

"It's My Park Day"

March 31, 2012

Submitted by Kiki Paschall, NPNA VP Committees

The City of Dallas established "It's My Park Day" and requested neighborhood groups to participate. NPNA responded. So last Saturday morning about 50 volunteers joined the NPNA Board and Committee members to make improvements in both Northaven Park and Cox Lane Park. The Social Committee provided coffee and pastries. Thank you Jennifer Griffin, Social Committee Chair & her committee members, Karen Herleman and Kathy Lewis for getting up so early to have them in the park by 8 am. Everyone signed-in Northaven Park to meet their project leader. A million thanks for all the volunteers who helped make "It's My Park Day" a success.

In Northaven Park, the event began with a Meet & Greet where all the volunteers could enjoy the coffee/pastries and have time to visit with each other. We then split up into work groups, where the project leaders explained their project. Below are project descriptions and photographs taken in:

Northaven Park

1. Meet & Greet

The NPNA President, Julie Reeves, the VP of Committees, Kiki Paschall, the VP of Membership, Clarissa Carter, the Welcome Committee Chairman, Sandy Blaydes and one of her committee members, Jayne Sparrer manned the sign-in table. The Beautification Committee Chairs, Shawnya Dickson and Ann Irvine and their members, the Social Committee Chair, Jennifer Griffin and her members, plus the Creek Committee Co-Chair, Vince Punaro and his members, assisted in making this start-up time a wonderful social event.



2. Painting the Playground Equipment

The North Dallas Early Childhood PTA joined with NPNA to paint the turtle, merry-go-round and benches. So, a special thank you goes to Brooke Green, President of NDECPTA, for bringing her volunteers and for working with the NPNA volunteers. We were thrilled to see the little ones helping to paint, as well as our teenage volunteers from Ursuline Academy and our other teenage neighborhood volunteers. Brooke and Julie should be proud of their work, for special memories will be made for our neighborhood children when they play on this beautiful equipment.



3. Painting the Fence around the Port-o-let & Power Box

Here's Julie preparing the fence for new paint. You can see that the preparation for painting was significant. Tools were needed to scrape off the old paint before new paint could be applied. A special thank you to Ron Paschall for going home and getting the tools needed. Numerous volunteers pitched-in to assist Julie with these projects and we thank each one who participated.



4. Fingerprinting Kits

The Dallas Police and McGruff provided fingerprinting kits to neighborhood families during this time. We thank them for providing this valuable service.



5. Joe's Creek Clean-Up

Many volunteers showed up to aid Vince Punaro, the NPNA Creek Committee Co-Chair, in removing trash from our beautiful and natural Joe's Creek. Many thanks to Vince and the Creek Committee members and to all the Creek Clean-up volunteers for helping.



Cox Lane Park

In Cox Lane Park, Kiki Paschall and the NPNA Beautification Committee Co-Chairs, Shawnya Dickson and Ann Irvine and their committee members met to install a new rose garden. Supplies for preparing the bed, water for the roses and gardening tools were brought by several committee members. 10 drought tolerant roses were planted. The Beautification Committee is excited about this project, and is now anxiously waiting to see them grow. The City of Dallas will provide the mulch and water.



To make this event even more special, Ann Margolin, our City Council Representative, came to Cox Lane Park and helped water in the roses. Jeremy McMahon, our City of Dallas Coordinator for It's My Park Day came by and took many wonderful photos of the rose garden project, as well as photos in Northaven Park. David Dixon, the City of Dallas Park Maintenance Manager for Cox Lane Park and Northaven Park also visited to see the rose garden & painting projects. All three City representatives shared their time in both of our neighborhood parks and thanked us for improving the parks in our NPNA neighborhood.

We invite all of our NPNA neighbors to go by and see the rose garden and playground equipment. By mid-summer, the roses should be large enough for the real beauty to begin to show.

Thank you to Every NPNA Volunteer for making "It's My Park Day" a fun event and for improving our beautiful parks.