



Theodora Park

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

June 5, 2020



Theodora Park Dedication – June 5, 2015: Harry Lesesne, Mayor Joe Riley, Carol Rawle, and David Rawle

Theodora Park was dedicated on June 5, 2015. Eleven days later, tragedy struck our nation, when nine parishioners at nearby Mother Emanuel Church were gunned down during their weekly Bible Study program.

While the assailant hoped his heinous act would spark divisive riots, it was met instead by profound grief, a palpable sense of community, and extraordinary expressions of forgiveness by the victims' families. An act designed to divide us, instead brought us closer together.

People came to pay their respects at Mother Emanuel during the days following that tragedy. They often stopped at Theodora Park, drawn by this peaceful oasis of nature and art. My mother, for whom Theodora Park is named, would have understood. She knew how nature can heal us and give us strength.

Now we are in another crisis. The coronavirus threatens the health of every human being. Theodora Park is especially relevant during these days of anxious uncertainty. After all, being in nature has been proven to lower people's heart rate and blood pressure, while enhancing their empathy and creativity.

Here in Theodora Park, we are healthier. We are restored. We are our best selves.

Both the creation and the maintenance of Theodora Park are the result of a public/private collaboration with the City of Charleston, Charleston Parks Conservancy, and very generous private supporters.

My thanks to all whose generosity made Theodora Park possible and assures that the park will be maintained at the highest quality level well into the future.

David Rawle



“A beautifully tranquil public garden.”
- The New York Times

“A model for the future.”
- The Post and Courier

“A perfect pocket garden.”
- Garden & Gun Magazine



City of Charleston – Award for Design Excellence in the Public Realm
Historic Charleston Foundation – Whitelaw Founders Award



John Alschuler – Chair, John Boynton, Cindy Cline, Ginny Deerin, Evelyn McGee, Diana Permar, Carol Rawle, David Rawle, Conley Rollins, Marva A. Smalls, Chris Swain, Laura Varn, Sheila Wertimer.



John J. Tecklenburg – Mayor; Members of City Council: Marie Delcioppo, Kevin Shealy, Jason Sakran, Robert M. Mitchell, Karl Brady, William Dudley Gregorie, Perry K. Waring, Michael S. Seekings, A. Peter Shahid, Jr., Harry Griffin, Ross Appel, Carol Jackson. Director of Parks: Jason Kronsberg.

