

Public Leadership Group Meeting Summary
Meeting #4 on March 12, 2013

Materials from the meeting are available for download here:
<http://chavisconversation.skeo.com/plg>. A project binder with hardcopies of all documents is located at the Chavis Community Center; please check with the front desk.

Overview

At Meeting #4 we continued our conversation of *Honoring the Past* with a presentation on the use of Public Art to interpret and honor the past. The second focus of the meeting was a visioning exercise to brainstorm and share words and phrases to create a vision statement for the project.

At the beginning of the meeting two opportunities, one regarding historic designation and the other about a naming opportunity, were presented for consideration and were agreed to by consensus by the PLG.

Meeting Summary #3 and the Meeting #4 Agenda were approved by consensus.

The PLG decided by consensus to hold its monthly meetings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. rather than 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Group Discussion Summary
Study List Nomination Opportunity

An opportunity has been identified whereby the Raleigh Historic Development Commission may consider sponsoring nomination for Chavis Park to be submitted to the state Study List, a necessary precursor for submitting a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This initial step will help test the approach for future efforts. This will involve the RHDC hiring a consultant to draft a report and approach the State Historic Preservation Officer.

- Consensus is desired from the Chavis Park Community Conversation Public Leadership Group to support this opportunity.
- How long will it take to get designation? Designation can take years.
- Will it impede the Master Plan process? Not at this time.
- Have we connected with the African-American Heritage Commission? Will they work with SHPO? Staff is still working on this.
- Will information from the Study List report come back to the PLG? Yes.
- What happens once the PLG dissolves? The PLG needs to decide how it will move forward with implementation of the Master Plan after it is adopted by City Council.



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After the discussion, consensus was reached by the PLG to support the opportunity.

Naming Opportunity

*An opportunity has been identified to both celebrate Chavis Park's original name and the date this name was approved by the Raleigh Board of Commissioners (as it was known then). When the Raleigh City Council meets in regular session on March 19, 2013 it will be 75 years to the date that the park was officially designated the JOHN CHAVIS MEMORIAL PARK. It has been proposed to have the Mayor read a Proclamation at the Council meeting reaffirming this as the park name "as a tribute to the memory of educator John Chavis, and said park shall always hereafter be so known and designated". **

** Minutes, Raleigh Board of Commissioners, March 19, 1938*

Consensus is desired from the Chavis Park Community Conversation Public Leadership Group to support this opportunity.

The PLG came to consensus to pursue this opportunity.

Kim Curry-Evan's Presentation

- Feature something outstanding in Chavis Park.
- Engage and capture people.
- Pearl Fryer's topiary art could be used to draw people to stream area and to parts of the park that are rarely seen.

Visioning Exercise

The history of Chavis Park will be remembered/honored:

- The work of educator, John Chavis
- Rich cultural heritage
- Regional destination at a point critical in era of civil rights
- By creating a History trail throughout the park with landmarks. Where things used to be and the event that used to take places on those sites.
- By honoring the Worth Street entrance with proper landscaping and signage to the park and a map to the location of the different activities and landmarks on how the park change and what it offers today (and future).
- Having a site with old Chavis park maps showing where roads were and how Raleigh has changed.
- We should have signs with Chavis patron quotes, of what the park meant to them. And new quotes of what people want from the park.
- Honor (if the inspection passes) shelters 2 and 1 by pointing out their unique construction. Also the gatherings that once happened there and the many people that had visited the park
- Landmark the beloved artifacts that made those kids so happy about going to Chavis. The plane, the train or whatever else was of importance to them.



