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Plans Underway for Revitalization of Atlanta's Historic Selena S. Butler Park

ATLANTA (March 11, 2011) – Members of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) were in Atlanta on Thursday, March 10, to collaborate with city officials, local partner organizations and project contributors regarding the revitalization of Atlanta's historic Selena S. Butler Park. NRPA, in partnership with America's Backyard and the City of Atlanta, and with contributions from PlayCore and Superior International Industries, will soon reconstruct and renovate the space through NRPA's Parks Build Community project.

Launched in 2009, Parks Build Community is developing and deploying a replicable and sustainable model of park revitalization in underserved communities throughout the United States.

"Parks connect and build communities, providing green space and quality of life for children, adults and senior citizens," says Barbara Tulipane, CEO of NRPA. "Parks also provide opportunities for inner city residents to engage in physical fitness activities, which are essential as our nation is experiencing a health crisis in terms of obesity and related illnesses, such as diabetes, heart disease and kidney disease."

In attendance at the March 10 meeting were representatives from the City of Atlanta; the Atlanta Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DPRCA); the Atlanta Housing Authority; Park Pride; Friends of Butler Park; Fourth Ward Neighbors; PlayCore; and Superior International Industries.

"Eight months ago this park was a black hole in the community. At present, there is an open recreation center but still a park in disrepair," says George Dusenbury, City of Atlanta commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. "We want to—both literally and symbolically—take down the chain link fence and make Selena S. Butler Park an asset to the community."

Construction on the park is set to begin in spring 2011 with completion scheduled for November 2011. The City of Atlanta first announced plans to revive Selena S. Butler Park in June 2010.

Photo: (L-R) Randy Beckum, vice president of sales and marketing, Superior International Industries; George Dusenbury, City of Atlanta commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs; Tom Norquist, PlayCore senior vice president of GameTime Marketing and Corporate Innovation; Barbara Tulipane, CEO, NRPA; and Eric Warren, president, Playland Inc., a Superior International Industries company.

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 [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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