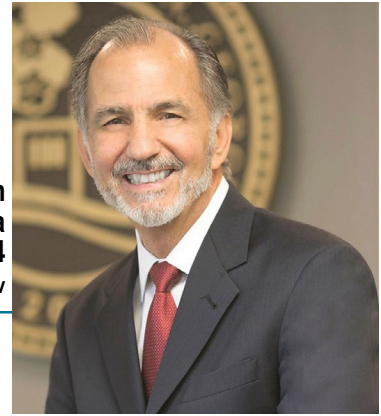


Madeleine Simmons
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John Park
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Mayor Pro Tem
Joe Gebbia
District 4
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The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 and 7 p.m. at 4362 Peachtree Road. Visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov for schedule changes.

City meetings are streamed online and archived at www.BrookhavenGA.gov.

To access meetings and videos, go to the Meetings & Agendas tab near the bottom of the homepage.



City Vision and Mission

The following are vision and mission statements of the City of Brookhaven.

Vision

Brookhaven will be nationally recognized as a beautiful community where multiple generations can live in safety, flourish in business and succeed in a historic, sustainable environment with exceptional education and transportation options.

Mission

In support of the Brookhaven vision, the City government shall: encourage and maintain a beautiful community, meet public safety needs, develop an environment for business success, promote sustainable projects and activities, identify and preserve historic and neighborhood resources, facilitate educational opportunities, and improve transportation conditions, connectivity, and options while listening to and communicating with the public.

Brookhaven accelerates stormwater management projects

Brookhaven is making plans for stormwater upgrades throughout the City in 2022, based upon an increase in dedicated funding next year.

“We have tried to fix the broken stormwater system that we inherited from DeKalb County since cityhood, but the emergency repairs underscore that the underlying issues are worse than we previously thought,” said District 2 Councilmember John Park. “In order to effectively plan for stormwater management and prevent emergencies in the future, we have to make a more significant investment.”

A high percentage of the Stormwater management system in Brookhaven was built between 50 and 80 years ago, and many of those assets and structures are at or near the end of their useful lives.

“We have a very high rate of failure of old corrugated metal pipe that are more than 20 years past the point of replacement,” said Public Works Director Don Sherrill. “We have more than 130,000 linear feet of corrugated pipe to replace in right of ways and through the private property of Brookhaven residents. That will be one of our top issues to address in 2022.”

The Brookhaven City Council approved a stormwater rate increase in June which is expected to generate an additional \$1.2 million in dedicated funding for stormwater projects.

“The Public Works Department completed 347 work orders related to stormwater issues in 2020 alone, which underscores the ongoing public demand for proactive stormwater management,” said Sherrill.

“One of the reasons we became a City in the first place is to do a better job at maintaining our infrastructure than DeKalb County was doing. We will be able to solve a lot of our ongoing drainage issues as we adequately fund our stormwater system in 2022,” said Councilmember Park.



Above: Crews complete an overhaul of stormwater infrastructure at Inman Drive and Saybrook Drive in March 2020, replacing multiple smaller drainpipes with a single 36" culvert. Below: The stormwater issue before the upgrades.



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- Removal of alternative compliance allowances.
- Require posting of a sign five days ahead of time and marking of trees to be removed with flagging tape by property owner for all permit types, not just standalone tree removal permits. Signage must include a QR code linked to Brookhaven's Project Portal Viewer for ease of use by the public at large. (Signage requirements do not apply to dead/dying, diseased, or hazardous trees.)
- Increase specimen tree recompense amount to \$240.
- Increase specimen tree recompense cap from 150" to 300" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). “We are leading the way in tree canopy preservation innovation, thanks in large part to the input we received from residents and developers alike, and all the research by our professional staff. We met the challenge of striking the balance between the individual rights of property owners and collective concerns of the greater community. In the end, we are saving trees,” said Councilmember Park.

