



October 21, 2024

To: Mayor Magee and Laurel City Council

Subject: Proposal for Installing a Storywalk® at Mason Park Organized by Laurel-Jones County Library System, Inc.

Submitted by: Kandice Evans, Children's Services Supervisor
Karyn Walsh, Director

What could a family love better than enjoying a good book together? Perhaps a story that gets them outdoors and encourages them to run and have fun? You may have heard of Story Walk®. Created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, it was developed to promote reading and exercise in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg Hubbard Library. A Story Walk® is a physical copy of a book that has been disassembled, laminated, and spread-out page by page on a trail, bike path, or in building windows.

We propose the installation of a Storywalk® at Mason Park. Storywalk® is an innovative way to combine physical activity with reading by placing a children's storybook along a walking route. Each page of the story is displayed on a sign, allowing readers to enjoy the story while walking through Mason Park. This initiative aims to encourage literacy, promote outdoor activity, and foster a love of reading and literary arts within the community. In this proposal, we have also attached photos of the ideal location in Mason Park, along with examples from other Storywalks® across the United States.

The Laurel-Jones County Library has previously created "Do-It-Yourself Storywalks®" for summer reading programming. While our patrons thoroughly enjoyed our Storywalks®, it was temporary because of the materials used. Our library would like to offer the Storywalk® experience permanently in Mason Park. We feel that this is the perfect place for our project: Many people have a connection to Mason Park, whether it is Day in the Park, Christmas lights, the playground, or even just from their morning jogs. Creating a permanent Storywalk® in Mason Park is an ideal partnership opportunity for the Laurel Arts League and Laurel-Jones County Library System, Inc.



LAUREL-JONES COUNTY

LIBRARY SYSTEM
INC.

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Objectives:

- Promote Literacy: Encourage children and families to engage in reading while enjoying nature and art.
 - Encourage Outdoor Activity: Provide fun and healthy activities for children and families to enjoy together.
 - Support Community Engagement: Increase Park visitation and participation in library programs.
 - Enhance Park Use: Transform the park into an interactive, educational space.
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Proposed Location:

The Storywalk® will be placed along an accessible walking path in Mason Park. We propose the sidewalk leading from the main parking lot to the stage and around the benches. We have provided pictures of where we foresee the best location to place the story walk mounts.

Installation Details:

- Number of Pages: Each story selected will be divided into 16-20 pages, each displayed on weather-resistant signs.
 - Sign Design: The signs will be durable and visually appealing, with clear and legible text, colorful illustrations, and sturdy construction for outdoor conditions.
 - Story Selection: The first book we will feature in the Storywalk® will be *The Dot*, a popular children's book by Peter Reynolds. The book is suitable for a broad age range but specifically targets children aged 3–8.
 - Installation Date: We aim to have the Storywalk® set up by June 1st, 2025.
 - Maintenance and Updates: The library will oversee the maintenance of the Storywalk® and update the story periodically to keep the content fresh and engaging.
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Budget and Funding:

- The estimated cost for durable, weather-resistant signs is approximately \$7,000. This includes production, installation, materials (stakes, fasteners, etc.), and ongoing maintenance. The library will commit to regular checks for wear and tear on the signs, with estimated yearly costs for upkeep around \$200.

Total estimated initial cost: \$7,200



Possible funding sources include:

- Library budget
- Grants (e.g., for literacy or outdoor community initiatives)
- Local sponsors or partnerships (businesses, local government)
- Fundraising efforts or community donations

Benefits:

- For Children and Families:
 - Combines literacy with physical activity, making reading a more engaging experience.
 - Encourages families to spend time together outdoors in a fun, educational way.
- For the Library:
 - Increase visibility and outreach to the community.
 - Promotes library services and programs, such as summer reading and other events.
- For the Community:
 - Strengthens ties between the library, park, and residents.
 - Supports a healthier, more active lifestyle.
 - Provides an innovative way to enjoy the park and engage with the local environment.

Conclusion:

A Storywalk® at Mason Park will provide an innovative and engaging way for families to enjoy both reading and outdoor activities. With the library's and local community's support, we believe this initiative will significantly enrich our community's cultural and educational landscape. We look forward to making this project a reality and invite any questions or suggestions you may have.

Next Steps

1. Approval: Review and approval of the proposal by Mayor Magee and Laurel City Council
2. Planning: Finalize the location, storybook selections, and signage design.
3. Funding: Secure necessary financing from the library, sponsors, or grants.
4. Installation: Coordinate with installation teams to set up the Storywalk®.
5. Launch Event: Host a launch event to introduce the Storywalk® to the community and encourage participation.



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Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your support in bringing this exciting initiative to our park and library community!

Contact Information:

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Our story adventure! Read *Some Bugs*, written by Angela Interizzi and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel, while exploring the path at Park. Find fun action prompts and literacy tips along the way.

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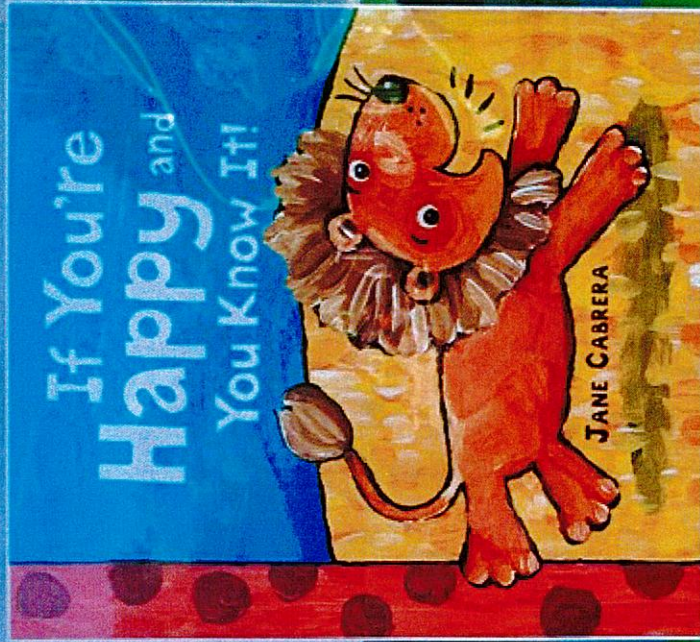
Photo credit: [www.park.com](#)
Map by [www.park.com](#)





Welcome to the Storywalk®

Enjoy **singing** and **dancing**
with your family as you read
this story together!



This StoryWalk® is brought to you by L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library
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