

‘Wings’ lands in Brookhaven

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‘Brookhaven Park is all ours’

District 3 Councilwoman Madeleine Simmons says she’s ecstatic that Brookhaven Park is finally owned by the City. “A decade-long dispute that resulted in us having to sue DeKalb County finally resolved with Brookhaven only paying \$1 for the park land,” she said.

Brookhaven Park, located at the southwest corner of Peachtree Road and Osborne Road in Councilwoman Simmons’ district, is a 21-acre park which contains multi-use fields and greenspaces, a basketball court, trails, picnic areas and other amenities.

The Park is probably best known for its open fields, festivals, and the largest (5-acre) dog park in metro Atlanta. The City had been in negotiations with DeKalb County over ownership of the park since the City’s inception in 2012. Over a decade ago, the Georgia General Assembly specified that newly incorporated cities such as Brookhaven, were entitled to acquire title to county-owned parks located within the new city for \$100 per acre. DeKalb sold the western half of the Park to Brookhaven in 2017, but refused to sell the eastern portion, which fronts Peachtree Road.

Under Mayor John Ernst and Councilwoman Simmons’ leadership, in 2021, Brookhaven filed a lawsuit against DeKalb. As a result, during its regular business meeting on April 26, the City of Brookhaven approved a settlement and intergovernmental agreement with DeKalb County that

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Letter from the Mayor

Happy Summer Brookhaven! It's good to finally see you back in person for our City Council meetings!

This is going to be an exciting and innovative season for us. We'll open the new state-of-the-art Public Safety Building on the Peachtree Creek Greenway, and work continues on Park Bond projects in Lynwood and Murphey Candler parks. Stay tuned for news about it all.

This newsletter also features an innovative pilot partnership with UGA where we'll work to purify water around Murphey Candler Lake using a charcoal known as biochar. You can read all about it on the next page.

As you can see from our cover photo, our new Arts & Culture Commission has started strong - they have brought "Wings of the City," a mobile sculpture exhibit by internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Jorge Marin, to locations around the City. Way to go ACC!

And at long last, Brookhaven Park is all ours. A lot of hard work has gone into this effort, and I want to thank those who made it possible.

You can always catch up on our latest news by visiting the City's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages and by signing up for The Brookhaven Blast weekly email at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Communications.

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



Brookhaven City Council Meetings

The Brookhaven City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4 and 7 p.m. at 4362 Peachtree Road or virtually on Zoom. Visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Calendar for schedule changes.

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

Brookhaven Vision and Mission

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.



**Linley Jones, Mayor Pro Tem
District 1**

Linley.Jones@BrookhavenGA.gov



**John Park,
District 2**

John.Park@BrookhavenGA.gov



**Madeleine Simmons,
District 3**

Madeleine.Simmons@BrookhavenGA.gov



**John Funny,
District 4**

John.Funny@BrookhavenGA.gov

Sustainable Brookhaven in action

Brookhaven and UGA join forces to improve water and soil quality

The City of Brookhaven has entered a partnership with the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources to evaluate the use of biochar for surface water quality enhancement. As a part of the project, residual biochar will be evaluated for its value as a soil enhancement.

Under the terms of the one-year, \$150,000 agreement, a research team will collect and analyze baseline representative water quality data in Murphey Candler Lake and in stormwater runoff in the area. At the same time, the team will create biochar-filled filter bags to deploy at stormwater runoff discharge points to remove nutrient laden sediments. The potential

become a type of fertilizer?”

