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**For Immediate Release**

## **Area's First Boundless Playground to be Built at Warriors' Path State Park**

Kingsport, Tenn. – Creating a place for all children to play, a groundbreaking for the region's first Boundless Playground was held Friday at Warriors' Path State Park.

Called Darrell's Dream in honor of the well-known and loved community activist Darrell Rice, the playground will be located near the bridge to Duck Island and will be accessible to children of most all abilities, including those with physical, developmental and sensory disabilities.

Warriors' Path State Park will be the first state park in the country to house such a playground.

"This Boundless Playground is an example of how public-private partnerships really can improve our communities," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "Having a place for children of all abilities to play and grow will benefit Warriors' Path State Park, the surrounding region and most importantly, Tennessee children."

Darrell's Dream is associated with the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds, the first national nonprofit dedicated to helping communities create extraordinary playgrounds for children with and without disabilities. Darrell's Dream will have many features that distinguish it from other playgrounds:

- Walking Trail that will be accessible by the blind
- Sand Island to be used by children with all abilities, including those in wheel chairs
- Environmental Maze with 14 interactive play stations, including a puppet theater, a cabin, a xylophone, a vine tunnel, a sensory garden and other activities
- Picnic Pavilion
- Specially designed year-round restrooms, pedestrian bridge and increased parking

In addition to the specially designed playground equipment, the finished project will also include landscaping with educational programming and a universally accessible tree house.

“Darrell’s Dream is a playground where all children can play together,” said Susan Hiscutt, whose child is disabled. “This playground will provide a place for my son, Aaron, to play with other children and a place for other children to play and learn acceptance of all children and their differences.”

Hiscutt said she believes this playground will offer an environment in the community that will teach acceptance, compassion and be a building block in creating a more inclusive community that values all people regardless of their ability.

“As Dr. Martin Luther King said, ‘I have a dream, that all men shall be created equal.’ I, too, have a dream – a dream that all children and people should be valued and have the opportunity to experience life to the fullest and to be encouraged to reach their greatest potential regardless of the challenges they face in life,” she said.

Officials representing the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and Tennessee State Parks joined major corporate sponsors, including Eastman Chemical Company, Charter Communications, Bristol Motor Speedway, Mountain States Health Alliance and Food City for the event.

“We’re proud that Tennessee will be the first state in the country to build a Boundless Playground in a state park,” said Environment and Conservation Commissioner Jim Fyke. “The people of the Tri-Cities came together and worked with the park to make this project possible and we appreciate their creativity and commitment to such a worthy cause.”

Betty Devinney, a volunteer organizer behind the project, said Darrell’s Dream will fill a void in the area.

“Only once in a lifetime can you work on a project that can mean so much to so many. All the parties involved in this true public/private partnership can be proud of the part we played in closing a big gap in the Tri-Cities region,” Devinney said. “Children need the rigor of play; they need to get involved with other children in an outdoor learning environment. And the beauty of this is that it is so inclusive, involving children of all abilities. I can’t wait until we celebrate the grand opening.”

###

# *A Playground With Boundless Possibilities*



## **The Need...**

Remember the sheer joy and freedom you felt on a playground as a child? Whether it was swinging toward the clouds, climbing as high as you could, playing in the sand or just running and hiding from your friends, it was a time of fun and laughter. Now imagine that scene for a child with physical or developmental disabilities. Wheelchairs get stuck in gravel. Children who can't walk or run get left behind. And sensory disabilities, like blindness or deafness, can make even a playground a dangerous place.

## **...The Solution**

A group of people in the Tri-Cities is working to raise money for a playground especially designed for children (and adults!) of all abilities. This group is working with The National Center for Boundless Playgrounds® to design and build a barrier-free, developmentally advantageous playground at Warrior's Path State Park. The dream stems from a need identified by Friends of Warriors Path. The project is being supported by Tennessee State Parks with labor and materials for construction of a nature trail that will circle the playground and will be compliant with ADA (American with Disabilities Act).

## **About Boundless Playgrounds**

The National Center for Boundless Playgrounds is a nonprofit organization that works with communities to facilitate the development of barrier-free, developmentally advantageous playgrounds for children and adults of all abilities. These playgrounds allow children with physical, developmental and sensory disabilities to grow, laugh, play and learn alongside children without those challenges.

