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Local Nonprofit Group Unveils A Bold Vision for Charlotte: A Central Park North of Uptown

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlotte, North Carolina (July 7, 2020) – Friends of Queen’s Park, Inc., a local non-profit organization, has released professional renderings showing the group’s vision for transforming a 220-acre site north of Uptown from an industrial railyard site into a Central Park for Charlotte.

The public can view the renderings on the group’s relaunched website: www.QueensParkCLT.org. (High-resolution digital copies of the renderings are available for the media [via direct link here](#) and at <https://www.queensparkclt.org/press>)

Parks have always served an important public function in cities – giving us ample space to exercise and be out in the sun, nurturing our physical and mental health, and making our cities greener and more livable. Now more than ever, urban parks are a critical component of community infrastructure. Mecklenburg County’s parks rank near last in the United States: 95th out of 100 major metropolitan areas. We aim to improve that in a bold way.

Queen’s Park represents a remarkable transformation that embodies the spirit of Charlotte by connecting neighborhoods and people to each other and to the natural environment. At 220 acres, Queens Park will be the largest and most diverse park within the City. Situated at the intersection of the Cross-Charlotte Trail, the Lynx Blue Line, the Rail Trail, and North Tryon Street, the Park will accommodate amenities such as a flexible great lawn, a regional cultural district, and a natural area that showcases nature and natural systems. It will connect diverse and exciting neighborhoods and change the way that we think about Parks in the City of Charlotte.

The vision and renderings are a collaboration of renowned professionals in development, urban design, and architecture who volunteered their time. Friends of Queens Park would like to thank its partners at

Flywheel Group, Stantec, Odell, and The Agency who helped visually depict this dream for Charlotte's future. Each of the corporate partners is represented by a member on the group's board of directors.

It is potentially now or never for Charlotte: imagine if New York City missed the opportunity to create Central Park some 150 years ago—and tried to engineer one now. Few sites near uptown offer comparable potential and improved quality-of-life impact as the transformation of the railyard into Queen's Park. Transforming the industrial site will connect to existing infrastructure and build upon investments made in the area. The park will be a catalyst for growth sitting in the middle of a larger area of urban renewal, marked by Optimist Hall, Camp North End, and the North Tryon Vision Plan. Friends of Queen's Park envisions an expansive urban park that will contribute to Charlotte's **community, culture, and quality of life.**

- Queen's Park will be an inclusive public space that connects *people to people* (community). The park will link and center eight diverse neighborhoods of North End Smart District now separated by a railyard expanse.
- Through public amenities and art, the park will connect *people to place* (culture). Think of the Cloud Gate sculpture in Chicago's Millennium Park, a former rail yard until it was converted to a park in 2004. The park will provide opportunities for cultural events, festivals, etc.
- Queens Park will contribute to the quality of life of all Charlotteans by transforming the gray railyard into a vibrant greenspace—and in the process, adding back trees to our dwindling canopy. The park will connect to the regional greenway system.

Friends of Queen's Park asks supporters to post to social media using the hashtag **#Tracks2Trees**. The public also can show their support by ordering a Queen's Park t-shirt, donating to the group, or signing up to volunteer on its website.

Friends of Queen's Park is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization formed in October 2019. The renderings are the first press release from Friends of Queen's Park since the announcement of the group's formation was covered in November 2019 in the Charlotte Agenda, WSOC, WCNC, and WCCB.

The group has made available to the press three of its directors who helped to create the renderings. For inquiries, please see the above contact information.