



New Look. Same Neighborhood Heart. Improvements to Italian Village Park.

39 E. Hubbard Ave., Columbus, OH 43215

0.835 Acres

Project Cost

\$1,327,513

Completion

October 2025

Overview

Italian Village Park, a beloved greenspace, was recently redeveloped to match the spirit of its vibrant namesake neighborhood. The new park design preserves green space, encourages connection, enhances park safety and offers a stunning backdrop to align historic Italian Village with the arts and culture of the Short North

Amenities/Improvements

- Garden patio
- Promenade designed for community events
- Stage/performance space
- Event lawn and open greenspace
- Walking paths
- Several intimate seating areas
- New native tree canopy and low maintenance landscaping
- Glass Mosaic Tile Mural titled “The Gathering” by Andrew Hendrixson as a backdrop
- Rize Cafe at adjacent Parkside on Pearl (opening in 2026)
- Lighting

Public Art

About the mural and artist: “The Gathered” is a 50’ x 12’ glass mosaic tile mural by Andrew Hendrixson. @andrewhendrixsonstudio



Project Partners

The project was made possible through strong public and private partnerships who worked closely with the City to reimagine this neighborhood gem.

- The project was funded through a combination of capital bonds--both from the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund, Recreation and Parks voted bond funds and from permanent improvement funds.
- Design for the park began in 2022, with a public open house in the park, online community survey, numerous stakeholder meetings and a virtual workshop.
- Design was completed by Implement, LLC owned by Jason Kentner, a landscape architecture professor with The Ohio State University Knowlton School, with subcontractors Korda (civil and structural engineering) and Designing Local (public engagement).
- Construction on the park began in fall 2024.
- The construction was completed by Builderscape, Inc. with subcontractor Cap-Stone & Associates.
- Strong community desire for placemaking that links the historic Italian Village neighborhood and the bustling Short North business district spurred the neighboring Parkside on Pearl developer, The Wood Companies, to locate a mural on the building's façade, and to design a space in their building that was adjacent to the park and that could operate a small café, complementing the garden patio.
- The original park was created in the early 1980s through a forward-thinking acquisition of undesirable and underutilized lots just a short distance from High Street, resulting in the preservation of a rare sliver of greenspace in a densely built environment. The current rendition of the park includes a memorial sign that pays tribute to Carl Proto, a Columbus Recreation and Parks Department employee who, at the time, engaged with Italian Village Society and other residents to make the park a reality.

Community Impact

Residents played a major role in shaping the redesign, sharing their priorities during public engagement sessions. Their input led to the creation of a garden patio and stage area, perfect for small performances and gatherings, along with flexible open space for recreation and relaxation.