

Pocahontas Park

Master Planning, Site Planning &
Design, Landscape Architecture

Brad Smith Associates, Inc. partnered with the City's in-house survey crew, public works and engineering department, and Summit Construction to plan and design the improvements that spanned a large downtown block.

The playground was situated inside of a white picket fence enclosure, on a poured-in-place resilient surface that is "spongey" and makes it feel like you are walking on the moon. One special feature was the renovation of the old horse sculpture that for years had served as a sentinel at the entrance of the park. The horse theme was incorporated into a custom-made logo that appears on the gables of the gateway structure that serves as an entry feature to the park. Even the gingerbread treatment selected for the park pavilions, and the cupolas serve to reinforce the historic character.

Pedestrian connectivity was a key component of the design, along with landscape enhancements. Today, Pocahontas Park is always full of people: playing tennis, exploring the playground, attending events at the community center or civic center, waiting at the bus stop hub, competing in a spirited game of shuffleboard, or just sitting and enjoying another gorgeous day in paradise.



Pocahontas Park Plan Rendering

An interesting sidebar was that during construction, several of the workers reminisced about playing at the park and climbing on the horse when they were kids – it was rewarding to them to be able to participate in this renovation for the next generation to enjoy!

Client:

City of Vero Beach,
Florida

Location:

Vero Beach, Florida

Challenge:

Integrate a modern "state of the art" playground and transit improvements into an historic Town Center area that included a community center and civic center, while upgrading the overall appearance and aesthetics.

Solution:

Care was taken to respect the visual character of the site, and to reinforce the visual character through repeating the green roof and white clapboard siding of the existing community center.



Pocahontas Park Pavillion