

## Tony Hawk visit to Athens Skatepark raises Red Cross-Katrina relief funds



Tony Hawk's "Secret Skatepark Tour" visited the Skate Park of Athens on Sunday, Sept. 18, to tape an hour-long special for MTV2 promoting the release of the new "Tony Hawk's American Wasteland" video game for Activision. Along with Hawk, other skaters such as Bam Margera, Mike Vallely, Bob Burnquist and Daewon Song and BMX star Rick Thorne wowed the crowd with their aerial feats both in the skatepark and on the half-pipe ramp they set up for the day. Approximately 6,000 persons attended and more than \$10,000 were raised, which was matched by Courtyard Marriott, and sent to the American Red Cross's Hurricane Relief Fund.

The first skating/boarding/biking contest at the SkatePark of Athens is set for Sunday, June 25.

## Rivers Alive volunteers clean SE Clarke Park

For the second consecutive year the Southeast Clarke Park was a host site for the Athens Rivers Alive event. Approximately 15 volunteers came out on October 15 and removed old tires, construction debris, household debris, and many cans and bottles from the wooded area near the old spring.

According to park manager John McKinney, before the county purchased the property, the land was often used by people as a dump.

"The previous owner also operated a popular Athens bar – Cooper's – in the building located on the corner of Whit Davis and Lexington Road," said McKinney. "The wooded area behind the bar was used as the garbage dump for years. Despite several volunteer clean up days, it may take years to clean up that area."

Rivers Alive events have been held throughout the state each October since 1992. Last year in Athens, 17 tons of

garbage were collected. This year, 7 tons were collected.



## Run to Play 5K raises \$2,000

The second annual Run to Play 5K was a great success. More than 150 runners participated in the event, which raised nearly \$2,000 for the World of Wonder. The funding will be used for maintenance projects at the playground. A special thank you to our sponsors:

- Wal-Mart SuperCenter on Lexington Road
- Magic 102.1
- Athens Parent magazine
- Perry's Convenience and Liquor
- Locos Deli and Pub
- A&B Contracting Services, Inc.
- Farm Bureau of Georgia



Wal-Mart Manager Kip Farlow presents a \$1,000 check to Friends for their race sponsorship.

- Athens Horizon Realty, Inc.
- Atlanta Gas Light
- Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services

## Lexington Runners Club looking for members

Southeast Clarke Park has formed a running club. The "Lexington Road Runners" meet each **Wednesday afternoon at 5:30** to go on runs ranging from three to eight miles. Some runs will take place on area roads, while others will remain on the nature trails within the park. Additionally, we'll discuss upcoming local races and training.

Anyone interested in joining us for a run should meet at 5:30 pm at the concession building located between the ball fields on the Lexington Road side of the park. Hours for our runs may change from time to time, especially to deal with the unpredictable and early darkness of the winter season.

This program is free and open to runners of all levels. To join the club or find out more information, call the park office at 706-613-3871 or e-mail the club at [lexingtonroadrunners@yahoo.com](mailto:lexingtonroadrunners@yahoo.com).

## Spring softball games return in March

Southeast Clarke Park will again be home to Athens' heavy hitters when adult softball returns on March 27. Games between teams in the Men's Independent Division will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings on softball fields #1 and #2, with the first game usually starting at 6:30 pm. Drop by the park and watch a game under the lights.

## Park hosts first Movies By Moonlight

More than 500 people came out for the first "Movies By Moonlight" event at the Southeast Clarke Park this fall. The event was a double feature – *Scooby Doo* for younger audiences and families, followed by *Scream II*. The free event was sponsored by WNGC, Charter Communications, and Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department. Another movie is planned for spring of 2006. Tentatively, the date of Saturday, April 22, 2006 has been chosen. Athens-Clarke County is again seeking sponsors to be able to bring this event free to the public. Look for details to be posted this spring.

## Events at SE Clarke Park (July -December 2005)

\*Athens Canine Rescue's annual "**Mutt Strut**" fundraiser took place at the Wiggly Field Dog Park on Sunday, Oct 23. Approximately 150 owners and dogs attended the event and participated in contests such as "Owner & Dog Look-alike".

\***Playing for a Cure** Softball Tournament hosted by Athens Regional Medical Center took place on July 16 with nine teams participating. Funds raised were forwarded to fight childhood leukemia.

\*Second annual "**Patriotism in the Park**" softball tournament to honor our public safety workers took place on September 11, 2005. Teams from A-CC Police and Fire Departments, US Navy Supply Corps School, and Athens Regional Medical Center competed with the Fire Department taking home the winner's trophy. Thanks to our sponsors: ARMC, Papa Johns Pizza, A-CC Leisure Services and Friends of SE Clarke Park.

\***Athens-Clarke County's gymnastics program** held a two-day softball tournament and fundraiser on July 22 and 23.

# Become a Friend!

Friends of the Southeast Clarke Park is a non-profit organization dedicated to making the Southeast Clarke Park a great place for children and families. We work closely with Leisure Services to help maintain park facilities and to create new amenities. We serve as a network of volunteers to help keep the park clean and beautiful.

