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Thank You & Congrats To Our 2017 Annual Award Winners

Partners for Parks [info=partnersforparks.org@mail70.atl11.rgs.v.net] on behalf of Partners for Parks [info@partnersforparks.org]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 11:02 AM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

[Thank You And Congratulations To Our Annual Award Winners](#)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

[Thank you to those who attended our Annual Awards & Sponsor Social along with our dedicated board members and volunteers. It was a beautiful evening at First Ward Park. We celebrated our **76 Annual Sponsors** and gave **6 Awards** to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to promoting and enhancing the parks, greenways, open spaces, active play and recreational opportunities within our community!](#)

[In case you missed it, you can check out some of the event photos on our **Facebook page here.**](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

BRAD DAVIS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

-
Dr. Phil Rea

[Dr. Phil Rea is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University. He is nationally respected and admired for his achievements with parks and recreation, as he was recently awarded the National Recreation and Park Association 2017 National Distinguished Professional Award.](#)

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Phil joined the faculty at NC State in 1978 and was selected as the department head in 1987, a position he held until 2003. Prior to joining the academic side, Phil worked for years in the industry gaining valuable experience as a park and recreation professional. He is the co-author of four books mainly on park and recreation management. He developed two national training programs for park and recreation professionals: The School of Sport Management and the NRPA Directors School. His service as director of various Oglebay schools has spanned over 30 years. He has also served as President of the North Carolina

Recreation and Park Association and has received both their Hall of Fame Award and their Fellow Award. He has been a great representative for the state of North Carolina and has been largely responsible for the continued development of park professionals in this State.

JOE COGDELL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD



Dick Winters

Partners for Parks is proud to award Dick Winters the 2017 Joe Cogdell Volunteer Service Award. Dick is a long-time advocate for cycling in Charlotte, and is the Built Environment and Safe Routes to School Coordinator with Mecklenburg County Public Health. Dick is a member of Mecklenburg County's Greenway Advisory Council and the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization's Technical Coordinating Committee. He is on the board of [Trips for Kids Charlotte](#), serves on the [Open Streets 704](#) Planning Committee, and is the Chair of the Trips for Kids Charlotte Re-Cyclery subcommittee. Most recently, Dick, along with DC Lucchesi and Ben Cooley, founded [Learn to Ride](#). Learn to Ride is a not-for-profit, 100% volunteer series of events to grow Charlotte's cycling community one new cyclist at a time.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AWARD



Abilities Unlimited of the Carolinas

Formed in June 2005 by three fathers of children with physical disabilities in the greater Charlotte area, the mission of Abilities Unlimited ([AUCarolinas.org](#)) is to provide organized athletic programs that will compete regionally and nationally in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair track and field, wheelchair softball, and swimming, as well as facilitating participation in a variety of outdoor sports (archery, fishing, water-skiing, equestrian, etc.). It has become one of the most respected programs in the country, attracting families from both Carolinas and even southern Virginia for the

opportunities it provides, not only to enjoy and benefit from the lessons and camaraderie of team sports in the present but also going forward.

Close to a dozen young athletes from the Charlotte Jr. Rollin' Hornets (basketball) and Carolina Cruisers (track & field) have gone on to compete on the university level on scholarship, with several representing the United States on Paralympic, World Championship, and Parapan American Games teams.

AU has grown to now field three junior and two adult wheelchair basketball teams and works diligently to broaden the awareness of its programs to families who do not know that these athletic opportunities exist for their children.

PROJECT RECOGNITION AWARD



The Sportsplex at Matthews

The Sportsplex at Matthews is an athletic facility that consists of 9 synthetic turf fields, 2 grass fields and a 2,500 seat grass stadium. All fields are multi-purpose fields that can accommodate a variety of sports; soccer, lacrosse, football, field hockey, rugby, etc. The stadium has a two story field house with home, away, and referee locker rooms. The top floor of the field house is a 90-person conference room that is available to rent. The Sportsplex also has two playgrounds and roughly 2 miles of paved trails.

The venue has been more than a decade in the making, as Mecklenburg County hired Woolpert in the mid-2000s to plan and design the Sportsplex at Matthews, and the grand opening of the expansion was celebrated in June of 2017.

