

Chimborazo Park Seeks Funding from CHA

To make the Chimborazo playground and recreational area a more usable, beautiful and inviting place for the community, the Friend of Chimborazo is raising funds to make several park improvements that will enhance the park's functionality, and provide an opportunity to reinvest in our community. Improvements include: new picnic tables; shade sails; barbeque stands; bird and bat houses; and a garden shed.

Neighbors can enjoy picnics at two new **picnic tables**: one for adults and one for children. The tables will be built by Church Hill Activities & Tutoring's (CHAT), a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to transform lives of at-risk youth in Church Hill. CHAT's Nehemiah Workshop program teaches youth valuable carpentry skills and helps develop character and job-readiness. By working with CHAT, our goal is to **reinvest funds back into the community and help a valuable program, while improving our park**. Picnic tables will ADA-compliant and built using recycled, highly durable wood-plastic composite material to meet the Department of Parks & Recreation's specifications. (The Department of Parks & Recreation specifies that all tables and benches be made of highly durable wood for longevity, which impacts the price of materials.)

Three **shade sails** will provide shade over the picnic tables. Placed near the pétanque courts and playground equipment, they will beautify the park and provide sun protection for adults and children. During the summer, surface temperatures on the blacktop that covers most of the playground can rise well over 100 degrees.

New **barbeque stands** will provide a place to congregate and celebrate. The barbeque stands will be built according to Parks & Recreation specifications, using fire bricks for safety.

The **garden shed** will be the heart of our new community gardens (20 plots planned). It will provide much-needed storage for the gardens, and additional storage for pétanque players and children as needed.

The **purple martin** and **bat houses** provide mosquito control as well as an educational resource for children. Stagnant water sits in the nearby ravine and is a mosquito haven. Encouraging wildlife will be an effective tool in reducing mosquitoes: one brown bat can consume 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour.

List of items needed (in priority):

Item	Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost
Adult picnic table	1,000	1	1,000
Child picnic table	700	1	700
Shade sails	390	3	1170
Barbeque stands	250	2	500
Bat house	20	1	20
Purple martin house	95	1	95
Garden shed	2,000	1	2,000
		Total	\$5,485

These permanent features can and will be adapted as the playground evolves from current park layout to the new design. If the Friends of Chimborazo is fortunate enough to become a CHA grant recipient, the funds may be matched by the Department of Parks & Recreation. All funds are managed by the Richmond Parks &

Recreation Foundation (RRPF), which serves as the fiduciary agent for all Friends groups in the city, provides 501(3)c status, and manages contributions, distributions, tax reporting and other non-profit financial needs.

Thanks to the Church Hill Association for consideration of this funding request. We strongly believe that these additions will be positive enhancements to our park now and in the future.