# John Chavis Memorial Park

**Draft Master Plan** 

Public Forum
December 10, 2013

Honoring our past.
Planning for our future.



# Public Leadership Group

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## Public Forum Purpose

- Share the draft concept plan and recommendations for public input
- Gather additional ideas to incorporate into the final Master Plan and recommendations from the public

Honoring our past. Planning for our future.

## **Future Park Vision**



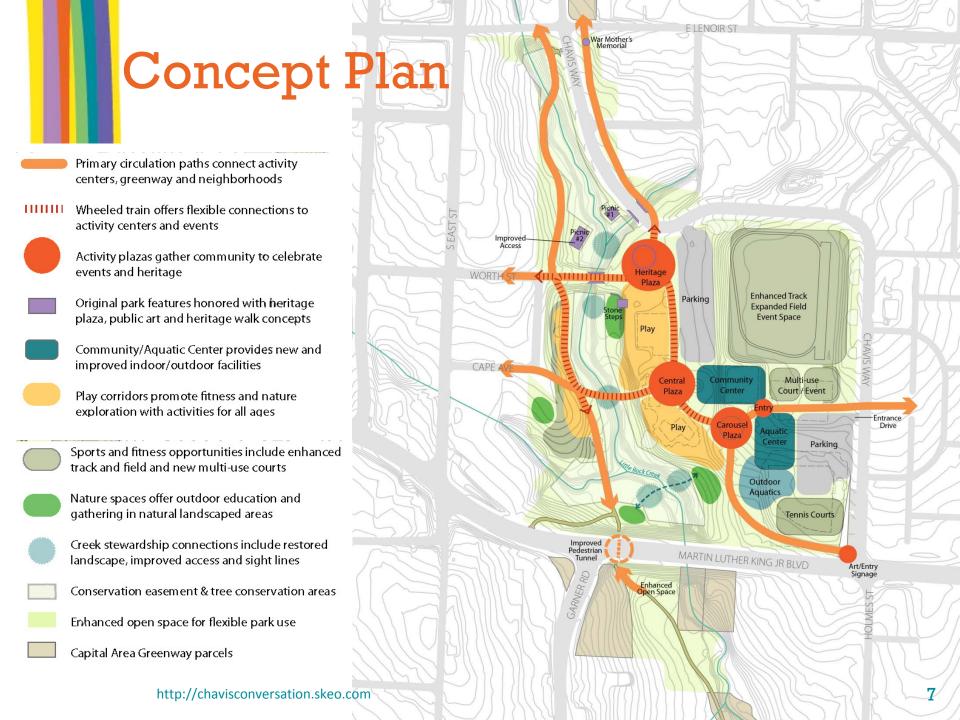
## **Future Park Vision Statement**

John Chavis Memorial Park is a vibrant community center, downtown attraction and regional destination. The park celebrates the rich history, culture and arts of the surrounding neighborhoods and the City of Raleigh, and offers wonderful public recreation opportunities, event spaces and programs that foster community life. A place of pride and profound remembrance, the park celebrates the life and work of educator John Chavis, recognizes the community's contribution to World War II, and honors the significance of the park's history to the African American community during and following segregation.

John Chavis Memorial Park will always offer a safe and welcoming gathering space where family and friends of all cultures come to play, relax, learn and celebrate the big events and small, meaningful moments of life. The park grounds provide a beautiful, clean and refreshing refuge, with access to nature and an expansive view of the downtown Raleigh skyline. Park features and programs promote fitness, health and wellness by offering a range of recreational activities for people of all ages and abilities. Just a few steps from downtown, the park is always full of activity, inspired by innovative programming that is interactive, fun and dynamic.

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## **PLG** Recommendations



# Honoring the Past

Honor the life and work of John Chavis, the community's contribution to World War II and the significance of the park's history to the African American community.

- Retain remaining early park features in original locations
  - War Mothers Memorial, original Carousel building, stone step amphitheater, picnic shelters, Worth Street bridge
- Honor important former park features
  - Plane and miniature train
- Memorialize significant events and people through public art and signage
- Incorporate historic designation study findings

# New Aquatic Center

Replace the pool and Community Center with a larger, enhanced co-located Aquatic Center and Community Center.