Making a Splash

Ashford Park project funded by Park Bond



More fun in the sun was had at Ashford Park this summer as Brookhaven officially opened the new Ashford Park Splash Pad (above) with a little help from throngs of Brookhaven children in attendance for the event. Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst and District 2 Councilmember John Park (left) kicked off the festivities as a family of patients of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - Molly Anne, Hampton, and Shep Cooper - turned on the water jets for the first time.

The Ashford Park Splash Pad includes a colorful soft surface and buttons to activate the spray features and water curtain. The splash pad is surrounded by seat walls and a grassy area for relaxing. Granite columns help create an area that can also be used as a stage. Also, a new pavilion now sits at the top of the hill above the splash pad with ceiling fans and picnic tables available.

The project is funded by the Park Bond overwhelmingly approved by Brookhaven residents in 2018.

Park Bond Update

Marking Progress and Looking Ahead

Seeing our parks full of families, nature enthusiasts, friendly competitors, and visitors enjoying many of our new amenities this summer was a proud moment for the City of Brookhaven. It underscores the value and benefits our parks offer the community and supports the vision residents overwhelmingly approved through the 2018 Park Bond. And there's more to come!

Several projects across the parks in our Park Bond Program are currently in design, close to construction, or already underway. Keep reading for look ahead to what's coming this Fall and into 2022.

Ashford Park

Bond Funding: \$1,943,954
Completed Summer 2021

Key features for the park include a family friendly splash pad and new pavilion/picnic shelter. See previous page for more details.



Did you know?

The Park Bond Program also funds ongoing improvements, such as:

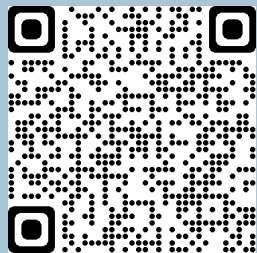
- Invasive plant removal throughout the park system
- Park system security improvements

Blackburn Park

Bond Funding: \$1,279,810
Completed Fall 2020 (Phase 1)

Phase 2 parking improvements on Donaldson Drive to be completed by end of year.

Keep up with Parks Bond Program projects and track financial reports at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parks-bond-ref or scan the QR code.



Park Bond Oversight Committee meetings are posted to the City Calendar and are open to the public.

www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Calendar

Comments/Questions | ParksFeedback@BrookhavenGA.gov

Park Bond Update

Briarwood Park

Bond Funding: \$7,013,100

Completed Fall 2020 (Phase 1 – Pool)

Briarwood Park Pool had its first full swim season this summer since being replaced. Memorial Day weekend marked the season opening for the new pool, and one of the season's highlights was hosting the Georgia Recreational Parks Association (GRPA) District Swim Competition July 9-10. More than 350 swimmers from metro Atlanta and middle Georgia participated in the two-day event.



Phase 2 improvements to Briarwood Park are currently in design with required stormwater issues being addressed. Phase 2 will include renovations to the community garden, parking lot improvements, and trail improvements among the master-planned items.

Lynwood Park

Bond Funding: \$10,977,393

Timeline: Late Summer 2022

After revising Lynwood Park's master plan to include a splash pad and additional parking plus incorporating necessary stormwater management features to meet a City ordinance, construction is expected to get underway on one of the park system's newest water features. Work will begin on the Lynwood Park splash pad and pool this fall with an opening planned for next year.



Brookhaven Park

Bond Funding: \$6,000,000

Planned Brookhaven Park improvements are still being discussed with DeKalb County. Improvements will include a new dog park pavilion with restrooms and a new playground with restrooms and a pavilion.

Park Bond Update

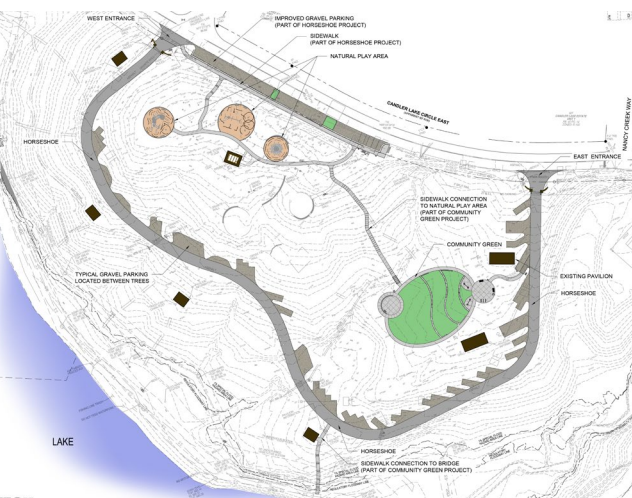
Murphey Candler Park
Bond Funding: \$8,984,138
Timeline: In progress

