

“Darrell’s Dream”
Tri-Cities TN/VA Boundless Playground
The Anderson Treehouse Grand Opening
Warriors’ Path State Park

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Agenda

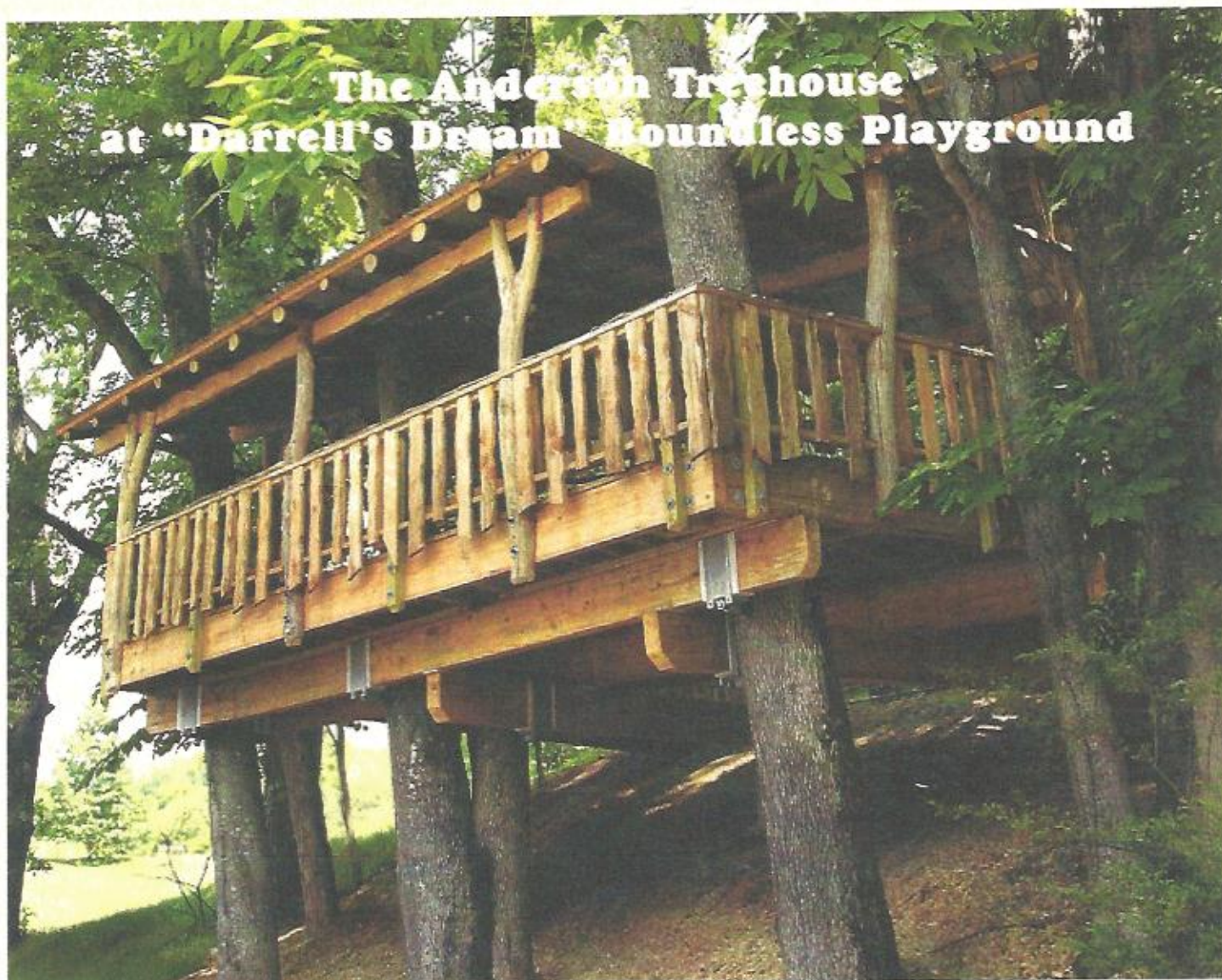
Welcome.....Ed Herbert, Mountain States Health Alliance
Vision.....Betty DeVinney, Friends of Warriors’ Path State Park
Darrell’s Dream, Phase IV.....Mary Steadman, Friends of Warriors’ Path State Park
Forever Young Treehouses.....James “B’fer” Roth
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.....Commissioner James Fyke
Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.....Commissioner Susan Whitaker
Anderson Family.....Sam and DeLois Anderson
Park Dedication / Blessing.....Ed Herbert, MC
The Anderson Treehouse Grand Opening
Treehouse and Wildflower Walk Tours / Refreshments

