

City of Moundsville East End Playground Project



What Public Health Problem Was Addressed?

According to the County Health Rankings, 29% of Marshall County residents report no leisure-time physical activity and 38% of residents have inadequate access to locations for physical activity in their community. The City of Moundsville, the county seat, has a population of about 9,300 residents. In 2020, a new walking trail at East End Park was constructed. This trail has been a phenomenal addition to the facility, and usage is increasing every week. The City replaced the playground in 2019, and the trail runs adjacent to the playground. There is an area of ground that borders a portion of the trail and the playground that has been difficult to landscape due to the dampness and traffic. The improvement to this area and the addition of the Activity Pathways will help to increase usage of the East End Park.

What Approach Did They Take?

The East End Playground Project was identified as an area needing improvement. Previously the City completed construction of a walking path that connected 4th Street to the East End Playground and Four Seasons Pool parking lot. This trail has been a phenomenal addition to the facility, and usage is increasing every week. The City also replaced the playground in 2019, and the trail runs adjacent to this. There is an area of ground approximately 20' x 57' that borders a portion of the trail and the playground. This area has been difficult to landscape due to the dampness and foot traffic through the area. The City made improvements by excavating the area, installing crush and run and blacktopping the area. The City worked with WVU Extension Office, to add additional activity opportunities for the children at the playground through the additional of the Activity Pathways on the blacktopped area.



What Were The Results?

Improvements were made to the East End Playground which included a blacktopped area next to the playground and an additional "loop" around a newer playground and connected the walking/biking trail. This not only created an additional play area for the community that includes painted Activity Pathways, but connected Fourth Street to the Playground and Swimming Pool lot and back to the East End trail. Trail signs were added in four locations to mark the name and length of the trail as well as promote physical activity and trail use.

Results from use of the trail are still to be determined. The City of Moundsville has observed increased usage of the playground and blacktopped loop citing that the first night the paving was done there was a young boy riding a bike around the loop.

What's Next?

The City of Moundsville's Parks and Recreation Department will maintain the loop path and blacktop area with plans for the reapplication of paint as needed. The park is also home to baseball/softball fields, basketball and hockey courts, a skate park, pavilions and picnic tables, and sits adjacent to the Four Seasons community pool and Splash Pad. The addition of the paved walking trail to connect Fourth Street to the East End Park will help increase access to these recreation opportunities and connect the park to the adjacent neighborhoods. The City has future plans to use the park, walking trail, and the added Activity Pathways for the Park and Recreation Summer Camps and additional community events.



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