



HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

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For Immediate Release

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Hamilton County Helps Bring Inclusive Dahlia Playground to Signal Mountain

County Investment Supports Accessible Play at Althaus Park

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN (July 17, 2026) — Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp, District 2 Commissioner Chip Baker, and county leaders this week proposed \$210,516 in funding to complete the Dahlia Playground at Althaus Park on Signal Mountain.

Pending approval by the Hamilton County Commission, the investment would help complete the project by funding the purchase of inclusive play equipment to be donated to the Town of Signal Mountain, creating a welcoming playground where children of all abilities can play side by side. The project reflects a public-private partnership focused on expanding access to inclusive play and community spaces for families across Hamilton County.

“Dahlia’s story and her mother’s advocacy remind us why inclusive public spaces like the Dahlia Playground matter,” **said Mayor Wamp**. “This project helps ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive as we continue investing in our communities so Hamilton County continues to be the best place in Tennessee to raise a family.”

The inspiration for the new space came from local residents Emily and Adam Harmon’s daughter, Dahlia “Dollie,” who has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair. The idea took root after Dahlia shared that she was unable to fully participate with her friends at recess. Determined to find a solution, the Harmon family and their nonprofit, Hope Included, launched a grassroots fundraising effort to design a space built for everyone.

“When we started dreaming about the Dahlia Playground, we knew it had the potential to be something much bigger than a playground,” **said Emily Harmon**. “This investment from Hamilton County brings us one step closer to creating a place where children of all abilities can play together, feel included, and know they belong.”

We are incredibly grateful to Hamilton County for believing in this vision and helping make this dream a reality for families across our community.”

The Dahlia Playground marks the county's latest milestone in expanding accessible recreational spaces. It stands as the second inclusive playground supported by the county, following an investment in 2024 that helped the Harvesting Inclusive Playground at Heritage Park in East Brainerd reach its \$2 million goal.

Pending county commission approval, the Dahlia Playground will soon stand as a lasting community asset on Signal Mountain. A vote on county funding is scheduled for August 5, with construction slated to begin later this year.

"District 2 is home to incredible families, and this new inclusive playground is a perfect example of what Hamilton County, the Town of Signal Mountain, and community leaders like Emily can accomplish when we invest in our future," **said District 2 Commissioner Chip Baker.** "Giving our kids a safe, accessible place to play is a lasting investment, and I am incredibly proud to see this playground open for our families."

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