

**News Release**  
For immediate release



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**Fredericksburg's newest park expected to open late summer**

*Riverfront Park construction update*

**(Fredericksburg, VA) July 7, 2021** - After more than a decade of planning, land acquisition and design work, the City of Fredericksburg's newest park is nearing completion. A phased opening is expected to begin late this summer.

Riverfront Park, located along Sophia Street in Historic Downtown, will be a significant, nearly 4-acre, public space. When complete, it will feature Rappahannock River views with open space, event space, an interactive water feature, a meadow area, and a children's play area. Direct river access will also be a feature, complemented by upgraded dock infrastructure.

Solar-powered lights and smart-technology infrastructure will bring contemporary design and upgraded technology to the downtown area, while the park's design and materials will celebrate Fredericksburg's history as a riverside city. Riverfront Park will be Fredericksburg's first "Smart Park." The first phase will provide public Wi-Fi and security cameras. The infrastructure is also designed for future additions such as digital information kiosks, an eventual public-performance stage and restrooms, environmental sensors for air quality and river flooding, and more. Visitors to the park will be able to enjoy shaded seating areas, climb on sustainably forested local logs and play among a river-themed rock bed. Children will also find water jets that spring from the ground on demand to cool them during the summer.

The park is a collaborative work to live a vision outlined as many as three decades ago. City Council appointed the Riverfront Task Force, which labored through much of the past decade to bring ideas, concepts and budget estimates to the community. The Mayor and City Council identified the Riverfront Park as Priority #7 in their 2036 Vision work (accomplished in 2016) and directed staff to build the park in 2017. Design and engineering work concluded in 2018, and the project was put to bid for construction in 2019.

As stated in City Council's priorities, carefully planned capital projects should include investments to our infrastructure that improve on our public services. As such, Riverfront Park was prepared to not only provide the traditional outdoor benefits of a publicly accessible space for all to enjoy, but also to provide technological advancements for all who use and service the park area. The park will also be a central hub for pedestrian/bicycle activity as Fredericksburg continues to pursue trail development, with efforts that will eventually link Motts Run Reservoir to Dixon Park. The park's signage will also work to interpret and share the City's rich history with new audiences who visit.

Riverfront Park's play area and walkways are scheduled to open later this summer. The performance lawn and meadow area will remain closed to help ensure the grass and meadow mix grows for several more months. Additional information will be released closer to the opening date.

For more information on the Riverfront Park project, please visit [Fredericksburgva.gov](http://Fredericksburgva.gov) or call 540-372-1010.

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