

## **Jordan Park Historical Background**

Jordan Park is officially named “The Reverend William Holsey Jordan Park” in 1987 after Reverend William Holsey Jordan, a Georgia native and veteran of World War I who founded the Jordan Chapel C.M.E. Church in Atlantic Beach. Reverend Jordan retired from the Jordan Chapel in 1975 but remained an active member of the community and referred to as “one of the most distinguished citizens in Atlantic Beach.” He also served as President of the Beaches Ministerial Alliance, a member of the Atlantic Beach Black Chamber of Commerce, and a charter member of the Beaches Area Historical Society. Reverend Jordan passed away on Christmas Day in 1985.

Jordan Park was once a vacant parcel owned by the City of Jacksonville who, in 1979, passed a Resolution authorizing the City of Atlantic Beach to use the property in any manner that they so wished. In 1983, with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the city decided to build a basketball court on the property. In 1984, the City of Jacksonville deeded the property to the City of Atlantic Beach. Meetings with neighborhood residents suggested showed a desire for this park to serve as a “family park” with no baseball parks or soccer fields, but rather a place to have picnics and hold church events. Over the next several years, amenities including a kid’s basketball court, picnic shelters, lighting, and restrooms were added to the park.

In 2000, Beaches Habitat for Humanity offered to construct a multi-purpose building at Jordan Park to accommodate their after school program if the city agreed to supply the materials and allow them to use the office space. The city agreed and the Jordan Park Community Center was completed in 2001 with a ribbon cutting ceremony held on November 17. The Community Center was expanded in 2006 by Beaches Habitat for Humanity after the expansion of their after school program and then remodeled in 2013 to further enhance their after school program.