Special Thanks to the following for helping us prepare for and host today’s event:

Able Printers, Earl Carter Photography (EarlCarter.com), Friends of Warriors’ Path State Park
Kingsport Convention & Visitors Bureau, MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center
Mountain States Health Alliance, Perkins Restaurant-Colonial Heights, Sagebrush Steakhouse
Wal-mart Supercenter, Warriors’ Path State Park Staff

*A special Thanks to the following sponsors and organizations who helped during
“A Day of Caring” at Darrell’s Dream, as well as, several other days to prepare park for season.
Over 175 volunteers worked over 1500 hours on projects at Warriors’ Path State Park including
Darrell’s Dream Boundless Playground, Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail and
The Anderson Treehouse.*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, American Eagle Outfitters, Chef’s Pizza, DB “Tribe” Boys
Soccer Team, Designed by Rachel Photography, Express Signs, Food City, Home Depot, J.A. Street &
Associates, Kiwanis Club of Kingsport, Lakefront Disc Golf Club, Lions Club of Kingsport,
Lowes Home Improvement Center, Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners,
Perkins Restaurant-Colonial Heights, Wal-mart Supercenter



The Anderson Treehouse

The Anderson Treehouse at "Darrell's Dream" Boundless Playground, Warriors' Path State Park, provides kids of all abilities in the Tri-Cities region and beyond the chance to play among the treetops. This treehouse, like all of the other structures in the Boundless Playground, gives children with disabilities the chance to play just like their friends and classmates. Kids will appreciate being able to get up high above the playground, giving them a sense of freedom. And their parents can rest easy knowing that their children are playing in a structure that is ADA-compliant and safe, as well as fun.

The Anderson Treehouse at Warriors' Path State Park is the first universally accessible treehouse in the state of Tennessee, and first in a state park in the United States. It is also the first treehouse built in connection with a Boundless Playground and Braille Trail. The design of the treehouse used locally harvested oak and hickory trees, as well as locally sawn pine for structural and decorative elements. The hardware used in creating the structure does not harm the living trees in which the treehouse sits. This treehouse could not have been built without the financial support of Sam and DeLois Anderson, for whom the treehouse is named.

Forever Young Treehouses Overview

Forever Young Treehouses promote the design and construction of treehouses that are universally accessible. While accessible treehouses provide a memorable experience for everyone, the company focuses on facilitating treehouse construction for children and young adults with special needs who are routinely confronted with barriers to fun and play in their daily lives. An accessible treehouse removes these obstacles, bringing people of all abilities together and closer to nature. Forever Young Treehouses also use building methods that protect the health of trees.

Forever Young Treehouses, Inc. P.O. Box 15, Warren, VT 05674; 802-793-8880, info@treehouses.org, www.treehouses.org

The Anderson Treehouse

Sponsors and Contributors

Special Thanks to

Friends of Warriors' Path State Park

Deborah Adams, President

Betty DeVinney and Mary Steadman "Darrell's Dream" Project Chairs

The Anderson Treehouse

Sam & DeLois Anderson

Federal Highway Administration

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

Division of Recreation Education Services

Division of Parks & Conservation

Warriors' Path State Park

Design / Construction

Forever Young Treehouses - James "B'fer" Roth

Greenwood Engineering in cooperation with Larson Engineering

J. A. Street & Associates - Jim Street, Mark Wininger, Project Manager

The Moore Group Architects Planners - Tony Moore, Consultant

Lions Club of Kingsport - Doug Haseltine, Consultant

Massey Electric - Jody Hood

Park Signage, Treehouse, Park Entrance, Directional and Wildflower Walk Signage

Express Signs – Chris Thomas, Israel Saxton and Becky McGhee

Interpretive History Signage and Interactive Exhibits

Essyx Exhibits & Displays - Josh DeVoti, Christian Schmid, Kim Guinn, Trent Stroud

Tennessee State Parks, Project Leaders:

East Tennessee Area Manager - Herb Roberts

Warriors' Path State Park Manager - Jerry Adams, Park Interpretive Specialist - Marty Silver

Billee Moore Bill Grigsby, Jr.

