

Darrell's Dream Boundless™ Playground Complex
The Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater Grand Opening
Warriors' Path State Park
Monday, April 23, 2012

- Welcome.....Betty DeVinney, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park
- The Vision.....Betty DeVinney
- Mayor of Kingsport.....Dennis Phillips
- Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation.....Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill
- Fully-Accessible Amphitheater.....Mary Steadman, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park
- The Palmer Center Foundation.....Linda Story, President, Board of Directors
- Palmer Center Parent.....Kassie Socks
- Invocation.....Bishop David Carter, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Ribbon Cutting.....Dignitaries

Following the program, please enjoy refreshments and the musical entertainment by Tennessee Hoedowners, The Diamonds, and The Dulcimer Group.

Sign language interpretation by Michelle Allman

Special thanks to the following for helping us prepare for and host today's event:

Able Printers, Earl Carter Photography, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park, Express Signs, Food City, Rainbow's End Floral, Eastman Chemical Company, Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kingsport, MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center, Sharky with Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, Sparky the Fire Dog, Kingsport Fire Department Public Education Officer Barry Brickey, Jericho Shrine Temple, The Palmer Center Foundation, Warriors' Path State Park Staff

The Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater



(Photo courtesy of Earl Carter)

The Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater

Designed by TheMooreGroup ArchitectsPlanners under the leadership of Tony Moore, the amphitheater takes advantage of the park's natural topography to create a beautiful place for people to gather. With a natural tree line as a backdrop, the terraced amphitheater is designed for audiences to enjoy both small groups in more intimate settings as well as full-stage productions. The facility has a dual-level stage and electrical capacity to serve various uses. Segmented blocks provide seating for 200, with enough grassy space to hold audiences of more than 1,000. The grass is more sensitive to green-space environment, lessens the heat build-up and allows for better drainage. Adjacent to a natural watershed area, earthen berms have been constructed to control existing run-off. The Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners worked closely with the architect and contractor to construct rain gardens for an additional element of water-flow control while further enhancing the natural setting. And, of course, the stage and seating are fully accessible in keeping with the Boundless Playground principle.

About Palmer Center Foundation

Improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities is the mission of The Palmer Center Foundation. The non-profit corporation is organized to award grants and scholarships to meet individual, group, and/or community needs in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

Examples of assistance provided by grants from the Foundation include The Student Scholarship Program at Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc.; funding for public school speech/language pathologists to attend training opportunities; purchase of a three-wheel bicycle with toe straps for a child with special needs; funding for equipment needed by the Greater Kingsport Family YMCA to start a program for children with disabilities and their siblings; funding for general support of the Tennessee Infant Parent (TIP) Program; funding to support children with disabilities served by the Family Resource Center, Kingsport City Schools; funding to support Arc of Sullivan County; funding for fully-accessible playground at V.O. Dobbins Center; and funding for a Universal Playground for the Special Education Department of Scott County Public Schools. The Foundation also contributed start-up funding of 'Darrell's Dream' Tri-Cities TN/VA Boundless Playground Project.

The Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater

Sponsors and Contributors

Special Thanks to

Friends of Warriors' Path State Park

Betty DeVinney, President

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

The Palmer Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Linda Story, president; Delores Richmond, vice president; Kay Ann Smith, secretary;
Terry White, treasurer; Gerald Dahill, Amy Greear, Pam McMurray,
Dr. Carolyn McPherson, Dr. Ginger Woods

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

Warriors' Path State Park

Design / Construction

The Moore Group Architects Planners – Tony Moore, Architect

J.A. Street & Associates – Jim Street and Mark Wininger, Project Managers

Massey Electric – Jody Hood; Carr Excavating; Cardin Construction

Woods Paint; Jackson Jones, McClain Concrete

Park Signage—Amphitheater, Directional, and Rain Garden Signage

Express Signs – Chris and Rebecca Thomas and Becky McGhee

Essyx Exhibits & Displays – Josh DeVoti, Kim Guinn Interpretive Signs

Darrell's Dream Landscape Program and Soon-to-Come Rain Gardens

UT Extension Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners – Gwyn Duncan, Nina Hedrick,

Candy Davis, Amanda McCurry, Kathy & Larry Wagner, Joy Stewart, Diane Hawkins, Joy Moore,

Winkle McKinley, Bill Grigsby; Carol and Adam Bowling, Lions Club of Kingsport

A special thanks to the following sponsors and organizations that helped during "A Day of Service" at Darrell's Dream and other days to prepare the park for visitors. More than 175 volunteers worked over 1500 hours on projects, including Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground, Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail, the Anderson Treehouse and Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, American Eagle Outfitters, Arby's, DiscoverStevia.com, Dunkin' Donuts, Express Signs, Food City, Home Depot Foundation, JA Street & Associates, Kiwanis Club of Kingsport, Lakefront Disc Golf Club, Lions Club of Kingsport, Lowe's Home Improvement of Kingsport, Office Depot, Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners, Palmer Center Foundation, Perkins, Shamrock Restaurants, LLC (McDonald's) Locally owned and Operated by Diane Washburn, Target, Tribal members of the Remnant Yuchi Nation, Wal-mart SuperCenter, Alternative Correctional Services, Celebration Church, Christ Fellowship Church, Sullivan South Key Club, Kroger's, Youth Leadership Society, City of Kingsport.



