

# Romare Bearden Park

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West 3rd Street and South Church Street

<b>Cost:</b>	\$9 million
<b>Completion:</b>	2009
<b>Size:</b>	5.2 acre park
<b>Use:</b>	Open Space
<b>Architect:</b>	Land Design Inc. / Neighboring Concepts
<b>Owner/ Developer:</b>	Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation

Romare Bearden Park will be created on a 5.2-acre parcel located in Third Ward between Church and Mint Streets and Martin Luther King (MLK) Boulevard and 4th Street. Bearden was an internationally renowned artist who was born in Charlotte in 1912 and at one point in his childhood, lived near the new park at the corner of MLK Boulevard and Graham Street.

The park design is based on the work of public artist Norie Sato. Her concepts were inspired by Bearden's multimedia collages where he used memory, experiences and tradition as the basis of his work. For example, the main pathway that bisects the park from Church Street to the main plaza of the future Charlotte Knights Ballpark is named the Evocative Spine, named as such to represent the way Bearden created his work by 'evoking' his childhood memories. Two other features of the park, Madeline's and Maudell's gardens, represent how Bearden used the memory of the beautiful garden's kept by his mother and grandmother to inspire his art. Construction is expected to begin in late 2008, with the park opening in late 2009. For more information, visit [parkandrec.com](http://parkandrec.com)

