

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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**Bill Type and Number:** Ordinance 2025-189

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council Member Peluso

**Date of Introduction:** March 11, 2025

**Committee(s) of Reference:** NCSPHS, TEU

**Date of Analysis:** March 12, 2025

**Type of Action:** Park Renaming

**Bill Summary:** This bill renames the public park know as Oakland Park, located at 657 East Union Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32206, to be “Eartha M. M. White Historical Park”

**Background Information:** Oakland Park opened on July 4, 1918, through the efforts of noted Jacksonville humanitarian Dr. Eartha Mary Magdalene White, and carries historical significance as the first playground and recreational park established by the City of Jacksonville for African American children. Dr. White dedicated her life to serving others, as one of the first African American social workers in the United States, a school teacher, the first female African American realtor, a soprano with the nation’s first African American opera company, founding Mercy (tuberculosis) Hospital, coordinating statewide orphanage services, establishing employment training programs, initiating the first alcohol recovery program, organizing enlistment services for the military, and founding the Clara White Mission. Dr. White was a charter member of the Jacksonville Historical Society, and received numerous honors for her leadership and service from educational institutions, civic clubs, government agencies, business groups, and fraternal organizations; all in recognition of her contributions to society, both locally and nationally.

**Policy Impact Area:** Park renaming Council District 7

**Fiscal Impact:** Undetermined cost for signage

**Analyst:** Hampsey