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 along-side their peers and gain a wider appreciation for the inherent value of all people.

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

Friends of Warriors' Path State Park

The Friends of Warriors' Path State Park was formed in 2000 for the purpose of mobilizing volunteers, business and industry, and 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 Complex
- Improvements to disc golf
- Renovation to open air chapel amphitheater and overflow campground amphitheater

Remembering Darrell Rice:

The Boundless Playground Complex was a "dream" articulated by the late Darrell Rice, an active community volunteer and business leader. Darrell was the catalyst in the creation of the Friends of Warriors' Path State Park organization and initiated the Boundless Playground project that is today named "Darrell's Dream" in his honor. We miss you, Darrell!

To reserve The Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater, call the park office at 239-8531. For information about Friends of Warriors' Path State Park, contact Mary Steadman, 323-4330, email MeSteadman@aol.com

Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater Opens as Newest Addition to Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park

KINGSPORT, Tenn., April 23, 2012 – An outdoor amphitheater that can host audiences from 200 to more than 1,000 has been made possible by The Palmer Center Foundation and officially opens today as the latest addition to the Darrell's Dream Boundless™ Playground Complex at Warriors' Path State Park. The Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater is the final phase of the all-accessible playground complex, the only one of its kind in the U.S.

Designed by The Moore Group Architects under the leadership of Tony Moore, the amphitheater takes advantage of the existing hillside and natural basin with terrace seating made of segmented blocks. The grassy aisles and surrounding area allow for additional seating for more than 1,000 people. The dual-level stage area is about 900square feet designed for both intimate lecture type programming for smaller groups and full-stage productions for much larger audiences. The facility is equipped with electrical capacity to serve the needs of various uses. Like the rest of the complex, the amphitheater—both stage and seating areas—are fully accessible.

Dr. Linda Story, president of the Palmer Foundation Board of Directors, called the new amphitheatre and playground complex a legacy. "On behalf of the Palmer Center Foundation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the volunteers involved in this project," Story said. "Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park is an asset to our community and leaves a lasting legacy that can be enjoyed for years by children of all abilities. We are thrilled to be able to assist with funding of Phase 4 of this initiative, the amphitheater."

The uniqueness of this playground complex and the community effort that has made it possible was praised by Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill. "This playground complex has already attracted thousands of visitors and national attention for our state park system," Hill said at today's grand opening. "It's easy to visualize children and adults of all abilities enjoying this beautiful amphitheater for years to come. I sincerely applaud the network of businesses, civic clubs, churches and individuals who have made this possible." Hill added opening the amphitheater during 2012, the 75th anniversary of the Tennessee Park System, adds significance to the event.

Planning for the Boundless Playground Complex began in 2001 by the Friends of Warriors' Path State Park organization, led at that time by the late Darrell Rice, an active community volunteer. Supported by a growing group of individual and group volunteers and generously sponsored by many local businesses and civic clubs, the complex—named in memory of Rice— now includes play equipment and play areas designed for specific age and development groups, the Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail, and the fully-accessible Anderson treehouse.

"This has truly been a labor of love that has stretched out over 11 years," said Betty DeVinney, president of the Friends group and chair of the Darrell's Dream project. "The community support for this complex

has been tremendous, and we all hold Darrell and his dream in our hearts as both the originator of the Friends group and the concept for this playground complex.”

“It’s a joy to see how many people enjoy this facility,” DeVinney continued. “The construction phase has grown to a close, but we still need more ‘Friends of the Park’ to help keep the park safe, clean and well-maintained. I encourage people to be a part of the Friends group and support our park.”

DeVinney said the amphitheater is available for many purposes, including educational programs, lectures, concerts, and weddings. Reservations may be made by contacting Warriors’ Path State Park at 423-239-8531.

J.A. Street was the project contractor.

About the Palmer Center Foundation

Palmer Center Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia by awarding grants and scholarships to meet individual, group, and/or community needs.

About Friends of Warriors’ Path State Park

The Friends of Warriors’ Path State Park 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 its work to provide quality recreational and interpretive experiences. This includes, but is not limited to, many natural, cultural and scenic features. For more information, contact the park.

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Media Contacts:

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Martha Lawson, 423-863-8871; lawson1@chartertn.net



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 23, 2012

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Warriors' Path State Park Celebrates Grand Opening of New Palmer Center Amphitheater; Commemorates Tennessee State Parks 75th Anniversary

KINGSPORT, Tenn. - Warriors' Path State Park joined the Friends of Warriors' Path and a number of special guests today for the grand opening of the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater - the newest addition to the Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground, which is part of the state park.

