

# Murphey Candler Park Newsletter



## Brookhaven's Largest Park

Fall 2013 Volume 1, Issue 1

Dear Friends & Neighbors:

Welcome to our first edition of the Murphey Candler Park Newsletter which is produced exclusively by the Murphey Candler Park Conservancy (MCPC). Murphey Candler Park was established back in 1954 as the largest park in northern DeKalb County. Today, not only is our park the largest park in the City of Brookhaven, we are also larger than any single park in Dunwoody, Sandy Springs or Chamblee. We are considered a regional park by definition, but have lacked the capital input in recent years to keep up the maintenance necessary for such a popular park.

In recent years concerned citizens of other large regional parks have created Conservancy groups that have been instrumental in the resurrection of their respective parks. Both Piedmont Park and Chastain Park have benefited by such groups as they are able to raise money via tax-deductible donations for master plans and subsequent capital improvements.

The MCPC was created last year by a similar group of concerned citizens (independent of DeKalb County and the City of Brookhaven) and were recently approved as a 501(c)3 non-profit. The Conservancy's vision is, with input from stakeholders/neighbors, to establish Murphey Candler Park as a pre-eminent park in metro Atlanta by enhancing and



Scenic Fall View of Candler Lake in Murphey Candler Park

preserving this vital urban green space for the benefit of the surrounding neighborhoods and the region. Our first initiative is to partner with the new City of Brookhaven to develop a comprehensive master plan for the park. Please take a moment and complete our survey attached (or online at [www.murpheyandlerpark.org](http://www.murpheyandlerpark.org)). It is imperative to engage the community in advance of a master planning process that will outline the future of Murphey Candler Park.

Sincerely Yours,

Shane Day Boyer  
President

Murphey Candler Park Conservancy, Inc.

email: [mcpconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:mcpconservancy@gmail.com)

[www.murpheyandlerpark.org](http://www.murpheyandlerpark.org)

## Murphey Candler Park History

The Historic Caretaker's Home (aka Sea Scout Hut) in Murphey Candler Park, located on the west side of the dam across from the baseball fields, has quite an interesting history. The home originally had a Peachtree Road address in the heart of Brookhaven.

In the late 1950's, a developer assembled a few large tracts on Peachtree Road to build the Cherokee Plaza Shopping Center. Instead of being torn down, a consortium of community groups, lead by the North DeKalb Planning Council raised \$3,000 to have this house moved to Murphey Candler Park to serve as the Caretaker's Home. The then recently formed DeKalb County Parks Department placed one of its first employees into the home where he and his wife raised their two daughters. The family lived there until the early 1970s. Early residents of the Murphey Candler Park neighborhoods refer to this house as the Caretaker's Home.

The home has been used by a variety of groups since that time, including the Sea Scouts and Americorp. Today, this historic structure stands but is in need of rehabilitation. The interior is quite sound, including hardwood floors and 9' ceilings and glass doorknobs that were common back in the early 1900's when the original structure was built. Historic structures, such as these, are part of the community fabric and deserve to be preserved for future generations. Imagine the possibilities of this historic home serving as a community gathering spot. Know your history, imagine your future.



Original Glass Doorknob in the Historic Caretaker's Home

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## Mark Your Calendars:

MCPC invites you to attend our neighborhood wide meeting on September 18, 2013. The meeting will be held at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

MCPC, in collaboration with the City of Brookhaven, is working to develop a comprehensive master plan for Murphey Candler Park with your input. The master plan will help identify areas of need (there are many), create design standards and lay the ground work for future improvements to the park.

Brookhaven Parks and Recreation Department, our operating partners in the park (Atlanta Colt Youth Association, Murphey Candler Girls Softball Association, Murphey Candler Little League, Murphey Candler

Park Pool), neighborhood representatives—together with broad public input—will help create a sustainable master plan. Murphey Candler Park, a Brookhaven park, Your park, Our park.

***When: September 18th—7:00 p.m.***

***Where: Cross & Crown Lutheran Church***

***4276 Chamblee Dunwoody Road***

***Atlanta, GA 30341***

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## Did You Know?

