Knox County
Winter 2012
Parks & Recreation Review

More FUN at Carl Cowan!

Plan of the new playground at Carl Cowan Park.

A new playground will soon take shape at Carl Cowan Park on South Northshore Drive in west Knox County. The playground will replace several old pieces of equipment that date back to the 1980s.

"The current playground at Carl Cowan is one of the oldest in our system," said Doug Bataille, Senior Director. "With the number of visitors the park gets, especially during the summer months when the splashpad is open, an upgrade was needed for safety reasons."

A little history: Carl Cowan was born in Knoxville in 1902, attended Knoxville College and then received a law degree from Howard University College of Law.

Mr. Cowan practiced law from 1934 until 1980 and was appointed the first African American Assistant District Attorney in Knox County in 1953. He is remembered for his volunteer work, community activism, and for encouraging peaceful integration in Knoxville. A monument on site explains more about the park's history and features one of Knox County's quilt blocks titled The Lawyer's Puzzle.

The park encompasses more than 30 acres along the Tennessee River. In addition to the splashpad and playground, amenities include tennis courts, a basketball court, soccer fields, a horseshoe pit, picnic tables and shelters, restrooms, a fishing pier and boat launch. A greenway loop around the fields measures three-tenths of a mile and a one-quarter mile natural trail along the river leads to Admiral Farragut Park.

Celebrate with a Tree or Park Amenity

Details of New Donation Program

Knox County Parks and Recreation has a new program that allows you to enhance our community parks while honoring or remembering a special person or event. Your tax deductible contribution may cover the cost of a tree and its installation or another amenity or resource to improve Knox County's distinctive green spaces.

Our staff will work with you to choose the best species and location for your tree, or if you prefer, we can help you choose a bench, bike rack, water fountain or other feature to add to the park of your choice.

Donations cover the cost of the item, planting or placement, and maintenance. Tree prices begin at $250, and benches and other amenities start at $1,000. Please contact Ellen Blasius or Rebekah Jane Montgomery at 215-6600 to find out more about this program.

Holiday Festival Generates Community Donation

The crew from Concord Park made the delivery to The Love Kitchen. Pictured with Helen Ashe and Ellen Turner are Scottie Manley, Dan Miller, Troy Wilson and Rick Sulfridge.

2,500 Pounds and $2,581!

With a pickup truck full of barrels of food and $2,582 in hand, Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett and parks employees arrived at The Love Kitchen last month to deliver the contributions collected from the Holiday Festival of Lights.

Helen Ashe and Ellen Turner, the twin sisters who founded The Love Kitchen, accepted the donations with obvious delight. "Oh, you can't imagine how many more people we can help with this," said Helen. "This is just such a blessing."

Concord Park's crew brought the food in large barrels, boxes, and even a couple of rain barrels they found to contain the overflow. "I think this is one of the best years we've had," said Troy Wilson, Crew Leader at Concord. "Even with fewer nights because of the weather, this is the most food I've seen," he added.

The Holiday Festival of Lights is a free event, but visitors are encouraged to donate items needed by The Love Kitchen to continue their mission of providing meals and emergency food packages to the homebound, homeless and unemployed. *www.thelovekitchen.org.*

Individual Park Maps Now Online

Available for dowload or print

After working several months with User Friendly Maps®, Knox County now has map images of all major parks available online. The maps include the park location within the county, all featured amenities, and the length of greenways and walking loops.

New maps of county greenways are in the process of being developed and will also soon be available online. Once they are completed, a printed map of both the parks and greenways will be produced.

Visit www.knoxcounty.org/parks and click on the Park Information link to find a map.

Sports Updates

• Knox County Youth basketball tournaments will begin on Monday, February 28 and continue through the following week.

• The Knox County/City of Knoxville youth basketball challenge will be March 3 at the Powell basketball complex.

• Baseball/softball signups will be held at various community parks during February. Contact your local youth sports commissioner for details. www.knoxcounty.org/team_sports

• The Doyle baseball/softball coaches clinic is scheduled for March 3 at Bearden Middle School. Baseball will begin at 8:30 a.m., with softball session beginning at 12:30 p.m. The clinic is free for all Knox County program coaches.

• Adult softball signups will begin with current teams the first week of March. Interested new teams may call to be placed on a waiting list. Contact Jennifer Gentry at 215-6609.

KNOX COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADOPT-A-PARK

Looking for a way to help out in our community? Why not adopt a park?

www.knoxcounty.org/parks/adoptpark/adopt_a_park.php