



Highlands Rec Center Playground

CAROLINA

1178642-01-03-05 • 03.11.2024

## WHO

In 2023, an anonymous donor came forward with a \$50,000 contribution to put towards a new playground. Starting with the Town of Highlands, Recreation Committee, this project has grown and is now collaborating with Highlands Chamber, nonprofit organization and interested businesses and individuals.

## WHEN

The campaign will kick off this spring with a goal of completing funding by October 2024 in order to open the Playground in 2025.

## HOW

How to donate: We'll be relying on substantial funding from the Town of Highlands and Macon County. In addition to several grants, a large portion of the funds will be raised through private donations.

To donate you may send a check to:

PO Box 460, Highlands, NC 28741

or to pay by credit card, please call 828-526-2118



FOR TAX DEDUCTION INFORMATION PLEASE CONSULT  
YOUR TAX ADVISOR.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Brian Stiehler & Jeff Weller

CO-CHAIRS ~ HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND PROJECT





## Highlands Rec Center Playground

CAROLINA  
PARKS & PLAY

1178642-01-03-05 • 03.11.2024

### WHAT

We are committed to creating an open and safe space carefully designed to promote play among children of differing abilities, ages, and communities. Providing the same platform to play engages children in breaking down barriers, both physically and socially. The facility will not only have all-inclusive play equipment but will also feature a built-in scavenger hunt where children will learn about the local environment and its native species. A large six-foot salamander will be the centerpiece of the playground!

### WHY

Having an inclusive outdoor playground is vital to engaging all children and youth, regardless of abilities, in physical activity and outdoor play. Systematic reviews have consistently identified positive associations between time spent outdoors and physical activity. The International Journal of Environmental Research (2023) states that evidence from large systematic reviews indicates that children and youth who are more physically active reap multiple benefits, including better motor and cognitive development, greater

cardiovascular fitness, reduced cardiometabolic risk, and improved bone health. And a growing body of evidence shows that spending more time outdoors is beneficial for social-emotional and cognitive development, psychosocial health, and vision.

### WHERE

INCLUSIVE playground will be constructed next to the existing tennis courts and skateboard park at Highlands Recreation Park.