



**Contact:**

Samantha Fiala

[sfiala@seigenthaler.com](mailto:sfiala@seigenthaler.com)

615-327-7999

## **Facelift Begins: Phase 1 of Centennial Park’s Master Plan Begins Construction**

*Focus on water quality with Lake Watauga cleanup and daylighting Cockrill Spring*

**Nashville, Tenn. (October 21, 2013)** – Phase 1 of Centennial Park’s revitalization is set to begin this winter with the dredging of Lake Watauga followed by the daylighting of Cockrill Spring and construction of Musician’s Corner in the spring of 2014. Directed by landscape architecture firm Nelson Byrd Woltz, the first phase of Centennial Park’s revitalization focuses primarily on dramatic water quality improvements for the coming year to improve sustainability of the park’s water system.

Draining and dredging of Lake Watauga will begin this winter and is to be completed in the spring. Funded through a partnership with the Metro Stormwater Department, the project includes new aeration and circulation pumps in the lake as well as the installation of vegetated floating wetland islands to absorb pollutants which have contributed to the poor quality of the lake water.

The Lake Watauga project focuses on an integrated strategy of removing phosphorus and other pollutants and pumping fresh, cold water from Cockrill Spring, which has been buried beneath the park for 100 years and is to be daylighted this spring. In surfacing the spring, the Master Plan will create pools, cascades, and wetland gardens for park-goers in the entrance to the park. The permanent Musician’s Corner amphitheater, which will provide permanent seating for Nashville’s most popular lawn party, will also begin construction in the new year.

“We are excited to be taking these next steps in making the master plan for Centennial Park come to life,” said Sylvia Rapoport, president of The Conservancy for the Parthenon and Centennial Park, a nonprofit organization committed to improving and promoting the park. “Revitalizing Lake Watauga has been a priority project in the park’s revitalization. The lake is one of the park’s greatest assets yet algae has been a very visible, chronic problem for years. Through this project and the daylighting of Cockrill Spring, the community can come and enjoy the beautiful water features and landscape that are so iconic to Centennial Park.”

Directed by Metro Parks, the improvements to Centennial Park are aided by Mayor Karl Dean and The Conservancy, which cultivates support from the private sector including over \$1 million for Phase 1 of the of the Centennial Park Master Plan, a six-phase plan created in 2011 to restore and enhance the park.

The Conservancy for the Parthenon and Centennial Park is responsible for many park programs and initiatives the community has come to love. Founded in 1982, The Conservancy's original purpose was to raise funds to recreate the statue Athena. Today, it is responsible for a range of initiatives aimed at maintaining the park's vibrancy, including Musicians Corner, free weekly concerts in the summer and fall months, and the Centennial Park Master Plan. Through fundraisers and private donations, The Conservancy oversees the educational programs, public exhibits, performing arts, and preservation of Centennial Park's landmarks.

One such event is the annual gala for The Conservancy, the largest fundraiser for the park, which will occur on November 2<sup>nd</sup> outside the Parthenon and is open to all community members who wish to attend. The black-tie event provides financial support to the revitalization and preservation of the Parthenon and the Centennial Park Master Plan.

"The Conservancy has become an integral part of maintaining and preserving one of Nashville's most beloved landmarks," said Bert Mathews, co-chair for The Conservancy's annual gala. "Because of The Conservancy's commitment to the park's programs, arts, and preservation, Centennial Park has remained a vibrant community center in the heart of our city. We cannot wait to see the transformations in the coming year that will make the park an even greater gathering spot for all Nashvillians."

More information about The Conservancy and the annual gala can be found at [www.conservancyonline.com](http://www.conservancyonline.com) or by calling (615) 862-8400.

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