Description and Justification for the

Universal Play at Jamestown Park Project

Local Government: Town of Jamestown

Population Served: Primarily Children with Disabilities

Description

When adopting Jamestown's Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan it was emphasized that there was a unique demand and need for inclusive playground equipment. Jamestown is home to two schools for children with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Haynes-Inman Education Center serves students that have special needs, most of whom are considered medically fragile with significant disabilities. C.J. Greene serves students with severe and profound cognitive developmental delays. Together, these schools serve students from age 3 to 22. The specific recreational needs of these local students alongside the need for the replacement of our well-loved existing playground provides the Town with an opportunity to serve the full community with a universal designed recreation area.

The Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, adopted in April 2021, identifies the overall needs and values of the community. The requested facility improvements were chosen based on need and public input and have strong community support. These proposed enhancements will provide activities that are usable by visitors of *all* abilities:

- **Inclusive Universal Design Playground:** The current playground is by far the most used equipment in the park and has been abused with love for nearly 20 years. A universal playground will replace the existing playground, designed to encourage play for children of all abilities in an environment that encourages physical, sensory, and social opportunities.
- **Accessible Fitness Equipment:** Accessible fitness equipment is used to enhance strength, balance, and flexibility. This equipment is universally designed and can be utilized by ages 16 and up to to better reach health and wellness goals.
- **Yard Games:** Yard games and graphics will be included in the poured-in-place rubber surface and surrounding concrete to add additional activities and sensory play. These informal games are highly accessible with low maintenance for Town staff.

Jamestown Park was made possible through the LWCF in 1972. The park consists of approximately 170 acres, the golf course makes up a majority of park property, with 11 acres dedicated to traditional park amenities. A connection to the Bicentennial Greenway makes it a popular spot for families, cyclists, joggers, and dog walkers.

Justification

The existing playground in Jamestown Park has been identified as reaching the end of its usable life. Replacing this structure with a universal inclusive playground will provide park users with new elements that are in direct response to the stated desires of the Jamestown community and provide needed facilities to children with disabilities.

This new play structure combined with accessible fitness equipment and yard games will provide active play and overall health benefits for children of all abilities to engage on physical, sensory, and cognitive levels. This project will provide safe and interactive recreation opportunities, replacing the existing fatigued structure.







