



CITY OF DURHAM
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
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Mailing Address:
101 CITY HALL PLAZA • DURHAM, NC 27701

November 15, 2006

FILE COPY

Leslie Frost, President
Old North Durham Neighborhood Association
223 Dacian Avenue
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Leslie Frost,

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 2006, sharing your neighborhood's ideas about the Old North Durham Park (OND Park). The Department of Parks and Recreation is sensitive to your concerns, and I would like to respond to the specific points you bring up.

- We also support the idea of a park that is walkable for residents of the Old North Durham neighborhood, and I would like to note that Durham Central Park, Rocky Creek Park, and Bay-Hargrove Park are in your larger neighborhood, as well as the OND Park itself. Those parks offer walking trails, benches, and children's play equipment.
- The Central Park School is indeed a good neighbor for the park, and we believe that a developed field in the park would be an asset to its activities and well as to the neighborhood's plans. What is more "multi-use" than a large, green, well-maintained open space? It's suitable for ongoing events, such as the school's Strawberry Festival or an Old North Durham neighborhood picnic, or for many future events or activities that require space.
- A field suitable for athletic events, in a densely developed area, is a resource that is not to be taken lightly; it is truly a resource for the whole community to share. The City Council (at its meeting on September 6, 2005) and the Recreation Advisory Commission (at its meeting on November 8, 2006) reaffirmed their support for continued scheduling of athletic programming in OND Park.
- We do share your concerns about restrooms in the park, and a part of our ongoing planning for the park is a commitment to including restroom facilities with future improvements to the field. Parking is more of a perceived than an actual problem—there are more spaces adjacent to the OND Park, in designated on-street parking, than we have at several of our other athletic facilities. We also acquired an easement from TROSA specifically to increase access into the park from another side.
- In the meantime, we are requiring any group that rents the field at OND Park to hire two off-duty police officers for its event and to provide a port-a-john for its event. We are also informing them that any group leaving the park with excessive trash will not be allowed to rent the facility again.

I hope that these responses have addressed your concerns about the future of the park and that we can continue to work together productively in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhonda B. Parker".

Rhonda B. Parker
Interim Director

Cc: Mayor William "Bill" Bell
Councilman Eugene Brown
Councilwoman Diane Catotti

City Manager Patrick Baker
Deputy City Manager Wanda Page
Assistant Director Beth Timson
Vicky Patton, Central Park School