



Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs

Throughout District 4 and DeKalb County are acres and acres of beautiful greenspace. Due to the 2008 recession-induced reductions in DeKalb County's budgets, the Department of Recreation, Parks, And Cultural Affairs was hit particularly hard, and badly needed park repairs went lacking for some time.

Even so, money existed in Park Bond Funds that had not been deployed. Upon taking office, I discovered nearly \$2.5 million in the District 4 account and decided that we would begin to start allocating these funds for their intended purpose as soon as possible.

However, we made the strategic decision not to allocate funds to a specific park unless the park in question had a Friends Group attached to it. A Friends Group is a group of citizens who reside within proximity of a given park and commit to care for – and improve – the parks in partnership with my office and the DeKalb County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs, and other organizations, such as Park Pride.

To me, it would not make much sense to allocate money improving a given park, only to have it fall into disrepair again due to the neglect of the community. Friends Groups help to ensure that this is far less likely to happen. While this approach made allocating funds slower than I wanted, the partnerships between communities and the DeKalb County government have proven to be very successful.

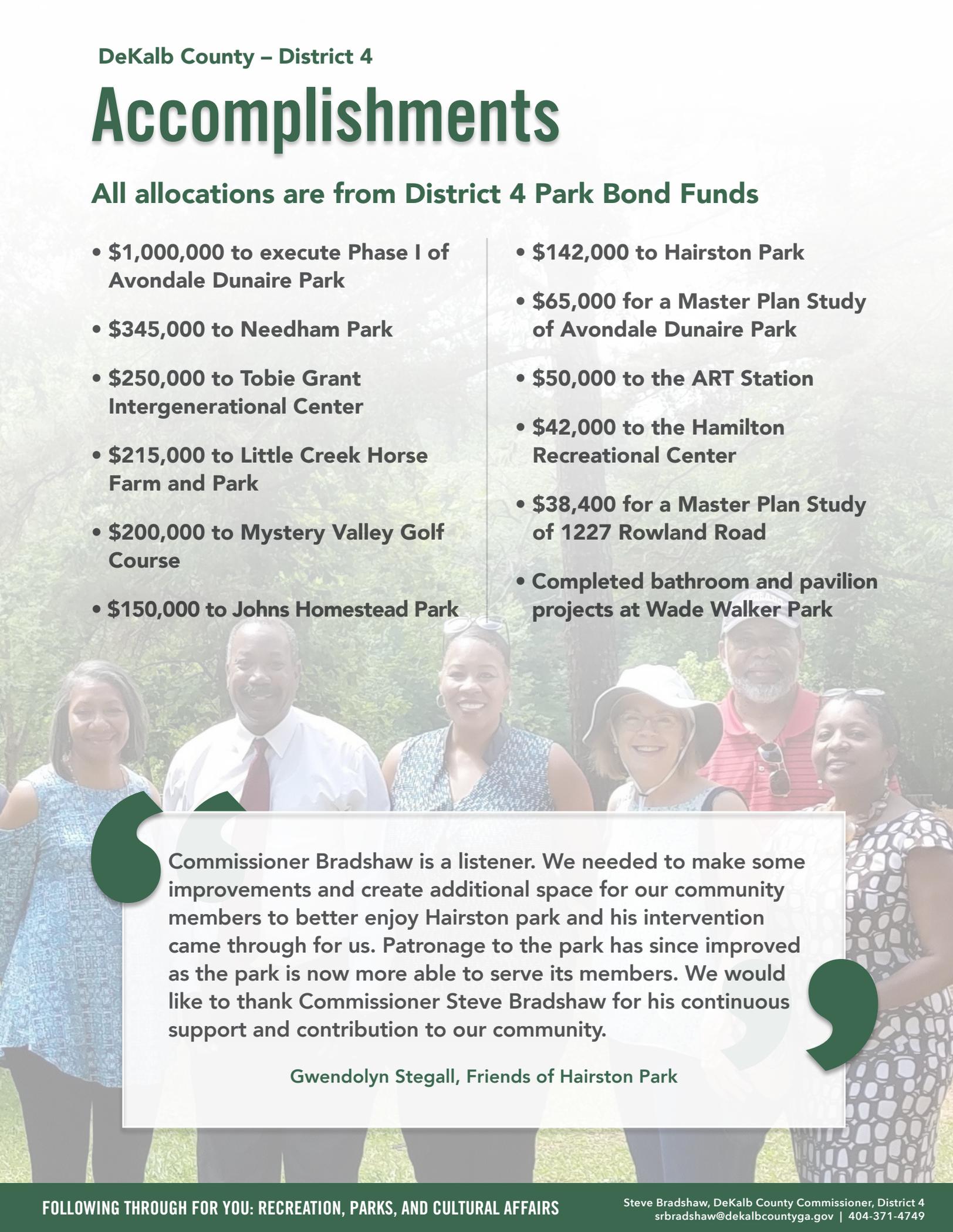


At the Wade Walker Park Playground.

Accomplishments

All allocations are from District 4 Park Bond Funds

- \$1,000,000 to execute Phase I of Avondale Dunaire Park
- \$345,000 to Needham Park
- \$250,000 to Tobie Grant Intergenerational Center
- \$215,000 to Little Creek Horse Farm and Park
- \$200,000 to Mystery Valley Golf Course
- \$150,000 to Johns Homestead Park
- \$142,000 to Hairston Park
- \$65,000 for a Master Plan Study of Avondale Dunaire Park
- \$50,000 to the ART Station
- \$42,000 to the Hamilton Recreational Center
- \$38,400 for a Master Plan Study of 1227 Rowland Road
- Completed bathroom and pavilion projects at Wade Walker Park



Commissioner Bradshaw is a listener. We needed to make some improvements and create additional space for our community members to better enjoy Hairston park and his intervention came through for us. Patronage to the park has since improved as the park is now more able to serve its members. We would like to thank Commissioner Steve Bradshaw for his continuous support and contribution to our community.

Gwendolyn Stegall, Friends of Hairston Park