



"DARRELL'S DREAM"

Tri-Cities TN/VA Boundless Playground
Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail Grand Opening

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 2 p.m.

Welcome/ Vision

Mary Steadman, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park, Project Vice Chairman

Lions Club of Kingsport

Wendy Cain, Lions Clubs International, Past District Governor
Doug Haseltine, President Lions Club of Kingsport

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Commissioner Jim Fyke

What's in Store for Darrell's Dream Future

Betty DeVinney, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park, Project Chair

What the Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail Means

Sarah Shipp

Park Dedication / Blessing

Reverend Clark Jenkins, Pastor First Broad Street United Methodist Church

LIONS NARNIA™ BRAILLE TRAIL GRAND OPENING

Braille Trail Tours / Refreshments

Special Thanks for Today's Dedication:

Charter Communications, Citadel Broadcasting, Eastman Chemical Company,
Express Signs, Fit 2 A T Alterations, Kiwanis Club of Kingsport, Lions Club of Kingsport,
MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center, Mountain States Health Alliance,
Wal-Mart Supercenter, Warriors' Path State Park, Wellmont Health System

THE LIONS NARNIA™ TRAIL AT "DARRELL'S DREAM" BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUND



A Braille Trail at Warriors' Path State Park, based on The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe fantasy by C.S. Lewis*. There are eight sensory stations along the quarter-mile, wheelchair-accessible Trail that tell visitors the story of Aslan, the lion. Each station has an exhibit, a large-print sign with Braille, and speaker with pushbutton that activates an audio theatrical recording. The following list describes the physical attributes of each station, and outlines the story:

* Copyright C.S. Lewis Pte Ltd. 1950 and 1978.



1- The Wardrobe – large wardrobe straddling the walk with simulated fur coats, followed by trees on both sides; odor of moth balls. Story segment: Four children find wardrobe; Lucy enters Narnia™ through it.



5- Deep Magic – Stone table on pad and tree with piece of rope. Story segment: The forces of Aslan release Edmund; Aslan makes an agreement with the witch that assures Edmund's safety.



2- Tumnus' Cave – round-top door near the center of a cave facade. Story segment: Lucy meets Mr. Tumnus, learns about the prophecy and the White Witch, and returns to tell the others; Edmund encounters the White Witch with her irresistible Turkish Delight.



6- Deeper Magic – Cracked stone table. Story segment: Aslan is sacrificed; the stone table cracks; Aslan reappears and explains Deeper Magic to the girls.



3- The Beaver's House – stick exterior, with frozen pond and waterfall. Story segment: The four children learn the fate of Mr. Tumnus from Mr. Beaver and learn about Aslan, the lion, at dinner; Edmund sneaks out before dinner is over.



7- Breaking the Witch's Spell – Courtyard with stone lion and stone Mr. Tumnus, and broken witch's wand at nearby bridge. Story segment: Aslan breathes life back into the stone lion and Mr. Tumnus; Edmund diminishes the witch's power by breaking her wand.



4- Aslan Is on the Move – White Witch's sleigh, stuck in the mud, with wild flowers near bridge and flowing stream. Story segment: The White Witch captures Edmund but must abandon her sleigh, due to the spring thaw brought about by Aslan's presence.



8- Chasing the White Stag – White stag in bushes near lamppost; evergreen branches at rear of a wardrobe like that at Station 1. Story segment: the children rule Narnia™ for a long time and a major premise of their rule is the encouragement of others; they chase the white stag and return to the real world through the branches and wardrobe.

One in nine children has some form of disability, and barriers often inhibit participation in outdoor activities with their friends. This Trail removes barriers for the blind, visually impaired and handicapped, so they can develop physically and emotionally alongside their peers. When those without disabilities put on a blindfold and follow the Braille Trail, they may discover that the blind have better senses of touch and smell than they do - and gain a wider appreciation for the inherent value of all people.

THE LIONS NARNIA™ TRAIL

SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Special Thanks: The Chronicles of Narnia and all book titles, characters and locales original to The Chronicles of Narnia are trademarks of C. S. Lewis Pte. Ltd. We greatly appreciate their consent to use the theme for the trail.

Lions Club of Kingsport

Lions Club International Foundation
Lions Clubs of East Tennessee Lions District 12-N Charities, Inc.
Johnson City Lions Club

Friends of Warriors' Path State Park

State of Tennessee and the Department of Environment and Conservation

Braille Trail Design / Construction

The Moore Group Architects Planners – Tony Moore/Lana Luttrell
J. A. Street & Associates – Jim Street/Mark Wininger
Michael L. Strickler

Braille Trail Individual Station Sponsors

Quenton and Joy McBride Tubb (In Memory of Benton Ross Tubb and Jimmy Lynn McBride)
D. Michael and Kathy Richards (In Honor of Bob & Margaret Moore)
Greater Indian Springs Community Chest Sullivan South Area Community Chest
Express Signs Dave Young Memorial

Braille Trail Signage – Graphics and Design

Suzanne Barrett Justis, Artist Richard D. Phillips, Graphic Design

Braille Trail Script / Audio Production

Citadel Broadcasting Carl Swann
Henry Dyson, IV Billee Moore

Braille Trail Electrical

Embarq K & S Communications Joe Spencer Massey Electric

Braille Trail Voices

Judy Womack Larry Harris Rev. Barron Hopper Alan Meade Sandra Kelley Billy Carrier
Spencer Miller Abigail Hooker Sidney Brademeyer Charlotte Ellis

Braille Trail Plantings Design

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners

Braille Trail Consultants

Caroline Echerd, Lee Bryan and Allison Conway, Vision Specialists
Vic Mende, Volunteer Blind Industries
Stephanie Bushong, U.S. Forest Service, Massanutten
Ray Bloomer, National Center on Accessibility

