



PARKS AND RECREATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cook Park Grand Re-Opening
Tuesday, October 17th, 2023

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – October 11, 2023 – The City of Athens Parks and Recreation Department has announced the grand re-opening and ribbon cutting of J.L. Cook Memorial Park will take place on Tuesday, October 17th at 2:00pm. Renovations began on the park in 2022 and were completed earlier this summer.

The renovations of J.L. Cook Memorial Park include two new playgrounds, one for ages 5-12 and the other for ages 2-5. The entire playground surface has been replaced with rubber surfacing, a new catering kitchen has been added to the pavilion, and new fencing around the playground and basketball courts has been installed. The Cook Park pavilion is available on a first-come, first-served basis but the pavilion and kitchen are also available for rental.

The Cook Park renovations began shortly after the completion of the J.L. Cook Historical Marker. The J.L. Cook Heritage Foundation, a group founded to preserve the history and heritage of the J.L. Cook School, worked to install a tribute that tells the story of the African American school that once stood on the grounds of J.L. Cook Memorial Park. The 5-foot-tall by 9-foot-wide historical marker features a news article by former principal and noted educator, Professor W.E. Nash and highlights images of the school, its students and epic events that took place at the school.

For more information, please contact the Office of Parks & Recreation at (423) 744-2704.