



Making Parks the Pride of Atlanta

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Park Pride Names Phoenix II Park 2007 “Park of the Year”

Atlanta, Georgia -- Park Pride is proud to announce that Phoenix II Park has been named the City of Atlanta Park of the Year. “The parks crew understood how important the little things are to creating a clean, welcoming and beautiful park,” said Walt Ray, Director of Visioning for Park Pride. “World class parks require more than simply mowing and picking up the trash. The crew at Phoenix II did an outstanding job mulching trees, planting flower beds, edging pathways and trimming overgrowth.”

“Each month, the park got better and better,” said Nicholas Williams, Director of Community Building. “A common theme when transforming a park is to start with the flowers. Healthy, well-maintained flowers in a park are a sign that somebody cares about the park. They care enough to plant the flowers, and they care enough to maintain them. Often, we see residents take the initiative to plant and maintain flowers in their parks. It is great to see Parks Department employees taking ownership of their park. The bottom line is that the park workers made sure that Phoenix II Park was a welcome site for residents and park users.”

“City parks play an essential role in the quality of life of residents. Phoenix II Park is a stellar example of the efforts put forth by a staff that is trained and dedicated to maintaining and preserving our public greenspaces,” said Dianne Harnell Cohen, Commissioner – Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. “Because of recognition programs like Park of the Year, we will continue to raise the bar on improving and maintaining all of our parks and greenspaces.”

Park Pride initiated the Park of the Year program in 2005 at the request of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Each month, from April through October, the Department nominates five parks to be considered for Park of the Month. Park Pride employees, with some assistance from employees from the Piedmont Park Conservancy, visit the nominated parks and judge them against set criteria. Among the criteria are the condition of the lawn and planting beds, cleanliness, hazards and graffiti. The park that best meets these criteria is named Park of the Month. Judges continue to visit the parks throughout the course of the year. The Park that best meets the criteria over the course of the year is named Park of the Year. DPRCA and Park Pride recognize and provide bonuses to the crew members responsible for the good work.

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