

Renovation of Polk Park to Create Premier Public Space in Uptown

CHARLOTTE – (August 7, 2019) – Thomas Polk Park, a one-third-acre space at the northwest corner of Trade and Tryon streets in Uptown Charlotte, will be reimaged as one of the city’s premier public spaces.

The project, managed by a partnership of the City of Charlotte and Charlotte Center City Partners, will consider how this public space can meet its full potential and better reflect the identity and future of Charlotte and the importance of the park’s place at Trade and Tryon. A consultant team, led by Agency Landscape + Planning, has been retained to design the new public space.

“Polk Park’s location, at the heart of our city, offers an incredible opportunity for us to create a place to bring people together,” said Michael J. Smith, president and CEO of Charlotte Center City Partners. “We envision this will become one of Charlotte’s most treasured and unique places.”

The park, which was built in 1991, currently features a cascading fountain, tree canopy, limited restaurant dining and landscaping. However, the fountain and surrounding space have become difficult and expensive to maintain and repair, and the design is not conducive to vibrant programming. The Center City 2020 Vision Plan called for a renovation of the public space that would reinforce the space’s significance to Charlotte.

“Polk Park has always been at the intersection of Charlotte’s identity but now it has the great potential to become a showcase of the city’s ongoing cultural renaissance in diverse and new ways,” said Eamonn Hutton, senior landscape architect with Agency Landscape + Planning.

“Charlotte’s crossroads at ‘Main and Main’ should represent the City’s premier public space—welcoming all by providing an iconic destination. One that is highly functional, flexible for a wide range of events, and most importantly, a beautifully crafted urban place,” said Tracy Dodson, Assistant City Manager and Director of Economic Development for the City of Charlotte.

Since 2016, the Charlotte Planning, Design & Development’s Urban Design Center has collected public input about the space, tested ideas and gathered data about people’s likes and dislikes. The public will have another opportunity to contribute ideas for how the space should be redesigned at the 2040 Center City Vision Plan Kickoff event on Thursday, Aug. 8, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Camp North End, 1824 Statesville Ave. [Event registration is available online.](#)

The new park vision will consider adding space that could be used for all kinds of activities such as pop-up markets, concerts and movie nights, outdoor dining, rotating public art and signature festivals such as Charlotte SHOUT!

A design concept will be complete by the end of this year.

About Charlotte Center City Partners

Charlotte Center City Partners envisions and implements strategies and actions to drive the economic, social and cultural development of Charlotte’s Center City. The organization’s vision is to help create a viable, livable, memorable, and sustainable Center City with modern infrastructure, a tapestry of unique neighborhoods, and a diversity of thriving businesses. For complete information about Charlotte Center City Partners, visit www.charlottecentercity.org.