



**Bennett's
Village**
a place for ALL to play



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kara McClurken
Bennett's Village
434-529-6552
bennettsvillage@gmail.com

Bennett's Village Receives a \$25,000 Grant from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – December 6, 2021 – Bennett's Village, a non-profit dedicated to building an all-abilities playground at Pen Park here in Charlottesville, was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Get Outdoors (GO) program provides grants for projects that increase equitable access to safe open space in Virginia's communities.

"These funds will be used in 2022 and go directly to the planning and construction documents for the Treehouse. While many grants support brick and mortar, it's rare to find funding for the planning portion of the construction process. Bennett's Village is grateful that the Virginia Outdoors Foundation supports project planning through their grant program," says founder, Kara McClurken.

Phase One of Bennett's Village is The Treehouse. This will be constructed behind the existing playground and extend into the tree canopy so people of all abilities can experience truly being surrounded by nature. There will be at-grade access to the Treehouse and a switchback trail that will allow those who use wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers the ability to reach the lower level.

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) was established by the Virginia legislature in 1966 to promote the preservation of open-space lands and to encourage private gifts of money, securities, land or other property to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, scientific, open-space and recreational areas of the Commonwealth. The VOF currently protects more than 850,000 acres across Virginia, making it one of the largest land conservation organizations in the nation.

"We are thrilled to support the work of Bennett's Village to create a safe outdoor space that will serve people of all abilities," says VOF Executive Director Brett Glymph. "Spaces such as these are vital to strengthening communities, improving health, and connecting people to nature."

For more information on how you can help Bennett's Village make Charlottesville a place where all can play, visit us online at bennettsvillage.org. You can also find us on Instagram @BennettsVillage.

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