

## **Key Facts: NRPA's Parks Build Community® Project**

### **The Project: Park Revitalization**

- The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Parks Build Community® is an ongoing national initiative to demonstrate the transformative value of parks and recreation on communities. Local parks are the essential foundation to vibrant, thriving communities. The environment, health, wellness, and social equity of communities can all be improved through the revitalization of parks.
- The Parks Build Community vision is to build and revitalize parks as thriving gathering places for youth, families and adults and encourage the revitalization of parks everywhere.

### **Finding Parks Build Community Projects**

- Through the Parks Build Community program, NRPA works with local communities to identify underserved areas in need of park space revitalization.
- With the help of partner and sponsor organizations, as well as local public officials, the identified areas are brought back to life by enhancing green space, promoting health, wellness and conservation, and supporting social interaction.

### **Community Parks, Vital to the Future of Towns and Cities**

- The gateway for healthy, prosperous and connected communities is at local parks and recreation. The evidence continues to build showing how parks and recreation are essential to building and sustaining communities. Parks are an essential part of what makes communities great and lead to such things as increased property values to those who live nearby, improved individual and community health, and contribute to the sustainability of communities.
- Parks Build Community is a tangible way to demonstrate this transformative effect of local parks and recreation.

### **Past, Present, Future**

- **2009:** The First Parks Build Community revitalization project took place at Marvin Gaye Park in Washington, D.C. giving new life to the once dubbed "needle park."
- **2011:** Tornado-ravaged Selena Butler Park in Atlanta, Georgia was revitalized adding advantages of green space and quality of life for children, adults and senior citizens within the surrounding community in close proximity to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

- **2012:** A once unused, barren parcel of land owned by Caltrans, the state transportation agency of California, was transformed to the El Sereno Arroyo Playground in Los Angeles, California providing one of the only parks to this easternmost district of LA.
- **2013:** Shady Lane Park in Houston, Texas was transformed into a nature playscape and wetlands restoration area for the surrounding communities to enjoy. The revitalization of this park engaged the community in the Texas bayou landscape via trails, discovery elements and a nature themed playground.
- **2014:** Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Park in Charlotte, North Carolina was revitalized by improving access to the park space and increasing recreation options to the neighbors of the park in this economically disadvantaged neighborhood.
- **2015:** Joe Kneip Park in North Las Vegas, Nevada was transformed by removing run-down, vandalized equipment and replacing it with new state-of-the-art amenities deserved by the low-income community the park serves.
- **2016:** A once vacant lot in the City of Wellston, Missouri was transformed into Trojan Park – a vibrant community space that will expand opportunities for residents of all ages to be active and enjoy each other’s company.
- **2017:** Located along New Orleans’ historic Lafitte Greenway, Lemann Playground was revitalized into a state-of-the-art play space with exercise equipment that will benefit the residents of New Orleans for generations to come.

For more information on Parks Build Community or to see photos and videos, visit [www.nrpa.org/parksbuildcommunity](http://www.nrpa.org/parksbuildcommunity).