

Revolution Park Timeline

1927	White land owners offering real estate for recreational use in what becomes Revolution Park, Charlotte N.C. Deeds given with specific requirements—from need to use and spend money on the land for recreation, to deeds with a reverter clause to keep African Americans from using any part of the park.
1930s	Municipal swimming pool and club house constructed with WPA labor during the depression. The pool opened in 1938.
1940s	Three separate housing developments began during this era—Beech Nut Acres (Osmond Barringer), Scotland Hills (Jacksonville Housing Co.), and West Boulevard (Marsh Realty).
1951, Dec 12-13	16 African American golfers are denied permission to play golf on Bonnie Brae golf course by City of Charlotte’s Park and Recreation Commission.
1949	Community recreation center housed within pool clubhouse, to include dance floor, and recreation quarters.
1950	Revolution swimming pool enjoys record number of visitors-32,647 (11,841 under age 12) paying customers between May 20 and July 7 th .
1951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opening of Pool for African Americans in Double Oaks ▪ Opening of clubhouse at the Bonnie Brae golf course ▪ 16 African American golfers attempt to and then petition to use the Bonnie Brae golf course.
1954	Federal District Court desegregated Atlantic municipal golf course.
1955	Charlotte golf course case before the Supreme Court, issue regards “reverter clause.”
1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integration of schools through U.S. Supreme Court case Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education, saying separate is not equal in the case of schools. In Charlotte, Dorothy Counts desegregates Harding an all- white high school. ▪ Park Board sought to save Revolution park and golf course from reverter clauses by unanimously voting to purchase the Barringer property for no more than \$17,500 ▪ Golf course is desegregated and attendance dramatically increases, approximately 60-70% of golfers are African American and no “complaints from either race.” ▪ Land given by Dwight Phillip to enlarge Bonnie Brae from a 9 to 18 hole course which was not completed.
1960 (February)	Greensboro four begin lunch counter sit-ins. Greensboro Woolworths desegregated their counters on July 26
1960 (July)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ July 27th -Three African American girls desegregated the Revolution Park Swimming Pool. ▪ July 28th-City issues policy statement regarding desegregation of pool. City feared a law suit and was not willing to close all municipal pools, thus they appealed “to all Charlotteans for understanding and for restraint.” However, they stated that “out of all public facilities, swimming pools put the tolerance of the white people to the most severe test, and present the greatest danger of disorder.” Therefore it was left up to the discretion of the manager to

	<p>determine whether desegregation would create disorder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NAACP had been attempting to integrate the pool since 1958, and felt that the success at this time was due to success of recent lunch counter protests. ▪ African Americans are denied use of the pool once and then seemingly desegregation proceeds.
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Voting Rights Act is passed by the U.S. Congress, which would abolish poll taxes and tests, hindering many southerners from voting. ▪ Frederick Douglass Alexander is elected as the first African American member of Charlotte's city council. He would openly challenge city actions, which encouraged geographic division and urban renewal efforts, which relocated African Americans to northwest Charlotte.
1966	Part of Revolution Park Recreation Area and Bonnie Brae golf course is sold to Highway Department for North-South Expressway.
1960-1967	1,480 housing structures were demolished in Brooklyn Community (second ward), displacing 1,007 residents and 215 businesses.
Late 1960s	The neighborhood's first African-American home owners moved in and white flight begins.
1985	Revolution Park Neighborhood Association is formed.
2006	Revolution swimming pool was demolished.

List of important historical persons in Revolution Park

- Osmond Barringer—original land grantor
- FC Abbott (may be FC Abbott)--original land grantor
- WP Shore--original land grantor
- John Shaw—city attorney in 1950s
- Foster Blaisdell—park superintendent during 1950s
- Judge Susie Sharp—local county judge who ordered desegregation of golf course.
- Marion Diehl—parks and recreation commission superintendent during 1950s.
- James Hawkins—manager of Revolution Park swimming pool.
- James Otis Williams—17 year old African American first to use desegregated golf course
- Thomas H. Wyche—chairman of the legal committee of the NAACP
- Spottswood W. Robinson III –from Richmond, regional NAACP council
- Kelly M. Alexander—state president of NAACP
- Mrs. U.S. Brooks—president of Charlotte NAACP

Golfers that filed the petition against Charlotte Recreation Department for the right to play:

- Charles W. Leeper
- I.P. Farrar
- Robert H. Greene
- James Heath
- Henry H Isley
- Russell McLaughlin
- Anthony M. Walker
- Harold Walker
- James J. Weddington
- Willie Lee Weddington
- Roy S. Wynn
- Rudolf M. Wyche
- Sadler S. Gladden
- James Weddington
- LA Warner
- GM Wilkins

Revolution Park Boundaries:

I-77/West Blvd/ Irwin Creek-Beech Nut Road / Barringer Drive/

Other events

- Barringer Elementary School
- 1956 Park and Recreation Master Plan for Revolution Park
- Urban/suburban planning concept-Parks/School/Neighborhood, ‘suburban’ west side community
- White flight/African American migration