



Office of the Commissioners

• Michael J. Washo • Corey D. O'Brien • A.J. Munchak •

February 19, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lynne Shedlock

Lackawanna County Communications Director

570-963-6800 ext. 1854

Commissioners to Construct Three Inclusive Playgrounds

Scranton, PA – Lackawanna County Commissioners Michael J. Washo, Corey D. O'Brien and A.J. Munchak today announced that the Lackawanna County Department of Parks and Recreation will build inclusive playgrounds this spring at three parks: McDade Park in Scranton, McHale Park, formerly Monroe Park, in Dunmore and the Abington Joint Recreation Board facility in South Abington Township.

The Commissioners have tapped Boundless Playgrounds Inc., a Connecticut-based, non-profit organization, which has built more than 140 Boundless Playgrounds in 28 states and Canada, to develop the inclusive playgrounds. On inclusive playgrounds, children with and without disabilities can actively play and interact together. Boundless playgrounds also promote intergenerational play. Parents, grandparents and caregivers with disabilities or limited mobility can freely navigate the play area to interact with their children.

“Inclusive playgrounds will give every child the opportunity to gain the proven intellectual, physical and social development benefits of unstructured play,” Commissioners O'Brien and Washo said. “We believe that barriers facing children with disabilities must be eliminated. Boundless Playgrounds will help children develop respect and acceptance of all individuals despite any perceived disability.”

Boundless Playground Features:

- Every child can reach the highest play deck;
- Play structures are configured to support children's development;
- Pathways and surfacing are universally accessible;
- Cozy spots exist where everyone can gather;
- Equipment like swings and bouncers have back support;
- Elevated sand tables and activity panels allow children of all abilities to play together; and
- Sensory-rich activities let the imagination soar.

Commissioners to Construct Three Inclusive Playgrounds (cont.)

January 8, 2010

2 | Page

The Department of Parks and Recreation will break ground for the three parks this spring, with construction expected to be completed by early summer. The approximately \$1 million project is funded by the Landfill Trust and by state gaming dollars from Mount Airy Resort and Casino.

The three playgrounds are Phase I of the county's Boundless Playground initiative. Additional projects will be announced in the future.

-30-