



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Mayor Jacobs, Parks and Recreation to Unveil Major Updates and ADA Improvements to Carter Park**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and local leaders on Aug. 30 will unveil the newly completed first phase of Carter Park, which will serve as the largest ADA project the county has completed since a federally-mandated transition plan was wrapped up last year.

The park improvements, which will be done in two phases, include renovated fields, dugouts, restrooms and a new playground – all which will comply with the ADA. The park’s second phase should finish sometime in October, with an estimated completion date for the total project, which includes the nearby library, senior center and high school fields, by April 2025.

“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 Aug. 30 event, which will include a ceremonial ribbon cutting, kicks off at 10 a.m. at Carter Park.

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.

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.

Carter Park, which is about 30 acres, features four baseball/softball fields, a pavilion, playground, basketball court and a .3-mile walking trail.

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