



## Legislation Text

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File #: 2023-0526, Version: 1

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**Public Hearing:** YES  NO

**Department:** Board of Commissioners - District 6

**SUBJECT:**

**Commission District(s):** District 3, 6, and all commission districts

A Resolution to Encourage DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond to End the Executive Order Closing Intrenchment Creek Park and to Reopen It to the Public As Soon As Possible

**Information Contact:** Commissioner Edward C. “Ted” Terry

**Phone Number:** 404-371-4909

**PURPOSE:**

To adopt a resolution to encourage DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond to end the executive order closing Intrenchment Creek Park and to reopen it to the public as soon as possible.

**NEED/IMPACT:**

Public safety is of the utmost importance and protecting citizens and pets is an undeniable priority. Because of this, on Friday, March 24, 2023 DeKalb County CEO closed Intrenchment Creek Park via executive order due to what he called safety concerns after officials reported finding “life-threatening” hidden traps at the park. On March 29th, it was reported that DeKalb County police say they finished a cleanup operation at a park and officials reported that the DeKalb County Sanitation Department spent hours demolishing several illegal structures built inside Intrenchment Creek Park.

The current executive order closing Intrenchment Creek Park has denied access to the public, causing inconvenience and frustration among those who rely on the park for exercise, leisure, and relaxation.

The South River Forest is an incredible opportunity for the people of DeKalb County and surrounding East Atlanta to connect with nature in ways that benefit public health and wellness and generate economic opportunity. The ecological benefits-such as floodplain restoration, habitat expansion, and tree canopy protection-are critically important to our future in the face of a population expected to triple in size by 2040.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Not known costs at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the resolution encouraging CEO Michael Thurmond to end the executive order closing Intrenchment Creek Park and to reopen it to the public and allocate funds necessary to establish and hire a South River Forest Park Naturalist to assist in restoration and education importance of Intrenchment Creek Park and the South River Forest.