

Pullen and Chavis Carousels Project – Frequently Asked Questions

August 2007

Background:

Interest in preserving the Pullen Park carousel after the Pullen Park Master Plan in 2001 led to a recommendation by the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board's CAROUSEL TASK FORCE in 2004 to provide new buildings for both the Pullen Park and Chavis Park carousels.

Status:

The conceptual designs have been completed for both projects, and can be viewed at www.raleighnc.gov/parkplan by selecting Chavis and Pullen from the Current Projects list. The construction schedule of both projects is anticipated as follows:

Chavis - construction of the carousel building, beginning winter 2007, and completion spring 2008.

Pullen - construction of the carousel building and major Amusement Area renovations, beginning fall 2008 and completion in 2009. The renovation involves all new buildings, playground, infrastructure (utilities, paving, etc.) and closing of the Area to the public.

Are the new carousel buildings a separate project, or part of a larger improvement effort?

Providing a new building in a new location for the Chavis Park carousel was recommended in the updated Chavis Master Plan (1994) and is the only item funded in this project. Pullen Park's Master Plan (2001) called for renovation of the Amusement Area off Ashe Avenue, and the new carousel building is part of a larger project.

How are the new carousel buildings and moving the carousels being funded?

Both the Chavis and Pullen carousel projects are funded from the 2003 PARK BOND. The Chavis carousel building is budgeted at \$975,000. The Pullen Improvement Project for the carousel and the continued implementation of the master plan in the Amusement Area is budgeted at approximately \$7 million.

Will the carousel rides be restored as part of the projects?

Care of both carousels' figures are an ongoing undertaking. Pullen's animal figures are restored a few at a time on a rotating basis over several years to both keep figures available for riding and balance the carousel platform. The Chavis carousel figures are in good shape. A program of cleaning and maintenance is currently in place, also.

Will the carousels be better protected in new buildings?

Yes, both buildings will be climate controlled but will still have operable windows. The carousel rides themselves will be more visible, even when the building is closed.

Will the carousels be more available?

New buildings will allow a longer season of operation (through the fall and open early spring, for example). There will be more evening opportunities as well.

Will it cost more to ride the carousels ?

The fees for the entire Raleigh Parks and Recreation program are reviewed with the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board and approved by City Council annually.

Are the two carousels the same?

No, the Pullen Park carousel was crafted by the Dentzel Carousel Company in the early 1900's, and the ride (not the building) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It measures 50 feet in diameter and has 52 hand-carved wooden animals and two chariots. The Chavis Park carousel was crafted as a traveling unit by the Herschell Carousel Company between 1916 and 1923. The ride is under study for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is smaller than the Pullen carousel, having only 36 wooden "jumper" horses, two chariots, and four small cast aluminum horses.

Why are the organs not used to provide music?

The historic Wurlitzer "military band organs" use paper rolls to read the music and mechanical means to produce the unique sound, and are used in moderation. They also have no volume controls. Recorded music is used most of the time, but the band organs are used every hour to help maintain the materials (belts, drum heads, etc.) and can be demonstrated upon request.

Will the carousels be in the same locations?

The Pullen location will not change. In keeping with the Chavis Park Master Plan the new building for the Chavis carousel will be a more central location near the Community Center. This will increase its visibility and hopefully help capture the energy of the other activity areas of the Park.

How were decisions on the conceptual design and location made?

Significant guidance for these decisions comes from the master plans for both parks as well as the in-depth efforts of the Carousel Task Force. In addition, the consultants for the design projects include an art conservator, a museum environment and mechanical system specialist, and an experienced carousel restorer, maintenance and operations specialist. Also factored in is the desire to balance the protection of the historic, wooden carousels with the interest in having them available to the public to experience.

An extensive public meeting process was used in 2006 to review and gather comments. This included presentations to the Raleigh Historic District Commission, the Raleigh Art Commission, Citizen Advisory Councils, the Parks, Recreation and Advisory Board and the Raleigh City Council. Public meetings were held to review both carousel concepts. An additional meeting will be held to review each project at the 30 percent construction design phase.

Where can more information be found?

The project page on the City of Raleigh web site has extensive background information, including master plan excerpts, concept development, and project staff contacts. Please

visit www.raleighnc.gov/parkplan and select *Chavis and Pullen Park Carousel Renovation and Park Improvements* from the list of Current Projects.