Suzanne Barrett Justis - Watercolor Graphics

Braille Consultants - Lee Bryan, Lions Club of Kingsport and

American Printing House for the Blind - Scott Smith

Wildflower Walk – Station 5 Sleigh of Braille Trail

Quenton and Joy McBride Tubb (In Memory of Benton Ross Tubb and Jimmy Lynn McBride)

UT Extension Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners - Wildflower Walk Design, Plantings

Gwyn Duncan, Nina Hedrick, Joy Moore and Bill Grigsby

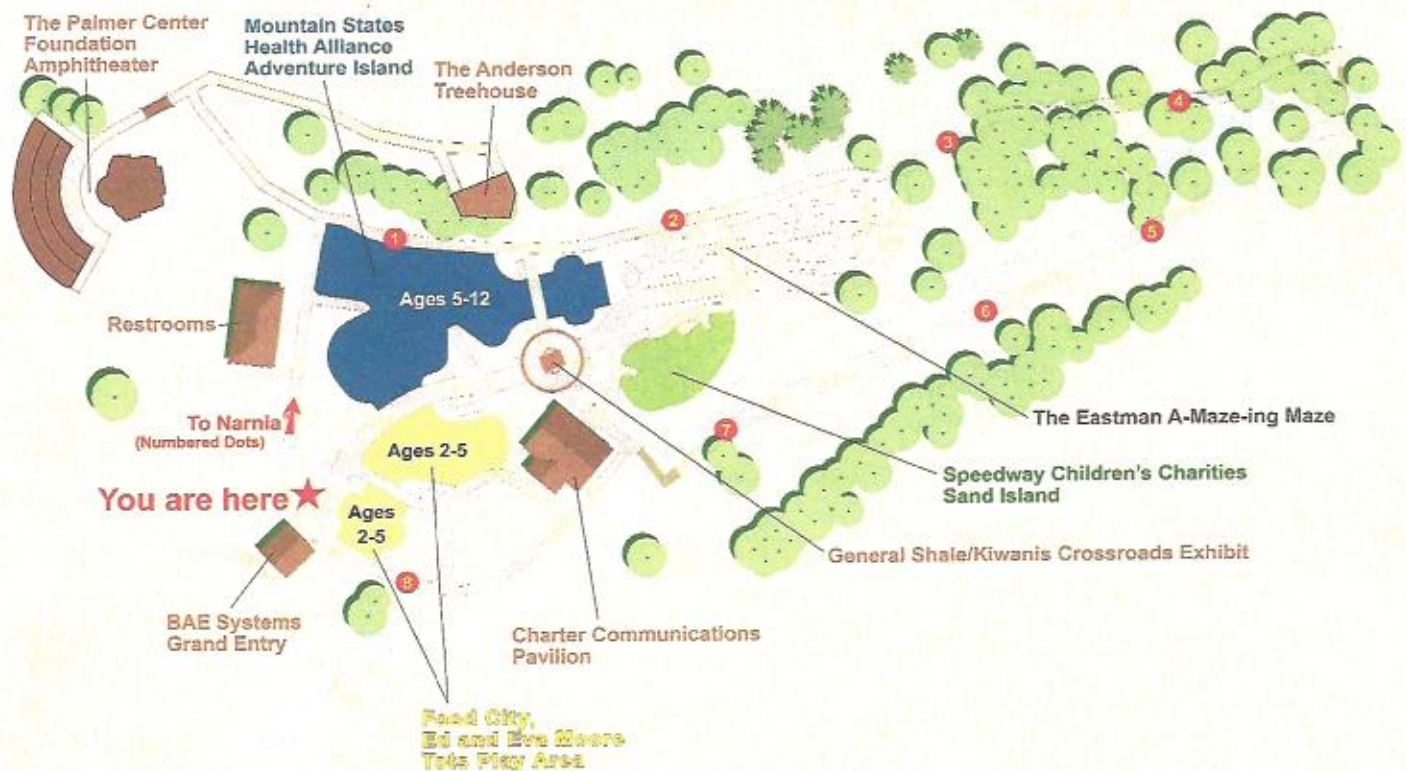
Lions Club of Kingsport - Doug Haseltine

Richard D. Phillips - Graphic Design

Marty Silver - Warriors' Path State Park Naturalist

Express Signs - Chris Thomas, Israel Saxton

“Darrell’s Dream” Boundless Playground Complex



One in nine children has some form of disability, and barriers often inhibit participation in outdoor activities with their friends. “Darrell’s Dream” Boundless Playground Complex removes barriers for the blind, visually impaired and handicapped, so they can develop physically and emotionally alongside their peers-and gain a wider appreciation for the inherent value of all people.

