



Legacy Park Friends

Caring for what we share / February 2024



Hollingsworth Park Lit Up the Night

Hollingsworth Park was all aglow after dark on December 20th for the second annual “Light up the Night” luminary event. Organized by Legacy Park Friends (LPF), this festive occasion involved over 350 residents who helped to raise funds in support of the park by purchasing luminary kits. Neighborhood volunteers assembled and distributed 366 luminary

kits on Saturday, December 16th in the Sumerel parking lot. LPF is grateful to NHE for lending their outdoor space, to Babcock Investment Co. for contributing a pile of sand and to Office Depot for printing 700 flyers. After dealing with a rain postponement, people strolled or rode golf carts through the neighborhoods on December 20th to

admire sidewalks lined with sparkling light. The \$6000 that was netted through this endeavor will be applied to the purchase of a new bench swing and arbor at near the Pavilion in the park. Santa Claus and his elves will be back next year for family fun and tasty refreshments. Many thanks to all who participated in “Light Up the Night”.

How Are We Doing?

During the month of January, Legacy Park Friends sent out an e-survey to all of Hollingsworth Park to evaluate the organization's effectiveness as a nonprofit park advocacy group. In addition to wanting to find out how best to communicate with our neighbors, we aimed to gather ideas about future park projects and volunteer staffing.

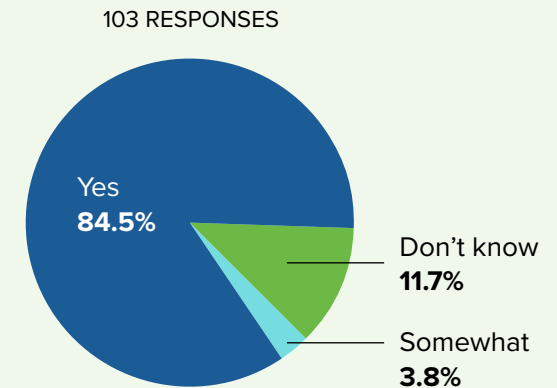
We were pleased to receive responses from 13.7% of our neighbors. In short, they were satisfied with our accomplishments, citing water feature improvements, enhancements at the pollinator gardens, new playground shade covers, and new benches most frequently. Over 80% of respondents regularly viewed this 3-times a year electronic newsletter and 75% used the legacyparkfriends.com website.

Several people took the time to share their wish lists....

pickle ball courts, a trampoline, a zip line, camouflage for unsightly equipment, wider park sidewalks, more bench swings, and brewery events. These creative ideas have been passed along to the City PRT.

Unfortunately, very few respondents expressed interest in volunteering. 10 people offered to help in the gardens and a few offered to assist with fundraising events. No one checked the box for "board leadership" or for "corporate fundraising". Based on this feedback, the long-term viability of Legacy Park Friends will be challenging. The same handful of people cannot indefinitely sustain an active nonprofit that benefits the entire local community. If we are to continue to value the sparkling centerpiece of Hollingsworth Park, we will continue to need support, both financially and with volunteers. Please consider what role you might play to "caring for what we share".

Do you think Legacy Park Friends fulfills its mission of "caring for what we share" through charitable giving and volunteerism?



2024 Proposed Improvements

The City would like our support in funding:

- One additional bench swing
- An educational sign at the pollinator garden
- Completion of plantings at the pollinator garden
- Restoration of a foundation shrub bed at the northeast entrance of the park
- Three metal benches inside the fenced-in playground

In order to accomplish these goals, we are seeking foundation grants and donations from the local community. If you are interested in helping to lead or fund these efforts, please visit our website at legacyparkfriends.com/donate or email us at legacyparkfriendsinfo@gmail.com.



Volunteer Mulch Spreading

March 2nd from 8:30 to 11:30am
at the park playground

Sign up on the City of Greenville site:
cityofgreenville.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=83489

Peaceful Rest Stops

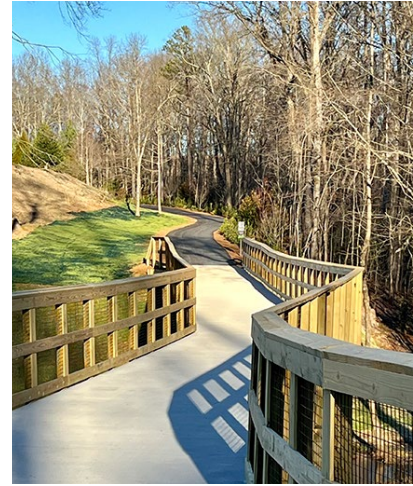
Legacy Park Friends has been most fortunate to receive funding for 12 new black metal benches. Each bench features an engraved dedication plaque. This past December, the Hoover family of Belhaven graciously donated the new arbor and bench swing near the lower pond in honor of Katherine Hoover. Our generous sponsor donations from the Food Truck Festival in October allowed for the purchase of an additional new replacement arbor and bench swing near the Pavilion gardens. Currently, the park needs to replace five worn wooden benches — 3 inside the children's playground and 2 others in resting spots. If you are interested in donating a memorial or honorary bench, please contact us at legacyparkfriendsinfo@gmail.com.

Official Opening of the Legacy Connector

A beautiful Thursday morning in Legacy Park welcomed a large crowd of residents and other area stakeholders to celebrate the official ribbon cutting of the Legacy Connector, a .3-mile trail spur that links Legacy Park to the Green Line of the Prisma Health Swamp Rabbit Trail. Councilman Wil Brasington, and Mayor Knox White kicked off the festivities with remarks about the importance of connecting parks and open space in Greenville. They both expressed gratitude for the successful, public-private partnership between Verdae Development and Hollingsworth Funds.

Dan Klausner, CEO of Verdae Development, spoke on behalf of Verdae and Hollingsworth. He emphasized that making the \$3.5 million dollar investment was identified as a key project of focus during the 2022 refresh of the Verdae Master Plan. Creating a lovely walk through a natural setting was critical to development of the Legacy Connector, and taking the extra steps to enhance the environmental quality of the area was paramount. Many professional community partners were recognized for their important contributions. Following project completion, the City of Greenville assumed ownership and maintenance of the new trail spur as an extension of Legacy Park.

This greenway will connect users to all that is great in Legacy Park, Legacy Square, and the SRT. But even more exciting, it will also be a major link to future development on Hollingsworth property along Laurens Road. For now, though, bikers and walkers are just delighted to have a recreational access point, complete with an impressive bridge and landscaped pathway to Legacy Park.



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Have questions?
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