The Biochar Project will employ a multi-tiered approach to divert biochar materials from the landfill through repurposing and reuse to reduce pollutant loads and urban runoff. The program would achieve this through:

- Biochar separation and reclamation from waste wood ash
- Creation of biochar-filled filter bags
- Placement of filter bags in the path of stormwater at key runoff discharge points around Murphy Candler Lake
- Recovery of nutrient and sediment-filled biochar bags
- Application as a soil amendment and nutrient source in new development landscaping activities

The necessary wood ash to create the biochar filters is readily available and easily accessible. Field water quality assessments will be integrated with biochar bag trials. These trials will begin with laboratory evaluations of the biochar and will end with greenhouse and field amendment trials using the biochar from the spent bags. The preliminary investigations include:

- Water quality assessments
- Continuous stream monitoring upstream and downstream of Murphey Candler Lake
- Stream nutrients and suspended solids sampling and analysis
- Adsorption isotherms
- Land application assessments
- Greenhouse assessments
- Tree vault assessments
- Grass assessment

The water quality assessments and field trials will be conducted in and around North Nancy Creek, Nancy Creek, and Murphey Candler Lake. The agreement was approved by the Brookhaven City Council on April 26, with the installation of biochar filter bags to begin later this summer.



for biochar-amended soil to promote healthy growth of trees and turf will be evaluated.

“This exercise is another aspect of the vision of Sustainable Brookhaven. We are always looking for ways to identify innovative and novel approaches to help lead the region in sustainability,” said Mayor John Ernst. “Biochar is basically a type of charcoal, wood that is not completely burned. We want to see if we can take what was going to the landfill and repurpose it as great big water filters. Then the question becomes, can the used water filters then

Lynwood Community Heritage



The 42nd Annual Lynwood Park Community Day recently celebrated Lynwood Park's community heritage and its contributions to the City of Brookhaven. During the festivities, Mayor Pro Tem and District 1 Councilwoman Linley Jones (pictured far left) was recognized by the Lynwood Park Foundation for her advocacy for the historic community.



Cinco de Mayo Celebration



The City of Brookhaven joined Plaza Fiesta in celebrating Cinco de Mayo. The City gave out prizes to residents including picnic baskets courtesy of Explore Brookhaven.

Cherry Blossom Festival back with a blast



Around 48,000 residents, neighbors and out-of-towners enjoyed Brookhaven's Cherry Blossom Festival.

Kicking off the festivities was a ribbon-cutting in remembrance of the late former Mayor Rebecca Chase Williams, who founded the festival. Her daughters Clare and Chase joined Mayor Pro Tem Linley Jones in the special remembrance (below left).

Highlights included musical performances from Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Anderson East, Drivin N Cryin, Howie Day (left), Dumpstaphunk, Morgan Wade and more.

This year's festival also included the return of favorites such as the Artist Market, Kidz Zone, Pet World, Classic Car Show, and food trucks.



www.BrookCherryFest.org &
[@BrookCherryFest](https://www.instagram.com/BrookCherryFest)

‘Wings of the City’ exhibition by world-renowned Mexican artist comes to Brookhaven



The City of Brookhaven is hosting a mobile sculpture exhibit by internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Jorge Marin through April 2023.

The “Wings of the City” mobile art exhibition is comprised of a collection of nine bronze sculptures that are displayed in different locations around Brookhaven.

The City Council approved funding to bring the exhibition to Brookhaven during its March 22 business meeting, and announced that Explore Brookhaven has pledged \$10,000 to offset exhibition expenses.

The exhibition is the first planned event by the Brookhaven Arts and Culture Commission since Brookhaven designated the Buford Highway Cultural Corridor in January. The City and its Arts and Culture Commission are collaborating with the Jorge Marín Foundation and the Consulate General of Mexico in Atlanta to finalize details and installation locations.

Marin, whose work has been exhibited across Europe, Asia, and North and South America, is one of the greatest exponents of figurative contemporary art in Mexico.

Before coming to Brookhaven, “Wings of the City” has previously been exhibited in Brownsville, Fort Worth, Anaheim, Denver, Santa Ana, Dallas, San Antonio, Sacramento, Houston, Greenville, and Raleigh.