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- We will bring back the Market, maybe once a month, as I hear it used to be at the park.
- Community-centered
- African American heritage
- Urban
- Culturally rich
- Intergenerational
- WWII influence
- Historic community and place
- Significant events occurred at park
- Regional destination
- Center of African American socialization (D.C. to Atlanta)
- Honor the passion, love and appreciation community had for the park
- Capture the love newer residents have for the park
- Capture the symbolization of the uniqueness of Chavis Park as a designated recreation for Black folks
- Honor the regional significance of John Chavis park
- Physical education and sporting events
- A center of cultural diversity
- Center of faith-based activities (revivals)
- Center of Academic Community (Shaw, St. Augustine's, J.W. Ligon, Washington H.S.)
- Place of Pride
- As an African American historic landmark
- Pride of the neighborhood
- A place to grow/cultivate leaders
- A place to honor the work and life of John Chavis
- Family gathering (generations) place
- Regional recreational destination
- Center of civic activism
- Center of art and cultural (dance, music and theater)
- Honoring memories of WWII and acts of military service and their families (War Mother's Memorial)
- History honored by all
- The richness of the park
- The symbolic nature of this park as its attributes
- Lift up historic people and events with historic markers
- Tell the story of the park through public art of all kinds
- Focus on civil rights history of park
- Honor the WWII history of the park
- Tell the story of the significance of the park during segregation
- Honor the unique role of John Chavis Memorial Park during the period of racial segregation
- Honor and educate broader public about the role of John Chavis as an educator of black and white children
- Honor the significance of the relationship between the park and surrounding residents over the decades
- To honor the original plan and design of this park



Chavis Park

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Chavis Park will continue to be:

- A place of pride and historical landmark
- A center of community, family, education, recreation
- Be a place to remember good times and good friends. We still provide a place for all ages to walk, train, sit, read, swim, play, think, eat, celebrate, and gather.
- An existing, safe destination
- Landmark
- Neighborhood park
- Neighborhood pride
- Convenient
- Diverse landscape – hills, streams, trees
- Programs
- Elections – polling place
- Running track – walking/jogging
- Fitness
- Swimming (year round)
- Green spaces
- Gathering place
- Celebration
- Family-friendly (kids)
- Rich in history
- Central / accessible with some issues
- Honor activism
- Community
- Health and wellness activities
- Fun
- Entertainment
- Public service (lifeguards → government)
- Safe place / haven/ refuge
- Kids playing sports
- Senior programs
- Continue to attract different ethnicities
- Maintained / groomed / neat appearance
- Partnership with local colleges and public middle schools
- Dancing in the park (Zumba, line dancing)
- Recreational sports
- Tennis courts
- Bike racks
- Basketball gym outside
- Tai chi (kids)
- Urban escape
- Carousel
- Relaxation around the track and places for socializing
- Place for kids (playgrounds)
- Contained sandbox
- Splash pad
- Youth programs
- Intergenerational programs
- Accessible, universal
- Give back to the community
- Dog trails



Chavis Park

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- 86 program – dog waste and garbage
- Soccer
- Softball
- Exercise programs for kids (dancing)
- Amphitheater
- Music concerts (Shaw)
- Movie night in the park (lawn, outdoors)
- Frisbees

Chavis Park will become:

- A catalyst for economic development
- Regional event destination with amphitheater infrastructure
- Connected especially to downtown
- Destination for African-American history through public art
- Sustainable
- Safe and clean and perceived as safe and clean
- An extension and asset to downtown
- 21st century park
- Playground that challenges
- Functional, educational, and inspiring signage, art, architecture
- Welcoming to everybody
- Community gathering place
- A park that will encourage the diverse Raleigh population to come and enjoy the facilities and be proud of the park
- A preferred destination to gather, celebrate, pic-nic, and play
- A place where people will feel safe using the park
- A place to mediate, to do yoga, Tai Chi
- A place to meet up for a soccer, basketball, tennis, football, volleyball game
- A place to practice those new skate boarding tricks
- A place to climb a wall
- A place to train for the next 5K, half marathon, or marathon.
- A place to learn more about the history of Raleigh and its changing community
- A place to taste different foods and learn about other cultures
- A place to dance
- The place where children learn how to ride their bikes
- Dogs learn how to sit and fetch
- A place to watch live music and theatre
- A place to just sit down and smell the flowers
- A place to visit new sculptures and art
- Appreciated for its rich history
- Historical landmark
- Balanced system of cultural arts, conservation facilities and active and passive recreation
- Amazing
- Exciting
- A tourist attraction
- A destination
- Fun
- Useable rental space
- Incredible place to visit
- A place of profound remembrance