Murphey Candler Park has a number of planned improvements in various stages and work will continue this Fall and into 2022. Thanks to a robust community engagement process, residents will begin to see even more projects move from design to reality.

The **Community Green** was sent out for bid in July with an expected September start date. Construction should be finished at the end of the year.

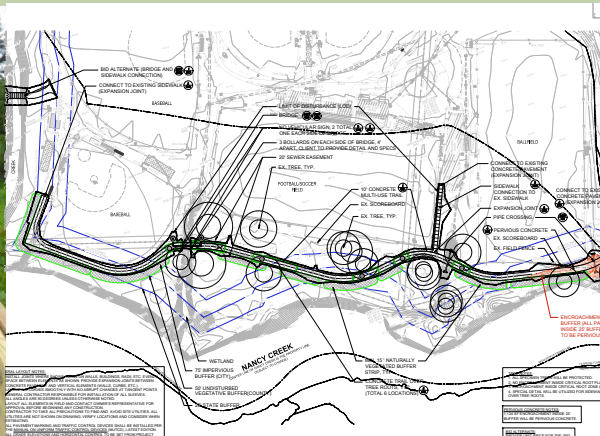


The **new playground** completed in March 2021 will be in the middle of the horseshoe road along with the Community Green.



Pool parking lot improvements will add much needed parking and resurfacing of the lots. Construction is planned to be complete in late 2021.

Happy Trails on are on the way for walkers, joggers, and nature enthusiasts!



The **north boardwalk** design-build contract is now under contract. Construction of the 10' wide wood boardwalk should start late in the year. (Photo shows example of what to expect at MCP.)

The **south trail**, running along Nancy Creek behind the football and baseball fields, is under construction – base layer shown here. The final trail will be a paved path with concrete added in late Summer/early Fall. The trail will also include a new bridge to provide another connection from the baseball fields to the softball fields.

Park Bond Update

Murphey Candler Park Lake House



Design of the **Lake House** will continue through this year with construction planned for 2022.

The **Scout Hut** will be demolished to make space for the Lake House parking lot.



#ICYMI

Park Bond funds were used for the dredging of Murphey Candler Park Lake in 2020.

Parks & Recreation Activity Guide

ART CLASSES

Young Rembrandts Drawing for PreK & Kindergarten (Ages 4-6)

ALL NEW LESSONS FOR FALL 2021! Young Rembrandts teaches PreK and Kindergarten children how to use lines, shapes, and colors to create familiar images such as animals, vehicles, toys, and other fun subjects. While practicing drawing and coloring skills, your child will also develop fine motor skills, focus, listening, staying on task, and spatial organization. \$10 materials fee due to instructor on the first day of class. Tuesdays 3:30-4:15 p.m. at the Ashford Park Building. Sessions offered Sept. 7-Oct. 12 and Oct. 19-Nov. 30 (no class 11/23). \$110 per six-week session.

Young Rembrandts Drawing and Cartooning for 1st-5th Grade (Ages 6-11)

ALL NEW LESSONS FOR FALL 2021! Your artistic child will love expressing their creativity as they learn new drawing skills and coloring techniques. Each week we present a brand new lesson to challenge and excite your child. Drawings will include cartoons, still life, landscapes, graphics, and art history. \$10 materials fee due to instructor on the first day of class. Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Ashford Park Building. Sessions offered Sept. 7-Oct. 12 and Oct. 19-Nov. 30 (no class 11/23). \$120 per 6 week session.



Vamos Chicos Arts & Facts

DATES: Aug. 23-Oct. 25 and Nov. 1-Dec. 13

PRICE: \$216 for 1st session, \$162 for 2nd session

TIME: Mondays, 4-5 p.m.