- Combine leisure, recreation, competition, and wellness
- Include indoor and outdoor facilities
- Co-located with community center



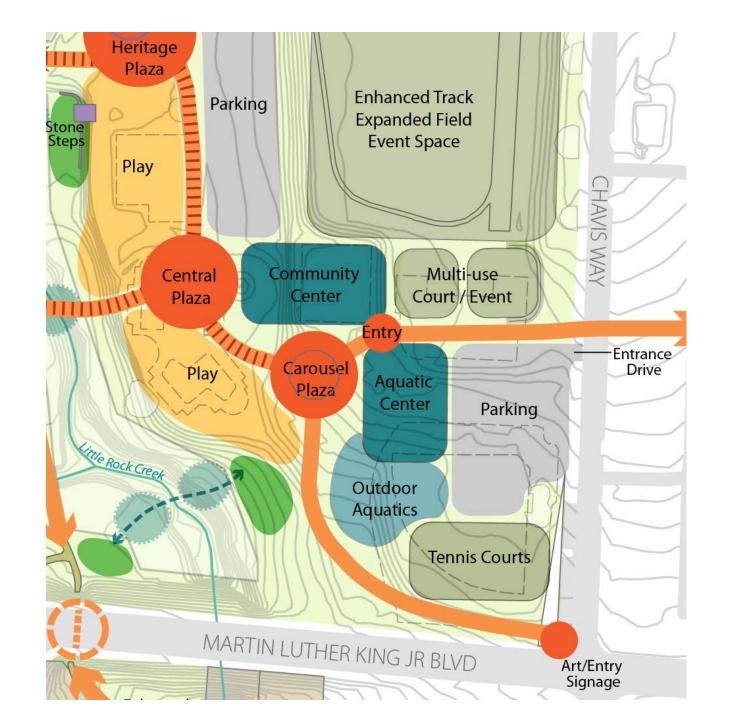






# New Community Center

- Multi-story with views of downtown and creek
- Include contemporary design elements with "wow-factors" inside and out
- Support outdoor events, access to restrooms
- Large flexible meeting, event & classroom space
- Kitchen for rentals and classes
- Expanded fitness spaces
- Indoor courts, theatre and track
- Honoring the Past interpretive elements



## Expand Sports and Fitness

Upgrade sports and fitness opportunities to include enhanced track and field, new multi-use courts and tennis courts, and fitness zones throughout the park.

- Expand track and multipurpose field
- New tennis and multi-use courts
- Include fitness zones throughout park





## New Play Features

Provide a range of built and natural play features for all ages integrated in a connected play corridor and throughout the park.

- Encourage physical activity for all ages
- Utilize entire park for play and exploration
- Balance built and natural play features
- Encourage whole child development







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## Youth Input

#### **Youth Perspective**

The Master Plan incorporates youth perspective. 6-8 year olds and 10-12 year olds shared what they liked about the park and their ideas for the future of the park during a "site safari."







Youth also shared their ideas during the Situation Assessment, Kickoff Forum and Carousel Rededication event.

## Increase Connectivity

Increase access and connectivity to and throughout the park.

- Improve circulation throughout park
- Improve visibility
- Improve safety and function of park entrances
- Enhance connections to downtown and surrounding neighborhoods
- Improve access to creek
- Add a wheeled train with flexible route
- Allow announcements and music to be heard throughout the park

## Creek Stewardship & Access

Increase creek access, visibility and educational opportunities.

- Add creek crossings
- Add physical access to creek and creek viewing stations
- Celebrate the creek
- Manage vegetation to increase visibility and improve safety
- Promote environmental education

### Basic Amenities

Incorporate basic amenities into future improvements.

- Restrooms
- Drinking fountainsPower, utilities
- Benches
- Signage
- Shade structures
- Pool chairs
- Trash receptacles

- Accessibility
- Lighting
- Picnic shelters
- Public art
- Bike racks

# Community Events

Support community events and gatherings by incorporating flexible event facilities, spaces and utilities into future park improvements.

- Design features to accommodate events with utilities, flexible space for stages, inflatable amusements and vendors.
  - Central Plaza
  - Heritage Plaza
  - Expanded track and field
  - Multi-use courts next to community center
  - Picnic shelters
  - Community Center

## **Operations**

Promote sustainability in park design and maintenance to create a beautiful, clean, safe and welcoming environment.

- Sustainable design and maintenance
- Economically sustainable features and programs
- Programs accessible to all residents
- Clean, green and beautiful year-round

## **Forum Stations**

- Honoring the Past
  - Share ideas for Heritage Plaza and original carousel building
- Recreation (Sports and Play)
  - Share ideas for fitness zones, play and amusements
- Circulation and Creek Stewardship
  - Share ideas for the train route and creek stewardship
- Aquatic/Community Center
  - Vote on priority features
- Concept Plan and Model
  - See how the plan fits together

## What's Next

- January/February: PLG incorporates public input
- March/April: PLG presents Master Plan to Parks Board for review and approval
- May: PLG presents Master Plan to City Council for review and approval
- May: Community Celebration
- Spring: begin Schematic Design

## Discussion

# Does anyone have questions that were not answered?

What are you most excited about?

## Next Steps

- Comments: Please share any additional comments
  - Comment cards at Welcome Table
  - One more week to provide comments
- Evaluations: Please complete and turn in evaluation forms at the Welcome Table
- What's Next?: PLG will review all public input during January PLG meeting and revise Master Plan