



## Fairleigh Dickinson University Pedestrian Bridge

Viridian reimaged the aging FDU pedestrian bridge leading a multidisciplinary team including civil, mechanical and electrical engineers, and bridge and lighting designers.

This bridge is the major pedestrian link crossing the majestic Hackensack River and joins the Teaneck and Hackensack campuses. Today, the bridge is more than just a way to move from point A to point B, it unites the campus and serves as its symbolic heart.

Born out of a series of three concepts, the garden bridge showcases native plants of the riverine ecosystem and linking the campus' River Eco-Park, the design of which is also led by Viridian. The team carefully designed each element from the "This bridge is the pride guard rails and planter boxes of Bergen County." to the canvas shade structures -a county worker overheard one and bridge deck patterning. day enjoying the bridge.

Materials were chosen for their long-term durability, ease of maintenance and sustainability. Pedestrian seating features recycled teak through a program that protects working elephants in the Republic of Myanmar. Bridge lighting has multiple programs from everyday lighting to game day, special event, and holiday lighting.

From the moment the bridge opened it has acted as a pedestrian gathering space for students, faculty, administrators, staff and local residents. This shared resource has changed the way people see the campus and the Hackensack River. It is now a place to be, be seen; truly the 'Heart of Campus.'

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**Location:** Hackensack and Teaneck, NJ  
**Client:** Fairleigh Dickinson University  
**Size:** 200 linear feet plus work at the abutments  
**Cost:** \$3 million  
**Status:** Completed 2020