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Contact: Michael Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communications
540.476.3038
Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov

Harrisonburg Parks & Rec to discuss Spraygrounds layout at open house *Proposed blueprint to highlight location of amenity, landscaping, future park additions*

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The public will soon have another chance to help with design efforts on the Spraygrounds at Ralph Sampson Park project.

Harrisonburg Parks & Rec will hold an open house next week to review proposed design layouts for where the spraygrounds and accompanying amenities will be added to the park. The meeting, on Wednesday, May 15, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center auditorium, will allow the public to review proposed park layout changes, ask staff and project consultants questions and provide final input on design themes for the spraygrounds.

The project is expected to be completed in phases, with the first phase to include the spraygrounds, restrooms, additional parking and other support additions. That phase of park improvements is expected to be completed by summer 2025. A second phase, to be completed at a later date, would surround the spraygrounds with other recreational opportunities as Harrisonburg Parks & Rec continues its efforts to revitalize Ralph Sampson Park.

“We were thrilled to see the public’s excitement about this project and to hear all their creative ideas for how we can make the spraygrounds something everyone in The Friendly City can enjoy,” Harrisonburg Parks & Rec Director Brian Mancini said. “There are still plenty of opportunities for our community to help shape this project, so we hope this great conversation continues so we can make sure more people get to enjoy our natural environment through Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation.”

A public open house was held April 24 where community members provided input on what they would like to have included in the project. Attendees highlighted their desires to see nearby restrooms, shade trees, a connecting walking path around the project, bike racks and gathering areas such as benches, picnic tables and shelters. Those ideas were incorporated into the designs the public will review on May 15.

In addition to feedback at open house events, Harrisonburg Parks & Rec staff will conduct pop-up engagement opportunities with attendees of youth programs in the coming week to receive additional input on design themes for the spraygrounds, and if future park visitors would prefer a natural theme, aquatic play theme, and artful fountain theme or another possible design.



The next public input meeting for the Spraygrounds at Ralph Sampson Park project will take place Wednesday, May 15, at the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center.

Once input is reviewed, consultants will work with Harrisonburg Parks & Rec staff to create a final proposed design to bring back to the public in an open house meeting in June. More information will be posted to the City's social media pages once the design is ready for review.

The spraygrounds is one of approximately 20 American Rescue Plan Act-funded projects – including six Parks & Rec efforts – approved by Harrisonburg City Council in December 2022. Find more information on other Harrisonburg ARPA projects at <https://harrisonburgva.gov/ARPA>.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.