

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Hope Mills to host Ribbon Cutting For Inclusive Playground on September 8th

HOPE MILLS, N.C. – Park spaces in the Town of Hope Mills will now be more accessible to residents and visitors through the addition of a new inclusive playground at Hope Mills Municipal Park. The new structure replaces the previous aging playground and is more accessible for residents with disabilities. On August 31, 2023, Hope Mills Parks & Recreation announced the date for the Ribbon Cutting for the inclusive playground.

The Reid's Journey Inclusive Playground is one of only a few of its type in Cumberland County. The rubberized surfacing and ADA accessible walks make the entrance to the playground area compliant and more than 70% of the playground features and amenities are ADA accessible through ramping and transition decks. The smooth safety surfaces will provide an open and safe space for children of all abilities to play together. Family and community are the focus in Hope Mills and providing an engaging space that promotes inclusion and physical activity where children can play, learn, and grow together has been the goal for the inclusive playground that has been years in the making. Reid's Journey began with \$18,514 in seed money and was one of three projects funded through The Hope Mills Giving Together Community Challenge which partnered with the Cumberland County Foundation matching grant program. The project, primarily funded by \$340,000 in State Capital and Infrastructure Funds, was initially approved by the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners in 2020, with construction documents approved in August 2021.

Hope Mills Municipal Park contains 1.8 miles of walking trails. Within the park there are 6 lighted athletic fields, a Veterans Memorial, a skate park, dog park, a newly updated basketball court, tennis courts, 2 picnic shelters, multiple charcoal grills, restrooms, a splashpad nearing completion, and the new playground.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, September 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., located at 5766 Rockfish Road, Hope Mills, North Carolina.

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