



For Immediate Release  
*Photographs Attached*

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## **BIRDIE NAMED PIEDMONT PARK CONSERVANCY'S DOG OF THE YEAR**

*The Piedmont Park Dog of the Year Contest was 'Woofderful'*

ATLANTA, August 5, 2019. The Piedmont Park Conservancy has crowned its third Piedmont Park Dog of the Year: Birdie, an English Springer Spaniel from Brookhaven. Birdie was one of 150 dogs competing in this year's contest. Birdie will serve as the Conservancy's mascot to spread awareness that the Piedmont Park Conservancy, a nonprofit, provides the funding and maintenance of Piedmont Park's three-acre off-leash dog parks.

This year's contest was held indoors at Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park. After a highly competitive social media photo portion of the contest, the six finalists came to Piedmont Park to display their skill in good behavior and charisma.

The judges for the Piedmont Park Dog of the Year Contest were as follows: Scott Akins from MAAC, Josh Lowther from Dancing Dogs Yoga Atlanta, and Howard Wertheimer, COO and Executive VP of the Piedmont Park Conservancy. Sookie, 2018 Piedmont Park Dog of the Year, served as an honorary judge.

As the winner, Birdie receives Dog of the Year status from August 3, 2019 – July 31, 2020, entry to this year's Splish Splash Doggie Bash, entry to next spring's Doggie Dash 5K and a photoshoot to help promote the nonprofit's work.

Thanks to generous donors of the Piedmont Park Conservancy, the Piedmont Park Dog Parks attract over 700,000 visitors each year. One out of every four people brings along their furry companion when visiting the Park. Donor support directly helps the Conservancy to keep the dog parks clean, green, and free! Learn more at: <https://www.piedmontpark.org/dog-parks/>

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The Piedmont Park Conservancy is a member and donor funded nonprofit working in partnership with the City of Atlanta to maintain and enhance historic Piedmont Park. Founded in 1989, the Conservancy raises over \$3.5 million each year to enhance and maintain the park. Today, the Conservancy manages over 90% of the overall maintenance and security of Piedmont Park.