



PROJECT PROPOSAL

Photo courtesy of  
Bankshot™ Sports

# INCLUSIVE BASKETBALL

AT 36TH ST PARK

PROPOSED BY



*Wheeling*  
PARKS & REC




## THE PROJECT

The goal of this project is to improve 36th St. Park's accessibility and inclusivity through the installation of a Bankshot™ Basketball system (pictured in cover photo and Figure 1) to a 37' x 91' asphalt space adjacent to the playground (see Figure 2). By installing this system, kids and adults of all mobilities and abilities would find a recreation opportunity unlike any other in the city and the state of West Virginia.

## THE LOCATION

In addition to serving the South Wheeling neighborhood, Wheeling at large, and the Ohio Valley, Ritchie Elementary (see Figure 3 for location) has a student population of 300 and is located across the street from the south end of the park. Approximately 30 of these students receive special education services that cannot be found in other Ohio County Schools. This system would be perfect for this school to use with their entire population as a lesson in learning through play, socialization, and inclusion.



**FIGURE 1**



Photo courtesy of Bankshot™ Sports

**FIGURE 2**



Park Aerial View  
Yellow Rectangle: Proposed Location  
at 36th St Park

**FIGURE 3**



Aerial View  
Red Rectangle: 36th St Park  
Blue Rectangle: Ritchie  
Elementary School

**FIGURE 4**




Entrance to proposed location  
of Bankshot™ Basketball system




## THE NEED

The Bankshot™ system would serve the citizens as a free recreational activity for all ages, skills, and mobility. With its flat surface and non-aggressive play, this system is perfect for citizens in wheelchairs and walkers. This would improve the 36th St Park's accessibility and inclusivity for the 645 children in Ohio County Schools with cognitive and ambulatory difficulties.



## THE SYSTEM

Bankshot™ Basketball is a course of various sized hoops and backboards that are configured at angles and as curves. These configurations challenge the player to apply critical thinking in addition to physical performance of shooting a basketball. Shots are taken from various distances for incremental points as players move around the course in a loop. In the words of Bankshot™ Sports, "participants play alongside, not against, each other."





Photos courtesy of Bankshot™ Sports



## THE GOALS

Fund this estimated \$75,000 project through grant awards, sponsorships, and community partnerships.



▶ Installation at 36th St Park by Dec. 2020

## THE ESTIMATES

- Bankshot™ Basketball System: \$44,700
- Shipping & Crating: \$2,300
  - **Funded as of Oct. 31**
- Poles: \$1,737
  - **Funded as of Dec. 31**
- Lighting: \$10,000
- Installation: \$15,000
- Site Prep: In-kind
- Surface Painting: \$500

**Total: \$74,237**

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

As of Jan. 25, 2020

- ▶ • Grants/Foundations
  - Hoffman Family Foundation (pending)
  - Sisters of St. Joseph Health & Wellness Foundation (**awarded 10/31; thank you!**)
- Donations/Sponsorships
  - **Thank you, WesBanco!**
  - Others in process
- Partnerships (see Letters of Support)
  - Ritchie Elementary School
  - Easter Seals of Wheeling
  - Augusta Levy Learning Center



## ADDITIONAL INFO

Click here or scan QR Code for  
YouTube Playlist featuring  
Bankshot™ Systems

Or type [tinyurl.com/yyr3okll](https://tinyurl.com/yyr3okll) in  
your web browser



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Spread the word
  - This is an opportunity for innovation in our city and state.
- ▶ • Write a letter of support
  - Grant writing is helped by letters of recommendation.
- Connect the Parks and Rec Department
  - If you know organizations and businesses that would be willing to lend financial support, let us know!
- Donate
  - All donations can be directed to Community Foundation of Ohio Valley Park Fund [a 501(c)(3)].
- Volunteer
  - We'll need painters when our surface is ready!
- ▶ • Come play
  - Keep an eye out for our grand opening!





