



Our Story

Bennett's Village honors Bennett McClurken-Gibney, a child who loved to laugh, play, and spend time with his friends and family.

Bennett lived with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which made play challenging, especially on traditional playgrounds that could not accommodate his wheelchair.

Bennett's family drove over an hour to find a playground that would enable him to play freely with others. Bennett passed away at the age of five but his hope for an inclusive playspace in our community lives on. What began as a dream for one child has grown into a project that meets a significant and growing need for people of all ages in our community.

Our Mission

Play brings people together. When we build spaces where all are included, we discover that we have much more in common than our differences. When we design for the least considered, we end up creating a space for everyone.

Bennett's Village is dedicated to making the world a more inclusive place for all to play and advocating to change the way our community sees inclusion. Bennett's Village will design the playspace beyond the minimum ADA compliance, focusing on true innovation and full accessibility.

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Our Playspace

Pen Park was designated as the site for a multigenerational, all-abilities playspace,

in partnership with the City of Charlottesville in 2019. Bennett's Village added a communication board to the park in 2022 and an accessible treehouse in 2025. As funds are raised, we will add fully-accessible play structures, a sensory garden, a cableway, a water play area, a restroom pavilion, native landscaping, a track, and play elements for all ages.



The Need

Play is essential to physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being and development.

American Academy of Pediatrics, aap.org

1 in 4 adults

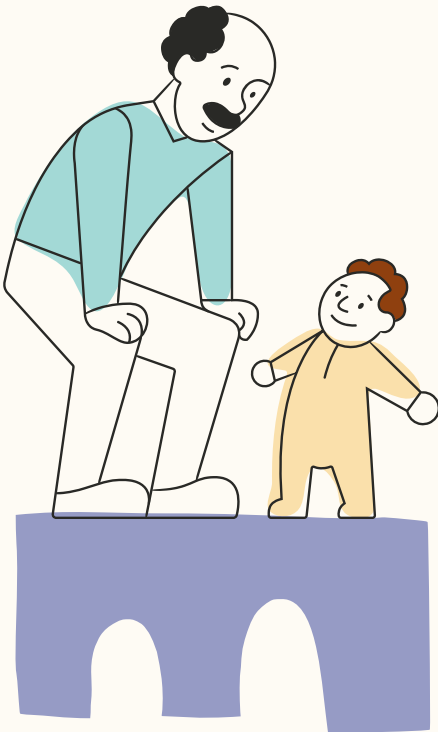
Over 1 in 4 adults have some sort of disability: cognitive, mobility, sensory, or other.

Centers for Disease Control, cdc.gov

1 in 5 children

in the US have special health care needs.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, aecf.org



UVA Children's Hospital

3K

annual admissions

60K

annual outpatient visits

University of Virginia School of Medicine, med.virginia.edu

6%+

Over 6% of Central Virginia residents under the age of 65 live with a disability

U.S. Census Bureau, census.gov

Support

Join our community!

Bennett's Village is seeking support to bring this extraordinary 4-acre playspace to life. Community support in the form of donations, volunteering, and advocacy is essential to this project.



Contact

Scan the QR code to learn more about how you can contribute to a place for all to play.



-  bennettsvillage.org
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A place for all to play

bennettsvillage.org