Chavis Park

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- Home for welcoming
- Recognized for its history
- Include attributes of cultural expression
- Performance art center
- Enjoyable
- Memorable
- A place for all
- A place for families
- A place for all events
- Awesome
- Safe
- Unforgettable
- Amphitheater
- Embracing
- Educational
- Celebration
- Place for field trips
- A meeting place
- Recreation mecca
- Urban downtown diverse park
- Intergenerational
- Welcoming center
- Cultural destination with different activities
- Interactive park
- Rental space (indoor and outdoor)
- Attraction for public and private use with amenities (restrooms, water fountains, etc)
- Always remembered / memorable
- Place to always return
- Clean and green (solar lighting, energy efficient)
- Picturesque
- Destination
- "wow" factor
- Ever changing
- Food and concessions
- Remembered for WWII significance
- Senior programming
- Keep it fresh
- Create job opportunities
- Park layout makes sense (uses and flow)
- A preferred destination
- Perceived as a safe place
- Dance
- Education
- Place to learn
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Engaging for all with something for everyone (self-guided tours, educational, fun, pique interests
- Hub for wellness and fitness
- Home for public art pieces
- A place to train for marathons and races
- Fitness friendly



Chavis Park

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- Welcoming for all community members
- Accessible for all
- Beautifully landscaped
- Well lit
- Sustainable (green)
- Competitive in park offerings (camps and programs)
- Space for meditation, yoga, quiet areas
- A place for all events
- Destination
- Place to watch/listen to live music
- Picnic
- Rich with programming for all
- Catalyst for economic development
- Current while recognizing the past
- Field trips
- Regional destination (events and activities)
- R-Line stop (future public transportation)
- Pedestrian friendly
- Connected to downtown
- Dog friendly
- Place for food vendors

CHAVIS MASTER PLAN VISION (Sample from PLG Member)

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and the NC Cultural Resources African-American Heritage Commission Master Plan represents a bold commitment by the City of Raleigh and the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources to fully embrace environmental stewardship and to greatly expand the city's and state's focus on expanding high quality cultural arts opportunities for its citizens. Raleigh was once the top destination for African-American recreation the east coast. This Plan charts a course for providing a balanced system of **cultural arts, active recreation, passive recreation and conservation facilities** to all residents. This Plan recognizes current facilities that will address trends and the needs of residents as the City grows. This plan also reflects the commitment by the City and State to preserve significant portions of land within the City limits as it strives to a greater level of environmental stewardship.

Another distinguishing factor of this plan is its dedication to producing an integrated vision that includes both Parks and Recreation and the NC Cultural Resources African-American Heritage Commission.

For the sake of this plan, any references to "cultural arts" in Raleigh are intended to include but not be limited to the fine visual and performing arts. While it includes statues, paintings, sculptures and galleries indoors and outdoors, music, theatre, and dance performances of all kind in the amphitheater & pavilion. It also encompasses Raleigh's African-American gospel, craft, folk art, and others. Further, it includes performances and exhibitions as well as class instruction and individual participation in these disciplines.

It also includes useable rental space to connect to the community for their weddings, family reunions, birthdays, corporate meetings, graduations, school field trips, etc.

The City recognizes the vital role that Cultural Arts facilities and programs play in the lives of residents and by integrating these facilities within parks or by connecting them to neighborhoods, shopping areas and other key community locations they become much more



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visible and accessible to all. To achieve a balanced system of parks, recreation and cultural resources, specific goals have been set. These goals, and the objectives that define ways in which the goals can be met, are explained below. [END]

Key points from PLG discussion:

- **Reestablish park as major historic and community destination**
 - o Used to be just for black community, now for everyone, all ages
 - o Family oriented
 - o Educational field trips
 - o Recreation
- **Bring people back to park, change public's perception of park as dangerous**
 - o Restore sense of greatness
 - o PRIDE and ENERGY
 - o High volume of visitors
- **Continue to be dynamic and flexible**
 - o Leave space for future developments and programs
 - o 21st century technology

Next Steps

- Post Kim Curry-Evan's presentation to the website. [Complete]
- Follow up with PLG members who were unable to attend the Walking Tour to schedule additional opportunities. [Ongoing]
- Complete a flyer on the project for the PLG to share with other stakeholders and community members. [Complete. Will be available at the charrette.]
- Provide print out of Kim's presentation for those who are interested. [Contact Emily if you are interested in a copy.]
- PLG members interested in presenting and taking part of the National Environmental Justice Conference in D.C. should contact Vernice Miller-Travis by the end of the week. [Complete. Rhonda Muhammad will attend.]

