



Park Pride is a nonprofit organization dedicated to involving the community in enhancing the quality of life through the protection and improvement of parks and green space.

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Park Pride Receives \$150,000 Blank Foundation Grant

Atlanta, Georgia -- Park Pride is happy to announce that it will receive a year-end grant of \$150,000 from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

“We are extremely excited about this grant, which will allow us to add additional staff and acquire the tools necessary for Park Pride to fulfill its mission,” said George Dusenbury, Executive Director of Park Pride. “In particular, the grant will allow us to hire a landscape architect to work with communities to develop visions for their park. The support of the Blank Foundation will help Park Pride inspire scores of park activists throughout Atlanta.”

Since arriving at Park Pride in May, 2004, Dusenbury has pursued an aggressive campaign to engage all of Atlanta’s communities in their parks and greenspaces. In August, Park Pride launched its Community Micro Grants Initiative, which provides matching grants of up to \$500 for communities making improvements to their parks and greenspaces. In November, Park Pride hosted three “Friends Raising” seminars, bringing local experts into communities to talk to residents about how to get involved, get organized and take back their park.

‘The Blank Foundation grant will allow us to take the next step in the process of empowering communities to create the parks they want and deserve,’ said Dusenbury. ‘The funding will enable us to hire a landscape architect who will work with Friends of the Park groups to create a conceptual master plan for their park. This process, which we call “Park Visioning,” will not only enable communities to transform their needs and desires into an inspiring park vision, it will help them build relationships with schools, businesses, religious organizations, and others centered on their parks and greenspaces. Developing these relationships will provide the foundation for turning park visions into reality.’

The Park Visioning program was inspired by the words of George Bernard Shaw:

*Some men see things as they are and say “Why?”
I dream things that never were and say “Why Not?”*

“Too often, communities look at their park and wonder why it does not receive the respect that it deserves. Our goal is to turn the “why” into a “why not.” Instead of seeing the park as it is, we want communities to see the park as it could be, and inspire them to work with us toward that goal,” said Dusenbury.

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation (www.blankfoundation.org) strives to foster opportunity for children and youth and to enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves: Atlanta; Beaufort County, South Carolina; and Maricopa County, Arizona. Since 1995, the Blank Family Foundation has awarded more than \$130 million to enhance education, preserve green space, sustain the arts and spark collaboration among its nonprofit partners. Arthur M. Blank created the Foundation to share his civic values and the joy of giving with his family. Mr. Blank is owner & CEO of the Atlanta Falcons. He co-founded The Home Depot, the world’s largest home improvement retailer, in 1978 and retired from the company as co-chairman in 2001.

The Blank Foundation is making its grant as part of a broader strategy called Inspiring Spaces, which is aimed at developing a system of great parks in Atlanta through planning, land acquisition, maintenance and public support. To date, working with city and county officials, civic and neighborhood associations and environmental groups, the Foundation has helped preserve more than 1100 acres of land within metro Atlanta.

In addition to allowing Park Pride to hire a landscape architect, the grant will fund the acquisition of a new truck, upgrading of Park Pride's database, and continuing operations of the organization.

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