



Bennett's Village

a place for ALL to play

Bennett's Village Project Report to City Council
September 2024

Major milestone achievements:

- We updated our MOA with the City
- We held a groundbreaking event for the treehouse in the spring
- We are nearing completion of major treehouse construction
 - Elements left to be completed (later this fall)
 - Signage
 - Windows
 - Sensory wall
 - Bench
 - Fencing below (not part of original scope but in discussion with Parks and Recreation)
 - Planting with native species
- We sent out an RFP and are in the process of signing a contract with Mahan, Rykiel Associates to complete construction documents for all future phases.
- We are working with Parks and Recreation regarding the addition of an accessible bathroom with an adult changing station and a wheelchair battery charging station under the current bathroom facility
- We are also working with Parks and Recreation on the creation of an accessible pathway in the woods behind the treehouse.

The construction fencing by the treehouse will come down by September 30th. If we have passed off on all safety requirements, we will turn over the structure to Parks and Recreation and have a soft opening of the treehouse at that time. Any outstanding elements to be completed will be outlined in an agreement with Parks and Recreation

Programming achievements:

- We held a wonderful event in August to begin painting the rocks for the Community Rock Snake, which will be installed this fall and will remain a permanent feature in the Bennett's Village Play Space.
- Last spring we once again worked with the UVA Batten School class, Practical Non-Profit fundraising, where students used Bennett's Village as a case study, helping to plan our treehouse groundbreaking event and do some work with lapsed donors.
- We participated in VIA's Family Festival and Community Walk
- This fall we are working with a group of students from UVA's School of Education and Human Development taking an Adaptive Technology class to talk about ways to be more inclusive for those with communicative disorders. We are partnering with Parks and Rec to co-sponsor an event put on an inclusive storytime event with these students in the treehouse on October 30th

Fundraising efforts:

We have raised the funds to pay for the construction documents that will be created by the team put together by Mahan, Rykiel, & Associates.

So far this year we have raised \$320,000 with another \$180,000 in pledged funds.

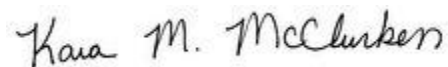
Budget vs. Actual expenditures for Treehouse

See [attached report](#)

Current/future endeavors:

- Complete artistic elements and plantings in and around treehouse
- Create construction documents with Mahan Rykiel Associates
- Create fundraising and outreach materials for next phases of project
- Expand fundraising capacity to raise money for future phases of the project
- Hold official celebration- "Party in the Park" Sunday, April 27, 1-5pm (with Parks and Recreation) celebrating the ways Bennett's Village and the City of Charlottesville is making Pen Park more accessible via the treehouse, the accessible bathroom, and the accessible path.

Respectfully submitted,



Kara M. McClurken,
President, Bennett's Village