Announcements

- A proclamation will be read at City Council's meeting on March 19, 2013 reaffirming the original name of the park, John Chavis Memorial Park. [Complete. Joseph Ellerbee, Jacqueline Howell, and Vivian Lee were present. Joseph spoke briefly on behalf of the group.]
- A dedication ceremony and grand opening for the Chavis Park Carousel House will be held on Saturday, April 20 from at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The carousel amusement ride will be installed the weeks of February 18 and 25.
- The work that comes out of the PLG charrette will be shared with the public the afternoon of Saturday, April 20 in conjunction with the dedication ceremony for the new Chavis Carousel House.

Meeting Evaluation Feedback

- The PLG was more engaged and participatory.
- The small group exercise was beneficial.
- The meeting was more concise, organized, and adhered to the agenda and meeting time.



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- The group feels comfortable using the Five-Point Consensus Decision Process.
- Kim Curry-Evans presentation on public art as a means of interpreting and honoring the past provided the group with visionary opportunities.
- The time taken to tour the park was invaluable in aiding awareness of the park's context to proceed with the task.
- Provide time to discuss the group's feedback from the walking tour of Chavis Park.
- Provide an opportunity for the NC African-American Heritage Commission and a representative from the State Historic Preservation Office to speak to the PLG.
- The PLG is comfortable with the strategy for historic designation as described during Meeting #4.
- Using the official name of the park, John Chavis Memorial Park, is critical to honoring the park's history and memories.

Attendance

PLG Members Present: Gretchel Carter-Hinton, Joseph Ellerbee, Jacqueline Howell, Lorenzo Jackson, Vivian Lee, Hallie Mittleman, Rhonda Muhammad, Geraldine Williams, James E. Williams, F. Lonnette Williams, Rob Wylie, Cecilia Zuvic, Jonathun Muldrow, Angela Jackson-Mann, Jaquan Bennett

PLG Members Absent: Richard Bostic, Bishop Victor Glover, Bennie A. Mack, Jr., Margo White, Seddrick Hill, Eyvonne Dailey, Virginia Stanley Tally

Staff & Guests: Vernice Miller-Travis, Alisa Hefner, Sarah Little, Mary Lou Addor, Troy Burton, Al Byrd, Denise Saunders, David Shouse, Emily Ander, Diane Sauer, Dick Bailey, Jerry Bolas, Kim Curry-Evans, Ivan Dickey, Morgan Jackson-Mann



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ADDENDUM:

Notes: Chavis Walking Tours

Held: Saturday, March 9 from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 12 from 4:00-6:00 p.m., and various other times to accommodate PLG Members' schedules.

Attendees: Joseph Ellerbee, Rhonda Muhammad, Rob Wylie, Vivian Lee, Margo White, Geraldine Williams, Eyvonne Dailey, Cecilia Zuvic, Lonnette Williams, Gretchel Carter-Hinton, James E. Williams, Jacqueline Howell, David Shouse, Sarah Little, Denise Saunders, Emily Ander, Alisa Hefner, Christy Perrin

The information that follows is a summary of the discussions that occurred during the various walking tours. Information is grouped into three main topics: Honoring the Past, Creek and Connectivity, and Park Features and Amenities.

Honoring the Past

- Parades used to end at Chavis Park. A concession stand was available at the stadium. Floats would circle the field at the end of parades.
 - Concession stand was two stories. Upper level—concessions, restrooms and ticket booth. Lower level—locker rooms, parks office (below grade)
- Dancing used to occur between the original carousel building and the former pool (1950s) before moving up hill to the stadium—Teenage Frolic (1960s). This area is also thought to be the original location of the school where John Chavis taught. Use of piccolo or jukebox and Rubberlegs—(cell phone diaries)
- The legacy of WW II significance is throughout the park.
- Chavis Way is a beautiful tree-lined street, stonework is an asset. Large street trees were lost during tornado.
- Attach museum to the Chavis Community Center where the tennis courts are currently located so no additional/specific staff is needed
- WWII War Mother's Memorial Bench is not identified along Chavis Way.
- Ideas for the WWII War Mother's Memorial Bench - needs interpretive art, monument or signage; place a mound of dirt behind the bench and plant a variety of flowers; remove bushes on corner of Lenoir and Chavis Way and replace with a piece of COLORFUL public art that could incorporate the interpretive signage into a light pole like in Kim's presentation; place spotlights shining towards bench; remove 2 large oaks near bench

Creek and Connectivity

- Three sets of stairs lead from Community Center parking lot to "no where" near baseball field.
- There is no stop light for traffic on Chavis Way entering MLK Blvd. Left turns are dangerous.
- Pedestrian access to the park from MLK is dangerous. The crosswalks and intersections with stoplights are not near the park entrance. There is no crosswalk at the entrance to the park on MLK, and children have been seen crossing where



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convenient rather than walking to either end of the block to use the crosswalks. Noted pedestrian crossing at MLK was not a full traffic signal.