Made possible by The Palmer Center Foundation, the amphitheater is the final phase of the all-accessible playground complex, which serves as the only one of its kind in the U.S.

Designed by The Moore Group Architects, under the leadership of Tony Moore, the amphitheater was built using the existing hillside and natural basin with terrace seating made of segmented blocks. The grassy aisles and surrounding area allow the new outdoor facility to host audiences from 200 to more than 1,000. The dual-level stage area is approximately 900 square feet and is designed for both intimate lecture-type programming for smaller groups and full-stage productions for much larger audiences. J.A. Street served as the project contractor.

The facility is equipped with electrical capacity to serve the needs of various uses. Like the rest of the complex, the amphitheater - both stage and seating areas - are fully accessible. The amphitheater is available for many purposes, including educational programs, lectures, concerts and weddings. Reservations may be made by contacting Warriors' Path State Park at (423) 239-8531.

"On behalf of the Palmer Center Foundation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the volunteers involved in this project," said Dr. Linda Story, president of the Palmer Center Foundation Board of Directors. "Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park is an asset to our community and leaves a lasting legacy that can be enjoyed for years by children of all abilities. We are thrilled to be able to assist with the funding of Phase 4 of this initiative, the amphitheater."

Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground opened at Warriors' Path in April 2007 and was made possible through public-private partnerships. Warriors' Path is the first state park in the nation to provide a Boundless Playground for visitors. The playground is supported by the Friends of Warriors' Path, an organization that fosters conservation and educational efforts, while assisting the park in its efforts to better preserve and protect its existing facilities and resources.

"This playground complex has already attracted thousands of visitors and national attention for our state park system," said Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill, Tennessee State Parks. "It's easy to visualize children and adults of all abilities enjoying this beautiful amphitheater for years to come. I sincerely applaud the network of businesses, civic clubs, churches and individuals who have made this possible. I want to especially thank Dr. Story and the Palmer Center Foundation, along with our great Warriors' Path Friends group for their dedication toward this project."

Planning for the Boundless Playground Complex began in 2001 by the Friends of Warriors' Path State Park organization, led at that time by the late Darrell Rice, an active community volunteer. Supported by a growing group of individual and group volunteers and generously sponsored by many local businesses and civic clubs, the complex - named in memory of Rice - now includes play equipment and play areas designed for specific age and development groups, the Lions of Narnia™ Braille Trail, and the fully-accessible Anderson Treehouse.

(MORE)

"This has truly been a labor of love that has stretched out over 11 years," said Betty DeVinney, president of the Friends group and chair of the Darrell's Dream project. "The community support for this complex has been tremendous, and we all hold Darrell and his dream in our hearts as both the originator of the Friends group and the concept for this wonderful playground complex."

Today's grand opening of the amphitheater coincides with Tennessee State Parks' 75th Anniversary, adding significance to the event.

The Tennessee State Parks system was established through legislation in 1937, and those laws - with modifications and additions over the years - remain the framework for park operations today. As in most states, Tennessee began in cooperation with federal programs that instigated individual parks. Later, Depression era recovery programs gave a boost to the idea and the possibility of creating parks. The Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration worked on land conservation, but also delved further into the actual planning and construction of what would become the first of 53 Tennessee State Parks.

Today, there is a state park within an hour's drive of just about anywhere in Tennessee. A 2009 University of Tennessee study highlights the positive economic impacts that state parks provide local communities, particularly in rural areas of the state. The study found that for every dollar spent on trips to Tennessee State Parks, an additional \$1.11 of economic activity was generated throughout the state. When the direct and indirect expenditures were combined, the impact of Tennessee State Parks to the state's economy was \$1.5 billion in total industry output, supporting more than 18,600 jobs.

"Our vision statement highlights the inherent value of our natural environment, along with the value of the many physical reminders of Tennessee's past," added Deputy Commissioner Hill. "Tennessee's state parks have played such an important role in our history, and they play a critical role in our health and quality of life, which will benefit Tennesseans well into the future. There's no better example of that role than what has been accomplished here at Warriors' Path and what Darrell's Dream brings to this community."

Tennessee's 53 state parks and 82 state natural areas offer diverse natural, recreational and cultural experiences for individuals, families or business and professional groups. State park features range from pristine natural areas to 18-hole championship golf courses. For a free brochure about Tennessee State Parks, call toll free at 1-888-867-2757. For upcoming events in connection with the 75th Anniversary of Tennessee State Parks, please visit the state parks website at www.tnstateparks.com.

Warriors' Path State Park sits on 950 acres and was named for the park's proximity to the ancient war and trading path used by the Cherokee. The park is situated on the shores of TVA's Patrick Henry Reservoir on the Holston River. It features camping, hiking, fishing, golf, boating, biking, swimming, picnic facilities and horseback riding.

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