Other Contributors

Anthony B. Frazier Carr Brothers Excavating Sarah Mills American Lighting
Johnson Landscaping Porter's Monument Designs Artisan Industries Johnny and Jimmy Loven
Appalachian Design Services Mountain View Masonry

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIONS CLUBS AND FRIENDS OF WARRIORS' PATH STATE PARK

Lions Clubs International

Formed in 1917, today the organization is the world's largest service club with nearly 1.35 million men and women in approximately 45,000 clubs, located in 200 countries and geographic areas. In 1925 Helen Keller addressed the Lions International convention and challenged the members to become "Knights of the Blind". Since then, Lions worldwide have emphasized services to the blind and visually impaired as they work to demonstrate their motto: "We Serve."

Lions Club of Kingsport

Chartered in 1946, activities include:

- Vision screening of preschool children to permit early detection of Lazy Eye and other vision problems.
- Providing Titmus machines for use by Vision Coordinators in public schools for vision screening.
- Providing free eye exams and glasses for low-income people in the community.
- Co-sponsoring the Fun Fest picnic for special-needs children and adults.
- Collecting used eyeglasses for recycling.
- Building the Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail at "Darrell's Dream" Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park
- Supporting Speech and Hearing efforts and Remote Area Medical Clinics.
- Supporting Volunteer Blind Industries, Recording for the Blind, Leader Dog, the Lions Children's Eye Hospital in Nashville, and other groups that help meet special needs.

While providing service to others, members not only enjoy fellowship but develop personally as they learn leadership and project management skills. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at Giuseppe's in Kingsport. Those interested in learning more about the local club may visit the web site www.kptlionsclub.org or call Bill Moore at (423) 765-1878.

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 state 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 and fully accessible Treehouse (coming soon)

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

Current Sponsorship opportunities: 5 Park Benches \$1,500 each; 4 picnic tables \$1,000 each

For Immediate Release

Media Contacts:

**Martha Lawson, for Friends of Warriors' Path
State Park: 423-292-4010**

**Tisha Calabrese-Benton, TN Department of
Environment & Conservation: 865-594-5442**

Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail Opens as Phase II of Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park

KINGSPORT, TN, April 14, 2009--The next time you visit Warriors' Path State Park, listen closely and you may hear a familiar children's story carried by gentle breezes from a beautiful quarter-mile nature trail. But this isn't just any story, nor is it just any trail. This is the Lions Narnia™ Trail, which has just opened as the second phase of one of the most unique play and learning facilities in the country, Darrell's Dream Boundless™ Playground.

The Lions Narnia Trail is a Braille trail surrounding the existing playground that features eight sensory stations telling a story based on [The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe](#) fantasy by C.S. Lewis. Each station along the wheelchair-accessible trail features an exhibit, large-print sign with Braille and audio theatrical recording to tell the story of Aslan, the lion.

"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 Jim Fyke, Commissioner of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. "It's very rewarding to know that this beautiful new trail helps make our state park more open to our blind and visually impaired citizens. 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."

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 both the original playground 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. 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 effort, 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.”

DeVinney specifically mentioned two groups of people who played key roles in the development of The Lions Narnia Trail—The Lions Club of Kingsport and The Moore Group, Architects/Planners.

Mary Steadman, project vice chair, said working with the non-profit Lions Club of Kingsport service organization to sponsor the Braille trail was a great connection since Lions worldwide emphasize services to the blind and visually impaired. “Our local Lions Club does such great work that it was a natural partnership for this project. And continuing the lion theme to incorporate the C.S. Lewis story seemed like a great idea on the part of the Lions Club of Kingsport to tie it all together,” Steadman said. “Once they outlined the story segments and received permission to use the C.S. Lewis theme, we worked closely to refine the exhibits and determine the best way to tell that story in this setting,” she continued. “We turned to people in The Moore Group, Architects/Planners, who have done an absolutely outstanding job of bringing to life the concepts for each individual station. The Moore Group, as well as several Lions Club members and so many others, have spent countless hours making this trail what it is—more than any of us every dreamed,” Steadman said.

Doug Haseltine is president of the Lions Club of Kingsport. “Our local club is so proud to have spearheaded this effort, made possible with grant assistance from Lions Club International Foundation and other East Tennessee clubs,” he said. “This project is specifically designed with the blind and visually impaired in mind. We want them to have the opportunity to experience the trail and everything in it alongside their friends.

“There is also a significant educational opportunity for sighted children to enjoy the trail in a different way,” Haseltine said. “Children with full vision can put on blindfolds while following the trail. Although they may have difficulty at first, they will begin to realize how their other senses, like touch and hearing, are heightened when sight is limited. No one’s *imagination* is ever limited by the sense of sight,” he said.

Tony Moore of The Moore Group called the development of the project design both interesting and challenging. “Our challenge was the design the stations in a way that would be appealing to both visually impaired and sighted people,” he said. “This has been a great experience for our company, and I hope the community enjoys it as much as we have.”

In addition to the Lions Club, other major sponsors of stations along the Braille Trail are J.A. Street Associates, Sullivan South Area Community Chest, Greater Indian Springs Community Chest, Quenton and Joy McBride Tubb, Michael and Kathy Richards, and the Dave Young Memorial.

DeVinney said there's more to come for Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground. "We continue to be excited about our future plans for Darrell's Dream. With the financial assistance of Sam and DeLois Anderson, a fully accessible tree house on this site will open this fall, fulfilling yet another dream for the children of the Tri-Cities," she said.

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.

Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground opened at the 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.

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