## Please join now!

As a member you will receive:

- Friends newsletter – stay informed about developments at the park and upcoming volunteer opportunities
- Member car decal
- Discounted registration for the annual Run to Play 5K

In future years, we expect to be able to offer special events and other offers for our members.

## Help us Grow!

Your tax-deductible donation will help us complete several special projects, including picnic tables, benches, and the dragon sculpture near World of Wonder, improvements at Wiggly Field dog park, shade trees near the Skatepark of Athens, installation of a rain garden on the Whit Davis side, and trash clean-up.

## How To Join

**We invite you to join our efforts to support the Southeast Clarke Park at one of the following levels:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Household

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Students and Seniors

I'd like to support the park with an additional donation of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone and E-mail

\_\_\_ Yes, I'd like to volunteer. I prefer to be contacted by: \_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_ e-mail

Please make your check to **Friends of the Southeast Clarke Park** and mail your contribution to

Treasurer, Friends of the Southeast Clarke Park, PO Box 81133, Athens, GA 30605

Friends of the Southeast Clarke Park is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization.

Contributions are tax deductible.

For more info e-mail [SEClarkeFriends@yahoo.com](mailto:SEClarkeFriends@yahoo.com).

# 2006 Volunteer dates set

Come out and help keep Southeast Clarke Park beautiful.

March 25

May 27

July 22

August 19

October 21

## New members:

Ron and Pascale Riley  
Ryan and Ashley Young  
Business sponsor: CertainTeed

## Thanks to our

## volunteers:

States McCarter  
Art Ordoqui  
Sharon Bellah  
Jim Bellah  
Keith Hastie  
Kyla Hastie  
Tom Payton  
Doug Lowry  
Latham Caldwell  
Harold Neal  
Kandy Duke

Ashley Calabria

*\* We apologize in advance for any volunteers who we may have missed. If you have volunteered for Friends, please let us know and we will make sure to recognize your important contribution.*

Considering your 2006 charitable contributions? Consider a donation to your favorite park! Or sponsor a tree, bench, or other item in someone's honor. Fill out the membership form, or for sponsorship opportunities, contact Kyla Hastie at 540-3065 or

[SEClarkeFriends@yahoo.com](mailto:SEClarkeFriends@yahoo.com).

Friends of the Southeast Clarke Park (Friends) is a volunteer, non-profit organization that works with Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services to support recreational programs and facilities for children and families at the Southeast Clarke Park in Athens, Georgia. Established June, 2004.

### Friends Board of Directors:

Kyla Hastie, President  
Art Ordoqui, Secretary

Bart Pennington, Treasurer  
Keith Caldwell, ex-officio  
John McKinney, ex-officio  
Doug Lowry  
Marie Mullan  
Stacey Farrell  
June Robertson  
Cindy Wunder

### Athens-Clarke County Leisure

#### Services:

John Dargle, Director  
Keith Caldwell, Athletic Division Administrator

### Southeast Clarke Park:

Facility Supervisor: John McKinney  
Program Specialist: Lou Boestfleisch  
4440 Lexington Road  
Athens, Georgia  
(706) 613-3871

<http://www.accleisureservices.com/southeast.shtml>

Friends of the Southeast Clarke Park  
PO Box 81133  
Athens, GA 30608

e-mail:

[SEClarkeFriends@yahoo.com](mailto:SEClarkeFriends@yahoo.com)

# Spring Programs at Southeast Clarke Park

As warmer weather rolls around, there are again plenty of program offerings for kids of all ages at Southeast Clarke Park. Programs are offered through the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department and please note the registration information for details on where and when to sign up. For more information about any of the park's program offerings, feel free to call the park office at 706-613-3871.

## **Sports Time Skill Development**

Sports and sports related activities play an integral part in almost every child's physical and social development. Learning the basic sport skills, in an appropriate manner, creates a foundation for positive sports experience. Our Sports Time program will emphasize skill acquisition and teamwork in a non-competitive environment.

**Ages:** 3 – 5 years (Classes for 3 s require adult participation)

**Program Dates:** March 27 – May 10; Tuesday or Thursday

**Class Times:** Tuesday, 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. (3 year olds)

Tuesday, 4 – 4:55 p.m. (4 and 5 year olds)

Tuesday, 5 – 5:55 p.m. (4 and 5 year olds)

Thursday, 3 – 3:45 p.m., (3 year olds)

Thursday, 4 – 4:55 p.m. (4 and 5 year olds)

**Location:** Southeast Clarke Park

**Registration:** Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Bishop Park  
Registration opens Monday, Feb. 6, 2006 until full

**Fee:** \$50/ACC Resident

\$65/Non-ACC Resident

**\*Scholarships available\***

## **Kick It Up With Kandy at WOW**

PLAY-ERCISE is a great way to spend quality time with your child while getting healthy. Each parent/child team will work together as Kandy Duke leads you in using the playground equipment as your gym.