LOCATION: Lynwood Park Upper Pavilion

CONTACT: info@vamoschicos.com /

www.vamoschicos.com

DETAILS: For Vamos Chicos Eco-Arts, nature is our primary source of inspiration. In our well-rounded arts program, the students learn facts on various themes along with art techniques and create 2-D/3-D art projects. We combine nature elements and recycled

materials, along with our famous 'masita' (modeling clay). Our program inspires students to use their creativity and to "think out of the box." The class is taught in a bilingual Spanish environment to their level. No need of prior experience. We guarantee awesome fun projects! Open to all ages and levels of Spanish. Must contact Vamos Chicos to enroll. Open to ages 3 and up.



DANCE CLASSES

CREATIVE MOVEMENT AND DANCE®

www.creativemovementanddance.com

info@creativemovementanddance.com

678-482-2264

Creative Movement and Dance, based in Atlanta, was founded over 36 years ago. Their professional instructors offer studio quality instruction conveniently at our parks. We are proud to have them partner with the City of Brookhaven to bring their expertise to our community! Visit CreativeMovementAndDance.com or call (678) 482.2264 for more information or to register.

Pre-Ballet (ages 2.5-4):

Saturdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Lynwood

Tap-Ballet (ages 4-6):

Saturdays, 10:15-11 a.m., Lynwood

Hip Hop Tots (ages 3-5):

Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m., Lynwood

Tap-Ballet-Hip Hop (ages 4-7):

Thursdays, 3-4 p.m., Ashford Park

Classes run through May 21 ending with a recital at Lynwood. No class 9/4, 11/27, and 12/25-1/1.

MUSICAL THEATRE

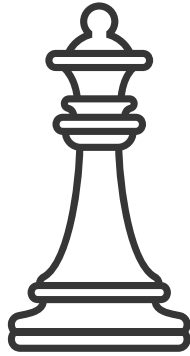
CandiNews Productions provides youth theatre experience designed to awaken the creative spirit and imagination through acting, musical theater, and movement in a small, safe, non-competitive environment. We'll work on all aspects of theatre including acting, dancing, and music. Our goal for your little one is to provide them with the opportunity to have fun exploring the creative arts and discovering new talents while building on those they already have! This semester we will explore Disney's Frozen; bring out the Anna and Elsa dresses and we will meet you in Arendale! Students will learn theater techniques, script analysis, and vocal range. There will be a performance for family and friends on the last day of class. Thursdays 5-6 p.m. at the Ashford Park Building. Aug. 26-Dec 9. Ages 4-8, \$380. For more information and to register, contact Candice at (678) 622- 5636 or visit www.candinewscamps.com



Parks & Recreation Activity Guide

CHESS

The Knight School - The Knight School Varsity Chess Team is an advanced chess and pizza party! This class is for kids who know how to play chess and want to hone their skills while making new friends. Laughter, thoughtful games, and compelling teaching approaches make this evening class the week's highlight for the kids who make up an advanced component of The Knight School's network of school chess teams. Our curriculum is awesomely effective and the kids get devastatingly good at chess; there will be chess puzzlers for prizes, tactics to learn for new colorful wristbands, tournaments where you compete for each other's prizes ...all with an exciting, energized spirit! Contact Coach Davis at davis@theknightschool.com, or call or text at (404) 549-5585. Enroll at www.theknightschool.com. Wednesdays at the Ashford Park Building from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sessions will run from Aug. 18-May 18. Ages 6-13, \$90 monthly.



RECREATIONAL CORNHOLE

Peach State Cornhole League – BPRD has partnered with Peach State Cornhole to offer leagues again this fall at Blackburn Park! You won't want to miss the chance to make new friends while playing everyone's favorite tailgate game. This eight-week league plays every Tuesday beginning Aug. 24. Registration includes shirts for all league members, prizes, and the opportunity to compete against Georgia's finest at the Peach State Cornhole State Tournament. You must register at peachstatecornhole.com/leagues. Registration is \$45 per person for the early bird, \$50 for regular, and \$60 for late. Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Blackburn Park Pavilion. Aug. 24-Oct. 12.