- Residents approached NCDOT to install a raised median, but funding was not available.
- Tunnel entrance is not inviting. How do we make it a place that people want to use to cross MLK? Improve tunnel by making it safer and more aesthetically pleasing. Add landscaping, Consider brighter, white LED lights and having lights on both sides of the tunnel, painting a mural inside or other art forms like tile, signage and mirrors to see other side of tunnel. The area is also remote and perceived as very dangerous, stigma. Current pedestrian access across MLK does not provide a safe alternative.
- Consider a pedestrian bridge across creek where sewer lines cross connecting, located between tunnel and pool, greenway to park central. It is the best place for pedestrian crossing to create visibility and activity between the tunnel and picnic shelter #3
- Improve connection and access between Top Green Center and Chavis Park.
- Improve connections to other historic sites, such as City Cemetery, John Chavis Marker (building on Heritage Walk recommendations)
- Creek and greenway leads to Walnut Creek Wetland Center, connections could be improved.
- Topography makes some of the areas of the park not visible, such as from MLK to baseball field and from playground to track.
- Stream is littered with debris and water looks muddy in some areas. Crayfish and small fish were observed in the creek as well as stone structures that are part of the restoration work. Stream banks appear steeper today than when PLG members played in the creek as a child. (Perception may be due to the overgrown vegetation makes the creek look inaccessible.)
- Swimming hole was located below 'Little Rock', a large rock near the downstream end of the park that the stream ran over. Water estimated to be about 3 feet in depth.
- Areas in the park need to be better connected and integrated and provide something for everyone.
- Views of downtown should be highlighted and celebrated.
- Consider different, more visible location for the Tract ID sign on MLK. Move it closer to the Chavis Way/MLK corner. Remove the line of Crate Myrtles closest to the MLK to increase visibility of sign.
- Add pathway around backside of the pool connecting new, additional picnic shelters in the area south of the pool to the playground
- In order to increase usable space, security and attractiveness of the park, pipe the stream, backfill with dirt and grass over.
- Remove all vegetation that is smaller than 4" caliper within the stream easement to increase visibility, safety and improve aesthetics
- Continue vegetation management toward MLK to improve sight lines into the park



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- Limb up mature, desirable vegetation and remove invasives such as honeysuckle that impair view of park.
- The path pattern on the western side of the stream corridor is confusing.
- View into the park from Worth Street is commanding when the leaves are off of the trees. Find a way to celebrate the Worth Street entrance to the park.
- Long distance between official parking lots to shelters for rentals/group use. There is on-street parking on Cape and Worth.
- Chavis [green] Way and stone obelisks along the path help to provide identity.
- No orientation at the Lenior Street entrance that you are entering the park.
- Noted lack of disabled access to the floodplain "amphitheater" but wondered if a long, sloped walk towards the pool could be used? Could walls incorporate seating opportunities? Terraces?

Park Features and Amenities

- The community center is visible from all four sides, which makes screening services and utilities (such as dumpster and outdoor storage) a design consideration for the revised master plan.
- Ideas for lower terrace by stream include space for special events like family reunions, weddings and movies in the park. Plant the bank with flowers, example WRAL Memorial Gardens.
- Picnic Shelter near the bridge and Worth Street entrance is the largest but used less frequently because it is hard to access. Picnic Shelter #1 is most used because it located on the street and easy to access by car and pedestrians.
 - Greenway picnic shelter does not connect to existing stairs that lead to the park.
- Restrooms and water fountains are needed where activities occur. Mordecai restrooms offered as an example. In particular restroom facilities are needed near the shelters and playground. Another key factor is providing restrooms for track users outside of the community center's hours
- Food vendors, particularly during peak use
- Consider basketball courts directly behind community center or in parking lot area if parking not needed.
- Fitness equipment at track, some has been removed, interest in replacing equipment.
- Views of downtown should be highlighted and celebrated.
- Chavis Way stone obelisks could be a design precedence for future park amenities
- Use the grassy lawn area at the bottom of the stone steps as an amphitheater - build 3 foot stone wall along conservation easement boundary opposite the stone stairs into this area; build a stage and dressing rooms near stairs; lay 50ft of concrete from the stage out to the open area... then have a grassy area; use the sloping walls near the stairs for stadium seating during events; dancing/dance floor would occur between the former carousel house and stone stairs for those who don't want to dance in the grass