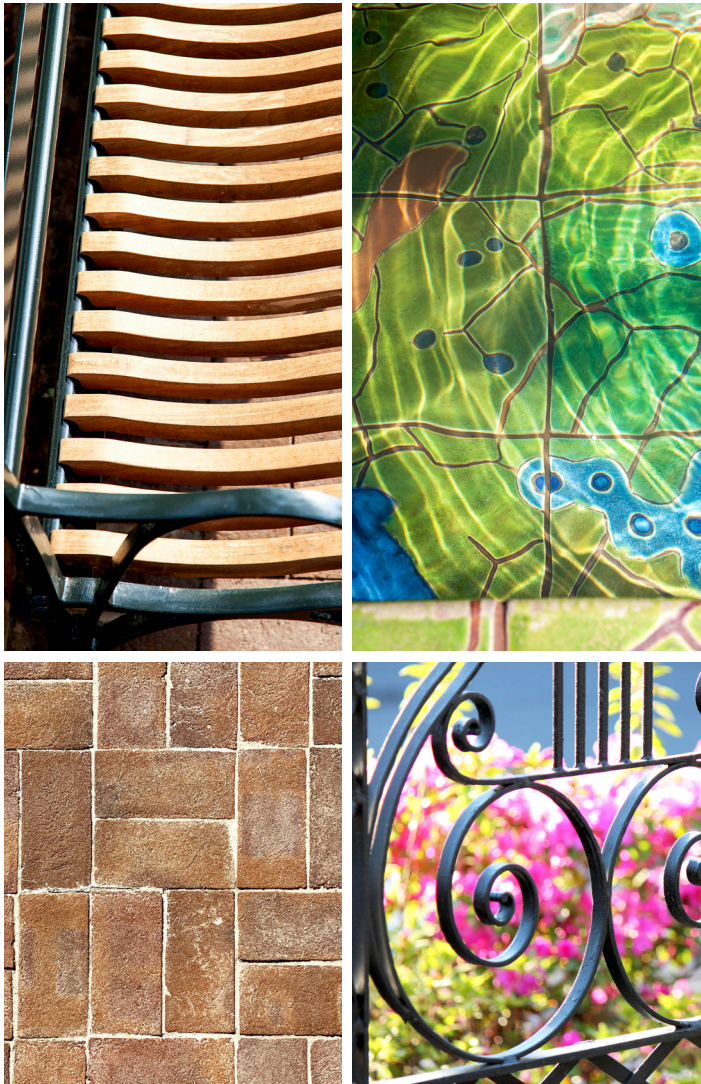


Darla Moore – Founder & Board Chair, Harry Lesesne – Executive Director,
Board Members: Jessica Gibadlo, Greer Hostetter, Jason Kronsberg, Lee Manigault,
M. Anthony McAlister, Jr., Charles McLendon, Jenny K. Messner, W. Scott Parker,
Thomas J. Parsell, Jr., Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Katherine Robinson, Sean Sykes.



Design: Wertimer + Cline – Landscape Design, Paul Heroux – Pool Tiles, Philip Simmons – Gate,
Aqua Blue Pools – Fountain Consultant, J.R. Broadway Co. – Fountain Structural Design,
Fosberg Engineering – Civil Engineer, Moonlighting – Mike Rollins – Lighting Design Consultant,
Ary Fun – Consulting Arborist, RMF Engineering – Electrical Engineer,
Simmons Irrigation Supply – Irrigation Design, Thomas & Denzinger – Architects: Gate Base.

Construction: Wildwood Contractors, Inc. – General Contractor, Sitework and Utilities,
William Kent Masonry – Masonry, Aqua Blue Pools – Fountain, Ahern’s Anvil – Ironwork,
Green Acres Services, LLC – Landscape, H&H Electrical Services LLC – Electrician.



Theodora Park was created with the generous support of the City of Charleston and private individuals who shared the vision for the park and its commitment to excellence.

The City of Charleston

- | | |
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| Anonymous | Liza & Will Lee |
| John Alschuler | Holly McGory |
| Christine Andreae | Pam & Pat McKinney |
| Johanna & John Boynton | Wenda & Jay Millard |
| Tippy Stern Brickman | Judy Neilson |
| Jill & John Chalsty –
in honor of Ben Marino | Metsie & Benjie Neilson |
| Theodora & James Clark | Stephanie & Jamie Neilson |
| Evelyn & Stephen Colbert –
in honor of Evelyn &
Joseph McGee | Alberta Neilson & Peter Mundy |
| Sandy & Fred Corson | Liz & Marshall Neilson |
| Susie & Sanford Criner | Gerry & Tom Nicholson |
| Sheila Ewing Daley | Susan O’Malley |
| Bradbury Dyer III | Pam & Bobby Paul |
| Esther & Jim Ferguson | Diana & Mark Permar |
| Gail & Parker Gilbert | Carol & David Rawle |
| Barry Gumb | Kelly & Roger Rogan |
| Pam & Nelson Gwinn | Meredith & Conley Rollins |
| Brooks Johnson | Monica & Ken Seeger |
| | Cleary & George Simpson |
| | Marva A. Smalls |
| | Kathleen & Rutledge Young |



The Theodora Park Fund is an endowment, the income from which helps maintain the park at the highest quality level. Like the creation of the park itself, the Fund is a public/private collaboration, setting an example that will hopefully be emulated to assure consistently high quality maintenance of other significant components of Charleston’s public realm.

The City of Charleston

Anonymous	Marianna Hay	Meredith & Conley Rollins
Jill & Richard Almeida	Marilynn & John Hill	Gerry Schauer
John Alschuler	Deborah Kennedy &	Joseph J. Schott Foundation
Robin Andrews	Bill Kennard	Ed Sellers & Suzan Boyd
Nella Barkley	Franklin LaBelle	Courtney Davis-Shoemaker
Charlotte Beers	Liza & Will Lee	& Adam Shoemaker
Anne & Rusty Bennett	Cindy & Ben Lenhardt	Cleary & George Simpson
Anke & Andy Berlin	Barbara & Dick Lione	Marva A. Smalls
Johanna & John Boynton	Janine Luke	Gwynneth Smith
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Ginny Deerin	Tami & Frank McCann	Debra Treyz
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Bob Gebhardt	Metsie & Benjie Neilson	Jim Whitters
Gail Gilbert	Pixie Lily	Chris Willett
Peter Goldmark	Pam Paul	Lisa & Jeremy Willits
Leah & Ray Greenberg	Diana & Mark Permar	Robert O. Wilson
William and Mary Greve	Mike Rast	Kathleen & Rutledge Young
Foundation	Carol & David Rawle	Zero George
Barry Gumb	John M. Rivers, Jr.	Steve Ziff
John Hagerty & Susan Simons	Foundation	



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