

NEW COMMUNITY CENTER PLAYGROUND UNDERWAY

REVITALIZING THE VERONA COMMUNITY CENTER PLAYGROUND: A FULLY INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SPACE

For some time now, the playground at the Verona Community Center (VCC) has been outdated and non-compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Fortunately, the **Verona administration has been working diligently to obtain grant funding, which has reached approximately \$350,000 to date, to help revive this recreational space.** Additional grants were received from NJ Partners in Health as well as donations from Greenfields Outdoor Fitness for the adult fitness equipment.

The new playground will be slightly larger than previously, encompassing around 5,000 square feet, and will **feature both a children's play area and an adult fitness section.** Plans also include gender-neutral restrooms that are fully ADA accessible.

Inclusivity was an essential factor in the playground's redesign, ensuring that families and children of all abilities can play and socialize together. **Specifically selected playground elements promote inclusivity and cognitive learning, and all playground components, including the adult exercise equipment, are wheelchair accessible.** The slopes within the playground area meet ADA requirements, and the poured-in-place (PIP) rubber surface is a durable, cohesive surface that is ideal for anyone with mobility issues.

Construction of this fully inclusive and accessible playground is slated to begin in the first half of the year and aims to be completed by late spring/summer 2024.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Township of Verona as this project progresses.

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The Verona Recreation Department is thrilled to be breaking ground on this project. The new playground will have a positive impact on Verona residents, of all ages for years to come. From the adult exercise equipment, to the inclusive elements for children of all ages and abilities, it will be a wonderful addition to the Verona Community Center Complex.

—David Rowbotham
Director of Community Services

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