

## PAGE PARK AT TWO THIRDS

In February 2023, GreenSweep fulfilled two thirds of the contracted work, a milestone in construction of the new Page Park. GreenSweep has now finished the stonework, except for a ramp into the children's play area, and is now entering the final phase of landscaping and planting. As Chairman of Parks & Grounds Committee, I've watched Page Park from inception to the present. I'd like to share my impressions with you.

All along, the construction of Page has been conducted democratically. Every meeting was advertised in advance and was open to all residents, who were encouraged to participate. I especially recall when Parks & Grounds met to carry out Council's mandate to reduce hardscape. Committee meetings usually pass unnoticed, but we anticipated that this one would excite interest. We held it in the large meeting space of the Center with rows of seating, graphic displays of the design on easels, and a large work space to accommodate renditions of the proposed changes. Residents took part and their concerns were handled on the spot in an exercise of grassroots democracy.

Nor did resident's participation stop when construction began. Parks & Grounds heard residents' concerns and responded to them. Two examples come to mind: A resident warned us that heavy rainfall tended to accumulate in the children's play area. We worked with GreenSweep, who installed three dry wells to draw rainwater into the ground. Another resident inquired about access to the children's play area for people with disabilities. We worked again with GreenSweep to find a practical solution. In its February meeting, the Council approved an addition to the contract, which provided an a ramp into the play area that will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In both instances, we probably would have acted without prompting, but residents' comments spurred the process.

Everything in Page, whether landscaping, metal work, or stone masonry, is of the highest quality, but I especially admire the masons' work. They built splendid pathways, sitting walls, and patios that will last indefinitely with minimal care. They cut deep into the hillside to make the eastern pathway into the Park as flat as possible so that people with disabilities can use it. The patios covered with Pennsylvania blue stone in random patterns are especially handsome. This work was arduous, especially when the weather was cold and wet, but the masons achieved great results. After planting is completed and outdoor furniture is in place, their work will recede into the background, but it will remain a foundation of the Park.

I think of Page as a "pocket park." By that, I mean that Page does a lot on a small plot. In the space of two urban lots, Page offers patios where people can congregate and picnic, an area carpeted in hardwood bark mulch where young children can play safely,

a terraced lawn for lounging about, a nature trail, and a pergola covered in climbing wisteria. It's an excellent design well executed.

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