To learn more about Jorge Marin’s artwork, visit <https://JorgeMarin.com/>

To learn more about the Brookhaven Arts and Culture Commission, visit www.BrookhavenGA.gov/Arts



‘Wings’ in Brookhaven

‘Archivaldo Monumental,’ Latin American Association

‘Wings of Mexico,’ Mexican Consulate

‘Bernardo Oriental,’ Northeast Plaza

‘El Tiempo Monumental,’ Oglethorpe University (pictured above)

‘El Abrazo Monumental,’ Blackburn Park (pictured at left and Page 1)

‘Hombre Universal,’ Peachtree Creek Greenway,
Corporate Square Trailhead

‘Perséidas Monumental,’ Peachtree Creek Greenway,
Corporate Square Trailhead

‘Split Monumental,’ Peachtree Creek Greenway, Pedestrian Bridge

‘Equilibrista 90,’ Peachtree Creek Greenway, Pedestrian Bridge

City purchases remainder of Brookhaven Park for \$1

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transfers the disputed portion of the park to the City of Brookhaven for \$1. The DeKalb County Commission also approved the settlement and agreement in its meeting earlier in the day.

Almost immediately, the City began making improvements, cleaning up landscaping, tearing out the chain-link fencing along Peachtree Road, and installing temporary Brookhaven Park signage featuring the City seal.

Simmons says she's thrilled about what's to come. Brookhaven Park was included in the \$40 million Park Bond Capital Improvement Program approved by Brookhaven voters in 2018, with \$6 million slated for Brookhaven Park. Due to the dispute with DeKalb, the City could not begin construction on Brookhaven Park improvements like it already has with other parks in the City such as Murphey Candler, Blackburn and Lynwood.

"It was so frustrating because we had park bond money sitting in an account and could not do any of the improvements that the park so desperately needed," Simmons said.

Planned improvements include a repaved parking lot and new building at the dog park that will include restrooms, pavilion, and a deck with grills. Improvements will also be made to the sidewalks and trails within the park. A new, larger playground will replace the current small playground. The new playground area will have restrooms and a small pavilion. A larger pavilion is also part of the plans, and the City will clean up the existing community garden area and consider a new pavilion for that area if budget allows. A new stage area at the bottom of the sloped lawn area will also be considered. The plans do not include a City Hall or other municipal buildings. In mid-May, the design team started back to complete the original plans, recognizing the City now owns the entire park. Design and permitting will be completed so construction can start in late 2022 or early 2023.

Simmons credits park advocacy groups like the Brookhaven Park Conservancy and the Brookhaven Dog Park Association with supporting the City's purchase of the park, and for hosting clean-up and maintenance days and park events over the years.

"We could not have achieved this without them," Simmons said.

Additionally, in a demonstration of the spirit of cooperation the City hopes to continue with the County, the City has encumbered and restricted \$1,600,000 in a capital improvement project account that will be contributed to the County to help fund the construction of a brand new state of the art library in the City of Brookhaven. These funds are not from the Parks Bond approved by the voters in 2018, but are reserve funds held from the General Fund in the prudent use of the people's money. These funds will be held by the City until such time as the County begins construction on a new library within Brookhaven's city limits, but not in Brookhaven Park.

"This is a win-win. It's a win for the City and a win for the residents," said Mayor John Ernst. "A lot of work has gone into this and I thank everyone at the City and DeKalb County for making this possible."

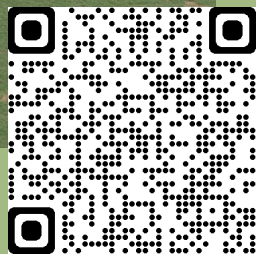
Brookhaven Park is the site of the Community Service Board which will continue its operation pursuant to its lease agreement with DeKalb County.

"It is unfortunate that we had to sue the County to get any movement, but I truly enjoyed working with our DeKalb County Commissioners to reach a beneficial resolution for all residents. Our community deserves a beautiful park in this location and what better way to celebrate the City's 10th birthday in December than to have this behind us and construction underway?"



