



CHCHD News

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department

Contact: Abena Williams, PIO
(423) 209-8238

AbenaW@HamiltonTN.gov
Health.HamiltonTN.org

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Community to restore 45th Street Park during Community Action Day

Chattanooga-TN, Residents of South Chattanooga, in partnership with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department's Step ONE program, Grow Healthy Together Chattanooga Southside Leadership Advisory Committee, and the South Chattanooga Association of Neighbors (SCAN), will roll up their sleeves for the 45th Street Park Community Action Day.

The effort to revitalize the park located at 45th Street and Central Avenue will take place Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

"We are very excited to be part of this beautification effort. Children and families in South Chattanooga deserve a safe, accessible place to spend time and become more physically active," said John Bilderback, Program Manager of Step ONE at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department.

Recent research has shown that people who live close to viable parks engage in higher levels of physical activity than those who do not. The Alton Park/Piney Woods community has approximately 2.5 acres of neighborhood park space per 1,000 residents, compared to the City of Chattanooga which has 4.6 acres per 1,000 residents. The 45th Street Park can also serve as a bridge to connect neighbors and help anchor the start of a revitalization that is long overdue.

Residents and volunteers from across Chattanooga will come together to cut grass, pick up trash, cut back overgrowth, and identify other needs for the park. The City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department is currently fixing up the baseball field for the multiple RBI Baseball teams in the neighborhood. Residents will also have an opportunity to fill out a short survey to help visualize the future of 45th Street Park.

"We are bringing the park back to its glory day, when there were softball and basketball games, birthday parties, and family reunions. It has become an eyesore and we want it to be attractive and functional again," said Eric Choice, South Chattanooga resident and member of the Southside Leadership Advisory Committee.

About Grow Healthy Together Chattanooga:

Grow Healthy Together Chattanooga (GHTC) was initiated by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department in 2009. With a four-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Program, the goal of GHTC is to reduce and prevent childhood obesity by reducing the barriers to physical activity and healthy eating in the East and South Chattanooga communities.

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