Who was the original Chairman of the Murphey Candler Park Committee back in 1954? Answer on Page 7

# Tell Us What You Think...



As part of the upcoming Master Plan, we need your input. Simply complete this survey and return to us by regular mail, email (mcpconservancy@gmail.com) or take this survey online at our website:

[www.murpheyandlerpark.org](http://www.murpheyandlerpark.org).

- (1) Where do you live? (zip code/city)
- (2) How often do you visit the park?
  - (a) 2 or more times a week
  - (b) about once a week
  - (c) once or twice a month
  - (d) a few times a year; rarely or never
- (3) What time of day do you use the park?
  - (a) morning
  - (b) afternoon (up til 5 pm)
  - (c) evenings
- (4) What do you most often come to the park to do?
  - (a) play in or watch youth sports leagues
  - (b) dog walking
  - (c) biking
  - (d) pool
  - (e) running/walking
  - (f) visit the playground
  - (g) fishing
  - (h) tennis
  - (i) social events
  - (j) other \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) What part of the park do you like the best (even if not the one you use the most)?
  - (a) playground
  - (b) pool
  - (c) picnic shelters
  - (d) shore erosion/silt in-fill in lake
  - (e) open lawn green space
  - (f) lack of bathrooms on west side of lake
  - (g) parking
  - (f) other \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) What are one or two areas that need the most improvement?
  - (a) playground
  - (b) pool
  - (c) picnic shelters
  - (d) shore erosion/silt in-fill in lake
  - (e) open lawn green space
  - (f) lack of bathrooms on west side of lake
  - (g) parking
  - (f) other \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) What are the areas where MCP Pool could improve:
  - (a) longer operating hours
  - (b) more shade
  - (c) playground
  - (d) better concessions
  - (e) better club house with entertaining space
  - (f) other \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) What is the one thing not currently in MCP that you would like to see in the future?
- (9) Which type of annual event would you most like to see?
  - (a) food & music festival
  - (b) 5k/fun run event in and around park
  - (c) beer &/or wine festival
  - (d) arts & crafts festival
  - (e) family friendly movie in the park
  - (f) other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

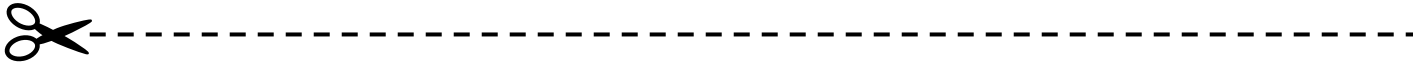
Return Survey to: 1560 Brawley Circle, Atlanta, GA 30319 or email: mcpconservancy@gmail.com

Murphey Candler Park Conservancy, Inc.  
1560 Brawley Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30319  
email: mcpconservancy@gmail.com  
www.murpheyandlerpark.org



Attention Friends & Neighbors:

The **Murphey Candler Park Conservancy** is embarking on an initial capital campaign. We need your help. Please consider making a tax-deductible\* donation. Your donations will initially supplement the City of Brookhaven’s master planning efforts for your park, which will include input from the public. Ultimately, your donations will help with the implementation of the Master Plan, which will enhance the beauty of your park and our neighborhood.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$35 donation: One 4” MCPC Logo Sticker
- \$50 donation: One 5” Car Magnet
- \$100 donation: Two Car Magnets; One Sticker
- \$500 donation: Yard Marker, 2 Stickers, 2 Magnets, MCPC Baseball Cap
- \$2,500 donation: MCPC Founders Club—Special Recognition & Gifts
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other (*Any amount of money is encouraged and appreciated*)

*Checks Payable to: MCPC (Mail to: 1560 Brawley Circle, Atlanta, GA 30319)*

*Donations accepted via U.S. Mail or through our website below:*

**[www.murpheyandlerpark.org](http://www.murpheyandlerpark.org)**

*Proudly serving the City of Brookhaven's Largest Park*

\*Murphey Candler Park Conservancy, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.

