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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

E. CARROLL JOYNER PARK GRAND OPENING OCT. 4

WAKE FOREST, NC – September 25, 2009 – The Town of Wake Forest is preparing for a fun-filled dedication of its newest park, E. Carroll Joyner Park, 701 Harris Road, on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m.

Area residents are invited to come out and enjoy the classic rural landscape that defines the 117-acre facility, as well as the three miles of walking trails, restored farm buildings, 2,000-foot stone ribbon wall, and magnificent pecan grove.

The ceremony will take place in the performance garden, located adjacent to the 1000-seat lawn amphitheater. As part of the dedication, area residents can enjoy refreshments, including cake, lemonade, and cookies. A concert in the amphitheater featuring The Swang Brothers will follow the ceremony beginning at 3 p.m.

During the dedication, Parks & Recreation Director Susan Simpson will discuss the park's history and how the Town of Wake Forest came to purchase the land from E. Carroll Joyner. David Proper, representing the Trust for Public Land, will also recognize Joyner and present a special gift. Other guest speakers will include Mayor Vivian Jones, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chair Sandy Thomason, and Wake County Open Space & Parks Advisory Committee Chair Sig Hutchinson.

The Joyner Park property was a working farm as recently as the 1940's. Owned by the Walker family, the land produced assorted vegetables that were sold to local merchants. It was eventually purchased by Joyner who raised cattle on the site until the early 1990's.

In its update of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan in 1996, the Town identified the Joyner property as the only land in the western quadrant of town suitable for a park. A few years later, Town staff began discussions with Joyner about the possible purchase of the property with the understanding it would someday become a town park. Not until 2001, when Wake County voters passed a \$50 million dollar Open Space Bond that set aside \$12 million for the municipal partners to purchase land for parks and open space, did the Town enter into

serious negotiations for the property. The Trust for Public Land assisted the Town with these negotiations.

Wake Forest purchased the property in 2003 and hired Mark Robinson and Associates to develop a Master Plan for the park.

In 2005 the citizens of Wake Forest passed a \$7 million Parks & Recreation Bond that included \$3.5 million for the phase I construction of Joyner Park. Specifications and bid documents were developed over the next year. During that time, the Town also acquired two recreation grants totaling \$750,000 for the phase I construction. The project was put out to bid in early 2008 and construction began in May 2008. After just over a year, the phase I work was completed in July 2009.

Two additional phases are being planned for the park. The next phase will include a Community Center and playground and the final phase will add baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, and additional parking.

The Joyner Park grand opening is free and open to the public. Uniformed police officers will be on site to direct traffic entering the facility.

For more information about E. Carroll Joyner Park, visit www.wakeforestnc.gov/residents/parksrecreation_facilities_joynerpark.aspx.

For more information about the Joyner Park grand opening, contact the Wake Forest Parks & Recreation Department at (919) 554-6180.

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For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.