



Accessibility Enhancements at Jordan Park

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

Scope of Work. Parks staff proposed to remove an old, narrow and cracked pathway within Jordan Park and to replace it with a new accessible pathway that would connect the park’s Sixth Street entrance with several park amenities, including two playgrounds, a basketball court and a newly constructed pedestrian trail bridge along the city’s expanding Moores Creek trail network.

Community Impact. In the Fall of 2024, the city’s Department of Parks & Recreation facilitated the replacement of the deteriorated pathways with a little over 3,400 square feet of new accessible pathway, with new drainage features to mitigate muddy conditions when it rains. In addition, Parks staff facilitated the installation of approximately 3,780 square feet of new stone dust pathway in an ecologically sensitive section of the Moores Creek trail in which paving would be too disruptive.

This new paved pathway creates an important first link between the existing amenities of Jordan Park and the Belmont and Ridge Street neighborhoods and the developing Moores Creek trail network along the tributaries of the Rivanna River, a trail network that is currently largely undeveloped but that will at scale provide new pedestrian access as far away as Fifth Street Station.

Learn More. The Rivanna Trails Foundation hopes to extend this new pathway all the way to Fifth Street Station, thereby greatly expanding access to the Rivanna watershed. Learn more at 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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A before picture of the pathway through the park that was replaced; note that the pathway through much of the park was not paved, thereby making access to the park difficult for mobility impaired visitors.



A view of the same section of the park showing the new paved pathway; note that there is now a new space for accessible seating and new paved connections to the basketball court and both playgrounds.

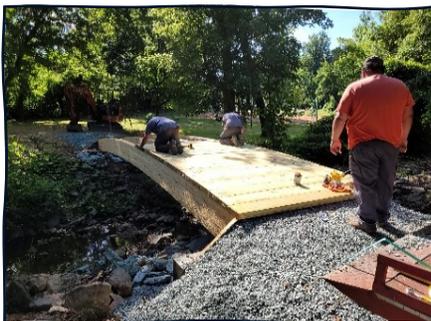


A longstanding problem in the park was the lack of drainage, which caused severely muddy conditions and deterioration of the pathway after a strong rain.

Construction of the new pathway involved substantial excavation and several layers of gravel to ensure adequate drainage, thereby making the new pathway safer and protecting it against deterioration over time.



To ensure a high level of accessibility, attention was paid to making sure that the transition from the new paved pathway on to the new pedestrian bridge was smooth and barrier-free, thereby enhancing ease of access for mobility impaired visitors to the park.



As part of the city's efforts to keep costs down, Parks & Rec staff handled much of the construction work, including installation of the side rails and some of the landscaping.

“This new bridge will allow users of the Moores Creek trail to cross the tributary to access the trails west of Jordan Park playground and basketball courts and continue on towards 5th Street,” said trails planner Chris Gensic.

Learn more and get involved at www.rivannatrails.org/