[www.murpheyandlerpark.org](http://www.murpheyandlerpark.org)

# Parks Update from the City of Brookhaven

By: Rebecca Chase Williams, District 1 City Council



The City of Brookhaven has finalized its agreement with DeKalb County to take over the parks shortly after Labor Day. It will be a busy transition and we are currently trying to sort out the various contracts and employee responsibilities. In the meantime, the job opening for a Parks & Recreation Director has been posted and the city will soon begin reviewing candidates for this important position.

By the end of summer, the city will begin the process of launching our Comprehensive Plan. This overall plan will include separate Parks Plan and Transportation Plan. We have put \$100,000 in the budget just for the Parks Plan, as this master plan will be our guiding document for many years.

To start the parks planning process, a steering committee will be formed to help guide the process and reach out to many other citizens to have input into the plan. Our goal is to reflect the desires and dreams of our residents for the kind of quality parks we so desire. The time frame is to wrap up the comprehensive plan in the first part of the year and to include both the parks and transportation plans as part of the overall plan, as it all becomes an enforceable policy document.

I know we are all anxious to see improvements in our parks. Once we take over the parks and assume the maintenance duties, I feel certain there will be noticeable differences. Eventually there will be more significant improvements that will come about as a result of this planning and your participation in the process that will take place in the coming months.

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## MC Park Sports News:

**Atlanta Colt Youth Association (ACYA)** is preparing for its 49th Year of Football in Murphey Candler Park this Fall. A program with a rich history of success, the Atlanta Colts have brought home numerous National Championships over the years. We wish all the Colt teams continued success this season. For more information: [www.atlantacolts.com](http://www.atlantacolts.com)

**Murphey Candler Park Pool (MCP)** enjoyed another successful year. The Marlins swim team won the league championship in their last season as a Dekalb

County swim club and look forward to a new chapter next season as a City of Brookhaven pool. More info: [www.mcmarlins.com](http://www.mcmarlins.com)

**Murphey Candler Little League (MCLL)** is hosting its Fall Baseball program again this autumn. A great way to keep your budding baseball star in tune for next season. [www.murpheycandler.org](http://www.murpheycandler.org)

**Murphey Candler Girls Softball Association (MCGSA)** is also programming another successful Fall Softball season this year. For more info: [www.mcgsa.com](http://www.mcgsa.com)



## A Tip of the MCPC Hat goes to:

MCPC would like to thank the many donors (listed below) that have made this publication and our future endeavors possible. As a non-profit, all of our operating income comes from the generosity of the people, businesses and organizations in our community. Consider making an investment into your largest community asset. Donate online at: [www.murpheyandlerpark.org](http://www.murpheyandlerpark.org) (See Page 4)



Lou R. Holton	Mark & Lisa Graffagnino	Marie Neese	Christina Butler
Swaminathan Balasubramanian	Geri & Eric Cutillo	Thomas & Betsy Tengstrom	Hamilton & Kristen Williams
Steven & Tiffany Wisener	Richard Deane	Rudy & Beth Fernandez	Michelle Young
Shane & Alison Boyer	Trey & Susanne Boyer	Jon D. Balkcom	Amy Tropfenbaum
Peter & Lisa Thule'	Andy & Jo Heetderks	John Moore	Jim & Connie Dodge
Jerry & CJ Adams	John & Anna Hogan	Ted Gordon	Lesley Reid
Tad & Patti Wall	Shawn Keefe	Hakerem Family	Steve & Helene Peters
Louis B. Moseley	William Terry	Suzanne & Michael Levi	Best Bank
Joe & Lee Knippenberg	James Michael Sermonet	Matt & Carley Goff	The Boyer Group
Matthew & Kaltrina Carney	Ray Gandy	Matthew Williams	

## Thank You to our Volunteers:

MCPC organizes community volunteer days on select Saturdays throughout the year. We appreciate the many people and groups that make an effort to pick up trash in our park, improve trails, remove invasive species. Together we can make a difference.



Mark your calendars for our next Volunteer Day:

**NEXT VOLUTEER DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 21st**

## MCPC is Awarded Grant by Community Foundation

The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta recently awarded the Murphey Candler Park Conservancy a \$2,000 Neighborhood Fund Grant. The grant will assist the MCPC in strategic planning associated with the upcoming master planning process. MCPC would like to thank the Community Foundation for its support of our group and the countless others that benefit from grants such as these.

