

It's Been an Amazing Year for Parks and Building Community



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Celebrate the Joy and Remember the Blessings

Our hearts are filled with joy and sadness as we send this month's newsletter, as we have just learned our longtime Board Chairman Doug Youngblood passed away early Wednesday morning, December 22nd. He was an unwavering champion for our parks and the people who used them, especially our children. We'll miss him, and share more about his life in our next newsletter – but we thought you'd want to say a prayer now for his family. Keep them in your thoughts.

Doug has worked hard to share the work Partners for Parks is doing in our community, and we shall continue his enthusiasm in this month's newsletter.



Shop with a Pro Brings Smiles to Kids' Faces

Who wouldn't want a shopping spree with one of the most beloved Panthers of all time? It's something we'd all line up for, especially if the player is all-star linebacker Luke Kuechly. Partners for Parks' Assistant Treasurer Alvin Woods, a longtime leader in local youth sports, helped find 10 deserving children in our area to go on the shopping trip with Luuuuke, courtesy of ProCamps and Dick's Sporting Goods.

You can hear how much fun they all had right here: <https://partnersforparks.org/pro-camps-shop/>



Pearls of Historic Wisdom Mark Renovated Park

Did you know that Pearl Street Park was the first park bought by the city of Charlotte for its African American residents? Before desegregation, the Midtown park, nestled in the curve of present-day Kenilworth Avenue near Little Sugar Creek, served as a garden, playground, and school playing fields for the Brooklyn community. Local leaders cut the ribbon on the reconfigured park this month, with a nod to its history and a plan for a new generation of Uptown and Midtown residents

Read more about it here: <https://partnersforparks.org/historic-uptown-park-reinvigorated-for-a-new-generation-of-charlotteans/>



Finishing Touches Being Put On New Northern Regional Recreation Center

Take a flight over Mecklenburg County's newest recreation center in Cornelius! The new Northern Regional Recreation Center is expected to open its doors in the first quarter of 2022.

See it all here: <https://partnersforparks.org/north-rec-center/>



Holidays are here and gift-giving is an annual tradition. If you love our local parks, please consider making them part of your shopping list! We've made it easy for you: Consider becoming a **Partners for Parks Annual Sponsor**. Fresh air and sunshine in local parks should be accessible to everyone. As Partners for Parks continues to ***Breathe Life Into Our Community***, they need your help!

[Just click here to become an annual sponsor](#), or mail your check to the address below. Thank you!



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.

A 2020 Lehman Award Winner, 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:

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