

Marvin Gaye Recreation Center Revitalized!

For DCBIA's 19th Annual Community Improvement Day, the Community Services Committee chose to return to the Marvin Gaye Park & Recreation Center in Ward 7 of Northeast Washington DC. Fifteen years ago, CID 1996 was held at the same location, then known as Watts Branch Recreation Center.

The Committee was excited about this location because of the size of the park and needs of the community. From the first community meeting and design charrette in late-March, it was clear that the Center is an important part of the life of the neighborhood. Needs and requests focused on more flexible space within the building, space for outdoor activities, a more pleasing way to enter the building, and more signage and connectivity within the park.

The design team for the project was quite extensive with participants from Cunningham | Quill Architects; RTKL; Hickok Cole; Perkins + Will; Norton Land Design; A. Morton Thomas; Wiles Mensch; SKB Architects; HOK; Bradley Site Design; and Perkowitz + Ruth. During the spring and summer months, the designers developed a site concept for connecting the park, both east-to-west and north-to-south across Watts Branch Creek. We divided the site into six areas, adding landscaping as a seventh work area. We worked extensively during this phase with the Department of Parks & Recreation to make sure that our project would meet the needs of the programs at the Center. This partnership became a catalyst for the planning of further capital improvements to be completed by DPR over the next year.

In early September, our designer teams met on-site with the general contractors who would work with them during the days leading up to CID, and on event day to make sure that the work was carried out correctly, safely, and beautifully. Our seven GC teams and Merrifield Garden Center worked tirelessly to implement the vision and ideas we had generated. James G. Davis Construction, Clark Construction, Grunley Construction, HITT Contracting, Monarc Construction, Turner Construction, and Harvey-Cleary Builders each took responsibility for a work area, and have remained committed to seeing that all punch-list items were completed in time for the grand re-opening of the Center by DPR.

During the week leading up to CID, DPR kindly allowed us to close the Recreation Center and park in order to complete intense preparatory construction activities. Wiles Mensch provided layout services for a new path and the structures, while A & A in coordination with HCB set the "criterion" posts and posts for the mural and entry canopies and outdoor classrooms. Miller & Long poured concrete pads for the classrooms and for the field entrance at 61st St, Chiamonte Construction performed interior demolition, J.E. Richards relocated interior electrical switches to accommodate the demolition, W.E. Bowers relocated a drinking fountain while Long Fence installed a new baseball field backstop and dugout fencing. Volunteers from UPO dug planting beds. Most interesting, muralists from Perkowitz + Ruth outlined and painted the mural of Marvin Gaye.

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Heather Daley,
Cunningham Quill
Architects
Co-Chair, DCBIA
19th Annual
Community
Improvement Day



Steve Hawryluk,
James G. Davis
Construction
Corporation
Co-Chair, DCBIA
19th Annual
Community
Improvement Day



CID Ballfield Before



CID Ballfield After

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Perkowitz + Ruth Architects

19TH ANNUAL

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DAY

**MARVIN GAYE RECREATION CENTER (WARD 7)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

BENEFACTORS

Chiaromonte Construction Company
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HITT Contracting Inc.
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DCBIA wishes to express its gratitude to the firms and organizations that made financial contributions and/or donations of professional and technical services, building materials and equipment, new products, skilled labor, and volunteer support for the improvement of the Marvin Gaye Recreation Center. This project is a public-private partnership between DCBIA and the DC Department of Parks & Recreation.



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CID Entrance Before



CID Entrance After

Offsite, Jefferson Millwork fabricated signage for the entry canopy and computer desks, while HITT and Clark pre-fabricated many parts of the canopies and outdoor classrooms.

Over 500 volunteers arrived on the cold, misty morning of October 1 for CID. They moved piles of sand and gravel; planted flowers, vines, and shrubs; dug benches into the hillside behind the backstop; painted the interior of the Center; and built canopies, planters, and pavilions. In spite of the weather, a record crowd gathered to enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch organized and served by the Design Products team and hear Mayor Vincent Gray and DC Department of Parks & Recreation officials speak.

Kate Griffin of Jones Lang LaSalle headed up the fundraising efforts for the event. (See p. 16 for a complete list of financial and in-kind sponsors.) For the 11th consecutive year, Hines stepped up as Corporate Sponsor of the event. Hines was joined by Archstone and Terra Nova Title & Settlement Services, who committed as Corporate Sponsors for the 5th and 2nd years respectively. We are extremely grateful for their and our other sponsors' continued support. Also, thank you to TLA Communications and DBI Architects for their efforts on the event's PR.

The response from the community and DPR has been outstanding! Many community members have expressed appreciation for the work that DCBIA undertook. The community is excited by the transformation of the Park and the Center and by the amenities that we were able to provide or improve for them.

We are deeply grateful to DPR and to the community who have been gracious in allowing us the use of the center and the surrounding streets for construction traffic and materials. This work would not have been possible without the staff at DCBIA and the members of the Community Services Committee, and especially each of the construction and design firms who participated. Finally, we appreciate the work of everyone who volunteered on October 1. We look forward to seeing you next year for CID! ▲



2011 Community Improvement Day