## CONTACT INFO



(304) 234-3641

wheelingrec@wheelingwv.gov



[www.wheelingwv.gov](http://www.wheelingwv.gov)

Inclusive Basketball Sponsorship

51 - 16th St, Suite 302

Wheeling, WV 26003



*Wheeling*  
**PARKS & REC**

# RITCHIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3700 Wood Street  
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003  
(304) 243-0372



AN EXEMPLARY SCHOOL

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October 3, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Ritchie Elementary School has read the City of Wheeling's project proposal for the Inclusive Basketball addition to the 36<sup>th</sup> Street playground. The Ritchie staff fully supports this project.

Ritchie is located across the street from the 36<sup>th</sup> Street playground. Our students use this playground on a regular basis, both during and after school. We have a very diverse population of students that includes the county-wide students with autism and students with intellectual disabilities.

We feel that the Inclusive Basketball addition would be absolutely amazing for all of our students! Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Jorden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Jorden, Principal



A Fortress for Heroes  
**Augusta Levy**  
LEARNING CENTER

October 28, 2019

Jesse Mestrovic, Director  
City of Wheeling Parks and Recreation Department  
51 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 302  
Wheeling, WV 26003

Re: Inclusive Basketball at 36<sup>th</sup> St. Park

Dear Jesse:

The Augusta Levy Learning Center is ecstatic to support the effort to establish an accessible basketball court to benefit the people of the Ohio Valley. Augusta Levy Learning Center's mission is designed to maximize the benefits of best practices and propel children with autism to reach their highest potential. At ALLC, we want to break down the barriers of accessibility not only for the students that attend the Center, but also for all individuals with disabilities. Approximately 75% of children with autism also suffer from a condition called Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), which at times can keep them from participating in events with their typical peers. Play is essential to a child's development. It is an all-encompassing activity that helps to develop different skills such as social, intellectual, emotional and physical abilities. For children with disabilities these skills are important for their development; however, the physical environment of a playground or typical basketball court can be difficult to master and thereby be an obstacle for participating in play activities.

The Augusta Levy Learning Center recently went through the process of designing an all-inclusive playground for children of all abilities and worked closely with the city and the Parks and Recreation Department. We feel that the addition of an inclusive basketball court at the 36<sup>th</sup> Street Park is not only beneficial addition to the community but a crucial piece to our children's development.

Sincerely,

Staci Stephen  
Director of Development



October 18, 2019

Jesse Mestrovic, Director  
City of Wheeling Parks and Recreation Department  
51 16<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 302  
Wheeling, WV 26003

Re: Inclusive Basketball at 36<sup>th</sup> St Park

Dear Jesse,

The Easterseals Rehabilitation Center is pleased to support your efforts to establish an accessible basketball court to benefit residents in the Ohio Valley.

Easterseals provides life-changing services to children and adults with disabilities and other special needs in our region. Last fiscal year, we provided approximately 13,000 occasions of service in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and physical medicine and rehabilitation, so we see first-hand the population who would benefit most from this type of recreation facility.

The installation of a Bankshot Basketball system would be a positive step for Wheeling as an accessible, inclusive community. With its flat surface and non-aggressive play, this system is ideal for citizens who use wheelchairs, walkers, braces, and other assistive devices. Additionally, by providing stations for participants to move through at their own pace, the court accommodates a variety of other mobility challenges, including limitations with strength or balance, gait abnormalities that impact speed or coordination, or poor endurance.

At Easterseals, we recognize that disability will impact all of us at some point in our lives, whether you know or care for someone with a disability or may develop one later in life. Therefore, we are committed to ensuring that everyone, no matter the ability, is 100% included and 100% empowered.

To achieve this type of a community, everyone has a part to play. We believe the City of Wheeling Parks and Recreation Department is playing a strong part by developing a Bankshot Basketball court. The style of the court encourages participants to play alongside rather than against each other, so it allows differently-abled and typical peers to play together. This inclusive environment can help to develop friendship skills, peer models, positive self-image, and mutual respect, among other benefits.

We would be thrilled to see Wheeling become the first community in our region with a Bankshot Basketball court. You have our full support in your pursuit of this important project.

On behalf of the clients we serve, thank you for striving for accessibility and inclusion.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay E. Prager".

Jay E. Prager  
President/CEO