**Ages:** 3 to 8 years with parents

**Program Date:** Four sessions held on Thursdays, March 23 – April 13  
Four sessions held on Saturdays, April 22 – May 13

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (ages 3-5)  
10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. (ages 6-8)

**Location:** World of Wonder (WOW) Playground

**Registration:** Begins Monday, February 20 until classes fill **\*(6 family maximum each session)\***

**Registration deadline: 2 weeks prior to each session**

Register: Phone at (706) 353-8799

Email at [kickitup@charter.net](mailto:kickitup@charter.net)

Fee \$10 per family (1 child + 1 adult) per session

\$32 per family (4 sessions) (Thursdays or Saturdays)

\$56 per family (8 sessions) (Thursdays and Saturdays)

## **Youth Soccer**

A co-ed recreational league designed for players to learn and develop FUNDamental soccer skills.

**Ages:** Micro (Under 6), PeeWee (Under 8), Mites (Under 10), Midgets (Under 12), Junior (Under 14) and Senior (Under 16). Midget, Junior and Senior divisions may play teams from surrounding counties. All teams coached by volunteers. Team jersey provided.

**Ages:** 4-16

**Age Control Date:**

**Child must be 4 years prior to January 1 to register**

**Program Date:** March 20 – May 13

**Game Days:** Saturdays

**Game Times:** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Game Location:** Southeast Clarke Park

**Registration:** Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Bishop Park

Registration opens Monday, February 6, 2006 until full

**Fee:** \$50/ACC Resident

\$65/Non-ACC Resident

**\*Scholarships available\***

## **Youth T-Ball and Baseball**

A co-ed recreational league designed for players to learn and develop fundamental baseball skills. Micro plays T-Ball rules, PeeWee plays coach pitch, Mite plays pitching machine and Midget and Junior play live-pitch. Midget and Junior divisions may play away games with surrounding counties.

**Ages:** 5-16 years

**Age Control Date: Child must be 5 years prior to June 1, 2006 to register**

**Program Date:** June 6 – July 27

**Game Days:** Tuesdays and/or Thursdays

**Game Times:** 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Location(s):** Holland Youth Sports Complex and Southeast Clarke Park

**Registration:** Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Bishop Park

Registration begins Monday, April 24, 2006 until full

**Fee:** \$50/ACC Resident

\$65/Non-ACC Resident

# Park Improvements

Leisure Services and Friends of the Southeast Clarke Park are working hard to make improvements to all of the park facilities. Here's what's happening at the park:

## What's New

**Shade Structures:** Two new shade structures were installed this summer – one at the Skatepark of Athens and one at the World of Wonder. Bleachers have been installed under the skatepark shade structure and picnic tables are available at the playground canopy. The playground shade area is available for groups for parties and get-togethers. To reserve the playground shade structure, call the park office at 706-613-3871.

**Emergency Call Boxes:** Two new 911 emergency call boxes have been installed at Southeast Clarke Park. One is located on the walkway between soccer field #1 and softball field #1 on the Lexington Road side of the park. The other can be found near the entrance to the World of Wonder playground immediately next to the message board. These call boxes are monitored around-the-clock by county Emergency Services operators and should be used in the event of an emergency only. To use the call boxes, simply press the red button and await a response from the operator. A police patrol will be sent to the site upon receiving a signal from the call box, so please make sure your children don't simply press the big button out of curiosity.

**Privet Removal:** The area near the Greer family cemetery and the old spring was choked with privet. Friends and Landscape Management worked with a contractor to clear the privet, an invasive exotic plant species. The area is now open and park like, and the privet removal restored a flow to the old spring below the cemetery that feeds the creek. Friends plans to

work with the county to create a kiosk in the area to educate park users about the history of the property, which was at one time Chalky Level plantation.

## What's Coming Up

**Wiggly Field Agility Course:** Plans are underway for adding a canine agility course to the Wiggly Field Dog Park. A fence will be added to section off an area of the larger dog park area and a variety of obstacles/training items will be installed for use by dogs and owners. The agility area will be available to all dog park patrons on a first-come, first served basis. Look for the new agility course to be complete in the spring of 2006.

**Rain Garden and Wildlife Habitat:** The unsightly drainage area on the Whit Davis side between the dog park and the playground is undergoing a face lift. Construction of the rain garden began in November. The project is a partnership between Friends, Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services and Landscape Management, University of Georgia College of Environ-

mental Design and Engineering Outreach, the Georgia Wildlife Federation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. From December through March the partners will excavate a shallow pond, install a bioretention pond, and plant trees and plants that will create a wetland wildlife habitat. The rain garden will filter pollutants from the runoff from the adjacent parking. The site will also be a demonstration site for outreach classes to teach developers and engineers about this technology. The rain garden sponsors have collectively donated more than \$3,500 in materials to the project. EARTH Products LLC, Big River Industries, Hanson Aggregates, and LC Curtis. Thanks!

**Picnic Benches at WOW:** These will be installed under the shade structure. Thanks to Home Depot for the donation of the wooden benches that have served families so well throughout last year!





PO Box 81133  
Athens, GA 30608

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