

## Coming Together, Investing in Children

**1960s:** Community events, like Halloween dances, bring together the whole neighborhood. Children build long-lasting friendships and memories at John Chavis Memorial Park.

**A Cougar in the Park**  
**1960s:** Children love to play in the park, especially on the P9F-4 Cougar Marine Corps jet. Retired military jets are added to parks across the country as attractions during this time.

**WELCOME TO THE GRANDSTAND**  
**1954:** A new grandstand creates more opportunities for athletics in the park. Teams from Shaw University and Saint Augustine's College, as well as Washington High School and John W. Upton Junior-Senior High School, play at the park.

**The Neighborhood's Backyard**  
**1950s:** The park hosts Easter egg hunts, church revivals, homecoming parties, family reunions, and community picnics. People enjoy one of the neighborhood's first color televisions at the community center.

**PLAY BALL!**  
**1940s to 1960s:** Raleigh's Black baseball clubs, the Raleigh Grays as well as the semi-pro Raleigh Tigers, play at the park.

**CHOO! CHOO!**  
**1952:** The carousel remains a popular attraction, so an additional amusement is added to the park — a working miniature train.

**JOHN CHAVIS: A NAME TO REMEMBER**  
**1943:** John Chavis becomes the Raleigh Urban Citizens Association petition the City to rename the park for Civil Rights leader Chavis. Revolutionary the woman, "The Back room" minister, and preacher Ben Morgan. A mission is launched over the park to honor Chavis.

**WORLD WAR II IN THE PARK**  
**1941 to 1948:** The U.S. Army builds a temporary tented camp in John Chavis Memorial Park to house Black soldiers visiting Raleigh on leave. In 1945, a War Mothers Memorial bench is added to the park to honor those who served in World War II from Wake County.

**A PLACE TO GATHER AND CELEBRATE**  
**1927:** As the region's only park for African Americans during the period of segregation, the swimming pool, athletic fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters, amphitheater, and carousel open to large crowds.

**6'**

## Separate Is Not Equal

**1964:** John Chavis Memorial Park remains segregated until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 integrates all public parks.

**\*DANCING ON TEENAGE FROLICS\***  
**1960s to 1980s:** Teenage Frolics frequently airs from John Chavis Memorial Park. Local host J.D. Lewis makes the television dance program famous, as area teens show off their dance moves and the latest fashions.

**RIDING THE HOPPY HORSE**  
**1982:** As one of the park's most beloved and popular attractions, the original Allan Herschell Carousel is restored for the next generation to enjoy.

**All Are Welcome Here**  
**2012:** Young and old celebrate the park's 75th anniversary.

**The Most Awesome Place to Be**  
**2008:** Dancing in the Park offers fitness and fun for people of all ages.

**EVERY VOTE COUNTS**  
**2016:** Shaw University's band leads a march to the voting polls at John Chavis Memorial Park.

**Chavis Park Celebrates**  
**2017:** The community comes together to celebrate the park's history and its deep connection to African American culture.

**A NEVER-ENDING**  
**2019:** Neighbors and city officials break ground on a new community center.

**CYCLE OF GOOD THINGS**  
**2019:** Over 200 people attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the longest soul train. They fell short but had fun doing it.

**Join the Soul Train**  
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