



NEWS RELEASE
May 14, 2019

NORCROSS' NEW PINNACLE PARK NOW OPEN

"The Park Made Famous by Goats" brings walking trails, a playground, fitness course, pavilions, and more to Brook Hollow Parkway.

NORCROSS (GWINNETT COUNTY), GA (MAY 14, 2019) – The City of Norcross held a celebratory ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday to mark the opening of the new '**PINNACLE PARK**', located off Brook Hollow Parkway adjacent to Pinnacle Center Business Park. Part of the city's overall trail system, the park brings to life a long-held vision to provide equal access to parks and green space to all areas of the city.

"We are ecstatic to bring to you the new Pinnacle Park!" Norcross Mayor Craig Newton said at the ceremony. "We are incredibly committed to providing more opportunities for our community to get outside and play, and we look forward to seeing the residents around Brook Hollow out and about enjoying the new space."

PINNACLE PARK is oriented around a small lake which previously functioned as a storm water retention facility. Numerous recreational and green infrastructures have been added, including a playground, fitness circuit course, octagonal grand pavilion and two picnic pavilions, grills, restrooms, nature inspired landscaped areas, walking trails, as well as additional parking spaces.

During construction, the city famously contracted forty-one goats and two "protector" sheep dogs for five weeks from Get Your Goat Rentals to clear the overgrown vegetation around the property. The use of goats as opposed to harmful chemicals and other methods of clearing vegetation is one of the truly special aspects of this project, as it exhibits the city's commitment to observe sustainability practices as outlined by the ARC Platinum Green Communities Program.

"Hiring the goats has certainly been one of our best ideas," said Assistant City Manager Mary Beth Bender. "Not only has it saved money on labor and proved to have terrific results in preparing the property for construction, but, unexpectedly, it has been wonderful PR as well!"

Designed and built by Pond, an architecture, engineering, planning and construction management firm headquartered in nearby Peachtree Corners, the project was funded through SPLOST and cost two million dollars. It encompasses twelve acres of green space as well as a connection to the Beaver Ruin Creek Greenway and the Gwinnett County-wide Trail System.

“We are proud to have had the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Norcross on this revitalization project that serves the community in which we live and work,” says Pond’s Program Director on the project, Ben Moore.

Pinnacle Park broke ground last April, and as Mayor Newton said on that occasion:

“It’s events like this that make us all proud, proud to be a part of Norcross, proud to be a city that respects its past while embracing its future, and proud to be called ‘A Place to Imagine.’”

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ABOUT THE CITY OF NORCROSS

Incorporated in 1870, the city of Norcross has been very busy securing a solid standing as both an eco-conscious community and world-class art district in the nearly century and a half since. Voted Gwinnett County’s “Best Arts & Cultural Scene” by Gwinnett Magazine, Norcross has become well known for its unconventional public arts projects. Norcross was recognized by the Atlanta Regional Commission as one of only three Platinum-Certified Green Communities in the region and was named a “Best Green Government” by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and “Tree City USA” by The Arbor Day Foundation. The Sustainable Norcross Commission has earned regional applause for its efforts to spearhead the City’s local pro-environment practices. The city’s famed tree canopy, 13 parks and more than 31 acres of beautifully maintained public green space serve as popular gathering spaces for residents and visitors alike. A jam-packed calendar of events and eclectic collection of shops and restaurants serve to keep the historic downtown area bustling year-round. Creative souls from all walks of life are encouraged to “come unwind” and enjoy the positive energy that earns Norcross its reputation as “a place to imagine.”

ABOUT POND

Headquartered in Gwinnett County, Pond is a technology-driven full-service engineering, architecture, planning, and construction management firm providing design solutions to government, corporate, defense and private sector clients through their network of 25 worldwide locations.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

(Just after the goat) **Fernando Valencia**, Project Manager, Pond. **Brad Jones**, Senior Project Manager, Pond. **Ben Moore**, Program Director, Pond. **Mary Beth Bender**, Assistant City Manager and Director of Public Works, Utilities & Parks, City of Norcross. **Andrew Hixson**, Mayor Pro Tem. **Craig Newton**, Mayor, City of Norcross. **Rudolph Smith**, City Manager, City of Norcross. **Sean Murphy**, Manager of Planning & Landscape Architecture, Atwell, LLC. **Josh Bare**, Councilmember, City of Norcross.