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- New 2-story community center located where little league field is now with indoor pool and track, rentable meeting, event, and kitchenette space for reunions, trainings, parties, etc.
- Expand track and add seating so track meets could be held here (this would involve the removal of the current community center and placing a new community center where the little league field is now)
- Suggest incorporating lighting at the Glimpses of the Promised Land sculpture
- Consider adding seating options in the area where the tornado came through and removed most of the vegetation, on the western side of the stream between Cape and Worth, to capitalize on the view, either benches or terraced landscape beds with seating opportunities
- Add 1-2 shelters on the 'active' side of the park between MLK and the pool/new carousel house
- There is extensive site and shelter lighting at Shelter #1 to deter vandalism and undesired use.
- There is no dedicated parking or designated parking paint lines along Chavis Way. People often park along Chavis Way particularly in the vicinity of the track.
- Some discussion of potential uses of the carousel building and the plaza area included artisan and food market events, food trucks, tents for food/flea market, festival site, concessions/restrooms.
- Expand or move Tennis Courts -
 - Option #1: Put additional tennis courts or move tennis to greenway side of park. Place on top of hill closest to Cape Avenue and include 20 parking spots. Greenway could be closed with a bollard further down the greenway so tennis players could access the tennis parking.
 - Option #2: Move tennis courts to the small baseball field to create 6-8 courts

Technical recommendations

- Update signs to be consistent, use original park name.
- Pool needs basic amenities like chairs
- No handrails at steps near tennis courts.
- Could vacant homes along South Street be acquired and demolished, land added to the park?
- Add groundcover (grass or something else that is low to the ground) on hill from lower parking lot up to track
- Add brown highway signs indicating Chavis Park ahead (these may already be present, we hadn't noticed) on MLK and Lenoir Street entrances.
- Hide dumpster, electrical boxes, transformers, etc. found throughout the park by planting shrubs around them.
- Consider adding trash cans along MLK
- Plant low grasses that might trap wind-blown debris at the top of the stream bank.



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- Investigate structural integrity of shelters, consider options available before deciding whether to support keeping, renovating, and/or replace with similar structure. Also how much documented use do they get?
- 'Mutt Mitt' doggie bag container, located between Shelter #2 and the Lenoir Street park entrance, is a long way from a garbage can.
- Clean up east side of Chavis Way, remaining debris from tornado, and replace street trees
- Some patrons perceive the concrete drainage way along the stairs leading from the lower parking lot to the tennis and track as a handicap ramp.

Notes: Driving Parks Tour of Parks & Recreational Facilities and Amenities:

Held: Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jacqueline Howell, Rob Wylie, Geraldine Williams, Vivian Lee, Gretchel Carter-Hinton, Cecila Zuvic, Richard Bostic, Lorenzo Jackson, David Shouse, Sarah Little, Terri Stroupe

Start – Chavis Park (Community Park, 28.87 acres) – **1:00 p.m.**

1. Drive by **Chavis Way** (Greenway) and **John Winters** (open space). Chavis Way was opened up as part of a City effort, paving dirt streets and residential redevelopment. Chavis Way and the open space at the north end are managed as "greenway" land by the Department. The open space was dedicated at some point to John Winters, Sr. (1920-2004). This is an important greenway trail and sidewalk connection to City Cemetery and central downtown Raleigh.
2. Drive by – **Davie Street Park** (Mini Park, 0.86 acres) - restroom attached to picnic shelter, outdoor basketball court, and minimal playground adjacent to Hunter Elementary School.
3. Drive by – **Tarboro Road Park/St. Monica's Teen Center** (Neighborhood Park, 3.18 acres) – the Neighborhood Center was expanded with a single gymnasium to supplement the tennis courts, playground, picnic shelter. Partnership with Raleigh Police Department includes a small office. Partnership with Raleigh Community Services resulted in a home for the Department's Teen Program in the locally designated landmark, historic former [Catholic school for African-American children](#).
4. Get out – **Oakwood Park** (Neighborhood, 12.72 acres) – newly constructed, stand-alone restroom, one of Raleigh's three off leash dog parks. City has leased this land for a park from the Oakwood Cemetery Association since late 1960's. No playground, two ballfields, shelter.
5. Drive through – **Lions Park** (Community, 41.41 acres) – fully developed, typical Community Park elements; exhibits new signage, new playground equipment with a poured-in-place resilient safety surface, multiple vehicle and pedestrian entrances, multipurpose field, little league fields, tennis, only BMX (bicycle) course in the area.