## **You Can Help!**

The Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia region will have a Boundless Playground because a passionate team of businesses, industries, professionals, parents and children of all abilities have teamed with the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds to make this dream come true. We're looking for groups and individuals who want to be a part of this effort by contributing their time and/or monetary support. **For more information about how you can help, call Mary Steadman at 323-4330.**

*Friends of Warriors Path Park is a 501(3) nonprofit organization. 100% of your contribution will benefit the Tri-Cities Boundless Playground. Send tax deductible gift to:*

**Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia Region Boundless Playground  
c/o 477 Steadman road  
Blountville, TN 37617**

# **BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUNDS**

## *Fact Sheet*

**Boundless Playgrounds is a non-profit organization dedicated to the concept of fully integrated and universally accessible playgrounds for children of *all* abilities.**

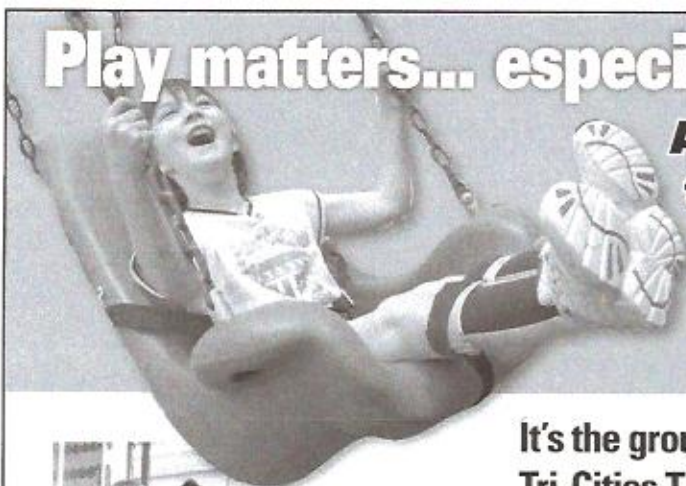
In order for a playground to have the designation of being a Boundless Playground, it must meet these standards:

- Each playground should provide meaningful and stimulating play opportunities with rigor and challenge so that *all* children can play at their highest level of ability. We plan for the appropriate rigor of play for the healthy development of fully able children as well as for children with special needs.
- At least 70% of the entire playground will be universally accessible to the children of all abilities for which is its intended.
- The design will be developmentally appropriate so that it addresses children's intellectual, physical, emotional and social needs.
- The design will be sensory-rich, in that it provides a variety of movement and sensory experiences.
- The playground design will be age appropriate, designed in zones based on children's ages and their levels of development. In a playground for children of all ages, the play activities must be segregated with meaningful play activities for 2- to 5-year-olds separated from meaningful play activities for children age 5 to 12.
- Braille and age-appropriate signage are encouraged.
- The development of each playground will, to the extent possible, encourage and incorporate community or corporate involvement.
- Each playground will be designed in compliance of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines and the American Society for Testing and Materials standards. It will also significantly exceed the requirements set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act and see to address foreseeable hazards that may arise when children of diverse abilities play together.

### **What's the status of the Boundless Playground effort in our local Northeast Tennessee/Southwest Virginia region?**

We have a local committee working to raise money to build a playground at Warrior's Path State Park. This committee is being led by Betty DeVinney as chair, and Darrell Rice and Mary Steadman as co-vice-chairs. We hope you and/or your organization will get involved. For more information, or to find out how you can be a part of this effort, call Mary Steadman at 323-4330.

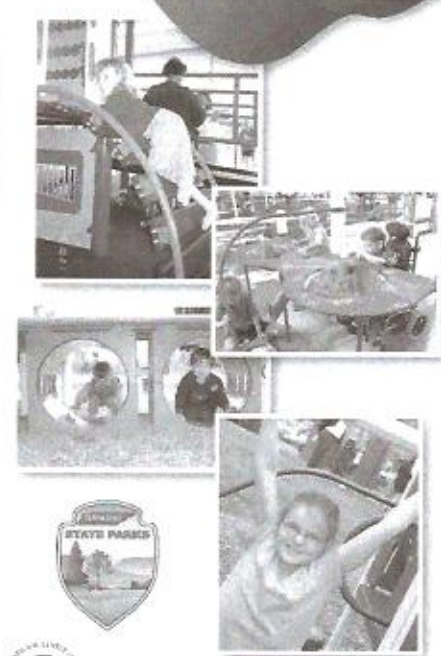
# Play matters... especially to children!



**A special event will take place at Warriors' Path State Park on Friday, Oct. 14, at 10:00 a.m.**

**It's the groundbreaking for the new Tri-Cities TN/VA Boundless Playground®, a fully integrated and universally accessible playground for children of all abilities – including children with physical, developmental and sensory disabilities.**

The playground, officially named Darrell's Dream in memory of Darrell Rice, a beloved Tri-Cities community leader, is the first Boundless Playground ever to be built in a state park. In addition to the specially designed playground equipment, the finished project will also include an environmental maze with interactive stations, grounds landscaping with educational programming and a universally accessible tree house.



Affiliated w/Boundless Playground, Inc.: a national organization recognized for child development through play having designed more than 62 Barrier-Free, Developmentally Advantageous playgrounds in 18 states and Canada.

**Thank you to everybody who has helped realize this very special gift!**

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- Robert & Davis Miller
- Patricia & Andrew Minksky
- Betsy Swain
- Anonymous
- Corrie Simpson

**Thank you to these businesses for their in-kind support**

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- Food City
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- Paul Thoburn CPA
- Dore K. Bark & Associates
- Kingsport Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Lewis's of Kingsport
- Hurtz, Smith & Davis Attorneys

**Special Thanks**

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