Friends of Warriors’ Path State Park

The Friends of Warriors’ Path State Park was formed in 2000 with the purpose to mobilize volunteers, business and industry, area civic and professional organizations to assist park staff in the preservation and perpetuation of Warriors’ Path State Park, one of the most visited parks in Tennessee.

Our Mission: To conserve the Park’s natural resources and to maintain and improve the Park’s facilities for recreation, education, and enjoying nature.

Past and Present Friends’ projects include:

- Park beautification
- Improvements to soccer fields
- Upgrading and expanding biking, hiking and walking trails including the mountain bike trails
- Development of “Darrell’s Dream” Boundless Playground, Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail, The Anderson Treehouse and The Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater (coming soon).
- Improvements to Frisbee golf
- Renovation to Open Air Chapel amphitheater and overflow campground amphitheater

For more information on membership or sponsorship please contact Deborah Adams, President of Warriors’ Path State Park. Phone: 423-349-0984 Email: dja322@comcast.net

Current Sponsorship Opportunities; Park Benches \$1,500 each; Picnic Tables \$1,000 each

The Great Warriors' Path

Imagine walking from New York to South Carolina! Thousands of years ago there were no paved roads, but people did walk that far. Early Native Americans walked along forest pathways to hunt for wild game. They also walked woodland trails to visit and trade with faraway towns of other tribes. They found and followed trails made by traveling wildlife. That's how the Great Warriors' Path first began.

Wildlife made the path. Indians followed and developed the path. Longhunters and explorers followed the path. And early settlers found this path perfect for westward settlement. Even today, many of our highways follow these same pathways. For example, Interstate 81 follows the Great Philadelphia Water Road through Virginia and Tennessee.

As you visit the tree house and other trails in the park, think about those who came before you. You might find some signs of these early travelers, like chips of flint or pottery fragments. Be sure to leave these for others to find. Also think about what kind of signs we are leaving for future travelers here!



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A GREAT WARRIOR?

The smaller panels between here and the tree house tell more about the periods in history outlined above. The larger panels tell about animals that make their home in the woods. Learn from them to become a great warrior.

Special Thanks to: Sam and DeLois Anderson, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park; Special Thanks to: Patrick H. Anderson, Tennessee Department of Environment & Communications, Division of Recreation Education Services, Division of Parks & Recreation, Mountain Park State Park, Mountain State, Upper Clinch River Gorge, Camp Carter & Ochsley, Sycamore Bluffs, Junco, Old Camp, N. and Old Camp Bluffs.

Special Thanks to: 44 Street & Renaissance General Contractors, Fulton County, Tennessee. Grounded Engineering in cooperation with Larson Engineering and TheWoodGreen Architects/Interior.

11.0' x 12.25'

1. THE GREAT WARRIORS' PATH

2. THE WILDERNESS ROAD

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Warriors' Path History

The first pathways in the East Tennessee / Southwest Virginia region were created by wildlife like elk, white-tailed deer and eastern woodland buffalo. These animals created "game trails" that were used by the earliest Native Americans, earning the trails in the Kingsport area the name "the Great Warriors' Path." The trails led them to animals that they could use for food, shelter and clothing. The trails also allowed the Native Americans to visit and trade with faraway towns of other tribes. Later, early settlers found the Great Warriors' Path to be perfect for westward settlement. And today, many of our highways follow the same pathways that were started by the big game animals so many years ago.

Learning Through Play



















The "Darrell's Dream" Boundless Playground is a place where children of all abilities can come together and play. But the playground is more than just an outlet for kids and their seemingly endless energy. It's a place where they can learn about trees, flowers, animals and birds – even insects. Through hands-on, interactive exhibits, kids, including the blind and sight-impaired, can learn how to identify trees, plants and flowers. They can also find out how to identify frogs and birds by their "songs," feel the holes made in a tree by woodpeckers, and learn about the lifecycles of amphibians. All of this combined makes for a well-rounded learning experience that is also fun for the kids. (Station 1 - pictured)



Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener's Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail Wildflower Walk

