

Downtown Cary Park

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

YEAR 2018 - 2023

SIZE 7 acres

USE Highly programmed public park with native gardens, flexible lawns, water features, dog park and bark bar, stormwater pond, rain gardens, playgrounds and climbing structures, event pavilion, art exhibits, and games.

THEMES Strengthen Public Life
Celebrate Local Cultures
Regional Capacity
Elevate Sustainability + Resilience



- + More than 750,000 people visited the park in its first full year of operation.
- + Multiple community workshops and interactive dialogue informed the final design and programming decisions. This led to an historic 86% bond approval vote.
- + The sitewide stormwater strategy combines both retention ponds for storage and a series of rain gardens and subsurface drainage system that reduce or eliminate the flood risk for thousands of residents.
- + The planting palette prioritizes native species that require minimal maintenance and reduce strain on water resources, without compromising visual interest.

MAJOR AWARDS

2022 ASLA North Carolina Award of Merit, Analysis and Planning

The Town of Cary sought to refocus the energy of the downtown core with expanded open space offerings. A series of outdoor rooms are knit together by multi-dimensional vantage points, including elevated walkways, meandering paths and water features that take advantage of grade changes. Key areas include a plaza with a pavilion and an interactive water feature; an inclusive children's play environment; a flexible great lawn for large community gatherings; and a gathering house and garden for both special events and quiet contemplation.

