

**FAIRMOUNT PARK**

**CONSERVANCY**

# CENTENNIAL COMMONS

**LOCATION:**

*West Fairmount Park*

**CITY PARTNERS:**

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation  
Philadelphia Water Department  
Philadelphia Commerce Department  
Philadelphia Streets Department

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

Parkside CDC  
Business Association of West Parkside  
Please Touch Museum  
Viola Street Neighbors Association  
Parkside Association of Philadelphia

**DESIGN PARTNERS:**

Studio Bryan Hanes  
Langan Engineering  
Sherwood Design Engineering  
Loomis McAfee Architects

**SPONSORS/SUPPORTERS:**

William Penn Foundation  
Knight Foundation  
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

**T**he Centennial Commons project will invigorate an area of West Fairmount Park that was formerly the central hub of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. The project was developed in active collaboration with the community and adjacent stakeholders and will provide new amenities and better access to the Park for both residents of the surrounding community of East Parkside and thousands of daily visitors to the Please Touch Museum and the Philadelphia Zoo.

**Phase I**, the ‘Parkside Edge,’ will enliven the Parkside Avenue edge of the Park. Drawing cues from the 1876 Centennial Exhibition’s celebration of innovation, the Edge seeks to be a reflection of the neighborhood’s great architecture embodied in the florid Flemish-Germanic brownstones with wide porches fronting Parkside. Granite seatwalls, benches and porch swings will encourage neighbors to linger, laugh and share moments with other neighbors. Stormwater management systems are woven into beds of ornamental plants and shrubs. Construction of the Parkside Edge is expected to begin in spring 2017.

**Phase II**, the ‘Youth Area,’ will focus on an educational, exploratory play space for children and families. The Youth Area includes an elevated adventure catwalk, innovative play equipment, natural hilltop ‘rooms,’ and a circuit trail that transforms into a unique ice-skating course during the winter months. The newly built features will connect to a key existing asset on the site, the Kelly Pool. A newly built pool entry and showers will bring new access, connectivity and amenities to one of the city’s most popular recreation destinations.

Rendering of Youth Area natural playscape.



Proposed designs for components of the future Centennial District Park by Studio | Bryan Hanes

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**BUDGET**

Phase I - Parkside Edge - \$3 million

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Phase II - Youth Area - \$7.5 million

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Total: \$10.5 million

**SECURED FUNDING**

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William Penn Foundation and Knight Foundation - \$5.3 million

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Other sources - \$2 million

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Total: \$7.3 million

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**PENDING FUNDING**

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RACP - \$1.5 million

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DCNR - \$500,000

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Total: \$2 million

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**CURRENT GAP: \$1.2 MILLION**

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