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## Accessibility Enhancements at Booker T. Washington Park

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**Program Year:** 2023-24  
**Community Partners:** Dept of Parks & Recreation & Dept. of Public Works  
**City Investment:** \$25,000  
**Funding Source:** Community Development Block Grants Program

**Scope of Work.** Working closely together with the Department of Parks & Recreation and the Department of Public Works, the Office of Community Solutions coordinated several accessibility-focused enhancements at the historic Booker T. Washington Park, the site of many of the city’s treasured cultural celebrations.

**Community Impact.** Befitting its age and historic role, several of the key access points to the park had deteriorated and posed a challenge for mobility impaired visitors to the park. Working together, Parks & Rec and Public Works staff replaced multiple sections of cracked and broken sidewalk, thereby removing barriers to entry and enhancing access for all. CDBG funding, for example, made possible the replacement of a narrow, uneven gravel pathway into the park that became waterlogged whenever it rained with a new gracefully curved accessible pathway that significantly eases entry into to the park for mobility-impaired visitors. At the same time, the city’s Department of Public Works replaced multiple sections of cracked and broken sidewalk, further removing barriers to entry and enhancing access for all.

CDBG funds were also made available to the staff of the city’s Adaptive Recreation program to purchase materials to support their work providing engaging recreation programs and services to the city’s special needs population.

Learn more at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/1742/Parks-Recreation>

Before:



During:



After:



The Office of Budget & Grants Management coordinates the Community Development Block Grant program (“CDBG”), through which funding made available by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development supports a broad range of community development and planning activities. Learn more about this work at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/678/CDBG-HOME-Programs>. Charlottesville residents seeking to get involved in this work can learn more about the CDBG/HOME Taskforce here: <https://www.charlottesville.gov/235/Boards-Commissions>.



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The city's Department of Public Works replaced large sections of crumbling and cracked sidewalks, thereby further easing access to the park.



Additional pathways throughout the park were paved as well, with new connectors being created to facilitate ease of access to park amenities. These areas also serve as accessible seating locations for some visitors.



Accessibility enhancements also included replacing the existing uneven gravel pathway in front of and around the building housing the city's Adaptive Recreation program, thereby easing access for mobility impaired participants in their activities, as well as improving access to a covered patio with accessible picnic tables and the park's accessible public restroom facilities.

Learn more about this work and get involved at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/facilities/facility/details/Booker-T-Washington-Park-56>