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## **National Non-profit Breaks Ground on Butler Park Revitalization Project**

*--Atlanta city officials come together as historic restoration project commences--*

**ATLANTA (June 2011)** – The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) today announced the groundbreaking for the revitalization of Atlanta’s historic Selena S. Butler Park in an ongoing initiative to revive the once vibrant local landmark. NRPA has aligned with city officials, local and national partners and sponsor organizations through its Parks Build Community project to continue revitalizing local parks in underserved urban areas.

The Parks Build Community project’s restoration of Butler Park will get underway with a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, June 8, at 11 a.m. In attendance will be George Dusenbury, commissioner of the City of Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; Barbara Tulipane, CEO of NRPA; representatives from the Atlanta Housing Authority; members of Park Pride; local elected officials; representatives of sponsor companies PlayCore and Superior International Industries; and Butler Park supporters from in and around the community.

“Wednesday’s groundbreaking makes tangible the ongoing success of the Parks Build Community project and is made possible by the partnerships forged with organizations, sponsors and partners on a local and national level,” says Tulipane. “In a few short months, Butler Park will once again help identify and bring together a community rich in culture and history.”

The life and accomplishments of Butler Park’s namesake – Selena Sloan Butler – have made the local park an invaluable, green addition to Atlanta’s urban landscape. The park opened in the 1960’s in honor of Butler, who played a pivotal role in the American Civil Rights movement by fighting through the barriers of segregation in American education. During her career, Butler reached critical milestones in the struggle for racial equality, culminating in what was perhaps her greatest achievement when she co-founded the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).



*View of Atlanta from Butler Park’s current tattered benches, bare ground and cracked athletic courts*

“Butler Park and its surrounding community embody the accomplishments of Civil Rights leaders, such as Selena Sloan Butler, who helped make our city and our nation what it is today,” says Commissioner Dusenbury. “This joint revitalization initiative will help restore a vital cultural landmark for the City of Atlanta.”

For more information call 404.446.1677 or visit [www.NRPA.org/parksbuildcommunity](http://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](http://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](http://www.NRPA.org).

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