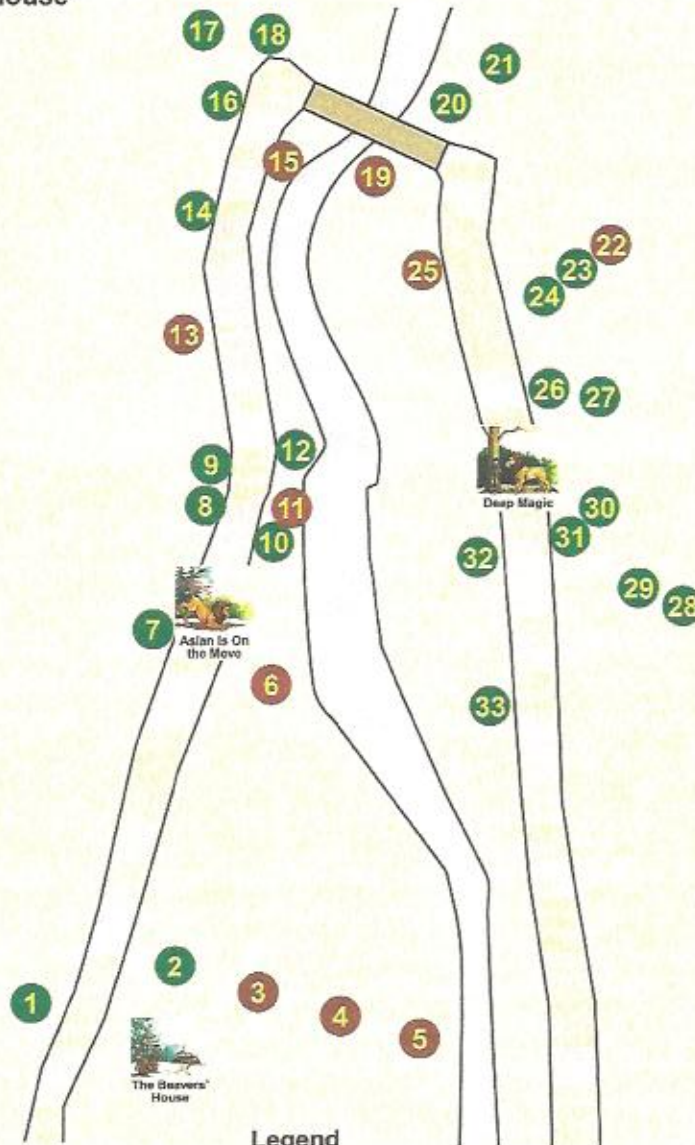
Native Plants*

Plants between the Beavers' House and the Bridge

1. Bloodroot 
2. Virginia Creeper 
3. Tulip Poplar 
4. Serviceberry 
5. Alternate-Leaf Dogwood 
6. Smooth Hydrangea 
7. Black Cohosh 
8. Alumroot 
9. Jacob's Ladder 
10. Phlox 
11. Sycamore 
12. Wood Poppy 
13. Pawpaw Patch 
14. Tickseed 
15. Spicebush 
16. Allegheny Spurge 
17. Wild Geranium 
18. Foamflower 

Plants beyond the Bridge

19. Redbud 
20. Green and Gold 
21. Virginia Bluebells 
22. Witch Hazel 
23. Goldenrod 
24. Seersucker Sedge 
25. Hearts-a-bustin' 
26. Dutchman's Breeches 
27. Fern Glade 
28. Lyre Leaf Sage 
29. Cardinal Flower 
30. Great Blue Lobelia 
31. Wild Ginger 
32. Dutchman's Pipe 
33. Solomon's Seal 



- Legend**
- Trees and Shrubs
 - Wildflowers, Ferns and Vines



490 Hemlock Road, P.O. Box 6164
Kingsport, TN 37663

For Immediate Release
Date: May 27, 2010

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(423) 967-2381

Mary Steadman
msteadman@aol.com
(423) 956-4330

ACCESSIBLE TREEHOUSE GRAND OPENING EVENT

A First for a State Park in the U.S.

KINGSPORT, Tenn. - A new addition will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 27, 2010, at the Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park – a treehouse accessible to kids of all abilities. The Anderson Treehouse at Warriors' Path State Park is the first accessible treehouse in a state park in the United States.

Named for benefactors Sam and DeLois Anderson, the Anderson Treehouse is the first treehouse built in connection with a Boundless Playground and Braille Trail and provides all children with the chance to play among the treetops, including those who have impaired sight or mobility.

