

StoryWalk® Project for Parks in Stamford

Several local libraries, as well as others around the country, have installed StoryWalks® in local parks. A StoryWalk is a fun, educational activity that displays a children's story (literally a book that has been taken apart) along a popular walking route in the community, allowing kids and families to read the story as they walk along. Last year, we piloted the concept at Jackie Robinson Park and Mill River Park where the StoryWalks were well received. The Ferguson Library proposes installing permanent StoryWalks in these two parks this summer. At Mill River Park, the StoryWalk is planned for the West Side of the River. The best placement for the StoryWalk at Jackie Robinson Park will be decided in consultation with the city and the nonprofit organization which supports the park, Jackie Robinson Park of Fame, Inc.

With funds from two community grants, the Ferguson Library is able to purchase the 20 display fixtures needed for each StoryWalk. In addition, we will purchase and prepare the books for mounting in the frames, which will be exchanged for new titles not fewer than four times a year.

What is the value of a StoryWalk?



A StoryWalk provides early literacy opportunities to young children. Sharing the reading of a StoryWalk book stimulates and fosters the development of strong listening and speaking skills. StoryWalk also helps to build a child's vocabulary which is important to thinking and learning. Developing early literacy skills leads to better preparation for school.

A StoryWalk also provides a teaching moment for a child's first teacher – their parent. Parents, grandparents and children can read the book together then discuss the text, illustrations and meaning of a great book. Many StoryWalk books have a theme: kindness, anyone can make a difference in someone's life, a love for nature, accepting differences, and more.

Here are some examples of a StoryWalk:

<https://cedarfallslibrary.org/youth/storywalks/>

<https://teanecklibrary.org/together-in-teaneck/>

<https://www.berkslibraries.org/services/whats-happening/storywalks>

If you would like to have a StoryWalk in your park, we will need your help in two ways: having a place to deliver the display units to; and helping us with their placement and installation.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this exciting project further, please contact Liz McKay (203-351-8247 or emckay@fergusonlibrary.org) or Susan LaPerla (203-351-8201 or slaperla@fergusonlibrary.org).

Thank you for your consideration!