



HARRISONBURG | VA
FRIENDLY BY NATURE



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Contact: Michael Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communications
540.432.7701
Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov



(Above) What's across the drawbridge of the upcoming new and improved Kids Castle Playground at Purcell Park? You'll have to wait until Wednesday, Oct. 16, to find out! A public meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at City Hall to show designs that are based on community input received during the 2019-2020 Purcell Park Master Plan process.

Community invited to check out designs for new and improved Kids Castle

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Harrisonburg's beloved Kids Castle Playground at Purcell Park is getting ready for a major upgrade – with the creative minds of The Friendly City's children leading the design.

The community will have a chance to see playground design renderings and new fun additions for the play area at a public engagement meeting Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Harrisonburg City Hall Council Chambers, 409 S. Main St. A presentation will take place starting at 6 p.m., followed by an opportunity for community members to speak with the design team and Harrisonburg Parks & Rec staff about the new destination playground.

Design teams have created renderings of the new play structure and accompanying amenities based on input received from hundreds of community members during the Purcell Park Master Plan process in 2019-2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic

delayed the project. With numerous drawings from local children to review and more than 1,000 responses from surveys and listening sessions, the design team had plenty of creative community inspiration to use in designing the perfect recreation area.

“We are thrilled with how designs for the new Kids Castle have turned out, because they have captured the best of both worlds – being respectful of the unique design our community has come to love while creating something completely new using the ideas of our community members and local students,” Harrisonburg Parks & Rec Director Brian Mancini said. “Kids Castle has always been a one-of-a-kind playground, so we wanted to make sure this new playground keeps that spirit alive.”

Initial work on the new Kids Castle Playground is scheduled to begin this fall. More information will be provided to the community regarding the timeline for construction when that information is available.

The replacement of Kids Castle is one of six Harrisonburg Parks & Rec projects selected for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending by Harrisonburg City Council. Other recreation-related projects include creation of a Splashpad at Ralph Sampson Park, adding lights and restrooms to the Smithland Athletic Complex, improvements to allow for an adult athletic field at Thomas Harrison Middle School and replacement of the Westover Park Skatepark.

Find more information on City ARPA projects and their timeline for completion at <https://harrisonburgva.gov/ARPA>. Follow Harrisonburg Parks & Rec at <https://www.facebook.com/harrisonburgparksandrecreation> for updates on the Kids Castle Playground project and other ongoing recreation projects.

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.

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