“Since Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground first opened two years ago, this unique play area has attracted thousands of visitors to Warriors' Path State Park,” said Commissioner Jim Fyke, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. “This Boundless Playground is a tribute to public-private partnerships, and I congratulate the many people in the Tri-Cities area who worked so hard to create a place where children of all abilities can play together.”

The ADA-compliant treehouse features a winding walkway that can be walked or navigated by wheelchair. Once kids reach the top, they can get a close-up view of birds and other critters in the trees through binoculars in the treehouse, or they can use the binoculars to look out over the rest of the playground and other areas of the park.

“This entire project is a wonderful gift from the heart of this community to all of the children who will visit and enjoy the freedom to play,” said Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. “It is truly a community best.”

But the playground is more than just an outlet for kids and their seemingly endless energy. It's a place where they can learn about trees, flowers, animals and birds – even insects. “Through hands-on, interactive exhibits, kids, including the blind and sight-impaired, can learn how to identify trees, plants and flowers,” said Mary Steadman, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park. “They can also find out how to identify frogs and birds by their ‘songs,’ feel the holes made in a tree by woodpeckers, and learn about the lifecycles of amphibians. All of this combined makes for a well-rounded learning experience that is also fun for the kids.”

The design of the treehouse used locally harvested oak and hickory trees, as well as locally sawn pine for structural and decorative elements. The hardware used in creating the structure does not harm the living trees in which the treehouse sits.

In addition to the Anderson Family, other major sponsors who have contributed to the Anderson Treehouse are J.A. Street and Associates, Essyx Exhibits and Displays, Express Signs, and countless volunteers such as the Lions Club of Kingsport and TheMooreGroup Architects/Planners, who have contributed to the planning and development of what you see today.

Betty DeVinney, who has chaired the Darrell's Dream playground project on behalf of the Friends of Warriors' Path State Park, said she's grateful to the many companies, civic organizations and individuals who have made the original playground, the Lions Narnia Braille Trail and this new phase a reality. "One of the great things about our community is the way many people get behind an idea and stick with it," DeVinney said. "Darrell's Dream is a great example of that. The number of monetary contributors and volunteers who have provided gifts-in-kind, plus their own time and expertise, is remarkable. Those of us who knew Darrell Rice—for whom the playground is named—realize how honored he would be to be remembered in a way that truly enhances our community."

Also at the Treehouse Grand Opening event, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park will announce the addition of the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater. "We continue to be excited about our future plans for Darrell's Dream," Steadman said. "With the financial assistance of The Palmer Center Foundation, a fully accessible amphitheater on this site will open this fall, fulfilling yet another dream for the children of the Tri-Cities."

CenturyLink will also announce its plans to provide high-speed Internet for the playground. "CenturyLink is pleased to partner with Boundless Playground as the broadband provider, which means once work is completed, park visitors, including educators conducting classes, will have access to high-speed wireless Internet," said CenturyLink Vice President Lottie Ryans, whose office and home are in Johnson City. "We see this as one of the many targeted innovative ways we are looking to support the Tri-Cities market from a philanthropic standpoint. The educational aspect of the Boundless Playground fits perfectly with CenturyLink's philanthropic focus on education. Further, the Boundless Playground's purpose of providing access to all people, even physically challenged, tiers to CenturyLink's Unifying Principles that all people are to be treated with fairness and dignity and respect. We at CenturyLink are proud to be part of making Darryl's Dream come true."

Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground opened at Warriors' Path State Park in April 2007 and is associated with the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities create extraordinary playgrounds for children with and without disabilities.

About Forever Young Treehouses

Forever Young Treehouses promotes the construction of treehouses that are universally accessible. While accessible treehouses provide a memorable experience for everyone, the company focuses on facilitating treehouse construction for children and young adults with special needs who are routinely confronted with barriers to fun and play in their daily lives. An accessible treehouse removes these obstacles, bringing people of all abilities together and closer to nature. Forever Young Treehouses also uses building methods that protect the health of trees.

About Friends of Warriors' Path State Park

The Friends of Warriors' Path is an organization that fosters conservation and educational efforts and assists the park staff in its efforts to better preserve and protect its existing facilities and resources. The group also supports the park staff in their work to provide quality recreational and interpretive experiences. This includes, but is not limited to, many natural, cultural and scenic features.

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