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Atlanta Neighborhood Overwhelmed with Support for Local Park Revival

--Community members rejoice, offer thanks at Butler Park groundbreaking--

ATLANTA (June 12, 2011) – Through its national Parks Build Community project and its grassroots initiative known as America's Backyard, the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) revitalization of Selena S. Butler Park is officially underway, and the local community is expressing overwhelming support. Scores of people gathered in the historic Atlanta park for the June 8 groundbreaking – from representatives of contributing and sponsoring companies that are making the revitalization possible to community members and elected officials.

Among those in attendance were NRPA CEO Barbara Tulipane, Atlanta City Councilman Kwanza Hall and Congressman John Lewis, all staunch supporters of the Parks Build Community project.

Passionate speeches about the importance of Butler Park to the local community inspired smiles and were met with enthusiastic applause from those in attendance. Lewis, among others, offered uplifting words in praise of the collaborative efforts to revive urban greenspace to improve the local community for "generations unborn."

"In a few months, we know Butler Park will be remade into a cultural landmark for one of Atlanta's most historic areas," says Tulipane. "It is the Parks Build Community mission to ensure that kids and seniors in local communities across the nation have a safe place to play, relax and exercise."



Key players in the Butler Park rebuild prepare to kick off construction. (Pictured from left to right: Paul Taylor, director of Park Design; Trish O'Connell, vice president of real estate development for the Atlanta Housing Authority; Barbara Tulipane, CEO of NRPA; Helene Mills, community advocate; Congressman John Lewis; and City Councilman Kwanza Hall.)

Approximately \$1.6 million has been contributed to the revitalization project from various sponsor organizations, including PlayCore; Superior International Industries (SII); Converse; and the Health Education & Communication Center of Atlanta (HECCA). The restoration will provide an active use plaza, playground equipment, a picnic/grill area, a multi-purpose field and a community garden to a park once left tattered by Atlanta's infamous 2008 tornadoes. NRPA representatives plan to open the first phase of the newly revitalized Butler Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early November 2011.

For more information call 404.446.1677 or visit www.NRPA.org/parksbuildcommunity.

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About Parks Build Community

Parks Build Community is an ongoing national initiative demonstrating the transformative value of parks and recreation on the health and vitality of communities across America. The vision: to select an urban park in need of revitalization—specifically in an underserved area—and transform the property into a thriving gathering place for youth and adults. In partnership with NRPA’s grassroots initiative, [America’s Backyard](#) and host cities around the U.S., and with the support of numerous public and private agencies, Parks Build Community reconstructs dilapidated facilities and provides new park amenities, which enhance green space, promote health and physical activity, and support social interaction. For more information, please visit www.NRPA.org/parksbuildcommunity.

About NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of 20,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, please visit www.NRPA.org.

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