



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs, Parks and Rec to Officially Re-Open Carter Fields March 4

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and local leaders on March 4 will officially re-open the Carter Park ballfields, which were closed for more than a year as crews worked to update them and make them ADA accessible.

“Nice parks are vital to our community because they help enhance a great quality of life,” Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs said. “We certainly want everyone to enjoy our parks and are committed to ensuring that everyone has opportunities for play and recreation.”

The March 4 event, which includes a ceremonial ribbon cutting, kicks off at 11 a.m. at Carter Park (9030 Asheville Highway).

As it stands, Carter Park serves as the largest ADA project the county has completed since a federally mandated transition plan wrapped up in 2023. Federal ADA transition plan mandates were passed in the 1990s but not enforced until the mid-2000s. Under the leadership of Mayor Jacobs, the county hired a consultant to conduct an extensive assessment and audit of all county properties to determine a direction to improve access and remove barriers.

The county spent almost \$2 million on ADA upgrades throughout the park’s 30 acres, which features four baseball/softball fields, a pavilion, playground, basketball court, shaded area, picnic table, benches, and a .3-mile walking trail.

Additionally, the county spent another \$1.1 million on lighting for the sports fields, the parking lot and walkway. The fields also have new dugouts and new fencing in some areas. Further, Trane, the company that worked on the lighting, donated two new scoreboards that cost \$10,000.

Knox County has one of the largest transition plans in the country and it was originally projected to cost \$100 million and take four decades to complete. Without a transition plan and an ADA coordinator, the county is subject to major penalties, lawsuits, and the loss of federal funding.

“We want all our visitors to have a positive and rewarding experience at our parks and we are certainly moving in that direction,” said Joe Mack, senior director of the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department.

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