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6. Drive by – **Fred Fletcher Park** (Neighborhood, 21.36 acres) – amphitheater with terraced stone seating, landscaping, public art (sculpture and river stones along edges of pathways), rain garden as part of a Public Works water quality initiative, outdoor basketball, multipurpose fields, tennis courts. A wedding was in progress in the amphitheater.
7. Drive by – **Edna Metz Wells Park** (Special, 2.94 acres) – example of mature riparian corridor and faux stone walls installed by Public Works as a water quality, storm water management project. Directly across the street and downstream from Smallwood Drive open space, which includes stream bed restoration by Public Works. This creek drains all of Cameron Village shopping center, +/- 40 acres.
8. Drive by – **Chamberlain Park** (Mini, 1.44 acres) – outdoor basketball, outdated landscape features, site is associated with large Public Utilities water storage tank.
9. Drive by – **Isabella Cannon Park** (Neighborhood, 3.5 acres) – stone wall and roses incorporated as a memorial to Isabella Cannon, former Mayor; open play field used to be a formal ballfield, rock climbing boulder serves both kids and young adults, unique picnic shelter, outdoor basketball court. Primarily a walk-to park supported by active neighborhood association (University Park) that holds several annual events.
10. Drive by – **Rose Garden- Raleigh Little Theater and Amphitheater** (Special, 6.81 acres) – the stone work on picnic shelter complements the stone on amphitheater seating, walls and building foundations and is evidence of WPA-era work after the City inherited this facility from the former state fairgrounds. Pogue Street was the outer ring of a track element at the fairgrounds.
11. Get out and tour – **Alexander YMCA** – different recreation model than City of Raleigh for indoor recreation services, including a coffee shop, gymnasium with elevated track (15 laps=mile), adult and youth locker rooms, indoor pool (6 lane 25m lap style), leased office/program space for WakeMed and Advocates for Health in Action (AHA). Private memberships = 20,000; average about 1,000 visits per day. Noted: blood pressure station in hall/lobby, separate classroom/program space for youth, bright colors, lots of daylight/glass, mission statement prominent on wall, summer camps/day care/drop-in child care for members, interpretive photos on walls, slate/faux slate floors. Question: day lockers for drop-in use (Raleigh uses bring-your-own locks, not coin operated).
12. Drive by (decision to make up time on the tour) – **Method Road Park and Berry O’Kelly exhibit in Pioneer Building** (Community Park, 21.36 acres) – new playground with resilient surface, new signage, outdoor basketball, little league and multipurpose field, picnic shelter (lots of amenities in a small area). The former Agriculture Bldg. is all that’s left of the former Berry O’Kelly school, *“Only this building survives of the school complex founded by O’Kelly, a nineteenth century merchant, civic leader, philanthropist and proponent of practical education for African American youth.”* (<http://www.rhdc.org/agricultural-building-berry-okelly-school>). The building houses a partnership exhibit on the original school, and is available with prior arrangement with on-site staff.



Chavis Park

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Due to time constraints the group decided to forgo the tour of the Berry O’Kelly exhibit; a tour date needs to be scheduled.

13. Get out – **Biltmore Hills Park** (Community, 39.06 acres) – walk through pool house and see outdoor pool. This is twin building and pool to Ridge Road seasonal pool, both built in 1983. Pool shell is fiber glass and hence the fabric covers to slow deterioration. 25m, eight lane; diving boards removed years ago when depth standards revised. Considerable discussion about relative pool size compared to former Chavis pool, noted the original Chavis pool was probably 40m and was located in the space now occupied by the sand playground. More discussion about the Raleigh Aquatic Facility Study

Return – Chavis Park – 3:00 p.m.