

Friends of the Lowline

Phase 1 Construction Capital Campaign Overview

June 2026

City of Charleston

The Lowline is a public/private partnership. The City of Charleston has committed \$15.8M toward Phase 1 infrastructure, a historic investment that reflects the City's confidence in the project and its impact on the peninsula.

As part of early site work, three parking lots along the corridor were reconditioned; revenue generated from these lots through a partnership with the City and SCDOT will flow directly back into long-term operations and maintenance. Philanthropy carries us the rest of the way, building on the City's investment to complete the pathway and bring Bradford Park fully to life.

Matching Grant Challenge

The Speedwell Opportunity. The Speedwell Foundation has committed \$2.5M to match the first \$2.5M raised by Friends of the Lowline, unlocking a total of \$5M for the project. To date, Friends has raised \$900,000, and Speedwell has released an initial \$1M in good faith.

A gift to Friends of the Lowline goes toward closing the pathway funding gap and triggers a dollar-for-dollar Speedwell match directed to Bradford Park. One contribution does two things: it helps bring the Lowline to life and unlocks the funds to complete Phase 1 of Bradford Park. Matched funds are activated upon receipt of the donor's contribution.

THE SPEEDWELL MATCHING GRANT

One gift does *two things*.

The Speedwell Foundation matches the first \$2.5M raised by Friends — dollar for dollar — unlocking a total of \$5M for Bradford Park. To date, Friends has raised \$900K and Speedwell has released an initial \$1M in good faith. \$1.6M in match remains available to activate upon receipt of donor contributions.

\$2.5M

Speedwell commitment —
dollar-for-dollar match

\$5M

Total unlocked when match is
fully met

\$1.6M

Match remaining — available
now

Philanthropic Priorities

Closing the Pathway Gap. Phase 1 construction totals \$18.5M. With the City's commitment, \$2.7M remains to be raised. To date, Friends of the Lowline has secured \$900K in commitments toward that gap. Closing it fully funds the connected green corridor from Mt. Pleasant Street to Sheppard Street.

Bradford Park. The three-acre gathering space central to the Lowline, with a playground, performance pavilion, and public art, requires an additional \$12.5M beyond the pathway budget. Friends of the Lowline has \$1M restricted to Bradford Park to date.

Timeline

The Lowline is already underway. Groundbreaking took place in December 2025, and the project is moving on schedule toward a Summer 2027 completion.

December 2025 Groundbreaking

April 2026 Early site work complete; revenue-generating parking lots operational

August 2026 Construction mobilizes on pathways and full design complete

Summer 2027 Phase 1 completion



Budget

The Lowline is one of the most significant public infrastructure investments in Charleston's history. Here is how the numbers break down:

Phase 1 Pathway Construction

Total pathway construction cost: \$18.5M

City of Charleston commitment: \$15.8M

Philanthropic gap: \$2.7M

Bradford Park

Bradford Park is the heart of the Lowline, a three-acre gathering space designed to serve every neighborhood the corridor connects. If the Speedwell match is met, the structuring framework of Bradford Park can be included in Phase 1 construction, making the timing of contributions between now and the end of 2026 especially significant. A gift made in this window doesn't just support the Lowline; it determines what is possible in Phase 1.

The full vision includes:

Structuring framework including: pathways, central lawn, site furnishings, and planting: \$2.5M

Children's Adventure Playground: \$3M

Performance Pavilion: \$5M

Public art: \$1M

Fountain Plaza: \$1M

Total: \$12.5M

Friends of the Lowline Total Capital Campaign Goal for Phase 1: \$15M

Where Philanthropy Stands Today

Pathway gap commitments secured: \$900K of \$2.7M goal, with \$1.8M remaining to be raised.

Bradford Park restricted funds: \$1M Speedwell funds in hand with \$1.6M remaining available to be activated (dollar-for-dollar, upon receipt).

Closing the Pathway Gap

Goal: \$2.7M

Completes the connected green corridor from Mt. Pleasant Street to Sheppard Street.

\$900K raised · 33%

\$1.8M remaining

\$900K raised

A horizontal progress bar for the 'Closing the Pathway Gap' section. It is divided into two segments: a dark green segment on the left representing the amount raised (\$900K) and a light beige segment on the right representing the amount remaining (\$1.8M).

Bradford Park

Vision: \$12.5M

Three-acre gathering space at the heart of the Lowline — playground, performance pavilion, and public art.

\$900K raised · 7%

\$11.6M remaining to raise

\$900K \$1.5M available

A horizontal progress bar for the 'Bradford Park' section. It is divided into three segments: a dark grey segment on the left representing the amount raised (\$900K), a light blue segment in the middle representing the amount available (\$1.5M), and a light beige segment on the right representing the amount remaining (\$11.6M).

■ \$900K raised — matched by Speedwell

■ \$100K to complete initial \$1M Speedwell release

■ Additional \$1.5M Speedwell match available to fulfill the \$2.5M

Courtney Olson, Executive Director

Friends of the Lowline

courtney.olson@friendsofthelowline.org | 617-301-0720

friendsofthelowline.org | 1629 Meeting Street, Suite A, Charleston, SC 29405