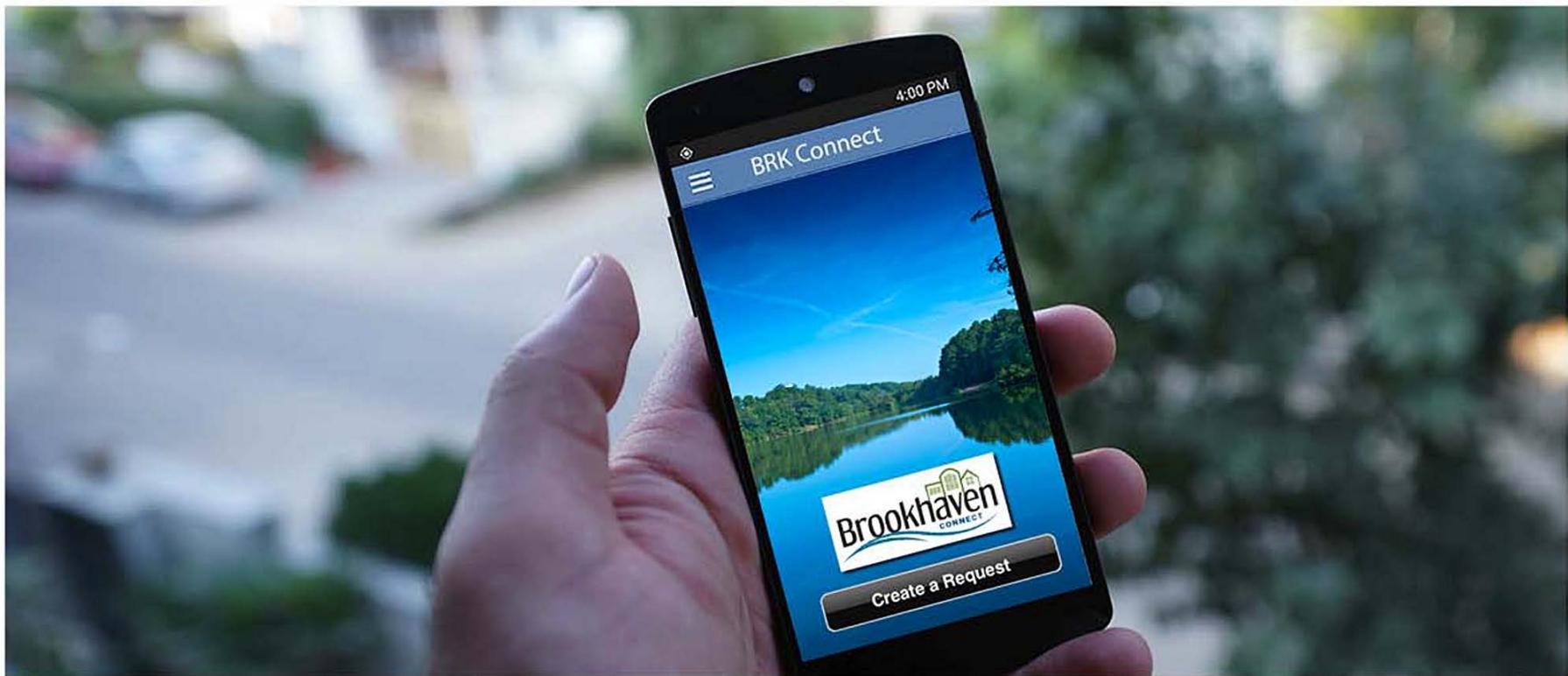
Councilwoman Simmons points to the property line that once separated Brookhaven and DeKalb's portions of Brookhaven Park.

What's Coming to Brookhaven Park



- Pavilions
- Restrooms
- Deck with grills
- New playground
- Parking improvements
- Sidewalk improvements
- Garden Club area clean-up
- Stage area under consideration

Keep up with Brookhaven Park progress at www.BrookhavenGA.gov/parks-bond-ref or scan the QR code.



BROOKHAVEN, GA

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