April 2025

Dear Friend of Bennett's Village,

I met a digital content creator at Pen Park last week who is doing a story on Bennett's Village. While we were discussing current and future plans, we were interrupted by four curious kids, eager to learn more about what we were doing. They asked great questions about what we're building next and seemed as engaged and excited as we were.

Do you want to know more about what's next for Bennett's Village, too? Join us at the **Party in the Park on April 27**, and you'll get a sneak peek at the latest designs!

Whether it's on the 27th or before, I hope to see you soon at the treehouse,
Kara



Image caption: The words "Party in the Park" are on a background of a green field with trees. The Bennett's Village logo, with illustrated people holding balloons and wearing party hats, is in the center. The bottom reads "Bennett's Village: a place for ALL to play," "Charlottesville Parks & Recreation," "Josie's Way" (on a rock painted in Josie's favorite colors, yellow, pink, and purple), and "Charlottesville Media Group."

Celebrate the official opening of the treehouse!

Have you **signed up** for the Party in the Park?

Bennett's Village is joining with Charlottesville Parks and Recreation and the family of Josie Klotz to highlight the three new accessible features we've added to Pen Park: the treehouse at Bennett's Village, a new family accessible bathroom, and Josie's Way, the soon-to-be-paved path through the woods.

We'll have food, crafts, and activities with allied organizations that also support inclusive play. And we'll be giving a special preview of our updated concept designs for the next phases of the project. Check out the list of organizations joining in on the party on our **event page**.

Come for the fun, stay for the preview, and let's celebrate! We are so grateful to Supporting Sponsor Charlottesville Media Group for their support of the event.

CHARLOTTESVILLE MEDIA GROUP

Image caption: The Charlottesville Media Group logo is black and white. On the left is a design with the left half of a bullseye. The center circle is black. The words "Charlottesville Media Group" are in all capital letters.

Let us know you're coming!

Volunteer opportunity

We need volunteers to make our Party in the Park a success. We're especially in need of volunteers to help with cleanup. Click the button below to sign up.

Volunteer for Party in the Park!



Image caption: A sign advertising the Party in the Park. The Bennett's Village logo features illustrated people adorned with balloons and party hats with the words "Party in the Park" and "Sunday, April 27th | 1PM - 5PM" and "Pen Park" below it. The words "Scan me" are pointing to a QR code next to the website address bennettsvillage.org/party-in-the-park/. At the bottom of the sign are the words "Bennett's Village: a place for ALL to play" and the logos for Charlottesville Parks and Recreation and Josie's Way (which is a rock painted with the words "Josie's Way" in purple, pink, and yellow).

AOCPMR grant once again supports Bennett's Village

The American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has once again awarded Bennett's Village a grant to support play for all. Past awards have helped pay for the installation of the communication board and the butterfly bench in the treehouse.

This year's grant will help support the creation of materials to help community members understand how the equipment in the next phase of the playspace will facilitate therapeutic play.

Image caption: The words “American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation” are wrapped around a blue circle divided into four quadrants showing illustrations of a person’s back, the initialism “AOCPMR,” a hand, and an EKG line of a heartbeat. The number “1954” is in red at the bottom of the circle, and the circle is wrapped in six sections of color, one red and the other five shades of blue.

Project Updates

Accessible recreation activity: go on an outdoor adventure

This month we’re highlighting an allied organization that will be attending Party in the Park.

Therapeutic Adventures offers a variety of adaptive outdoor adventures and adaptive sports programs, projects, and events, including skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, fly-fishing, wheelchair basketball, camping, climbing, hiking, and more. Many members of our Bennett’s Village community have gotten to explore new sports thanks to Therapeutic Adventures.

Stop by their booth at Party in the Park to learn more.

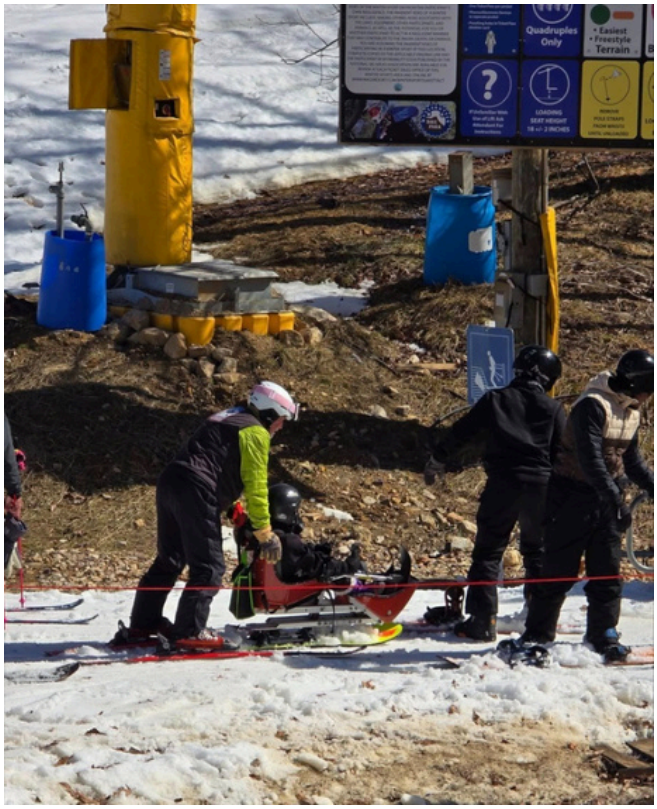


Image caption: Iryl B. explores skiing through Therapeutic Adventures. She is sitting in an adapted sled-like apparatus, and one adult is in front of her and one behind her on a track of snow.

Support Bennett's Village!

Our Contact Information
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Image caption: A view of ramp leading into the Bennett's Village Treehouse. The treehouse is blanketed in snow.