"We wanted to design a SportsPlex for all ages, from the young kid learning how to play to the professional level. Young players are going to be able to experience what the pros experience, and do so on the same field. That's a win no matter the score." - Andrew Pack of Woolpert

CORPORATE RECOGNITION AWARD



Novant Health

Novant Health has been a great corporate citizen in recognizing the importance of parks and recreation. Their willingness to sponsor programs and facilities in this region has been very valuable. The [Novant Health BMX Supercross Track](#) facility in Rock Hill was the host of the World BMX Championships this year. BMX is going to be a Olympic sport in the coming years. Novant Health also provided the EMTs and Sports Trainers for the 2016 US Paralympic Trials held in Charlotte and hosted by Partners

[for Parks as their donation to the event.](#)

-
[Novant Health Sports Medicine has partnered with a variety of teams, programs, community groups and organizations to provide medical care and services to participants at numerous events. They have had the opportunity to partner in Mecklenburg County with 7 high schools and 2 private high schools and all of the high schools in Union County. They have also worked with various groups to provide services for individual events including 5ks, 10ks, half marathons, basketball tournaments, track meets and flag football games.](#)

[EXCEPTIONAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD](#)



[Jim Garges](#)

["Thanks to Jim's leadership, we have truly been able to help improve the quality of life for our residents."](#)

[- Dena Diorio, Mecklenburg County Manager](#)

[Jim Garges has overseen the staff and operations of Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation since 2007, helping to grow the area's selection of recreational opportunities for residents and bring national attention to the department.](#)

[Under his leadership, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation has achieved many accomplishments including:](#)

- [• Adding over 4,000 acres to the park and greenway system](#)
- [• Completing several parks, including Romare Bearden, First Ward and Lincoln Heights](#)
- [• Completing the Mecklenburg County Sportsplex at Matthews](#)
- [• Completing the metropolitan section of the Little Sugar Creek Greenway](#)
- [• Developing the department's comprehensive 10-year master plan](#)
- [• Helping launch the Open Streets 704 program](#)
- [• Hosting the National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\) national conference](#)
- [• Opening the Revolution Park Sports Academy](#)
- [• Opening Ramsey Creek Beach](#)
- [• Passing the 2008 Park and Recreation bond referendum - \\$250 million](#)
- [• Renovating the Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center and opening the Double Oaks Family Aquatic Center](#)
- [• Planning for the Eastway Regional Recreation Center](#)
- [• Winning the prestigious NRPA Gold Medal Award for best park system](#)

[A big congratulations to all of our 2017 Award Winners! If you see these lovely folks around town, please make sure to say hello and give them a round of applause!](#)



**JOIN US FOR OPEN STREETS 704
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017 FROM 1PM - 5PM**

JOIN US FOR OPEN STREETS 704 THIS SUNDAY

**The streets will be OPEN from 1pm to 5pm
Sunday October 15, 2017**

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's fourth Open Streets 704 powered by BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina event will be within walking and biking distance of the Madison Park, Selwyn Park, Montford Park, Freedom Park, Myers Park, Ashbrook, LoSo, and Colonial Village neighborhoods. Come out and experience the 5.5 mile route!

Open Streets 704 is free and open to all to participate. More event details at openstreets704.com

THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS

**Please support our Annual Sponsors as they support
our community and Partners for Parks**

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**THE FAMILY
OF BRAD DAVIS**



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GARGES**



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PLEASE VISIT [PARTNERSFORPARKS.ORG/SPONSOR](https://partnersforparks.org/sponsor)

Questions? Contact us at info@partnersforparks.org

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

[MORE DETAILS ABOUT ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP PARTNERSFORPARKS.ORG/SPONSOR](https://partnersforparks.org/sponsor)



Partners for Parks aims to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Mecklenburg County and the surrounding region by preserving, promoting and enhancing the parks, greenways, open spaces, active play and recreational opportunities within our community.

Partners for Parks is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible. Please consider making a **donation**. To make a gift by mail, please send your check made payable to "Partners for Parks" to:

PARTNERS FOR PARKS

PO Box 681779

Charlotte, NC 28216

info@partnersforparks.org

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Our mailing address is:

Partners for Parks

PO Box 681779

5841 Brookshire Boulevard

Charlotte, NC 28216

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