



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Carpenter Park Reopens as the Largest Park in Downtown Dallas

The renovated park brings a variety of new neighborhood amenities, including Downtown's first public outdoor basketball court

DALLAS, Texas (May 3, 2022) – Today the City of Dallas celebrated the opening of Carpenter Park, a renovation and expansion of Carpenter Plaza, a park dedicated in 1981. Carpenter Park is located at 2201 Pacific Avenue on the eastern edge of Downtown Dallas near Deep Ellum and Old East Dallas. Changes to the surrounding road network allowed for the development of a contiguous 5.75-acre park with an array of new features.

“The reimagination of Carpenter Park is the result of over a decade of coordination and planning by the Dallas Park and Recreation Department, Parks for Downtown Dallas, and numerous other state and local agencies, institutions and residents” said Amy Meadows, president and CEO of nonprofit group Parks for Downtown Dallas. “For decades, this park was a place people drove by and through but did not step into. We look forward to seeing Dallasites and visitors explore their new and improved park.”

Carpenter Park features Downtown's first public outdoor basketball court, a dog run, an interactive fountain, environmental play elements for kids, gardens, walking paths, and public art. Two significant pieces of public sculpture are incorporated in the park's design. Robert Berks' statue of John W. Carpenter has been refurbished and reinstalled at the park entrance at Live Oak and Pearl Street. Robert Irwin's *Portal Park Piece (Slice)* has been reconceptualized and retitled by the artist for the new site conditions in the renovated park. The new title of the sculpture is *Portal Park Slice*. [This is the only time in his career that Irwin has agreed to alter a work.](#)

“Carpenter Park offers a unique experience to visitors that you will not find anywhere else in our park system” said John Jenkins, director of the Dallas Park and Recreation Department. “From the public art to the stunning nighttime lighting, this park adds something special to the Dallas landscape.”



[Click here](#) for a Carpenter Park fact sheet with more information about the park design elements.

Carpenter Park is the third of four Downtown Priority Parks to be constructed through a public-private partnership between the Dallas Park and Recreation Department and Parks for Downtown Dallas (PfDD). The Dallas Park and Recreation Department contributed \$15.4 million in 2017 bond dollars approved by Dallas citizens for Downtown parks. Private donors and PfDD contributed \$4.7 million in development costs for Carpenter Park, including a \$3 million gift from the John W. Carpenter III family. The Carpenter family has gifted an additional \$500,000 to Parks for Downtown Dallas to establish a permanent endowment for Carpenter Park that supports critical maintenance and future capital improvements.

The Priority Parks program for Downtown started with the opening of Pacific Plaza in October 2019, followed by West End Square in March 2021. Harwood Park is the final park in this public-private initiative and is currently under construction in the East Quarter District near the Dallas Farmers Market.

“This new network of neighborhood parks in Downtown Dallas is dramatically changing the experience of residents, businesses, office workers and visitors – indeed our entire citizenry – and will distinguish our center city for decades to come,” commented Robert Decherd, founder and chairman of Parks for Downtown Dallas.

Opening Week Events: Downtown Dallas, Inc. is proud to extend the celebration of this historic park opening with a series of free events at the park beginning Tuesday and running through Saturday night:

- **Tuesday, May 3, 7pm** - [Let's Salsa! Dance Class](#)
- **Wednesday, May 4, 8:15pm** - [Discover Downtown Movie Series: Star Wars: The Force Awakens](#)
- **Thursday, May 5, 7:30pm** - [Yoga-Rita Night](#)
- **Friday, May 6, 7:30pm** - [Music on the Mound](#)
- **Saturday, May 7, 10am - 6pm** - [Carpenter Park BESTival!](#)

Park Images: <https://bit.ly/3KHM20g>



About Parks for Downtown Dallas

Parks for Downtown Dallas (PfDD) is a 501(c)(3) foundation established in 2015 to advance the long-term development and support of public parks within Downtown. PfDD is on course to build four new urban neighborhood parks by year-end 2023, and in parallel, develop a framework for maintaining and improving Downtown's public parks. To learn more about the Priority Parks and the broader campaign for Downtown Dallas parks, visit: www.parksfordowntowndallas.org

About Dallas Park and Recreation Department

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department's mission is to champion lifelong recreation and serve as responsible stewards of the city's parks, trails, and open spaces. Dallas has one of the largest municipal parks systems in the nation with over 23,464 park land acres which encompass 397 parks, 7 lakes, 4,658 surface acres of water and over 160 developed trail miles. Learn more at: www.dallasparks.org

About Downtown Dallas, Inc.

Downtown Dallas, Inc. is the primary advocate, champion, and steward for Downtown, effecting change by developing strategies, setting targets, and mobilizing resources that:

- Stimulate a vibrant and sustainable Downtown environment
- Improve infrastructure
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Create a culturally inclusive urban center
- Position the area as a global destination
- Foster innovation and technology in all aspects of the urban experience

For more information, visit: www.downtowndallas.com