

NASHVILLE PARKS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF

NEW PUMP TRACK AT WATKINS PARK

AND NEW SOCCER FIELDS AT COLEMAN PARK

Public/private investments to improve quality of life in two neighborhoods

NASHVILLE, TENN. – OCT. 28, 2019 – The Nashville Parks Foundation (NPF) is a nonprofit organization formed four years ago to serve as Metro Parks’ partner in support of the 178 parks and 27 community centers throughout the Nashville park system. NPF works to help facilitate private/public investments in an effort to provide equitable support in Nashville’s many diverse parks.

NPF, in partnership with Metro Parks department, announces details for two new projects: a pump track in Watkins Park and a turf soccer field in Coleman Park.

“The Watkins Pump Track and the Coleman Park Mini Soccer Field projects align well with our goal to build amenities which can be utilized by all citizens, advance the health and wellbeing of our residents, and promote community-building across the city,” said NPF Chief Executive Officer Gretchen Pritchett.

Details of the two newly announced projects are below:

Pump Track at Watkins Park and Community Center:

- This initiative is a partnership with Nashville Parks, Nashville Parks Foundation, The Oasis Center Bike Workshop and SORBA (Southern Off- Road Bike Association).
- A pump track is a continuous loop of berms and rollers that are designed to be ridden on a bicycle, making cycling a full-body workout and lots of fun riders of all ages
- NPF is raising \$250,00 for this project, and has already raised \$50,000. (Thanks to Oasis)
- Estimated completion date for this project is May of 2020 (depends on timing for reaching fundraising goal).

- Watkins Park is located behind the Watkins Community Center, across the street from MLK High School and strategically located two blocks from the Oasis Center and its Bike Workshop.
- The track will expand health opportunities and create a new recreational feature – an urban bike park – in Watkins Park for the diverse and underserved populations in the North Nashville Community. ... and the first in Middle Tennessee
- The new pump track will help increase the awareness of, access to and use of existing bicycle infrastructure, including the Music City Bikeway and connected amenities.
- This project may serve as a cornerstone for future infrastructure improvements that support pedestrian/bicycle mobility and safety.

Turf Soccer Field at Coleman Park and Community Center:

- NPF is raising \$300,000 to build three “5-a-side” artificial turf soccer fields at Coleman Park and Community Center
- Estimated completion date for this project is August of 2020 (depends on timing for reaching fundraising goal).
- NPF is hopeful that this will be the first of many turf fields planned throughout Nashville’s park system.
- Soccer is an obsession and part of daily life for a large part of the Coleman community, yet there are limited public fields available.
- Coleman Park and Community Center is located in one of the most ethnically diverse and densely populated communities in the Nashville area.
- This project fills a tremendous need for soccer amenities in the area that will promote a positive outcome for residents physical and mental health while strengthening the community.

NPF Board President Brian Taylor said, “The Nashville Parks Foundation embraces strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors as well as community leaders, members and organizations to enhance the recreational and fitness experience in Metro Parks. These two projects are great examples of the innovation and intentional collaboration the Foundation strives for to create more public engagement opportunities

and to install long-lasting, low-maintenance projects that are open for the entire community to enjoy.”

“I am so grateful to work with the Nashville Parks Foundation to bring these soccer fields to Coleman Park and district 16,” said Ginny Welsch, Nashville City Councilmember. “Coleman is home to a very diverse community, and given that soccer is the international sport, this is a natural fit. Any time we can give families and kids an opportunity to get away from technology and start building real friendships, learn about teamwork, and get healthy and fit, it's a win. Soccer does all that, and it's fun to boot. This will be a great addition to our community.”

The NPF hired Pritchett in June as its CEO and is the organization's first full-time staff member. Her primary responsibilities include facilitating investments like the pump track and soccer fields by providing creative and innovative approaches to fundraising, advocacy, policy and foundation leadership.

Prior to NPF, Pritchett ran the nonprofit organization, Friends of Radnor Lake, and was its only full-time staff member.

ABOUT NASHVILLE PARKS FOUNDATION

The 178 parks and 27 community centers within Nashville's public parks system contribute to the quality of life for all residents. Formed in 2015, Nashville Parks Foundation is Metro Parks' partner in ensuring that Nashville's park system continues to thrive and grow. With a county-wide focus on equitable support and an eye toward funding gaps, Nashville Parks Foundation works to strengthen communities through Nashville's spectacular park system.

NPF focuses on “Projects through Partnerships.” These are initiatives that involve working with the community and local organizations to identify needs; assessing the fundraising viability of the project; and completing the project through partner engagement. NPF partners include community organizations, individual donors, corporate sponsors, local government, and grantors. The goal with all NPF initiatives is to advance the health and wellbeing of Nashville's residents; build amenities which can be utilized by all citizens; and promote community-building across the city.