SENIOR PROGRAMS

Senior Stretch

PRICE: \$5 for drop-ins; FREE for SilverSneakers members

DATES: Mondays and Thursdays

TIME: 1-2 p.m.

LOCATION: Briarwood Community Center.

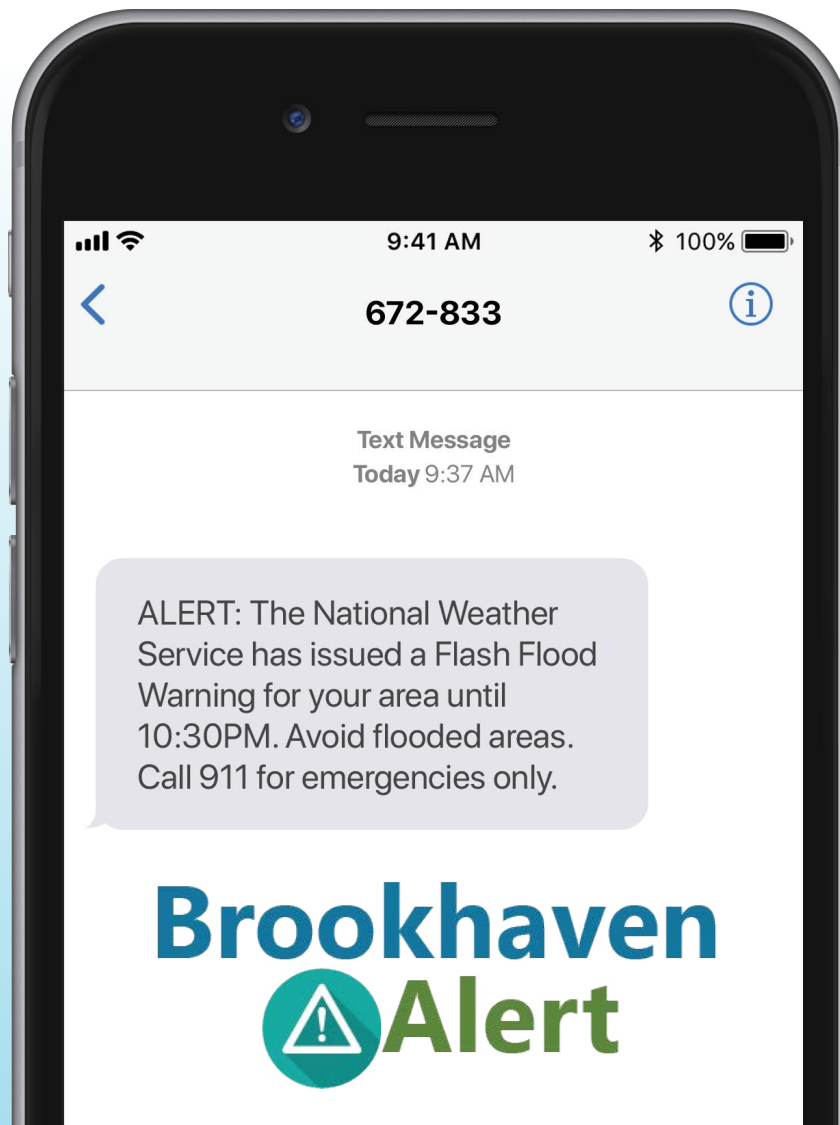
DETAILS: Senior stretch is a class that provides flexibility and increased range of motion for the entire body. The instructor will focus on all major muscle groups with a variety of different types of stretch techniques. The goal is for your body to feel better, prevent injury, and increase range of motion. Fall class begins Aug. 16.



For more Parks & Recreation activities and events,
visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parksrec

Always Be Notified.

Alerts and notifications help inform you on weather, traffic, and other emergencies in your community. When you opt-in for alerts, you will have the option to choose the kind of notifications you prefer to receive.



Sign up at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/BrookhavenAlert

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