For more information on the Community Foundation: [www.cfgreateratlanta.org](http://www.cfgreateratlanta.org)

## Groundbreaking, January 31, 1954 Murphey Candler Park



G. A. Wehunt, left, chairman of the Murphey Candler Park Committee, and Commissioner Scott Candler, as they broke ground for DeKalb County's newest park in January 1954. This photo is courtesy of the DeKalb History Museum.

## MCPC Needs Your Help:

MCPC is laying the foundation for a successful non-profit. We are seeking talented individuals with the following expertise:

- Architect
- Landscape Architect
- Social Media Expert
- Web Design Expert

If you or anyone you know fits the above description and is looking to give back to their community please drop us a line.

Email us: [mcpconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:mcpconservancy@gmail.com)

## Community Service Hours: Groups Wanted for Volunteer Day Projects

MCPC is currently seeking groups of volunteers for various projects in the park. Projects may coincide with scheduled Volunteer Days or can be independently scheduled. If you know of any group, school, church, fraternity, scout troupe, etc. that wants to get involved in projects that benefit one of the largest green-spaces in Brookhaven then please contact MCPC at:

[mcpconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:mcpconservancy@gmail.com)

**Did You Know Answer:** G. A. Wehunt

## Murphey Candler Park Streams: Water Quality Testing



Thanks to the financial support of the Murphey Candler Homeowners Association (comprised of homes on the East side of Murphey Candler Park), the water entering the lake is being monitored by the Upper Chattahoochee River Keepers. This testing will help detect upstream pollution that could damage our precious lake which ultimately feeds to the Chattahoochee.

Learn more at: [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org)

# Murphey Candler Park Contact Info:

City of Brookhaven: 404-637-0500

Mayor (J. Max Davis): [jmax.davis@brookhavenga.gov](mailto:jmax.davis@brookhavenga.gov)

District 1 Rep (Rebecca Chase Williams): [rebecca.williams@brookhavenga.gov](mailto:rebecca.williams@brookhavenga.gov)

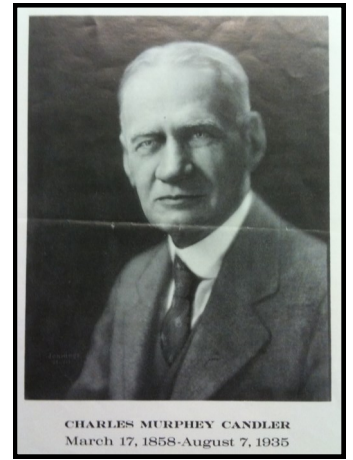
MCPC: [mcpconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:mcpconservancy@gmail.com)

Football ACYA President (Jim Owen): [jowen@atlantacolts.com](mailto:jowen@atlantacolts.com)

Softball MCGSA President (Cullen McClure): [president@mcgsa.com](mailto:president@mcgsa.com)

Baseball MCLL President (Gary Vinson): [gary@murpheyandler.org](mailto:gary@murpheyandler.org)

Baseball MCLL President Elect (Vic Parker): [vic@murpheyandler.org](mailto:vic@murpheyandler.org)



## MCPC Board of Directors:

Shane Day Boyer

Karen Whitehead

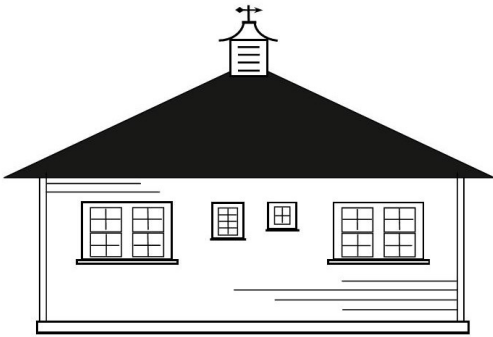
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Andy Heetderks

Trey Boyer

Jason Hakerem

Helene Peters



Murphey Candler Park Conservancy, Inc.

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