

THE TOILETEER

AUGUST 5, 2026

Introduction – The Parks Issue

Welcome back, Toileteers! This is the 4th installment of the American Restroom Association's monthly newsletter *The Toileteer*. Since 2018, August is officially recognized as National Wellness Month! Parks and arenas are where restroom access is most visible and most often overlooked. A trailhead with no facilities can end a hike early. A stadium with the wrong fixture ratio can turn a 30-minute wait into the thing fans remember longest. This is why the ARA is excited to launch our first advocacy campaign – on access to restrooms in parks and arenas!

Inside this issue, we've gathered park advocacy case studies showing how residents and organizers have won facilities in their own communities, along with the tactics that got them there. We close with "The ugly (and, yes, slightly gross) truth of stadium bathrooms," a look at what venue design reveals about who a building was actually built for, from potty parity codes to the fixture math behind every halftime line.

Parks and Arenas Advocacy Campaign

The ARA is excited to launch our first advocacy campaign – on access to restrooms in parks and arenas!

We all know that restrooms can make the difference between being able to go to the park or not. And we believe that an inclusive outdoor space is one that has restroom access.

So, we want you to help us advocate for more restrooms. Download our toolkit (PDF) to learn:

- How to contact your parks department
- What to say to call for more restrooms
- Ways to follow up
- Examples from across the country
- Keep us posted

Nature's Calling: Why All Public Parks Need A Public Restroom

The Portland Loo, June 3, 2024

Public parks are shared spaces meant to welcome everyone, but without restrooms they fall short. Proper facilities deliver measurable benefits:

- Family-friendly access for children and adults who cannot wait
- Less human waste, protecting local habitats and wildlife
- Better hygiene, limiting disease spread through handwashing stations
- Longer, more frequent visits that sustain park funding
- Lower cleanup costs and more efficient public spending
- Greater capacity for gatherings and events
- Accessible, gender-neutral design that welcomes all visitors



Support the American Restroom Association!

- Donate to support our continued advocacy, staff, and research.



Parks and Arenas Campaign Case Studies

See restroom advocacy in action!

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Philadelphia Eagles used game attendee feedback, visitor surveys and families to build a new sensory-friendly restroom at Lincoln Financial Field, designed specifically for people on the autism spectrum and other neurodivergent individuals. Unveiled May 2026.

HYATTSVILLE, MD – Responded to citizen input on park restroom availability and installed THRONE restrooms in city parks in 2023. In 2026, there are now plans to install permanent restrooms in several parks.

PROVIDENCE, RI – One Neighborhood Builders began a participatory budgeting initiative in 2022. Rhode Islanders called and voted for new restrooms. Partnered with Providence's parks department, new public restrooms opened in Merino Park in July 2025.

WEST COLUMBIA, SC – Community members worked with planners and designers to create an inclusive restroom in the new Carraway Community Park. Opened in 2018, the restroom includes an adult-size changing table, making the park more accessible for people with complex needs.

LA JOLLA, SAN DIEGO, CA – The award winning restrooms in Scripps Park are the result of community advocacy to replace outdated facilities. Advocates worked with a public benefit corporation to raise funds for a visioning exercise. The municipal parks office used the input to develop new restrooms which opened in 2022.

The ugly -- and, yes, slightly gross -- truth of stadium bathrooms

ESPN, Feb 1, 2019 – Dave Fleming

"You add a restaurant or a walkway feature to the stadium, some people will use it, but everyone is going to use the restroom," Jenkins says. "So the functionality, the quantity, the aesthetics of your bathrooms is critical. It seems unremarkable to most people, but, trust me, you invite 70,000 people to your house and you get the bathrooms wrong -- you've got a huge problem." –Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium General Manager, Scott Jenkins

Stadium restrooms shape the fan experience more than any other amenity, and the numbers explain why: ESPN reports Super Bowl crowds generate roughly 8,000 gallons of urine and nearly a million gallons of wastewater. Volume alone isn't the problem, though. How that demand gets distributed is, and Sandra Rawls' 1988 research showed why, finding that women need 180 seconds in the restroom compared with 84 for men. Those findings drove Virginia's 1989 code doubling women's fixtures and launched the potty parity movement. As architecture professor and ARA advisory board member Kathryn Anthony puts it, "That toilet seat is now just as important as your Super Bowl seat."

Charlottesville Ribbon Cutting Held For New Riverview Park Restrooms

WVIR 29 News, Jul. 28, 2026 – by Elli Jones



CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (WVIR) – The Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Department held a ribbon cutting for a new restroom facility at Riverview Park.

The restrooms have been in the works since 2018 but were postponed due to financial setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the facility opened, the only available bathrooms at the park were porta-potties.

"What we're trying to do is get rid of as many porta-potties as possible and have restrooms so that it complements the park," said Riaan Anthony, director of Charlottesville Parks and Rec. "They don't want to go home to use [their own bathroom,] they can come here to use our facilities."

